

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 1st, 2009.

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

Members Present: *Ronald Lane*
 Lynden Hutchinson
 Craig Widmer
 Ronald Harty
 Otto Gross

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

Absent: *Councillor Tom Thacker*

Minutes

Moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on May 5th, 2009.

CARRIED.

Delegations

10:00 A. M. – Bob Kaufman

Items Added to the Agenda

Two items were added to the Agenda by the Members present.

Treasurer's Report

Moved approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31st, 2009.

CARRIED.

REPORTS

Agricultural / Assistant Fieldman's Reports – May/August, 2009:

- County and Provincial Highways have been sprayed once and the Agriculture Department is now proceeding with the Fall Spraying Program.

Krovar / Glyphosate Spraying Program:

The Krovar Application / Spraying Program was a long process this year due to the frequent rains that kept County spray trucks off the roads.

Glyphosate was applied to approximately fifty miles of road surface to help control grass from growing on the shoulders.

Roadside Spraying Program:

The Roadside Spraying Program started off with an early Spring application of 2-4D that had disappointing results due to near frost conditions in June.

- Excellent results have been achieved this summer with the use of Estaprop and the Department is proposing to mix it with Banvel later in the season for Canada Thistle control.
- The Department will be using Garlon 4 for brush and thistle control this Fall and also will be trying Curtail or Ontrel for late season Canada Thistle control.

Quad Spraying:

The Leafy Spurge control along rivers and creeks started in mid June and it was noted that excellent results are being achieved at sites near Aden.

- There are extensive Leafy Spurge infestations along the north shore of the South Saskatchewan River. Work along this river is primarily containment to keep it from spreading on the County side.
- There has been a noticeable reduction in Knapweed sites / size with good results being obtained in controlling this weed, however, the seed bank in the soil will require several years of monitoring.
- The Rail Line Spraying Program was completed in mid August with a wide variety of invasive plants such as Bladder Campion, Toadflax, Leafy Spurge and Canadian Thistle still being found.

Tree Spraying No Till Drills / Tree Moving:

Tree spraying and the No Till Drills have seen about the same amount of use as the previous few years.

- The tree mover was used extensively this Spring to move trees from the north tree nursery into Burdett and to clear trees from the Foremost nursery.

Hamlet Maintenance / Cemeteries:

The new Zero Turn Mower that was purchased for hamlet/cemetery maintenance has worked out very well and has decreased the time required for mowing and trimming at the various sites. Two staff members are now able to keep up with the program. With mowing completed by the end of August.

- Tree stumps in the paved areas in Burdett were ground out this summer and the remaining stumps in the park and cemetery will be completed in 2010.
- A new fence and sign have been erected at the Whitla cemetery. A new fence will also be put up at the Highland Cemetery this Fall.

Roadside Mowing / Grass Seeding:

- The first round of roadside mowing has been completed with the second round to start in September.
- Grass seeding was completed on the Whitla Road north of Bow Island and south west of Burdett with a good catch on all sites.
- Participated in a field crop weed survey this year with Alberta Agriculture.
- Minimal larvacide control for mosquitoes was completed this year.
- The recent Rabies Surveillance Program has been held up by a recent decision of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to only test skunk heads that act suspiciously.

2009 South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

The 2009 South Region Agricultural Service Board Conference will be held at the Municipal District of Acadia on Wednesday, October 28th, 2009.

Councillors Joan Hughson and Ronald Harty will be attending the Conference on behalf of the County.

2010 Agricultural Service Board Conference

The 2010 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference will be held in Edmonton February 1st to 3rd, 2010.

All Board Members advised that they will be attending the Conference.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture

The Agricultural Fieldman informed Council that he recently attended a meeting regarding the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program and noted that the Program will replace in 2010 under the same guidelines that presently exists.

2009 Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman In-service Training

Moved approval for Dave Matz, Tom Simanton and Kevin Jesske to attend the 2009 Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman In-service Training in November, 2009.

CARRIED.

Sale of Capital Items

Moved approval for Unit Nos. 545 and 624 to be listed for sale at the Schlenker Fall Auction on October 15th, 2009.

CARRIED.

Bursary

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board Bursary be awarded to Marty Macleod.

CARRIED.

Southern Ag Advantage Sponsorship

The Southern Alberta Conservation Association has requested the Agricultural Service Board to consider sponsorship of this year's Conference.

No action taken.

County of Vermillion River

A copy of a letter from the County of Vermillion River to the Honourable Gerry Ritz requesting both Federal and Provincial lending agencies (Farm Credit Corporation, Agricultural Credit Services of Alberta and Alberta Treasury Branch) to reduce their interest rate as much as possible to minimize input costs for farmers.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's Report

Bob Kaufman attended the Meeting and reported on activities to date.

Highlights:

- Riparian health assessments have been completed for the Cypress Watershed Group. The final reporting by Cows and Fish will be completed this winter and will, then, be available to the various landowners.
- A workshop will be held in conjunction with South East Alberta Watershed Association on November 12th, 2009.
- Presently in the process of trying to get an introductory workshop on Ranching for Profit. Topics to include the three secrets for increased profit and cows are easier to work with than people.

Planned Activities:

- August 21st, 2009 – Lethbridge YRD wrap up and 2010 planning.
- August 25th, 2009 – Agricultural Service Board – Cypress.
- August 27th, 2009 – Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Conference Call
- September 17th, 2009 – Livestock Water Tour.
- September 23rd, 2009 – South East Alberta Watershed Association / SOW

Goals:

- Assist watershed groups:
 - Milk River Watershed Council
 - Cypress Watershed Group (Seven Persons)
- Southern Alberta Conservation Association Conference organizing committee for 2009
- Develop two additional newsletters for 2009

Rabies Surveillance Program

Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development have initiated a Stakeholder Consultation regarding an issue over the testing of animals by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for the Rabies Surveillance Program. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has recently informed Alberta Disease Research that they will no longer test all specimens submitted for rabies received from the Skunk Surveillance Sampling Program. Sampling will only be completed for rabies on suspect animals. Currently all skunk heads are submitted for testing to the Alberta Disease Research Institute in Lethbridge.

Moved that a letter be forwarded to the Federal Minister of Agriculture requesting the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to continue testing skunks submitted under the Surveillance Program.

CARRIED.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Agricultural Service Board Grant

Letter from Eileen Chauvet regarding the Agricultural Service Board Grant.

West Nile Surveillance Program

Letter to Minister Ron Liepert regarding the West Nile Surveillance Program and response letter from Minister Liepert.

Screenings

Letter from the Foremost Seed Cleaning Plant regarding containment of screenings.

2009 Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program Funding

Letter from Alberta Agricultural and Rural Development regarding approval of funding for the 2009 Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Program.

Mowing Invoice

Invoice to Volker Stevin for the first round of mowing.

Moved that the Meeting adjourn at 11:15 A. M.

CARRIED.