

BRAZEAU COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING

August 17, 2022



**BRAZEAU COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
AGENDA**

DATE: August 17, 2022
TIME: 9:00 am
LOCATION: County Administration Building, EOC Room

Call to Order

Present

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Pg. 2 | 1. Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of the Agenda | All |
| Pg. 3-7 | 2. Adoption of the July 20, 2022 ASB meeting minutes | All |
| | 3. Introductions | All |
| | 4. Business Arising | All |
| | 5. Delegations
10:00 am – Public Input Session | |
| Pg. 8
Pg. 9 | 6. Agriculture Reports for July/August 2022
a) Manager of Agricultural Services
b) Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
c) Members | Erin McAdam
Amber Kynoch
All |
| Pg. 10-11 | 7. Old Business
a) Support for Veterinary Education Draft Letter
b) Veterinary Shortage Resolution update – Verbal
c) Matrix communication with other Counties- verbal | Erin McAdam
Erin McAdam
Amber Kynoch |
| Pg. 12-13 | d) Hemp working group/ Allive update | Amber Kynoch |
| | 8. New Business
a) Agsmart Conference Report – Verbal | Amber Kynoch |
| Pg. 14 | 9. Correspondence/Items for Discussion
a) 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, JULY 20, 2022.

CALL TO ORDER D. Ekstrom, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

PRESENT Dallas Ekstrom, Councillor & Chairperson
Randy Swap, Councillor & Vice-Chairperson
Anthony Heinrich, Councillor
Liz Seutter-Rosell, Member at Large
Jeff Bundt, Member at Large
Mike Mueller, Member at Large
Erin McAdam, Manager of Agricultural Services
Amber Kynoch, Assistant Ag Fieldman/Recording Secretary

ABSENT Nancy Chambers, ALUS Coordinator / Recording Secretary

GUESTS Robert Linde, Brazeau County resident

ADOPTION OF AGENDA **Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of Agenda**
069/22 Moved by J Bundt as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES **Adoption of Minutes**
079/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to adopt the minutes with the following changes:

- June members reports Mental Health workshops are “farm focused”
- In A. Heinrichs member report, change 10-acre plot to 10-acre field and 8 acres should be 80 acres.
- Beef labelling ingredients concern is “The fat content”
- Wild board program “before it becomes a bigger issue in the province”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INTRODUCTIONS No introductions.

BUSINESS ARISING none

**AGRICULTURE
REPORTS**

Manager of Agricultural Services Report for May/June 2022

E. McAdam provided a brief verbal review of the Manager of Agricultural Services report covering topics of the Haying and grazing leases and the resolutions that are currently being prepared and the accomplishments of the last month. E. McAdam then further discussed that this is budget season and any additional asks that our department may have. The efforts for wild boar information and letting the community know.

Members discussed the roll out the New Liaison program with Tanya Warren. Doug Macaulay will and can be available, his roll is the ASB Manager. A. Heinrich discussed the possibility of having Tanya do a newsletter to send out to ASB to get information out without attending the meetings.

082/22 Moved by A. Heinrich direct administration to contact Tanya Warren to request an Alberta Northwest Regional report/email about provincial Agricultural policy, program changes and other important news, quarterly, or as things change.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report for May/June 2022

A. Kynoch provided a verbal review of the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman report covering the aspects that are going on with the Agricultural Department and in relation to the summer staff.

DELEGATIONS

Public Input Session

D. Ekstrom opened the Public Input Session at 10:13 a.m. Robert Linde was present discussing the concerns of the long-standing weed issues in the county including Brazeau County lands and Alberta highway ditches. D. Ekstrom closed the Public Input Session at 11:15 a.m.

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 11:15 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 11:24 a.m.

Member Reports

Councillor D. Ekstrom reported on:

- No report currently.

Member at Large Liz Suetter reported on:

- Attended the Women in Ag Conference;
- Bees are doing good;

Member at Large M. Mueller reported on:

- Discussed Sunterra's greenhouse;

- A Saskatchewan farmer had large plots of land for rent;
- Out spraying weeds on his own property;

Councillor A. Heinrich reported on:

- Crops are showing a drop in production, from the dry start to the year.

Member at Large J. Bundt reported on:

- Is out spraying weeds;
- Attended a previous Hemp workshop hosted by the county.

Councillor R. Swap reported on:

- No report currently.

