

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, November 6, 2007.

The Meeting was called to order by the Administrator, Dale Brown, at 9:00 A.M.

Members Present:

*Ronald Lane
Tom Thacker
Craig Widmer
Otto Gross
Joan Hughson
Ronald Harty
Lynden Hutchinson*

Also Present:

*Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman
Tom Simanton, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman*

Nominations for Chairman

The Administrator opened the Meeting and called for nominations for Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board.

Ronald Lane nominated Craig Widmer.

Nominations were called three times, and since there were no further nominations, Craig Widmer was declared elected to serve as Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board.

Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was administered to the newly elected Chairman.

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on September 4th, 2007.

CARRIED.

Items Added to the Agenda

Two items were added to the Agenda by the Board Members present.

Treasurer's Report

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

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman, Dave Matz reported on the following Programs:

- Roadside spraying
- Roadside mowing
- Cemetery maintenance
- Tree moving
- Rabies monitoring
- Grass Seeding Program

Mr. Matz's written report has been attached as Addendum "A" to the Minutes.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Tom Simanton's, written report was presented to the Board and attached as Addendum "B" to the Minutes.

2007 Vacation Entitlement

MOVED approval for Tom Simanton to carry over three days of his 2007 vacation time into 2008.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Service Board Meetings – 2008

MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board meet on the following dates in 2008:

February 5th; March 4th; June 3rd; September 2nd; November 4th; and December 9th

CARRIED.

Drill Stem – Cemetery Posts

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Service Board to trade 1,000 feet of 1 7/8 inch drill stem for 1,000 feet of 3 inch drill stem for cemetery posts.

CARRIED.

2008 Agricultural Service Board Conference – January 21st to 25th, 2008 – Grande Prairie

MOVED approval for flights to be booked from Lethbridge to Grande Prairie for those Members wishing to attend the 2008 Agricultural Service Board Conference.

CARRIED.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's Report

The Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's Report for the period of September 5th to October 30th, 2007 was presented and attached as Addendum "C" to the Minutes.

2007 Agricultural Fieldman's Annual In-service Training

MOVED approval for Tom Simanton, Dave Matz and Kevin Jesske to attend the Agricultural Fieldman In-service Training December 3rd to 7th, 2007 in Grande Prairie.

CARRIED.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program – 2008

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Service Board to extend the Cypress / County Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Partnership into 2008 and that Mr. Bob Kaufman's Contract also be extended to December, 2008.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Fieldman Assistant – Role Description

MOVED approval of the Job Description for the Agricultural Fieldman Assistant position as per Addendum "D" to the Minutes.

CARRIED.

The 2007 Cemetery Budget was presented for review and discussion.

Agricultural Fieldman, Dave Matz, reported on the South Region Agricultural Service Board Committee Meeting recently held.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Severe Drought Conditions

Letter from Premier Ed Stelmach outlining difference programs available to producers for drought assistance.

Agricultural Service Board Act Review

Letter from Debbie Oyarzun regarding the upcoming review of the Agricultural Service Board Act.

Urban Weed Control

Expense verification from the Village of Foremost for Weed Control in 2007.

Invoices

- Canadian Pacific Railway Weed Control
- North Forty Mile Regional Waste Services Commission – Weed Control
- South Forty Waste Services Commission – Weed Control
- Public Lands Branch – Weed Inspections
- Town of Bow Island – Weed and Mosquito Control
- Alberta Environment – West Nile Virus Surveillance Program

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

ADDENDUM "A" to the
November 6, 2007 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Fieldman's Report
September / October 2007

Fall is here and we have been wrapping up all of our Summer Programs and getting ready for Winter. Spraying and mowing are almost finished and we only have some grass seeding, tree moving and cemetery fencing left.

Roadside Spraying

Our Spray Program went well this year but not as good as we had hoped. We covered a lot more roads than last year but not as much as in 2005. We did much more highway spraying for Alberta Transportation than any other year and have made progress in that area. The biggest holdup has been unco-operative weather with rains in the Spring, high heat in the Summer and now rain in September and lots of wind in October. As a result, we did not complete all of Fall spraying that was planned. The trucks have now been winterized and put away with the exception of a one-ton that will be used for some Kerb applications to control foxtail.

