

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

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

PRESENT Dallas Ekstrom, Councillor & Chairperson
Randy Swap, Councillor & Vice-Chairperson
Mike Mueller, Member at Large
Liz Seutter-Rosell, Member at Large
Jeff Bundt, Member at Large
Dawnia McCann, Manager of Agricultural Services
Amber Kynoch, Assistant Ag Fieldman
Nancy Chambers, Agricultural Technician / Recording Secretary

ABSENT Anthony Heinrich, Councillor
Shawn McKerry, Interim CAO

GUESTS none

INTRODUCTIONS Members and Administration introduced themselves.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of Agenda

140/21 Moved by R. Swap to adopt the agenda as amended:

Add: 8c) Recycling Plastics
8d) Plan of Action for 2022
8e) SWOT Analysis

Rename: 8a) 2022 ASB Conference and Resolutions

A. Heinrich joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m. via Go To Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes

141/21 Moved by J. Bundt to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of November 8, 2021 as amended:

- Page 6 – should be Alberta Farm and Animal Care (AFAC) rather than AFSC

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING

Acts

D. Ekstrom asked if each member would take an Act to review and familiarize and report back to ASB in January or February in the members report. D. McCann offered that if there are any questions to please reach out to her. As the Ag Fieldman, she is already familiar with the Acts.

Agricultural Service Board Act – R. Swap
Animal Health Act – L. Seutter-Rosell
Agricultural Pests Act – J. Bundt
Weed Control Act – M. Mueller
Soil Conservation Act – M. Mueller
Agricultural Operation Practices Act – D. Ekstrom

A. Heinrich declined, as he felt Administration is very well versed with all the Acts as part of their duties.

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Manager of Agricultural Services Report November/December 2021

D. McCann provided a verbal review of the Acting Manager of Agricultural Services report. The board welcomed D. McCann back from her leave.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report November/December 2021

A. Kynoch provided a verbal review of the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman report. Some forage samples have been submitted for nitrate testing. Toxic levels of zinc have were found in a producer's soil samples, which has affected crop production. D. McCann has been in contact with Dick Puurveen with the University of Alberta for further assistance.

Member Reports

Member at Large J. Bundt reported on:

- Cold
- Feeder calves have not moved in the last month. Price of cull cows are also relatively low. Backlog of cattle in every feed yard in Western Canada.
- American cattle producers banded together to start a producer-owned slaughter facility.

Member at Large M. Mueller reported on:

- Cold weather
- Cat work, sold one
- Article on climate change, labour shortages and the pandemic

Councillor A. Heinrich reported on:

- Cattle are being fed

Member at Large L. Seutter-Rosell reported on:

- Cold
- Keeping eye on grain prices and demand
- Numbers they haven't seen before



Councillor R. Swap reported on:

- Cold
- Horses are good – still wintering in pasture

Councillor D. Ekstrom reported on:

- Met yesterday with the Assistant Deputy Minister John Conrad for the ASB Chairpersons Town Hall Meeting
- 93 participants
- Concerned about: AB economic recovery, fostering a working relationship federally and provincially with ASB's
- Regional Liaison program – keep using and communicating
- Continue to work on resolutions
- Small cost for ag plastic bag recycling will be passed on to the farmer.
- Reviewed concerns he heard while campaigning

M. Mueller noted that a beacon on top of a vehicle that is hauling large equipment can help slow people down. J. Bundt asked if the County can supply a portable beacon with the larger rental equipment. Members discussed spaying and neutering of dogs and cats, noting that prices will vary at each clinic.

L. Seutter-Rosell agreed that agricultural corridors signage is needed. Time spent with Weed Inspectors would be beneficial. More focus on livestock and herd health is important through education programming. D. McCann spoke about a matrix developed by Northern Sunrise County about their weed inspection program. She would like to bring that back to the ASB to get a better defined process for our program. Promotion of the ASB can be assisted by board members and Councilors. ASB members can serve as mentors, as opposed to having producers paying for these services.

R. Swap reported that several residents want the rebate left in place. The cost for the County to hire custom spraying is high if enforcement was initiated.

142/21 Moved by M. Mueller to receive the Agriculture Reports for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATIONS

Public Input Session

D. Ekstrom opened the Public Input Session at 10:09 a.m. Les Huber spoke about the chemical rebate. Chemical purchased the year prior was not eligible due to the receipt not being from the current year. However, there were extensions the other way and late applications were accepted. Farm taxes are very reasonable in this County so residents should be able to afford to spray. Everyone needs to be accountable. He is against the rebate because



only 36 people applied for the rebate. Farmers have to be responsible and not depend on the government to do things for them.

Members discussed that Administration may make exceptions for chemical purchased the previous years, as long as it wasn't previously claimed.

Mr. Huber submitted a letter to the board outlining his concerns about the herbicide rebate program and who the money is going to, advertising, flexibility during wet seasons, decision making, and the addition of a statement on the application agreeing to make information public.

Allan Taylor spoke about feed analysis showing a lack of protein and also spoke about vet clinics.

Public Input Session was closed at 10:24 a.m.

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 10:24 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 10:36 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS **AG-3 Herbicide Rebate Program Policy**

D. McCann discussed the October 6, 2021 ASB meeting motion 116/21 and the November 16, 2021 Council meeting motion 960/21-11-16.

