



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 25, 2021
9:00 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)
Leisa Gallelli (participated electronically)
Ludwig Reicheneder (participated electronically)
Travis Eklund (participated electronically, arrived at 9:03)
Tricia Fehr (participated electronically)

Absent: Councillor S. Wright (participated electronically)

Also Present: J. Fleischer, Manager Agriculture and Environment
S. Hulsman, Manager Transportation Services
A. Stewart, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environment
L. Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environment
M. Chilakos, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environment
M. Mitton, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services

A Call Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with all members present.

B Updates/Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Deputy Reeve McKylor that the February 25, 2021 Agricultural Services Board meeting agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

C-1 November 25, 2020 Agricultural Services Board Minutes

MOVED by Ludwig Reicheneder that the November 25, 2020 Agricultural Services Board meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Carried



D-1 All Divisions – Agricultural Fieldman Report

The Chair called for a recess at 9:09 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 9:15 a.m. with all previously mentioned members present.

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

1. This will be the final season that 2% liquid strychnine (2% LSC) is available for farmers and ranchers. Health Canada has cancelled the registration of 2% LSC to control Richardson's Ground Squirrels. The product will be phased out: final production of 2% LSC will end March 4, 2021 and the product will be fully banned from use on March 4, 2023. Production of the 2% LSC has been delayed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and administration has a limited supply available to farmers and ranchers.
2. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has compiled all of the data from our crop insect surveys for 2020 and the final report is attached. Wheat stem sawfly, wheat midge, bertha armyworm, cabbage seedpod weevil and pea leaf weevil numbers remain low in Rocky View County.
3. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has suspended the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Environmental Stewardship Producer Program effective January 8, 2021. The program will not be accepting new applications but any application received before the deadline will be kept in a queue until further notice.
4. Administration is researching alternative options for the 2021 Agricultural Tour and Master Farm Family Award. The tour was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it is uncertain if gatherings will be permitted for this year's tour, which usually takes place in July. Administration is looking into options such as a virtual tour or video demonstrations to show case some of Rocky View County's agricultural producers and businesses.
5. In May 2021, Canadian farm operators will have the opportunity to take part in a national dialogue by completing the Census of Agriculture questionnaire. The Census of Agriculture is a source of community-level data on agriculture. By drawing on these data, decision makers will act in the interest of farm operators, farm communities and agricultural sectors across Canada. Farm organizations are heavy users of census data and draw on this information to formulate policy recommendations, produce communications and outreach activities, and conduct market research. Canadian farm operators will receive a letter in May 2021 with instructions on how to complete the census questionnaire online quickly and easily. The online questionnaire will be efficient for farm operators in a number of ways. It will automatically add totals and will only ask the questions that apply specifically to the operator's farm. This will reduce Statistics Canada's need to call farm operators to clarify their answers. Lastly, high-quality alternative sources of data will be used wherever possible to reduce response burden.
6. At the October 22, 2020 ASB meeting, there were some questions regarding the County's snow fence placement and removal program. Agricultural and Environmental Services has contacted Transportation Services and they will provide the ASB with an overview of the program.

MOVED by Ludwig Reicheneder that the Agricultural Fieldman Report be received as information.

Carried



MOTION ARISING

MOVED by Tricia Fehr that the Agriculture Services Board direct Administration to hold the annual Ag Tour virtually in 2021.

Carried

F-1 All Divisions - Agricultural and Environmental Services 2020 Annual Report

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

The Rocky View County's Agricultural Service Board was the first ASB established in the province in 1945 under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*. Under current legislation, administration of several provincial acts is delegated to rural municipalities, with some compensation provided if the following duties are undertaken by the ASB:

- to act as an advisory body and to assist the council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern
- to advise on and to help organize and direct weed & pest control and soil & water conservation programs
- to assist in the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*
- to promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture, and
- to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.

A three-year ASB Strategic Plan (and detailed action plan) is required to identify how the ASB and Agricultural Services staff intend to implement agricultural programs to fulfill these duties. Based on evaluation of these plans and the outcomes, and on Council's annual approval, grants are allocated to the County.

Travis Eklund left the meeting at 10:14 a.m. and returned to the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

The Chair called for a recess at 10:20 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:31 a.m.

MOVED by Travis Eklund that the Agricultural Service Board Annual Report be received as information.

Carried

F-2 All Divisions - Agricultural Pests & Nuisances Procedure

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

The Agricultural Pests Act enables the Minister's authority to declare an animal, bird, insect, plant, or disease as a pest or nuisance if it is destroying, harming, or is likely to destroy or harm any land, livestock, or property in all or part of Alberta. The legislation enables inspectors and local authorities to deal with native and introduced pests and nuisances which impact agricultural production.

