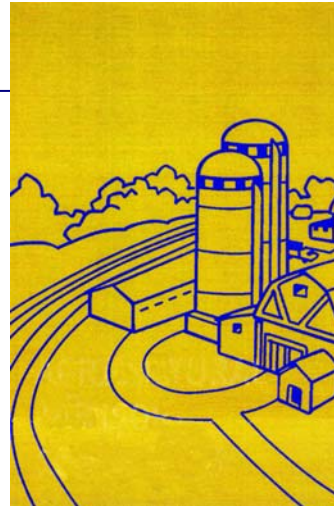


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# Agricultural Advisory Committee Workshop

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February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005



## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

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## A. Introduction

### A.1 A Workshop to Celebrate Achievements and Share Ideas

Agricultural Advisory Committees (AACs) are playing an important role in helping to connect local governments with their farm and ranch communities. Some AACs have been in place for several years and others have been appointed more recently. Amongst both the experienced and the new AACs there was interest in showcasing accomplishments and sharing ideas.

In February 2003, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) organized the first workshop for AACs in conjunction with the Pacific Agriculture Show at the TRADEX Centre next to the Abbotsford Airport. That workshop was a success and participants expressed interest in such sessions being held on a bi-annual basis. Therefore, MAFF organized the second AAC workshop in February 2005 in the same venue.

The overall objective of the workshop was to enable participants to take away ideas and information that will help them provide effective advice and support to their local councils and boards.

### A.2 Agricultural Advisory Committees in British Columbia

Agriculture not only represents an important economic component in most areas of British Columbia, but it often contributes to the very character of many BC communities. Over the years, the farm voice has been shrinking, relative to the population as a whole. Today, 85% of BC residents live in urban areas and less than 2% live on farms and ranches. The result has been a gradual disconnection, often by a few generations, of people from any first-hand agricultural experience.

Many communities are recognizing the importance of ensuring that agriculture finds a place on local planning agendas. The appointment of Agricultural Advisory Committees by municipal councils and regional boards is proving to be an effective way for local decision makers to connect with their farm and ranch communities.

As of January 2005, there were 21 Agricultural Advisory Committees in BC serving 24 local governments - 11 municipalities and 11 serve all or a portion of regional districts (the Peninsula Agricultural Commission serves four municipalities within the Capital Regional District). Appendix III contains a list of participants and Appendix IV contains a list of the AACs and their contact information.

### A.3 Workshop Package of Materials

In addition to materials being displayed on an information table and a slide show about the newly-launched Strengthening Farming web site, folders of material were distributed to each participant. Included in the folders were:

- An agenda
- List of the Agricultural Advisory Committees in BC, as of January 2005

- “Some Ideas, Agricultural Advisory Committees” MAFF brochure for improving the effectiveness of an AAC
- “Model Terms of Reference” MAFF brochure for AACs
- “Agricultural Advisory Committees, A link to your farm community” MAFF brochure about AACs, what they do, how they are structured , and other ideas
- “AgFocus: A Guide to Agricultural Land Use Inventory, Overview”, MAFF brochure
- “AgFocus: At Work”, MAFF brochure with lists of land use inventories and agricultural area plans completed
- Printout of home page of Strengthening Farming Program web site which went live just before this workshop
- “Living in Chilliwack ... an agricultural community” brochure from the Chilliwack Agricultural Commission
- Discussion points for the group discussion sessions
- List of participants in each of the nine groups for the discussion sessions
- City of Surrey policy no. O-51 (dated May 17, 2004) , “Policy for Considering Applications for Exclusion of Land from the Agricultural Land Reserve”
- Sample inter-office memo from City of Surrey to its AAC re: an ALR exclusion application, illustrating the use of the evaluation criteria
- AAC Workshop Feedback form for evaluation of the success of this workshop.

#### A.4 Workshop Outline

Welcome and Introductions: Ken Nickel and Jessica McNamara

- **AAC Achievements - Presentations by AACs**

During the initial section of the workshop, four AACs were invited to make short presentations about their recent achievements, along four themes:

Planning:

Comox Valley Agricultural Plan      Jill Hatfield, Beth Rees, and Gerry McLintock

Awareness:

Central Okanagan RD Farm Tour      Sandra Kochan

Economic Development:

Small Lot Agriculture in the District of Kent      Bruce Swift

Initiatives:

City of Surrey and Illegal Fill Dumping on the ALR Mike Bose and John Sherstone

- **AACs - Making them work - Group Discussion Sessions**

Then, in the later part of the morning and the early afternoon, the participants were divided into nine discussion groups to address the following topics:

1. Building relationships with your Council or Board
2. Dealing effectively with ALR applications
3. Successfully developing and implementing an Agricultural Area Plan
4. Regional District and Municipal AACs working together

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- **Closing words** were given by Minister John van Dongen.



## B Welcome and Introductions

Ken Nickel, Director of the Resource Management Branch, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (now named the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, but this report will use the original name and acronym, MAFF) welcomed the 127 participants from 18 of the 21 Agricultural Advisory Committees around the province. He acknowledged the valuable contribution that AACs have made to their communities, and that producers have found AACs to be an effective connection to their municipal councils or regional district boards. He noted that AAC Chairs often put in extra hours to make the committees run well; he acknowledged the Chairs who were present (see Appendix).

Ken thanked the LMHIA (Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement Association) for coordinating the setup and registration of this workshop. He also thanked Evergro Canada Inc. for sponsoring the meeting room for this workshop and reminded participants they were invited to the Pacific Ag Show reception and opening ceremony later in the day.

He mentioned that Ministry staff are involved in a number of projects related to the Strengthening Farming Program and that if any of the AACs are interested in learning more about what Ministry staff do, they are welcome to invite staff to make presentations on that work by contacting the regional agrologist that sits on each AAC.

**Jessica McNamara, Workshop Facilitator**

Ken introduced the facilitator for the day, Jessica McNamara. He noted that she also served as facilitator for first AAC workshop two years ago. She has B.A. in psychology from the University of Victoria and is currently completing a Masters degree in dispute resolution. She is an experienced dispute-resolution trainer and coach and has worked across a variety of disciplines and situations.

Jessica emphasized that this day was an opportunity to come together to discuss both challenges and accomplishments in the participants' experiences in their AACs. Two years ago, this workshop proved to be an opportunity for committee members and elected officials that sit on AACs, the local government and provincial staff that support the AACs, to all come together in a way that is not usually possible. She encouraged those present to take advantage of that mix during the day and to have an open dialogue about the things that are important to them, especially the challenges they are facing.

The overall objective of this workshop was to enable everyone to share and to take away information and new ideas and ways to help AACs to continue their good work.

Jessica noted the workshop package contained an evaluation form and the City of Surrey policy which could assist with the later discussion of how to handle ALR exclusion applications. Also, she noted there were handouts and a PowerPoint demonstration about the recently revised Strengthening Farming web site that was running during breaks; this web site includes a section on AACs as suggested at the 2003 workshop.

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## C AAC Achievements

Presentations were made by AACs on four subjects thought to be of interest to other AACs. They represent achievements and activities of AACs around BC.

### C.1 Planning: Comox Valley Agricultural Plan

Presentation by:

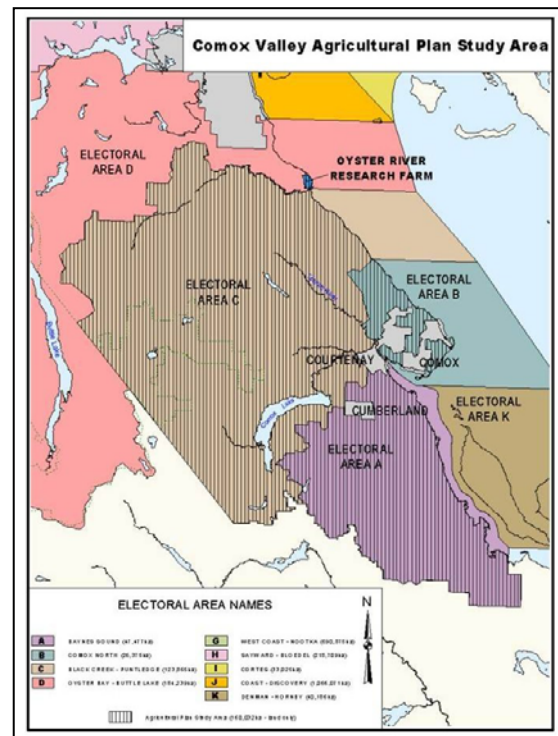
- \* Beth Rees, Planner, Regional District of Comox-Strathcona
- \* Jill Hatfield, Regional Agrologist, MAFF
- \* Gerry McClintock, President, Comox Valley Farmers' Institute

In 1998, the rural Comox Valley Official Community Plan provided support for the development of an agricultural plan. The Regional District of Comox-Strathcona (RDCS) encompasses a large territory (21,000 sq.km.) on central Vancouver Island, extending over to the mainland north of Powell River. It has nine electoral areas and contains eight municipalities.

The Agricultural Area Plan (AAP) is applicable to a sub-area of the RDCS - Electoral Areas A, B, and C and small portion of Area D which is the Oyster River Research Farm of the University Of British Columbia, just south of Campbell River.

Why have an AAP for the Comox Valley? The Comox Valley is located on the east central, coastal plain of Vancouver Island. It has a long history of agricultural production dating back to 1860's. Early pioneers were drawn to the valley because of its fertile soils and favourable climate.

The valley contains 20,000 hectares of land within the Agricultural Land Reserve, approximately half of which is currently used for agricultural production. The Census of Agriculture indicates the Comox Valley had 445 farms in 2001, up six from 1991. Area farms earned over \$26 million in gross farm receipts and paid close to \$6 million in wages for 2001. The census identified 21 different types of vegetables and 15 types of livestock in RDCS. This data illustrates the diversity and intensity of agriculture in the Comox Valley, and the





importance of farming to the local economy. The focus of the plan was to further the development of socially, culturally, environmentally and economically sustainable farming in the plan area.

In 2000, the RDCS sought and obtained funding partners for the AAP:

- Regional District of Comox-Strathcona \$10,000
- MAFF Resource Management Branch \$10,000
- Agriculture community \$ 1,000
- Ministry of (then) Municipal Affairs \$20,000
- Investment Agriculture Foundation \$20,000
- \$61,000

Also, staff time and volunteer labour was contributed by the Agricultural Land Commission and the farming community, to a value of about \$6,000. It is important to remember these indirect costs of an AAP.

#### AAP Advisory Committee Structure

It is best to set up the committee structure before starting so that roles are clear. It took a while for the Comox Valley AAP one to solidify and created some frustration when roles were unclear.



To manage this project, the committee members were:

- Regional District staff - coordination, administration, and budget management
- Agricultural Land Commission staff - Chaired the committee
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Resource Management Branch - content control
- Project direction was provided by:
  - Regional District Directors
  - MAFF regional agrologist
  - Farmer reps - Comox Valley Farmers' Institute, Agricultural Advisory Committee, Island Farmers' Alliance, and Comox Valley Farmers' Market Association.

#### Two Phases

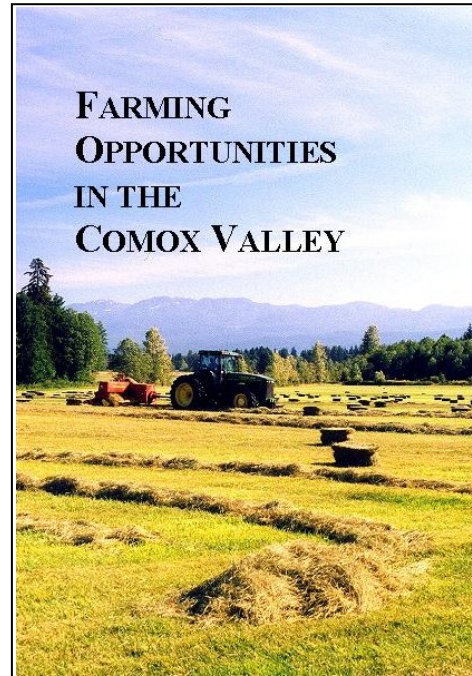
Consultants were hired to do the project in two phases; applicants bid on both phases, but the one selected for the first phase was not guaranteed the contract for the second phase. The first phase gathered historical information and background data. It was awarded to George Penfold a planner with Qu'West Consulting, who was supported by a professional agrologist Gary Rolston with "From the Ground Up" who was once the regional agrologist for the area. The first phase was completed in December 2001.

Phase 2 got under way in January 2002, with the same contractors, was designed to identify issues, challenges, and opportunities. The RDCS had stringent requirements for public participation - the team had one invitation-only meeting and one open house, plus

it set up a display at the fall fair. Participation from the environmental and community NGO's (non-government organisations) was low due to a focus on structural changes in government. That difficult buy-in continues even now in the implementation stage.

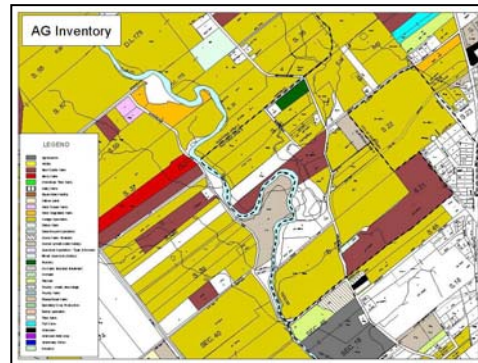
### Tangible and Intangible Accomplishments

- The AAP was completed and accepted by the RDCS Regional Board, which was helped by the two area directors being actively involved. One director was re-elected and passed his knowledge on to the other directors.
- Stronger common language and understanding and linkages were created between the farmers and government.
- A number of tools were developed around planning and resource allocation; sample brochures were provided at the workshop. Distributed to various local real estate, chamber, and economic development offices, the brochures helped create a better understanding of living in a farming area and for those people looking to farm in the valley.



### Agricultural Inventory

Originally to be part of the Phase 2 contract, the land use inventory was beyond the capability of the consultants. So, it was done by GIS technical staff from RDCS and MAFF. Some funding was provided by Ducks Unlimited Canada and Environment Canada. The RDCS and MAFF retained this data and it still has many uses. Some ground-truthing was done by the committee.



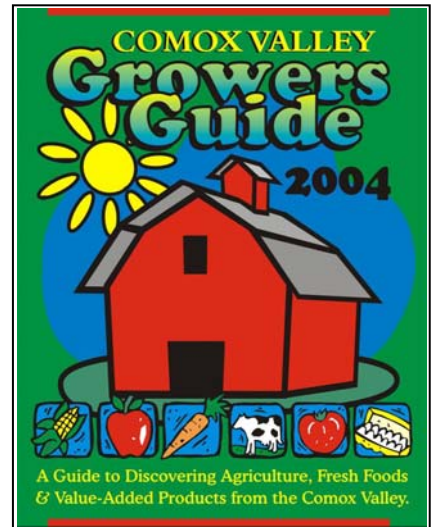
### What is the situation today?

The Phase 2 report identified the interested groups and agencies which could carry out the projects to achieve the objectives. An implementation committee has been struck, chaired by the regional agrologist, with the regional district planner as co-ordinator. The heads of the Comox Valley Farmers' Market Association, Comox Valley Farmers' Institute, and Economic Development provide the driving force to get something done. The mandate of this committee is to work on projects identified in the plan. It meets infrequently and reports its progress back to the RDCS Board.

The first project, a do-able, small step was the production of the "Comox Valley Growers Guide", with seed funding from local farmers' groups, and their members were encouraged to buy ads. Local businesses bought advertising, too. A local newspaper printed it. Distribution was 50,000 copies and farmers reported increased traffic and sales. It will be a yearly publication.

### Lessons Learned

- Decide on a committee structure and the roles and responsibilities of steering committee members before starting the process.
- Choose persistent people with experience working on committees.
- Create ownership outside the immediate group.
- Volunteers and staff can be burned out during the planning, with little energy remaining for implementation.
- Think implementation when designing the plan; identify who will implement it.
- Put aside financial resources for implementation.
- Dedicate human resources toward implementation.
- Make sure goals and projects can be accomplished; items that require vast resources may be lost.
- Include groups and agencies from outside the local government which can help fund the implementation and which may have jurisdiction to carry out projects.
- Build in a review every three to five years.



