

Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting of the County of Forty Mile No. 8 of the Province of Alberta held in the Board Room of the County Office, Foremost, Alberta on Tuesday, June 5, 2007.

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Craig Widmer, at 9:00 A.M.

Members present: *Ronald Lane*
 Tom Thacker
 Otto Gross
 Ronald Harty
 George Henline
 Lynden Hutchinson

Also present: *Dale Brown, County Administrator*
 David Matz, Agricultural Fieldman

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on March 6th, 2007.

CARRIED.

Delegation

11:00 A. M. – Bob Kaufman

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending May 31st, 2007.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

Tree Planting and Moving

Staff have planted about three miles of trees in 2007. This Program has been reduced substantially from previous years due to a drop in interest from landowners.

Staff have also been moving trees from the County's nursery sites into the Hamlets and various cemeteries.

Hamlet Maintenance

Agriculture Staff spent four days working in the Hamlet of Burdett Community Park pruning trees and cleaning up garbage and leaves.

A stump grinder was also rented for the removal of five stumps along Main Street and in the Park.

Summer Staff have mowed the Etzikom Park and are presently completing various projects in the hamlets and cemeteries.

Roadside Spraying

Weather conditions have put the Department behind on the Spraying Program, however, the Roadside Weed Spraying and Krovar Program are under way.

Bio-bug Program

The Department will once again be participating in the Bio-bug Program for the control of Leafy Spurge. Agriculture Canada has reported that there has been a good survival rate found in some of the release sites in the County and that the nurse sites in Alberta will be producing enough beetles to run the Program in 2007. In the past, the beetles were collected in Montana and brought to Alberta for release.

Weed Inspections

The Department has received several calls from concerned farmers about potential weed problems in neighbouring fields. Wet weather conditions have resulted in a lot of late seeding across the County with very little summerfallow work completed and sprayed.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

Bob Kaufman has been awarded the Contract for the Cypress / Forty Mile Partnership Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Position.

South Region Weed Co-ordinator

Don Townsend has chosen not to renew his Contract for the South Region Weed Co-ordinator position. Karen Krauss has been hired to replace Mr. Townsend the beginning of May, 2007.

Proposed projects for June and July, 2007 will include roadside spraying, larvicide, mowing, CPR spraying / river valley spraying and various small jobs using quads and one ton trucks. The County will also be doing weed control for the Town of Bow Island this summer.

A copy of the Agricultural Fieldman's Report has been attached as Addendum "A" to the Minutes.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Tom Simanton's Report for the months of March, April and May, 2007 were presented and attached as Addendum "B" to the Minutes.

West Nile Virus Targeted Mosquito Control Program

Letter from the Minister of Alberta Health and Wellness in response to the County's request for Provincial funding to assist with the West Nile Virus Targeted Mosquito Control Program. Minister Hancock, in his letter, noted that although larvicide indeed decreases mosquito numbers there is no scientific evidence to support or refute the effectiveness of larviciding in decreasing the risk of West Nile Virus in humans. The Provincial West Nile Virus Program for 2007 will continue to include human and adult mosquito surveillance as well as enhanced communication campaign particularly in high risk areas.

2007 West Nile Virus Mosquito Surveillance Program Agreement

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Service Board to enter into an Agreement with Alberta Environment to assist with the 2007

West Nile Virus Mosquito Surveillance Program within the County of Forty Mile No. 8 boundaries.

CARRIED.

Mosquito Control Program – Town of Bow Island

The Town of Bow Island advised that they would like to contract the County of Forty Mile No. 8 Agricultural Service Board to provide the Mosquito Control Program for the Town of Bow Island in 2007.

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Service Board to administer the Mosquito Control Program for the Town of Bow Island in 2007 at an estimated cost of \$2,000.00.

CARRIED.

Weed Control Program – Town of Bow Island

The Town of Bow Island has inquired to see if the County of Forty Mile No. 8 would like to undertake the necessary Weed Spraying Programs within the Town boundaries in 2007.

MOVED approval for the County of Forty Mile No. 8 to undertake the necessary weed spraying within the Town of Bow Island boundaries at an estimated cost of \$3,000.00.

CARRIED.

Coyote Reduction Incentive Program

The County of Warner No. 5 Agricultural Service Board is requesting adjacent municipalities to consider participating in a Coyote Reduction Incentive Program in 2007 / 2008 to help lessen the coyote numbers.

No action was taken by the Board.

