



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

9:02 AM

Held Electronically in accordance with the Meeting Procedures (COVID-19 Suppression) Regulation,
Alberta Regulation 50/2020

Present: Chair G. Boehlke
Deputy Reeve K. McKylor (participated electronically)
Councillor S. Wright (participated electronically)
Leisa Gallelli (participated electronically)
Tricia Fehr (participated electronically)

Absent: Travis Eklund
Ludwig Reicheneder

Also Present: J. Fleischer, Manager Agriculture and Environment
Randy Smith, Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management
L. Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environment
Carmin Moore, Emergency Management Coordinator
Pauli Kruger, Community Resilience Coordinator
M. Mitton, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services

A Call Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. with all members present.

B Updates/Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Tricia Fehr that the March 31, 2021 Agricultural Services Board meeting agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

C-1 February 25, 2021 Agricultural Services Board Minutes

MOVED by Councillor Wright that the February 25, 2021 Agricultural Services Board meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Carried



D-1 All Divisions – Agricultural Fieldman Report

Jeff Fleischer, Agriculture and Environment Manager, reported on the following:

1. The Alberta Agriculture and Forestry ASB Program conducts field visits annually to ensure ASB Grant funding appropriately supports ASB Grant Program objectives. Information gathered from the field provides evidence to the Office of the Auditor General on the effective and efficient use of ASB Grant dollars to support programs related to the ASB Act and environmental extension and awareness. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry visited 15 municipalities in 2020 under the field visit program. Five municipalities from the South, three from Central, two from Northwest, one from Northeast, and three from the Peace region. Rocky View County's field visit was completed on September 10, 2020 and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry identified five recommendations for change in the attached report. Administration is currently working to address the issues identified.
2. Rocky View County's Resource Management funding stream grant application was approved on Thursday, March 12, 2021 for the full five-year term. Rocky View County will receive \$75,000 per year from 2020 to 2024 to assist with environmental programming.
3. The Provincial ASB Committee has been updating their website with the resolution responses and other relevant ASB information. If you are interested in staying up to date with the Provincial ASB Committee, you can sign up to receive notifications for new items posted on the website. <https://agriculturalserviceboards.com>
4. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is revitalizing the Key Contact program. The Key Contact program began in 2009. The program started as a way to facilitate better communication between ASB's and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry around programs and policies in the Ministry. The new Key Contact program under development by the Ministry will have fewer staff but those involved will be fully dedicated to the program through virtual tools.
5. Red Deer County ASB recently wrote a letter to the Provincial ASB Committee expressing their concerns with the Provincial Conference held virtually on January 21, 2021. Their letter is attached for your review.
6. Delivery of the 2% liquid strychnine (2% LSC) has commenced and inventory is limited due to manufacturing delays caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Health Canada has cancelled the registration and Administration is currently rationing product to farmers and ranchers to ensure everyone interested receives some to deal with their Richardson ground squirrel problems.
7. The importation of topsoil to agricultural land from development projects has been an on-going concern in Rocky View County for several years. At the February 24, 2021 Municipal Planning Commission meeting, a motion was passed "The Municipal Planning Commission recommends to Council to direct Administration to create a detailed policy / servicing standard related to soil transfer." Administration is currently drafting a policy to outline the soil testing and minimum quality requirements for topsoil to be imported for agricultural purposes.

MOVED by Leisa Gallelli that the Agricultural Fieldman Report be received as information.

Carried



E-1 All Divisions - Livestock Emergency Preparedness Plan

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer reported on the following:

In 2017, Rocky View County Agricultural Services in partnership with Wheatland County, and in conjunction with RVC Emergency Management Agency, embarked on creating a Livestock Emergency Preparedness Plan to address the gap of livestock response and rescue within the County. Rocky View County estimates to have 166,269 cattle and calves, 7865 sheep and has livestock production of beef, dairy, horse (pony), hogs and poultry. In 2018, Council approved the purchase of a livestock emergency response trailer to support the Livestock Emergency Response Planning efforts.

MOVED by Councillor Wright that the Livestock Emergency Preparedness Plan Report be received as information.