END of Presentation

### Questions and Comments from Audience to Presenters

Q - Did plan address rural-urban conflict?

A - It was identified, but it does not exist to the same degree as it does in other local governments. It was not considered as high a priority as other issues, but they are now focussing more attention on it. When the plan is reviewed, it may get a higher profile. One of the weaknesses in the plan was that the local governments were not engaged to a high degree and they are the ones having difficulty with urban expansion. Recently, the committee decided to invite the municipalities in the Comox Valley. Also, RDCS is including policies from the Agriculture Plan in its OCP's to address settlement issues.

Q - What is the content of the magazine?

A - It lists 55 farms; we limited ads to baseboard ads and on back cover; a few articles were farm-based written by local newspaper staff. It was intended to advertise people's farms and the farmers' market; some news items e.g., history of Comox Valley Farmers' Institute. We wanted it to be self-

supporting so needed a lot of ads. It has been extremely well received by the business community so we hope they will carry it on this year.

Q - Can you comment on the process of getting the regional and local governments to agree to the plan?

A - We were very fortunate that in the OCP in 1998 there was very strong political support to do an agricultural plan; history of farming is part of the culture; as a RDCS planner, Beth maintains the profile of the plan and make sure its implementation is a top work priority.

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## C.2 Awareness: Central Okanagan RD and Kelowna Farm Tour

Presentation by:

- \* Sandra Kochan, Chair, Regional District of Central Okanagan Agricultural Advisory Committee

The Agri-Tour 2004 was held in June 2004 as a joint initiative of the AACs of the City of Kelowna and Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO).

The inspiration for this tour came from the 2003 Province-wide AAC Workshop. It took longer to organise than originally envisioned in 2003.



### Objectives

- Showcase the diversity and magnitude of primary agriculture within Kelowna and Central Okanagan Regional District; focus less on agri-tourism for this first tour because primary production is often under-recognised; wanted to emphasise that primary agriculture is thriving; it is kind of hidden - people know there are orchards but may not know the magnitude, their economic impact, employment, export activity, and value of crops.
- Focus on success and innovation
- Direct interaction between attendees and owner-operators; ask questions and learn more about what they do
- Learning / discussion / enjoyment for invitees

### Organising Team

- Linda Clark and Ron Fralick, Planning Department, RDCO
- Mark Koch, Planning Department, City of Kelowna
- Carl Withler, MAFF
- Domenic Rampone, Pierre Calissi and Ed Henkel (C), City of Kelowna AAC
- Sandra Kochan (Chair), Mike Sanders, Mike Molloy, RDCO AAC

It was a great working relationship, and everyone devoted a lot of time and care in organising the tour. Without the staff who provide tremendous support to the two AACs of both the city and regional district, it would have been difficult to do. It was a joint tour because the city and regional district boundaries are closely tied and some city councillors sit on the Regional Board. The two AACs realised there had not been ties between them and the preparation for the tour provided an opportunity to learn more

about what each committee is working on and the types of issues each is dealing with, and that there are some differences.

#### Organisational details

- Total budget \$2,100
- Contributions (funding and staff support) from MAFF, Investment Agriculture Foundation, City of Kelowna, and Regional District of Central Okanagan
- Donations and in kind support from hosting farms and others
- Combined volunteer and staff time estimated at 150 hours; do not under estimate the time required

The budget included one full-sized bus, lunch, snacks, and the closing reception. Prizes and some of the tour elements (i.e., tables and chairs for lunch) were arranged by donation.

#### Tour Itinerary

- AM: Mission Hill Vineyards (RDCO)
- AM: Byland Nurseries (RDCO)
- Lunch: Dendy Cherry Orchard (City)
- PM: Casorso Farm (City)
- Closing Reception: Kelowna Land & Orchard (City)

Four visits gave the right amount of information, and allowed sufficient transit time between sites.

Properties in both the City and RDCO were included. The tour planning revealed differences in the issues before the AACs. The City AAC deals with more interface, and traffic planning concerns (vehicles and also human recreation traffic that views agricultural green space as parks), while the RD AAC deals with large block exclusions and different types of interface issues.

First stop was at Mission Hill Vineyards was not focussed on the spiffy \$40 million winery but on the vineyard operation. The RD AAC has the good fortune to have the vineyard manager, Mike Malloy, as a member. He, and Director of Guest Services, Michael Joss, lead an explanation of the agricultural side of the winery which does not usually get much attention even though it is very significant.

It was learned that the winery and vineyard operation have established very effective communication with all of their neighbours. This site was an ice wine operation, set in a bowl surrounded by high-end residential development, resulting in tractor operation and predation control being closely observed by those neighbours. The vineyard uses regular communication systems - distributed handouts, phone contact, and community meetings to answer neighbours' questions about what the farm is doing and why they are doing it. The result is that complaints have been minimised.



Attendees learned about innovative technology for environmental monitoring (water use, irrigation, weather). The value of this small area of production creates tremendous dollar value - i.e., \$75 bottles of ice wine.

The second site visited, Byland Nurseries, showed a surprisingly large-scale operation. Local residents are familiar with the retail side but have no idea about the large wholesale side. Bylands has over 430 acres of retail and wholesale in the Okanagan and Fraser Valleys, and employs over 210 people at peak season.



The third stop, which included the lunch break, was to the Dendy cherry orchard. The Dendys provided the guests with a look at a unique operation which produces approximately 200 tons of fruit destined for premium grade markets in Taiwan, the UK, France, Hong Kong, Singapore, USA, Germany, Belgium, Malaysia, Thailand, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, and Vietnam.

With the benefit of a sophisticated packing line, fruit can be picked, packed, shipped, and on the shelf in a foreign marketplace within 24 hours. The packing line is also used by other growers; approximately \$2.5 million worth of fruit passes through the line in about a six-week period (notable employment factor). The Dendys shared a number of interface issues with the group, including the risk of disease from abandoned or inadequately cared for trees in urban and non-commercial acreages in their area, concerns about access to a continuing supply of irrigation water, predation control, lack of quality accommodation for the labour force, and conflicts with people who view orchards as 'park land' for their use.

Discussion at the Casorso farm, the last farm visited, centered on this family-run operation of a heritage farm, its diversity, and the future of the Sterile Insect Release program.

The closing reception at KLO (Kelowna Land & Orchard) offered a quick glimpse of diversification and value-added production in one of Kelowna's oldest orchards; cider production, a restaurant, a market and tours are just part of the guest services offered here.



## Tour Participants

<u>Invitations</u>	<u>No. Attending</u>
Agricultural Advisory Committees	12
Advisory Planning Commission	7
Environmental Advisory Committee	3
Economic Development Commission	3
Planning staff	8
Irrigation District(s)	1
Elected Representatives	4
Ministry of Transportation	2
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	2
Agricultural Land Commission	1
Print and broadcast media	3
Total	46

Attendance by elected officials was poor due to scheduling conflicts; this year the date will be advertised much earlier. One print journalist accompanied the whole tour, and a TV crew and other reporters met the bus at particular stops for interviews. It would have been better if the media accompanied the whole tour for increased awareness and to create a public profile for the local governments, the AACs, and their accomplishments.

## What worked well

- Number of stops (4) provided a good pace - the tour started and ended on time
- Farm hosts were well prepared and very gracious
- The weather!
- Handouts reinforced a basic, positive message about agriculture
- Good media coverage before, during and after the tour

## Things we can improve on

- Attendance from elected officials
- Cross-section of 'the good, the bad and the ugly' for rural-urban interface locations and practices
- More insight into issues and problem-solving strategies
- More structured presentations while in transit

## What's next

- 2005 tour will again be a joint initiative - planned for June 23; it will be double the size (2 buses)
- Regional District of Central Okanagan has commenced work on an Agricultural Plan - first draft is expected by spring, 2005

END of presentation

## Questions and comments from the audience to the presenters

Comment - It was good you stressed the farm production in addition to tourism.

Comment - Need to create buffers between the cherries and urban development.



Q - How closely will the RDCO work with the AAC on the agricultural plan?

A - Request For Proposal (RFP) for consultant has just been awarded. The AAC representatives will be meeting with the consultant next week. It is expected that AAC will be involved throughout, and there will be other community and industry consultations.

Q - What is the budget for the plan?

A - In the neighbourhood of \$40,000.

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### C.3 Economic Development: Small Lot Agriculture Project, District of Kent

Presentation by:

- \* Bruce Swift, member Kent AAC and salmon farmer for 20 years
- \* Marion Robinson, Manager for Fraser Basin Council for Fraser Valley area and Small Lot Agriculture project facilitator

*(Photos in this presentation of different types of agriculture throughout Kent are courtesy of Georgia Cleaver, Pacific Agri-Food Research Station.)*

This study was done in 2004, lead by the Kent AAC, with resource assistance and facilitation from the Fraser Basin Council.

Small lots are defined by the Province as anything under 10 acres or that generates \$50,000 annual income. For the Kent study, the AAC increased the size to 20 acres.

Small lot agriculture composes 25% of the BC agricultural economy, and 53% of Canada's.

In Kent, there was awareness of the larger farm operations - dairy, poultry, swine, goats, corn, hazelnuts, cranberries, mushrooms, and horticultural nurseries. But, the AAC did not have knowledge about small-lot agriculture - what it was, how important it was, or who was doing it.

The AAC wanted to collect the information to enable it to make better decisions about small lots - while not promoting the creation of them. Also, an initiative program was asking for small-lot proposals which spurred on the AAC.

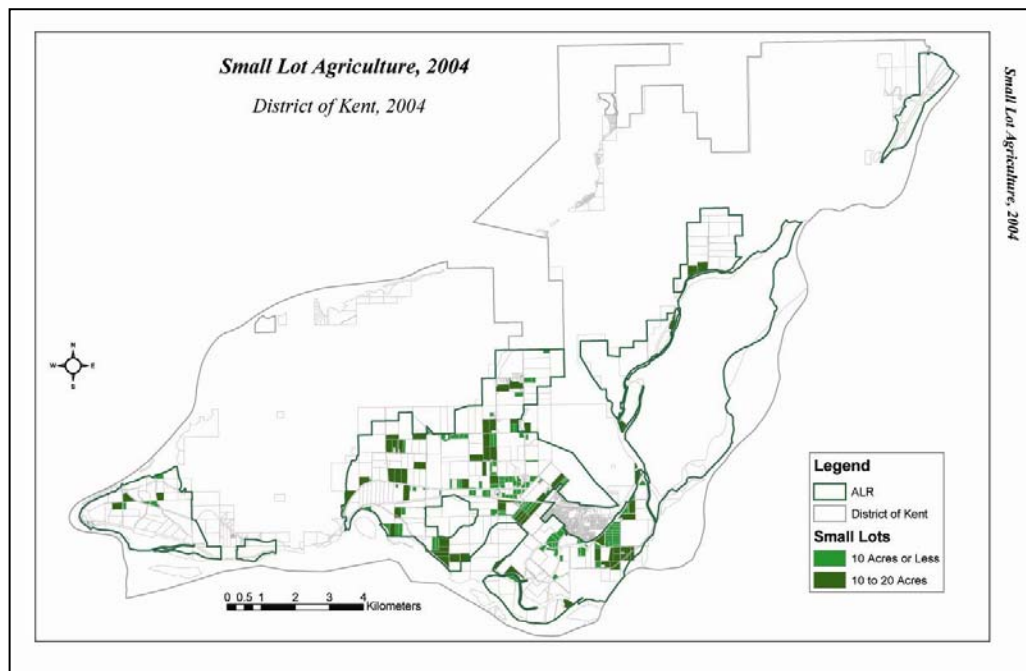
Questions asked in the Kent Small Lot Agriculture (SLA) study:

- What is the land used for SLA?
- What is being produced?
- How do small - lot farmers sell their products?
- What are the future opportunities?



### The Study Procedure

- Established a committee - not just small lot producers but also larger dairy producers;
- Linked with the Fraser Basin Council - provided staff time for day-to-day tasks (volunteer AAC members too busy) and FBC identified funding;
- Made a proposal to Small Lot Agriculture Committee which approved \$16,000, Fraser Basin Council brought in \$8,000, plus Marion's time.
- Survey:
  - Developed a series of questions.
  - Hired a keen Geography student from University College of the Fraser Valley.
  - Conducted door-to-door interviews - more personal and created great link to farmers.
  - Data gathered (useful for future Agricultural Area Plan too) included: location, acreage, products, physical properties of farm (have water, soil type on fill, mountain or plain), buildings, services, and hydro.
- Database - used the common, fairly easy MS Access to query specific data, resource for the District too; MAFF is using it to create maps.
- Workshop
- Final report - to Small Lot Agriculture Committee



### Small Lot Products Identified

- Herbs, crayfish, oyster mushrooms, coffee roaster, wasabi, sprouts
- Cheese, farm stores, shitake mushrooms, farmed coho salmon, organic vegetables, llamas

### Kent Overview

- Surveyed 143 farms - both small and large.
- 62% were less than 20 acres.
- 15,864 acres (6,420 ha) in ALR
- Farm gate receipts \$36.5 million
- Multiplier spin-offs = \$255 million (factor of 7)
- 50 of 83 small lots (60%) had agricultural products.
- 30% sell through direct marketing.
- 3% outside of Canada
- Confirmed Kent's agricultural assets.



### Small Lot Agriculture Workshop

Many small lot owners sought ideas for what they could do on their land. So, the AAC developed a workshop where opportunities were discussed; about 100 people attended. Resource people included:

- Deb and Dave Schneider of Ruby Creek re: market gardens;
- Joanne Hansen who has small agri-tourism operation in Harrison Mills;
- A horticulturist re: shrubs and flowers;
- A key person from Chilliwack discussed farmers' markets;
- Rochelle Thiessen re: organic market; and
- Stephen Wong, a Vancouver chef, explained what products restaurants seek.

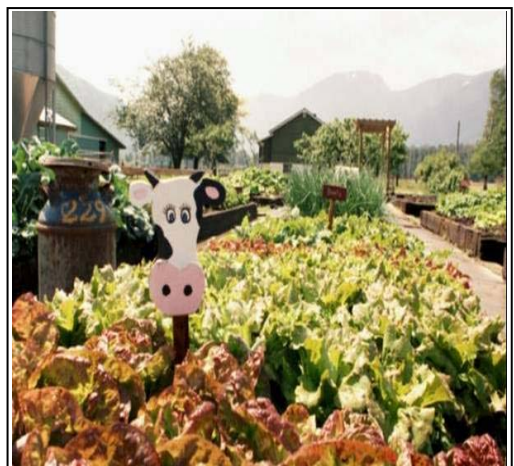
### Other Small Lot Agriculture Opportunities

- Harrison Hot Springs - The study revealed that there is not good data about how many people visit the village, only data on how many enter the Information Booth. Estimates are that 300,000 to 400,000 cars are passing the farmers' doorstep; this very high potential could be captured.
- Circle Farm Tour - Started two years ago, the tour leads visitors travelling to Harrison Hot Springs to 10 to 12 farms with direct marketing - herbery, cheese house, vegetable operations, and salmon farm. Abbotsford doing a similar tour in 2005.
- Focus on Farming - This awareness campaign started two years ago - Buds in Bloom, Agassiz Fall fair - this year it will be a whole week, May 16-21 of "Ag in the Classroom", circle farm tours, open everything for quick visits, tastes of local products cooked by local chefs, "Buds in Bloom", market, and barn dance.



### Future Opportunities

- More targeted workshops for interested people
- Value-added infrastructure - Some products require a processing step, also a capacity-building exercise



- Market development - A number of producers are “product-ready”; intention is to work together to approach potential purchasers jointly, or to share delivery time and/or vehicles on trips to Vancouver.
- Business mentorship - Connect successful operations to people just starting out.

Consider agriculture as a main vehicle for economic development. Fraser Valley produces \$1.4 billion in gross farm receipts, at the same time, around the world, 43% of food lands are under threat. In BC, we are sustainable; we grow half of the food we consume. The other half is imported from “elsewhere” which is also undergoing changes, threats, and climate change. Marginalized farm lands can no longer carry the load due to drought and changing conditions, so the requirement of agriculture’s role will become more intense. Fraser Valley population is expected to double in 15-20 years. Are we going to be able to double our food production, too?



