

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023.

CALL TO ORDER L. Seutter-Rosell, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT Liz Seutter-Rosell, Chairperson & Member at Large
Dallas Ekstrom, Vice-Chairperson & Councillor
Bart Guyon, Reeve
Anthony Heinrich, Councillor
Mike Mueller, Member at Large
Jeff Bundt, Member at Large
Lee Chambers, Director of Community Services
Amber Kynoch, Acting Agricultural Fieldman
Nancy Chambers, ALUS Coordinator / Recording Secretary

ABSENT none

GUESTS Bert Ciesielski, Agricultural Technician

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Additions/Deletions and Adoption of Agenda

027/23 Moved by D. Ekstrom to adopt the agenda with the following changes:

- Add 7d) AG-3 Herbicide Rebate Program Policy – Administration
- Add 8b) Violet Grove Floating Wetlands Video – B. Guyon
- Add 9b) Saddle Hills County Letter: Drone Usage in Wildlife Damage Claims - Administration

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Minutes

028/23 Moved by A. Heinrich to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of February 15, 2023, as amended:

- Page 3 – name change to John Knapp.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING none

STAFFING UPDATE Bert Ciesielski has been hired on a temporary term to manage the 2023 Mountain Pine Beetle program and assist with other Agricultural Services Department items as needed, until the end of July. He reviewed his history as a forester with the Government of Alberta after graduating from the



University of Alberta with a Forestry Degree. He reviewed the season's plan for Mountain Pine Beetle and noted he is also able to assist residents with forest health concerns.

029/23 Moved by B. Guyon to receive the report for information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGRICULTURE REPORTS

Agriculture Reports for February/March 2023

A. Kynoch provided a verbal review of the Acting Agricultural Fieldman report.

Member Reports

Councillor A. Heinrich reported on:

- Nothing to report.

Member at Large L. Seutter-Rosell reported on:

- Attended the Advancing Women in Agriculture Conference in Calgary. The focus was on women entrepreneurs, as well as smaller and startup businesses.
- Round table with Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to discuss the agricultural labour shortage.
- It was suggested to get the message out in the community to draw attention to this event in the future.

Reeve B. Guyon reported on:

- Attended the RMA Conference.
- Had opportunity to discuss the arbitration precedent.
- The Alberta Premier spoke on the solar footprint on farmland.

Councillor D. Ekstrom reported on:

- Attended the RMA Conference and participated in the Service Delivery course for elected officials.
- RMA is supportive in championing and advocating rural issues.
- 69 municipalities brought forward 19 resolutions, with 18 being carried.
- Brazeau County had one resolution regarding the bail system.
- 22 out of the 24 Cabinet Ministers were in attendance and available for the question-and-answer period.

Member at Large M. Mueller reported on:

- Received an invitation to participate in a phone conference with the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Service.
- Attended the Warburg Seed Cleaning Plant Open House.



- Attended the Surface Rights group meeting – RStar program history and present.
- Article – Imperial Oil renewable diesel plant approval
- Article – Wild Hogs – damage costing farmers. Alberta Agriculture now has a full time Hog Specialist.
- Article – Plant pathologist from Edmonton – weeds being spread by oil patch and farming activities.

Member at Large J. Bundt reported on:

- Nothing to report.

Stan Ross from Recover Energy will be speaking at the Pembina Area Synergy meeting.

Members discussed funding available for farmers and how to get the information out to residents.

030/23 Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the reports for information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OLD BUSINESS

Agricultural Society Co-Host Event

Members discussed the mental health aspect being included in the proposed workshops and would like to see a similar event as the one hosted by the Breton Ag Society a few years ago. Grant writing, succession planning, agricultural will writing and Environmental Farm Plan are another areas of interest.

DELEGATIONS

Public Input Session

L. Seutter-Rosell opened the Public Input Session at 2:01 p.m.
 No members of the public were in attendance or online that wished to speak.
 L. Seutter-Rosell closed the Public Input Session at 2:02 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Agricultural Society Co-Host Event - Continued

Conversations with the Drayton Valley and District Ag Society indicated they would like to focus on plant ID and weed control options. A previous motion directed Administration to pursue a June workshop for mental health, so Administration will continue to work with the Breton Ag Society.

Brazeau County Weed Control Plan

A. Kynoch provided information on a tentative weed control plan for summer operations. Administration will inquire with the Public Works Department if empty herbicide jugs can be taken to the County's Household Hazardous Waste Roundup event. The herbicide jug collection sites at the County waste transfer stations will no longer be offered due to the conclusion of the



program by CleanFarms. Members asked about the Board's involvement in reviewing contracts with the Town of Drayton Valley and the Village of Breton for weed inspection services prior to endorsement.

It was clarified that the herbicide rebate program is for control of the specific weed species as listed on the application form.

Members asked about cost-sharing with power companies for brush spraying. The fence line brush spraying program was discontinued in 2020 due to budget cuts. Discussion turned to the possibility of Council re-visiting the fence line brush spraying program.

Members discussed perpetual weed report properties and how to ensure weed control work is being completed. Discussion continued regarding issuances of weed reports and weed notices.

Farming Resources

A. Kynoch displayed the list resources for residents that are provided on the County website.

AG-3 Herbicide Rebate Program Policy

Administration provided the draft revision to the AG-3 Herbicide Rebate Program Policy based on the October, 2022 ASB motion. Members offered further clarification.

031/23 Moved by J. Bundt to amend item 2j) to read "Each participant may claim 50% of their chemical cost up to a maximum of \$5000 in accordance with the current rebate set by Council annually."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Farm Crop Insurance Cost Increase

Members discussed concerns regarding the Alberta crop insurance premium hikes. One suggestion was to have Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) out to explain the program and how it works when changes are seen. Tutorial videos are available on the AFSC website.

032/23 Moved by D. Ekstrom to direct Administration to draft a letter for the ASB Chairperson's signature to express concerns over crop insurance premium hikes and bring the letter back for review by the ASB via email.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



It was noted the letter should be sent to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and cc the MLA.

Violet Grove Floating Wetlands Video

Brazeau County received a Municipal Excellence Award for the Constructed Floating Wetlands project and the video highlighting the program was shown to the Board.

A. Heinrich left the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

033/23 Moved by D. Ekstrom to adopt 7a) Agricultural Society Co-host Event, b) Brazeau County Weed Control Plan, c) Farming Resources – Verbal & d) AG-3 Herbicide Rebate Program Policy – Administration for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A. Heinrich returned to the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

034/23 Moved by J. Bundt to receive the video for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/ ITEMS FOR
DISCUSSION**

2023 ASB Meeting Schedule

No changes were required.

Saddle Hills County – Drone Usage in Wildlife Damage Claims

Members discussed the use of drones in agricultural operations and the possibility of having an operator provide an information session.

035/23 Moved by D. Ekstrom to receive the letter for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

036/23 Moved by B. Guyon to adjourn the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY


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


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