Members discussed the growing of hemp in Brazeau County and the possibility of a viability crop.

080/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct admin to research lands that are airable and suited to grow hemp.

IN FAVOUR:

- J. Bundt
- M. Mueller
- R. Swap
- D. Ekstrom
- A. Heinrich

OPPOSED:

- L. Seutter-Rosell

CARRIED

081/22 Moved by L. Seutter-Rosell to accept the reports as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/ ITEMS FOR
DISCUSSION**

Lamont County – Veterinarian Shortage Letter

Members discussed that Vet schools have intentions of doubling the capacity of students attending. Members then discussed the educational expectations, and the limiting factors, along with the joint resolution Brazeau County is participating in.

083/22 Moved by M. Mueller to send a letter to Minister Nate Horner, CC'ing the other letters regarding the letters related to veterinary Medicine.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 12:30 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 1:15 p.m.

Members discussed the Rural Communities Foundation Grant program.

084/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to communicate The Rural Communities Foundation Grant program to community groups within Brazeau County.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

084/22 Moved by R. Swap to receive 9. a. through f. for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OLD BUSINESS

Longstanding weed issue

E. McAdam discussed the long-standing weed issue, and the issues that the county faces. Members then discussed the issues in detail.

085/22 Moved by M. Mueller to adopt the Weed Matrix as a measurement tool for determining the threshold rating for control action under the weed control Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

086/22 Moved by M. Mueller to direct administration to spray Brazeau County properties for Noxious and Prohibited Noxious weeds under the weed control act, and open communication with Alberta Transportation about weed concerns and potential weed notices.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Ekstrom and L. Seutter-Rosell Left the meeting at 2:00 pm.

R. Swap took the chair.

087/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct administration to contact Yellowhead County, Northern Sunrise County, and Parkland County on how they dealt with matrix enforcement, and to also consult a lawyer about the wording of a "compliance Letter"/weed notice enforcement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

088/22 Moved by J. Bundt to direct the administration to suggest to council to rescind the advertisement of the not leased and proposed haying and grazing leases to resolve the current weed issues, excluding all current lease agreements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Ekstrom returned at 3:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT **090/22** Moved by A. Heinrich to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 p.m.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ASB CHAIRPERSON

AG FIELDMAN

Manager of Agricultural Services Report
August 2022
Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board

Administration

- Haying and grazing lease tactical plan development;
- Communicating with other municipalities regarding the rural vet shortage issue and the potential for a joint resolution;
- Preparing for other requests from ASB for potential resolution development for wild boar eradication, hemp de-regulation and the rural vet shortage;
- Informal meeting with the Agricultural Service Board Liaison Tanya Warren who sent some information on her role currently;
- Senior Management meetings;
- Training request submissions;
- Summer staff training arrangements;
- Summer staff fleet review;
- Report Card submission for 2021 Resolutions;
- Preparation for August 19th ASB Field Visit completed with Doug Macauley;
- Budget preparation.

Pest Management

- Wild boar information being distributed, one on one interactions with residents.

Soil Conservation

- Planning and Development referral sheets.

Roadside Vegetation

- Updating Emergency Response Plan for Chemicals and the Chemical Shed;
- Sprayer GPS prep;
- Sprayer assistance; Training provided for Authorized Assistant.

Weed Management

- Ongoing weed issues review. Update report provided;
- Safety Assessment for remote work currently being reviewed.

Crop and Forage

- Preparation for Provincial surveys.

MEMORANDUM

ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT
JULY/AUGUST 2022
BRAZEAU COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

Administration

- Day to day operations;
- Responding to inquiries;
- Creating POs;
- Meetings;
- AgSmart Conference in Olds, Alberta

Rental Equipment

- Skunk traps;
- Bale scale;
- Cattle Scale;
- Loading Chute;
- Pasture Sprayer;
- Equipment breakdowns;

Pest Management

- Prepping for grasshopper surveys.

