

## **Nelson Agricultural Commission**

Minutes of Meeting April 6, 2016

Olivia Rodham Memorial Library - Nelson

Members Present: *Val Van Meier, Jacqueline Roland, John Bunce, Pat Rich, and Barbara Voymas*

Guest: *Becky Barrett*

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Val Van Meier, chair.
2. Minutes of 3/2/2016 meeting accepted as printed.
3. The Commission welcomed their guest, Becky Barrett. They discussed efforts to expand their membership, and agreed to reach out to more potential members.
4. Val reported on the success of the March Backyard Chickens presentation. The talk was attended by 22 people, and it seemed well received. Attendees asked questions and listened as Cooperative Extension educator Carl Majewski walked them through the basics of chicken care.
5. The Commission discussed plans for the continuation of its presentation series at the library. They received a description of the May presentation from speaker Sheila Williams, and Jacqueline agreed to make a flyer for that presentation.
6. Members reviewed ideas for their summer events. They agreed to research prices/sources for a "Nelson Ag Com" banner and pop-up tent to use at their outdoor events. The Commission discussed plans for its Old Home Day exhibit. Members divided up tasks and agreed to talk to local residents who might be interested in participating in the exhibit.
7. To expand the Commission's efforts to promote local agriculture related events, Val suggested that links to upcoming agricultural events in the area could be included at the bottom of email updates sent to the Ag Com email list. Members liked this idea, and Val offered to keep her eye out for events to include in the emails.
8. Barbara Voymas shared her research on sustainable farming organizations that provide resources for agriculturally minded individuals. Barbara reached out to a local representative from the National Center for Appropriate Technology and received brochures, flyers, and information about the publications that they offer. She shared these

materials with the Ag Com, and they agreed to make them available to the public at their upcoming events.

9. Barbara also shared some other resources that she discovered—The National Young Farmers Coalition ([www.youngfarmers.org](http://www.youngfarmers.org)) and *Slow Money*, a book by Woody Tasch about investing in sustainable agriculture ([www.slowmoney.org](http://www.slowmoney.org)).
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by Jacqueline Roland, secretary.

DRAFT