

MINUTES OF THE SECOND BUILDING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2022

DATE: March 10, 2022

TIME: 8:32 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: videoconference

PRESENT: Sub-Council Members

Andy Smith, Chair Colin Belliveau Keven Lefebvre David Flanagan

Rick Gratton, Vice-Chair, South

Stephen Hill Keith Jansen

Corey Klimchuk, Vice-Chair, North

Zachary Walker Matthew Kramer Grace O'Brien Laura Ritchie Terry O'Flaherty Darin Sceviour Darrin Harsch

Justin Pockar (at 9:08 a.m.)

Cam Buskell

Safety Codes Council

Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach

<u>Alberta Municipal Affairs</u> Paul Chang, Lance Leger

GUESTS: Gerry Wiles, ESC Liaison; Karen Muir, BFSC Liaison; Chris Taylor and Hunter Langpap, FSC

Liaisons; Paul Duffy, Spray Foam Coalition; Stephen Wieroniey, Spray Foam Coalition (at

9:30)

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2022 MEETINGS: May 12 (tentatively in person), September 22 (tentatively in person), November 10

(virtual)

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. A round table introduction was held and videoconference functionality was reviewed, and members were reminded that their primary duty is to act in the interest of safety in the built environment for the benefit of all Albertans.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Rick Gratton / Grace O'Brien moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Agenda of the January 13, 2022 Minutes

Stephen Hill / Grace O'Brien moved to adopt the minutes of the January 13, 2022 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Closed Session

Terry O'Flaherty / Stephen Hill moved to enter closed session; CARRIED Keith Jansen / Grace O'Brien moved to leave closed session; CARRIED

2.1.1. Nomination of Brian Boddez, Ingo Viehweger, Jason Davis, Peter Gogich to represent Consumer Protection

Corey Klimchuk / Grace O'Brien moved to recommend to the Board appointment of Ingo Viehweger to represent Consumer Protection to the Building Sub-Council to represent Consumer Protection for a term ending January 31, 2025, effective immediately; CARRIED

2.2. Vice Chair Election

A new vice-chair is needed because this is the last meeting for current vice-chair Rick Gratton. Corey Klimchuk nominated Stephen Hill, and he accepted. Two further calls for nominations were held and no further nominations were received.

Stephen Hill was appointed BSC Vice-Chair by acclamation.

2.3. Schedules of Professional Involvement STANDATA

Vice-Chair Corey Klimchuk chaired this item.

Background on the schedules of professional involvement and associated user guide were given. APEGA and AAA have sent letters of support to AMA for implementing these schedules.

The Variance STANDATA enables use of these new schedules as soon as the STANDATA is issued, giving code users the option to use the new schedules or the ones in the NBC(AE) 2019. Once the next edition of the NBC(AE) is in force, only the new schedules contained within the code will be able

to be used. The Administrator is looking for comments and support from BSC to implement the schedules through the STANDATA.

Discussion included the following:

- Projects in progress that have permits under the NBC(AE) 2019 can use the schedules in the NBC(AE) 2019, which will continue to be accessible as a free download on the Municipal Affairs website after the new code is published.
- Under this variance, the professionals can choose whether to use the new schedules or the schedules in the NBC(AE) 2019, but cannot use a mix of both.
- A question was asked about whether there is information in the user guide about who code
 users can contact if they have questions about the user guide or schedules. It was reported
 that there is currently no such information in the user guide. The member representing
 Professional Engineers will take this suggestion back to the group that developed the
 schedules and user guide.
- A question was asked about whether consideration was given to adding a box in the schedules specific to energy codes. It was clarified that the energy codes items would feed into one or more of the five professionals of record. The energy specialist would be part of the design team and could provide documents of support to the professionals of record, who are responsible to ensure that all the work within their scope is completed.
- There is a space on B schedule to identify which C3 schedules will be requested, and space on the C2 schedule to identify what has actually been provided.
- An overview was given of secondary design professionals and delegated design professionals, and what each is responsible for.
- A question was asked about how SCOs would be trained on the new schedules. It was
 reported that the training offered by APEGA will be open to anyone who wants to take it.
 The user guide is freely available on the APEGA website for any user, including SCOs. The
 member representing Professional Engineers will work with the Council to ensure that the
 new schedules are clear and changes are communicated.
- Clarification on the definition of "approved changes" would be beneficial.

