

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, December 11, 2007.

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

Members Present: Tom Thacker
Ronald Lane
Otto Gross
Lynden Hutchinson
Joan Hughson
Ronald Harty

Also Present: Dale Brown, County Administrator
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman

Minutes

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

CARRIED.

Delegations

10:00 A. M. – Brent Van Maarion
10:30 A. M. – Bob Kaufman, Conservation Co-ordinator

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 30th, 2007.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman's Report:

- Roadside Spraying – Mr. Matz reported that he had used *Kerb* on roadside to control foxtail and also conducted some small trials for farmers to see if the product would control downy brome. He has also used *Milestone* on a mile of new construction to see if the new grass will tolerate it and still get some weed control.
- Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Application – the County of Forty Mile No. 8 and the County of Cypress have prepared their 2008 Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Application. Representatives from the two Municipalities have also met with Don Wong to discuss the Shelterbelt Program in order to improve the administration of the Program.
- Farm Pesticide Course – Mr. Matz will be instructing a Farm Pesticide Course on December 13, 2007.

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

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report:

The Assistant Agricultural Fieldman reported that the grass seeding has been completed on the Whitla jobsite and the drills have been moved to Foremost for the winter months.

Staff have been moving trees at the Bow Island plot and will continue to do so if the weather warms up.

Staff has also been working on equipment in the Shop and Mr. Simanton will be spending some time planning for capital items for the upcoming year.

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

Agricultural Fieldman Dave Matz presented the Board with a proposal for the rental of the farmland in North West 21 and South West 21, Township 9, Range 7, West of the Fourth Meridian for a 3-year term.

Field Shelterbelt Establishment Program

MOVED approval of the revised Agricultural Service Board / Pheasants Forever Field Shelterbelt Establishment Program Application as per Addendum 'C' to the Minutes.

CARRIED.

Strategic Planning Meeting

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Service Board to hold a Strategic Planning Meeting on January 15, 2008.

CARRIED.

Predator Control

Brent Van Maarion attended the Meeting to see if the Board would be interested in hiring him for predator control within the County of Forty Mile No. 8.

Mr. Van Maarion advised that he will also be meeting with Cypress County regarding this issue.

The Chairman informed Mr. Van Maarion that the County presently contracts the service for Rabies Control along the south and east boundaries of the County of Forty Mile No. 8 and Council is presently looking at entering into a joint program with neighbouring municipalities for additional control.

Mr. Brent Van Maarion left the Meeting.

Mr. Van Maarion's proposal will be reviewed with Cypress County prior to any action being taken.

Conservation Co-ordinator's Activity Report

- ◆ Environmental Farm Plan Workshops have been held in Bow Island, Foremost, Dunmore and the Cypress Centre in Medicine Hat, in which he acted as a Technical Advisor for most of the Workshops.
- ◆ The South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference was held at the Cypress Centre and was very successful in bringing most of the Agricultural Service Board Members together for updates on activities and programs administered by the Counties and the Municipal Districts.
- ◆ The Southeast Alberta Watershed Alliance Meeting was held on November 16, 2007 and was very productive in that the objectives and by-laws of the Society were discussed, consensus achieved, and all items approved.
- ◆ The 2007 Report for Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture activities was sent to Dale Chrapko. In 2008 comparisons of traditional tillage, chem-fallow versus tillage, and other techniques will be included as part of the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture delivery.

Joan Hughson left the Meeting.

A copy of the Program Proposal Objectives for 2008 for the Southern Region was presented and attached as Addendum 'D' to the Minutes.

Mr. Bob Kaufman left the Meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Rabies Report

Rabies Inspection Program has been completed with no positive samples found.

Calgary Stampede Farm Family Award

The deadline for nominations for the Calgary Stampede Farm Family Award is February 15, 2008.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:55 A.M.

CARRIED.

ADDENDUM 'A'
to the December 11, 2007
Agriculture Service Board Meeting
Agricultural Fieldman's Report
November 2007

The past month has gone by fast and the slowdown in work has been a relief. I have spent most of my time working in the Office. Tom has been working on equipment and finishing up some odd jobs and Kevin has been helping Tom and Stewart on Utilities.

