

BRAZEAU COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING

May 18, 2022



**BRAZEAU COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
AGENDA**

DATE: May 18, 2022
TIME: 1:00 pm
LOCATION: County Administration Building, EOC Room

Call to Order

Present

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Pg. 2 | 1. Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of the Agenda | All |
| Pg. 3-8 | 2. Adoption of the April 20, 2022 ASB meeting minutes | All |
| | 3. Introductions | All |
| | 4. Business Arising | All |
| | 5. Delegations
2:00 pm – Public Input Session | |
| Pg. 9
Pg. 10 | 6. Agriculture Reports for January/February 2022
a) Manager of Agricultural Services
b) Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
c) Members | Dawnia McCann
Amber Kynoch
All |
| Pg. 11 | 7. Old Business
a) Wild Boar Bounty Program – Verbal
b) ASB Field Visit
c) Squeal on Pigs virtual forum -Verbal
d) | Dawnia McCann
Dawnia McCann
Amber Kynoch |
| | 8. New Business
a) | |
| Pg. 12-13
Pg. 14 | 9. Correspondence/Items for Discussion
a) Saddle Hills County – Veterinarian shortage
b) 2022 Revised ASB Meeting Schedule | All |
| | 10. Adjournment | All |

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022.

CALL TO ORDER D. Ekstrom, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

PRESENT Dallas Ekstrom, Councillor & Chairperson
Randy Swap, Councillor & Vice-Chairperson
Anthony Heinrich, Councillor (via Go-To Meeting)
Mike Mueller, Member at Large
Liz Seutter-Rosell, Member at Large
Jeff Bundt, Member at Large
Shawn McKerry, Interim CAO
Dawnia McCann, Manager of Agricultural Services
Erin McAdam, Manager of Agricultural Services
Amber Kynoch, Assistant Ag Fieldman
Nancy Chambers, ALUS Coordinator / Recording Secretary

ABSENT none

GUESTS Kathleen Sterling, Senior Long Range Planner, Brazeau County

INTRODUCTIONS Members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of Agenda

050/22 Moved by J. Bundt to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes

051/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of March 23, 2022, as amended:

- Motion 047/22 should read “Moved by A. Heinrich to receive all correspondence in item 8 for information.”
- Motion 040/22 to remove the line “*Discussion ensued and it was suggested to add a phrase of “no action required” on the reports where available.*” from the motion.
- Motion 047/22 – no vote took place. A motion in today’s minutes will reflect the vote.

052/22 Moved by M. Mueller to acknowledge no vote took place on motion 047/22 and the board accepts the motion as Carried Unanimously.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Vote on motion 051/22 took place.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING None

OLD BUSINESS

Environmental Reserves

K. Sterling presented a third follow up to the draft Environmental Reserves Policy PD 7 in preparation to bring forward to Council as soon as possible.

No suggestions or recommendations were brought forward by the board.

K. Sterling left the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Manager of Agricultural Services Report for March/April 2022

D. McCann provided a verbal review of the Manager of Agricultural Services report.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report for March/April 2022

A. Kynoch provided a verbal review of the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman report. Germination tests for oats have come in at an average of 94% germination. Verbenone pouches for Mountain Pine Beetle were received for distribution in June. Available haying and grazing leases on County-owned land are advertised on social media and will also be advertised in the newspaper.

Member Reports

Member at Large L. Seutter-Rosell reported on:

- Drought seminar was very good
- Would be interested in attending Weed School
- Delivery date for bees is tomorrow; preparations underway for their arrival

Member at Large M. Mueller reported on:

- Drought seminar was good, as was the Union Forage seminar
- Working on the land roller
- Photos of Buttercup infestations
- Article in Grainews on “big farms”

- Free business course by the Government
- Information on grants for Climate Change

Member at Large J. Bundt reported on:

- Glad to see moisture
- Drought recovery workshop – purchased a similar cocktail of seed that was recommended at the workshop; will be used on about 200 acres
- Getting ready to put crop in ground
- Moved 200 cows to Buck Mountain for calving
- Seed was purchased from a company in Manitoba and they asked that no herbicide be used
- Will use a combination of seed drill and broadcast

S. McKerry left the meeting at 1:34 p.m.

Councillor R. Swap reported on:

- Attended drought workshop
- Starting foaling
- Asked if aerating works

M. Mueller did not recommend aerating in spring because it dries the ground out too much. Fall is better to allow for snow melt to penetrate. Members discussed spraying foliar fertilizer rather than granular and it is to be used once leaves are emerged. The cost is significantly less.

