



AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 21, 2024
9:00 A.M.

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

Present: Councillor G. Boehlke, Chair
Member A. Bates, Vice-Chair
Deputy Reeve D. Kochan
Councillor S. Wright
Member T. Birchall
Member T. Ecklund
Member T. Fehr

Also Present: K. Lines, Manager, Agriculture and Environmental Services
L. Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environmental Services
M. Austen, A/Supervisor Waste and Recycling, Utility Services
C. Yee, Solid Waste and Recycling Advisor, Utility Services
E. Wintle, Waste and Recycling Assistant, Utility Services
K. Wrzosek, Legislative Officer, Legislative Services
M. Mitton, Legislative Officer, Legislative Services

A Call Meeting to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

B Updates/Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Member Fehr that the November 21, 2024 Agricultural Services Board meeting agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

C-1 April 25, 2024 Agricultural Services Board Meeting Minutes

MOVED by Member Birchall that the September 19, 2024 Agricultural Services Board meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Carried



E-1 Agricultural Fieldman Report

Kristyn Lines, Manager Agricultural & Environmental Services reported the following:

1. Agricultural Service Boards (ASB's) are unique to North America. They are special committees appointed by the local municipal council to address agricultural concerns in their communities. ASBs 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 Irrigation has created a Fact Sheet and Infographic for Agricultural Service Board Members, and it is attached in this report along with the ASB Orientation Manual.
2. One resolution was discussed and voted on at the Central Region ASB Conference on October 17, 2024. The resolutions passed and is attached for review.
 - a. 1-24 Rural Veterinary Student Support
3. John Conrad's - ADM Primary Agriculture ASB Town Hall meeting was held virtually on November 14th, 2024.
4. The 2025-2029 ASB Grant Program is open and accepting applications until January 31st, 2025. Administration is working on completing an application for the Legislative Funding Stream & the Resource Management Funding Stream.
5. The Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference is an annual conference 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. The 2025 ASB Conference is scheduled for January 20th – 23rd in Edmonton and the agenda will be sent out, along with registration details as soon as it becomes available.

MOVED by Member Bates that the Agricultural Fieldman report be received for information.

Carried

MOVED by Member Ecklund that the Agricultural Service Board prepare and submit a letter of response to the Senate of Canada regarding proposed changes to Bill C-293, the Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act.

Carried

D-1 Waste and Recycling – 2024 Ag Recycling Roundups

Presenters: Erin Wintle, Waste and Recycling Assistant, Utility Services
Mason Austen, A/Supervisor Waste and Recycling, Utility Services
Christian Yee, Solid Waste and Recycling Advisor, Utility Services

1. Empty pesticide containers were not collected at this year's events and are no longer accepted at County Transfer Sites as the national collection program of these materials is transitioning to retailer (point of purchase) collection.
2. The Springhill Chuck Wagon site expanded to a Transfer Site in Q3 2024, which not only creates a year-round collection site in the NW portion of the County, but it also allows for year-round collection in all four quadrants of the County.
3. With these changes, future years may see the number of Ag Roundup events decreased.



MOVED by Deputy Reeve Kochan that the 2024 Ag Recycling Roundups report be received for information.

Carried

E-2 Alberta Agricultural and Irrigation Report

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer reported the following, on behalf of Kellie Jackson, Program Assurance Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation:

1. **Weed Engagement:** The Weed Review Committee which consists of representatives from AGI, Regional AAAF membership, stakeholders from urban municipalities, industry and agriculture NGO's will begin the review of survey data in November. Regular updates will be provided to the AAAF and ASB's as the committee drafts recommendations for decision by the Minister.
2. **Weeds on Well sites:** Meetings with all parties are continuing with RMA launching a project to collect data from municipalities on this issue. AGI continues to work closely with MA on the MGA/WCA alignment and with AER to give field inspectors jurisdiction on private land.
3. **Launch of the 2025-2029 ASB Grant Cycle:** The 2025-2029 ASB grant program launches the week of November 4th with the deadline to submit completed applications by January 31st, 2025 through the ASB.Grant@gov.ab.ca email.
4. **Regional meetings:** All regional meetings were completed in October with 14 resolutions getting approved to go to the Provincial Conference in January 2025.
5. **STOPPED** – Dutch Elm Disease is regulated under the *Agricultural Pests Act* and the federal *Plant Protection Act*
 - On August 14, 2024, two American Elm tree samples from the City of Edmonton tested positive for Dutch Elm Disease (DED) through AGI's Alberta Plant Health Lab (APHL).
 - CFIA took the lead on this investigation and response. CFIA and AGI's Chief Plant Health Officer will continue to work collaboratively to address DED incidents.
 - The City of Edmonton has a DED plan in place to deal with contaminated trees and will remove/dispose of the trees immediately.
 - AGI's APHL will continue to conduct DED testing on Elm samples provided, including increased samples from the City of Edmonton if required.
 - AGI will continue to collaborate with both the City of Edmonton and CFIA as they work to remove the infected trees.
 - More trees have been tested positive for DED by the APHL after the August 14th conformation.
 - The CFIA/the City of Edmonton will make announcements on CFIA's confirmations (timing undetermined).
 - There is a ban in place on pruning elms each year between April 1 and September 30. Beetles are active during this time and are attracted to the scent of fresh tree cuts, possibly infecting a healthy tree.



