



Area B Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday March 17, 2025
1:00pm – 3:00pm
Location: Zoom

INTENT

The purpose of this meeting is to convene the Area B Agricultural Advisory Committee to review, discuss and provide comments/recommendations to the Board on agricultural issues.

Key objectives for the meeting are as follows:

1. Review roles & responsibilities of the committee; and
2. Continue discussions on the Agriculture Land Trusts issue.

PROPOSED AGENDA

Zoom Details: Committee Members emailed a separate panelist link. Members of the public attendee access: https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/66535006762		
1:00pm – 1:10pm	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & Introductions • Electronic Meetings Policy – Chair Statement • We would like to recognize that collectively we are joining from the unceded territories of all of the First Nations within our regional boundaries. 	Chair/All
1:10pm – 1:20am	Review and Approval of Agenda and Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Approval of Agenda • Review and Approval of Minutes (November 21, 2024) 	Chair/All
1:20pm – 1:40pm	Review Welcome Package & Roles/Responsibilities	Claire/All
1:40pm – 2:00pm	Agriculture Land Trusts in the SLRD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Report • Q&A/Discussion 	Kim/All
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Roundtable Updates on Food & Agriculture	All
2:30pm - 2:55pm	Business Arising from the Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: LAFS to explore capacity to facilitate/coordinate the first wildlife-agriculture meeting with support from Ministry of Agriculture & Food staff liaison. IN PROGRESS • ACTION: SLRD staff to prepare or seek out information regarding ALR parcel sizes in Area B and communicate back to the AAC. This may be in conjunction with the ALUI update work. IN PROGRESS • ACTION: LAFS with support from SLRD staff to update the Ag Plan “report card” as a tool to share progress with SLRD Board, DOL, and AAC as appropriate. IN PROGRESS • ACTION: CD to target 4 meetings per year, with one being held 	All

	<p>in-person. ONGOING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION: That the Agriculture Land Trusts item be tabled for continued discussions at the next Area B AAC meeting. COMPLETE • ACTION: SLRD staff to bring forward more regionally specific information and examples of Agriculture Land Trusts, including pros/cons. IN PROGRESS (as part of feasibility study work) • ACTION: SLRD staff to review how Agriculture Land Trusts connect to the Area B, District of Lillooet and St'at'imc Ag Plan. IN PROGRESS (as part of feasibility study work) • ACTION: SLRD staff to add advocacy letter to Minister of Agriculture re prioritizing buy-local agricultural and food initiatives, as well as right to food legislation, to the next AAC meeting for further discussion. It was moved and seconded: <i>That the Area B AAC move the motion as presented. [THAT the Board send a letter to the incoming Minister of Agriculture, highlighting the significant costs and challenges farmers and growers face in selling their products locally, requesting that the Minister consider prioritizing buy-local agricultural and food initiatives.] COMPLETE</i> • ACTIONS requiring Board direction: It was moved and seconded: <i>That SLRD staff look into funding and logistics to update the Area B Agriculture Plan, noting that it has been 10 years since the plan was adopted.</i> 	
2:55pm – 3:00pm	Next Steps and Close of Meeting	All

Meeting Materials:

1. November 21, 2024 Minutes – for approval (attached)
2. 2025 Area B AAC Welcome Package – for information (attached)
3. Follow-up report to the Area B AAC on Agricultural Land Trusts – for information (attached)
4. SLRD Board Advocacy Letter to Minister of Food & Agriculture – for information (attached)

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

DRAFT Minutes of an Electoral Area B Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District held via Electronic Facilities on Thursday November 21, 2024 at 10:30 AM.

In attendance electronically:

Committee: J. Rasmussen (Area B AAC Chair); S. Quinlan; V. Birch-Jones (SLRD Area B Director); S. Senger; S. Petznick; M. Chandler Farivar (joined at 11:15am)

Staff: C. Dewar (SLRD Senior Planner, Staff Liaison); K. Needham (SLRD Director of Planning & Development Services); A. Fox (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Land Use Agrologist); W. Shaw (Ministry of Agriculture and Food Regional Agrologist);

Public: N/A

Regrets: B. Grossler; R. Meredith; M. Rogers

1	Call to Order
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JR called the meeting to order at 10:35 am.

Welcome and roundtable introductions.

