



# ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

## AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 14, 2024

9:00 A.M.

Committee Room  
262075 Rocky View Point  
Rocky View County, AB T4A 0X2

Present: Councillor S. Wright  
Member T. Birchall  
Member T. Fehr  
Member L. Gallelli

Absent: Councillor G. Boehlke, Chair  
Member A. Bates, Vice-Chair  
Deputy Reeve D. Kochan

Also Present: K. Lines, Manager, Agriculture and Environmental Services  
T. Andreasen, Lead Legislative Officer, Legislative Services  
M. Chilakos, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environmental Services  
D. McNaughton, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environmental Services  
L. Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environmental Services  
A. Stewart, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environmental Services

### **A Call Meeting to Order**

As both the Chair and Vice-Chair were absent, the Agricultural Service Board chose an Acting Chair in accordance with section 13 of the *Procedure Bylaw*.

The Agricultural Service Board chose Member Gallelli as the Acting Chair by general consensus. Member Gallelli proceeded to preside over the meeting as the Acting Chair.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

### **B Updates/Approval of Agenda**

MOVED by Councillor Wright that the March 14, 2024 Agricultural Services Board meeting agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

### **C-1 January 18, 2024 Agricultural Services Board Meeting Minutes**

MOVED by Member Birchall that the January 18, 2024 Agricultural Services Board meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Carried



## D-1 Agricultural Fieldman Report

Kristyn Lines, Manager of Agricultural and Environmental Services, reported the following:

- 1) The Provincial ASB Committee has now posted the 2024 resolutions on their website <https://agriculturalserviceboards.com>. Ten resolutions were debated and passed at the ASB Provincial Conference. Letters will be delivered to the Federal and Provincial governments and their responses will be posted on the website as soon as they are received.
- 2) Agricultural & Environmental Services is actively recruiting and interviewing for our seasonal positions. We are currently recruiting Mower Operators, Sprayer Operators, Weed Inspectors a Crop Inspector and a Seasonal Administrative Clerk. The postings will remain open until suitable candidates have been found for all positions. The seasonal positions will start on May 13, 2024 with the exception of the mowers who will start on May 27, 2024.
- 3) Nominations are now open for the 2024 Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame. The award honours those who have significantly contributed to agriculture, the agri-food industry and rural life in Alberta. Every two years, Alberta's Agriculture Hall of Fame recognizes up to three individuals whose outstanding leadership, innovation and business practices have advanced Alberta's agriculture and food industry. Nomination forms and a list of past inductees are available on the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame webpage. Nominations close on May 3, 2024.
- 4) Registration is open for farms wanting to share their agriculture story with consumers during Alberta Open Farm Days. Farms wishing to participate have until April 30, 2024 to register. This year's event will run province wide the weekend of August 17 and 18, 2024. This is a collaborative, province wide, two-day event that gives Albertans an opportunity to experience the farm and understand where their food comes from. Farms can register online at <https://albertaopenfarmdays.ca/host-farms/>.
- 5) Based on the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC)'s inquiry, Alberta is working on five policy and regulatory changes to clarify the rules for renewable energy development:
  - a) Taking an agriculture first approach to protect prime agricultural land from development unless the proponent can demonstrate the ability for both crops and/or livestock to co-exist with the renewable generation project.
  - b) Standardizing developer responsibility for reclamation costs via bond or security.
  - c) Establishing 35 km buffer zones around protected areas and pristine viewsapes.
  - d) Conducting meaningful engagement on the possibility of renewable development on Crown lands.
  - e) Developing changes to Alberta's transmission regulation.

The intended outcome is to support continued responsible renewable energy development, while ensuring responsible land use, protecting the environment and Albertans' property rights, and providing long-term investor confidence.

MOVED by Member Fehr that the Agricultural Fieldman Report be received as information.

Carried



## D-2 Agricultural Fieldman Report

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, on behalf of Kellie Jackson, Agricultural Service Board Regional Liaison, reported the following:

### Drought

- Canada-Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance initiative was extended to 23 new areas that were not originally included in the eligibility requirements. Applications opened Jan 29<sup>th</sup> with a Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline.
- Alberta is currently in stage 4 of 5 in its water shortage management response plan with 51 water shortage advisories across the Province.
- The Drought Command Team is in negotiations with major water license holders to strike water-sharing agreements for the Red Deer River, Bow River, and Old Man River basins. Expect to have sharing agreements in place at the end of March.
- According to provincial statistics, agriculture and irrigation combined amount to 46.6 per cent of Alberta's water allocations, while oil and gas make up an even 10 per cent. Commercial and cooling accumulatively make up 23.4 per cent, while municipalities account for 12 per cent.

### Funding

- SCAP Water Program is open and accepting applications for on farm irrigation and on farm water supply stream projects. <https://www.alberta.ca/water-program>
- Alberta Innovates – Water Innovation Program, funds projects that lead to safe, secure drinking water; healthy aquatic ecosystems; and reliable water supplies for a sustainable economy. <https://albertainnovates.ca/funding/water-innovation-program/>
- RDAR will be delivering an OFCAF (on farm climate action fund) through 2025 and is accepting applications for 2024 <https://rdar.ca/funding-opportunities/ofcaf>

### Budget 2024

- Relatively stable for [AGI Budget 2024: a responsible plan for a growing province](#)
- ARA's are getting some capital funding; Ag Societies - \$ for infrastructure.