Roadside Mowing

All Roadside Mowing under our Volker Stevin Contract has been completed on schedule with all roads completed except Secondary Highways 880 and 877 which were mowed by Volker Stevin. We have also done a full cut on Secondary Highway 879 north and Highway 61 from Skiff to Nemiscam curves. We had an incident with a rock shattering the windshield but were going again in three days. Our Operator has been laid-off for the season and I am very happy with the way this Program has worked out. Having an operator stay on until the end of Mowing has freed us up to do a lot of other little jobs that keep getting pushed aside.

Cemeteries

We have been making a lot of progress on fixing up cemeteries and I expect to get even more done this Fall. Some more trees were moved into Nemiscam Cemetery out of Foremost and the barb-wire fence in Propsy Cemetery north of Etzikom has been taken down. We have built new posts out of drill stem and plan to have a new fence up shortly.

I am also expecting delivery of a new gate sign for Whitla Cemetery soon and we might get it up this Fall if weather co-operates. The road there has been rebuilt and the fence taken down so we plan on making steel posts and chain for the east portion along the road. Tom Simanton and Kevin Jesske will be building a steel gate for this new sign over the Winter and they also need to take a Welding Truck to make repairs at a few other cemeteries.

.12.....

Tree Moving

The weather has been good for tree moving and Tom Simanton and Kevin Jesske have finished a few jobs for ratepayers. I also hope to keep moving more trees into Burdett and we would also like to re-organize our tree nurseries a bit to make room for more trees.

The windy days have also given us some time to prune trees in our nurseries and clean things up. This has been put off for a couple of years now and the nurseries look better with some pruning. Many of the trees are getting mature and need to be moved out into hamlets and cemeteries continually.

Rabies Monitoring

Jamie Meeks has been trapping skunks from September 18 to October 24 with no positive samples. His report should be ready next Meeting.

Grass Seeding

Tom Simanton has been looking after Seeding behind new construction and has completed the Warner Road and will be doing the Whitla Road as soon as possible. Using the No-till Drills and ATV appears to be working good for us.

All Seasonal Staff has been laid off with Ross Upton, Matthew Karl and Jamie Meeks leaving at the end of October. There is no shortage of work to keep us busy for the next month with moving trees and working on cemeteries. Hopefully this nice weather will continue for awhile and we can make some more progress before the snow flies.

I have two weeks vacation left which I will probably take over Christmas. We have now reduced our work week to 40 hours and Tom Simanton and I will be alternating Fridays off.

**DAVE MATZ,
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN.**

ADDENDUM "B" to the
November 6, 2007 Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Minutes
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report
September / October 2007

Once again it is that time of year when things need to be cleaned up and put away for the Winter. Three out of the four Spray Trucks have been winterized and put away for the Winter, and with the last one we are still hoping to put down some Milestone on the Warner Grade for one mile as test, as well as some Kerb to control foxtail grass. After looking over the trucks before putting them away besides regular wear-and-tear, there does not appear to be any major repairs.

Drills

The No-till Drills had an average year with approximately 1000 – 1200 acres to-date and are still being used. (The acres above do not include any of the roadsides we did this year). The repairs will be minor on the drills as well, except for replacing some of the drive chains.

Tree Spraying:

We did thirty-eight (38) jobs this year for a total of \$5,637.00. The tree spraying seems to still be a very popular service that we are providing to the Public. On that note, I would like to see us try to fix up that truck just a little better for the two operators, because it is not very pleasant in there when it is 35 degrees outside and the windows have to stay rolled up. I will try and see if we can do some re-arranging of trucks this winter.

Tree Moving

Just like Dave mentioned in his report, if the weather holds, Kevin Jesske and myself are hoping to move some of the trees around in the tree plots to some cemeteries and Burdett this Fall. So far to date, there are no major repairs needed to this Unit.

Grass Seeding

We did some touch up work to the Warner Grade as well as re-seeded some alfalfa. We are hoping to seed the finished section up at Whitla yet this year before the snow arrives.

I still have nine (9) days of my holidays left this year which I will be using some around the Christmas season and may be carrying some into the start of next year, but we will see how things work out. Thanks for the good year and we will talk to you later.