The Chair recognized that collectively we are on the unceded territories of all of the First Nations within our regional boundaries. The Chair also read the *Electronic Meetings Policy – Chair Statement for AAC Meetings*.

2	Approval of Agenda and Minutes
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It was moved and seconded:

THAT the agenda be approved with the addition of Ag Emergency Plan and Review of AAC Mandate items to the Roundtable Update on Food & Agriculture section.

CARRIED (MOTION 1)

It was moved and seconded:

THAT the April 29, 2024 minutes be approved as amended.

CARRIED (MOTION 2)

3	AAC Chair and Vice-Chair Election
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B. Grossler was nominated as Area B AAC Chair and S. Quinlan was nominated as Area B AAC Vice-Chair. No other nominations were put forward. As such, B. Grossler was acclaimed as Chair and S. Quinlan was acclaimed as Vice-Chair for the Area B AAC in 2025.

S. Quinlan took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting, as B. Grossler was not in attendance.

4	Agriculture Land Trusts in the SLRD
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KN gave a presentation on Agriculture Land Trusts in the SLRD. The presentation is attached to the minutes. AAC discussion ensued.

JR shared that this is related to the Ag Plan priority #2 and food security. She also asked about how the funds would be shared across the SLRD (\$ and amenities).

KN stated that there are various approaches that could be used, including per capita, supporting initiatives already underway such as through LAFS, or having a non-profit organization run the Agriculture Land Trust.

SS shared that she appreciated the presentation and also shared her desire to explore the opportunity further. She asked about how much land is currently held in trust in the SLRD.

KN responded that no Agriculture Land Trust currently exist in the SLRD. There are conservation land trusts, but these differ.

VBJ shared that farmers are not making a living on the land and that this is a challenge more than land in Area B.

SQ shared that this is a big idea and that there are not a lot of examples in BC/Canada. He shared it would be helpful to see pros and cons presented as well as more specific information for the SLRD. The need to connect back to the Ag Plan was also mentioned.

CD shared that the Regional Growth Strategy includes a strategic direction related to exploring the establishment Agriculture Land Trusts: *e) Explore options for local governments to champion Agricultural Land Trusts, in which land is purchased for community food growing and protected in perpetuity as an investment in long-term food security. This will be pursued by investigating the establishment of an Agricultural Land Trust Fund that could be used to purchase and/or lease agricultural land.*

CD also shared that Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff provided examples of Agriculture Land Trust currently established in the Capital Regional District, and Salt Spring Island.

JR raised the importance of connecting with First Nations, as well as considering the idea in relation to the Ag Plan. It was also acknowledged that the Ag Plan is likely due for a review/update.

AF shared that she worked for the Islands Trust when the Salt Spring Island Agriculture Land Trust was established. She stated that the land was part of a density bonusing scheme with the land donated to the community and a non-profit set up to run the trust and amenities.

AF also shared that the Agri gift program (federal) could be relevant.

SQ raised that the ALR is protecting land and asked if there is land not being protected? (i.e. what is the gap)

SS shared the need for larger parcels of land, noting that it is hard to make a living on less than 5 acres.

CD shared that the cost of land and speculation is a challenge in the SLRD and that there is a need to encourage/facilitate getting land under production not just protection.

KD also shared the challenge that more and more non-farm uses are being introduced and taking land out of production and/or driving up costs.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Agriculture Land Trusts item be tabled for continued discussions at the next Area B AAC meeting.

CARRIED (MOTION 3)

KN stated that staff could bring forward examples of other Agriculture Land Trusts, as well as pros/cons to the next AAC meeting.

It was moved and seconded:

That SLRD staff look into funding and logistics to update the Area B Agriculture Plan, noting that it has been 10 years since the plan was adopted.

CARRIED (MOTION 4)

5	Advocacy Letter to Minister of Agriculture re prioritizing buy-local agricultural and food initiatives
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VBJ provided a summary of the director's report to the Electoral Area Director's meeting as well as background on the issue.

SS emphasized the need for direct access to local food and connection to right to food legislation.

VBJ suggested that the letter copy the MLA.

It was agreed that the discussion be tabled for when B. Grossler is back and that opportunities to connect into right to food legislation initiatives also be explored.