#### Lessons Learned

- One of the most important lessons - we need tools - i.e., the database to gather knowledge of what we have, in order to plan for where we want to be.
- “Small lot farming” can also occur on large farms - e.g., a dairy with market garden.
- Small lot agriculture can be a resource for urban people to learn about farming.

END of presentation

#### Questions and comments from the audience to presenters

Q - What are Kent’s boundaries?

A - Include Ruby Creek and reach all the way to Harrison Mills, a long skinny area along the Fraser River, backed by mountains. Harrison Hot Springs is a separate village but people go through Kent to get there.

Comment - A speaker stressed the importance of the economic value of farming being shown to politicians.

A - Data from Circon Consulting, for the Kent area, showed that agriculture has a multiplier of 7 or 8. So, spin-offs from farming are high, and it feeds you.

Q - Do you have a recommendation on how to gather information and how to define “small lot agriculture”?

A - It was easiest to go door-to-door and get a very accurate figure. Our data collection was not limited ahead of time to small lots because the AAC did not know which ones were “small” or not. AAC was looking for “small lot activity” regardless of parcel size. So, they tried to survey all farms in Kent. The small lot component is not just hobby farms but some SLA make good incomes, e.g. \$50,000 per year.

Q - An AAC member from Pemberton asked how they can encourage small lot agriculture:

A - Gather together the interested people; get organised; understand or survey your assets (land, soil, etc.) your regional agrologist can help; do “windshield” survey to understand what is happening; look for trends; find a capacity-building resource person;

if people are gathered for a farm tour the ideas can flow; get all the producers in one room and things will start to happen. Invite the Kent AAC, they will come and help.

Q - How many small lots are viable for making a living?

A - It depends on your preferred lifestyle. Collective effort and information sharing can benefit all; still an opportunity for part-time farming while holding another job; agriculture is a quality of life and builds community.

The Kent report is available from Kim Sutherland at MAFF and the Fraser Basin Council web site.

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## C.4 Initiatives: City of Surrey and Illegal Fill Dumping on the ALR

Presentation by:

- \* Mike Bose, City of Surrey AAC
- \* John Sherstone, Manager, Bylaw and Licensing Services, City of Surrey

Mike Bose of the Surrey AAC emphasized the role of the local politicians' support in making the AACs effective. The AAC started about 12 years ago in the City of Surrey and experienced the same growing pains as the newer AACs amongst the 21 around the province. It is good to see the interest in agriculture is growing.

AAC members had noticed an increase in the amount of fill going on farm land in Surrey and wondered if the people had permits for the dumping. Because the farm land in Surrey is essentially at sea level, any fill has a negative effect on the drainage scheme. The City is undertaking a \$40 million drainage project to enhance the agricultural drainage and to take care of the runoff from the uplands.

So, each time a farmer noticed some dumping, the AAC would phone the Drainage Manager, who would phone the Bylaws people, who would have to get in touch with the Building Department which is the group that enforces the bylaws regarding fill. The AAC repeatedly invited Bylaws to its meetings to discuss procedures, who had permits, and how there could be more control. City staff realized it was not just agricultural land affected and took a stronger interest in the issue, partially because of the persistence of the AAC. Bylaws took control of the enforcement process and started to develop a program or charging people for improper dumping and to manage the fill.

John Sherstone, as Manager of Bylaw and Licensing, has 22 officers to enforce bylaws including property use, 14 parking officers under contract, and 121 animal control officers under contract. Due to the tremendous growth and amount of construction the illegal dumping of fill was running rampant. On weekends, there would be an estimated 300 - 400 trucks dumping dirt and levelling off before staff returned to work on Monday morning. The volumes and origins of the fill were unknown.

Since October 2004, an investigation procedure for all soil violations has been put in place. To date, there have been 115 site complaints, and 44 still under investigation. Daily patrols occur throughout the city. One officer works only on these complaints, however, the other 22 officers who work all week, would attend at sites, and if there was no permit, the site would be shut down. Weekly and daily, staff would contact most of the excavating and trucking companies.

Surrey's mayor and council believe in education before stepping up enforcement. So, that approach was used so everyone would know about the program and the intended enforcement. Engineering Department was asked to make 100 signs, 50 of each design (see accompanying photos), to be erected along roads around the city, mostly in farming areas.



Tickets have been issued for dumping on dirt roads and the ALR without permits. Dump trucks are regularly checked, weighed at Provincial scales or on the City's portable scales and charges are laid for being overweight or off a truck route. The City also has two commercial vehicles units which work as a team with the officer doing dumping enforcement.

Engineering was asked to identify sites where dumping could occur legally so the companies would have somewhere to go with the fill. A database was created of all excavating companies operating in Surrey. A soil information window was created on the City's web site which includes:

- [Soil Removal and Depositing By-law, No. 5880 \(pdf\)](#)
- [Application for Soil Depositing Permit Checklist \(pdf\)](#)
- [Application for Soil Depositing/Removal Permit \(pdf\)](#)
- [Agricultural Land Commission Application \(pdf\)](#)
- [Permitted Soil Sites](#)
- [Soil Depositing and Removal Information \[pdf\]](#)
- [Soil Facts \(pdf\)](#)
- [Soil Watch \(pdf\)](#)
- [Flood Plain Map \(pdf\)](#)
- [Agricultural Land Reserve Map \(pdf\)](#)

In another part of the education program, Surrey will put out a pamphlet, "Soil Removal and Deposit" and "Soil Watch", after Council has seen it. It will be published in Punjabi and English.

Daily patrols have reduced the number of non-permitted spoil sites. Problem contractors have been identified and are under investigation and observation. The Bylaw section liaises with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), WLAP (BC Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection), ALC, and the provincial commercial transport inspectors.

As an example of the expansion of the program, in 2003 ten permits were issued for dumping; in 2004, 31 were issued, with about 20 of them being issued between October and December; and in 2005 to date, 47 permits have been issued. The word is out - no permit, no dumping. The maximum fine is \$2,000 but an increase is being sought to \$10,000. A ticket offence is \$100, and it will be raised to between \$100 and \$750. Not only is the trucking company charged, but also the excavator and property owner. The practice used to be that a broker would seek sites for dumping for a fee of up to \$100 per truckload. The property owner received no money, just the benefit of free fill. The trucking company was able to dump.

As examples of the scale of the problem, Council has approved two large housing projects - one will generate 3,000 truckloads and the other will have over 6,000 truckloads needing places to be dumped. At the beginning of the process, one of the large contractors commented that the dump site could change by the hour by instructions over the phone. Truckers need advice of where acceptable sites are located - truckers now seek City advice as to where the soil can be dumped.



Acceptable sites are being coordinated with the AAC and the private dyking districts for dyke upgrading. Two sites have been approved. Building section still approves the permits. When an illegal dump site is found the land owner, trucking company, and excavator are put on notice about the consequences and fines via a letter. Four cases are before the courts. Compliance is high within Surrey but the City has started to meet with the adjacent municipalities of Delta and Langley to avoid them becoming six feet higher.

END of the presentation

Questions and comments from the audience to the presenters:

Q - When a building project is approved, is the City asking the contractor where the soil will be placed?

A - Yes, now, they must identify the site.

Q - Is the ALC supporting the City?

A - Work hand in hand with them. Much of the illegal dumping had been in the ALR. Currently, the soil deposition bylaw allows the dumping of 1,000 cubic metres without a permit (= 160 truckloads). Bylaw is recommending it be reduced to 60 truckloads, which would still give a large landscaper sufficient capacity for a project. Previously, there might be up to 300 truckloads dumped on a weekend, with no way to measure it after it had been levelled.



Previously, the AAC found neither the ALC nor the City had dedicated enforcement staff and urged the City to take on the enforcement.

Q - How does the City avoid contaminated fill being dumped?

A - Environmental staff are monitoring the activities.

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## D. AACs Making Them Work - Group Discussion Sessions

**Purpose:** The topics chosen for discussion were based on feedback from different AACs. The intent of the discussion sessions was for AAC members to exchange ideas and information they have gained from past experiences. It was hoped that these sessions will enable AACs to be better equipped to deal with certain situations and enhance their effectiveness as an advisory committee to their council or board.

**Discussion Format:** The 127 participants were assigned to nine discussion groups; [lists of the groups' members](#) are provided in Appendix III. The assignments were done before the workshop to ensure a mix of participants from various geographic areas, a mix of members from recently-established and older AACs, and local government staff and politicians. A MAFF or ALC staff person acted as facilitator in each group.

Approximately 30 minutes per topic were allowed for discussion. The workshop facilitator, Jessica McNamara, asked for reports back to the whole assembly from only three groups per topic:

- Session 1: Groups 1, 2, 3
- Session 2: Groups 4, 5, 6
- Session 3: Groups 7, 8, 9, and
- Session 4: Groups 4, 6, 8.



**Discussion Points:** For each topic, several discussion points were suggested in handout material, as a stimulus for discussion. *They are shown in italics at the beginning of each discussion session.* The groups were free to venture onto other subjects.

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### D.1 Building relationships with your Council or Board

#### ***Suggested Discussion Points:***

- *Effectiveness of Committee composition*
  - *Chair designation*
- *Ideas for helping to build relationships:*
  - *One on One time*
  - *Annual work plans*
  - *Structure motions in ways that help the council/board act*
  - *Agriculture Tour*
  - *Presentation to UBCM from AAC delegation on challenges and achievements*
  - *Annual working session with council / board*
  - *Annual presentation to the council / board on the work undertaken by the AAC*

#### **Comments from Discussion Groups**

For this topic, the workshop facilitator asked only Groups 1, 2, and 3 to report back to the whole assembly. The verbal [report-back](#) comments of each group are provided at the beginning of the [flipchart](#) notes for each topic which are given in Appendix I.

### Summary of key points

- Work with real estate industry to build understanding of agriculture.
- Farm tour is a key method of raising awareness about agriculture.
- Staff support and a political representative on the AAC are very important to provide links to other staff and to the Council or Board.
- If an AAC follows its terms of reference given by the Council or Board, a better relationship will result.
- AACs are appointed by governments to be advisory and not have advocacy role.
- Possible AAC tasks:
  - review other policy and strategic plans;
  - keep good records to document issues;
  - annual work plan and “report card” of activities create an effective working relationship with Board/Council.
- Presenting the value of local agriculture and its multiplier effects to Council or Board, real estate and other economic development leaders will create better understanding and lead to retention of strong, healthy agriculture.

[Flipchart Notes](#) ▼

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## D.2 Dealing effectively with ALR applications

### Suggested Discussion Points:

- *Outline types of applications – subdivision, exclusion, non-farm use*
- *What factors are taken into account when making the decision?*
- *Are resources/information like Land Use Inventory information used to understand larger implications of the application?*
- *Is establishing a set policy (like the Surrey AAC) to handle exclusion applications feasible?*
- *How do AACs acknowledge the reality of urban growth and protect agriculture at the same time?*
- *How is the issue of ‘net benefit to agriculture’ handled?*

### Comments from Discussion Groups

For this topic, the workshop facilitator asked only Groups 4, 5, and 6 to report back to the whole assembly. The verbal [report-back](#) comments of each group are provided at the beginning of the [flipchart](#) notes for each topic which are given in Appendix I.

### Summary of key points

- Reviewing ALR applications is part of the core business of an AAC.
- Evaluation of an ALR application could include: field visit, meeting with applicant, air photos, maps agricultural capability of soils, history of site and its uses, relationship to adjacent farm uses, OCP compliance, and zoning.
- AAC should speak strongly for agriculture and leave other issues to others.
- AACs need to have a consistent approach to the *Farm Practices Protection Act (FPPA)*.
- It is up to the applicant to provide evidence, especially, the “benefits” for agriculture:

- Develop consistent criteria for removal of land from ALR (as Surrey has done).
- Long term intent of the ALR is to preserve agricultural land for a diversity of crops or livestock.

[Flipchart Notes](#) ▼

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### D.3 Successfully developing and implementing an Agricultural Area Plan

An Agricultural Area Plan (AAP) is a sub-area plan applied to areas that will be predominantly in agricultural use. It can bring greater focus to agricultural concerns compared to a community wide Official Community Plan. An AAP has the potential to ensure a sufficient level of detail to identify and deal with issues important to the farm community. It also ensures that agriculture provides the context within which to judge competing land use activities in farming areas. Within a defined agricultural planning area, the AAP can prevent agriculture from being overwhelmed by settlement / urban planning issues. An AAP could, and perhaps should, be incorporated into an Official Community Plan (OCP).

#### *Suggested Discussion Points:*

- *Gaining support from the council or board*
- *Sources of funding*
- *Establishing a terms of reference*
- *Establishing time lines*
- *Accessing planning staff or consultants (establishing their terms of reference)*
- *Acquiring background information – what, where, how*
- *Determining opportunities and challenges*
- *Gaining public input*
- *Implementation – making sure the plan doesn't just sit on the shelf*

#### Comments from Discussion Groups

For this topic, the workshop facilitator asked only Groups 7, 8, and 9 to report back to the whole assembly. The verbal [report-back](#) comments of each group are provided at the beginning of the [flipchart](#) notes for each topic which are given in Appendix I.

#### Summary of key points

- Council / Board must champion the plan.
- An agricultural area plan and planning process can build an understanding of agriculture to the local economy.
- Agricultural land use inventory is very helpful.
- Implementation can be via farm bylaw(s).
- Ag plan should be an "action plan" and not just a land use plan.
- Build in implementation steps, actors, and funding.
- Planning process must have input from other interests and cover all sectors.
- Acknowledge the volunteer time contributed by AAC, farmers, and other community members.

[Flipchart Notes](#) ▼

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## D.4 Regional Districts and Municipal AACs working together

### Suggested Discussion Points:

- *How can AACs coordinate their efforts so that decisions and policies are made that don't contradict other AACs' work, commodity group policy, local government policy, etc.?*
- *Can municipal and regional district AACs work together to enhance their effectiveness at drawing agriculture into local government planning processes? Are there agriculture awareness efforts, AAP development processes, ALR application processes, and other projects that could be developed together?*
- *Could the web be used as a medium to gain greater uniformity and increase the connection between AACs?*
  - *A sub-group of members from different AACs could be formed to develop a simple 'model set of suggestions' for local government web site development that improves access to AAC information.*

### Comments from Discussion Groups

For this topic, the workshop facilitator asked only Groups 4, 6, and 8 to report back to the whole assembly. The verbal [report-back](#) comments of each group are provided at the beginning of the [flipchart](#) notes for each topic which are given in Appendix I.

### Summary of key points

- Periodic joint meetings would provide an opportunity to share approaches to issues and address common, regional issues.
- Joint farm tours for familiarity.
- Harmonize terms of reference because issues are similar in a region.
- Information-sharing between AACs should be expanded.  
[Ed. note: The Strengthening Farming web site (see Appendix V) provides links to AACs; each AAC and local government could work with its regional agrologist to ensure the links are current.]

[Flipchart Notes](#) ▼

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## E. Closing Comments - Minister John van Dongen

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, John van Dongen commended the 127 participants - more than 50% are farmers, 18 of the 21 AACs were represented today. There was representation by many commodities and regions.

He commended all of the farmers who participate in AACs. An AAC is an important and useful vehicle for the industry to keep its issues and interests in front of local and regional government. Farmers are their own best advocates; they know their industry, their needs, why they use certain practices, and how to make new technology work in today's competitive industry.

The Minister commended local and regional governments that work with the industry, use AACs. He encouraged more governments to do so. He thanked the local government staff and politicians who attended today. He reminded participants that MAFF staff are available to support industry and governments.

In his view, AACs and farmers can grow collectively and work with urban neighbours to make agriculture an important economic driver in the community but also an industry that operates in harmony with its neighbours.

