

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER Dallas Ekstrom, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

PRESENT Dallas Ekstrom, Chairperson & Member at Large
Sara Wheale, Vice Chairperson & Councillor
Bart Guyon, Reeve (on behalf of Heidi Swan, Councillor)
Donna Wiltse, Councillor
Mike Mueller, Member at Large
Cody Brooks, Member at Large
Nancy Chambers, Acting Manager of Agricultural Services
Amber Kynoch, Assistant Ag Fieldman/Recording Secretary

ABSENT Shawn McKerry, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Heidi Swan, Councillor
Matt Martinson, Agricultural Fieldman

GUESTS Anthony Heinrich, Hemp Working Group
Dick Puurveen, University of Alberta Breton Plots
Becky Doherty, West-Central Forage Association
Melissa Howard, West-Central Forage Association

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

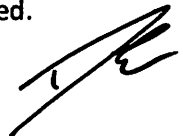
Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of Agenda

Additions:

- 3) Business Rising
 - a) Staffing Updates – N. Chambers
- 8) Correspondence/Items for Discussion
 - f) Revised meeting schedule – N. Chambers

D. Ekstrom mentioned motions from the previous meeting that were not included in today's meeting. N. Chambers explained that due to the current staffing shortages Administration wouldn't be prepared to present those topics, but will address them in upcoming meetings.

098/21 Moved by S. Wheale to adopt the agenda as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes

099/21 Moved by D. Wiltse to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of August 18, 2021 as presented.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING **Staffing Changes**

N. Chambers discussed Brazeau County's staffing changes. Corbyn Pankonin is no longer working for the County. Amber Kynoch has accepted the Assistant Ag Fieldman position. The department will remain short staffed until D. McCann returns from maternity leave at the end of the year. Heidi Swan has retired from Council and B. Guyon will be filling in for her during the remaining ASB meetings.

Delegations **West-Central Forage Association Hemp Trials**

B. Doherty and M. Howard discussed the West-Central Forage Association (WCFA) and the 2021 project updates. The 2022 project proposals were also discussed and the interest in how hemp can handle moisture. Through a weather station, the hemp's ability to handle drought could be explored. The cost of a weather station ranges from \$4500- \$8000.

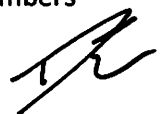
WCFA and members discussed other projects that are taking place. Members further discussed Jerusalem artichoke and its viability to be a forage crop. Members further discussed the weather station and that residents would have better access to info specific weather for their area.

University of Alberta Breton Plots Hemp Trials

D. Puurveen discussed the Breton Plots and the weather Brazeau County has faced over the last 6 years. Members discussed that hemp doesn't like saturated conditions but does well when it rains after it is seeded. They also discussed that the conditions over the last years have shown that, but also limited what it can tell you. D. Puurveen and members discussed the benefits of having a work share with other Associations and producers. This would leave funding to go in other directions.

Members also discussed the location of the new large plots and what information could be gained from their location. S. Wheale asked what the hemp is doing to the soils composition. Members discussed that it isn't known. M. Howard mentioned that with the hemp trials, WCFA can't grow the same crop on the same plot more than 1 year; so that hasn't been tested yet.

Members discussed farming practice and residue management, and that problems can occur in future years as it takes time to break down. Members also discussed what the fiber can do to the soil and ways to test that.



B. Guyon left the meeting at 10:35am.

100/21 Moved by S. Wheale to receive all of the presentations for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(B. Guyon was absent for the vote)

DELEGATIONS

Public Input Session

D. Ekstrom opened the Public Input Session at 10:38 a.m. No members of the public were in attendance or on the conference call. D. Ekstrom closed the Public Input Session at 10:39 a.m.

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 10:39 a.m.

D. Ekstrom called the meeting back to order at 10:56 a.m. and all members were in attendance.

AGRICULTURE
REPORTS

Acting Manager of Agricultural Services Report August/ September 2021

N. Chambers provided a verbal review of the Acting Manager of Agricultural Services report updating members on the preliminary 2022 operating budget, and a grazing lease request that went through Council. Possibilities to ask WCFA to deliver the succession planning for farmer's information were also discussed.

Members discussed the WCFA and the Breton Plots proposals. Members showed support for the research that is being conducted. They also discussed the information they would like to be researched. B. Guyon mentioned that this financial support is a small amount for supporting agriculture. Members then discussed if they were giving a dollar amount and asking for specific research or having the groups figure out a cost for our desired research.

