

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 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
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, ALUS Coordinator / Recording Secretary

ABSENT Shawn McKerry, Interim CAO

GUESTS Kathleen Sterling, Senior Long Range Planner, Brazeau County
Sandra McIntosh, Economic Development Officer, Brazeau County

INTRODUCTIONS No introductions were needed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of Agenda

036/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to adopt the agenda with the following addition:

8d) Red Deer County – 2022 Provincial ASB Conference.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes

037/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of February 16, 2022, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING None

OLD BUSINESS

Environmental Reserves

K. Sterling presented a verbal follow up to the draft Environmental Reserves policy. It was asked if the mechanism could be changed after the fact (example: enrolling the lands in the ALUS program after it was already dedicated or transferred). Once an option for protection of the area is selected and the subdivision is endorsed, it cannot be changed to another

option listed in the policy. This policy speaks to Environmental Reserve only, if that is the method selected. Eligibility for an ALUS project is addressed outside of the scope of this policy. Members suggested if the condition of subdivision was to enroll the lands into the ALUS program, a suggested condition could also address that if the lands were no longer enrolled in ALUS, an ERE would have to be registered on the land title instead, in order to continue protection of the sensitive area.

If any further questions or concerns arise, submit to K. Sterling and D. McCann before the next ASB meeting.

K. Sterling left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

038/22 Moved by R. Swap to receive the report for information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Manager of Agricultural Services Report for March 2022

D. McCann provided a verbal review of the Manager of Agricultural Services report. An update on Resolution 5-19 for the *Multi-stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the Use of Freshwater by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta* was provided. The Provincial Committee met with ADM John Conrad from Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development. It was suggested that the existing Alberta Water Council is already a multi-stakeholder committee that may be able to address this concern, rather than striking a new committee.

Members discussed consideration for actioning a Hemp Deregulation Resolution for the fall Regional ASB meeting. Resolutions are typically due near the end of September.

D. Ekstrom reminded members of the Management Tools for Drought Recovery workshop scheduled for March 29, 2022 at the Clean Energy Technology Centre.

M. Mueller spoke about Union Forage hosting webinar tonight.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report for March 2022

A. Kynoch provided a verbal review of the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman report. The Mountain Pine Beetle grant was approved by the Provincial government. The tenders are currently out for bids. The Rural Health Initiative was planned for today but was cancelled due to low attendance.



Staff will reach out to West-Central Forage Association to see if weevils will be available this year.

Member Reports

Councillor A. Heinrich reported on:

- Cattle prices are still reasonably good.
- People are looking for hay.

Member at Large M. Mueller reported on:

- Articles on sampling and recycling.
- Hemp plant being built in Bruderheim. Almost ready to go.
- Pulse protein plant expanding near Calgary.
- Manitoba feedlot – feeding pea juice and cull potatoes.
- Crop insurance discount received last year is being taken away this year.
- Spreading grass seed on pastures.
- May be a shortage on chemical this year.
- Two dugouts down significantly from last year.
- Would like to discuss the fertilizer spreader further.

Councillor R. Swap reported on:

- Getting ready for foaling.
- Hay value is not as good as it was previously.
- Attended RMA convention and distributed a report to the members.
- Ice honey being sold locally.

DELEGATIONS

Public Input Session

D. Ekstrom opened the Public Input Session at 2:06 p.m. No members of the public were in attendance or online. D. Ekstrom closed the Public Input Session at 2:07 p.m.

AGRICULTURE REPORTS (cont'd)

Member at Large J. Bundt reported on:

- Looking positive compared to last spring in terms of water.
- Cattle market is trending steady to stronger. Domestic demand will be good for feed producers, grain growers, etc.
- Feed was limited and pricy during the last few weeks, but seems to be more available now with prices coming down for straw. More hay is starting to become available, but still with higher prices.
- Calf insurance is a good way to watch the cattle market.
- Interest rates for agriculture are good.



A. Kynoch left the meeting at 2:12 p.m. and returned at 2:14 p.m.

Member at Large L. Seutter-Rosell reported on:

- Busy rolling and selling grain.
- A lot of interest from acreage owners and small producers.
- Picking up previously ordered seed. New oats and barley varieties.
- Beekeeping equipment preparation with packages coming in April.
- At a recent Town of Drayton Valley Council meeting there was an urban beekeeping delegation.
- Peavy Mart sells bee packages. Expensive, but they will be locally produced bees from an apiary in Calgary. Queens have Canadian genetics that have over wintered in California to be joined with their packages.
- Packages from New Zealand and Australia are still on track to make it here.
- Grants available for solar panels and electric vehicle chargers through the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre.

Councillor D. Ekstrom reported on:

- RMA report was distributed to board members.
- Several resolutions were agriculture related.
- Pastured hard last fall, grass may be limited this spring.
- Happy to see the warm weather.