CPR Weed Control

Letter from CPR Representative, David Spata, authorizing the Agricultural Service Board to provide weed control along their rail lines within the County.

Watershed Planning and Advisory Council

MOVED the appointment of Bob Kaufman as the County's Representative on the Watershed Council for the South Saskatchewan River Basin.

CARRIED.

Liquid Strychnine

Letter from Leon Benoit, MP – Vegreville –Wainwright, regarding the progress he has made regarding the issue of returning the use of two per cent liquid strychnine to farmers.

Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour

The 2007 Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour will be held in Yellowhead County July 9th to 12th, 2007.

Forty Mile Park Weed Control

The Board discussed weed control issues within Forty Mile Park and noted that the control of thistles and various other weeds was the Forty Mile Park Committee's responsibility to manage and control.

Burdett Community Park

Hamlet of Burdett resident, Dennis Krahn, provided a list of suggested improvements for their Community Park.

Agricultural Fieldman, Dave Matz, informed the Board that they had already undertaken several of the suggested improvements.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's Report

Mr. Bob Kaufman reported on the activities he has been involved with to date and provided his three month goals as follows:

- Submit an article to the Commentator on soil conservation especially relating to intensive cropping on sandy soil in the Bow Island area
- Involve County Councillor, Representatives from the Sugar Beet Growers, Potato Growers, Bean Growers, Rob Dunn and others
- Assist in reviewing and summarizing the Milk River Aquifer Studies with Dave Matz
- Submit an article on trees and shrub planting for water and soil conservation with input from Wildlife Groups
- Continue with the Milk River water sampling and prepare a report of current information
- Train as a Technician Advisor for the Environmental Farm Plan Program
- Visit all Agricultural Service Board Members at their farms to get to know each member and gain an insight into their interests and what would be a benefit for the County through the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program

- Co-operate with adjacent counties and all conservation issues and partner where possible on planning workshops or sessions
- Tour with the Alberta Farm Writers in Cypress County

A copy of the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's Report is attached as Addendum "C" to the Minutes.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Partnership Survey

Over the winter, Agricultural Fieldmen were asked to complete a telephone survey regarding Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Programs and a copy of the results was presented to the Board.

Robert Ost

Letter sent to Robert Ost following a visit by the Agricultural Fieldman.

Cereal Leaf Beetle

Letter from Municipal District of Taber No. 14 and County of Lethbridge No. 26 to Rick Casson, MP, regarding Canadian Food Inspection Agency directive to quarantine the two Counties.

Agricultural Initiatives

Letter to Leonard Mitzel from the Foremost Seed Cleaning Co-op seeking support for Agriculture Initiatives.

Urban Weed Control Grant

The Urban Weed Control Program has been changed. An application no longer needs to be submitted to Debbie Oyarzun. Instead the Agricultural Service Board can decide how much money to grant and how to distribute it. Letters to the Town of Bow Island and Village of Foremost (and application) was presented for review.

Agricultural Service Board Grant – 2006/2007

Letter from Debbie Oyarzun advising approval of the 2006/2007 Agricultural Service Board Grant in the amount of \$197,488.06. There was a surplus in the Program Budget, and extra money over \$150,000.00 cap was received.

2007/2008 Agricultural Service Board Program Funding Agreement

Letter to Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development and completed Agricultural Service Board Grant Application, 2007 Budget Statement, proposed Operating Budget, Business/Strategic Plan and Funding Agreement was presented to the Board.

South Region Agricultural Service Board Committee

Letter to George Groeneveld, Minister of Agriculture and Food, from Brian Brewin regarding concerns about the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program that arose from the South Region Agricultural Service Board Committee Meeting in Edmonton.

Farmer Pesticide Training

Letter from Pat Gordeyko, Chairman of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee, to Brian Rhiness, Alberta Agriculture and Food, regarding development of the Farmer Pesticide Training Course. It is rumoured that this Course is in the final stages of development and will be ready November 1, 2007.

Fusarium Head Blight Survey

Letter and summary of survey from Alberta Agriculture and Food for Fusarium Head Blight that occurred in 2006. Three positive samples were found in the Municipal District of Taber

No. 14 and one in the County of Lethbridge No. 26. Board Members were advised that a full report was available if anyone wished to peruse it.

General Manager Position of Association of Alberta Seed Cleaning Plants

A letter from the Minister of Agriculture and Food with a response to Brazeau regarding the General Manager Position of the Association of Alberta Co-op /2007 Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd. Several letters regarding this issue from other Agricultural Services Boards have been presented over the past year.

