



**ROCKY VIEW
COUNTY**

AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 16, 2025
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. Fehr

Absent: Member T. Ecklund

Also Present: K. Lines, Manager, Agriculture and Environmental Services
L. Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, Agriculture and Environmental Services
M. Mitton, Legislative Officer, Legislative Services
M. Nakonechny, 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 Birchall that the January 16, 2025 Agricultural Services Board meeting agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

C-1 November 21, 2024 Agricultural Services Board Meeting Minutes

MOVED by Member Bates that the November 21, 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) The Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Conference is being held at the Delta Hotel Edmonton South Conference Centre in Edmonton, AB from January 20th – 22nd. 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 draft agenda is attached.
- 2) ADM John Conrad is hosting a Chairman meeting from 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm on January 20th at the conference, agenda attached. The event will be open to ASB Chairmen and Fieldmen.
- 3) Rocky View County received our 2024 results from the Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network and the final report is attached for review. Sampling is completed by the Plant and Bee Health Surveillance section of Alberta Agriculture in conjunction with County Staff. Surveys were conducted to monitor cabbage seedpod weevil, bertha armyworm, pea leaf weevil, wheat midge and wheat stem sawfly.
- 4) Rocky View County is currently in phase 2 of public engagement on a revised [Agriculture Master Plan](#). This updated draft plan aims to identify the needs and priorities of the agricultural community, establish goals for future growth and innovation, and provide a roadmap for achieving these objectives.

The County engaged with local farmers, agri-businesses, and residents to create a draft of the Agriculture Master Plan. During phase 1 of engagement, participants shared their views on the following:

- Protecting agricultural land
- Farm succession & flexible land use
- Sharing the priorities and contributions of agriculture
- Renewable energy & environmental sustainability
- Road infrastructure
- Legislated programs

Participation in phase 2 of public engagement includes a survey (linked below) <https://engage.rockyview.ca/agriculture-master-plan> and Community Conversations.

Community Conversation Dates:

- January 17th, 2025 at the Madden Community Hall from 11:30am – 1:30 pm
- January 27th, 2025 at the Indus Rec Centre from 11:30am – 1:30 pm
- January 30th, 2025 at the Jumping Pound Community Hall from 11:30am – 1:30 pm
- January 31st, 2025 at the Irricana Hall from 11:30am – 1:30 pm

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

Carried



E-3 Calgary Stampede BMO Farm Family Report

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

The Calgary Stampede has a long tradition of bringing people together to celebrate the successes and the unique spirit of the community. They strive to engage Albertans in the celebration of western heritage and values, as well as to showcase Alberta to the world.

It has been the Agricultural Services Board's practice to nominate one of Rocky View County's previous Master Farm Family Award winners in the chronological order that they were recognized by Rocky View County.

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Kochan that the Agricultural Service Board selects the Rocky View County Master Farm Family Award winner from 2024 be the 2025 Calgary Stampede BMO Farm Family Award nominee.

Carried

D-1 Foothills Forage & Grazing Association

Laura Gibney of the Foothills Forage & Grazing Association reported the following:

The Foothills Forage & Grazing Association is a producer driven group that has been a leader in delivering pertinent forage and livestock information to southern Alberta producers for 50 years. The organization brings producers together by offering practical, profitable, and regenerative strategies to land managers by hosting demonstration projects, events, workshops, field tours, webinars, and networking opportunities as well as information through monthly newsletter and social media.

FFGA is continually developing their program to address the current needs of producer members and to cover a diverse range of topics while maintaining a high level of producer engagement. County partners provide valuable insight into topics and areas of interest within their region.

MOVED by Member Fehr that the Foothills Forage & Grazing Association report be received for information.

Carried

The Chair called for a recess at 10:08 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:14 a.m.



D-2 Crop Market Outlook

Neil Blue, Provincial Crop Market Analyst from Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation reported the following:

Crop markets are influenced by a wide range of factors including an increasing level of uncertainty globally, driven by ongoing conflicts, political shifts, and the potential renegotiation of trade agreements. Additionally, U.S. ethanol and biofuel policies, along with fluctuations in currencies, further contribute to this instability. Furthermore, weather conditions continue to play a significant role in shaping market trends.

Neil Blue works within the Trade, Economics and Data Analytics Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation as the Provincial Crop Market Analyst. He will provide a presentation on Crop Market Updates with an overview of the market situation for major Alberta field crops and impact considerations of potential changes in U.S. policies.

MOVED by Councillor Wright that the Crop Market Outlook report be received for information.
Carried

E-2 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions

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

At the annual Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference resolutions are presented and voted on by Agricultural Service Boards. The resolutions that are passed at the conference are then sent to the appropriate Government and/or Non-Government agencies for review. After they have been reviewed, they are sent back to the Provincial ASB Committee for grading and further review by Municipal ASB's.

The 2025 Conference is being hosted by the Central Region Agricultural Service Boards and members of the Association of Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF). The resolutions passed at each regional conference and are attached for review.

Chair Boehlke left the meeting at 11:32 a.m. and returned at 11:34 a.m.

MOVED by Member Birchall that the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions report be received for information.

Carried

E-4 Upcoming Events Report

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

The events below are identified for the Board's information.

1. Connecting Women in Agriculture virtual series: Proactive Transition Planning: Empowering family, business, and legacy [January 21](#)



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

2. Sustaining Barley webinar series
 - Winter Cereals Potential: Bolstering sustainability with winter grains [March 12](#)
 - Alternative N: Sources to drive emission reductions [April 2](#)
3. Alberta Beef Producers Producer meetings [January 29](#) in Olds.
4. Beef Cattle Research Council Winter webinar series
 - Foot and Mouth Disease: The Inside Scoop for Veterinary Professionals - [February 12](#)
 - Parasite Management: The Ins and Outs of External and Internal Parasite Management - [March 19](#)
5. Ladies Livestock Lessons, Acme [January 17](#)
6. FCC Young Farmer Summit, Strathmore [January 22](#)
7. Alberta Canola Conference, AGM & Research Symposium, Red Deer [January 22-23](#)
8. Nutrient Management Webinar Series
 - Water Resilience: Drought Mitigation Strategies for Crops; Water Use Efficiency and Irrigation - [January 27](#)
 - Soil Health: Soil Amendments; Soil Health Indicators - [February 3](#)
 - Pasture Management: Bale Grazing; Regenerative Management - [February 10](#)
9. Control Strategies – Gopher, Ungulate & Predators, High River [January 30](#)
10. Agricultural & Environmental Services workshop list.

MOVED by Member Fehr that the Upcoming Events report be received for information.

Carried

F Farm Member Reports

Trevor Birchall:

- Winter has been good there is good feed inventory
- The snow has melted but there is a lot of ice
- Big question is what will happen with the tariffs with the new US Administration
- Auction prices for calves has been strong this month, there is speculation some producers may be moving cattle prior to the implementation of any tariffs

Angie Bates:

- There is still a lot of concern about tariffs related to grain with the new US Administration
- Harvested grain was dry going into the bins but there have been a lot of bugs found in the stored grain. Resulting in a lot of loads being turned away at the elevator.
- The lack of snow is leading to ongoing drought concerns going into the new growing season

Tricia Fehr:

- The warm weather is unusual but appreciated
- Some producers have started calving already



ROCKY VIEW
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H Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Agricultural Service Board meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2025.

I Adjourn the Meeting

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Kochan that the January 16, 2025 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned 11:46 a.m.

Carried

Chair or Vice-Chair

Chief Administrative Officer or
designate