Councillor A. Heinrich reported on:

- Spray on fertilizer has been used in the area, and works well, as long as a decent stand is existing.
- Calving is half-way done
- Lots of snow overnight is good for moisture but not for calving
- People still looking for hay
- Drought recovery workshop – enjoyed the producers’ presentations

Councillor D. Ekstrom reported on:

- Will attend the hemp conference Thursday and Friday

053/22 Moved by L. Seutter-Rosell to receive the Agriculture Reports for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**OLD BUSINESS
(Cont’d)**

Long Standing Weed Issues

D. McCann reported on strategies for long term weed issues seen in the County. A report was generated on properties with weed issues active from

2018 and prior. Just over 1000 Weed Reports were identified, but the list still needs to be filtered further depending on size of infestation. Weed Inspectors can filter this down and use the Weed Matrix to prioritize. It was suggested that 10% of the most severe cases can be issued a Weed Notice. Certain weeds in specific areas of the County could also be targeted. The Board can set priorities.

Administration recommends targeting the top 10%, which would likely include a lot of the Buttercup. Hawkweed is also growing rapidly. Members discussed the priority of long-standing issues. Under the legislation, an Inspector's Notice can be issued at any point. The Weed Matrix does consider the history of non-compliance and will move the priority up. Members discussed moving the point value up further in weight for long-standing issues. Inspector's Notice has a date that must be complied with, along with the actions required to remedy. A management plan can be discussed with the landowner if multi-year work will be needed.

Discussion ensued surrounding targeting the top 10% which would include repeat offenders over several years. Members also discussed that year one of identifying weeds is also important to target prior to infestations worsening. The Weed Matrix will take this into account.

DELEGATIONS

Public Input Session

D. Ekstrom opened the Public Input Session at 2:09 p.m. No members of the public were in attendance or online. D. Ekstrom closed the Public Input Session at 2:10 p.m.

Discussion continued on the Weed Matrix.

054/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to research the top 10% scores on the matrix and come back with a plan on how enforcement might be pursued on those.

IN FAVOUR

- L. Seutter-Rosell
- J. Bundt
- R. Swap
- D. Ekstrom
- A. Heinrich

OPPOSED:

- M. Mueller

CARRIED

Members asked if the matrix score would be sent to the landowner along with the Weed Reports. It was felt that the matrix may confuse the issue further.

The Weed Matrix is intended to be used internally but can be provided to the landowner upon request.

NEW BUSINESS

Wild Boar Bounty

D. McCann provided information on the Wild Boar Bounty introduced by the Provincial government effective April 1, 2022. This is a one-year hunting program offering \$75 per pair of ears. The municipality would have to apply to be in the hunting program. If municipalities have trapping programs, they are not eligible for the hunting bounty. If accepted, Administration would be handling the program, with the municipality applying back to the Province to be reimbursed. In the past, the strategy of trapping entire sounders was preferred rather than hunting individual boars due to the fact they are very intelligent animals. Administration has not received any reports of wild boar within the County within the past few years.

D. Ekstrom left the meeting at 2:21 p.m. and returned at 2:23 p.m.

If a Provincial trapping program is currently in a municipality, that municipality is not eligible for the Provincial hunting program. Lac Ste. Anne and Woodlands Counties currently have trapping programs. The Municipal District of Peace and the Stettler County have signed up for the hunting programs.

It was noted that wild boar can still be shot, even if the bounty program is not in place in the municipality.

055/22 Moved by R. Swap to direct Administration to bring back more information to the Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 2:40 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 2:49 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

ASB Field Visits 2022

The ASB Program Team will be visiting Brazeau County this summer for a meeting with the ASB, followed by an office tour and field tour with the Agricultural Fieldman. This happens about every five years. They have asked the board to arrange a date for the visit.

056/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to suggest June 14, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. for the visit.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021 Plant Disease Survey Summary Report

The summary report was provided by the Provincial surveyors. As Brazeau County does not have a large amount of crop acres, not many surveys were conducted. The Blackleg severity was low, which was encouraging to see.

Ag Forward: managing on-farm plastics

No discussion.

Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions – Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133

No discussion.

Support for Bill C-234 - Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133

No discussion.

Alberta Invasive Species Council – Squeal on Pigs

A free virtual forum will be held on May 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

2022 Revised ASB Meeting Schedule

No changes required.

057/22 Moved by R. Swap to receive all of the correspondence for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT **058/22** Moved by J. Bundt to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ASB CHAIRPERSON

AG FIELDMAN

Joint Manager of Agricultural Services Report
May 2022
Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board

Administration

- Haying and grazing lease policy to Council;
- Civility in municipal government webinar;
- Training request submissions;
- HW Pickup career day;
- Annual report information submission for Brazeau County News;
- Confirmed June 14th for ASB Field Visit with Doug Macauley;
- Summer staff training arrangements;
- Summer staff fleet review.

Pest Management

- Wild boar information collected;
- WCFA announced they will no longer be providing thistle weevils or gall flies;
- Mountain Pine Beetle information session;
- Avian influenza update with GOA.

