

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, September 4, 2007.

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Craig Widmer, at 9:10 A.M.

*Members present: Ronald Lane
Ronald Harty
Tom Thacker
Lynden Hutchinson*

*Also present: Sharon Burgess, Director of Finance
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman*

*Absent: Otto Gross
George Henline*

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on June 5th, 2007.

CARRIED.

Items Added to the Agenda

Several items were added to the Agenda by the Members present.

Treasurer's Report

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

CARRIED.

NW and SW21, 9-7-W4

Council discussed extensively the following reports and documentation on the North West and South West 21, 9-7-W4:

- Inspection Report
- Weed Survey and Overall Assessment
- Supervision period
- Agricultural Service Board Act – Reclamation Process
- Letters on file

Oliver Ost present.

Delegation – Oliver Ost – 10:00 A. M.

Oliver Ost was welcomed to the Meeting by the Council Members present.

Oliver Ost advised Council of his weed concerns on the North West and South West 21, 9-7-W4 and asked what rules and regulations were in place to alleviate the problem.

Other items discussed were:

- Agricultural Service Board Act (Reclamation)
- Weed Control Act process
- Rules and Regulation that the County had to follow
- Documentation procedures

Also discussed:

- Hunting during extreme fire conditions

Oliver Ost left the Meeting.

NW and SW21, 9-7-W4

Council continued discussion on the North West and South West 21, 9-7-W4 and reviewed all the documentation that the County had on file in regard to supervision of the land in question.

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

The Agricultural Fieldman's Report was presented by Dave Matz and attached as Addendum "A" to the Minutes.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Tom Simanton's Report for the months of June, July and August, 2007 was presented and attached as per Addendum "B" to the Minutes.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's Report

The Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's Report for the period June 23 to July 20, 2007 was presented and attached as per Addendum "C" to the Minutes.

2007 South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

Council was advised that the South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference will be held in the Grandstand Room at the Exhibition Grounds on November 2, 2007 and Dave Matz requested any Council Members wishing to attend to advise him.

Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman, also advised that the 2008 Agricultural Service Board Conference will be held in Grand Prairie from January 21 – 24, 2008.

South Region Agricultural Service Board Committee

Council was advised by Dave Matz that the South Region Agricultural Service Board Committee Meeting will be held in the evening of November 1, 2007 and that he and the Agricultural Chairman, Craig Widmer, will be attending this meeting.

2008 South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman, advised Council that it is the County of Forty Mile No. 8's turn to host this Conference in 2008 and requested that Craig Widmer, Agricultural Chairman extend an invitation to all member municipalities at the 2007 Fall Conference.

2007 Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman In-service Training

Permission was requested by Dave Matz, Tom Simanton and Kevin Jesske to attend the 2007 Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman In-service Training.

MOVED approval for Dave Matz, Tom Simanton and Kevin Jesske to attend the 2007 Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman In-service Training and make arrangements to fly from Calgary via West Jet.

CARRIED.

Future of Innovation and Opportunity Workshop

Dave Matz will be acting as Chairman of the 2009 Agricultural Service Board Conference and is requesting approval to attend a lecture in Lethbridge to see if Jim Carroll, Innovation Expert, would make a good speaker for the Conference.

MOVED approval for Dave Matz to attend the Future of Innovation and Opportunity Workshop at the Lethbridge Lodge, October 18, 2007.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Bursary

Applications were received from Blair Seward and Ashley Verhaest.

MOVED to award the 2007 Agricultural Bursary to Blair Seward.

CARRIED.

Cemetery

Councillor Ronald Lane wanted clarification on cemetery fencing and asked if all cemeteries had to be fenced.

Councillor Ronald Lane advised that he had received a request from the Christian Reformed Church to cost share chain link fencing around their Cemetery.

Council advised that all cemetery requests for fencing are reviewed and approved on an individual basis.

MOVED approval to contribute \$2.00 per foot for fencing material up to a maximum of 1,000 feet to the Christian Reformed Church.

CARRIED.

NOON RECESS – 12:20 P. M.

RECONVENE – 1:15 P. M.

Cemetery Signs

Council reviewed pictures on two cemetery signs designed by Jeff Elsom.

MOVED approval to purchase cemetery signs from Jeff Elsom at an estimated cost of \$1,350.00 per sign.

CARRIED.

Canada Thistle

Dave Matz advised Council that there is a Canada Thistle problem located along the Yellow Lake drains in Robert Neil's yard and coulee.

Council advised Dave Matz to have Robert Neil work with St. Mary River Irrigation District to rectify the problem.

Funshine Park

Dave Matz received a request to donate trees from the County nursery to Funshine Park.

Tom Thacker advised that the Town of Bow Island should be contacted prior to donating in case of any concerns.

MOVED approval for six (6) nursery trees to be donated to Funshine Park in Bow Island.

CARRIED.

