

**MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD AT THE BRAZEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, EOC MEETING ROOM, IN DRAYTON VALLEY, ALBERTA ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 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  
Mike Mueller, Member at Large  
Lee Chambers, Director of Community Services  
Amber Kynoch, Acting Agricultural Fieldman  
Nancy Chambers, ALUS Coordinator / Recording Secretary

**ABSENT** Anthony Heinrich, Councillor  
Jeff Bundt, Member at Large

**GUESTS** none

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Additions/Deletions and Adoption of Agenda**

**037/23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to adopt the agenda with the following changes:

- Add 6d) University of Alberta: Breton Plots and West-Central Forage Association Research Plot Signs – Administration

A. Heinrich entered the meeting at 1:04 pm

- Add 8c) Expense Claim Forms - Administration
- Add 7d) Ag Society Inquiries – M. Mueller
- Add 7e) Research Lab Tour – B. Guyon

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Adoption of Minutes**

**038/23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to adopt the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting of March 23, 2023, as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**BUSINESS ARISING** Members asked about progress on setting up seminars.

**039/23** Moved by B. Guyon to develop a Follow Up Action List for ASB.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## AGRICULTURE REPORTS

### Agriculture Reports for March/April 2023

A. Kynoch provided a verbal review of the Acting Agricultural Fieldman report. Administration, along with Councillors Heinrich and Ekstrom attended the virtual Town Hall meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), John Conrad. Members discussed the use of residual Herbicide, as well as spraying for brush control vs weed control.

**040/23** Moved by B. Guyon to direct Administration to look at using a more than 1 year residual for brush control.

A. Heinrich offered a friendly amendment to start using brush control spray as soon as possible. B. Guyon accepted the friendly amendment.

### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Members asked about the value of the ASB grant.

### Member Reports

Councillor A. Heinrich reported on:

- ADM Town Hall meeting, wild boar program success.
- Concern about good agricultural land being used for wind farms. The current authority is Provincial, not municipal.
- Asked about seed sample germinations. Administration advised the few that have come in have been high at 80-90%.

Member at Large M. Mueller reported on:

- Wild boar article – Clearwater County was asked to ban wild boars, as Mountain View County has done. Clearwater County declined and they advised they have processes in place to trap.
- Union Forage is hosting a webinar, along with Foothills Forage Association, on the Pros and Cons of Cover Crops on May 9. Registration details are on the Foothills Forage Association website.
- West-Central Forage Association (WCFA) AGM on April 27 at Sangudo Community Hall.
- Alberta Energy Regulator nomination period for old wells for closure is now open.
- Discussed the 2006 weed control brochure by County of Barrhead.

Members commented on oil companies in head offices receiving weed reports, rather than local field offices. This sometimes delays action. Administration advised the weed reports are now hand-delivered to the local offices. Members asked if landowners could receive confirmation that oil companies have received weed reports.

Councillor D. Ekstrom reported on:

- ADM Town Hall meeting – discussion topics included ASB grant restoration funding, Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP), Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP), Avian Influenza, wild boar, and solar farms. Suggested to advocate for support of the eradication of wild boar, similar to what is being done in Alberta for rats.
- Federal funding announcement for foot and mouth disease vaccine.
- Management Alternatives for Soil Health (MASH) seminar on soil health through WCFA in Nisku.
- Germination tests of last season’s cereal crops oats and barley came back at 90%+.

B. Guyon commented on the focus on soil health rather than fertilizer and commented that a soil lab in the County could help both farmers and oil companies as well.

Member at Large L. Seutter-Rosell reported on:

- High 80%’s for oats germination.
- Suggested to plan a meeting specifically for proposed 2023 resolutions.

Reeve B. Guyon reported on:

- Violet Grove Lagoon award for Municipal Excellence. Proposal talks are underway for a third stage of the lagoon, looking at using agricultural practices to solve wastewater issues.

**041/23** Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the reports for information.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## DELEGATIONS

### Public Input Session

L. Seutter-Rosell opened the Public Input Session at 2:03 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 2:04 p.m.

L. Seutter-Rosell called for a break at 2:04 pm and the meeting resumed at 2:09 p.m.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Town of Drayton Valley and Village of Breton Weed Inspection Services Contracts

Members discussed the proposed changes, including the daily rate and the service provided.

**042/23** Moved by B. Guyon to adjust the Weed Inspection Services rate to \$350 per day starting April 1, 2023.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**043/23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to adjust Section 2.3 to remove the words "to choose".

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The proposed rate changes will be presented to Council for final approval. The ASB suggested changes apply to both the Town of Drayton Valley and the Village of Breton contracts. The ASB-created weed matrix does not get applied to the Town of Drayton Valley or the Village of Breton inspections.