### AGI 2024-2027 Business Plan

- We now have a publicly reported measure in the AGI 2024-2027 business plan <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/64244985-f26d-437d-b600-e4cb84760264/resource/582cd928-166b-4ce6-889d-efcbd196430c/download/agriculture-and-irrigation-business-plan-2024-27.pdf>
- This measure was made possible by data collected through ASB grant annual reporting.



**2.b Performance Indicator: Number of surveillance and monitoring activities completed for crop-limiting diseases and pests**

Controlling diseases and pests lowers production risks, enhances yields, provides quality assurance and supports access to crop markets. This indicator tracks completed surveillance and monitoring activities that back market confidence in Alberta’s crop and forage production. This is a new metric.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Completed	16,047	18,113	16,612	16,609	16,234
Weed Surveillance and Monitoring Completed	39,061	57,614	52,417	47,930	75,731
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,108</b>	<b>75,727</b>	<b>69,029</b>	<b>64,539</b>	<b>91,965</b>

Weed Review

- Request is with the Minister’s office and is under review.
- Once we have approval we’ll proceed with the engagement – webinar and survey. Fieldmen/ASB’s will have additional questions based on their legislated role as the delegated authority for managing regulated weeds.

ASB/ADM Biannual Townhall

- Next townhall will be in early June, expect invitations to be sent out in April.

MOVED by Councillor Wright that the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Report be received as information.

Carried

**F-1 Appointment of Agricultural Fieldman**

Kristyn Lines, Manager of Agricultural and Environmental Services, reported the following:

- 1) The *Agricultural Service Board Act* directs Councils and Agricultural Service Boards to appoint an Agricultural Fieldman. As well, the appointment of the Agricultural Fieldman is defined in the Rocky View County Delegation Order as follows:

Section 2.1 (a) states that the Agricultural Fieldman is to be appointed by the Municipality as a designated officer, as defined in the MGA, to carry out the duties and responsibilities of “Agricultural Fieldman’ under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.

- 2) Rocky View County’s Agricultural Service Board was established in 1945 and a fieldman was appointed at that time. Since then, the fieldman and all supporting staff have worked to implement agricultural policies and programs within the County.

MOVED by Member Fehr that the Agricultural Service Board recommends to Council that Kristyn Lines be appointed as the Agricultural Fieldman.

Carried



**F-2 Master Farm Family Award**

Kristyn Lines, Manager of Agricultural and Environmental Services, reported the following:

- 1) The Master Farm Family Award has been presented annually since 1989. It recognizes Rocky View County farm families who show excellence in the areas of community involvement, agriculture business & industry involvement, team farm management and technical farm practices.
- 2) Administration reviews nominees annually and recommends their selection to the Agricultural Service Board. When multiple farm families are nominated in one year, they are carried forward to the following year for consideration again.

MOVED by Member Birchall that the Agricultural Service Board selects the farm family recommended by Administration, with the announcement of the recipient at the annual agricultural tour on July 25th, 2024.

Carried

**F-3 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report**

Kristyn Lines, Manager of Agricultural and Environmental Services, Matthew Chilakos, Agricultural Services Officer, Delaney McNaughton, Agricultural Services Officer, Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, and Ashley Stewart, Agricultural Services Officer, reported the following:

- 1) The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is a Committee of Council created under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*. The Agricultural Service Board Annual Report identifies the activities and achievements of the ASB and Agricultural Services in 2023.
- 2) Agricultural and Environmental Services presents their annual report yearly to ensure that the Board and Administration are working towards or have achieved the goals outlined in the ASB strategic plan.

MOVED by Councillor Wright that the Agricultural Service Board Annual Report be received as information.

Carried

The Chair called for a recess at 10:27 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:35 a.m.

**F-4 Upcoming Events Report**

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, reported the following:

- 1) 2024 Environmental Stewardship Award (Alberta Beef Producers) nomination deadline is March 15, 2024.
- 2) Nominations for 2024 Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame deadline is May 3, 2024.
- 3) Kochia Lunch 'N' Learn webinar series
- 4) Advancing Women in Agriculture conference, Calgary March 17-19
- 5) Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) conference, Olds March 20-21



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- 6) Foothills Forage & Grazing Association AGM, High River March 21
- 7) AgriStability and AgriInvest Changes under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, virtual – March 27
- 8) Agricultural & Environmental Services workshop list

MOVED by Councillor Wright that the Upcoming Events Report be received as information.

Carried

### **G Farm Member Reports**

#### Member Fehr

- Recent moisture has made them happy. The banks of the Rosebud River have flooded and it even looks like the Bow River. The water table may be rising.
- There is a lot of water in certain areas that they have not seen before. Culverts that have not been used in years are now being used.
- Producers in their area have started to calve and many are done. Calf prices are pretty good this year, but grain prices are pretty low at the moment.

#### Member Birchall

- Producers are just getting started with calving. Livestock prices are high which is pleasing producers.
- Producers are talking about recent water runoff and what the spring rains will look like.

#### Member Gallelli

- There appears to be some water runoff which is a good sign. The media is full-fledged on drought being a major issue this year, but most producers are waiting to see what happens.
- Grain prices are low. It would be nice if they increased. Producers are just starting to calve in their area. There is an overabundance of coyotes and gophers are beginning to come out.

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

Carried

### **H Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Agricultural Service Board meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2024.



**I Adjourn the Meeting**

MOVED by Member Fehr that the March 14, 2024 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Carried

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Chair or Vice-Chair

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Chief Administrative Officer or designate