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# APPENDIX I

## Group Discussion Sessions Reports Back to the Assembly and Detailed Flipchart Notes

**Purpose:** The topics chosen for discussion were based on feedback from different AACs. The intent of the discussion sessions was for AAC members to exchange ideas and information they have gained from past experiences. It was hoped that these sessions will enable AACs to be better equipped to deal with certain situations and enhance their effectiveness as an advisory committee to their council or board.

**Discussion Format:** The 127 participants were assigned to nine discussion groups; see Appendix III for [list of the groups' members](#). The assignments were done before the workshop to ensure a mix of participants from various geographic areas, a mix of members from recently-established and older AACs, and local government staff and politicians. A MAFF or ALC staff per acted as facilitator in each group.

**Discussion Points:** For each topic, several discussion points were suggested in handout material, as a stimulus for discussion. *They are shown in italics at the beginning of each discussion session.* The groups were free to venture onto other subjects.

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### D.1 Building relationships with your Council or Board - Flipchart Notes

#### ***Suggested Discussion Points:***

- *Effectiveness of Committee composition*
  - *Chair designation*
- *Ideas for helping to build relationships:*
  - *One on One time*
  - *Annual work plans*
  - *Structure motions in ways that help the council/board act*
  - *Agriculture Tour*
  - *Presentation to UBCM from AAC delegation on challenges and achievements*
  - *Annual working session with council / board*
  - *Annual presentation to the council / board on the work undertaken by the AAC*

#### **Reports back to the assembly on Topic 1 by Groups 1, 2, and 3**

##### Report back to the assembly on Topic 1 by Group 1

- It is critical to successful relationships to have staff support for the AAC at municipal or regional district level.
- Farm tours are key tools to generate interest in agriculture and AACs.
- If the AAC sticks to terms of reference given by Board/Council, a better relationship will result.

- Having a Board/Council representative on the AAC could be viewed as “pro” by providing a legitimate linkage, or “con”, if the person takes over the AAC; keep it arm’s length and it is a good thing to do.
- With fewer farmers taking elected office, the role of the AAC is more important to convey the message of agriculture:
- Make effective use of Board/Council time, not through informal, social get-togethers, but when there are things to be achieved, set an agenda for a workshop setting will be effective and Board/Council will be involved.
- Sell the Board/Council on effectiveness, e.g., through regular, annual reporting of AAC activities.

#### Report back to the assembly by Group 2 on Topic 1

- Council or Board representative is very important to provide an advocate for agriculture and the AAC on the Council or Board.
- Agriculture tours are a great way to educate politicians on benefits of agriculture within the community.
- Values of agriculture have to be presented to Council for better understanding of maintaining strong, healthy agriculture:
- Small, productive agricultural land base, in BC and internationally, is shrinking and population is growing and land should be retained to feed people in future:
- Consider other interests, e.g. through buy-in on ag plans.
- AAC should not just be reactive to threats but also pro-active in supporting other ventures.
- In some areas, commodity groups can put forward agriculture’s view when AAC is not active or where there is no AAC.
- Use language the Council/Board understands.

#### Report back to the assembly by Group 3 on Topic 1

- There should be a high percentage of ag producers on the AAC.
- A good, workable number on an AAC is 14.
- Presence of elected officials - differing views - should be observers and listeners to take information back to Board/Council; should NOT be chair.
- Staff is valuable.
- Appointment of ag members should be via local ag groups, not by politicians.
- Building relationships: dinner of local food, bus tour, annual work plan, structure motions for clear direction to Council.
- At UBCM meetings, AACs should present on goals, achievements, and strengths.
- All commodity groups should be represented.
- Stress facts for Council.
- Information from AACs is often seen as more reliable than from consultants.
- Emphasize impact of agriculture on other local businesses and that dollars generated by agriculture are multiplied several times throughout the community.

### Flipchart Notes

Summary Text ▲

#### Topic 1, Group 1 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Staff support critical
- ◆ Use farm tour to generate interest in agriculture and AAC
- ◆ Terms of reference >> focus = legitimacy
- ◆ Board / Council representative = linkage vs. arm’s length
- ◆ Need to work with elected representatives >> fewer farmers on councils



- ◆ Must make most effective use of Council's time
- ◆ Sell Council on value of AAC
- ◆ Measure and report

#### Topic 1, Group 2 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Selection of representative farmers, ALC, environmental community
- ◆ Chair: councillor, farmer
- ◆ Advisory not advocacy
- ◆ Non-farm\* representation
  - Get Council support
- ◆ Bureaucracy filter / block between AAC and Council
- ◆ Issues initiated by AAC or Council?
- ◆ Uncooperative Council
  - Don't realize value of agriculture
  - Exclude despite OCP
- ◆ Council / AAC meetings
- ◆ Agriculture tour for Council
- ◆ #5 (values) re: value of agriculture
- ◆ Counter influence of other interests
  - Give and take
- ◆ Proactive to support agriculture vs. react to threats
- ◆ Integrate with regional committees re: other issues
- ◆ (Peace River issue) Difficult to get farmer support if strong commodity groups already established
- ◆ Use language councils understand

#### Topic 1, Group 3 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ High percentage of agricultural producers
- ◆ Elected officials
- ◆ Staff does not vote
- ◆ Council member NOT chair / non-voting? (liaison)
- ◆ Concern where agricultural representatives come from - appointed vs. elected by agricultural association
- ◆ Ideas to build relationships
  - Dinner for Council with locally-grown food
  - Bus tours
    - General public
    - Council members
  - Develop annual work plan for better Board / Council understanding of directions
  - Structure motions with specific directions for better understanding by Council
  - At UBCM, present on AAC - growth / goals / achievement
  - Make sure representation from all commodities
  - Factual information vs. social information
  - Information developed by committee vs. consultant, is better received
  - Relate benefit / impact of agriculture back to other local business
  - Primary circulation of agriculture's dollars \$ (funds) in community

#### Topic 1, Group 4 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Tour showing agriculture - annually or biannually, scheduled a year in advance
  - Predetermine issues - hot topics, success stories, and problematic issues
  - Economic value - showing costs and benefits of successes and problems
- ◆ Annual meeting with Council
  - Information download
  - "Report card" ("how did we do?")

- Identify critical issue
- Work plan - next year, forecast
- \*\* Best fit - work towards common ground
- ◆ AAC person having official input into OCP process
  - Having councillor on AAC
- ◆ Review of existing strategic plans
- ◆ AAC needs to be "eyes and ears" for agricultural interests
  - Strong communication and cooperation (all groups)
- ◆ AAC needs to keep paperwork
  - Documentation of issues as you go
  - "Things lost in translation" - keep track to pass on information to successors
- ◆ \*\* "AAC 101" - education at staff / operational level
  - Ensure personal interpretations of issues do not affect communication

#### Topic 1, Group 5 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Communications / Capacity
  - ALC - producer group
    - Initiate AAC - Prince George enters discussion with regional district
      - Geographic representation
- ◆ Referral to AAC / without comment
  - Stated position / not to approve
  - Blue bus tour
    - Silos / preferences
- ◆ Invite the uninformed
  - Councillors
  - Real estate
  - Developers
  - Complainants
- ◆ Involve broad / differing perspectives
- ◆ Joint meetings (lunch, etc.); mutual issues
  - Bylaws
  - Planning

#### Topic 1, Group 6 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Councillor as member (esp. with non-agriculture background); ALC rep. too
- ◆ Dedicated city staff member
- ◆ AAC minutes sent to Council(s) and ALC
- ◆ Important to have active producers to increase legitimacy / how these producers are selected
- ◆ Important to have a mix of members / producers
- ◆ Annual tour scheduled to Council availability
  - Invite staff, MLA's, MP's too
- ◆ Have special meetings with ALC commissioners (2-3/year)
  - (Jointly with Council)
- ◆ Ask Council to report back to AAC on recommendations
- ◆ Regional AACs have municipal AAC members

#### Topic 1, Group 7 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Selection of AAC members
- ◆ What happens to AAC input? - Council / Directors / ALC
- ◆ ALC request comments from AAC in application
- ◆ Terms of reference for AAC - term, selection of members
- ◆ Mediation of disputes between AAC and Council - MAFF, ALC
- ◆ Annual meeting with ALC / Council / AAC

- ◆ Meeting with Council to review mandate
- ◆ Farm tours for Council / Directors

#### Topic 1, Group 8 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Representation of local govt on AAC
- ◆ Minutes from AAC to Council
  - Verbal follow-up by councillor / director
- ◆ Who takes minutes is important
  - Format is important
  - Having a knowledgeable local govt staff
- ◆ Representation by other local govt staff
- ◆ AAC needs to be committee of Council
- ◆ Composition: recommendations - across sectors
  - Ultimately up to council
- ◆ Size: 5 - 20
- ◆ Chair: monitor / guide process
  - Must maintain communications with council
- ◆ Communicate clearly the roles of all members; respect
- ◆ How to develop respect?
  - Council minutes to AAC
  - Trust important
    - \* 6 months +/-
    - \* Christmas parties
    - \* Volunteer appreciation night
    - \* Farm tour: once per year, hear directly
  - Continuity if possible
  - Sharing information from other AACs
- ◆ Committee develop terms of reference / criteria
  - Adopt by local govt or developed by local govt (can work!) or both
- ◆ Annual work plan presented to local govt (January)
  - Report successes from previous year
  - Identify issues of concern requiring attention
- ◆ Communication across local govt boundaries and AACs

#### Topic 1, Group 9 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Local government representative member of AAC and attend regularly
- ◆ Agricultural tours important to engage local politicians
- ◆ AAC as advisory group (referral, recommendation, etc.)
- ◆ AAC terms of reference important
- ◆ How are AACs formed? Appointed?
  - Membership
    - All agriculture? or mix; rural and urban representation
    - Direct appointment by local government
- ◆ Chair of AAC appointed or elected by AAC
- ◆ AAC relationship with local govt staff important
- ◆ AAC advise councils about agricultural issues on the ground
  - Technical issues
- ◆ Levels of openness
- ◆ AAC advisory vs. 'political' role

[Summary Text](#) ▲

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## D.2 Dealing effectively with ALR applications - Flipchart Notes

### Suggested Discussion Points:

- Outline types of applications – subdivision, exclusion, non-farm use
- What factors are taken into account when making the decision?
- Are resources/information like Land Use Inventory information used to understand larger implications of the application?
- Is establishing a set policy (like the Surrey AAC) to handle exclusion applications feasible?
- How do AACs acknowledge the reality of urban growth and protect agriculture at the same time?
- How is the issue of ‘net benefit to agriculture’ handled?

### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 2 by Groups 4, 5, and 6

#### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 2 by Group 4:

- Topic was considered to include exclusions, non-farm use, and subdivisions.
- Need written, consistent criteria for straight-forward staff recommendations to AAC and Council.
- Look at big picture - review with planning staff and applicant, and, if necessary, go out into field to see the parcel and how it relates to agricultural enterprises next to it.
- Use staff as resource on bylaws and other agencies.
- AAC must understand its role is to look after interests of agriculture in general.
- AACs need to have consistent approach to *Farm Practices Protection Act (FPPA)* and all governments, and response to uses other than agriculture:

#### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 2 by Group 5:

- Proponents come to AAC to present, then discuss within AAC, and all members vote on projects.
- Some exclusions may be accepted if it is not good agricultural land and not intended for farm use; better for local tax base.
- Field review if necessary, air photos, historical review, Canada Land Inventory agricultural capability map; staff should check if requested use is permitted.
- Consider reviewing business licences because some operations can expand from fruit stands to selling non-farm products like Hungarian leather goods.

#### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 2 by Group 6:

- Background material on applications should go to AAC ahead of time to allow time for review.
- Key role is to assess the impact on viability of agriculture in the area.
- Does the application contravene the OCP?
- OCP's should have AAC input; AAC should help choose consultant.
- Soil capability is not the only criterion.
- AAC should be able to ask for independent agricultural advice.

#### Other comments to the assembly:

- Acknowledge that special local circumstances around a project mean that 100% consistency is not possible.

- Asking “How does this benefit agriculture?” can stop a lot of applicants in their tracks.
- Apply fees on development that occurs on excluded sites, for use to improve poorer farm land, e.g. drainage works

Summary Text ▲

## Flipchart Notes

### Topic 2, Group 1 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Reviewing ALR applications is part of the core business of municipal AAC
- ◆ Policy provides consistency with degree of flexibility
- ◆ Compensating benefits (protection for farms, land swap)
- ◆ Danger in considering “viability”
- ◆ Home site severance - should AAC comment on lot/house configuration?
- ◆ AAC should speak strongly for agriculture - leave other issues to others

### Topic 2, Group 2 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Do all councils forward AAC recommendations to ALC?
  - Should AACs comment on ALR applications?
- ◆ ALC has technical expertise not councils
- ◆ AAC - home site severances
  - Langley asks applicant to appear before them
  - Local govt staff co-operating?
- ◆ Factors: - land capability
  - Up to applicant to provide evidence, e.g., private P.Ag.

### Topic 2, Group 3 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Information:
  - From applicant:
    - Benefit to ag.?
    - History
    - Future use
  - Class of land (land inventory)
  - Surrounding land use
  - Direction to/from council
  - Land capability
- ◆ Meeting between ALC and AAC
- ◆ Resources available:
  - City staff
  - Applicant
  - P. Ag. (Professional Agrologist) report
  - Act and regulations
  - Natural resource atlas
  - GIS
  - 3 types of maps
- ◆ “Net benefit”: - land not money

### Topic 2, Group 4 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Application and rationale in writing
- ◆ Not complicated, user-friendly process
- ◆ Look at the “big picture” then go into field to verify application “pros and cons”
- ◆ Use staff as a resource

- ◆ Staff refer to AAC for input and information
  - AAC needs to fully understand role of agriculture with application
- ◆ Involvement with regional district → bring all the facts to the table
- ◆ Land Commission or Committee? [group was unsure]
- ◆ Oil and gas / coal bed methane / First Nations / highways / energy / recreation use
  - All AACs to put pressure on provincially and federally
    - \* Consistent message
    - \* FPPA support

#### Topic 2, Group 5 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Interactive discussions with proponent
- ◆ Open meeting
- ◆ Decision within meeting time
- ◆ Review of application by city staff
- ◆ Committees may vote on application
- ◆ May recommend ALR removal
  - Either in or out on subdivision
- ◆ Field review when needed
- ◆ Photo verification - air photos when possible
- ◆ Historical review of property
- ◆ Review Canada Land Inventory mapping
- ◆ Staff review for conforming and permitted uses
- ◆ Alternate review / referral
  - i.e., licence applications
  - bylaw development

#### Topic 2, Group 6 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Get information ahead of time
  - Applicant comes to meeting - leaves for AAC discussion and vote
- ◆ Council should forward all applications to AAC
- ◆ Key role is to assess impact on viability of agriculture
- ◆ Council must be following the OCP (does the application contravene the OCP)
- ◆ AAC also sees applications on land adjacent to the ALR boundary
- ◆ AAC makes recommendation on project before Council makes a decision
- ◆ Establish criteria to evaluate applications against
- ◆ Soil capability is one criterion, but not the only one
- ◆ AAC should be involved in choosing the consultants who write community plans; be involved in the CP development as preventative measure to head off applications
- ◆ Independent ag. advice to the AAC on applications

#### Topic 2, Group 7 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Factors:
  - What ag. plan says
  - Does it create a precedent?
- ◆ Site visit to meet landowner, see property
- ◆ Impact on adjacent land owners
- ◆ Pre-application consultation, possibly informal, might help applicant
- ◆ OCP minimum lot size
- ◆ RD zoning and bylaws
- ◆ Resources:
  - Soils map is required.

- Soil capability ratings
- Suitability range of options - "land owner motivation"
- OCP, other plans (municipal, regional district)
- ◆ "NET BENEFIT"
  - There is no formula.
  - Examples: buffering, title consolidation, lot line adjustments
  - Does it mean "bigger is better"?
  - How does/would it work where parcels are big?