Soil Conservation

- None
-

Weed Management

- Hawkweed program application intake;
- Hawkweed program spraying;
- Roadside seeding started;
- Herbicide rebate application Intake:
- Herbicide rebate inspections;
- Weed Inspection program – first inspections complete
- Gravel pit inspections;
-

Mountain Pine Beetle

- Verbenone distribution;
- Grant reporting;
- Council reporting;

Grazing/ Haying Lease

- Inspections;
- Prepping applications for council;

Crop and Forage

- Oat Samples
- Soil Samples
- Forage samples



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 - FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

August 3, 2022

The Honorable Nate Horner
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development
131 Legislative Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Horner:

RE: Veterinary Medicine Education Opportunities for Rural Students

Brazeau County's Agricultural Service Board (ASB) would like to express their support on the issue of veterinary medicine education opportunities for rural students, as brought to our attention by the Saddle Hills County ASB and echoed by the Lamont County ASB in their letter to you dated June 23, 2022.

As a rural community, we have witnessed the shortage of rural veterinarians, particularly those specializing in large animals. In some instances, livestock producers in need of veterinary care are having to either wait significant time for a vet to come to the farm, or load and travel to the veterinary office. In an emergency situation, this is concerning as you can understand the effort to transport a sick or injured large animal is significant.

As experienced vets retire, move to small animal clinics, or chose other career paths, it is important to ensure new veterinary students are entering the education system to replace and ideally increase the number of large animal vets. Unfortunately, this is a difficulty for rural students aspiring to choose this career. There are a number of factors contributing to this such as entrance requirements and regional restrictions dictating the school they can attend.

Rural students, in particular, are at a disadvantage when considering entrance requirements, as they may not have access to the course required for pre-requisites. However, we believe rural students have a great advantage in terms of rural experience which is not recognized by the post-secondary schools. A student who has grown up on a family farm will most likely have significant passion, understanding, experience, and exposure to large animal livestock. Currently, there is no acknowledgement of this by veterinary schools.

Our ASB is asking for veterinary schools to recognize this valuable hands-on experience and allow rural students to gain credit toward their eligibility requirements. If we don't encourage and enable rural students to pursue veterinary medicine the situation we are faced with regarding the lack of large animal veterinarians will not improve.

The importance of farms in Canada continues to grow as we realize the impact of our agricultural producers worldwide and we value the importance of healthy livestock.

We strongly encourage you to join us in advocating for our rural community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Dallas Ekstrom
Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board Chairperson
dekstrom@brazeau.ab.ca

/nc

cc: The Honourable Demetrios Nicolaidis, Minister of Advanced Education
The Honorable Maire-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honorable Gudie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development
Mark Smith, MLA Drayton Valley-Devon
Alberta Agricultural Service Boards



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A fixed price cooperation model where we pay the farmer on agreed price per hectare

- ✓ We pay a fixed price for each acre, regardless of what yield will grow later and what investments Allive will make. If Farmer is able to provide some services, may negotiate fulfilling those services to complete hemp production. Allive is responsible to find missing service providers. Possible services needed include:
 - Ploughing, or deep cultivating, or discing field for prep
 - Sowing
 - Fertilization
 - crop care, which can include spraying, fertilizing, and pest management
 - swathing
 - harvesting
 - drying, if needed
 - cleaning
 - siloing
 - Irrigation – if available.
- ✓ The final price offer is discussed individually as it is depending on field size, location, yield perspective and other aspects. Acre price ranges from \$50 to \$100 for dryland acres, and \$150 to \$250 for irrigated acres.
- ✓ Seeds, fertilizers, spray products - supplied by Allive;
- ✓ All agricultural work (fertilization, spraying) that's done after sowing before harvest is paid for separately. If the farmer has necessary equipment, the services are purchased from him. If the farmer is unable to provide such services, an external service provider shall be hired;
- ✓ Allive takes care of harvesting, logistics and seed handling (drying and cleaning) at its own expense;
- ✓ After harvesting, the remaining stalks is left to the farmer. The rest of the biomass is well shredded and spread on the field. Stalks are short, easily cultivated with standard agricultural equipment;
- ✓ This offer is best for those who do not want to risk anything and invest their money. All the risks and



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costs are on Allive, and the supplier receives the income in any case, regardless of the harvest and the circumstances.

The final decision on whether a field is suitable for hemp seeding is made after field inspection and soil testing.

We give priority to organically certified and irrigated fields.

Contacts for farms situated in Alberta:

Modestas Paliulis

Phone: +370-630-00653

Email: Modestas Paliulis <modestas.paliulis@allive.com>

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 16, 2022

July 20, 2022

August 17, 2022

September 21, 2022

October 19, 2022

November 16, 2022

December 21, 2022