Members discussed imagery on the County web map.

**ASB Requested Rental Legal Review**

Members discussed the legal review of the existing rental contract. An in/out checklist for rental equipment was discussed.

**044/23** Moved by A. Heinrich to receive the Legal Review of the Rental Equipment Contract for information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Breton Agricultural Society Event Update**

A. Kynoch attended the Breton Ag Society meeting to discuss the possibility of co-hosting a mental health event. It was suggested by the Breton Ag Society to work with the Breton Museum, as they are also planning on hosting a similar event. It was suggested for both groups to then come back to the Ag Society with their plans. An August event is the target date. Members reiterated the target audience being Brazeau County producers.

**045/23** Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to follow up with Breton Ag Society and come back with the proposed August 19 details of the mental health workshop.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**University of Alberta: Breton Plots and West-Central Forage Association Research Plot Signs**

Members discussed the budget and process.

**046/23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to receive for information.

**IN FAVOUR:**

D. Ekstrom  
B. Guyon  
L. Seutter-Rosell

**OPPOSED:**

A. Heinrich  
M. Mueller

**CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Farming Resources: AgVisorPRO**

Members discussed the app which provides a platform for ag-related questions and answers.

**047/23** Moved by B. Guyon to direct Administration to bring back a demonstration on the app to the next meeting.

**IN FAVOUR:**

B. Guyon

**OPPOSED:**

L. Seutter-Rosell

D. Ekstrom

M. Mueller

A. Heinrich

**DEFEATED**

**University of Alberta: Research Plots**

Members discussed the Brazeau County funding allocated to the University of Alberta Research Plots for hemp research, as it is unlikely the Breton Plots will be able to obtain a hemp license this year. Members discussed using the funding allocation for possible research on alternative crops.

**048/23** Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to inform the University of Alberta Breton Plots that funding cannot be forwarded, and we will consider other options.

**IN FAVOUR:**

A. Heinrich

D. Ekstrom

L. Seutter- Rosell

B. Guyon

**OPPOSED:**

M. Mueller

**CARRIED**

**049/23** Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to check with the West-Central Forage Association on the status of their hemp plots for this year.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**University of Alberta: Plots Management Team**

Members discussed the membership on the Breton Plots Management Team

**050/23** Moved by A. Heinrich to authorize Administration to attend one meeting and report back to evaluate.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Members discussed ASB membership with the West-Central Forage Association.

**051/23** Moved by A. Heinrich to direct Administration to inquire with West-Central Forage Association about the ASB becoming a member and what direction is at our disposal considering the funding provided to them.

D. Ekstrom offered a friendly amendment to remove “considering the funding provided to them.” A. Heinrich did not accept.

**052/23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to amend motion 051/23 by removing “considering the funding provided to them.”.

**IN FAVOUR:**

D. Ekstrom  
L. Seutter-Rosell  
M. Mueller  
B. Guyon

**OPPOSED:**

A. Heinrich

**CARRIED**

Vote on amended motion:

**IN FAVOUR:**

A. Heinrich  
D. Ekstrom  
L. Seutter-Rosell  
B. Guyon

**OPPOSED:**

M. Mueller

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

L. Seutter-Rosell called for a break at 4:08 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 4:15 p.m.

**Ag Society Inquires**

M. Mueller asked about County funding given to the Ag Society for the Farmer’s Market. It was explained that Provincial funding is available to Ag Societies for specific projects. Council considers funding requests from societies on an individual basis, in accordance with the FIN-7 policy. L. Seutter-Rosell offered that the Ag Society is facilitating the small businesses through the Farmer’s Market and clarified that preference is given to local vendors.

**053/23** Moved by B. Guyon to receive for information.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Research Lab Tour**

B. Guyon discussed the plans for a tour to the soils lab in Oyen, as approved by Council. The tour will be available to representatives from Council, ASB and ALUS PAC.

**054/23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to receive for information.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**CORRESPONDENCE  
/ ITEMS FOR  
DISCUSSION**

**2022 Grasshopper Survey**

A map representing the grasshopper finds for 2022 was shown, with Brazeau County having a June/July 2023 risk rating of none (0-2/m<sup>2</sup>).

**055/23** Moved by B. Guyon to receive for information.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2023 ASB Meeting Schedule**

No changes were required.

**056/23** Moved by B. Guyon to approve the schedule as presented.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Expense Claim Forms**

Updated expense claim forms were provided to members at large.

**057/23** Moved by D. Ekstrom to receive for information.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**058/23** Moved by M. Mueller to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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**ASB CHAIRPERSON**

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**ACTING AG FIELDMAN**