#### Topic 2, Group 8 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Greatest challenge: subdivision of larger parcels
  - Impacts to infrastructure
  - Larger parcels needed to support diversity of agricultural types
- ◆ Ultimate criterion: "Is it beneficial to agriculture?" → no
  - Eventually, downsizing results in loss of agriculture
- ◆ Develop criteria for removal of land from ALR (Surrey)
  - Replace land coming out with equal or better quality
- ◆ Communication with local government staff noted before reporting on an application
- ◆ Zoning first
- ◆ Effect of interface
  - Impacts to agriculture
- ◆ Footprint of residential on agricultural land
- ◆ ALR - long term intent to preserve ag. land for diversity of crops / livestock
  - Parcelization can reduce the effective capability of the land
- ◆ Responsibility on land owner to realize that they may not be able to subdivide off their home
- ◆ Why can't the capital gain for land rezoning or coming out of the ALR go to agricultural infrastructure
- ◆ Salmon Arm study: background report referred to a study that indicates that as parcel size decreases, use in agriculture decreases
- ◆ Minutes of AAC to accompany staff recommendation and local govt decision or recommendation
- ◆ Community taking land from ag. use - must provide benefits back to ag. sector, DCC's

#### Topic 2, Group 9 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ "Social" benefit issue? - no
- ◆ What are "acceptable" benefits?
  - Consolidation
  - Drainage and irrigation
- ◆ "Benefit" today may not be benefit for future
  - Not many "benefits" being offered
- ◆ Concern with isolated parcels of ALR
- ◆ *De facto* growth management boundary
- ◆ If AAC exists, should ALC require AAC comments? All comments of AAC, not just majority
- ◆ What is AAC looking at?
  - Impact
  - Benefits
  - Current and past land use
  - Some hear from applicant directly; some no direct contact
  - Adjacent land owners
  - Site visits
  - Other non-ag. values (i.e., rural lifestyle)

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### D.3 Successfully developing and implementing an Agricultural Area Plan

#### Suggested Discussion Points:

- *Gaining support from the council or board*
- *Sources of funding*
- *Establishing a terms of reference*
- *Establishing time lines*
- *Accessing planning staff or consultants (establishing their terms of reference)*
- *Acquiring background information – what, where, how*
- *Determining opportunities and challenges*
- *Gaining public input*
- *Implementation – making sure the plan doesn't just sit on the shelf*

#### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 3 by Groups 7, 8, and 9

##### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 3 by Group 7:

- Agricultural open houses tend to only attract farmers, few others are interested.
- Timeline challenges for planning meetings re: farmers' operational schedules makes consistency in planning difficult.

##### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 3 by Group 8:

- Re: the necessity of an ag plan, it is important that Council understand the value of agriculture to the economy, having policies on issues would assist Council, identify funding sources to provide incentive to do a plan.
- During planning process, include broad spectrum of public, not just farmers. Discussion should be not just on immediate needs of farmers, but also the broad economic issues such as cost of protecting the "rural ambience". Identify this scope ahead of time.
- Build into the plan some opportunities for success - implementation mechanisms e.g., ag plan built into the OCP, benchmarks for monitoring, advocate for agriculture within local government (Penticton considering a half-time position).

##### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 3 by Group 9:

- This group looked at who initiates an ag plan - the Council, the AAC, or the public?
- Funding sources - e.g., Investment Agriculture Foundation;
- Terms of reference - adapt from other ag plans; timelines, deliverables;
- How to find a consultant, staff support, Request For Proposals (RFP), information from other AACs, professionalism and credibility of consultant, any bias in plan.
- Terms of Reference details: determine the outcome or final product of the plan; is there full support by local government staff; were cost and budget pre-determined; seek information from other AACs on: marketing, consensus-building, methods of public outreach, address urban-rural conflict, local media, in-kind support, task list, built-in review, benchmarks and budgeted funds for implementation.

Summary Text ▲



## Flipchart Notes

### Topic 3, Group 1 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Need for ag. plan
  - Need to assist viability
  - Conflicts between ag. uses - farm community must buy in
- ◆ Implementation
  - Farm bylaws
  - "Action plan" rather than a land use plan
- ◆ Basis for other bylaws
- ◆ Broader issues - trade, infrastructure, etc.
- ◆ Council must champion plan
- ◆ Can happen from outside - e.g., Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Need Partnership funding

### Topic 3, Group 2 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Must defuse AAC - Council adversarial
  - Get everyone on board
  - May require compromise
- ◆ Co-ordination of plans between jurisdictions
- ◆ Process - need input from other interests
  - Get buy-in
  - Put them on steering committee
- ◆ Components - promotions planning
  - Implementation - council budget
  - Issue resolution - identify them first; be realistic
- ◆ Funding - local govt; in kind
  - Volunteer time
  - Investment Agriculture Foundation (max. \$30,000)
  - MAFF \$10,000 for GIS [*Ed. note: MAFF has provided some funds for grants - max. \$10,000, and has provided in-kind technical assistance for GIS land use inventories.*]
- ◆ Consultants:
  - Availability?
    - Request Letters of Interest (LOI) first
    - Then, RFP (request for proposals) from a few
  - MAFF information
- ◆ Objective of AAP - support ag. - promote, enhance

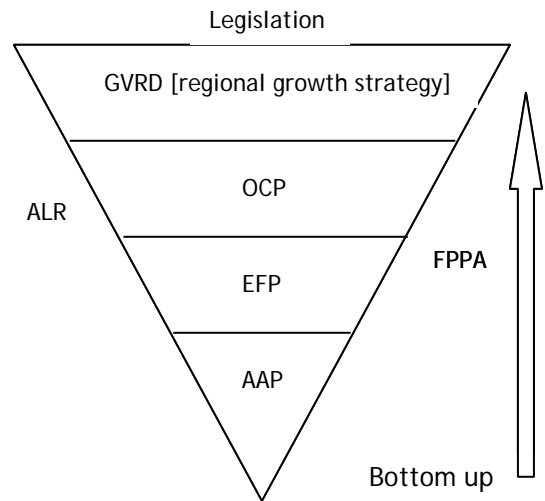
### Topic 3, Group 3 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Inventory (ALR and BC Assessment information)
- ◆ Develop database
- ◆ Funds - MAFF, city or RD
- ◆ Data from farm class status (BC Assessment) not reliable
- ◆ Ag. area plan as a sub-plan of OCP
- ◆ Who does it? - consultants, RD/municipal staff
- ◆ AAC provide "enhancement value"
  - Timelines - consultant should have project management skills
- ◆ Terms of Reference
- ◆ General goal of ag. area plan
  - Public involvement - workshops, tours, open house
    - How much public involvement? - ag. producers

- ◆ AAC make-up → make sure those making a living as producers are well represented
- ◆ Challenge for AAP
  - Set up terms of reference
  - Life time of plan - sustainable
  - Implementation
  - Time availability of AAC members
  - AAC members not to waste time on small details
- ◆ AAP output - traffic, irrigation, ALR
- ◆ Opportunities
  - Enforce commitment by city/RD to agriculture
  - 50% exemption to family farm house
  - Structure to set up policies
  - Agriculture is an urban activity → part of the city
  - Pro-actively address rural-urban interface
  - Satisfy local market

Topic 3, Group 4 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Land use inventory in ALR
- ◆ Component of OCP
- ◆ AAP may be viewed negatively as government intervention
  - Needs to come from bottom up and support farming
- ◆ AAP can encourage agriculture planning and development within an area
- ◆ Do all AAPs have similar objectives?
- ◆ All commodity groups and Planning staff involved in AAP (staff will understand other linkages)
- ◆ Implementation
  - Regional District
  - Funding
- ◆ Lobby farm institutes



Topic 3, Group 5 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Review of OCP / zoning for acceptable and not-acceptable uses
- ◆ Resource atlas - water, rock, streams, soil survey, etc.
- ◆ Draw together the group
  - Commodities or sectors
  - Consultants, staff, experts
  - Gross sales, farm size
  - "Missing sector" review
- ◆ Agricultural inventory
  - Vacancy rate
  - Review uses
- ◆ Reason for being
  - Visioning - what's in a plan? Why a plan?
- ◆ Resources:
  - Financial - MAFF, Investment Agriculture Foundation, RD/munic, stakeholders, groups
  - In-kind works - industry knowledge, review or comment
- ◆ Must show benefits

- City / regional district
- Ag. land owners
- Potential residents
- Other agencies (WLAP, DFO, etc.)
- Potential ag. investors
- ◆ Action item priority setting
  - Ag. sector interest
  - Special management area delineation

#### Topic 3, Group 6 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Start with land use survey and GIS database
- ◆ AAP used as a guideline for neighbourhood community plans to highlight agriculture
- ◆ Co-fund: city, MAFF, provincial funds, IAF [Investment Agriculture Foundation]
- ◆ Have public hearings to get public input
- ◆ AAC reviewed drafts
- ◆ Steering committee has a majority of ag. members
- ◆ Keeping to the timeline is critical to keep things moving
- ◆ Key is to update - e.g. every 5 years
- ◆ Include ag. infrastructure needs, e.g., water resources
- ◆ Work closely with municipal planning staff
- ◆ Edge plans - buffer must be on the urban side
- ◆ How to handle conflicts on the OCP / AAP wording? (Council vs. agriculture vs. special interests)

#### Topic 3, Group 7 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ What's in it?
  - What do we have e.g., related to parcel size?
  - Some of the limitations to agriculture
- ◆ Can be used to recommend changes to zoning bylaws of RD - e.g., size of retail outlets, sawmills
- ◆ Developing it could involve both consultant and community - e.g., high school students, economic development
- ◆ Could be used to answer questions or at least raise issues and prioritize
- ◆ Not just the plan but plan to implement - carry on; can involve community to help with lack of resources.
- ◆ To advertise it and to gain public input, could hold open houses, visit schools, engage 4-H, fall fairs
- ◆ The Focus of the Plan - can identify challenges to agriculture, what the biggest issues are, or, may focus one issue, e.g., water -get better supply at lower cost.
- ◆ Develop up front
- ◆ Plan can also provide marketing development opportunities in bringing farmers together.
- ◆ Tool to get funding
- ◆ Ownership of the plan - have members of RD involved in development.
- ◆ Timelines - challenges with consultant, busy during growing season

#### Topic 3, Group 8 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Representation local govt
- ◆ Ag. plan reflects discussion - limit bias
- ◆ Link ag. plan to OCP and then zoning
- ◆ Implementation - should have an action plan to guide
- ◆ DPA's (development permit areas) to protect ag. use

- ◆ Buffer zones in development land
  - Current buffers need expansion for some types of agriculture
- ◆ Show local govt success stories and explain the benefits
  - Signal serious about farm land - may need relationship with ALC for long term plans
- ◆ Cost / benefit
- ◆ Identify resources outside local govt staff and funds
- ◆ Ag. economic contributions and other contributions - ambience / tourism; quality of life
- ◆ Savings with a plan vs. ad hoc
  - Improved understanding of efficient functioning of ag. sector - e.g., transportation needs and impacts
- ◆ Need indicators - benchmarks
- ◆ Individuals designated to assure / encourage implementation of plan
- ◆ Plan takes the heat for development pressure
- ◆ Community buy-in needed, ag. as important
- ◆ Most communities appreciate and benefit from their ag. plans
- ◆ Ag. plan must assure ag. activity or practice
- ◆ Reduce conflict
- ◆ Plan needs to consider economic reality of farming
  - Drainage
  - Water supply
  - Transportation
- ◆ Consultation with First Nations

### Topic 3, Group 9 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Initiated AAP from council or from AAC recommendation
- ◆ Funding from local govt, Investment Agriculture Foundation, planning grants from Municipal Affairs [*Ed. note: the now Ministry of Community Services has revised this program and grants are re-focussed and limited.*]
- ◆ Terms of Reference - research, adapt and recommend to council, then adopted
- ◆ Realistic timelines
  - Deliverables list
  - Consultants aware of timelines
- ◆ How to find consultants?
  - Local govt staff support
  - Send out RFP (request for proposals)
  - Check with other AACs
  - Check reference of consultants with other AACs
  - Professionalism of consultant (marketing, agrologist, planning backgrounds); due diligence
- ◆ Get into details in Terms of Reference
  - Determine final product or outcome
  - Local govt staff support
  - Determine cost
  - Research and check with other AACs and local govts
  - Scope of plan (ag. only or ag. related)
- ◆ Public input
  - Outreach
  - Written articles
  - Controversy
  - Target supportive audience
  - Local newspaper supplement highlighting ag. successes, business and other information, human story

- ◆ Shelving issue
  - Task list
  - Built-in review of plan so it is current and credible
  - Database information update
  - Show changes over time
  - Key players taking lead
  - Implementation budget forces future action

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## D.4 Regional district and municipal AACs working together

### Suggested Discussion Points:

- *How can AACs coordinate their efforts so that decisions and policies are made that don't contradict other AACs' work, commodity group policy, local government policy, etc.?*
- *Can municipal and regional district AACs work together to enhance their effectiveness at drawing agriculture into local government planning processes? Are there agriculture awareness efforts, AAP development processes, ALR application processes, and other projects that could be developed together?*
- *Could the web be used as a medium to gain greater uniformity and increase the connection between AACs?*
  - *A sub-group of members from different AACs could be formed to develop a simple 'model set of suggestions' for local government web site development that improves access to AAC information.*

### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 4 by Groups 4, 6, and 8

#### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 4 by Group 4:

- Yes, it's a must. Have consistency through election years.
- Create similar terms of reference within a region, because issues will be same.
- Joint meetings, even just once per year; information sharing, joint tours.
- Need a web site - AACs agendas, minutes - for other AACs to see how others dealt with issues.
- This workshop is tremendous for information-sharing.

#### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 4 by Group 6:

- Cross appointments would be valuable.
- Work jointly on regional issues that have effects across municipalities e.g., air quality.
- Co-ordinate / sponsor ag awareness and school tours
- Share AAC information between web sites.
- RD AACs should ensure that unincorporated areas and First Nations are included.

#### Reports back to the assembly on Topic 4 by Group 8:

*[Ed. note: This group chose a broader focus for discussion.]*

- How can we improve future sessions of this type?

- Presentation on how to deal with ALR applications - guidelines, OR a case study
- Mix the groups up after dealing with two topics to generate energy
- Use round tables - comfort
- Difficult to hear

#### Other comments to the assembly

- CR-FAIR - draft food charter being proposed to Capital Regional District; food security assessment of CRD, to be updated regularly; members are promoting food as planning issue.
  - "Food security" defined - everybody in this community should have fair and equitable access to safe, nutritious, culturally-appropriate food that they can acquire by dignified means.
    - Addresses hunger and lack of food, and regional and local sources, healthy agriculture and food businesses, and enough nutritious food for all.

### Flipchart Notes

Summary Text ▲

#### Topic 4, Group 1 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ GVRD AAC and FVRD AAC include local AAC reps
- ◆ Relationship currently indirect - i.e., via council
- ◆ Could work together on some issues - e.g., marketing, cross-boundary tours
- ◆ Division of labour among AACs within a region - "universal" or cross-boundary issues
- ◆ Local AACs can come together over specific issues - e.g., Langley and Surrey drainage issues
- ◆ Establish a relationship (e.g., via farm tour) to encourage communication
- ◆ Share information - e.g., "cc" other AACs on letters to Province
- ◆ Attend this workshop

#### Topic 4, Group 2 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Liaison bare minimum - bi-annual joint meetings
- ◆ Need may differ from region to region
  - Shared resources - river
- ◆ Overcoming diverse interests
  - Lobby pro-ag. politicians
- ◆ Meeting between staffs
- ◆ Common issues:
  - Air quality
  - Emergency planning
  - Transportation
  - Labour supply and housing
  - EFP (Environmental Farm Plan) delivery group
- ◆ AAC function:
  - Support good farm practices
  - Get buy-in from other interest groups

#### Topic 4, Group 3 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Working together to set up tours
- ◆ Joint meetings adjacent AACs - municipal and RD
- ◆ Local AACs sent 1 or 2 people to larger RD AAC to co-ordinate
- ◆ Members of AACs also on other boards
  - "Communication in industry"
- ◆ Develop "food charter" - food security
- ◆ Web - minutes to web

- Use of MAFF's "Infobasket"
- Smart Growth
- Share information between AACs - make people ask the question
  - Don't re-invent the wheel
- Research information to make better decisions
- List serve

#### Topic 4, Group 4 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Consistency through election years
- ◆ Terms of reference between AAC in similar regions
  - AAC web site
- ◆ Consistent approach
  - Joint meetings and tours
- ◆ Information sharing
  - Share minutes
  - Web and / or mail out
- ◆ Post AAC meeting dates provincially so that individual AAC members attend if relevant
- ◆ Web site similar to MLS real estate web page

#### Topic 4, Group 5 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Liaison between AACs
  - 1 - 2 members each
  - Staff to assist
- ◆ Council support
- ◆ Share agendas and minutes
- ◆ Coincident issues
  - Regional issues: smoke, water, education, bylaws, policy
  - Inter-municipal: - task-specific (i.e., agri-tourism)
  - Local / RD: exclusion, uses
- ◆ Good politics
  - Similar policy
  - Level playing field
- ◆ Less "one-offing"
- ◆ Identifiable body for ag. issues - i.e., abattoir development, smoke, propane cannons
- ◆ Level of understanding

#### Topic 4, Group 6 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Cross appointments
- ◆ Joint ag. tours
- ◆ Joint meetings
- ◆ Work jointly on regional issues that affect a cross-section of municipalities, e.g., illegal fill dumping, air quality
- ◆ RD's could sponsor ag. awareness, e.g., school tours
- ◆ RD's develop web site that highlights their AAC and links to municipal web sites (and their AACs)
- ◆ RD AACs should ensure there is representation from unincorporated areas that can't have AACs and First Nations communities

#### Topic 4, Group 7 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Build a connection initially with another municipality / city with an AAC; e.g., Richmond council-person speak to another council of municipality or RD
- ◆ Use an issue to follow through - toward development of ag-related policy.