MOVED by Councillor Wright that the Alberta Agricultural and Irrigation Report be received for information

Carried

E-3 Agricultural Service Board Terms of Reference

MOVED by Member Ecklund that the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council that the Agricultural Service Board Terms of Reference be approved, as amended in Attachment 'A'.

Carried

The Chair called for a recess at 10:32 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:40 a.m.

E-4 Upcoming Events Report

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, Agricultural & Environmental Services reported the following upcoming events:

1. Land Stewardship Model Channeling Investments for Regenerative Agriculture Advancements virtual event on [November 26](#)
2. Alberta Grains AGM, Banff, AB [November 27](#)
3. Prairie Cereals Summit, Banff, AB [November 27-29](#)
4. Data Literacy for Cow-Calf Producers, Red Deer [November 28](#)
5. Securing Success: Producer Opportunities Foothills Forage & Grazing Association, Claresholm [November 28](#)
6. Western Canadian Conference on Soil Health and Grazing, Edmonton [December 10-12](#)
7. Agronomy Update, online January 14 & 15, 2025 click for [Information and registration](#).
8. Provincial ASB Conference, Edmonton, AB January 20th to 23rd, 2025
9. CleanFarms The Great Twine Round-Up <https://cleanfarms.ca/great-twine-round-up/>
10. Agricultural & Environmental Services workshop list.

MOVED by Member Ecklund that the Upcoming Events Report be received as information.

Carried

E-5 Appointment of ALUS Committee

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Kochan that the entirety of the Agricultural Service Board be appointed to the ALUS Committee

Carried



G Farm Member Reports

Travis Ecklund

- The shortage of rural vets is an issue
- Development pressure in their area, received a letter from someone the other day about putting a battery storage facility (solar) by them, they were canvassing the area for responses
- There is increasing dust from the traffic going to and from Cochrane, it is turning the leaves grey
- Alta Link is going through with their project that is in the area, they have been good to deal with
- Cochrane developers are going after agriculture land because its them against one person rather than an area that is full of acreages; this exacerbates the problem of agricultural lands being taken out of production for development
- Great fall, the cow's still have a lot of grass in the pastures and there are plans on grazing them until January
- There was good moisture this past year in the area

Angie Bates:

- Looking for lots of snow, there is a need for moisture in the area
- The area does not have the same development pressure, but acreages are an issue in the area, they have livestock they don't think they have to retain
- Gopher populations are increasing, entire canola fields have been taken out
- Wells are drying out in the area, filters are covered in silt and have to be changed out more often, continually fighting the pressure of more acreages and the lack of water
- Operational challenges of increased development (acreages) has on farming ie lack of water

Tricia Fehr:

- Happy for some snow, the moisture is needed
- Busy fall, the warmer weather and lack of ground freeze allowed a lot of stuff to be done
- Record calf prices this fall, but buyers are getting nervous after the election south of the border
- Sitting on a water policy panel at the University of Calgary, will help bring concerns forward if anyone has any
- Grain prices are very low



ROCKY VIEW
COUNTY

Trevor Birchall:

- Everyone was able to replenish feed supply, cattle have been out grazing and can continue to do so provided there is not a ton of snow
- Record calf prices people are happy about that and red meat prices are higher as well
- This years hunting season hasn't been bad for trespassers or conflict
- Wells in the area have dropped, the number of new wells going in is definitely decreasing the water supply

H Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Agricultural Service Board meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2025.

I Adjourn the Meeting

MOVED by Member Birchall that the November 21, 2024 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned 11:07 a.m.

Carried

Chair or Vice-Chair

Chief Administrative Officer or designate