

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Page 1

A regular meeting of the Agricultural Service Board of Rocky View County was held in the Council Chambers at County Hall, 262075 Rocky View Point, Rocky View County, Alberta on November 25, 2020 commencing at 9:12 a.m.

Present:	Greg Boehlke	Division 6 Councillor (Chair)
	Kim McKylor	Division 2 Councillor (participated electronically)
	Samanntha Wright	Division 8 Councillor (participated electronically)
	Leisa Gallelli	Farm Member
	Ludwig Reicheneder	Farm Member (arrived at 9:13) (participated electronically)
	Travis Eklund	Farm Member (Vice Chair) (participated electronically)
	Tricia Fehr	Farm Member
Also Present:	Jeff Fleischer	Manager, Agriculture and Environment
	Jennifer Koole	Lead Solid Waste Advisor
	Mason Austen	Solid Waste and Recycling Advisor
	Michelle Mitton	Legislative Coordinator

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. with all members present, with the exception of Ludwig Reicheneder who arrived at 9:13 a.m.

2020-11-25-01

Updates/Acceptance of Agenda

MOVED by Travis Eklund that the November 25, 2020 Agricultural Service Board meeting agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

2020-11-25-02

Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Wright nominated Travis Eklund, Travis Eklund accepted the nomination.

Travis Eklund was named Vice Chair by acclamation.

2020-11-25-03

Appointment of ALUS Committee

MOVED by Councillor Wright that the entirety of the Agricultural Services Board be appointed to the ALUS Committee.

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Page 2

2020-11-25-04

Confirmation of Minutes

MOVED by Travis Eklund that the October 22, 2020 Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

2020-11-25-05 (B-1)

All Divisions – Agricultural Fieldman Report

File: N/A

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

1. Agricultural Service Boards are unique to North America. They are special committees appointed by the local municipal council to address agricultural concerns in their communities. Agricultural Service Boards play a critical role in assessing the needs and direction of the agriculture industry in the County, as well as identifying obstacles and working to resolve any problems that may arise. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has created a Fact Sheet and Orientation Manual for new Agricultural Service Board Members and it is attached in this report.
2. The new 5-year 2020-2024 ASB grant program agreements have been signed and the payment should be processed shortly. Funding for the Resource Management stream has been delayed and the final decision on this grant will be made by March 2021. The Rocky View County ASB received \$123,907.21 in support of our legislated activities, which is down 26% from the 2017-2019 grant.
3. The Agricultural and Environmental Services seasonal operations have concluded for the season.
 - Agricultural and Environmental Services hired a reduced seasonal crew for the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The seasonal Equipment Operators commenced on June 1, 2020 and the Crop and Weed Inspectors commenced on June 8, 2020.
 - We received 117 weed complaints and managed 414 weed cases in 2020. Overall, we achieved an 83% compliance rate on the weed inspection program.
 - Roadsides in Divisions 1, 4 and 9 were inspected and controlled for noxious weeds and encroaching vegetation on gravel roads.
 - The roadside mowing program was completed ahead of schedule. The operators completed one pass on all roads and a second pass in select areas of the County where required.
 - Three additional fields of clubroot were confirmed in 2020. Administration increased the number of canola fields surveyed by over 100 fields this season, in order to gain an accurate assessment of the clubroot area.
 - The full details of our operational programs will be summarized in the annual report that will be provided to the board in the spring of 2021.

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Page 3

Weed Inspection	
Number of County Owned Land Inspections	193
Number of CityView Weed Cases	426
Number of Letters Issued	261
Number of Notices Issued	15
Number of Landowner Meetings	356
Total Number of Inspections	1,003
Weed Control	
Roadside Weed Control	1,594 ha (3,939 acres)
Road Edge Vegetation Control	170 ha (420 ac)
County Land (MR) Weed Control	21 MR's – 9.1 ha (23 ac)
Crop Inspection/Agricultural Pests	
Number of Canola Fields in the County	578
Number of Canola Fields Inspected for Clubroot	578
Number of Confirmed Clubroot Cases	9
Number of Fields Inspected for Fusarium G.	7
Number of Blackleg Inspections	7
Number of Other Agricultural Insect Inspections	29
Roadside Mowing/County Land Mowing	
Roadside Ditch Mowing	8,569 Km
County Land (MR) Mowing	477 ac

4. Administration completed the annual seed cleaning plant inspection on October 26, 2020 and they received a final rating of 99.5%. K.I.B.A. Seed Cleaning Plant cleaned a total of 1,061,533 bushels and treated an additional 257,000 bushels of grain.
5. The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference is an annual conference that is typically held in January. The conference allows ASBs from across the Province to learn about new agricultural issues and discuss resolutions to improve the agricultural industry within Alberta. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 ASB Conference will be held virtually on January 21, 2021 and the agenda will be sent out, along with registration details as soon as it becomes available.

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

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Page 4

Carried

2020-11-25-07 (D-1)

All Divisions – Agricultural Service Board Strategic Plan

File: N/A

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

The Agricultural Service Board initiated strategic planning in 1996 to identify the vision, mission, goals, strategies and actions of the Board and staff. Strategic planning has served as the basis for securing provincial funding and for clear understanding of what the ASB and Agricultural Services staff undertake over a three-year period of time.

