

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER Dallas Ekstrom, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

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

ABSENT none

GUESTS none

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of Agenda

112/21 Moved by B. Guyon to adopt the agenda as amended:
7. c) Agricultural Research Funding - Additional information

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes

113/21 Moved by C. Brooks to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of September 15, 2021 as amended:
Motion 105/21 spelling correction of "Administration"

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING none

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Acting Manager of Agricultural Services Report September 2021

N. Chambers provided a verbal review of the Acting Manager of Agricultural Services report including her work on preliminary operating budget, Council orientation presentation, grazing lease request approval, and a workshop on farm succession and financial planning that is on hold due to COVID.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report September 2021

A. Kynoch provided a verbal review of the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman report including her new role, the summer students are now finished, and her work finishing up seasonal programs and end of season work, and day to day operations.

D. Ekstrom inquired after haying and grazing lease inspections and what was involved.

M. Mueller inquired if the brush mower was Public Works.

Member Reports

Councillor S. Wheale reported on:

- Fieldwork, and tractor repairs

Member at Large M. Mueller reported on:

- 50 acres of winter wheat, combining finished, fence repairs

Councillor D. Wiltse reported on:

- Feline activity

Councillor B. Guyon reported on:

- Installation of sewer system for daughter, logging activity, Bison in plot area, no need to mow

Member at Large C. Brooks reported on:

- Five steers coming

Member at Large D. Ekstrom reported on:

- Livestock management and preparing for spring, pasture is holding up, cattle still grazing cows not interested in hay

114/21 Moved by D. Wiltse to receive all of the reports for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OLD BUSINESS

Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) Application

A. Kynoch presented information regarding funding available under the AFSC and resources available to assist applicants.

115/21 Moved by D. Wiltse to receive the report on AFSC for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

2022 Draft Operating Budget

N. Chambers presented the draft 2022 operating budget for the Board's review.

2022 Herbicide Rebate Program

N. Chambers presented a request for direction from ASB on the budget amount and rebate percentage to recommend to Council during 2022 deliberations.

Board discussion on acceptance of late applications. Administration asked for a motion granting authority to do so, should the board desire.

116/21 Moved by B. Guyon that any late applications be honoured until the end of October.

D. Wiltse offered friendly amendment "or until budget funds have been depleted."

B. Guyon accepted the amendment

IN FAVOUR

D. Wiltse

B. Guyon

D. Ekstrom

C. Brooks

OPPOSED

M. Mueller

S. Wheale

CARRIED

S. Wheale expressed concern that there would not be enough funds in the budget after the first applications have been received to accommodate the late application.

Administration indicated the budget should accommodate applications with the amount remaining.

M. Mueller didn't think it was fair to extend the deadline as all other regulations in farm business require deadlines and they should be able to do paperwork properly or miss out. He expressed concern that if they have a deadline and don't honour it, people will not respect the deadline in future.

S. Wheale asked if carry overs were accommodated from year to year.

Administration indicated that the later in the year the harder it is to tell if the weeds were killed by chemical or by nature.

117/21 Moved by B. Guyon that the chemical rebate stay at 50% rebate.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

118/21 Moved by C. Brooks to keep the budget at \$50,000.00 for the Herbicide Rebate Program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agricultural Research Funding

N. Chambers presented a request for direction from ASB on the budget amounts and programs to recommend to Council for funding in 2022.

119/21 Moved by C. Brooks to recommend allocating \$10,000 budget for the Breton Plots.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

120/21 Moved by M. Muller to recommend allocating \$15,000 budget for the West Central Forage Association for research.

IN FAVOUR

M. Mueller
D. Wiltse
B. Guyon
D. Ekstrom
C. Brooks

OPPOSED

S. Wheale

CARRIED

121/21 Moved by M. Mueller to recommend allocating \$3,500 budget for the West Central Forage Association for education and outreach.

IN FAVOUR

M. Mueller
D. Wiltse
B. Guyon
D. Ekstrom
C. Brooks

OPPOSED

S. Wheale

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

Public Input Session

D. Ekstrom opened the Public Input Session at 10:00 a.m.

Allan Taylor called in and asked Matt Martinson about the article he published regarding hybrid rye. Mr. Martinson gave some recommendations and will follow up by email with Mr. Taylor.

D. Ekstrom closed the Public Input Session at 10:11 a.m.

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 10:11 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 10:24 a.m.

Cleanfarms

S. Wheale brought forward information the Recycling Board presentation to Council regarding agricultural recycling. She noted the British Columbia program is more robust than Alberta. She suggested reaching out to Clean Farms to get a recycling center closer to the Brazeau County that residents and neighbouring counties could have access to.

Board discussed merits of the program and chair indicated to keep a watch on Cleanfarms programs.

Weed Free Forage Program

A. Kynoch presented information on reinstating the Weed Free Forage program in Brazeau County.

Board discussed weed free hay being a misnomer. Matt Martinson provided background information on weeds on the regulated list and explained germinating vs inspecting. He further explain bale markings with twine and tags.

Board members discussed the benefits and value of instigating the program. Matt Martinson indicated that the only real benefit would be recognition on the website, but that many people don't understand what it even means. In the early 2000's there was more uptake. There is no definable premium to certified acres. S. Wheale indicated with the amount of online, social media sales it is now a blood bath with everyone saying their product is weed free when it is not. There is no regulating on how to determine if it is or isn't weed free. It is a train wreck the weed free hay sale going on. D. Ekstrom indicated it could be niche marketing sales. M. Mueller indicated we should get a reputation on our own and that when hay is in demand farmers will buy whatever they can get.

Board indicated no further action on this item.

B. Guyon declared pecuniary interested and left the meeting 10:53 a.m.

Herbicide Rebates for Applications over \$1600

A. Kynoch presented the totals of the herbicide rebates for 2021 at \$28,983.79 and of the 37 applications 7 have reached the \$1600 cap. Administration asked if the 7 applicants should remain at the \$1600 cap or give them their 50% rebate, which would be over \$1600.

Board discussed the AG-3 policy approved by Council which gave the ASB the power to review the applications that have reached their cap.

S. Wheale asked if there have been repeat fields within the applications. Administration believes there may be some, but this was the first year with cap. S. Wheale would like to see the ASB more involved if repeat fields are not getting chemical kills and help the farmers rather than go back and forth with the herbicide rebate program.

Administration would be willing to discuss results and options with farmers.

S. Wheale indicated in the past there hasn't been help from Administration due to lack of experience and knowledge. She would like Administration to look at the repeat field applications and reach out to the farmers.

122/21 Moved by D. Wiltse to direct Administration to allocate the 50% of rebate funds to applications over the cap as per the policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Guyon returned to the meeting at 11:06 a.m.

Hemp Working Group

N. Chambers provided information submitted by Melissa Keeley on the recent tour of trial hemp plots and the resulting public interest generated.

M. Mueller indicated that Google has all the answers about what you can grow after hemp. He informed the board that the fungus on peas is not transferable to alfalfa.

123/21 Moved by C. Brooks to adopted items 7. a) through g) for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/ ITEMS FOR
INFORMATION**

NW Regional ASB Conference

N. Chambers gave details of the conference and discussed ASB member eligibility for attendance.

2021 ASB Meeting Schedule

124/21 Moved by B. Guyon to reschedule the November 17, 2021 ASB meeting to November 8, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

125/21 Moved by C. Brooks to adjourn at 11:19 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



ASB CHAIRPERSON FOIP: s.17 (4) (g)



AG FIELDMAN FOIP: s.17 (4) (g)