Quads

Dave Matz advised that he will be keeping one quad originally slated for sale in 2007 as a replacement unit when one of the newer quads are in for repair.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Pest Inspections and Control Work

Letter from County of Vermilion River encouraging other municipalities to maintain staff capable of doing pest inspections and control work.

BSE Study

Letter from Brazeau County regarding BSE Study.

2007-08 Grants

Letter from Debbie Oyarzun, Supervisor – Agricultural Service Board Program, advising that we are eligible for the 2007-2008 Agricultural Service Board Grant.

Coyote Reduction Incentive Program

Letter to Gordon Peterson – County of Warner No. 5 advising that we would not be participating in the Coyote Reduction Incentive Program.

Milk River Aquifer Monitoring Project

Final invoice from BCEC Drilling Ltd. for the Milk River Aquifer Monitoring Project.

Retention Strategy – Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technicians

Letter from Dale Chrapko – Alberta Agriculture and Food and summary of the new Retention Strategy for Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technicians.

Cereal Leaf Beetle Deregulation

Letter to Canadian Food Inspection Agency from the Municipal District of Taber No. 14 and County of Lethbridge No. 26 proposing to have the Cereal Leaf Beetle deregulation in these Counties.

Thank You

- Manyberries Community Association

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 1:50 P. M.

CARRIED.

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT JUNE – AUGUST, 2007

The summer has gone by quickly and overall we have had a very good season at the Agriculture Department. Most of our Summer Staff will have finished work by the end of August except for Matt, who will stay with us until the end of September and Ross will be here until mid to late October.

Roadside Spraying

This season's Spraying Program has had some serious weather related setbacks. Early rains in June kept us off the roads and allowed the weeds to get ahead of us. Clear weather in late June and early July allowed us to get a good portion of the County sprayed, but the extreme temperatures that followed created difficult spraying conditions as weeds quit growing and our spraying became ineffective. Rather than waste pesticides we cut back on spraying during the dry times and will concentrate on Fall spraying.

Quad Spraying

This crew has been working out very well this year, even though they got a late start in July they have managed to complete all of the important jobs. This crew has sprayed dump sites, County Shops, CPR lines, Halfbreed Creek, Seven Persons Creek, and the South Saskatchewan River. There was one major incident along the railway lines where a quad was rolled over and received some damage. No one was hurt and the quad has since been repaired.

Tree Spraying

Yard shelterbelts have been a popular service once again although not quite as busy as previous years. Tom, Kevin and I have all taken turns with this Program.

Roadside Mowing

Our first Mowing Contract went extremely well with very little breakdowns and we were able to mow nearly all highways within the County by August 16 as well as some County roads. Our second cut is now underway and I expect to be finished by mid October.

Hamlet Maintenance

In May, we cleaned up garbage and leaves in Burdett Park and removed the old tree stumps along Main Street. The girls have painted the pivot towers in Burdett and the fence posts along the Hamlet entrance. The large tree across from the general store was cut down by Asplundh on a Saturday, and I attended to assist and supervise. The following week we had a large windstorm which knocked down a large poplar tree by the beer gardens and spread branches all over the Hamlet. We cleaned up whatever was laying on the ground and plan to remove the rest of the tree later this Fall.

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All of the Hamlets have received spraying and mowing in the parks and along the roads and streets. Burdett has received the majority of time from the crew as there is much more grass to cut and trees to maintain.

Tree Moving

About 40 trees have been moved from our nurseries into Burdett, Etzikom and Assumption Cemetery. These trees have been watered and appear to be doing okay despite the high temperatures. We have been behind on some watering as the water truck has been in for repairs quite often. I plan on continuing to move trees into Hamlets this Fall with our big tree truck.

Cemetery Maintenance

The grass cutting in cemeteries has gone well this season with the crew completing the work quickly with few problems. The first cut had lots of lush growth which was difficult to cut, however, the lack of rain has resulted in almost no grass to cut the second time around. The crew has been starting to work on fences as well as continue with tree watering. One member of the crew has been working for Bill Nicoll on the rural addressing project.

Shelterbelt Program

This Shelterbelt Program has seen a big drop in interest from previous years. We barely planted 1.5 miles of trees, and they were all within farm yards. The intention of this Program is to plant field shelterbelts for wildlife with financial support from Pheasants Forever. This year we did not receive the fruit bearing varieties we ordered and did not plant the trees in fields. I do not feel comfortable billing Pheasants Forever for this Program when we did not meet expectations.

West Nile Virus Surveillance / Larvacide

We continue to operate traps in Foremost and Burdett, and the virus has been very active this year starting early in July. The hot weather was perfect for the Culex Tarsalis and the virus reached high numbers very early in the season.

Some larvaciding has been done, but the control work has been very limited as there is very little standing water to treat. This summer I have made a considerable reduction in the amount of product put out and time spent due to the dry conditions.

Weed Inspections

The wet weather in June resulted in many farmers falling behind in their chemfallow this year. As a result, there have been a number of fields where the tansy mustard and other annuals went to seed and ripened off before control work was done. I have left these be since spraying would not help and cultivating would have only disturbed the ground and brought in more weeds.