It was moved and seconded:

That the Area B AAC move the motion as presented. [THAT the Board send a letter to the incoming Minister of Agriculture, highlighting the significant costs and challenges farmers and growers face in selling their products locally, requesting that the Minister consider prioritizing buy-local agricultural and food initiatives.]

CARRIED (MOTION 5)

6	Roundtable Updates on Food & Agriculture
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CD provided an update on the Area A/B ALUI update. It was shared that Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff are working on the report, with an anticipated completion date the beginning of January 2025. CD also shared that the ask had been made to present the Area A/B ALUI report to the Area B AAC and SLRD Board.

VBJ provided an update of the Ag Emergency Plan workshops that were held in November throughout the SLRD. The DOL/Area B workshop was well attended and well received.

SS raised the issue of the AAC Mandate and whether the committee was to review all agriculture or just the ALR.

KN confirmed that as per the Area B AAC terms of reference, the AAC reviews items specifically related to agriculture, as referred to by the SLRD Board.

JR also shared that SLRD staff make recommendations to the SLRD Board about what items should be referred to the AACs.

VBJ communicated appreciation to outgoing Chair J. Rasmussen for her contributions and leadership.

7	Business Arising from the Minutes
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It was moved and seconded:

That the Business Arising from the Minutes items be moved forward to the next Area B AAC meeting.

CARRIED (MOTION 5)

8	Correspondence
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None.

9	Late Items
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None.

10	Next Steps and Close of Meeting
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ACTION: SLRD staff to bring forward more regionally specific information and examples of Agriculture Land Trusts, including pros/cons.

ACTION: SLRD staff to review how Agriculture Land Trusts connect to the Area B, District of Lillooet and St'at'imc Ag Plan.

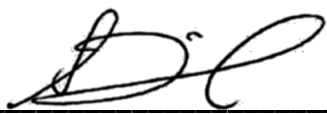
ACTION: SLRD staff to add advocacy letter to Minister of Agriculture re prioritizing buy-local agricultural and food initiatives, as well as right to food legislation, to the next AAC meeting for further discussion.

11	Next Meeting / Adjournment
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Next meeting to be scheduled January/February 2025.

The committee's desire for a mix of in-person and online meetings was communicated, as well as the target of holding 4 meetings per year. It was agreed that the next meeting would be good to be held online (given winter weather and potential travel challenges). The spring meeting may be held in person.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm



S. Quinlan
Vice-Chair



C. Dewar
Senior Planner
Recording Secretary

DRAFT



Agricultural Land Trusts

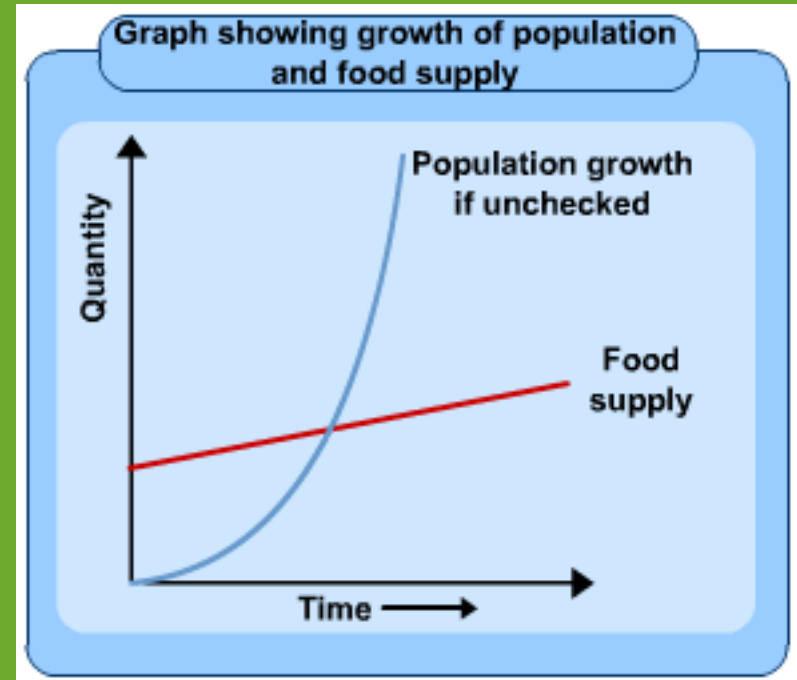


Background on the Issues Facing Agriculture, Food and our Eating Future



World FOOD SECURITY issues

- World population increases by ~210,000 new humans every day
- Fisheries are experiencing decline/collapse
- Worldwide meat consumption has increased
- Top soil is being damaged, polluted and depleted
- Crop pollinators (Bees) are experience rapid die-off