039/22 Moved by L. Seutter-Rosell to receive the Agriculture Reports for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 2:22 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 2:34 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS
(Cont'd)**

D. McCann will email information to the board members on the Two Billion Trees program.

Weed Inspection Matrix

D. McCann presented the draft Weed Inspection Matrix that has been adapted from Northern Sunrise County. It includes a weed inspection matrix, along with a matrix to determine an appropriate deadline for action. Historical activities will be taken into account in the matrix to determine urgency.



Navius (Bayer product) or ClearView (industrial equivalent of Reclaim II) are used for roadside spraying. Spraying will focus on the west side of the river this season.

Members discussed the board's appetite for enforcement (Weed Notices). The matrix can be used to gauge the appropriate action level, based on the matrix score. Members suggested that enforcement is key, as the next step and a follow up to the same Weed Reports being sent repeatedly. It was suggested a stake in the ground placed by the inspector could be used to help the landowner identify the location of the weeds, rather than sending the same report with the same polygon over and over. It was suggested that perhaps the top 10% that scored highest (worst) on the matrix be actioned via a Weed Notice. A Weed Report is a letter sent to the landowner to draw attention to the matter. A Weed Notice is a notification with a deadline for action that can be enforced if no action is taken.

It was suggested a value for a complaint received could be added to the matrix. However, caution needs to be used with neighbor complaints. It was further suggested if a complaint is received, the surrounding lands also get inspected at the same time.

040/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to provide a sample of a way of addressing some of the long-standing weed issues occurring repeatedly at the same location.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

041/22 Moved by J. Bundt to pilot marking small infestations with wooden stakes this season.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Health Initiative

A. Kynoch reported that the Rural Health Initiative scheduled for today was cancelled due to low enrollment.

Fireworks Signage

A. Kynoch presented a verbal report on fireworks signage after speaking with Fire Services and the Community Peace Officers. There is currently a permitting system in place that falls in line with the fire code including safety, education, hazards, storage, and neighbor notification within 250m or more. There may be a concern with theft of signs, visibility of the signs, given the event happens in the dark, and the number of signs required to be effective.

It was suggested education and information on fireworks be provided in the County newsletter. It was also suggested the sign be available through Fire Services as a one-stop shop.



042/22 Moved by R. Swap to inform Council of the findings, including the cost of the signs and suggest adding the education part to existing advertising on fireworks.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Administration will bring a report to Council on this matter.

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 3:42 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 4:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Farm Family Awards – Farmfair International

D. McCann provided information on the Farmfair International Farm Family Awards, with a nomination submission deadline of June 30, 2022. In 2020 the ASB agreed to nominate the Claypool family but due to various circumstances the nomination application did not get submitted.

043/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to contact Claypools to ask if they are interested in submitting their name for the award and if they are, proceed with filling out the application.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Hemp Working Group

S. McIntosh presented a report on behalf of the Hemp Working Group, including a report on the Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance workshop. Information on the Canadian Rockies Hemp Corporation out of Bruderheim will be sent to local producers. This company will support hemp producers by providing seed, mentoring, and advice, and then they buy the hemp in the end. Information from the West-Central Forage Association and the University of Alberta Breton Plots were also included.

The Alberta Hemp Alliance Conference in April will be attended by a few Council members.

044/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to craft a resolution on addressing the deregulation of the hemp industry under the Canadian regulations for Council to take to RMA and ASB to take to the ASB Conference.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fertilizer Spreader

M. Mueller met with Agriculture and Public Works staff to review the workings of the fertilizer spreader. A. Kynoch contacted each of the renters from the past year, asking for feedback and suggestions, and noting issues.



They also discussed tractor types, uses and settings. Densities converted to pounds per cubic foot would be helpful.

It was suggested that when it is rented out this season, ask them to keep records on what they spread, how many acres, how many pounds, settings, etc. so we can compile information. A form to be filled out can be given to the renter for them to enter this information on and return with the rental.

045/22 Moved by M. Mueller to direct Administration to create a flow chart for fertilizer customers to fill out to keep track of settings, densities, acres covered, etc.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/ ITEMS FOR
DISCUSSION**

Lesser Slave River – Fertilizer Emission Reduction Target

Cypress County – Synthetic Fertilizer Emissions

Red Deer County – 2022 Provincial ASB Conference

046/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to add to the agenda: item 8e – RMA reports from R. Swap, B. Guyon, and D. Ekstrom.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

047/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to receive correspondence in item 8 for information.

(no vote took place)

2022 ASB Meeting Schedule

048/22 Moved by L. Seutter-Rosell to move the start times for the April and May meetings to 1:00 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

049/22 Moved by L. Seutter-Rosell to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



ASB CHAIRPERSON



AG FIELDMAN