

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 2nd, 2008.

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

Members Present: *Otto Gross*
 Ronald Lane
 Joan Hughson

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

Absent: *Councillor Lynden Hutchinson*
 Councillor Tom Thacker
 Councillor Ronald Harty

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on June 3rd, 2008.

CARRIED.

Delegations

10:00 A. M. – Bob Kaufman, Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician

Items Added to the Agenda

Several 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 August 31st, 2008.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman's Report:

- Roadside spraying has gone extremely well this year. Staff will begin the Fall Spraying Program in the irrigation area in early September as temperatures cool down allowing Thistles to begin to rosette. Quads were used to spray Half Breed Creek, South Saskatchewan River and the railway lines.
- Another Knapweed patch was discovered in the Orion area and Milestone will be used to try and control the Knapweed patch.
- *Tree Spraying* – Staff were kept busy with the Tree Spraying Program with spider mites causing the most problem.
- *Bow Island* – Agriculture Staff assisted with weed control at various locations in the Town of Bow Island.
- *West Nile Virus Surveillance* - No positive samples of mosquitoes were found this year as the mosquito that carries the virus did not reach very high populations this summer.
- *Hamlet Maintenance* – was completed by Summer Staff.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report:

- *Cemeteries* – The majority of the cemeteries were mowed twice in 2008 with some receiving a third cut. Staff also repainted fences and crosses at various cemeteries. Staff are also proposing to install a new gate and sign at the Whitla Cemetery in September.
- *Drill* – The drills have sat the majority of the summer as higher grain prices have reduced the acres reseeded to grass

- *Hamlet of Burdett* – The entire Agriculture Staff assisted with the clean up in the Hamlet of Burdett after the July summer storm.

Bob Kaufman present.

Mr. Kaufman, Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician, reported on his activities for July and August, 2008.

September Activities:

- September 2nd, 2008 -County of Forty Mile No. 8 Agricultural Service Board Meeting
- September 10, 2008 – Milk River Water Sampling
- September 19th, 2008 – SEAWA Tour
- September 23rd, 2008 – Cypress County Agricultural Service Board Meeting
- September 14th, 2008 – Milk River Water Sampling
- September 25th, 2008 – Indianhead Biomass Tour
- September 30th, 2008 – Southern Alberta Conservation Association Conference Meeting

Goals:

- Summarize reports for Youth Range Days
- Shelterbelt Tour
- Assist Watershed Groups:
 - Milk River Watershed Council - water sampling
 - Cypress Watershed Groups (Seven Persons), do a report and initiate a re-assessment of riparian areas
- Southern Alberta Conservation Association Conference organizing committee
- Write articles for the Commentator/Courier

2008 South Region Conference

The 2008 South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference will be held on October 29th, 2008 at the Burdett Community Hall.

Joan Hughson will act as Chairman for the Conference.

2008 Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman In-service Training

MOVED approval for Tom Simanton, Dave Matz and Kevin Jesske to attend the 2008 Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman In-service Training the first week in December, 2008.

CARRIED.

2009 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

MOVED approval for Tom Simanton and Kevin Jesske to attend the 2009 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference January 26th to 29th, 2009.

CARRIED.

North American Weed Management Association Conference

MOVED approval for Dave Matz to attend the North American Weed Management Association Conference September 15th to 18th, 2008 in Billings, Montana.

CARRIED.

Southern Ag Advantage Conference

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Service Board to contribute \$750.00 to the Southern Ag Advantage Conference.

CARRIED.

Fusarium Testing of Seed

The Foremost Seed Cleaning Plant has expressed some concerns with Fusarium Testing and the policing of positive results. An incident arose at the Foremost Plant this Spring where a customer was notified of a positive result and, then, the customer proceeded to take his seed to another plant to be cleaned, as they do not have a zero tolerance policy. The concern is that when a customer takes their seed elsewhere to be cleaned because of the County's zero tolerance policy it affects the income of the plant and also the customers who have to bear the cost of testing. It seems inconsistent to have some County residents choose not to test and, then, allow them to seed the infested seed in the County. The County's Agricultural Fieldman responded to their letter and informed them that in 2002 the County of Forty Mile No. 8 requested local seed cleaning plants to adopt a policy requiring farmers to test all seed for Fusarium Graminearum before cleaning in order to prevent the disease from becoming established in the area.

The Agriculture Pest Act does not require seed cleaning plants or farmers to perform tests on seed that is grown in Alberta, but it is strongly recommended.

Under the Agriculture Pest Act the County's Agricultural Fieldman has the authority to take action against farmers who import seed from outside of Alberta without a Laboratory Certificate and if an infestation is found in a growing cereal crop, however, he does not have the authority to force farmers to test their own seed or force a seed cleaning plant to require testing.

Land Under Supervision

The Agricultural Fieldman provided an update on the land that is presently under supervision.

Shelterbelt Program

The Board discussed participating in Farmstead Shelterbelt Programs. This issue was deferred to the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

Agriculture Bursary

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Service Board Bursary (\$1,000.00) to be awarded to Brodie Haugan.

CARRIED.

Councillor Otto Gross inquired to see what was going to be happening with the trees in the tree demo plots at Foremost and Bow Island.

The Agricultural Fieldman informed Mr. Gross that the trees would be relocated to various cemeteries in the County.

Burdett Slough Area

Councillor Ronald Lane indicated that he had received a complaint regarding the Foxtail in the Burdett slough area.

The Agricultural Fieldman advised that they would be spraying the area to control the Foxtail this Fall.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mosquito Report – 2008 Surveillance Program

Clubroot Press Release from County of Lethbridge

4-H

Thank you for sponsoring an award for the District Communications Day.

2009 Agricultural Service Board Grant Allocation

Letter has been received from Eileen Chauvet, Supervisor – Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, regarding 2008 – 2009 Agricultural Service Board Grant Allocation.

Audit Implementation

Letter from Eileen Chauvet, Supervisor – Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, advising that they will be implementing an audit process. They will be conducting 5 random audits throughout the Province every year.

Controlling Wild Boars

Letter received from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the declaration of the Wild Boar as a pest.

Domestic Fertilizer

Request from Clearwater County to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to review the use of domestic fertilizer containing pesticides.

Letter – Red Deer County

Request to have offsite watering eligible under the 'Alberta Farm Water Source Program (AFWSP)'.

Letter – Municipal District of Smoky River

Recommendations for changes to the proposed Weed Act.

Nominations – Safety Training Advisory Committee

Letter from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development requesting nominations for Members to serve on a Safety Training Advisory Committee. Nominations will be accepted until September 5th, 2008.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:50 A. M.

CARRIED.