

**MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022.**

**CALL TO ORDER** D. Ekstrom, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

**PRESENT** Dallas Ekstrom, Councillor & Chairperson  
Randy Swap, Councillor & Vice-Chairperson  
Anthony Heinrich, Councillor  
Liz Seutter-Rosell, Member at Large  
Jeff Bundt, Member at Large  
Mike Mueller, Member at Large  
Erin McAdam, Manager of Agricultural Services  
Amber Kynoch, Assistant Ag Fieldman  
Nancy Chambers, ALUS Coordinator / Recording Secretary

**ABSENT** Shawn McKerry, Interim CAO

**GUESTS** none

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Additions/Deletions to and Adoption of Agenda**

**069/22** Moved by R. Swap to adopt the agenda with the following addition:

8c) New Business – Ground Beef Labeling

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Adoption of Minutes**

**070/22** Moved by A. Heinrich to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of May 18, 2022, as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**INTRODUCTIONS** No introductions were required.

**BUSINESS ARISING** A. Heinrich asked about eDNA samples looking to confirm the presence of wild boar in water sources. E. McAdam indicated this may be a pilot project so it may not be available to this County.

**AGRICULTURE REPORTS**

**Manager of Agricultural Services Report for May/June 2022**

E. McAdam provided a verbal review of the Manager of Agricultural Services report. The ASB Field Visit with Provincial staff was completed on June 14, 2022. No critical tasks were identified for immediate attention. Their report



with recommendations will not be available until the fall. R. Swap asked about the replacement schedule of ag rental equipment and the value of the ag rental fleet. Administration confirmed the weed inspection services agreements with the Town of Drayton Valley and the Village of Breton are for inspection services but does not include enforcement.

#### **Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report for May/June 2022**

A. Kynoch provided a verbal review of the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman report. Weed school was well received by the region. The Weed Inspection Matrix is being used by the Weed Inspectors and data will be reviewed to evaluate the next steps and obtain clear direction from ASB and Council. Members asked if a percentage of the highest scores were intended to be addressed, or a certain score threshold be addressed. More discussion to come as data is populated into the matrix.

#### **DELEGATIONS**

##### **Public Input Session**

D. Ekstrom opened the Public Input Session at 10:05 a.m. No members of the public were in attendance or online. D. Ekstrom closed the Public Input Session at 10:06 a.m.

#### **AGRICULTURE REPORTS CONT'D**

Discussion continued regarding the advertisement of Pest Control Product (PCP) registration numbers of chemicals, so the public is aware of what is being sprayed. Discussion continued the identification of Mountain Pine Beetles.

##### **Member Reports**

Member at Large L. Seutter-Rosell reported on:

- Finished seeding and land work
- Desperately needed the rain
- Bees look fantastic
- Waiting on clover to come, as dandelions are done
- All packages in second brood boxes, populations increasing exponentially
- Checking fences – black bear in the area
- Prior to the rain, they were moving cattle

Member at Large M. Mueller reported on:

- Seeding done
- Some spraying done, some spraying on hold due to rain
- Rain will perk up pastures
- Attended Alberta Synergy webinar on May 9 with David Hill of the University of Lethbridge on the future of Alberta on agriculture. He



recognized the opportunities in food production, given rising populations in cities.

Councillor R. Swap reported on:

- Foaling done
- Everything out to pasture

Member at Large J. Bundt reported on:

- Crops in
- Cows calving
- Grass is growing
- Attended the Alberta Beef Industry Conference – a lot of information and grateful for the opportunity to attend. Presentations included weather, Russia/Ukraine war implications, rural/city gap, mental health, inflation, and other topics related to agriculture industry in general. Great opportunities for networking and information sharing with other conference attendees.

Discussion on Burdock ensued, as some types of Burdock are designated as Noxious. Control is difficult. Early detection is important because of the implications to livestock and how quickly it will spread.

Councillor A. Heinrich reported on:

- Good rain
- Still some cows calving
- Fixing haying equipment
- Farm focused Mental health virtual workshops on Alberta Health Services websites. Would be good to continue to advertise.

Councillor D. Ekstrom reported on:

- Attended the Alberta Beef Producers Association conference and enjoyed the event. Live auction proceeds went toward a mental health association.
- Article in the Western Producer on June 9 regarding tire recycling in Fort McMurray, specifically thermal vacuum recovery. From a 10,000 lb. tire, 600 gallons of oil can be recouped, along with steel and carbon.

**071/22** Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the Agriculture Reports for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



D. Ekstrom called for a break at 10:49 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 11:05 a.m. E. McAdam was not in attendance.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Wild Boar Bounty Program**

A. Kynoch provided information from the Alberta Invasive Species Council on Feral Pigs. Training to recognize Wild Boar signs will be provided to Weed Inspectors. "Squeal on Pigs" posters are displayed at each transfer station. Information will be posted on the County website, along with advertising. A website and app called EDDMapS can be used to anonymously report invasive species, including wild boar.

E. McAdam returned to the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Members recognized that trapping of wild boar, rather than hunting, is more effective. Members and Administration discussed the possibility of an ASB resolution asking for more funding to be put toward the program before it becomes a bigger issue in the province.

E. McAdam left the meeting at 11:32 a.m. and returned at 11:33 a.m.

Members discussed previous ASB resolutions on the table to deal with wild boar. Members also discussed the possibility of having the province deal with wild boar, rather than the Municipalities having to take the responsibility for the program. Because wild boar falls under the *Agricultural Pests Act*, the responsibility for enforcement is the responsibility of the Municipality.

Members continued to discuss the development of a resolution to seek support of other municipalities both urban and rural, to redirect funding from PR and advertising to the trapping program and the possibility and implications of removing wild boar from the *Agricultural Pests Act* to another authority.