Minutes

- ◆ South Region Agricultural Service Board Committee Meeting – January 31, 2007

Thank You

- ◆ Brenda Stryker – Environmental Farm Plan – Thanking the Agricultural Service Board for sponsoring the Environmental Farm Plan Workshop luncheons held in the County.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 12:05 P. M.

CARRIED.

ADDENDUM "A"

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT MARCH- MAY 2007

The past three months have been very busy with a lot to report on. Most summer staff is back to work, and we are in full swing with our spring work.

Tree Planting and Moving

Our crew has planted about 3 miles of trees this year. This has been a big decrease from previous years due to a drop in interest from landowners. The good news is that this frees up time for our crew to do some more hamlet maintenance.

We have also been moving trees from our nursery sites into hamlets and cemeteries. 15 ash and 15 elm trees were moved into Assumption Cemetery and 7 elm were placed in front of Etzikom Community Park.

I also moved some fruit trees along Railway Avenue in Burdett and plan to finish off this street with a barrier between the highway and the hamlet. I also moved in three elm trees along Second Street west by the beer gardens to replace aging poplar trees.

Hamlet Maintenance

This spring we spent four days working in Burdett Community Park pruning trees and cleaning up garbage and leaves. We also rented a stump grinder and took out 5 stumps along the street and a couple of small ones in the park. We will have to wait a year or two for the rest of the stumps to rot some more before any more grinding is done.

The Etzikom Park has been mowed and the crew will be working on all hamlets as they do the cemeteries.

Cemetery Maintenance

The Cemetery Crew has been out and started on cutting grass. The crosses that were put in last summer were pounded in deeper so that they will stay straight. I have contacted a local guy with a plasma cutter, and he is looking into producing signs for cemeteries. Fences have not yet been fixed but should be looked after sometime this summer.

Roadside Mowing

I have hired Ross Upton from Foremost to operate our roadside mower this summer. He has also been helping out in the shop and has been operating the tree mover truck for us as well. This year we will have public works use a grader mower to cut Highway No. 61 from Etzikom to Manyberries as well as the 887 south of Orion. I would also like

to get a head start on mowing some of the big areas within hamlets this spring and start on some County roads.

Roadside Spraying

The wet weather combined with many windy days has put us way behind on our Spraying Program. Krovar spraying was pretty much finished by the first week of May last year, but we never got started until the first of May this year. Roadside weed spraying is also underway but again the rain slows us down and speeds up the weeds.

Bio Bug Program

Once again we are participating in this Program for leafy spurge control. There was good news from our meeting with Rob Bouchier at Ag Canada. There has been good survival rates found in some of the release sites within the County and the nurse sites in Alberta are all producing enough beetles to run the program. In the past, beetles were collected in Montana and brought to Alberta for release, it seems that this will no longer be necessary.

Weed Inspections

I have had a few phone calls from farmers concerned about potential weed problems from neighbors and I have checked on those fields. I spoke with Mr. Ost about his plan for farming his land this year. He has cultivated half the field and plans on seeding a cereal, the summerfallow has not yet been worked and is heavily infested with kochia, stinkweed, buckwheat etc. The late rains and heat have resulted in a lot of late seeding across the County and very little summerfallow has been worked or sprayed. Weeds are a problem just about everywhere as the weather has not allowed much control work to get done.

Milk River Aquifer Project

Nathan has begun to work on the new website. We plan to make this a part of the County website and link them together. The only other thing left is to plug the well at Stryker's. I am waiting for Les Babcock to get back from a project and then I will get them started on this.

AESA

Bob Kaufman has been awarded the contract for the Cypress/ Forty Mile Partnership Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture position. He began work in mid May and will submit reports to the Agricultural Service Board.

South Region Weed Co-ordinator

Don Townsend has chosen not to renew his contract for this position. Karen Kraus has been hired as his replacement and started working in the beginning of May.

Page Three

The rain and wet weather has slowed down our outside work, but staff has been able to keep busy around the shop. The girls have put wire up inside the rafters of the storage building to keep the pigeons out and have also been working on crosses for cemeteries. Tom, Kevin and Ross have all been able to keep busy getting the new 1- ton ready, preparing spray trucks, and general equipment maintenance.

For June and July, we plan to get going with the Roadside Spraying Program, larvacide, mowing, CPR Spraying/ river valley spraying, and small spraying jobs with the quads and 1- ton. I have also been contacted by the Town of Bow Island to do weed control and larvacide this summer, and we will work this into our Program. We will also be setting mosquito traps on behalf of Alberta Environment to monitor for West Nile Virus.