Andy Smith / Keith Jansen move to support the Schedules of Professional Involvement STANDATA; CARRIED

2.4. Insulation values for flat or cathedral roof serving residential garages STANDATA

AMA was notified of a table in the NBC(AE)2019 Section 9.36 prescriptive requirements that allowed for less insulation for cathedral/flat roofs than for roofs with an attic space. This was an oversight that was not intended to be included in the NBC(AE) 2019. Table 9.25 and Table 9.36.2.6 showed the discrepancy. This will be corrected in Table 9.25 in the next NBC(AE). The Provincial Building Administrator is looking for support from BSC to implement this variance in advance of publication of the next code edition.

Stephen Hill / Keith Jansen moved to support the Insulation values for flat or cathedral roof serving residential garages STANDATA; CARRIED

2.5. Unvented Roof Assembly STANDATA

Background was given about an engineering report prepared by industry stakeholders that provides information and indicates the methods to be used for unvented roof assemblies, which will be

available on the stakeholder website. The variance STANDATA references the engineering report and links to the report on the stakeholder website.

The stakeholder group, the <u>Spray Foam Coalition</u>, produced the engineered solution, which was previously reviewed by BSC, as well as a user guide upon suggestion of BSC. There are also other resources on their website, including one that gives guidance on how to read the CCMC or UL evaluation reports for listed products. It will also have resources to address Alberta-specific questions about the use of the designs allowed for by the variance.

A question was asked about whether there is a risk that these solutions could be used without a properly qualified spray foam installer. It was clarified that there are a number of controls in place: these types of spray foam cannot be sold to homeowners and are only sold to trained and qualified professional installers; there are organizations that do approvals for manufacturers; and there is an application standard as well as a product standard for these products that must be complied with as per the building code. Information on the Spray Foam Coalition website outlines the approval process that SCOs can reference to ensure compliance.

A code change request on this topic is in process for the 2025 NBC.

Rick Gratton / Darin Sceviour moved to support the Unvented Roof Assembly STANDATA; CARRIED

2.6. Tiered Energy Code Working Group

Since the last meeting when this working group was formed, the Council received a request from the Minister to provide specific input on adoption and implementation of tiered energy codes and large farm structures. Because the Minister's request is time sensitive, the original timeline identified for this group needs to be adjusted.

Terry O'Flaherty / Corey Klimchuk moved to adjust the timeline for the Tiered Energy Codes Working Group to indicate a final report will be presented by the May 2022 BSC meeting; CARRIED

2.7. Large Farm Structures Joint Working Group

Because of the time-sensitive request for input from the Minister, members were solicited by email. This will be a joint working group with FSC and will include agricultural sector members as well, who are still being identified. This will be a targeted engagement so will likely take less time than a broad agricultural engagement, and it's believed the timeline requested by the Minister can be met. It was noted that this working group (and the Tiered Energy Codes Working Group) can continue working on technical considerations after providing the initial input on impacts that is being requested for the report to the Minister.

Stephen Hill / Cam Buskell moved to form the Large Farm Structures Joint Working Group to provide a recommendation about whether farm buildings should be included in the Alberta versions of the 2020 National Building and Fire Codes, taking into consideration what impacts would be felt beyond the safety system within the agricultural sector; CARRIED

Corey Klimchuk / Grace O'Brien moved that the working group members will include Andy Smith (Chair), Cammie Laird, Michael Bos, Mark Heiderich, Stephen Hill, Keven Lefebvre, and agricultural industry members and industry members as needed, with support from Municipal Affairs as needed; CARRIED

Grace O'Brien / Terry O'Flaherty moved that a final report will be presented at the May 2022 BSC meeting; CARRIED