#### Topic 4, Group 8 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Shared membership

- ◆ Global → local
- ◆ Coordination
- ◆ Networking - shared successes, frustrations
- ◆ Synchronize policies
  - Basic set of guidelines, e.g., subdivision into smaller lots
- ◆ Communication across regional boundaries
- ◆ Open invitation for other AACs to attend meetings of AAC
- ◆ Document from MAFF, SRM re:
  - Guidelines for ALR/ALC
  - Provincial agriculture goals, best practice
    - Resource allocation
    - Agricultural land preservation
- ◆ AAC guidelines (doc.)
- ◆ Reality commissions - make the decisions
- ◆ Site specific vs. broader issues; discuss to recognise implications
- ◆ Provincial (MAFF) co-ordination of AACs - shared sessions to discuss topics of joint interest and concern
- ◆ Web? - ALC on web; AAC activities on the web? - minutes on local govt sites
- ◆ Address issues, solutions, guidelines
- ◆ Email contact for AAC issues, decisions
- ◆ Ag. capability should not be an excuse for removal

#### Topic 4, Group 9 Flipchart Notes

- ◆ Sharing ideas
  - Invite each other on ag. tours
  - Formal or informal?
- ◆ Harmonize terms of reference
  - Consistency
  - Adjacent subject lands
  - Overlap
- ◆ Links between communities (e.g., environment, parks)
- ◆ Liaison between AACs to maintain communication
- ◆ Central information sharing location
- ◆ Sharing of minutes via email
- ◆ Once or twice per year discussion
- ◆ AAC annual report or work plan report to council / board shared with other AACs
- ◆ Web site and email issue
  - Some in group want, others don't
  - MAFF Infobasket
- ◆ Exchange of resources
- ◆ Q and A's or chat line
- ◆ AACs working with Economic Development Commission - re: funds, opportunity in agriculture
- ◆ Communications strategy amongst AACs
  - Regional clusters
  - Provincial
- ◆ Local govt web sites should have AAC section to web sites like other committees
  - Post annual reports
- ◆ AAC succession issues
- ◆ Package ("Board package") for new AAC members; mentoring
- ◆ Funding of AACs; limited volunteer resources

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## APPENDIX II

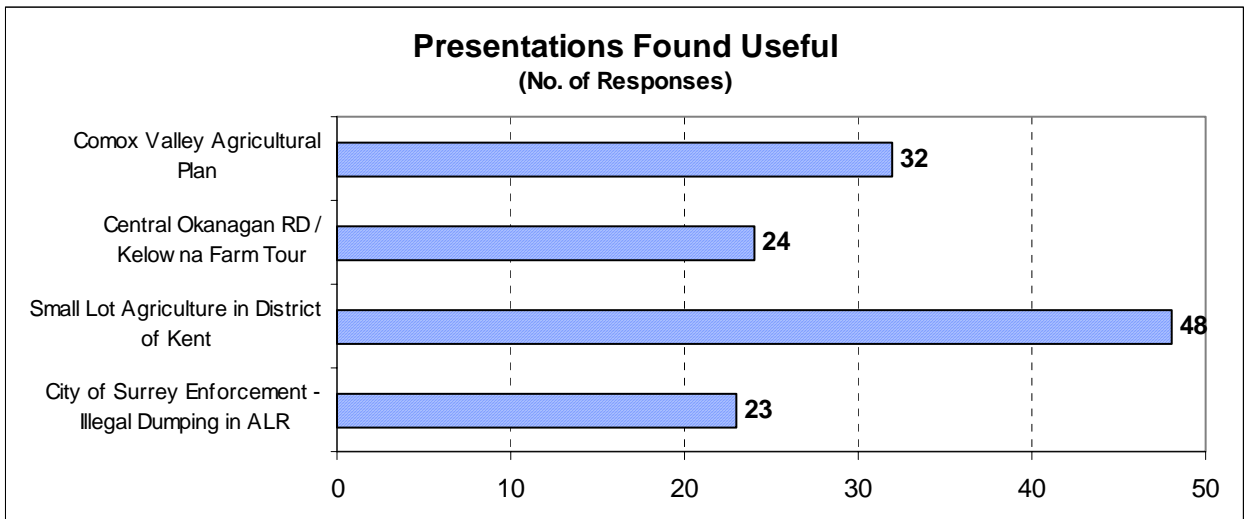
### Results from the Feedback Forms Evaluation of this Day by Participants

In their packages of material, workshop participants were given a form to evaluate the day's events. Of the 127 participants, only 62 submitted the evaluation forms. Everyone who replied did not necessarily answer all of the questions. Many respondents provided explanatory comments.

#### Question 1

*Which presentation(s) did you find most useful?*

Sixty participants responded to this question; two did not. Many indicated they enjoyed more than one, sometimes all, of the four presentations.



#### Question 2

*Did you find the group discussion sessions to be helpful?*

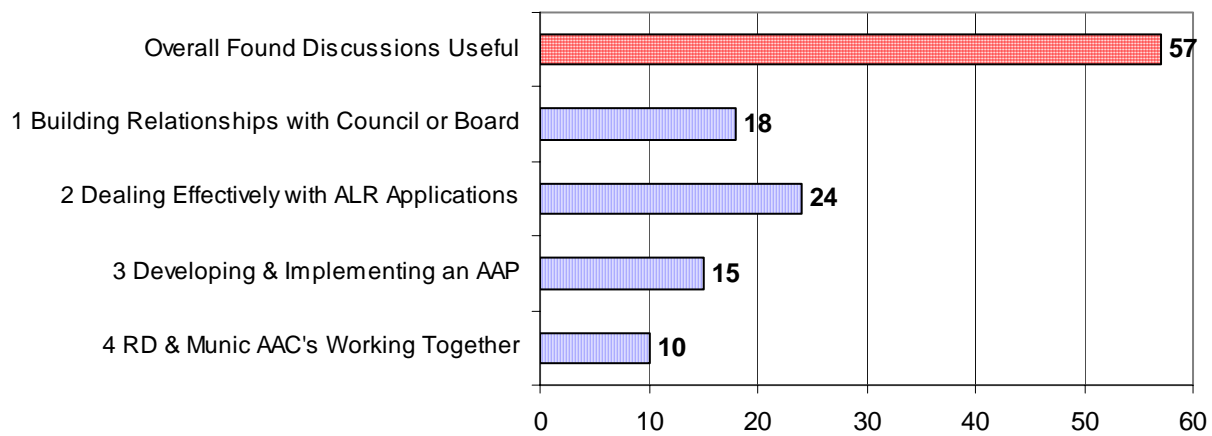
Yes 57

No 3

Two respondents did not answer this question; of the other 60, almost all (57) found the discussions helpful. About two-thirds (43 of 57) of the respondents indicated one or more of the topics they had enjoyed; the others simply circled "yes" without being specific.

## Discussion Sessions Found Useful

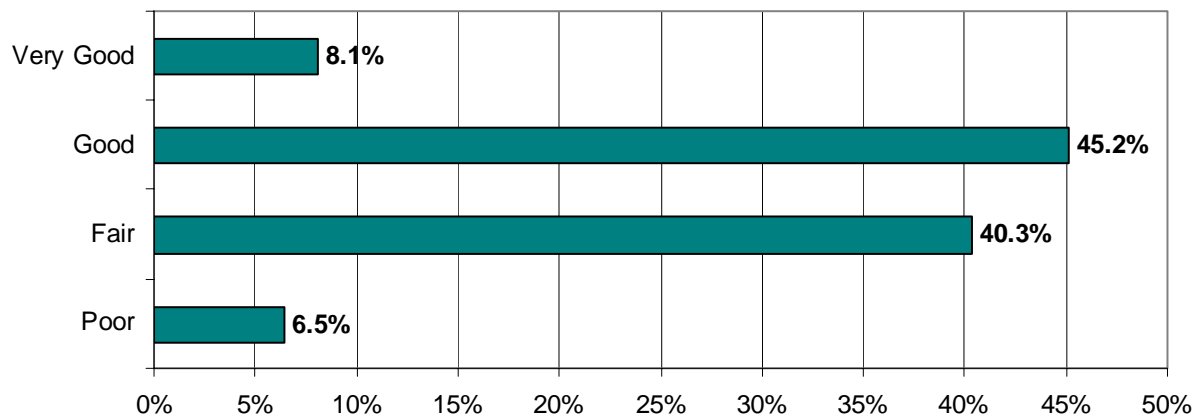
(No. of Responses)



### Question 3

*How would you rate the facilities?*

## Participants' Rating of Workshop Facilities



### Comments about the workshop facilities

Cold

Noisy [mentioned 3 times]

But could be larger for size of crowd in attendance

Better arrangements for discussion needed

Round tables for discussions (literally)

Too much noise for speakers in discussion group

Sometimes hard to hear, but good forum and connection to Pacific Ag Show

Only problem was noise from TRADEX distracting and making it a little difficult to hear the speaker.

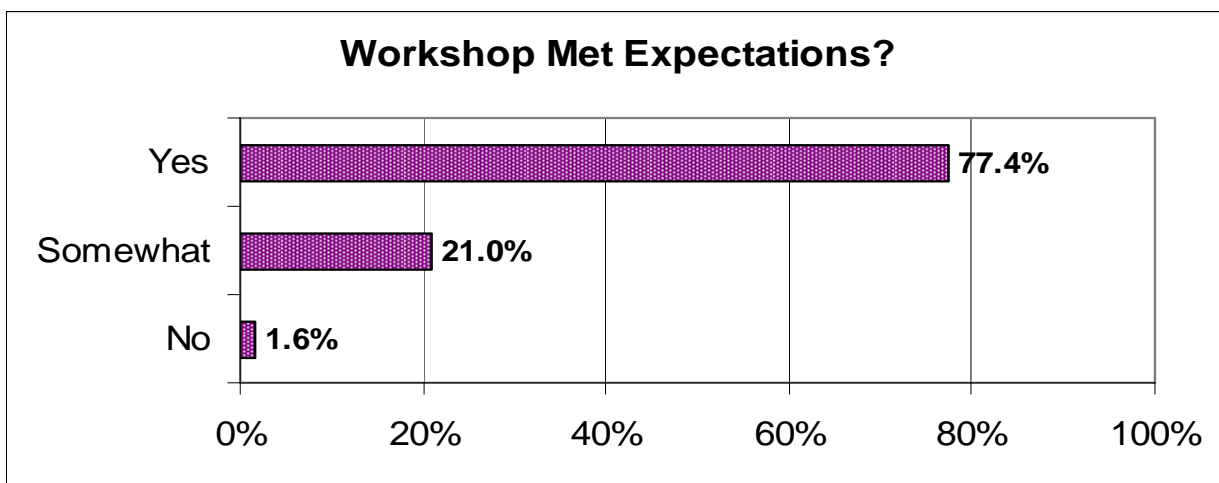
Met time lines in friendly manner

Cold environment; noisy room - difficult to hear group members

OK; (good and fair circled)  
 Tables would be more comfortable  
 A bit difficult to hear people in small groups because groups physically close together  
 Noise was an issue; tables may be an improvement but may not be cost effective  
 Tables would be better for discussion  
 Difficult to hear sometimes; nice to see displays; lunch was good  
 Too noisy, too crowded, uncomfortable group arrangements  
 Tables would be more comfortable; lots of background noise; more space / walls between groups  
 Need tables  
 Should have tables for discussion groups  
 Groups too tight; problem hearing  
 Layout could be improved

**Question 4**

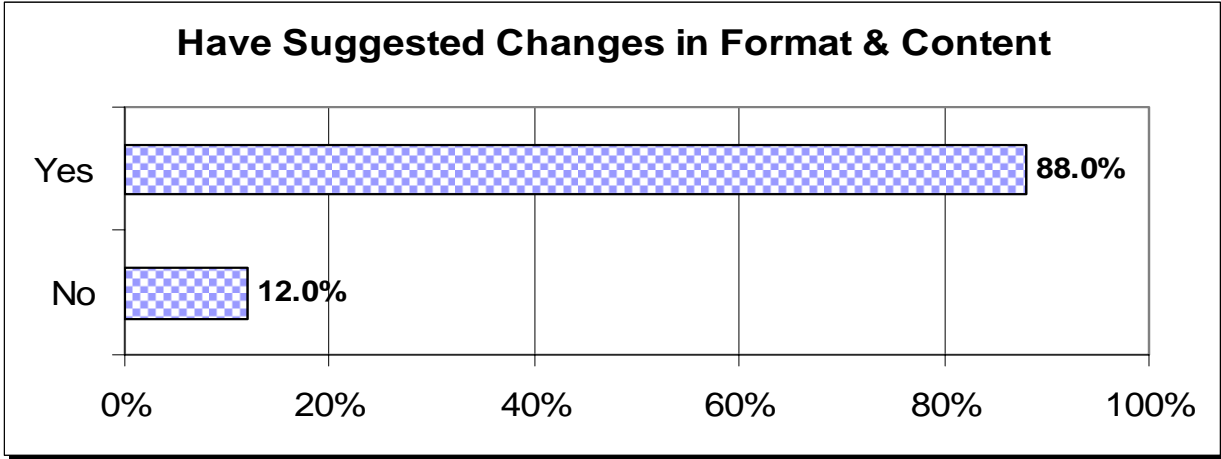
*Did the workshop meet your expectations?*



**Question 5**

*The intent of this workshop was to enable AACs to communicate with each other. Are there any changes in the format and content of the workshop that you would like to see for the next workshop? Are there any particular topics you would like addressed?*

Many respondents did not indicate "yes" or "no"; some circled neither answer or "no" but gave comments that meant "yes". Fifty people answered this question.



**Comments from Question 5**

Preservation of Ag land base

It would be good if different AAC members, city / RD staff, politicians were able to attend each year - i.e., expose more people to the concept over the short term.

This is a good intent [purpose of workshop].

Exchange year end reports on what they accomplished last year and what they are working on this year

There is a need for an annual forum.

As a suggestion, perhaps other topics could be: AAC/ALC relationship; what are typical AAC issues and how are they dealt with?

Specific direction on development of Ag Area Plans, specifics on managing contractors for AAPs, funding of AAPs;

ALC applications;

Twice a year; stewardship of productive / potential food lands;

Presentation from ALC - no. of exclusions, scope, evaluation criteria, how AACs can frame their recommendations; Mayors roundtable - what constraints does local govt have that influence the effectiveness of AACs?

No changes needed;

Each AAC give brief 5-min. report - highs lows etc.