**TOM SIMANTON,
ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN.**

ADDENDUM "C" to the
November 6, 2007 Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Minutes

Report for September 5th to September 24th AESA

ASB Cypress and County of Forty Mile ASB

I-Activities to date

A morning meeting was held with Rob Dunn, Alberta Agriculture and Food, and Don Wentz, Reduced Tillage Agronomist to organize tours, provide extension information, and write newspaper articles relevant to soil conservation issues, especially bean and potato crops where soils are especially prone to soil loss from wind erosion during late fall and winter months. A fall, likely late October, and spring, mid March, tours of several farms is planned where different practices are being done prior to or following harvest of the crops. Some trials and monitoring has been done in previous years to document the extent of soil loss and movement, and these tours are to provide information, and allow for visual comparisons, especially on the sandy soils. Several farmers as well as the associations or company representatives will also be involved. In discussions with Rob and Don, it was emphasized that there is a shift from soil conservation issues relative to soil loss and degradation to an agenda that stresses water quantity and quality related to groundwater.

I have initiated resurvey of the riparian sites that were done in 2002 with the Seven persons Watershed Group. The initial surveys provided a benchmark of information relative to the riparian health assessments, and some work was done to improve the potential and reduce the risks of an unhealthy and dysfunctional system. The watershed group has been inactive since the fencing, waterers, and other changes occurred, so the first item is to get the group going, and hopefully also involved in SEAWA. There are 11 sites that would be resurveyed with a cost of approximately \$1500 to \$2000/ site. Data is confidential to the county and watershed group, not for public perusal. I will meet with the group early October, and take photos to compare with the 2002 data. If it appears there has been change and improvement, I will schedule resurvey with Cows and Fish. If there doesn't appear to be much of a change, it would be a \$22,000 bill to document that.

Two articles submitted to the Courier/Commentator have been published, a third on shelterbelts should be published in the next two weeks as well as an ad. Discussions with Pheasants Forever directors have been initiated, and a meeting with the Ag Fieldmen from Cypress and County of Forty Mile should result in plans for cost sharing and extent of the 2008 shelterbelt program. Pheasants Forever have expressed a serious desire to increase their efforts voluntarily and financially to continue to promote the shelterbelt program in both counties. With the emphasis on environmental issues, it is likely a good program to continue for public relations (carbon sequestration) reasons as well as the value to watersheds.

ENCL. I-1

The Milk River water sampling is ongoing until end of October, with major changes in the river system since water requirements from Montana irrigators has subsided. The one day workshop as follow up to the Women's Grazing School is on schedule with approximately 30 people returning, most with their spouse. The agenda is attached. Had 5 on farm visits regarding farm planning.

Kathy Waddell - Resigned

Ken Bernau's - Help

II-Planned activities/tours/workshops

Seven Persons Creek Watershed, and Ross Creek Watershed group meetings are planned for October with the group participants, and a decision to resurvey, and a recommendation will be presented to the County at a later ASB meeting.

Sept 25 th	Cypress ASB Meeting
Sept 26 th	Carbon credit workshop-Foremost
Sept 27 th	Carbon credit workshop-Medicine Hat
Sept 28 th	State of the Watershed report for the Milk River watershed. Lethbridge
Sept 30 th	Update meeting with Pheasants Forever
Oct 4-5 th	EFP training, Medicine Hat

IV-3 Goals

-submit an article to the Commentator on soil conservation relating to intensive cropping on sandy soils in the Bow Island area-involve County councilors, representatives for the Potato Growers, and Bean Growers

-continue with the Milk River water sampling and provide a summary or report of current information, at least to the end of the 2006 season, then present a report of 2007 activities for the ASB. Assist in the soil erosion component of the Mild River drainage.

-act as an Adviser for the Environmental Farm Plan Program as required, encourage EFP's by county residents, and assist Ken Kanewischer as needed. Have 11 interested to date. First workshops in Medicine Hat to be scheduled in early November.

-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

ENCL. I-2

-meet with Ross Creek water users and initiate a watershed group if desired, and motivate Seven Person's Creek Watershed users to be involved in the South Saskatchewan initiative and further work within their own groups, especially the Seven Persons group.

-meet with innovative and leading edge producers regarding new crops, techniques, and technologies for contributing to workshops and extension to others. Publish articles with Wayne Brost, Robert Weisgerber, Garry Lentz and others as interested.