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Description	Action	Responsible	Date Initiated	Priority	Status/Update
1.	Professional Schedules	Proposed revision to schedules have been prepared.	With AMA	Orr		High	Addressed in item 2.3 on agenda. Closed, remove from action list.
2.	Farm Buildings in NBC(AE) Code	Harmonization with 2020 Code		Council Staff/Orr	Mar 19/20		Addressed in item 2.7 on agenda. Closed, remove from action list.
3.	Unvented Roof Assemblies Engineering Report	Review documents for spray foam insulation as an acceptable alternative solution in Alberta.		All	Nov 18/21		Addressed in item 2.5 on agenda. Closed, remove from action list.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Combination Heating Systems STANDATA

This is a Gas/Plumbing discipline STANDATA that is being brought to BSC for information and awareness since it references the building code. This document repackages information from design standards and other documents for easy reference to provide clarity to industry to address issues that have arisen with these systems.

The member representing Mechanical Contractors noted that flushing of heating components should be considered as residue in fan coils could contaminate the potable water systems. The Provincial Building Administrator will note it to the Provincial Plumbing Administrator to ensure it's captured.

[Chang]

4.2.1. Lightning Protection Systems STANDATA

This is a joint Building/Electrical discipline STANDATA that is being brought to BSC for information and awareness. The STANDATA was updated to reference the current edition of the CE Code, but there were no technical changes to the variance content.

4.2. Occupant Load STANDATA

This will be issued as a joint Building/Fire Interpretation STANDATA (the previous STANDATA on occupant loads was only Fire). Its purpose is to highlight that both the building code and fire code come into play in calculating occupant loads, these calculations may result in different numbers depending on the criteria being considered, and the most restrictive one would apply.

Discussion included the following:

- Discussion was held about the note in the STANDATA that a current design occupant load
 may need to be obtained if there has been a change of ownership or name. It was noted that
 this sentence raises awareness about AJH's authority to ask owners to recalculate their
 occupant load but would not be needed in every case. Rewording of this sentence was
 suggested to improve clarity and avoid unnecessary concern among owners while still
 providing awareness that what may be considered "minor" changes such as furniture
 arrangements may impact the occupant load calculation.
- It was clarified that this STANDATA is intended to apply only to assembly occupancies (major and minor). Suggestions were given to reword the first sentence on page 7 to clarify that it applies to areas classified as assembly occupancies rather than buildings classified as assembly occupancies.
- It was noted from a fire code official's perspective, this provides guidance and clarity about what should be considered when making occupant load calculations under the fire code.
- It was suggested the Special Circumstances section be looked at to ensure it doesn't create issues with buildings that are compliant to a previous code.

AMA will take comments into account and bring a revised draft to the next meeting. [Chang]

4.3. Liaison Reports

4.3.1. Fire Sub-Council

The following was discussed:

- There have been two FSC meetings since the last BSC meeting.
- The same draft Occupant Load STANDATA was introduced and will be discussed further at the next FSC meeting.
- o Mark Heiderich is a new member on the Exterior Insulation Working Group.
- An overview of membership changes was given.
- Chris Taylor is the new FSC Chair and Hunter Langpap is new liaison to BSC.
- Mark Heiderich is on the NRC Fire Protection Committee and a topic of discussion is Wind Towers.

4.3.1.1. Review members acting as liaisons

As this is Rick Gratton's last meeting, discussion was held about whether another second backup liaison to FSC is needed. It was decided that Corey Klimchuk will remain the primary liaison and Colin Belliveau will remain the backup liaison with no second backup being needed at the moment.

4.3.2. Barrier Free Sub-Council

There hasn't been a BFSC meeting since the last BSC meeting; their next meeting will be March 22.

4.3.2.1. 3.8.4 Adaptable Dwelling Units for Clarification

A document was posted in the portal that identifies code clauses in the Adaptable Dwelling Units section that could benefit from clarification about the specific technical requirements. It was noted that this has been discussed by a BFSC working group but BFSC hasn't yet made any policy recommendations on this topic. Technical

considerations and any proposed code changes would be BSC's purview. Because of the timing of meetings, BFSC is looking to get the discussion started now with BSC and for any initial technical commentary that might inform their policy stance.

There is ambiguity about the current technical requirements about lift tracks in this section, which could create inconsistency through differing interpretations. This was discussed in depth and specific feedback was captured and will be provided to BFSC.