AAC interaction excellent, maybe a more quiet area;

I would really enjoy a session for staff supporting AACs where we can exchange experiences and talk about challenges.

More direct contact to the AAC members via a web site, direct mail out to AAC chairs and members.

Format works. Topics should be determined by current issues and needs.

Perhaps flexibility to join a particular discussion rather than prescribing 4 for all of us;

Smaller groups would enable more intense discussion;

Change groups after 2nd discussion; ask AAC ahead of time for possible topics.

Farming on the edge; farming near rural-residential enclaves; approaches to loss of farmland by constructing "trophy" houses;

Better areas for discussion - too much background noise at times;

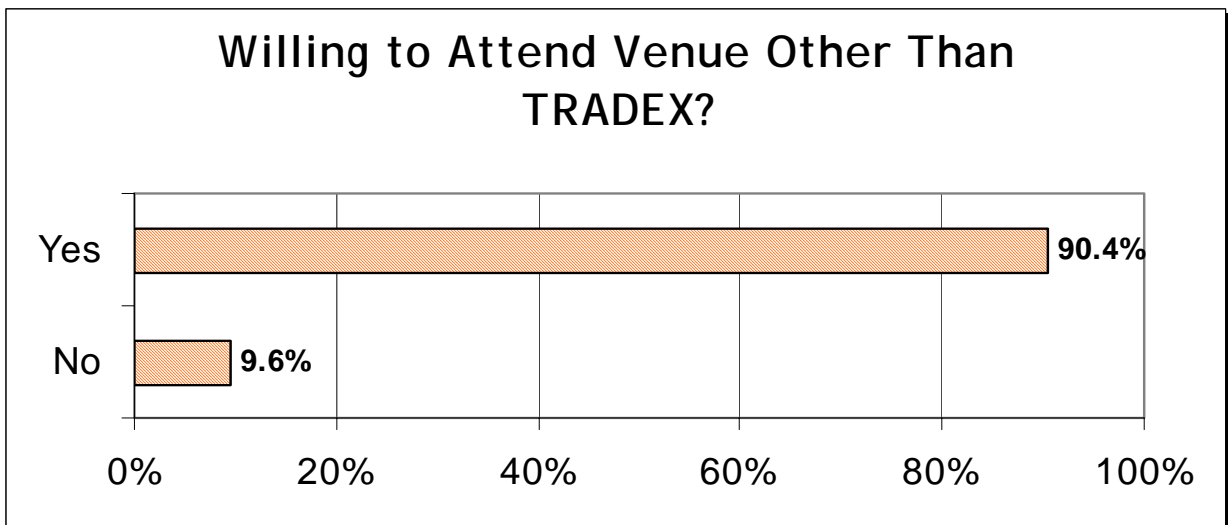
Presentation on addition and applications for subdivision process - case studies of application and approval process;

Possibly do a case study or two based on real issues AACs deal with - i.e., an ALR application or other issue;

Perhaps more case studies with details as to how they were addressed and what data were accessed to provide background for recommendations;  
 Other than venue [intent not clear]  
 [Having a] coffee break in afternoon might be less disruptive [than individuals moving about as needed]; topics: community-based food security work and food charters, web-based GIS ag-food atlases  
 Starting up an AAC - best ways to generate interest and "who do I call";  
 More presentations on the topics might be better than group discussions.  
 Perhaps brief, i.e., 10 minutes max., presentations from more AACs as to what they are working on, what has worked for them, etc.  
 Presentation on guidelines for removing land from the ALR - goals of ALR / MAFF;  
 Presentation on application processing process; setting a process for information-sharing through the MAFF web portal;  
 Need detailed examples of dealing with applications;  
 Uniform method of establishing AACs that ensure AACs bring local agricultural community's input into issues addressed;  
 We need to develop a marketing arm for BC Grown produce.  
 What is "net benefit to agriculture"? Subdivision - is bigger better? i.e., 150 ac / \$2,000,000 vs 10 ac / \$400,000; case studies; land trusts for agriculture;  
 Case studies; how to process ALR applications  
 Presentation of Farm Environmental Plans and BMP's; overview from ALC - health or otherwise of the ALR;  
 Shorter tighter discussion groups; facilities- one large room made it hard to hear properly within discussion group.  
 Mediation / negotiation skills for chairpersons; examples of challenges and positive solutions;  
 More specific case examples i.e., give all groups a problem to solve;  
 More case studies on ag plans and dealing with ALR applications;  
 If possible, a section specifically to bring up short presentations of problems from your area that do not fit directly but have a great impact on the farmer / farms. The North East has some farm issues that do not affect the rest of the province but will [Ed. note - meaning? ". . . will eventually." ?].  
 One day was very short - what about 1.5 days?

**Question 6**

*If this workshop was held at a venue other than TRADEX, but during the same time period as the Pacific Agriculture Show, would you still be interested in attending? (One possible location could be the Ramada Inn and Conference Centre, which is about a 15-minute drive from the TRADEX.)*



## Comments from Question 6

Although the two tie together nicely

Good

How could I get into the TRADEX for free? It's a nice benefit.

It should be held at TRADEX during Pacific Ag Show.

Okay [Mentioned 3 times; but intent whether "yes" or "no" was not clear]

But one of the benefits is attending the trade show.

I would be there if possible. [Ed. note: Intent whether "yes" or "no" was not clear]

Ramada is OK with me. Ag show interesting but not essential.

Are there no other choices?

Ramada is excellent all round.

Excellent place, great location [Ed. note: Intent, re: which venue was not clear]

I am also exhibitor, good for farmers to be able to attend show, network with other farmers in attendance

Ag exhibition enhances the workshop and is beneficial, keep them together

Ramada excellent facilities and would minimise the background noise

Either would be fine

Either venue is fine

But agr show is a "super" plus!! Or in the Interior i.e., Armstrong Fair

A quiet space would be most helpful.

Other venues might complicate accessibility for members attending the TRADEX with their spouses and/or partners

If TRADEX is to be used, need to find a better facility - very difficult to hear at times; perhaps groups were too large for full participation, although drain after lunch needs to be borne in mind.

The building is not suitable for a workshop event

A different venue would work just fine compared to TRADEX

Location is not that important

Fine [Ed. note: Intent whether "yes" or "no" was not clear]

Being tied to this show does not affect my attendance. Hosting in other communities (including in other regions) would be good.

Not as much - it's good together

Ramada or other location with good access and parking etc. is acceptable.

Wherever most convenient for most

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## APPENDIX III

### Summary of Participants at the Feb.17, 2005 workshop

	Farmers	Elected Officials	Other	Staff	Total
Abbotsford AAC	4	1			5
ALC			2	11	13
Alberni Clayoquot RD AAC		1			1
Chilliwack AAC		1			1
Comox Valley AAC	4			1	5
North Cowichan				1	1
Delta	2			1	3
FVRD AAC	7	1		3	11
GVRD	4				4
Kelowna AAC	4			1	5
Kent AAC	4	1			5
Central Kootenay RD - Creston Valley AAC				1	1
East Kootenay RD AAC	1			1	3
Langley AAC	6	1		1	8
MAFF staff				22	22
Mission		1		1	2
CORD AAC	2				2
PRRD		1		1	2
Peninsula Ag. Commission	6				2
Penticton AAC	1				1
Richmond AAC			1		1
Squamish-Lillooet RD AAC	5				5
Summerland AAC	4	1	1		7
Surrey AAC	4	1		3	8
Facilitator			1		1
Other	1		7		8
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>127</b>

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## Appendix III (cont'd.)

### List of 2005 Workshop Participants

	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>JobTitle</b>	<b>Ogranisation</b>
1.	Mr.	Parm	Bains		City of Abbotsford AAC
2.	Councillor	Moe	Gill	Councillor	City of Abbotsford AAC
3.	Mr.	Ben	Doerksen		City of Abbotsford AAC
4.	Mr.	Doug	Edgar		City of Abbotsford AAC
5.	Mr.	Rudy	Russenberger		City of Abbotsford AAC
6.	Mr.	Gord	Bednard	Research Officer	Agricultural Land Commission
7.	Mr.	Roger	Cheetham	Planner	Agricultural Land Commission
8.	Mr.	Martin	Collins	Planner	Agricultural Land Commission
9.	Mr.	Walter	Dyck	Commissioner	Agricultural Land Commission
10.	Mr.	Gary	Hall	Planner	Agricultural Land Commission
11.	Ms.	Elisa	Martin	Research Officer	Agricultural Land Commission
12.	Mr.	Trevor	Murrie	Agrologist	Agricultural Land Commission
13.	Ms.	Carol	Paulson	Commissioner	Agricultural Land Commission
14.	Mr.	Tony	Pellett	Planner	Agricultural Land Commission
15.	Ms.	Brandy	Ridout	Research Officer	Agricultural Land Commission
16.	Ms.	Shaundehl	Runka	Policy Analyst	Agricultural Land Commission
17.	Mr.	Brian	Underhill	Director, Strategic Planning	Agricultural Land Commission
18.	Mr.	Ron	Wallace	Research Officer	Agricultural Land Commission
19.		Glen	Wong	Director	Alberni Clayoquot RD AAC
20.		Pat	Clark	Councillor	Chilliwack Agriculture Commission
21.		Allen	Toop		Chilliwack farmer
22.	Ms.	Beth	Rees	Planner	CSRD, Comox Valley AAC
23.	Mr.	Chris	Brown		Comox Valley AAC
24.	Mr.	Tom	Feely		Comox Valley AAC
25.	Ms.	Roberta	Feely		Comox Valley AAC
26.	Mr.	Gerry	McClintock		Comox Valley AAC
27.	Mr.	Chris	Hall	Director of Planning	North Cowichan
28.	Mr.	Don	Low		Creston Valley AAC
29.	Ms.	Janice	Richmond	Planner	Corporation of Delta
30.		Kate	Roddick		Delta Chamber of Commerce
31.		John	Savage		Delta Chamber of Commerce?
32.	Mr.	David	Urban	Planner	Fraser Valley Regional District
33.	Ms.	Siri	Bertelsen	Planner	Fraser Valley Regional District
34.	Mr.	Tom	Baumann		FVRD AAC
35.	Mr.	Murray	Siemens		FVRD AAC
36.	Mr.	Arthur	Loewen		FVRD AAC
37.	Mr.	Mike	Soth		FVRD AAC
38.	Ms.	Lloyd	McKimmon	Chair	FVRD AAC
39.	Mr.	Harvey	Carroll		FVRD AAC
40.	Mr.	Hugh	Sloan	Director of Planning	FVRD AAC
41.	Mr.	Dale	Wheeldon		FVRD AAC
42.	Ms.	Rose	Morrison		FVRD AAC
43.	Mr.	Steven	Newell		GVRD AAC



	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>JobTitle</b>	<b>Ogranisation</b>
44.	Ms.	Lorraine	Bissett		GVRD AAC
45.	Mr.	Dick	Kleingelink		GVRD AAC
46.	Mr.	Gerry	Sprangers		GVRD AAC
47.	Mr.	Bob	McCoubrey	Vice Chair	BC Investment Agriculture Foundation
48.	Ms.	Coreen	Moroziuk	Program Mngr	BC Investment Agriculture Foundation
49.	Mr.	Mark	Koch	Planner	City of Kelowna AAC
50.	Mr.	Domenic	Rampone		City of Kelowna AAC
51.	Mr.	Ed	Henkel	Chair	City of Kelowna AAC
52.	Mr.	Leo	Gebert		City of Kelowna AAC
53.	Mr.	Pierre	Calissi		City of Kelowna AAC
54.	Mr.	Brian	Sparkes		District of Kent AAC
55.	Mr.	Ken	Schwarzle	Chair	District of Kent/FVRD AAC
56.	Mr.	Dwayne	Post		District of Kent AAC
57.	Mr.	Bruce	Swift		District of Kent AAC
58.	Councilor	Ted	Westlin	Councilor	District of Kent AAC
59.	Mr.	Andrew	McLeod	Planner	Regional District of East Kootenay
60.	Ms.	Faye	Street	RDEK	RD of East Kootenay AAC
61.	Mr.	Mike	Kartasheff	Director Electrl Area C	RD of East Kootenay AAC
62.	Mayor	Kurt	Alberts		Township of Langley
63.	Mr.	Tim	Ballard		Township of Langley AAC
64.	Mr.	David	Davis		Township of Langley AAC
65.	Mr.	Art	DeJong		Township of Langley AAC
66.	Mr.	Brian	Doyle	Senior Planner	Township of Langley
67.	Ms.	Georgia	Fontaine		Township of Langley AAC
68.	Ms.	Trudy	Handel		Township of Langley AAC
69.	Mr.	Arne	Mykle	Chair	Township of Langley AAC
70.		Brent	Barclay	Resource Stewardship Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture North Region
71.		Todd	Bondaroff	Resource Stewardship Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture North Region
72.		Stan	Combs	Regional Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture Interior Region
73.		Peter	Fofonoff	Resource Stewardship Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture Interior Region
74.		Jim	Forbes	Land Use Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture North Region
75.		Jill	Hatfield	Regional Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture Coast Region
76.		Wayne	Haddow	Regional Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture Coast Region
77.		Rob	Kline	Regional Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture Coast Region
78.		Jim	LeMaistre	Land Use Agrologist	Resource Management Branch, Ministry of Agriculture
79.		Rieva	McCuaig	Regional Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture Interior Region
80.		Wray	McDonnell	Manager	Ministry of Agriculture Interior Region
81.		Denise	McLean	Regional Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture North Region
82.		Ken	Nickel	Director	Resource Management Branch, Ministry of Agriculture
83.		Solvej	Patschke		Resource Management Branch, Ministry of Agriculture
84.		Mark	Robbins	Regional Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture, Coast Region
85.		Leah	Sheffield	Resource Stewardship Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture North Region
86.		Graham	Strachan	Resource Stewardship Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture Interior Region
87.		Kim	Sutherland	Regional Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture, Coast Region

	<b>Title</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>JobTitle</b>	<b>Ogranisation</b>
88.		Karen	Thomas	Land Use Agrologist	Resource Management Branch, Ministry of Agriculture
89.		Bert	Van Dalfsen	Manager	Resource Management Branch, Ministry of Agriculture
90.		Carl	Withler	Resource Stewardship Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture Interior Region
91.		Kathleen	Zimmerman	Regional Agrologist	Ministry of Agriculture, Coast Region
92.		Jessica	McNamara	Facilitator	
93.	Ms.	Dayle	Reti	Planner	District of Mission
94.		James	Abitibi	Councillor	District of Mission
95.	Ms.	Sandra	Kochan	Chair	Central Okanagan Regional District AAC
96.	Mr.	Guy	Landry		Central Okanagan Regional District AAC
97.	Mr.	Bruce	Simard	Manager of Development Services	Peace River Regional District
98.	Director	Fred	Jarvis	Mayor	Peace River RD Director
99.	Mr	Bob	Maxwell		Peninsula Ag. Commission
100.	Mr.	Ken	Travis		Peninsula Ag. Commission
101.	Ms.	Jane	Coady	Chair	Penticton AAC
102.	Mr.	Ian	Chang	Co-Chair	City of Richmond AAC
103.	Ms.	Roxy	Kuurne	Chair	RD of Squamish-Lillooet AAC
104.	Mr.	Drew	Meredith		RD of Squamish-Lillooet AAC
105.	Mr.	Allen	McEwan		RD of Squamish-Lillooet AAC
106.	Mr.	Hugh	Naylor		RD of Squamish-Lillooet AAC
107.	Mr.	Jordan	Sturdy		RD of Squamish-Lillooet AAC
108.	Councillor	Rick	Cogbill	Chair	District of Summerland AAC
109.	Ms.	Denise	MacDonald		District of Summerland AAC
110.	Ms.	Lorraine	Bennest		District of Summerland AAC
111.	Mr.	Karl	Seidel		District of Summerland AAC
112.	Mr.	Lloyd	Christopherson		District of Summerland AAC
113.	Mr.	Paul	Christie		Talisman Land Resource Consultants
114.	Mr.	Peter	Waterman		District of Summerland AAC
115.	Mr.	Mike	Bose	Chair	City of Surrey AAC
116.	Mr.	John	Sherstone		City of Surrey Bylaw Enforcement
117.	Mr.	Martin	Hilmer		City of Surrey AAC
118.	Mr.	Gary	King		City of Surrey AAC
119.	Councillor	Marvin	Hunt	Councillor	City of Surrey AAC
120.	Mr.	Remi	Dube	Engineer	City of Surrey AAC
121.	Ms.	Lor	Pellegrino	Planner	City of Surrey AAC
122.	Mr.	Pat	Harrison		City of Surrey AAC
123.	Mr.	Don	Simpson		Sto:lo Community Futures
124.	Ms.	Marion	Robinson		Fraser Basin Council
125.	Ms.	Kathleen	Gibson		GBH Group
126.	Mr.	Dave	Sands		ALR PEC
127.	Mr.	Barry	Smith		ALR PEC

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## APPENDIX III (cont'd)

### AACs Making Them Work - Group Discussion Sessions

Below is a list of groups to which participants were assigned for the discussion sessions. These sessions were intended to provide an opportunity to brainstorm and exchange ideas on all four topics outlined on the agenda.