D. Ekstrom stepped down from the chair and R. Swap assumed the chair.

143/21 Moved by D. Ekstrom to rescind motion 116/21 from the October 6, 2021 ASB meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Ekstrom resumed the chair.

Members discussed the AG-3 Policy. A rebate budget of \$75,000 was approved in the 2022 interim operating budget. Members discussed the application deadline of September 30 and the maximum cap. According to the policy, if there are still funds remaining after the deadline has passed, the ASB has the authority to distribute remaining funds to applicants who reached the cap. Members discussed the importance of getting the proper information out to the public to ensure residents are aware of the program. A page in the County newsletter would help to explain the program to residents.

The board discussed reporting on acres sprayed rather than individual users.

L. Seutter-Rosell left the meeting at 11:17 a.m. and returned at 11:19 a.m.



144/21 Moved by M. Mueller to recommend to Council to remove the cap from the AG-3 policy.

IN FAVOUR:

M. Mueller
D. Ekstrom
L. Seutter-Rosell
R. Swap

OPPOSED:

J. Bundt
A. Heinrich

CARRIED

R. Swap left the meeting at 11:41 a.m. and returned at 11:43 a.m.

Members discussed weed notices and enforcement taken place in the past few years. Members discussed that compliance deadlines for action to take place are at the discretion of the Ag Fieldman. The Weed Control Policy AG-8 will be brought to a future ASB meeting to review the process.

NEW BUSINESS

2022 ASB Conference and Resolutions

D. McCann advised of the 2022 annual ASB Provincial Conference to be held in Edmonton from January 25 to 27, 2022 at the Westin Hotel. D. McCann handed out copies of the ASB Provincial Conference agenda to the members. Hotel rooms have been booked for each member.

By January 7, 2022, let D. McCann know if you are attending the ASB Provincial Conference.

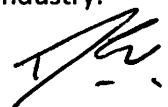
In the agenda are the 2022 resolutions that will go to the ASB Conference and D. McCann asked that members review and the resolutions will be discussed at the January 19, 2022 meeting. Two members of Brazeau ASB will vote on the resolutions at the conference.

M. Keely joined the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Hemp Working Group

M. Keeley provided a report on the 2021 Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance Virtual Conference that she attended virtually in November. More research on hemp as livestock feed is needed. The importance of speaking with the end buyer is key for hemp producers before they start production.

D. McCann suggested that an ASB resolution to the federal government to de-regulate industrial hemp would be helpful for the agricultural industry.



M. Keely asked if the ASB members could help promote the hemp industry by providing names and contact information of potential producers who may be interested in growing hemp. She can then reach out to them. A recent newsletter article helped with awareness of the hemp industry. A workshop or speaker session could assist further.

Members discussed additional promotion for corn varieties, brassicas, and other crops. Plastic net wrap made from hemp was also discussed.

145/21 Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the hemp report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

M. Keely left the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Recycling Plastics

M. Mueller advised the bags used for collecting recyclable jugs now costs \$15. This is due to DEF containers not being accepted by the recycler and they have to sort them out from the rest of the jugs.

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 12:14 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 12:28 a.m.

Plan of Action for 2022

Members discussed what the board wants to accomplish this year.

D. Ekstrom - hemp resolutions, DEF recycling jugs, resolution 5-19, class 1 drivers, veterinarian/rancher relationship, slaughter plants, fertilizer costs, escalating farm fuel costs, promotion of Brazeau County, and the Western Economic Corridor.

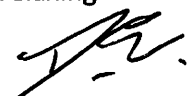
M. Mueller – update weed control policy, promotion for corn and brassicas, education for new farmers.

J. Bundt – standardizing vet/producer fees, and on-farm slaughters.

A. Heinrich – public awareness, educational programming, ag mental health, and public interactions.

R. Swap – communication to the public regarding weeds, geothermal concept, local kill plant, weed program awareness, review Acts, education for the public on what the ASB does.

L. Seutter-Rosell – new ways to promote, vet/producer relationships, relaxing the direct to consumer model for food producers.



D. Ekstrom encouraged members to prioritize and collaborate, and bring thoughts back to a future meeting. M. Mueller added that articles or interviews with the local newspaper and/or radio station would be good ideas. D. Ekstrom requested that the ASB have opportunity to meet with the summer staff for their perspective on programming.

SWOT Analysis

D. Ekstrom reviewed the ag SWOT analysis identified in Council orientation.

Members discussed the importance of a livestock emergency plan, but also noted that people just step up when needed. A contact list is a good start. Social media is a strong form for communication in emergencies. Members suggested contacting Parkland County or other Counties with existing plans.

146/21 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to see what neighbouring municipalities have for livestock emergency plans and inquire about the possibilities of mutual services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/ ITEMS FOR
INFORMATION**

Municipal District of Willow Creek – Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions

D. Ekstrom stepped down from the chair and R. Swap assumed the chair.

147/21 Moved by D. Ekstrom to receive the letter for information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2022 ASB Meeting Schedule

D. Ekstrom suggested a time change for the meetings in the winter months in order to accommodate morning chores.

148/21 Moved by A. Heinrich to change the January, February, and March ASB meetings to start at 1:00 p.m. with Public Input at 2:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

149/21 Moved by A. Heinrich to adjourn at 1:19 p.m.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



ASB CHAIRPERSON



AG FIELDMAN