

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 3rd, 2008.

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

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

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

Absent: *Joan Hughson*

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on March 4th, 2008.

CARRIED.

Items Added to the Agenda

One item was added to the Agenda by the Agricultural Fieldman.

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending May 31st, 2008.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman's Report to May 31st, 2008:

- ◆ *Staffing:*
 - Seasonal Staff call backs started the end of April, 2008
 - Two High School Students will be hired for July and August, 2008
- ◆ *Spraying:*
 - Krovar spraying is going very well and with the installation of the GPS Units in the two one ton spray trucks the whole process has been more efficient and has reduced the chance of operator error
 - Blair Seward is being trained to take over the Krovar Spraying Program and also in the operation of the three ton spray truck
- ◆ *Trees:*
 - This year saw a reduction in the number of Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration trees ordered by the Agricultural Service Board and landowners in general. Staff, however, had two small projects under the Wildlife Planting Program and planted trees for a number of farmers as well.
 - A large order of trees was purchased from a nursery in Raymond for local landowners. The trees were purchased on a cost recovery basis.
- ◆ *Coyote Predation:*
 - Two calls were received from the Orion area and one call from Nemiscam regarding calves killed by coyotes.

- ◆ *Strychnine:*
 - Twelve cases of strychnine have been sold with only one farm using more than one case. Infestation in the County does not appear to be as severe as in central and western Alberta where strychnine sales have been much higher.
- ◆ *South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference:*
 - This years Conference will be held on October 29th, 2008 in Burdett
 - Miles Hamilton from Spitz will speak on the history of the Spitz Plant
 - Bob Kaufman will make a presentation on the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Projects in Cypress / County of Forty Mile No. 8
 - Agriculture Canada will speak on the Bio-bug Program for weed control
 - Ross McKenzie has been invited to report on the research going on at the Bow Island sub-station

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report to May 31st, 2008

- ◆ *Equipment Update:*
 - Wind deflectors have been built for the driver sides on Unit 601 and 629 to assist in stopping the drift and wind problems that were occurring while spraying Krovar. The screens have proven to work very well to date.
 - The Drill Rental Program got under way in May and is still presently booked for future use.
 - A C can container has been purchased for seed storage and storage of equipment.
 - Staff have been busy moving trees for ratepayers along with relocating trees to various cemeteries.
 - Fencing has been put up around the Prospery Cemetery and staff are presently making posts for the Whitla Cemetery.
- ◆ *Spraying of Dandelions:*
 - The spraying of dandelions for private individuals was discussed and it was the consensus of the Agricultural Service Board that weed control should be limited to noxious and restricted weeds only.

Bob Kaufman present.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's Report

The Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's report for the period of February, March and April, 2008 was presented and attached as Addendum "A" to the Minutes.

Southern Region Co-ordinator

Mr. Kaufman reported that Don Battiste has been appointed as the Southern Region Co-ordinator.

Mr. Kaufman left the Meeting.

Clubroot

Release of personal information under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act and Ag Pests Act was reviewed. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner provided a written response regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act as it pertains to notifying the public on the location of pests such as Clubroot.

Problem Wildlife Training

MOVED approval for two Agriculture Staff Members to attend the Problem Wildlife Training on September 22nd and 23rd, 2008.

CARRIED.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2007 Agricultural Service Board Grant

Letter from Debbie Oyarzun, Supervisor of the Agricultural Service Board Program, advising that the County's total Agricultural Service Board Grant for 2007 is \$173,887.52.

Mosquito Surveillance – West Nile Virus

The County received a request from Jock McIntosh, Ag/Chemical Senior Policy Advisor – Alberta Environment, to continue with West Nile Virus Surveillance. He has been advised that the county will be participating.

Alberta Beef Producers

Letter from Rich Smith, General Manager of Alberta Beef Producers, requesting submission of nominations for the 2009 Environmental Stewardship Award.

2% Liquid Strychnine

Letter from Chris Allam, Chairman of Strathcona County Agricultural Service Board, advising that they do not support the release of 2% Liquid Strychnine.

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

CARRIED.