#### Group 1 -

Parm Bains, Abbotsford  
Charlie Davies, Pemberton Valley  
Gary Hall, ALC  
Trudy Handel, TOL  
Guy Landry, CORD  
Denise McLean, MAFF  
Coreen Moroziuk, BC Inv. Ag. Fndation  
Lor Pellegrino, Surrey  
Dwayne Post, Kent  
Kate Roddick, Delta Chamber of Com.  
Karl Seidel, Summerland  
Rick Thiessen, FVRD  
David Urban, FVRD

#### Group 2 -

Siri Bertelsen, FVRD  
Chris Brown, Comox Valley  
Paul Christie, Summerland  
Lloyd Christopherson, Summerland  
Stan Combs, MAFF  
Pat Harrison, Surrey  
Doug Helmer, Pemberton Valley  
Mark Koch, Kelowna  
Elisa Martin, ALC  
Arne Mykle, TOL  
Bruce Simard, PRRD  
Bruce Swift, Kent  
Linda Treliving, Abbotsford  
Dale Wheeldon, FVRD

#### Group 3 -

Brent Barclay, MAFF  
Remi Dube, Surrey  
Richard Earle, Comox Valley  
Kathleen Gibson, GBH Group  
Moe Gill, Abbotsford  
Fred Jarvis, Peace River RD  
Drew Meredith, Pemberton Valley  
Rose Morrison, FVRD  
Trevor Murrie, ALC  
Domenic Rampone, Kelowna  
Leah Sheffield, MAFF  
Murray Siemens, FVRD  
Peter Waterman, Summerland  
Ted Westlin, Kent

#### Group 4 -

Todd Bondaroff, MAFF  
Mike Bose, Surrey  
Doug Edgar, Abbotsford  
Tom Feely, Comox Valley  
Robert Gillespie, Peninsula Ag. Comm.  
Ed Henkel, Kelowna  
Roxy Kuurne, Pemberton Valley  
Arthur Loewen, FVRD  
Andrew McLeod, East Kootenay RD  
Steven Newell, GVRD  
Carol Paulson, ALC  
Ken Schwarzle, Kent  
Ramona Scott, TLC  
Graham Strachan, MAFF

#### Group 5 -

Daryl Arnold, GVRD and Surrey  
Brian Doyle, TOL  
Pat Clark, Chilliwack  
Roberta Feely, Comox Valley  
Peter Fofonoff, MAFF  
Leo Gebert, Kelowna  
Todd May, Richmond  
Bob Maxwell, Peninsula Ag. Comm.  
Allen McEwan, Pemberton Valley  
Tony Pellet, ALC  
Rudy Russenberger, Abbotsford  
Mike Soth, FVRD  
Faye Street, East Kootenay  
Carl Withler, MAFF

#### Group 6 -

Lorraine Bates, GVRD  
Gord Bednard, ALC  
Pierre Calissi, Kelowna  
Richard Desmarteau, FVRD  
Ben Doerksen, Abbotsford  
Jim Forbes, MAFF  
Martin Hilmer, Surrey  
Mike Kartasheff, East Kootenay RD  
Hugh Naylor, Pemberton Valley  
Keith Thomas, North Saanich  
Alfred Vanden Brink, FVRD  
Ron Wallace, ALC  
Kathleen Zimmerman, MAFF

#### Group 7 -

Kurt Alberts, Langley Township  
Peter Andres, Kent  
Susan Barker, FVRD  
Lorraine Bennest, Summerland  
Lorraine Bissett, GVRD  
Roger Cheetham, ALC  
Jane Coady, Penticton  
Jill Hatfield, MAFF  
Gerry McClintock, Comox  
Rieva McCuaig, MAFF  
Dayle Reti, Mission  
Jordan Sturdy, Pemberton Valley  
Brian Underhill, ALC

#### Group 8 -

Tim Ballard, Langley Township  
Ian Chang, Richmond  
Rick Cogbill, Summerland  
Martin Collins, ALC  
Wayne Haddow, MAFF  
Chris Hall, North Cowichan  
John Hoogendoorn, Kent  
Gary King, Surrey  
Dick Kleingeltink, GVRD  
Bob McCoubrey, BC Investment Ag.  
Lloyd McKimmon, FVRD  
Brandy Ridout, ALC  
Councillor of Mission, TBA

#### Group 9 -

Harvey Carroll, FVRD  
David Davis, Langley Township  
Walter Dyck, ALC  
Marvin Hunt, Surrey  
Rob Kline, MAFF  
Sandra Kochan, Central Okanagan RD  
Denise MacDonald, Summerland  
Beth Rees, Comox Valley  
Janice Richmond, Delta  
Shaundehl Runka, ALC  
Don Simpson, Sto:lo  
Brian Sparkes, Kent  
Gerry Sprangers, GVRD  
Glen Wong, Alberni Clayoquot RD

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## Appendix IV

# List of Agricultural Advisory Committees and Contacts

[Ed. note: List has been updated to July 7, 2005]

### Abbotsford, City of, AAC

Grant Atcheson, City of Abbotsford staff, 604-864-5510

1. Mayor Mary Reeves, Chair
2. Councillor Mo Gill
3. Jerry Alamwala
4. David Avery
5. Richard Carlson
6. Ben Doerksen
7. Doug Edgan
8. Bruna Giacomazzi
9. Marcus Janzen
10. Kim Ross
11. Rudy Russenberger
12. Linda Treliving
13. Armand Vander Meulen  
Mark Robbins, Min AL  
Tony Pellett, ALC

### Alberni Clayoquot RD AAC

Tracy Bond, Secretary, 250-720-2700

1. Lisa Aylard
2. Dorothy Brooks
3. Ann Collins, Chair
4. Ron Emblem
5. Selmer Moen
6. John Oostrom
7. Lyle Price
8. Terry Shannon
9. Bill Thomson
10. Glen Wong, ACRD Director  
Jill Hatfield, Min AL

### Central Kootenay, RD of Creston Valley AAC

1. Kris VanderWeyde, 250-428-8638,  
cherries.kokanee@shawbiz.ca
2. Mel Gardner
3. Wayne Harris
4. Connie Lang
5. Don Low
6. Bernie Meekes
7. Randy Meyer
8. Lorne Ostendorf
9. Lew Truscott

### Central Okanagan, RD of, AAC

Ron Fralick, Planner, 250-868-5227,  
[rfralick@cord.bc.ca](mailto:rfralick@cord.bc.ca)

1. Judy Bethune
2. Sandra Kochan
4. Guy Landry
5. Tim Marshall
6. Mike Molloy
7. Mike Sanders  
Carl Withler, Min AL

### Chilliwack, City of, AAC

1. Walter Dyck, Chair, 604-795-5488,  
[wmdyck@uniserve.com](mailto:wmdyck@uniserve.com)
2. John Aarts
3. Councillor Pat Clark
4. Paula Cranmer-Underhill
5. Gilbert Dueck
6. Walter Esau
7. Mayor Clint Hames
8. Gordon Mathies
9. Gary Moran
10. Brian Pouwels
11. Norma Senn (Dr.)
12. Councillor Chuck Stam
13. Ted Tisdale (CAO)
14. Janice Uebelhardt
15. Dale Wheeldon  
Cheryl Lavallee, City of Chilliwack staff  
Kim Sutherland, Min AL

### Comox-Strathcona, RD of Comox Valley AAC

Beth Rees, Planner CSRD, 250-334-6053

1. Chris Brown
2. Richard Earle
3. Tom Feely
4. Jeff Hamilton
5. Niels Holbek, Secretary
6. Mike Huxham, Chair, [mthuxham@telus.net](mailto:mthuxham@telus.net)
7. Gerry McClintock
8. Jo Smith  
Jill Hatfield, Min AL

## AAC Members List (cont'd.)

### Comox-Strathcona, RD of Area "H" AAC

Beth Rees, Planner CSRD, 250-334-6053

1. Adrienne Bellerby
2. Mark Johnson
3. Colin Perkins
4. Rick Phye  
Jill Hatfield, Min AL

### East Kootenay, RD of Area "C" AAC

1. Faye Street, 250-426 4315 or 250-429-4256 (cell)
2. Randy Raye, Chair
3. Andy McDonald
4. Gordon Burns
5. Rod Savage
6. Ben Hawke
7. Mike Kartasheff, RDEK Director

### Fraser Valley Regional District AAC

1. Siri Bertelsen, Planner, 1-800-528-0061
2. Susan Barker
3. Tom Baumann (Gordie Kahlon's alternate)
4. Harvey Carroll
5. Sheila Fitzpatrick
6. Bruna Giacomazzi
7. Lloyd McKimmon, FRVD Director
8. Bruce Peel
9. Ken Schwarzle
10. Murray Siemens
11. Mike Soth
12. Rick Thiessen
13. Alfred Vanden Brink
14. Armand Vander Meulen

#### Alternates

15. Ron Boes
16. Richard Desmarteau
17. Garnet Estell
18. Arthur Loewen
19. Rose Morrison
20. Dave Stauber
21. Charlie Thomson
22. Stan Vander Waal
23. Dale Wheeldon  
Kim Sutherland, Min AL

### Greater Vancouver Regional District AAC

Ralph Perkins, Senior Planner, 604-432-6383

1. Mayor Kurt Alberts, GVRD board representative
2. Daryl Arnold, Chair  
Tony Pellett, ALC  
Kathleen Zimmerman, MAFF

### Kelowna, City of, AAC

Nelson Wight, Planner, 250-469-8586

[nwight@kelowna.ca](mailto:nwight@kelowna.ca)

1. Lorne Antle
2. Pierre Calissi
3. Hong-Hee Chuah
4. Leo Gebert, Vice Chair
5. David Hamilton
6. Ed Henkel, Chair
7. Domenic Rampone
8. John Vielvoye  
Stan Combs, Min AL

### Kent, District of, AAC

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16. Councillor Ted Westlin  
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### Langley, Township of, AAC

Brian Doyle, Senior Planner, 604-533-6042

1. Tom Astbury
2. Tim Ballard
3. John Blair, Vice Chair
4. Arthur de Jong
5. Georgia Fontaine
6. Trudy Handel
7. Peter Jolliffe
8. Julian Kenney
9. Arne Mykle, Chair
10. Bernice Neff
11. Councillor Steve Ferguson  
Tony Pellett, ALC  
Mark Robbins, MAFF

### North Cowichan, District of, AAC

Chris Hall, Director of Planning, 250-746-3120

1. Roger Dosman
2. Chris Groenendyk
3. David Groves
4. Blaine Hardie
5. Julie Keenan
6. Glenn Matthews
7. David Wiebe
8. Ian Woike
9. Councillor George Seymour  
Wayne Haddow, Min AL

### Peace River RD AAC

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1. Harold Bell
2. Brenda Birley
3. Director Tim Caton
4. Jill Copes
5. Maurice Fines
6. Raymond Fromme
7. Arthur Hadland
8. Sue Hanson
9. Glen Hogberg
10. Fred Jarvis, PRRD Director
11. Katharine Keuth
12. Judith Madden  
Jim Forbes, Min AL

### Peninsula Agricultural Commission

*(Represents: Districts of Saanich, Central Saanich, North Saanich, and Town of Sidney)*

Isobel Hoffmann, Secretary, 250-475-1775

1. J.P. Christensen
2. Hamish Crawford
3. Frank Edgell, Chair
4. Brian Hughes
5. Robert Maxwell
6. Terry Michell
7. Jim Sandwith
8. Sonja Seyfort
9. Ken Travis

#### Non-voting Representatives

Councillor Bob Gillespie  
Councillor Marilyn Loveless  
Councillor Keith Thomas  
Councillor Bob Thompson  
Phillip Bergen, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Roger Cheetham, ALC  
Rob Kline, Min AL

### Penticton, City of, AAC

Clerk's office 250-490-2409

1. Jane Coady
2. Jim Dunlop
3. Norm Filipenko
4. Anne Hargrave
5. Keith Holman
6. Fritz Hollenback
7. Darshan Jassar
8. Rod King
9. John Lansel
10. Jim Morrison
11. Harry Nagel
12. Gerry Smithen
13. Councillor Mary Storry  
Stan Combs, Min AL

### Pitt Meadows AAC

1. Kim Grout, Chair, 604-465-2420
2. Councillor John Becker
3. Macky Banns
4. Leo Captein
5. Bob Hopcott
6. Dan Kosicki
7. Robin Robinson  
Chris Zabek, Min AL

## AAC Members List (cont'd.)

### Richmond, City of, AAC

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1. Bruce May, Co-Chair
2. Ian Chang, Co-Chair
3. Peter Dhillon
4. Dalip Sandhu
5. Bill Jones
6. Ken May
7. Tod May
8. Klaus Weisel
9. Bill Zylmans
10. Councillor Harold Steves  
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### Salt Spring Island (Islands Trust) AAC

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3. Ken Byron
4. George Laundry
5. Mark Perrins
6. Jamie Squier
7. Tony Threlfall  
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### Spallumcheen, Township of, AAC

Lynda Shykora, Deputy Corporate Administrator,  
250-546-3013

1. Rob Hettler
2. Steve Mazur
3. W.J.(Bill) Richards
4. Al Jensen
5. Kathy Velocci
6. Councillor Dave Brew
7. Councillor Carolyn Farris  
Stan Combs, Min AL  
Kevin Murphy, Min AL  
Martin Collins, ALC  
Elisa Martin, ALC  
Rob Smailes, RDNO planner

### Squamish Lillooet RD, Electoral Area "C" AAC (Pemberton)

Willie Macrae, Planner, 604-894-6371 ext.224

1. Roxy Kuurne, Chair
2. Drew Meredith
3. Doug Helmer
4. Charlie Davies
5. Allen McEwan
6. Hugh Naylor
7. Jordan Sturdy  
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3. Denise MacDonald
4. Karl Seidel
5. Ron Boerboom
6. John Boot
7. Darren McWatters
8. Dr. George Guernsey  
Stan Combs, Min AL  
Martin Collnis. ALC  
John Kennedy, Water Conservation Co-ordinator  
Scott Boswell, Dir. Economic Development

### Surrey, City of, AAC

Kerry Miller 604-591-4637

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2. Mike Bose, Chair
3. Pat Harrison
4. Martin Hilmer
5. Councillor Marvin Hunt
6. Nancy Kalid
7. Gary King
8. Stanley Van Keulen
9. Ross Wetzel
10. Remi Dubé, Engineer  
Tony Pellett, ALC  
Kathleen Zimmerman, Min AL

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## Appendix V

### Strengthening Farming Web Site

Just before the start of the AAC Workshop of February 17, 2005, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Fisheries launched its renewed Web site for the Strengthening Farming Program. It can be found at:

[www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf)

It contains information about:

- Background on the Strengthening Farming Program and related legislation
- Agricultural area plans
- Edge planning
- GIS and land use inventories
- Lists of the agri-teams assigned to local governments
- Subdivision Approving Officer's Toolkit
- Publications
- **Agricultural Advisory Committees**
  - Including a list of the Agricultural Advisory Committees
    - <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/sf/aac/list.htm>

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