-meet with soils, fertilizer, and other specialists in addressing common concerns in soils, weed, or other issues of a broader nature.

ENCL. I-3

Bob Kaufman

September 13, 2007

Box 238

Irvine, Alberta

T0J 1V0

403-878-6994

403-834-2380 email stonehill@xplornet.com

FOLLOW UP WORKSHOP FOR GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Thursday, September 27th Meet @ Walsh Hall

8:30 AM	Registration and coffee/Inside plant identification	Tracy Kupchenko
9:00 AM	Stocking rate assessment Utilization	Bob Kaufman Bob Kaufman
9:45 AM	Field Plant ID Leave for Heller's	Tracy Kupchenko
11:30AM	Salting, herding, and water techniques and development Lunch	Hellers'
12:30 PM	Market forecasts, and marketing	Lyle Taylor
1:30 PM	Herd health issues, weaning/shipping, preg checking and other	Dr. A. Bergen
2:45 PM	Grazing management Differences	Bob Porter
3:15 PM	Herding/handling livestock in the open and confined spaces Video and slides	Dylan Biggs
5:00 PM	Supper	

Meet at Walsh Hall, (east of Medicine Hat on the #1 Highway). Please bring your books from the Women's Grazing School. Please bring a lunch, supper is at the hall, and cost is \$10 per person. This should be an interesting day, and a good review of the school at Elkwater. **PLEASE confirm your attendance by September 21st by phone or email**, to assist the people providing supper. Contact me by email or phone for any concerns or questions. Thanks,

Bob

ENCL. I-4

Report for September 25th to October 30th AESA

ASB Cypress and County of Forty Mile ASB

I-Activities to date

A one day grazing, water development and livestock handling workshop was held September 27th at the Heller Ranch, and Walsh Community Hall. There were 36 women from the Elkwater Grazing School invited, 17 confirmed attendance, most with their spouse, 8 came, 4 with their spouse, 9 presented, making a total of 21. It is hoped that 3 similar workshops can be scheduled for 2008 in different locations in the County of Forty Mile and Cypress.

A meeting of the Milk River State of the Watershed (S.O.W.), committee was held in Lethbridge September 28th to continue towards completion of the S.O.W. Report. Assignments were reported on regarding completion to draft state by December 2007, and Final Draft ready for publication by February 2008. The 200 page report will include, water quality and characteristics pertinent to natural flow, water characteristics relevant to the St. Mary's diversion of water into the Milk River to supply international irrigation requirements, historical data, social and environmental activities, and other relevant information describing the functions and stability for management of the system. Water sampling by Cardston County, Warner, Cypress, and County of Forty Mile concluded October 24th. Flows were substantially reduced from the peak flows during irrigation season, and most of the river characteristics changed dramatically at the conclusion of irrigation season.

A two day training workshop by the Environmental Farm Plan company (EFP), for Technical Assistants, Review Committee members, and Facilitators in the Southern Region, was held in Medicine Hat October 4th and 5th. An overview of the program, workshop presentation, changes to delivery and workbooks, and other results and statistics were described, discussed, and practiced. Environmental Farm Plans continue to provide a venue for farm owners and managers to assess their specific operations relative to environmental issues, develop a plan, and implement their plan through the Canada-Alberta Farm Stewardship Program and their own initiatives. Current Provincial and Federal governments continue to encourage agricultural/environmental compatibility through programs and incentives. Statistics lend credibility to the program by the numbers of farms that have taken advantage of completing the workshops and made changes.

A meeting of the South East Alberta Watershed Alliance (S.E.A.W.A.) organizing committee was held October 19th at Echo Dale. The group has progressed to the point that Lisa Fox has been hired under contract as consultant and manager representing S.E.A.W.A. A General, Annual Meeting will be scheduled, and an elected Board of Directors will give guidance to activities of the group, and begin initiating similar interests and direction to other watershed groups such as the Milk River Watershed, Bow River, and others. Under influence from the Water For Life Strategy initiated by the Province, all the major watersheds within the Province will have non-profit Societies represent interests, be a liaison to government on water issues, and document and describe the parameters affecting water quality and

ENCL. I-5

quantity in their area. A number of industry groups are currently not represented, and efforts are being made to invite their participation, including but not limited to agriculture in general, and specific commodity groups, the oil and gas industry , ad other industrial users.