Sincerely,

DAVE MATZ
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

ADDENDUM B

ASSISTANT FIELDMAN'S REPORT MARCH, APRIL AND MAY, 2007

March was a busy month in the Shop. Kevin and I tried to go through the rest of the equipment for winter repairs and maintenance. The water line plow was a major rebuild from the ground up. We redesigned the main frame and spiked in hoops so that it would lift the whole machine up and out of the ground before the bending and twisting like last time.

Unit No. 545 needed some wiring on the tail lights when we replaced the flat deck with the original box. This truck is mainly going to be used for tree spraying, because of its age and running condition (this will be done by myself, Kevin and Dave.) The Southland Trailer required some work on the fenders, lights and paint. The one fender was cracked out and needed some welding and body work. The new welder came in handy for this job.

The office was our next project. We were given the okay to give the office a facelift last meeting, so when the supplies came in Kevin and I started right away before Dave could change his mind and leave it for next winter. This was a little more time consuming than we budgeted for because it was a two man operation with holding the sheets up and keeping everything running straight.

The first part of April was set aside to finishing the office, and once it was done, we had a lot of comments on how much better it looks. The new Dodge showed up, and we picked it up on April 3rd, 2007. The drills started moving again around the middle of the month and have been going ever since. The deck that came off No. 545 was going to go on No. 629 (new Dodge), but once we backed both the deck and truck in the Shop, we realized that it would be better to start from scratch than try to modify the old one to fit. The old deck would have needed to be widened by 8 inches and lengthened about 14 inches to fit properly. The strength of the cross members was going to be questionable because of how they would have been changed. So between the Welder, Dave, Kevin and myself, we decided to build a new deck. Kevin started spraying Krovar and we moved a few trees at the end of the month.

May has been a busy month around here with the summer staff coming back, and Ross Upton, the new Mower Operator, joining us. We have been moving trees, finishing the new deck, cutting grass and trying to keep spraying this month between rain showers.

Everything will be ready for action once the weather works in our favour for a little while.

Yours truly,

**TOM SIMANTON
ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN**

ADDENDUM C

I- Contact information and a brief background.

Robert Kaufman

Stone Hill Ranch
Box 238
Irvine, Alberta, T0J 1V0
Canada
Business cell 403-878-6994
Fax 403-834-2383
Home Phone 403-834-2380
Email bkaufman@stonehill@xplornet.com

I was raised on a mixed farm, (sugar beets, corn, beans, hay, and pasture) in the Fromberg, Montana area, and have worked in the field of ranch-range management, and ranching for more than 30 years. I have been involved in professional development workshops and seminars, both, as a participant, and presenter, in the areas of ranch activities and opportunities, operations and management, and wildlife and riparian management interaction and interests. I have also consulted in the oil and gas industry, including pre-site assessments, vegetative constraints, construction, and reclamation.

I have intermittently consulted, by contract, on a number of wildlife-livestock issues, especially in inventory of vegetative types, and design of grazing systems to mitigate and promote best use practices. I am well experienced in inclusion of economic as well as environmental parameters in determining options and opportunities.

I am familiar with the operation and maintenance of many types of equipment

I currently reside on the quarter we purchased in 2005. I have been doing contract work for ranches, grazing associations, and Public Lands, as well as continuing in my horse and leatherworking business. I took on responsibilities for Cypress County as Agricultural Fieldman from February through April, but decided that I was not a good fit for that position.

I was the Natural Resource Ranch Manager at Antelope Creek Ranch, Brooks, from 1994 to November 2005. I resided on, managed and solely operated, a joint venture working ranch, comprising 5500 acres in the mixed grass area of southern Alberta. A complimentary grazing system included seeded early pastures, irrigation, and native prairie. The ranch runs 260 cow-calf pairs, is involved in monitoring and assessing range and wildlife resources annually in association with Alberta Public Lands, and is directly involved with the petroleum industry in development, operation, and reclamation. Monitoring and research data is summarized, and used to undertake outreach and extension programming in verbal and written venues. To date the ranch has had approximately 3100 visitors, including hosting a Society for Range Management summer tour, the International Mountain Section.