101/21 Moved by B. Guyon to have West-Central Forage Association and the Breton Plots to determine the costs and bring it back before budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Member Reports

Member at Large M. Muller reported on:

- It's a dry year.
- Winter wheat is growing, waiting to combine.

Member at Councillor D. Wiltse reported on:

- No updates at this time.

Councillor B. Guyon reported on:

- Bought a fire truck; has an idea of Farmers Fighting Fires
- Set up a society to support farmers.



Councillor S. Wheale reported on:

- Everything is baled.
- Breaking more ground.
- Was able to find more pasture.

Member at Large C. Brooks reported on:

- Participated in the hemp plot tours.
- Hay is still sitting in the field.

Member at Large D. Ekstrom reported on:

- Noticed a large amount of soil damage from the previous year's saturation.
- The under seeding of legumes are starting to coming up.

102/21 Moved by C. Brooks to receive all of the reports for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 5-19: Fresh Water Multi-Stakeholder Committee

Members discussed the 2019 Fresh Water Multi-Stakeholder Committee resolution. Members further discussed industry standards and practices, including that they would like to see the allocated amount of water an industrial company can be permitted for and the amount actually used be brought closer together. Members agreed that this is a topic that will always need improvement and moving forward.

103/21 Moved by B. Guyon to rewrite the 5-19 resolution with further direction on the reduction of allocated water use and the water that is currently being used and moving forward with it at the next opportunity.

Members discussed the process of rewriting the resolution and the direction wanting to be taken about responding to the Provincial ASB. Members further discussed if time would allow for a new resolution to be written in time to be submitted. They discussed that Brazeau County's ASB could continue with the 5-19 resolution and also submit a new resolution with the further direction. B. Guyon requested to withdraw his previous motion. D. Ekstrom gave permission to do so.



104/21 Moved by B. Guyon to send ASB's response to the Provincial ASB Board, with the request that more information be made clear for what is being allocated and what is being used, and also with the suggestion that it be reallocated to another industry like agriculture.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021 Resolution Report Card

Members discussed the responses and ASB participation. Members then reviewed the 2021 resolution responses.

Resolution 1-21 – do not agree to accept in principle
Resolution 2-21 - agree it's unsatisfactory
Resolution 3-21 - agree to accept the response
Resolution 4-21 - agree to accept the response
Resolution 5-21 - agree it's incomplete
Resolution 6-21 - agree to accept the response
Resolution 8-21 – do not agree to accept the response
Resolution 9-21 - agree it's incomplete
Resolution 10-21 – do not agree to accept the response, but will agree to accept in principle

Comments:

1-21 – Members discussed the issues and who is responsible.
3-21 – Members discussed the issues with products being removed without alternatives being provided for people who depend on the product.
8-21 – Members discussed that ABS had lost the key contact person but has gained an ASB Liaison.

N. Chambers mentioned that Brazeau County still has the 10-20 resolution to reinstate the shelter belt program on the table.

105/21 Moved by S. Wheale to direct administration to send Brazeau County's ASB responses to provincial ASB.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Funding for Livestock Producers and Beekeepers

Member's discussed the details on the funding and if it would eventually need to be paid back. Members also discussed the application process. Members suggested hosting an information session on information about the program and applying for it.

106/21 Moved by B. Guyon to direct Administration to see if they have a workshop or if they could set up a workshop on the funding and application process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

107/21 Moved by C. Brooks to receive for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Aphanomyces info Poster

Members discussed what other crops can be affected and noted that Brazeau County producers mix peas in a lot of other crops, and asked if that can be mentioned to the poster.

108/21 Moved by B. Guyon to receive for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/ ITEMS FOR
INFORMATION**

Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Re: Brazeau County Declares a State of Agricultural Disaster

Members discussed that because the County declared a state of Agricultural Disaster it may have assisted in the decision to add Brazeau County as a designated area for livestock tax deferral.

109/21 Moved by B. Guyon to accept the letter for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2021 ASB Meeting Schedule

Members discussed the changes in the schedule and any conflicts that arose.

110/21 Moved by B. Guyon that the scheduling conflicts be discussed at the October 6, 2021 ASB meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

111/21 Moved by S. Wheale to adjourn at 12:31 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



ASB CHAIRPERSON



for: _____
AG FIELDMAN