One EFP workshop was held of which I participated in for training, and as a Technical Assistant, TA. It was attended by 11 farms, 2 husband wife families, and one Huterrite Colony. The group was keen to go through the process, and completed initial requirements on schedule. Southern Region has a number of EFP workshops planned for the County of Forty Mile and Cypress County, this fall and winter expecting about 100 completed and reviewed plans by the spring of 2008.

An article was submitted to the Courier/Commentator and has been published. Discussions with Pheasants Forever directors have been initiated, and a meeting with the Ag Fieldmen from Cypress and County of Forty Mile should result in plans for cost sharing and extent of the 2008 shelterbelt program. Pheasants Forever have expressed a serious desire to increase their efforts voluntarily and financially to continue to promote the shelterbelt program in both counties. With the emphasis on environmental issues, it is likely a good program to continue for public relations (carbon sequestration) reasons as well as the value to watersheds.

Had 3 on farm visits regarding farm planning, watershed, and grazing management.

II-Planned activities/tours/workshops

Seven Persons Creek Watershed, and Ross Creek Watershed group meetings are planned for October with the group participants, and a decision to resurvey, and a recommendation will be presented to the County at a later ASB meeting.

- October 29th EFP Dunmore
- October 30th Cypress ASB Meeting
- November 1st Bow Island EFP
- November 2nd Southern Region ASM Conference
- November 5th S.O.W. Milk River update meeting
- November 6th County of Forty Mile ASB meeting
- November 8th EFP Workshop #2 Bow Island

ENCL. I-6

November 16th S.E.A.W.A. meeting Medicine Hat

November 20th PFRA Shelterbelt workshop, Taber

November 26, 27th SACA Conference, Lethbridge

November 30th AESA Reporting due

IV-3 Goals

-submit an article to the Commentator on soil conservation relating to intensive cropping on sandy soils in the Bow Island area-involve County councilors, representatives for the Potato Growers, and Bean Growers

-act as an Adviser for the Environmental Farm Plan Program as required, encourage EFP's by county residents, and assist Ken Kanewischer as needed. Have 11 interested to date. First workshops in Medicine Hat to be scheduled in early November.

-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

-meet with Ross Creek water users and initiate a watershed group if desired, and motivate Seven Person's Creek Watershed users to be involved in the South Saskatchewan initiative and further work within their own groups, especially the Seven Persons group.

-meet with innovative and leading edge producers regarding new crops, techniques, and technologies for contributing to workshops and extension to others. Publish articles with Wayne Brost, Robert Weisgerber, Garry Lentz and others as interested.

ENCL. I-7

**COUNTY OF FORTY MILE NO. 8
FOREMOST, ALBERTA**

**JOB DESCRIPTION
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN ASSISTANT**

1. Will assist in carrying out Agricultural Service Board Programs.
2. Will assist in maintenance and repair on Agriculture Department equipment and vehicles.
3. Will obtain and hold any licences necessary to perform the duties prescribed under any Acts pertaining to Agricultural Service Board duties (e.g.: Pesticide Applicator Licence – Agriculture / Industrial / Biting Fly)
4. Will support County Safety Program and Policies
5. Will represent Agriculture Department Staff on Joint Health and Safety Committee
6. Will perform weed and pest inspections as required
7. Will assist in co-ordinating Krovar Application Program in conjunction with Public Works
8. Will assist in co-ordinating Roadside Spraying Program in conjunction with Public Works
9. Will assist in implementing Mosquito Control Program
10. Will provide assistance to Utility Department in operation of County water and sewer systems by:
 - Collecting weekly water samples at Skiff Etzikom and Manyberries Water Plants and ensure systems are operated at required standards
 - Flushing hamlet distribution systems
 - Providing stand by service
 - Acting as Relief Utility Operator in Burdett
 - Assist in operation of Hydro Vac Unit
 - Responding to emergency call outs when needed
 - Obtaining required credits needed to maintain Level One Water and Sewer Licences

Agricultural Fieldman Assistant will also be required to perform any other duties assigned by Agricultural Fieldman or Utility Manager.