

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, March 4th, 2008.

The Meeting was called to order by the Reeve, Lynden Hutchinson, at 9:00 A.M.

Members Present: *Ronald Lane*
 Tom Thacker
 Joan Hughson

Also Present: *Dale Brown, County Administrator*
 Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman
 Tom Simanton, Assistant Agricultural
 Fieldman

Absent: *Craig Widmer*
 Otto Gross
 Ronald Harty

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on February 5th, 2008.

CARRIED.

Delegations

11:00 A. M. – Farm Family Award Presentation

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 January 31st, 2008.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman Activities to February 29th, 2008:

- Preparing information for the County Newsletter
- Drafting a Self-guided Tour
- Preparing material for the Milk River Aquifer website
- Planning shelterbelts for landowners
- Planning / preparation for the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference and the South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference
- On February 15th, 2008 attended the South Region Committee Meeting regarding updates on the Agricultural Service Board Act, Weed Act Review, Fusarium Committee, Clubroot and Potato Nematode

A copy of the Agricultural Fieldman's Report for February, 2008 has been attached as Addendum "A" to the Minutes.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report – February 29th, 2008

- Completed the plumbing and mounting of the new tanks on Unit 601
- Wiring completed on Unit 629
- Compiling budget quotes for 2008 Capital purchases

A copy of the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report for February, 2008 has been attached as Addendum "B" to the Minutes.

2 % Liquid Strychnine

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency has approved an emergency registration for 2 % Liquid Strychnine from February 13th to July 30th, 2008 for the control of severe infestation of Richardson Ground Squirrel.

Alberta Agriculture and Food will be required to provide oversight of the distribution of 2 % Liquid Strychnine Concentrate and conduct a Compliance Monitoring Program to ensure confirmation with all use restrictions. The Compliance Program will consist of:

1. Distribution of 2 % Liquid Strychnine Concentrate will be done by the Municipality in which the Municipality will keep detailed records regarding the sale and use of 2 % Liquid Strychnine Concentrate including, but limited to name of purchaser, address, farm size, amount sold, map of the location of use on the farm and incidences of non-target poisoning.
2. The user will be required to sign a document stating:
 - a) that they have a severe infestation of Richardson Ground Squirrels as defined by Alberta Agriculture and Food.
 - b) they will use 2 % Liquid Strychnine Concentrate only for the control of Richardson Ground Squirrels.
 - c) they will not hold 2 % Liquid Strychnine Concentrate beyond the end of the emergency period.
 - d) they will not sell or give away any 2 % Liquid Strychnine Concentrate.
3. At the end of the emergency period all unused 2 % Liquid Strychnine Concentrate is to be destroyed according to the Provincial guidelines.
4. Alberta Agricultural Pest Act Inspectors will conduct random inspections to ensure that users comply with all label directions and conditions of use and registration.

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Service Board to participate in the 2 % Liquid Strychnine Program with the provision of a one case limit per landowner without a prior inspection being conducted by a certified inspector.

CARRIED.

Capital Purchases

A proposed list of Capital items for 2008 was presented to the Board Members for their review prior to the County Budget Meeting.

Farm Land Lease / Rental Agreement – West Half 21, Township 9, Range 7, West of the Fourth Meridian

The Agricultural Service Board received two farm land rental proposals for the West Half of 21, 9-7-W4. The proposals have been attached as per Addendum "C" to the Minutes.

MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board enter into an agreement for the farming of the West Half 21, Township 9, Range 7, West of the Fourth Meridian for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 as outlined in his proposal. The Agricultural Service Board agreed that if there was crop damage resulting from actions taken by the landowner, the County of Forty Mile No. 8 would reimburse his input cost not covered by crop insurance.

CARRIED.

Tax Deferral – Drought Induced Sales of Breeding Livestock in 2007

Alberta Agriculture and Food has advised that the Honourable Gary Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has declared the County of Forty Mile No. 8 eligible for a tax deferral on drought induced sales of breeding livestock in 2007.

Essentially if a municipality is identified as a drought area, a portion of the income from the sale of breeding animals can be deferred at least until the next taxation year. This deferral can continue as long as the municipality continues to be identified as a drought region.

INFORMATION ITEMS

CP Rail Right of Way Weed Control

E-mail from David Spata agreeing to continue having the County perform weed control along the Taber and Stirling sub-division.