I worked for Duck's Unlimited as Southern Alberta Agrologist, from 1991 to 1993. My primary responsibilities included design of grazing systems, and reclamation to native grass, and worked on areas of interest for upland nesting. I have interacted

with quite varied groups including private land owners, Native Tribal Councils, and other business entities as well as professionals and industry leaders in the livestock and

petroleum industry as well as educational institutions. The southern office was one of the first groups to use native grass species for revegetation and reclamation in southern Alberta, and have helped set standards for other interests, particularly the oil industry. I have hosted many youth groups of varied ages, and have provided leadership for youth ages 12 to 18 as educational opportunities, and in our church activities.

We moved to Brooks in 1988, and was Grazing Lease Manager for the Eastern Irrigation District, 1988 to 1991. I supervised grazing association activities, initiated grazing plan design, and operation on 600,000 acres of native mixed grass rangelands leased to 10 grazing associations, and involving 427 patrons. Annual livestock use is by approximately 16,000 cow-calf pairs, for approximately a 5 month grazing period. The grazing lands are located in County of Newell.

I was General Ranch Manager, and managed a typical B.C interior 600 cow-calf ranch for German absentee owners. I operated and managed, on a day to day basis, all aspects of the business, from 1985 to 1988. This included crop and hay production, livestock health and management, bull purchases and breeding plans. I was responsible for basic accounting, used computer and business skills, conducted construction and maintenance of buildings and other physical assets, and supervised up to 5 additional people. The ranch is located in the Williams Lake, B. C. area.

I managed an 1100 head cow-calf ranch in the Williams Lake, B. C. area and leased a ranch also in the same area from 1975 to 1984.

My education includes:

Diploma-Fromberg, Montana High School, completed 1968

B.Sc. Resource Conservation-University of Montana
1972

B.Sc. Forestry, Range Management Option, University of Montana
1972

- AI Certificate: Western Breeders, Balzac, Alberta

Licensed as a Professional Agrologist in Canada, since 1977.

- **Member of the Society for Range Management**
- Professional Development-waterfowl management 1991 to 1993
-riparian management 1996
- -ongoing

II - Activities to date

I started with the AESA program under agreement with the County of Forty Mile, and Cypress County May 8th, and initially organized an office and reviewed files and information left by Warren Burgewitz. Some time was spent with Doug Henderson in setting goals and objectives for Cypress County, and follow up on current activities that

involve the Resource Tech. I met with and trained for the water sampling of the Milk River with Sandy Rierersma, and the next week began sampling, which will occur every other week throughout the season. A meeting was held with Tom Conquergood of the Commentator, and an article, and advertisements will be submitted at least once a month beginning in June, and target areas of concern and interest for both counties. Dave Matz has provided direction for the next

few months on areas of concern regarding soil conservation in the Bow Island area, setting up and updating information for the Milk River Aquifer studies, some weed invasion issues, and some direction on the shelterbelts. I am meeting with Pheasants Forever, Duck's Unlimited, and PNH to discuss interests in tree and shrub plantings for wildlife as well as shelterbelts, and additional funding that may be available. PFRA is changing some requirements of the shelterbelt program.

III-Tours, workshops, and events.

The St. Mary's tour was held May 24th, and seemed a very interesting and worthwhile event relative to critical watershed issues, and I will receive all the information and general perceptions from the County of Warner, then present a brief report at a later date.

I am on the organizing committee for the 4th Women's Grazing School being held July 4th and 5th at Elkwater, and toured facilities and sites for the itinerary May 24th. Most of the major things are completed, there are 39 women currently registered, with room for an additional 5. I will advertise one more time to encourage local participation as much as possible. There have been some applications from Pincher Creek, Nanton, and Calgary areas.

IV - 3 Month goals

- submit an article to the Commentator on soil conservation especially relating to intensive cropping on sandy soils in the Bow Island area-involve County councilor, representatives for the Sugar Beet Growers, Potato Growers, and Bean Growers, Robb Dunn and others
- assist in reviewing and summarizing a summary of the Milk River Aquifer studies with Dave Matz
- submit an article on tree and shrub plantings for water and soil conservation, input from wildlife groups and an update from PFRA
- continue with the Milk River water sampling and get a summary or report of current information, at least to the end of the 2006 season, then present a report for the ASB
- train as a Technical Adviser for the Environmental Farm Plan Program, July
- visit all the ASB members at their farms to get to know each, and gain insight and interests of what can be of benefit for the county through the AESA program
- co-operate with adjacent counties on all conservation issues, and partner where possible on planning workshops or seminars
- tour with the Alberta Farm Writers in Cypress County