

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022.

CALL TO ORDER D. Ekstrom, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

PRESENT Dallas Ekstrom, Councillor & Chairperson
Randy Swap, Councillor & Vice-Chairperson
Anthony Heinrich, Councillor (via Go-To Meeting)
Liz Seutter-Rosell, Member at Large
Jeff Bundt, Member at Large
Shawn McKerry, Interim CAO
Dawnia McCann, Manager of Agricultural Services
Erin McAdam, Manager of Agricultural Services
Amber Kynoch, Assistant Ag Fieldman
Nancy Chambers, ALUS Coordinator / Recording Secretary

ABSENT Mike Mueller, Member at Large

GUESTS none

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of Agenda

059/22 Moved by R. Swap to adopt the agenda with the following additions:

8a) New Business – June 6 Regional ASB Chair Meeting

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes

060/22 Moved by R. Swap to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of April 20, 2022, as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INTRODUCTIONS No introductions were required.

BUSINESS ARISING None

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Manager of Agricultural Services Report for April/May 2022

D. McCann and E. McAdam provided a verbal review of the joint Manager of Agricultural Services report. Administration advised that as migration of bird flocks settle, the instances of Avian Influenza are expected to decline. Infected populations have been culled within certain zones.



Members discussed the existing contract with the Town of Drayton Valley for weed inspection services provided.

Members expressed that public awareness of the Avian Influenza is important. Information has been shared on social media, as well as with board members. The importance of avoiding domestic birds co-mingling with wild birds was discussed. If producers are updating their Alberta Premises Identification (PID) numbers to show current numbers, they will be notified of Avian Influenza information if applicable.

Administration will make a concentrated effort to track costs of weed inspection services throughout the current season to bring to the fall budget.

Members discussed Haying and Grazing Leases, noting the preference to ensure Brazeau County residents are the benefactors. Discussion ensued regarding rental rates and revenue generation. For information purposes, Administration will share a copy of the lease agreement with the board.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report for April/May 2022

A. Kynoch provided a verbal review of the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman report. Members discussed where the interest for haying and grazing leases was coming from. Members discussed the Two Billion Trees program, noting the next application intake will be in the fall.

DELEGATIONS

Public Input Session

D. Ekstrom opened the Public Input Session at 1:58 p.m. No members of the public were in attendance or online. D. Ekstrom closed the Public Input Session at 1:59 p.m.

Member Reports

Councillor A. Heinrich reported on:

- Cows are still calving.
- Need some rain. Greening up but need moisture.

Councillor R. Swap reported on:

- One more foal to go, 8 on the ground.
- Need rain. Limited bales of hay left.

Member at Large J. Bundt reported on:

- Cows are calving.
- Fields are ready.
- Plan to start seeding after the long weekend.
- Three gardens planted – 200 hills of potatoes.



- Ground moisture looks adequate – wet 10 inches down.
- Health of cattle is fine.

Member at Large L. Seutter-Rosell reported on:

- Hiving new bees but has been very cold.
- All packages received at once rather than smaller, manageable groups.
- Bees needed feed quickly – found in the willows and starting to pull pollen and nectar.
- Started to put seed in ground.
- Bees need time to cluster in the hive. With the cold bees rotating to the inside of cluster and warm bees moving to the outside of the cluster, they can keep the inner cluster temperature around 25-27 °C. Even if it's -30 outside, they rotate and that is how they survive the winter. If it's warm and the cluster breaks, but then the temperature drops dramatically then they get cold quickly and they may have trouble to re-cluster.

Interim Chief Administrative Office S. McKerry

- Pleased to report his avocado seed finally sprouted after three months.

Councillor D. Ekstrom reported on:

- Attended Alberta Hemp Alliance conference and was impressed with the buzz around hemp.
- Recordings are available on the website. Highly recommend listening to the presentations.
- Provincial Government announced \$900,000 in grants for two new hemp processing plants based in Vegreville and southern Alberta.
- The most limiting factor to growth is the legislation, which they are working on.

A. Heinrich reported that the Hemp Working Group as a sub-committee of the ASB is still active. Contact with the West Central Forage Association (WCFA) and U of A Breton Plots would be appreciated for an update on their hemp plots.

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 2:27 pm and the meeting resumed at 2:42 pm.

061/22 Moved by J. Bundt to receive the Agriculture Reports for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



OLD BUSINESS

Wild Boar Bounty

D. McCann reported that only Stettler County, the MD of Peace & the MD of Bonnyville have signed up for the wild boar bounty program so far. The Provincial Pest Specialist received a report of a sighting near Highway 621 & RR 85 but it is believed to be domestic. There is a new Provincial program for Environmental DNA (eDNA) involving the collection of water samples picking up traces of DNA to confirm presence of wild boar. Administration suggested this can be used as a different option for information gathering to see if the County has any wild boar issues. The wild boar trapping program is active in the Counties of Lac St. Anne, Woodlands & Two Hills. Trapping of wild boars must be coordinated with the Provincial Pest Specialist. Only the bounty program is open to the Counties such as Brazeau at this time.

It was suggested to put the "Squeal on Pigs" posters at the transfer stations.

062/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to continue to gather information on wild boar.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

S. McKerry left the meeting at 3:03 pm.

ASB Field Visit

The ASB Field Visit is scheduled for June 14, 2022. The Provincial ASB Program Manager, Doug Macaulay, will meet with Administration in the morning, followed by a field tour and documentation review. In the afternoon, he will meet with the ASB at 1:00 pm to review programs.

063/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the 2022 ASB Field Visit report for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A. Kynoch left the meeting at 3:09 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS There is an opportunity for the ASB Chairpersons (or their delegates) within the Region to meet on June 6, 2022, at 1:00 pm via zoom. The intention is to discuss topics of regional interest, concern, and advocacy. This is also an opportunity for collaboration on resolutions within the region.

A. Kynoch returned to the meeting at 3:12 pm.



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Squeal on Pigs Virtual Forum

A. Kynoch attended the May 11, 2022, virtual forum for Squeal on Pigs. There were presentations from producers from Texas and Saskatchewan, as well as the Ag Fieldman from Woodlands County. Good information was provided on the trapping programs, hunting, and the destruction caused by wild boar.

064/22 Moved by R. Swap to receive the Wild Boar Bounty program and Squeal on Pigs Virtual Forum reports for information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/ ITEMS FOR
DISCUSSION**

Saddle Hills County – Veterinarian Shortage

Members recognized the importance of this matter and that it has been a long-standing issue, especially for large animals. Members discussed the post-secondary admission requirements, the veterinary association, workloads, responsibilities, and farm visits for prescriptions. It was suggested this item may be able to become a partnered resolution with Saddle Hills County if the ASB wishes.

065/22 Moved by L. Seutter-Rosell to direct Administration to draft a response to Saddle Hills County supporting their letter and cc to all ASB.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was suggested to inquire if Saddle Hills County has an ASB resolution proposed that we may be able to support.

2022 ASB Meeting Schedule

The Chairperson reminded members of the 9:00 am start for the remainder of the meetings.

066/22 Moved by J. Bundt to reschedule the June 15, 2022, meeting to June 16, 2022.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

067/22 Moved by R. Swap to receive the Saddle Hills County letter for information.

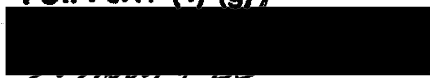
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

068/22 Moved by A. Heinrich to adjourn the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FOIP: s.17 (4) (g) /



ASB CHAIRPERSON

FOIP: s.17 (4) (g)



AG FIELDMAN