



Agriculture Discussion Group

ACTION ITEMS

Tuesday September 23rd, 2008 5:00 pm

Members in Attendance:

- Erin Martens (LEDA)
- Tom Shelford
- Bill & Jackie Huxham
- John Phair
- Ev Siegner
- Irene Elliot
- Herb Neville (Chair)
- Christine Vautour (LEDA)

Meeting Commenced: 5:05 pm

1. Agenda - additions/deletions;	As discussed at the meeting, noted changes and additions have been made.
2. Funding Cuts to the Ministry of Agriculture;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Herb mentioned 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.• 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. <i>(wait until Herb gets a hold of Leah before writing the letter)</i>

<p>3. Forage Seminar & an estate planning seminar;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leah from Ministry of Agriculture expressed the idea of a Forage Seminar to be held in Burns Lake and Smithers, if there wasn't enough interest could be in Houston. ● Topics: New varieties for grazing, later maturing grass for our seasons, animal health, weeds, etc. Any ideas are encouraged, feedback to Leah would be appreciated. ● It was mentioned that years ago there was an “estate planning” seminar. LEDA and the CNC should work together on organizing the workshop – this would benefit not just the agriculture industry but the other sectors as well especially in the Mountain Pine beetle crisis.
<p>4. Weeds;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All the group members expressed their frustration relating to the outbreak of weeds in fields, rangelands, crops, farms and even the ditches. ● 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) ● Invasive Plant Council was briefly mentioned. They can only do so much but have no authorities when it comes to Village boundaries, reservations, etc
<p>5. Bob Fowler: Range Land Study results;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LEDA received the study via the mail. There was brief discussion around it. ● LEDA photocopied a few copies for the group to look over and take to the Cattleman's Association to see what they can do with it. Chair asked the group to read over and give feedback throughout the month.
<p>6. Shirley Hamblin;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Herb mentioned he still would like Shirley at one of the agriculture meetings. <p>Shirley has information relating to the Arbitoire (poultry docking station) in the area that could be useful to the Lakes District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Herb to invite Shirley to the next meeting. LEDA staff to work with chair in getting the information out to the public. Posters, ad in the paper and on the radio for the next agriculture meeting October 21st @ 5pm

7. Correspondence;

- **Farm to school** – EDO brought this to the group's attention before the summer but was too late to look into. A new season has come up and the group briefly discussed. Group would like EDO to contact the schools to find interested parties.
- **Seat at the Table:** resource guide for local governments to promote food secure communities. Any interest, LEDA staff can email whole document electronically.
- John Phair from CNC mentioned that maybe the culinary arts would be interested in participating.
- Ev Siegner mentioned that she has been contacted to go on an agriculture tour in Australia – anyone else interested should contact her.
- Farmers can sell their meat after slaughter if it has been slaughtered and processed in an inspected facility, stamped by facility and farmer, and stays frozen from slaughterhouse to farm gate.

September 29th an All Candidates meeting will be at the LDSS @ 7pm. All the candidates are expected to attend: Nathan Cullen – NDP, Sharon Smith – Conservative Party, Corrina Morhart – Liberal Party, Rod Taylor – Christian Heritage Party, and Hondo Arendt – Green Party. It was mentioned that Corky Evans stated to attend this meeting and ask all the candidates ***“What are you planning to do for Agriculture if elected?”*** The biggest problem with Agriculture in the past is that farmers don't voice their opinion strong enough. This is a great opportunity to voice it. Members briefly discussed that if people were uncomfortable voicing their concerns it can be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce and someone allocated will ask on their behalf. Any questions to please call the Chamber of Commerce.

ACTION: for the group to think of a good question and person to present to the candidates for September 29th

Meeting Adjourned: 5:45 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 21st, 2008 – 5pm. (LEDA Office)