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Jon issued a Weed Notice to a farmer by Skiff last year and I have been monitoring this field and I am satisfied with the control achieved this year.

We have discovered some new and large knapweed sites within the County and we will deal with these over the next couple of years. Knapweed sites from previous years have been mostly cleaned up and are just being monitored.

Overall I have had very few complaints about weeds and have not had to issue any Weed Notices.

Update on Miscellaneous Items

The Farmer Pesticide Course is nearly ready with Jon Hood and his Assistant participating in the details. The course can be taught by anybody with "*Train the Trainer*" and must be proctored by a Member of the Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman. The licence is good for five years and starting in 2008 for all current licences. Re-certification requires a person to sit in on a course without having to rewrite the exam.

Saskatchewan has received emergency registration for strychnine this year and there is an attempt to access this for Alberta. Species at Risk has put out a suggestion that poison release be limited to March 1 – April 15 for southern Alberta to limit the impact on birds of prey.

Club Root of Canola has been found in the County of Newell No. 4 and is working its way south. This is a declared pest and may very well be a future problem we have to deal with.

Future Plans

The next couple of months we plan on going hard with the roadside spraying and mowing. Spraying will most likely take up most of our time as we have fallen behind. There is still some grass seeding to do, and I also plan on getting some more trees moved out of our nurseries and into hamlets and cemeteries. If time allows we may also get some of the fences fixed at cemeteries.

Sincerely,

**DAVE MATZ
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN**

ADDENDUM "B" to
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

**ASSISTANT FIELDMAN'S REPORT
JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 2007**

June was a busy month for us getting all the crews up and running. We finished the deck on Unit No. 629 and helped Kevin finish spraying Krovar. I also tried reseeding the grass on the speed turns on the 501 with a quad and harrows. The drills were slowing down with the last couple guys on the list. They had a very good Spring with little repairs needed. Tree spraying was started which kept us busy and the mosquito larvaciding in full swing.

July was mostly dedicated to the Roadside Program with everything north of the Forty Mile Dam being sprayed and some of Volker's. We also sprayed a portion of the roads south of Foremost. We finished the bulk of the tree spraying this month as well. All other crews had a good month as well staying on top of things.

We were able to spray during the first part of August until the temperature got too hot and the weeds were not taking in any spray.

I took one week of holidays from August 13th to 17th, 2007.

In the third week, we seeded some grass on the Warner grade and the speed turns again. I do not think there is enough topsoil on the slopes to get a good catch of grass, because this was the third time we tried seeding down there. The weather has cooled down enough that we are starting to spray roadsides again and will continue until the weather becomes too cold.

Yours truly,

**TOM SIMANTON
ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN**

ADDENDUM "C" to
the AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
of SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

Report for June 23rd to July 20th AESA

ASB Cypress and County of Forty Mile ASB

I-Activities to date

The 4th Women's Grazing School was held during the week of July 3rd through 5th. There were 37 that attended, 9 that were unable to attend due to last minute changes, and a waiting list of those who would have attended if given a little longer notice. 26 from Cypress County (59%), 7 from the County of Forty Mile (16%), 4 from Newell County (9%), and 7 from other areas (16%). From evaluations completed by participants at the school, and assessments done by the organizers including Public Lands and Cows and Fish staff, the workshop was deemed a great success. I have followed up by sending out a news letter and questionnaire, and with the AESA Resource Tech from Newell County, Jaclinn Vincent, plan to have a one day workshop on ranch and farm planning emphasizing livestock and water issues. A part of the workshop is aimed at completing an Environmental Farm Plan if not already done. Assistance is also offered in accessing the Canada/Alberta Farm Stewardship Program.

Eleven other contacts/on farm visits were made in regard to watershed and grazing/riparian issues or planning, and follow up will be made to have participation of landholders involved in existing groups, and to organize groups where beneficial. Discussions with soils, fertilizer, and other specialists from Alberta Agriculture and Food, and Agriculture Canada are ongoing to organize and assist SACA and SARA in addressing intensive farming practices in specific areas.

A Technical Assistant orientation seminar was held in Brooks to introduce any of the more recent AESA people, who will be involved as assistants in the Environmental Farm Planning workshops, to the program. Cypress County and the County of Forty Mile may have 14 to 18 workshops beginning this fall, and carried through to the spring of 2008. The goal for both counties is to have approximately 200 or more farms completing the workshops.

II-Planned activities/tours/workshops

There are none planned for the next month. A tour of the eastern section of the Milk River Watershed is in the planning stages for August or September, but depends on interest from the group. Seven Persons Creek Watershed, and Ross Creek Watershed group meetings are planned for later August or early September.

July 24 th	Cypress ASB Meeting
July 25 th	Carbon Credits Seminar/Med Hat Lodge
July 31 st	SEAWA meeting
Aug 1 st	Milk River Water Sampling/Q Ranch Interview