Carried

The Chair called for a recess at 9:38 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 9:46 a.m. with all previously mentioned members present.

E-2 All Divisions - Rocky View County Community Resilience Framework

Jeff Fleischer, Agriculture and Environment Manager and Randy Smith, Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management reported on the following:

In 2019, Rocky View County received funding from the Canadian Red Cross to implement a Regional Resilience Plan. Stemming from the stakeholder meetings that were held in 2019, RVC Emergency Management developed a Community Resilience Plan and as part of the process, five working groups were identified to support the County with this ongoing framework. One of the working groups is the Environment and Agriculture Resilience Working Group, which will examine through planning and best practices the mitigation, response and recovery actions to restore natural and cultural resources post disaster.

MOVED by Tricia Fehr that the Rocky View County Community Resilience Framework Report be received as information.

Carried

E-3 All Divisions - Upcoming Events

Jeff Fleischer, Agriculture and Environment Manager, reported on the following:

1. National Animal Welfare Conference. April 6th-8th, 2021. An annual professional development and community-building event organized by Humane Canada, the federation of humane societies and SPCAs." Keynote speakers: Dr. Jane Goodall, Hon. Murray Sinclair. More information about the event and registration available [here](#).
2. Alberta Oat Growers Commission and AGM. April 8th, 2021. Due to Covid-19, the AGM will be held virtually via Zoom. Join the meeting for the AGM and a presentation on the oat market outlook. More information on the event and registration available [here](#).



3. Olds College's A Celebration of Alberta Ag. April 9th, 2021. A free two-hour live streamed event in celebration of Alberta's agriculture industry and the important role that it plays in our world. Streamed live from Olds College campus, the evening's program will include an appearance by Alberta born country music star — Corb Lund, as well as showcasing our hands-on program offering and student experience, celebrate our industry partners, and as always, help to bring awareness and raise funds for student bursaries. More information about the event and registration available [here](#).
4. Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef semi-annual meeting. April 20th, 2021. Featuring updates from all of our beef sustainability work-streams, including national beef sustainability assessment and strategy, communications and marketing and the Certified Sustainable Beef Framework. We will also be launching the second phase of the Canadian beef industry's long-term 2030 goals. More information about the event and registration available [here](#).
5. Canada's Farm Show. June 15th-June 17th, 2021. A three-day business-to business show that is the only place to see it all. From education in the latest agricultural technology to networking and business development opportunities, this is truly the place to be for agricultural producers, manufacturers and suppliers to receive the tools, experiences and connections to get ahead and go beyond. More information about the event and registration available [here](#).
6. Sheep 101-Join Niki Schieck of Schieck Livestock and Providence Lane Homestead for a practical, hands-on workshop covering a range of topics in the Canadian sheep industry. We will discuss feed and infrastructure requirements, best practices, finding a mentor, assessing health and conformation, breed selection among much else. The workshop is geared for those who are new to sheep or looking to get into the industry but all are welcome. Early bird pricing in effect until March 19. COVID protocols apply. Contact providencelanehomestead@gmail.com for more information and to book your spot.
7. Upcoming Rocky View County Agricultural Services Workshop Series:
 - Tree Pests - April 14, 2021
 - Green Acreages - April 20, 2021
 - Native Bees - April 28, 2021

MOVED by Deputy Reeve McKylor that the Upcoming Events Report be received as information.
Carried

F-1 Farm Member Reports (Verbal)

Tricia Fehr

- Grain prices are still strong
- Pretty dry, the bad weather brought a bit of moisture which was a relief
- Pollen patties put out so the hives can grow for the bees to feed on the dandelions
- Still in calving season



Leisa Gallelli

- Calving continues
- Gophers up and about
- 2020 was the last year farmers could apply for carbon credits, the government has taken them away for 2021 and they are waiting on new program
- BSA results are taking about 2 weeks to get back

G Next Meeting

May 19, 2021

H Adjourn the Meeting

MOVED by Deputy Reeve McKylor that the March 31, 2021 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Carried

Chair or Vice Chair

Chief Administrative Officer or Designate