4.4. Working Group Reports

4.4.1. Resilient Roofing

The following was discussed:

- The group is still looking at climatic information to define high hail zones.
- o Members are looking at costing alternatives to inform the cost-benefit relationship.

4.4.2. Stacked Townhomes

This group has not met since the last BSC meeting.

4.4.3. Interior Stairways for Roof Access – no update

This group has had no recent action as it is waiting on input from GSC. Photos were added to the portal showing examples of roof access that are believed to be compliant.

4.4.4. Refrigeration - no update

This group is awaiting participation from industry representatives.

4.4.5. Shipping Containers (joint with Fire)

The group is on track to deliver a final report at the next meeting.

4.4.6. Exterior Insulation

The following was discussed:

- The group met once after the last BSC meeting.
- Members are looking at possible or apparent inconsistencies in surveyors' measurements that may have an impact on limiting distances even if the inconsistencies are small.
- The fire protection engineer in the group has started creating a baseline analysis of the spatial separations that are currently in the code.
- The group is working on modelling that can demonstrate equivalents (ie. a broad alternative solution).
- The group is on track to present a final report at the next meeting.

4.4.7. Tiered Energy Codes

The group had an initial meeting and will be holding another meeting soon to meet the May timeline for input to the Minister on implementation impacts.

4.5. Administrator/AMA Report

The Administrator reported:

- He reviewed the questions and submissions from the Stacked Townhomes working group and cannot support what was proposed because of a lack of substantiating information.
 He requested quantitative data to support the direction proposed by the working group.
 The working group requested a technical advisor to assist in their meetings and Bruce Adair was identified to support.
- All staff are returning to the office April 4th, 2022, with a potential for hybrid work arrangements.
- Issued STANDATA:
 - Qualifications Standata Fire/Building /Plumbing <u>19-FCI-008 19-BCI-027 15-PCB-002</u>
 - Off-Site Review of Buildings <u>19-BCV-021</u>
 - o (Rev2) Barrier Free Relaxations <u>19-BCI-002(Rev2)</u>
- Currently working on code review and comparisons between 2015 NBC and NBC(AE) based on the partial draft provided by NRC.
 - Division C revisions for the new code will reference the new schedules.
 - Review includes harmonization where possible such as Parts 4, 5, and 8 except for Alberta-specific defined terms.
- They are awaiting the approved final draft from NRC for the 2020 NBC.
- New information uploaded to the Government of Alberta energy codes page: https://www.alberta.ca/energy-codes.aspx
- They are in discussions with the Canadian Hydronics Council to facilitate a hydronics webinar for building and plumbing SCOs. This will be geared to towards the AHJ and will outline what to look for in application, inspection design of hydronic systems serving one dwelling unit, or houses with secondary suite.
- Attended a ULC S1001 "Integrated Systems Testing of Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems" virtual workshop facilitated by UL. Attendees from across the country regulators in both building and fire, consultants some of which were ITC ULC certified. A working group was formed to work with cross jurisdictional concerns and issues.
- He has requested a copyright release from ULC Standards to be able to facilitate a STANDATA with examples of Integrated Test Reports from the appendix of the revised ULC \$1001.
- Attended a Fire Marshals Guild meeting to discuss ULC S1001 and Frame Supported Membrane Structures (ULC S109 "Flame Tests of Flame-Resistant Fabrics and Films").
- A Technical Advisor is participating on the CSA B365 "Installation Code for Solid Fuel Burning Appliances" committee.
- Combustible Dust Explosion webinar recording now available on the Council website. https://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/training-and-certification/education-resources/
- Once in person meetings resume, he will discuss with the Vets Group for availability of their full session on Combustible Dust Explosions.
- Attended a meeting with the Federal Provincial Territorial Energy Codes Implementation Group (FPTECIG).
- There is an ongoing project with NRC regarding analyzing variations in the Alberta Edition. They have identified priorities from Alberta-specific code references and are looking to assess how widespread they are across jurisdictions. The variations document shared at the last meeting spurred this work at national level, so the document won't

come back to BSC at this time. The Administrator requested that members notify him of anything that should be identified for inclusion in this analysis project. [All Members] Priority items already identified include:

- Reference to CSA A277.
- o The requirement for all Part 3 residential buildings to be sprinklered.
- Regarding Part 10—there is a UL/ULC standard that's not in NBC 2020 but may be referenced in NBC 2025. If that happens, Part 10 may be removed. Alberta's Part 10 was seed document for the ULC standard.
- Firefighting water supply and 10-minute response time—the Alberta Edition prescribes a method to calculate water supply, while NBC just says "adequate water supply". The NBC(AE) also prescribes how the 10 minute response time is determined.
- The BFSC Liaison asked whether accessibility was a priority of this project as the related content in the Alberta Edition is substantially different from that in the national code. The Administrator reported that all provinces and territories are working at looking at accessibility more holistically and how/where it belongs in code.
- AMA will reach out to APEGA/AAA for input when modifying Division C.

4.6. Council Updates

A written report was included in the portal and updates were provided on the following:

- The Council office is anticipated to reopen on March 14th.
 - Staff may continue to work from home on some days.
 - All meetings that have been identified as tentatively in-person remain so and further information about safety measures and procedures will be communicated when available.
 - There is always the option to participate virtually in in-person meetings. It is important to respond to calendar invites and let Council staff know if you plan to participate virtually in an in-person meeting.
- The Council AGM will be held virtually in the spring.
 - o There will not be a 2022 Council Conference in Banff.
 - A volunteer appreciate event will be held in person in the fall to allow for better attendance.
- The Council is looking for members' input on what safety system data would be beneficial to collect and analyze.
 - Please feel free to provide your thoughts by email to allison.karch@safetycodes.ab.ca
- Council Member Training
 - New Member Orientation: April 28, 9:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
 - o Contact gerry.letendre@safetycodes.ab.ca to register.
 - These will be offered in the fall as well.
 - Appeals Training: November 15 & 16, 2022.
 - Appeals Overview video
- Watch past webinars, including one on Variances, on the <u>Council website</u>.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- About five years ago, BSC made recommendations regarding windows, including a code change request that was incorporated into the NBC 2020 and a recommendation about a public education campaign. It was asked whether this campaign is going ahead now that the windows provision has been included in the code, and who is responsible. Council and AMA staff will gather more information. [Chang/Council Administration]
- Members were reminded that they can request to add items to future agendas by emailing the details to the Chair and Council Administration at least 3 weeks prior to the meeting.
- Rick Gratton was thanked for his dedication and involvement over his nine years of service on the BSC.
- Distilleries were mentioned at the last FSC meeting, and a BSC member noted that they
 have had discussions with distillery industry members who believe there should be more
 work done on how the building and fire codes impact smaller scale distilleries. British
 Columbia has found an approach that many distillers believe is better.
- The ESC liaison brought forward an item that originated with an error from CSA about FT ratings in plenums. It was noted that trade coordination is needed to define what is and isn't a plenum as it's not always clear, so that Electrical SCOs can make the call about what rating of cable should be in the plenum. It was noted that in many AJHs there is close communication between SCOs of different disciplines and this communication is very important.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for May 12, 2022 at 8:30 a.m., tentatively in person at the Council office.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Cam Buskell / Terry O'Flaherty moved to adjourn; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

- NEW ACTION ITEMS -

4.1. Combination Heating Systems STANDATA

The member representing Mechanical Contractors noted that flushing of heating components should be considered as residue in fan coils could contaminate the potable water systems. The Provincial Building Administrator will note it to the Provincial Plumbing Administrator to ensure it's captured.

[Chang]

4.2. Occupant Load STANDATA

AMA will take comments into account and bring a revised draft to the next meeting.

[Chang]

4.4. Administrator/AMA Report

There is an ongoing project with NRC regarding analyzing variations in the Alberta Edition. They have identified priorities from Alberta-specific code references and are looking to assess how widespread they are across jurisdictions. The variations document shared at the last meeting spurred this work at national level, so the document won't come back to BSC at this time. The Administrator requested that members notify him of anything that should be identified for inclusion in this analysis project.

[All Members]

5.1. Round Table

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[Chang/Council Administration]

- MOTIONS -

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2.2. Vice Chair Election

Stephen Hill was appointed BSC Vice-Chair by acclamation.