World FOOD SECURITY issues

- Climate change creates difficulties for growers due to flooding, droughts and pest infestation
- Rising fuel costs will affect food transport, cost of fertilizers and inputs
- Farmers are experiencing crop failures
- Aquifers are being salinated, polluted and depleted reducing the ability to irrigate in hot areas



BC FOOD SECURITY issues

- BC is only ~30% food self-sufficient
- Only 5% of BC land base is suitable for farming and only 1% is high quality.
- Just to keep up with population growth, farmers will need to increase production by 30% by 2025 and increase irrigation by 49% (2011).
- Foreign countries, foreign corporations and foreign nationals are buying up farmland in BC

B.C.'s Food Self-Reliance

Can B.C.'s Farmers Feed Our Growing Population ?



B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

SLRD FOOD SECURITY issues

- 175 pp of the 40,000 + people in the SLRD are classified as farm workers.
- The SLRD grew 18% from 2016 to 2021, BC by 7.6%, Canada by 5.2%
- Few young farmers in SLRD- median age in 2021 was 57 years
- The food banks in the SLRD are under pressure
- Community gardens and greenhouses in the SLRD are over-subscribed with wait-lists, even for marginal spaces



World Economic and Social Survey 2011



THE GREAT GREEN
TECHNOLOGICAL
TRANSFORMATION



sustainable food security has the characteristics of a *public good*... and, as such, it requires *adequate and stable financial support from Government ...*

* GOOD NEWS: Ag Land Trusts don't require a lot of \$

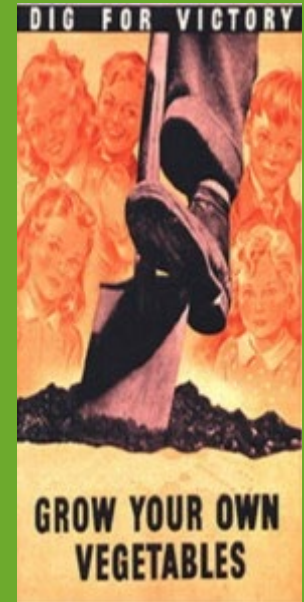
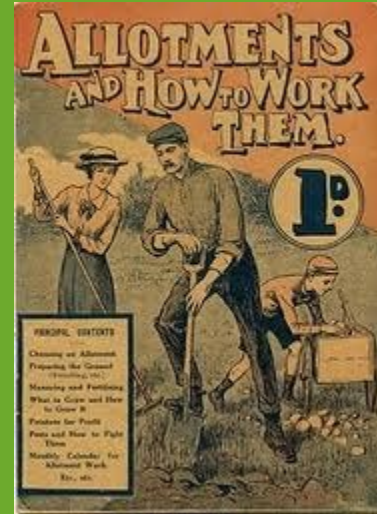
What is an Agricultural Land Trust?

- Land Trusts have been used extensively to protect land “in trust” for the public.
- Ag Land Trusts are generally established to support sustainable agriculture for the benefit of local communities in perpetuity.



History of Ag Land Trusts

- The UK has a long history of land trust “allotments” which are generally about 250 square metres each, most often provided by the local government
- Many land trusts exist in BC, and there are several that are specific to agricultural land.



Allot of demand but not enough plots available



NEW POPULAR PASTIME: Once seen as old men's pursuits, allotments are now viewed as a trendy family pastime

Legal Status of Ag Land Trusts

- Most are structured as non-profits and are run by a Board of Directors or a committee structure.
- They can enter into contracts, hold covenants, can issue tax receipts, etc.
- Few land trusts have been started by local or regional governments, but there are 3 notable land trusts in the CRD, the RDEK and the CVRD. Most of these were established for conservation purposes but some may include Ag Land.