Requirements for the Agricultural Service Board Strategic Plan include setting goals and developing strategies to deliver agri-environmental extension programming as well as basic programs supported by the on-going ASB grant funding.

The ASB Strategic Plan supports the following strategic objectives from Council:

- Create a Culture of Customer Service
- Expand Community Service Delivery
- Embrace Partnerships
- Strengthen our Financial Resiliency
- Guide the County's Growth Pattern

MOVED by Tricia Fehr that Agricultural Service Board Strategic Plan be approved.

Carried

Absent: Samannatha Wright

Councillor Wright left the meeting at 9:41 a.m. and returned to the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Page 5

2020-11-25-08 (D-2)

All Divisions – Upcoming Events

File: N/A

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

1. Agriculture Update for Professionals: Online Seminar, Multiple Topics, November 26th. More information and registration available [here](#).
2. Alberta Canola Grower Virtual Engagement Meeting 2020. The Board of Directors decided to hold a single live, on-line event to provide Alberta Canola farmers with an update on our activities and finances. December 1, 2020. More information and registration available [here](#).
3. Reproductive Failure in the Beef Herd: Causes, Effects and When to Intervene.
The panel of veterinarians will share case studies of reproductive wrecks on beef operations and how these operations overcame and solved the problem. December 2, 2020. More information and registration available [here](#).
4. Farming Smarter Conference and Trade Show at the Lethbridge Exhibition Park, December 2-3rd in Lethbridge, AB. More information and registration available [here](#).
5. Alberta Beef Producers Producer Virtual Meeting. Producers need to register for these meetings and resolutions can be submitted to the ABP office. November 26 & December 2 or 3rd, 2020. More information and registration available [here](#).
2021 Provincial ASB Conference (Virtual) – January 21, 2021 – The finalized agenda will be sent out, along with registration details as soon as it becomes available.

MOVED by Leisa Gallelli that the Upcoming Events Report be received as information.

Carried

2020-11-25-09 (G-1)

Farm Member Reports

Travis Eklund reported on the following:

- Good winter, not a lot of snow, still grazing
- Cattle prices are pressed
- Wild (feral) dogs in the area chasing livestock and wildlife
- Gravel roads are extremely busy with new developments in Cochrane, may need signage, need to have a robust discussion about
- Cannot move cows or farming equipment down the road without taking a bypass due to traffic
- Worried that with the increase in the traffic the roads will be paved and it will continue to get worse

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Page 6

Tricia Fehr reported on the following:

- Has noticed issues with traffic in Crossfield, cannot move swather without using a busy road, the bridges are not wide enough to support the size of the machinery, typically the guardrail height is too high
- Grain prices are fairly strong, especially barley is quite high
- Honey prices are quite good, with people supporting local business

Leisa Gallelli reported on the following:

- Granted another week of time to harvest the hail damaged crops
- Have seen double the applications to request hunting on their lands

Ludwig Reicheneder reported on the following:

- The most effective tool, chropyrifos, to control wheat midge is in wheat varieties without the sm1 gene is most likely going to be de registered.
- Neonics are also under review.
- The second wave of covid presents volatility in agricultural markets.

MOVED by Councillor Wright that the Farm Member Reports be received as information.

Carried

The Chair called for a recess at 9:59 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:10 a.m. with all previously mentioned members present.

2020-11-25-06 (C-1)

All Divisions – 10:00 a.m. Appointment – Ag Recycling Roundups & Alberta Ag-Plastics Recycle It! – Program Updates

File: N/A

Presenter: Mason Austen, Solid Waste and Recycling Advisor

Rocky View County hosted 8 Ag Recycling Roundups in 2020, down from 9 in years prior. The events ran on Wednesdays from July 15th to September 2nd, 2020. Despite having less events, and the need to shift the dates of the events to respond to Covid-19, the 2020 roundups saw an attendance of 362, up from the previous high of 348 in 2018. Compared to previous trends, the 2020 events were used more for used oil and wire recycling and less utilized for grain bag and twine recycling. This could be due in part to the new provincial pilot program allowing for more convenient agriculture plastics recycling opportunities year round throughout the province.

Since 2019, the Irricana Transfer Site has been a host collection location in the three year Alberta Ag-Plastics Recycle It! pilot program. The pilot program is funded by the Alberta

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Page 7

Government, led by Alberta Plastics Recycling Group (APRG), and run by CleanFarms. Six new host sites were added in 2020 bringing the total to 26 across the province. Being a host site means getting compensated for the handling of the materials and receiving \$55/metric tonne for materials shipped for recycling. In the first year of the program Rocky View County has shipped 46 tonnes of material for processing with an expectation of shipping approximately 25 more. This is slightly higher than the 2019 total amount shipped (grain bags and twine).

MOVED by Councillor McKylor that the the Ag Recycling Roundups & Alberta Ag-Plastics Recycle It! Program Updates report be received as information.

Carried

Next Meeting Date

The next Agricultural Service Board meeting is February 3, 2021.

Adjournment

MOVED by Councillor McKylor that the November 25, 2020 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Carried

CHAIR

MUNICIPAL CLERK