Soil Conservation

- Planning and Development referral sheets.

Roadside Vegetation

- Herbicide order;
- Sprayer GPS prep;
- Sprayer assistance for Economic Development event.

Weed Management

- Weed inspector appointments to Council;
- Inspection agreement with the Town of Drayton Valley;
- Ongoing weed issues review.

Crop and Forage

- ALUS project proposal review.

MEMORANDUM

ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT
APRIL/MAY 2022
BRAZEAU COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

Administration

- Day to day operations;
- Responding to inquiries;
- Creating POs;
- Meetings;
- Summer season prep;
- Summer staff started May 9th;
- Training staff;
- New staff tours;
- Avian flu presentation;

Rental Equipment

- Skunk traps;
- Billion Seeder going out;
- Bale scale;

Pest Management

- None

Soil Conservation

- None

Weed Management

- No spray application intake now closed;
- Pitch-in Program application intake;
- Pitch-in Program work being completed;
- Hawkweed program application intake;
- Roadside seeding started.

Mountain Pine Beetle

- Contacting land owners;
- Survey work was completed;
- Quality Control work started;
- Information session – added properties from info session.

Grazing/ Haying Lease

- Multiple inquires about all lease lands.
- Many interested in all the lands;
- Many interested in some of the lands;

Crop and Forage

- None

2022 ASB Field Visit

June 14th, 1 pm

EOC, Brazeau County Office

Doug Macauley, ASB Program Manager, with the Government of Alberta will meet with administration in the morning and take a field tour of weed issues, weed control sites, and other projects undertaken by the department. Then in the afternoon, he will meet with the ASB to review our programs.

May 4, 2022

Dear Agricultural Service Board Members of Alberta,

As many of you are most likely already aware, there is a desperate shortage of rural veterinarians in Alberta, particularly vets specializing in large animals. Higher numbers of veterinarians are leaving the profession – for a multitude of reasons – than there are numbers of veterinary school graduates. Many producers are travelling an hour or more to take livestock into a clinic. In emergencies, this is obviously a less than ideal situation. There are also other problematic implications to a shortage of vets. How can we assure the safety of animal products from Alberta marketed on the world stage when we do not have enough vets to manage outbreaks or other emerging issues?

There are five veterinary schools in Canada, but students may only attend school in the region where they live. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary currently only accepts 50 students into the program each year, and with extremely steep entrance requirements. Individuals wishing to be admitted into the program currently must have completed a Medical College of Admission Test (MCAT) and scored a minimum of 495, taken 10 required post-secondary level courses, and have a minimum combined grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 before being eligible to be considered for the veterinary program.¹ If an individual happens to meet these standards, they will then be invited for an interview where they are questioned and asked to write an on-site essay. The process that determines how the ranking order of which applicants will be offered admission after their interview and essay is based 70% on their interview score and 30% on an essay they are also required to submit.²

Rural students across the province can be at a disadvantage academically if they aim to be admitted into vet college. Rural schools often have less students, and this can influence course offerings. For example, say a rural high school only has 3 graduating students in 2022. Which senior level courses are offered in-person to them is dependent on which classes 2 of the 3 students would like to take. If only 1 student of the 3 wanted to take, for example, grade 12 physics, the odd student out would have to take physics through distance learning. Although high school course availability is sometimes limited, rural students often have plenty of experience and relevant knowledge related to livestock. This experience should play a larger

¹ University of Calgary website, 2022. <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/future-students/dvm-students-undergraduate-program/admission-requirements>

² University of Calgary website, 2022. <https://vet.ucalgary.ca/future-students/dvm-students-undergraduate-program/admission-process>



role in the decisions that universities make when deciding whether or not to admit a student to their programs.

The Saddle Hills County Agricultural Service Board would like to open the discussion with other Agricultural Service Board across the province on how to solve this multi-faceted and difficult issue. We would like to work together with all the other Agricultural Service Boards in the province to put pressure on the applicable bodies to adjust the entrance requirements for prospective veterinary students of rural backgrounds. We, the Agricultural Service Board, feel that on such a pressing issue the collaboration of 69 municipalities would make a statement.

Sincerely,

Adam Fitzpatrick
Saddle Hills County, Agricultural Service Board Chair

BRAZEAU COUNTY

2022 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Schedule

Location: County Administration Building
7401 – Twp Road 494, Drayton Valley

Meeting time: 1:00 p.m.

Public Input Session: 2:00 p.m.

January 19, 2022

February 16, 2022

March 23, 2022

April 20, 2022

May 18, 2022

Meeting time: 9:00 a.m.

Public Input Session: 10:00 a.m.

June 15, 2022

July 20, 2022

August 17, 2022

September 21, 2022

October 19, 2022

November 16, 2022

December 21, 2022