Benefits of an Ag Land Trust

- Better use of land
- Protect the natural environment, wetlands, etc.
- Provide farming space and access
- Protect against extensive foreign land purchases
- Enable community farming education programs
- Provide “good” and “safe” places to farm
- Provide food security for the region in perpetuity



Benefits of an Ag Land Trust

- Allows the SLRD to tie to other programming (education, food banks, wildland/ wetland preservation, trails, food tourism, energy etc.)
- Promotes/ encourages the regional food sector and creates jobs
- Addresses SLRD and member municipality policies
- Amenities as well as land
- Can provide a long-term revenue source for program support
- Provides leading-edge, visionary leadership
- No-Low cost / big benefits over short and long term



Policy Alignment

- Staff of the ALC and the Ministry of Agriculture support the preservation of agricultural land.
- SLRD and member municipalities' planning documents are in support.
- Members of the public seem to be in support.



What will it cost?

COMMUNITY	Total Assessment Value 2024	Residential Households
Lillooet	\$535,230,231	1216
Pemberton	\$1,725,079,463	1538
Squamish	\$13,439,936,589	9050
Whistler	\$27,777,614,892	13428
SQUAMISH-LILLOOET EA A	\$3,051,071,165	476
SQUAMISH-LILLOOET EA B	\$184,574,262	352
SQUAMISH-LILLOOET EA C	\$1,464,961,603	1122
SQUAMISH-LILLOOET EA D	\$1,568,447,102	706
Total	\$49,746,915,307	27888
Desired \$ for the AG Land Trust per year	\$800,000	\$28 per year (more or less depending on mill rate and assessed value)

SLRD Ag Land Trust creation

Service must be established by way of a service establishment bylaw (see sample)

ASSENT OF ELECTORS

- Referendum requiring a majority of voter support.

ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL

(may be possible)

- Requires less than 10% objection.

