



**AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 13, 2025

9:00 A.M.

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

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Present: Councillor G. Boehlke, Chair  
Deputy Reeve D. Kochan (arrived at 9:28 a.m.)  
Councillor S. Wright  
Member T. Birchall  
Member T. Eklund (participated electronically)  
Member T. Fehr

Absent: Member A. Bates, Vice-Chair

Also Present: K. Lines, Manager, Agricultural and Environmental Services  
M. Chilakos, Agricultural Services Officer, Agricultural and Environmental Services  
D. McNaughton, Agricultural Services Officer, Agricultural and Environmental Services  
L. Poile, Agricultural Services Officer, Agricultural and Environmental Services  
A. Stewart, Agricultural Services Officer, Agricultural and Environmental Services  
M. Mitton, Legislative Officer, Legislative Services  
M. Nakonechny, Legislative Officer, Legislative Services

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**A Call Meeting to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Deputy Reeve Kochan was not present when the meeting was called to order.

**B Updates/Approval of Agenda**

MOVED by Member Fehr that the March 13, 2025 Agricultural Services Board meeting agenda be approved as presented.

Carried  
Absent: Deputy Reeve Kochan

**C-1 January 16, 2025 Agricultural Services Board Meeting Minutes**

MOVED by Member Eklund that the January 16, 2025 Agricultural Services Board meeting minutes be approved as presented.

Carried  
Absent: Deputy Reeve Kochan



## E-1 Agricultural Fieldman Report

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

- 1) The Provincial ASB Committee has now posted the 2025 resolutions on their website <https://agriculturalserviceboards.com>. Fourteen resolutions were debated and nine were 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 for Mowing Operators, Spraying 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 12, 2025, with the exception of the mowers who will start on May 26, 2025.
- 3) 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, 2025, to register. This year's event will run province wide the weekend of August 16 and 17, 2025. 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/>
- 4) Phase 2 of public engagement on the revised Agriculture Master Plan has concluded. The second round of engagement included an online survey and Community Conversations hosted in Madden, Indus, Jumping Pound and Irricana.
  - i. Phase 2 of engagement took place from December 27 to February 7, 2025, with the goal of allowing the community to review and validate proposed actions outlined in the draft Agriculture Master Plan.
  - ii. The County visited four communities to host over 100 participants for a community workshop where participants reviewed and discussed the proposed initiatives in small, facilitated groups with workbooks.
  - iii. Additionally, participants shared their feedback online through a survey.
  - iv. In total, 135 residents provided a combined 1078 comments during their review of the draft plan.
  - v. Including online contributions, residents spent a collective 177 hours engaging on the draft plan.

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

Carried  
Absent: Deputy Reeve Kochan



**E-3 Calgary Stampede BMO Farm Family Report**

Deputy Reeve Kochan arrived to the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

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

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 Deputy Reeve Kochan 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 24th, 2025.

Carried

**D-1 Understanding Groundwater – Surface Water Connection for Watershed Stewardship**

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer with Agricultural & Environmental Services introduced Dr. Masaki Hayashi, Professor in the Department of Earth, Energy, & Environment at the University of Calgary who reported the following:

Surface water is always connected to groundwater and as such, they need to be understood as a single resource in the context of integrated watershed management. Most of the water flowing in creeks are sourced by headwater springs in small tributaries feeding the creek. Therefore, flow rates in creek and groundwater levels in local aquifers are closely connected. Therefore, for the effective stewardship of watersheds within Rocky View County, it is important to monitor groundwater level in local aquifers.

MOVED by Deputy Reeve Kochan that the Agricultural Service Board receives the Understanding Groundwater – Surface Water Connection for Watershed Stewardship report for information.

Carried

The Chair called for a recess at 10:10 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:15 a.m.



