

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 4th, 2008.

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

*Members Present: Ronald Lane
 Craig Widmer
 Tom Thacker
 Joan Hughson
 Ronald Harty*

*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.

Craig Widmer nominated Joan Hughson.

Ronald Lane nominated Ronald Harty.

Mr. Harty declined.

Tom Thacker nominated Craig Widmer.

Mr. Widmer declined.

Nominations were called three times, and since there were no further nominations, Joan Hughson 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 2nd, 2008.

CARRIED.

Bob Kaufman present.

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 October 31st, 2008.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman and Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's reports were presented and added as Addendum "A" to the Minutes.

Southern Alberta Ag Advantage Conference

The Board discussed the possibility of sponsoring people to attend various conferences.

No action was taken.

2009 Agriculture Committee Meeting Date

MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board meet on the following dates in 2009:

February 3, March 3, May 5, June 2, September 1, November 3 and December 8, 2009

CARRIED.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

MOVED approval of the proposed 2009 Business Plan as per Addendum "B" to the Minutes.

CARRIED.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Co-ordinator Position

MOVED approval for the extension of Bob Kaufman's Contract as the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Co-ordinator for the County of Forty Mile No. 8 and Cypress County for 2009.

CARRIED.

Environmental Farm Plans

The Agricultural Service Board role in delivering Environmental Farm Plans for 2009 was discussed.

Wild Boar Eradication Program

The Wild Boar Eradication Program was reviewed by the Board.

Alberta Agriculture Extension Services

Alberta Agriculture has requested input on what role the Agricultural Service Board sees an extension specialist would play in the County.

The consensus of the County's Agricultural Service Board was that:

- ◆ Specialists should be made available to address specific problems for each region
- ◆ There should be an extension office in Medicine Hat
- ◆ Alberta Agriculture should be more consistent with their programs and maintain a long term strategy

Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course Review

Farmers will be required to take the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course in order to access Strychnine, Phostoxin and Tordon.

MOVED that a letter be forwarded to Alberta Agriculture expressing the County's concern / opposition to the proposed Farm Pesticide Certification Program.

CARRIED.

Cows and Fish Gala

Cows and Fish has requested the County to provide financial assistance or sponsor a landowner to attend the Cows and Fish Gala.

No action taken.

Water, Agriculture and the Environment Conference

The Water, Agriculture and the Environment Conference has been scheduled for November 27th and 28th, 2008 in Lethbridge.

The Southern Agriculture Conference is scheduled for December 2nd and 3rd, 2008 in Medicine Hat.

Councillor Craig Widmer, Ronald Harty, Ronald Lane and Joan Hughson will be attending the Conference.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program

Letter from Brazeau County to John Knapp regarding having stable funding for the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program in order to reduce staff turnover.

Invoices

- ◆ Canadian Pacific Railway
- ◆ Volker Stevin – re: Roadside Mowing and Herbicide – July, 2008
- ◆ Town of Bow Island – re: Mosquito and Weed Control
- ◆ Public Lands – re: Weed Inspections
- ◆ Alberta Environment – re: West Nile Virus Surveillance Program
- ◆ Volker Stevin – re: Roadside Mowing and Herbicide – October 20

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

CARRIED.