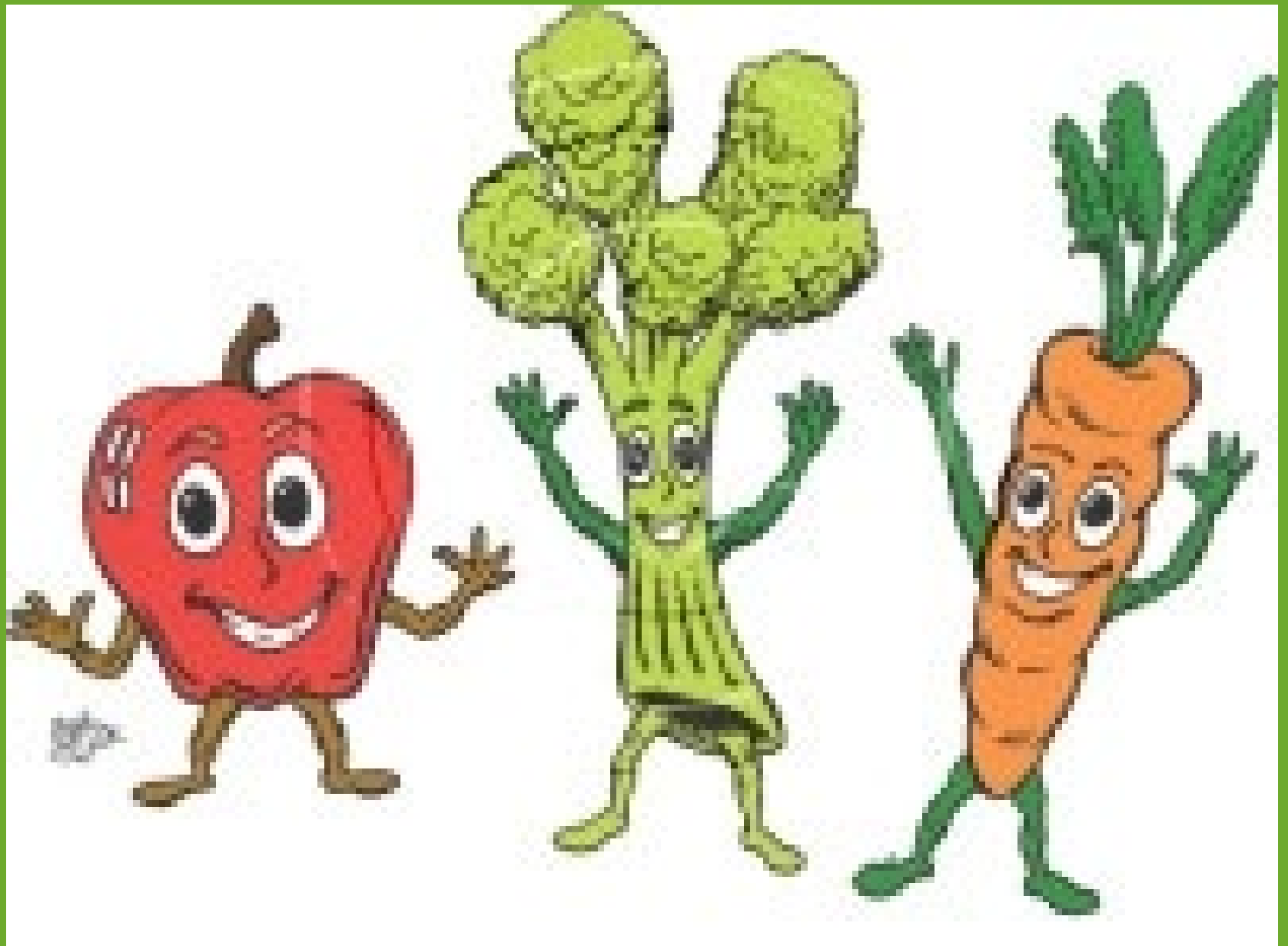


*Grants may be available for analyzing options.

If YES, then what?

- Service is formed
- Ag Land Trust is established and funds are held
- Need to decide if Trust is run by the SLRD or create a non-profit
- Need to determine procedures, mandate, roles etc.
- Funds in the trust can pay for staff, purchase of ag. amenities and land
- Trust can grow over time or be capped by \$ or years.

In creating a Land Trust established to protect farmland and promote food security, SLRD would be a trailblazer in Canada.



WELCOME!

We are pleased to welcome you to the SLRD Area B Agricultural Area Advisory Committee (AAC). We thank you for your interest in agricultural matters, and your commitment to participate in this volunteer Committee. You will be making a valuable contribution to local agricultural planning. The AAC is a Committee of the Board, with membership appointed by the SLRD Board of Directors.

In this package you will find a few items to help you familiarize yourself with AACs in general, and also with the particular workings of the Area B AAC. You may also review key Committee information on the SLRD website at slrd.bc.ca/areabaac.

This package contains:

- Meeting Scheduling Procedures
- 2025 Area B AAC membership
- Area B, Lillooet & St'at'imc Agricultural Plan
- SLRD Electoral Area B Agricultural Advisory Committee Bylaw (Terms of Reference)

You are also encouraged to review the Ministry of Agriculture and Food website detailing the role of AACs [here](#).

In addition, you may wish to familiarize yourself with the [Agricultural Land Commission](#) application procedures, [Agricultural Land Commission Act](#), and [ALR Use Regulation](#) as these will be helpful in reviewing applications at upcoming meetings.

Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions or concerns regarding the Committee or processes.

Thank you again, and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Kind regards,



Claire Dewar, Senior Planner and Area B AAC Staff Liaison

Meeting Scheduling Procedures

Meetings are held on an as-needed basis when the SLRD Board has referred an application or information to the Committee for review and input.

There are typically 4 meetings per year of 2 hours in length. Meetings are held during the day via Zoom webinar, with meeting recordings available on-demand on the SLRD website. At times, meetings may be scheduled in the evenings or in person, if needed. As a Committee of the SLRD Board, meetings are open to the public.

Meetings are scheduled by the SLRD Staff Liaison, with a Doodle poll sent out to determine the best date/time for Committee members. An agenda package will be prepared by the SLRD Staff Liaison and circulated to the Committee, typically one week in advance of the meeting. You are encouraged to review the agenda package in advance of the meeting in order to facilitate discussion in a compressed timeframe at the meeting.

2025 Area B AAC Membership

- Bev Grossler, current AAC Chair
- Sam Quinlan, current AAC Vice-Chair
- Vivian Birch-Jones, Electoral Area B Director
- Mandi Rogers
- Sue Senger
- Robert Meredith
- Sarah Petznick
- Jacquie Rasmussen
- Mischa Chandler Farivar
- Will Shaw, Ministry of Agriculture Liaison (non-voting)
- Alison Fox, Ministry of Agriculture Liaison (non-voting)
- Claire Dewar, SLRD Staff Liaison (non-voting)

Area B, Lillooet & St'at'imc Agricultural Plan

The Agricultural Plan was adopted by the SLRD on October 1, 2014 and represents the culmination of a year-long public dialogue concerning the future of agriculture in the Lillooet area. Focus has now shifted toward implementation of the plan priorities and recommended actions to realize the vision for agriculture in the area. The Agricultural Plan and background documents are available on the SLRD website [here](#). The [Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society](#) (LAFS) was formed to implement Agricultural Plan and advance agricultural economic development in the Lillooet area. LAFS receives funding from the SLRD annually to support this implementation work.