L. Seutter-Rosell left the meeting at 11:52 a.m. and returned at 11:53 a.m.

**072/22** Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to reach out to Alberta Invasive Species Council, the Association of Alberta Agriculture Fieldmen, the Town of Drayton Valley, Alberta Municipalities and the city of Edmonton to gain their support in requiring the province to eradicate wild boar and bring back a draft resolution after information is collected, and also bring back previous resolutions in relation to the Wild Boar Eradication/Bounty/Squeal on Pigs program.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



It was suggested to invite Alberta Invasive Species Council to a future meeting to provide further information.

## **2 Billion Trees**

A. Kynoch provided information on the Government of Canada's 2 Billion Trees program. The next application period will open in the fall. Based on planting 2000 trees per hectare, for an application of 500,000 trees, it equates to 250 hectares (618 acres) to be planted in one year. Planting costs would have to be borne by the group applying for the program. The management of the program is also a factor, including additional staff. At a cost estimate of \$4.69 per tree, half of \$234,000 would have to be contributed by the County. Only 50% of the cost is covered by the program. Ordering of trees in advance is required.

Partnering with an adjacent municipality might be an option to explore.

R. Swap left the meeting at 12:25 p.m. and returned at 12:28 p.m.

## **Hemp Working Group**

A. Heinrich clarified that the Hemp Working Group is still active. An inquiry with the University of Alberta Breton Plots and the West-Central Forage Association (WCFA) indicated neither are doing a 10-acre hemp field. However, WCFA has 60-acre, 12 acre and 80-acre fields with private land owners that we would be able to see the results. Hemp will be harvested for fibre only, not straw or seed.

Canadian Rockies Hemp Corporation has an interest in buying the product from producers. They will supply the seed and the producer is responsible for planting and spraying. The company would take responsibility for harvesting and hauling the product to their plant and would purchase the product at a set price. Producers would have to determine if the price received from this company would be worth their while. However, producers must be within 250 km of the Bruderheim plant.

E. McAdam left the meeting at 12:41 p.m. and returned at 12:43 p.m.

Discussion turned to the deregulation of hemp for feeding to livestock and other uses in Canada.

It was discussed that an agreement in writing with the groups doing research with our dollars should be drawn up to clearly outline expectations.

E. McAdam left the meeting at 1:01 p.m. and returned at 1:04 p.m.



**073/22** Moved by R. Swap to direct the ASB and the Hemp Working Group and Administration to produce a written working agreement/contract with the University of Alberta and West-Central Forage Association for next year's research projects.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Saddle Hills County – Veterinarian Shortage Support Letter**

E. McAdam advised of contact made with the Saddle Hills County Agricultural Fieldman. They are working on a resolution and will provide more information as it becomes available and will provide it for our review to determine if we want to put our name on it.

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development has raised this issue at the Alberta Beef Conference, as well as the ASB Chairperson Town Hall meeting.

**074/22** Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the reports for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. Ekstrom called for a break at 1:16 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 1:23 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Agricultural Department Summer Plan 2022**

A. Kynoch reported on the summer plan pertaining to weed inspections, spraying, the Hawkweed program, the No Spray program the Pitch-In Program and Herbicide Rebates, as well as options for alternative weed control.

Members discussed documentation for the herbicide rebate program to include a map with the spray area, spray rate, what weed is targeted, and inspections by the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman. Members asked that when annual reporting is presented, to identify the number of acres sprayed, rather than number of landowners that participated.

**075/22** Moved by R. Swap to receive the report for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Resolution Report Card**

E. McAdam reviewed the resolutions, and the board discussed the responses, rating them as: accepted, accept in principle, unsatisfactory or incomplete.

R. Swap left the meeting at 1:37 p.m. and returned at 1:40 p.m.



- Resolution 1-22: Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways
  - Unsatisfactory – the province should be held to the same level of accountability as landowners.

A. Kynoch left the meeting at 1:39 p.m. and returned at 1:41 p.m.

N. Chambers left the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

A. Kynoch took over the minutes at 1:42 p.m.

- Resolution 2-22: Restoration of Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development Regional Network of Experts
  - Unsatisfactory – There is need to have someone that can provide the advice for the residents that have questions. The subject manager experts were a huge value to ASB and residents.
- Resolution 3-22: Celebrate Canada Agriculture Day in Alberta Schools (Feb 22, 2022)
  - Accepted – Understanding that they are reviewing the curriculum.
- Resolution 4-22: Properly Managing Ungulate Populations
  - Incomplete – There is a larger issue with ungulates and livestock disease transmission, i.e. Redwater.
- Resolution 5-22: Exemption of Natural Gas and Propane for Agriculture Under the *Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act*
  - Incomplete.
- Resolution 6-22: Amendments to the ASB Conference Resolution Rules of Procedure
  - Incomplete.

**076/22** Moved by J. Bundt to accept the resolutions report card.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



**Ground Beef Labeling**

A. Heinrich discussed that the ingredients will be listed on the front label of ground beef. The labels are listing the fat content which may deter people from purchasing.

**077/22** Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to write a letter to Health Canada that we object to the labelling of sodium,

sugar, and saturated fats on ground beef packaging and that we circulate to all ASB's to ask for support.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**CORRESPONDENCE  
/ ITEMS FOR  
DISCUSSION**

**2022 ASB Meeting Schedule**

No changes were required.

R. Swap mentioned the passing of Clayton Hines, a dedicated rodeo member.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**078/22** Moved by M. Mueller to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ASB CHAIRPERSON** FOIP: s.17 (4) (g)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**AG FIELDMAN** FOIP: s.17 (4) (g)