## **E-2 Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Update**

Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer with Agricultural & Environmental Services reported the following on behalf of Kellie Jackson with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation:

- 1) Regulated Weed Review
  - a) The Weed Review Committee has met 6 times to review all the survey responses from invited stakeholders, including municipalities, on currently regulated and potentially regulated weed species. The engagement input from the committee will be utilized to inform the recommendations that will be put forward to the Minister for decision. It is anticipated that the work of the committee will be complete this Spring/ Summer.
- 2) Seed Plant Inspections
  - a) AGI is working to improve the clarity of the product verification check criteria by engaging Fieldmen and Alberta Seed Processors Association managers. A virtual meeting is planned for late March to address issues and improve the inspection process. Updates will be finalized by summer 2025.
- 3) 1080
  - a) Karen Wickerson (AGI) is working with PMRA and Health Canada to identify the required labelling requirements for 1080 that will allow for the redistribution of 1080. Karen will provide details once finalized.
- 4) Insect Management Specialist
  - a) Amanda Jorgensen has joined the Crop Assurance Branch as an Insect Management Specialist at CDCN. She brings experience from AAFC in Beaverlodge and will contribute to insect pest forecasts and surveys for Alberta producers and municipalities.
- 5) Mature Asset Strategy
  - a) GOA ministries, RMA, producer groups, landowner groups - surface rights association, land, the property rights tribunal and industry representatives have collaborated on managing oil and gas liabilities due to aging energy infrastructure. A draft report is under review, with a final version expected for Cabinet consideration this spring and a legislative bill in the fall.

MOVED by Member Birchall that the Agricultural Service Board receives the Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation Report for information.

Carried



**E-4 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report**

Kristyn Lines, Manager Agricultural & Environmental Services; Matthew Chilakos, Agricultural Services Officer; Delaney McNaughton, Agricultural Services Officer; Laura Poile, Agricultural Services Officer; and Ashley Stewart, Agricultural Services Officer, provided the Board with the Agricultural Services Annual Report.

MOVED by Member Fehr that the Agricultural Service Board receives the Agricultural Service Board Annual Report for information.

Carried

**E-5 Upcoming Events Report**

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

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

1. Foothills Forage and Grazing Association AGM, High River [March 14](#)
2. Advancing Women in Agriculture conference, Calgary [March 16-18](#)
3. Biochar: A Game-changer for soil health & sustainability, virtual [March 17](#)
4. Canola Leaders Event, Edmonton - [March 18 & 19](#)
5. Beef Cattle Research Council Winter [Webinar Series](#)
  - a. Parasite Management: The Ins & Outs of External & Internal Parasite Mgt [March 19](#)
6. AgKnow Winter Webinar Series – Women & the Intergenerational Transfer of Family Farms [March 26](#)
7. FCC Young Farmer Summit – virtual [March 26](#)
8. Agricultural & Environmental Services workshop list

MOVED by Member Birchall that the Agricultural Service Board receives the Upcoming Events Report for information.

Carried

**F Farm Member Reports**

Trevor Birchall:

- With the warmer weather calving season has begun in the area
- Hot topic is the dryness – everyone is hoping for more moisture
- The impact of tariffs has made everyone jittery – not only tariffs from the United States, but also China



Travis Eklund:

- Gophers are up and the first calves are out
- Weed control with woody species has been an issue, as they cannot be sprayed without a permit. There is a movement to shift from range improvement to range restoration. Some are trying to make it easier for producers on leased land to control woody species such as snowberry.
- Communicated with a real estate agent who is seeking out agricultural producers to purchase dirt from new developments. Soil quality is unknown, and the real estate agent was evasive when asked about soil testing and separation from clay.
- The province has created a program to hunt elk out of season if there is an elk conflict. There was an impression that the elk population has been in decline and fewer tags have been issued. However, this does not appear to be the case, as approximately 1000 elk have been spotted in Jumping Pound along Highway 1. The elk population is not expected to decline under the new program and will allow producers to shoot legally if the elk is a nuisance.
- At the provincial ASB conference, many were discussing biosolids (dried waste from sewage plants). In Texas, there has been a lawsuit against a producer who has been fertilizing with biosolids, allegedly contaminating neighbours' farms, resulting in livestock deaths and water pollution.

Tricia Fehr:

- Gophers are up
- Tariffs are causing concern, and everyone has been very cautious
- Attended University of Calgary conference focused on water and irrigation. There is a plan to add 30,000 acres of irrigation within the Western Irrigation District, diverting from the Rosebud River.

## **H Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Agricultural Service Board meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025.

## **I Adjourn the Meeting**

MOVED by Member Fehr that the March 13, 2025 Agricultural Services Board meeting be adjourned 11:27 a.m.

Carried

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Chair or Vice-Chair

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Chief Administrative Officer or  
designate