Electoral Area B AAC Terms of Reference

The Electoral Area B AAC Terms of Reference (TOR) is a bylaw to establish and set out the appointment and procedure to be followed by the Area B Agricultural Advisory Committee is available on the SLRD website [here](#). The following section provides an overview of some of the key TOR aspects:

Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of the Committee is to provide:

- a) comments and recommendations to the Board on agricultural issues within Electoral Area B referred to the Committee by the Board;
- b) support in respect of specific action items as identified in the Electoral Area B, District of Lillooet, and St'at'imc Agricultural Plan dated September 2014.

Matters that may be Considered

The Board may refer the following matters to the Committee:

- Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) applications;
- Official community plan/zoning amendment applications, Temporary Use Permit applications, Development Permit applications, Development Variance or Subdivision applications related to agriculture or the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR);
- Agricultural related components of comprehensive reviews or development of SLRD bylaws or plans; and
- Other matters which the Board may consider appropriate.

The **Committee may make recommendations to the Board, for the Board's consideration**, on matters that deal with the ongoing viability of commercial farming and farm land usage within the Agricultural Land Reserve lands within Electoral Area B. Committee recommendations to the Board should be made by resolution. **As a Committee of the Board, the Committee should refrain from making recommendations to or directing the work of staff.**

Quorum

Quorum must be reached for a meeting to be held. In the case that the committee is comprised of an odd number of members, a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. In the case that the committee is comprised of an even number of members, half or more of the members shall constitute a quorum.

Voting

Each Committee member who is present is entitled to vote and has one vote.

Recommendations of the Committee must be adopted by a majority affirmative vote of the members present at the meeting.

A Committee member present at a meeting who abstains from voting is deemed to have voted in the affirmative.



INFORMATION REPORT

Follow-up report to the Area B AAC on Agricultural Land Trusts

Meeting Date: March 6, 2025

To: Electoral Area B AAC

BACKGROUND

On September 24, 2024, the SLRD Board made the following resolution:

THAT as part of usual budget process for 2025 staff identify grant funding sources for a feasibility study (to be conducted by a consultant), to explore a potential new service establishment for an agricultural land trust, including: · timelines · service area participants · possible budget and associated tax implications · governance model.

Based on this resolution, the SLRD Board, did not request more reporting on this matter from staff. Staff then gave a presentation on Agricultural Land Trusts to the Areas B and C Agricultural Advisory Committee, for their information.

On November 21, 2024, the Electoral Area B Agricultural Advisory Committee made the following resolution:

That the Agriculture Land Trusts item be tabled for continued discussions at the next Area B AAC meeting.

This report provides the Electoral Area B Agricultural Advisory Committee with some additional information about Agricultural Land Trusts.

As additional work on Agricultural Land Trusts has not been directed by the SLRD Board, it should be noted that this will be the last reporting that will be brought to the AAC on this matter until funding for a feasibility study can be achieved.

REVIEW

At their meeting of November 21, 2024, the AAC raised a number of questions about Agricultural Land Trusts. A very good source of information can be found within a document called "Capital Regional District Regional Foodlands Access Program Feasibility Study" prepared by Ione Smith of Upland Agricultural Consulting in 2019: [CRD FOODLANDS ACCESS FEASIBILITY STUDY](#)

An excerpt from that report, noting various kinds of foodlands access tools is reproduced here:

Table i: Summary of Foodlands Access Tools and their Potential Level of Impact.