Mosquito Control – Town of Bow Island

Letter from the Town requesting mosquito control the same as provided in 2007.

Debbie Oyarzun

Letter from Debbie Oyarzun announcing that she has accepted a position with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Agricultural Service Board Grant

Final documents for the 2007 Grant were issued to Debbie Oyarzun.

Coyote Control – Form 8 – Quarterly Report

No tablets were issued for coyote control in 2007.

Fusarium Action Committee

Letter from Paul Laflamme regarding the status of the Fusarium Action Committee.

Release of Personal Information

Letter from Kneehill County regarding the release of information to the public under the Agricultural Pests Act.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:05 A. M.

CARRIED.

ADDENDUM "A" to
the Agricultural Service Board Meeting
March 4, 2008
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN'S REPORT
FEBRUARY, 2008

The past month I have been preparing information for newsletters, drafting a Self-guided Tour, preparing material for the Milk River Aquifer Website, planning shelterbelts for landowners and doing some work on the Agricultural Service Board Conference and south region Agricultural Service Board Conference.

I am trying to simplify the newsletter by creating a one page double sided newsletter that can be sent out more often throughout the year. A draft pamphlet has also been created for the Self-guided Tour and I will work on this some more in March. Some material has been prepared for the Aquifer Website and I have been working with Nathan on getting this project up and running.

On February 15, I attended a South Region Committee meeting with updates on the Agricultural Service Board Act Review, Weed Act Review, Fusarium Committee, Clubroot, and Potato Nematode.

Debbie presented us with another look at the Agricultural Service Board Act and some more input was given as to what changes should be made. I brought up the issue of recovering legal fees in case a landowner fails to abide by an order. All other comments were consistent with what was made at the Province Conference.

The Weed Act has been prepared and should be passed at this Spring's sitting of the Legislature. The main changes have been renaming Restricted to Primary Noxious Weeds and the removal of nuisance weeds from the Act and Regulations. An improvement has been made regarding access to land to enforce a weed notice.

The Fusarium Action Committee has not seen much action since Clubroot and Potato Nematode have consumed all of Paul Laflamme's time and resources. Currently, the only fields with Clubroot in the south are near Bassano, and they are of a different variety than the disease in central Alberta. The Bassano Clubroot is more tolerant to high pH soils and originated in a market garden. A new Management Plan for Clubroot is being prepared and a contentious issue regarding the release of personal information was discussed. The Canola Growers Association was present and expressed a great deal of concern about Clubroot as most seed Canola is grown in Southern Alberta and they do not want a perception of contaminated seed.

In 2007, Potato Golden Nematode was found in two fields and resulted in the United States and Mexican border closing to Alberta Seed Potatoes. Extensive testing has not found any more, but in order to open the border, all seed potato acres must be surveyed and tested. Alberta Agriculture is looking to set up a lab to facilitate the testing.

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Agricultural Fieldman's Report

I have not set a date for the South Region Conference, but I have tentatively booked the Bio Fuel Demonstration Trailer out of Winnipeg. They will provide a speaker and allow people to go through the trailer. Other speaker ideas include Ross Mackenzie, Bob Kaufman and the Manager of Spitz.

In March, I will be preparing the budget, newsletters, Ag Tour, capital and getting ready for Spring. Tom and Kevin are working on getting ready for Krovar season in early April and we will be moving trees and drills as soon as the ground thaws.

DAVE MATZ
AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN.

**ASSISTANT FIELDMAN'S REPORT
FEBRUARY, 2008**

February was a busy month in the shop working on Nos. 601 and 629. We were finishing up mounting and plumbing the new tanks on 601 and completed some wiring on 629.

I priced out some decks for the truck we proposed to buy in our Capital Meeting. Some quotes have been received for these items.

March and April will be dedicated to going through the rest of the equipment and preparing for some summer staff to start returning. Depending on the weather, Kevin and I would like to start spraying out the Krovar as soon as possible and do some of the cemetery work we set aside for a winter project.

I hope to have all crews up and working smoothly in the first week of May to stay on top of all the grass cutting, cemetery mowing and tree plot maintenance this year. I think we need to dedicate a little more time towards the tree plots this year to keep them looking the way they do right now, because I have a lot of comments on the shape they are in now.

Thanks for your time and I hope everybody has an enjoyable Spring.

**TOM SIMANTON
ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN**