



## Agriculture Discussion Group

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### ACTION ITEMS

Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 5:00 pm

#### Members in Attendance:

- Bill Miller
- Randell Dyck
- Erin Martens (LEDA)
- Thomas Pfister
- Irene Elliot
- Herb Neville (Chair)
- Christine Vautour (LEDA)
- Shirley Hamblin – BC Meat Processors Assoc.
- Leah Sheffield – Ministry of Agriculture

#### Meeting Commenced: 5:05 pm

<b>1. Agenda - additions/deletions;</b>	As discussed at the meeting, noted changes and additions have been made.
<b>2. Funding Cuts to the Ministry of Agriculture;</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herb mentioned last month he has been in contact with the Ministry of Agriculture and was notified that there was funding cuts. He is concerned now as they won't be able to be as active within the group due to the lack of monies.</li><li>• Draft a letter on behalf of the Agriculture group making it interchangeable between different group members to be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture – stating how unhappy the group is due to the funding cuts.</li><li>• Leah Sheffield was in attendance and expressed the letter would be a good idea. She advised to also include that one person can't be expected to do the job by themselves effectively (the region is too large).</li><li>• <b>Group agreed to have LEDA and the Regional District draft a letter.</b> Herb (chair) to meet and discuss with EDO over the next week.</li></ul>

<p><b>3. Forage Seminar;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leah from Ministry of Agriculture mentioned that the planned Forage Seminar will be the usual plan – Burns Lake one night and Smithers the next. The date is the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>Some topics: new varieties for grazing, later maturing grass for our seasons, animal health, weeds, carbon credits, etc. Any ideas are encouraged, feedback to Leah would be appreciated ASAP.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Weeds;</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the group members expressed their frustration relating to the outbreak of weeds in fields, rangelands, crops, farms and even the ditches.</li> <li>There is no one local who sprays local weeds. Can the CNC offer something to help control this? The Lakes District is a huge area at least there could be someone local (JOB CREATIONS)</li> <li>Invasive Plant Council was briefly mentioned. They can only do so much but have no authorities when it comes to Village boundaries, reservations, etc</li> <li>The first three points were discussed last month and were brought up again. Shirley suggested and the group agreed, to write a letter voicing their displeasure. Address it also to Ministry of Tourism as well. The group thinks they should be contributing as Tourism is one of the area's largest resource and no one is going to want to camp in a campground full of weeds.</li> <li>Shirley mentioned that farmers can buy a weed spray called Grayson which will target all the broad leaf weeds leaving the grass. Can graze on it right away, it has something in it that flows right through an animal if ingested.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Shirley Hamblin - Mobile docking station</b></p>	<p>Shirley Hamblin with BC Meat Processors was invited to attend the discussion group, providing information on a mobile docking station in the Lakes District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start small &amp; seasonal – can add to it later, government has funds available to help farmer(s) get off the ground, surveys have shown there are a lot of opportunities in poultry production, need a proposed site before applying for funding (can change throughout process), someone in the area will need to hold a class C license (can expand/extend later),</li> <li>Will need: a site plan with bio-security noted , a gravel pad with size specs, power, gray water system, potable water source that has been tested by northern health, holding tanks, plastic crates for transportation, someone with a Class C license, waste options from poultry ex: landfill or dog food, may want to add a cooler (processed birds need to be cooled to 4 degrees before going out the door), stamp for processing and farm labeling,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Can apply through LEDA for funding, but funds are at a first come first serve bases. Quesnel received Mountain Pine Beetle &amp; NDI funding for theirs.</li><li>● Bird volume to make a profit – mobile and fuel costs at least 500 –600 birds to benefit. It will come with one owner/operator as well as an inspector and the farmer will need to recruit the rest. Operator will train farmers how to process and slaughter – quality control to be there for farmer reassurance (owner/operator and the inspector cannot be the same person).</li><li>● Group decided to put the word out there before volunteering their farms to be the docking station site. Bill Miller from P&amp;B Feeds mentioned that he could gather anonymous information from customers just from his store alone. Will spend the next month gathering input and get back to the group. Shirley has expressed anything she can do to help she will.</li></ul>
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**Meeting Adjourned:** 7 pm.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 18th, 2008 – 5pm. (LEDA Office)