2.3. Schedules of Professional Involvement STANDATA

Andy Smith / Keith Jansen moved to support the Schedules of Professional Involvement STANDATA; CARRIED

2.4. Insulation values for flat or cathedral roof serving residential garages STANDATA

Stephen Hill / Keith Jansen moved to support the Insulation values for flat or cathedral roof serving residential garages STANDATA; CARRIED

2.5. Unvented Roof Assembly STANDATA

Rick Gratton / Darin Sceviour moved to support the Unvented Roof Assembly STANDATA; CARRIED

2.6. Tiered Energy Code Working Group

Terry O'Flaherty / Corey Klimchuk moved to adjust the timeline for the Tiered Energy Codes Working Group to indicate a final report will be presented by the May 2022 BSC meeting; CARRIED

2.7. Large Farm Structures Joint Working Group

Stephen Hill / Cam Buskell moved to form the Large Farm Structures Joint Working Group to provide a recommendation about whether farm buildings should be included in the Alberta versions of the 2020 National Building and Fire Codes, taking into consideration what impacts would be felt beyond the safety system within the agricultural sector; CARRIED

Corey Klimchuk / Grace O'Brien moved that the working group members will include Andy Smith (Chair), Cammie Laird, Michael Bos, Mark Heiderich, Stephen Hill, Keven Lefebvre, and agricultural industry members and industry members as needed, with support from Municipal Affairs as needed; CARRIED

Grace O'Brien / Terry O'Flaherty moved that a final report will be presented at the May 2022 BSC meeting; CARRIED

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Cam Buskell / Terry O'Flaherty moved to adjourn; CARRIED

- WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS -

WORKING GROUP	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (Chair)	Date Formed	Timeline
Resilient Roofing	Justin Pockar Keith Jansen, Zachary Walker, Rick Gratton Municipal Affairs: Mike Hill	May 13/21	Final report Nov. 2021
Stacked Townhomes	Keith Jansen Rick Gratton, David Flanagan, Justin Pockar Municipal Affairs: Bruce Adair	Sept. 17/20	Final report Jan. 2021
Interior Stairways for Roof Access	Terry O'Flaherty Grace O'Brien, Corey Klimchuk, Hunter Langpap (FSC) Municipal Affairs: Joe Healy	Sept. 17/20	Final report March 2021
Trade-Offs for Sprinklers in Part 9 Buildings	Rick Gratton Keith Jansen, Bruce Schultz, Terry O'Flaherty, Cammie Laird (FSC) Municipal Affairs: Roopendra Singh	Jan. 16/20; Amended to new WG process March 19/20	Final report Nov. 2021
Refrigeration	Matthew Kramer Terry O'Flaherty, Stephen Hill, Colin Belliveau RAHA representatives	March 11/21	final report with findings and recommendations for further work by the last BSC meeting of 2021
Shipping Containers (Joint w/FSC)	Corey Klimchuk (BSC co-chair), Glenn Baxter (FSC co- chair) Mark Heiderick, John Penzo, Marc Royer, Keven Lefebvre, Laura Ritchie, Keith Jansen, Darin Sceviour, Zachary Walker	BSC: Sept. 23/21 Amended to joint by BSC Jan 13/22	Final report March 2022
Non- combustible Insulation (Joint w/FSC)	David Flanagan (BSC co-chair), Cameron Bardas (FSC co- chair) Rick Gratton, Keith Jansen, Mark Heiderich	BSC: Nov. 18/22 Amended to joint by BSC Jan 13/22	Initial report in May 2022.
Tiered Energy Codes	Stephen Hill Justin Pockar, Cam Buskell, Keith Jansen, Darin Sceviour, Andy Smith AMA Support: Nabil Habashy	Jan.13/22 Amended timeline March 10/22	Deliver a report at the May and Nov 2022 BSC meetings
Large Farm Structures (Joint w/FSC)	Andy Smith Cammie Laird, Michael Bos, Mark Heiderich, Stephen Hill, Keven Lefebvre, and agricultural industry members and industry members as needed, with support from Municipal Affairs as needed	March 10/22	Report at May 2022 meeting.