Earlier in the month I sprayed out some *Kerb* on roadsides to control foxtail and did some small trials for a farmer to see if it will control downy brome. I also put some *Milestone* out on a mile of new construction to see if the new grass will tolerate it and still get some weed control.

I have joined the Burdett Ag Society which will give me an opportunity to hear concerns or requests from residents there. Burdett's 95th Anniversary is coming up next Summer and I have already had some questions about the County's position on the Community Park, cleaning up private lots and the possibility of having the streets swept before Burdett Days.

I have met with Jason Storch to go over the AESA Application. We both met with Don Wong to discuss the Shelterbelt Program and I think we have come up with a plan that will be more manageable. I plan on putting some advertisements out in the New Year encouraging producers to participate.

I have also contacted a resident on the Whitla road regarding replacement of trees. The road construction required the removal of some large poplar and willow trees that were on both the road allowance and on private property. I think that the County should replace some of the trees and attempt to restore the shelterbelt.

In December I have a Farm Pesticide course scheduled for the 13th and will begin preparing for the Strategic Planning Meeting. I then plan on beginning my vacation on December 17th and returning on January 7th.

Have a Merry Christmas.

DAVE MATZ,
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN.

ADDENDUM 'B'
to the December 11, 2007
Agricultural Service Board Meeting

**Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Report
November 2007**

November was a good month for finishing a lot of little jobs that needed a day here and a day there. We finished seeding the grass at the Whitla job site and moved the drills home for the Winter. The drills have been cleaned and greased for the Winter.

We worked on moving more trees around the Bow Island plot to make the weeding program much simpler for the Summer Staff. If the weather warms up we can always go back and work on moving more trees.

I have spent some days in the Shop working on equipment for next year. I have also been planning for capital items for the upcoming year, as well as changing some of our existing equipment.

I hope everyone has a good Christmas and New Year. Thanks.

**TOM SIMANTON,
ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN.**

Report for November 1st to December 7th, 2007 AESA

ASB Cypress and County of Forty Mile ASB

I-Activities to date

Environmental Farm Plan Workshops have been held in Bow Island, Foremost, Dunmore, and the Cypress Centre, Medicine Hat. I have acted as a Technical Advisor for most of the workshops with Brenda Stryker as Facilitator. Attendance has been excellent in spite of the unseasonably warm weather that kept many farmers and ranchers busy completing work that cannot be done in inclement weather. The number to date is over 40 participants. Those that participated were enthused, most completed their workbooks in a two week period, and submitted their plans for review. The Canada Alberta Farm Stewardship Program is ending in it's mandate to provide funding assistance for management practice change from more traditional and conventional practices to ones that provide more environmental stability, and conservation land use. Most participants have submitted applications for funding assistance for 2008 in expectation that there will be an extension of program support into the future.

The South Region ASB Conference held at the Cypress Centre was successful in bringing most of the ASB members together for updates on activities and programs administered by the counties and MD's. Of particular note were reports, consultation, and submission of resolutions regarding ongoing pest and rodent problems, and the direction and future of the AESA program.

The SEWA meeting held Nov 16th was productive in that the objectives and bylaws of the Society were discussed, consensus achieved, and all items approved. Subsequently, the executive which includes Doug Henderson, will sign documents the week of December 4th to 7th, which will enable SEAWA to become registered as a Society. Attached are the most current documents that represent what has occurred to date;

A-objects

B-bylaws

C-minutes of the last meeting

The 2007 report for AESA activities was sent to Dale Chrapko. I deliberately did not include the statistics on rental of the drills, pipeline plow, land roller and other equipment, as this is an ongoing ASB activity that is not an annual AESA extension based activity as delivered. For 2008, comparison of traditional tillage, chem. Fallow

versus tillage, and other techniques will be included a part of the AESA delivery. Note the attached 2008 Objectives and Program Delivery Goals, and 2008 application submitted by Jason on behalf of both counties.

II-Planned activities/tours/workshops

December 11th Forty Mile ASB 9:00 AM

December 13th Cypress ASB 10:00 AM

December 19th SOW Milk River Lethbridge

IV-3 Goals

See the attached documents regarding 2008 program.