Policy 502 was adopted on June 19, 2019 and Procedure 502 outlines how administration will perform the tasks associated with the policy.

MOVED by Ludwig Reicheneder that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Agricultural Pests & Nuisance Procedure, Procedure 502, as amended.

Carried



F-2 All Divisions - Upcoming Events

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

1. Exploring Riparian Stewardship and Regulations. February 25, March 3, 11 & 18, 2021. Ever start planning a project in a riparian area, but didn't know which regulations apply, or if you need a permit? You're not alone! Join Cows and Fish, the Environmental Law Centre and invited speakers on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:30PM, and Thursdays from 7:00-8:30PM in February and March for a series of webinars, outlining common improvement projects done in riparian areas, and the regulations that may apply. The Environmental Law Centre will provide some background information, and guest speakers will outline their on-the-ground experience, with time for questions from the audience. More information on topics and registration available [here](#).
2. Alberta Nutrient Management Seminar Series. March 1, 2021. Topics covered will include Feedlot manure composting; Enhancement of manure composting by biochar; Phosphorus filter and Agriculture Financial Services Corporation. With the payment of the registration fee, you are granted access to all of the presentations, which you may view as many times as you wish until January 1, 2022. More information and registration available [here](#).
3. 2021 Virtual Farm to Market to Table Conference. March 4 & 5, 2021. Join Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association for a conference designed for growers, livestock producers, small-scale food processors and agricultural and community leaders. Network, acquire new industry contacts, gain new skills, and come away inspired to strengthen Alberta's local food sector. More information and registration available [here](#).
4. Environmental Farm Plan Virtual Workshop. March 9, 2021. Open to anyone in Alberta. EFP technicians will walk you through getting started on your workbook during this free virtual workshop. Ask questions and get answers in real time, from the comfort of your home. More information and registration available [here](#).
5. AgSafe Alberta Speaker Series: Getting Started Webinar. March 23, 2021. Join the AgSafe Alberta team for a one-of-a kind webinar on how to build your safety plan. More information and registration available [here](#).
6. Foothills Forage & Grazing Association Annual General Meeting. March 23, 2021. The FFGA Board of Directors invite you to attend the 2021 Virtual Annual General Meeting. The agenda will include a keynote address on "Grazing Ruminants: a resilient solution to long term agriculture profitability, productivity, and climate change" with the business meeting to follow. More information and registration available [here](#).
7. Alberta Lamb Producers 2021 Producer Education. March 24th, 2021. This new webinar series will be hosted on the ZOOM platform and will be free of charge for Alberta eligible Producers to register for and attend. More information and registration available [here](#).



8. Upcoming Rocky View County Agricultural Services Workshop Series:

- Vegetable Gardening - February 23 & 25, 2021
- Beekeeping 101 - March 3, 2021
- Farm Business Succession Planning - March 4, 2021
- Ag Mental Health – Talk, Act, Listen - March 16 & 18, 2021
- Tree Pruning - March 17, 2021

Tree Pests - April 14, 2021

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

G-1 Farm Member Reports (Verbal)

Tricia Fehr

- Grain prices exceptional right now, canola sold for \$18.50 a bushel for July
- Calving is either well underway or ranchers are waiting to start.
- Beekeepers are starting to order bees for the years
- Chicks for the spring ordering
- Ordering garden seeds, there is talk about shortages, or limitations on ordering

Leisa Gallelli

- those canola prices. Canola is overpriced compared to soybeans so the record highs will probably not remain for long but definitely some great market opportunity right now. Moisture wise our area is good with significant hard packed snow in all low areas which should fill up any dugouts come spring. Hay supplies are also good at this time. As an aside - on line sign up yesterday for COVID vaccinations for our seniors

Ludwig Reicheneder

- Along the lines of Leisa's report
- Volatility in the Canadian dollar

Travis Eklund

- Cow prices recovered nicely and have come up
- Learned about shrub called Winter Fat, native rangeland shrub, native to North America but new to this area has a quite high feed quality
- Producers to the west and the County of Bighorn concerned about Pieridae, they have bought all of the Shell assets for Waterton, Jumping Pound and Caroline, including gas plants and wells; Shell current still holds the licenses for these assets. There is a landowner group trying to block the transfer of the licenses from Shell to Pieridae. Whomever hold the licenses is responsibility for environmental and reclamation, including orphan wells. Producers are worried that Pieridae does not have the resources to clean up the wells, all of which are very sour gas wells.

H Next Meeting

March 31, 2021



I Adjourn the Meeting

MOVED by Ludwig Reicheneder that the February 25, 2021 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Carried

Chair or Vice Chair

Chief Administrative Officer or Designate