Rank	Tool	Relative Cost	Lead Agency	Timeframe	Level of Effort	Level of Impact
1	Land trusts	High	Local governments and/or NGOs	Short (1 to 3 years)	Easy	High
2	Land banks	Medium-High	Local governments and/or NGOs	Short (1 to 3 years)	Easy	High
3	Land connecting	Medium-Low	NGOs	Short (1 to 3 years)	Easy	Low
4	Incubator farms	Medium	NGOs and/or academic institutes	Medium (3 to 5 years)	Challenging	Moderate
5	Farm tax policies	Low	Federal and/or provincial govt	Medium (3 to 5 years)	Difficult	High
6	Restrictions on farmland ownership	Medium	Provincial government	Medium (5 years)	Difficult	High
7	Regulation of farm leases	Low	Provincial government	Medium (3 to 5 years)	Difficult	Low

*Green indicates good candidate as a tool for local governments; yellow indicates a possible tool to be used within a broader strategy; orange indicates a limited ability for local governments to use the tool.

The AAC had asked about other communities and their experience with Agricultural Land Trusts. The Capital Regional District is currently in the process of pursuing the adoption of Bylaw 4602, which will require an Alternative Approval Process. A link to that bylaw is included here: [CRD BYLAW 4602](#)

Additional information on this proposed service can be found here: [FAQ BYLAW 4602](#)

On Vancouver Island, there is The Farmlands Trust which operates a farm, a historical site and includes trail preservation. It is supported by local government and donations. More information can be found here: <https://farmlandstrust.org/about>

There is also the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust which operates on Salt Spring Island. It is funded through government support and donations. More information can be found here: <https://www.ssifarmlandtrust.org/about> This trust owns a 60 acre farm that is leased to a number of farmers and also rents 90 small plots to area residents as part of a community garden. The trust also runs a food hub known as “The Root”. According to the website, “This 3,000 sq ft sustainable hub offers a local wholesale, processing, and distribution option for on-island food buyers. It supports small-scale farmers and local food producers by providing processing space and equipment to help them create and sell more products made from local ingredients.

Here is a list of components The Root Food Hub provides Salt Spring Island's community with:

- An accessible commercial kitchen facility, the first of its kind on Salt Spring.
- Indoor temperature-controlled storage
- Walk in fridge units with shelves
- A seed bank in partnership with the Salt Spring Seed Sanctuary
- A barn for hosting workshops, events, and more
- A permaculture demonstration restoration garden
- Equipment rentals
- A residential rental suite, currently occupied by the Salt Jar Refillery

- Farming and food-related education
- Self-standing storage containers “

Another great report about Farmland/Agricultural Trusts titled “A Review of Farmland Trusts” was prepared in April, 2010 by The Land Conservancy of BC.

[A Review of Farmland Trusts](#)

This report looks at a variety of types of farmland trusts, and provides examples of how such trusts have been implemented in various communities in Canada, the United States and the UK.

FOLLOW-UP

As noted previously, staff have been directed by the Board to seek out potential funding for a feasibility study to look into the potential of a Foodland/Agricultural Trust for the SLRD. Potential funding sources include The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF), Rural Economic Development Investment Program (REDIP) and the Regional Innovation Ecosystems in BC fund (RIE). If funding can be acquired to conduct a feasibility study, staff will bring back a report about the study findings to a future AAC meeting.

Prepared by: K. Needham, Director of Planning and Development Services



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November 28, 2024

BY EMAIL: AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Minister of Agriculture and Food
PO Box 9043 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Attention Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food

Dear Honourable Lana Popham:

On behalf of the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Board, I am writing to express our growing concerns about the significant challenges local farmers in our region face, particularly regarding their ability to get their products onto the shelves of local grocery stores.

We have been made aware that many local farmers are making substantial investments in obtaining GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification, improving packaging, and covering other associated costs to meet the stringent requirements set by large chain stores. Despite these efforts, their produce is being overlooked in favour of non-local products, which are often inferior, bulk-packaged, or even unpackaged. This practice is not only frustrating but also financially damaging to our local farming community.

Given the current situation, we kindly request your advice on whether there are any actions the Province can take to support local farmers in securing a place for their products in the big chain grocery stores. Additionally, any assistance in reducing the financial burden of GAP certification would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to your response and hope for a solution that will help sustain and grow our local farming industry.

Sincerely,

Jen Ford
Chair, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

CC: SLRD Board
Heather Paul, CAO, SLRD
MLA Jeremy Valeriote, West Vancouver-Sea to Sky Jeremy.Valeriote.MLA@leg.bc.ca
MLA Tony Luck, Fraser-Nicola tony.luck@conservativebc.ca