

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 Thursday, November 5th, 2009.

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
 Lynden Hutchinson
 Otto Gross

Also Present: *Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman*
 Tom Simanton, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
 Maureen Vadnais, Agricultural Service Board
 Specialist

Absent: *Councillor Ronald Harty*

Nominations for Chairman

The Administrator opened the Meeting and called for nominations for Chairman of the Agricultural Service Board.

Craig Widmer nominated Joan Hughson.

Otto Gross nominated Tom Thacker.

Tom Thacker 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 1st, 2009.

CARRIED.

Delegations

9:00 A. M. – Maureen Vadnais

10:00 A. M. - Bob Kaufman

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending October 31st, 2009.

CARRIED.

Maureen Vadnais, Agricultural Service Board Specialist, was introduced to the Board Members.

Ms. Vadnais provided an overview of her role and responsibilities as Agricultural Service Board Specialist and extended an open invitation to Board Members and Staff to contact her on any issues that she may be of assistance with.

STAFF REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman, Dave Matz, reported on the following issues:

- Regional Agricultural Service Board Meeting update.
- Trichomoniasis Control.
- Survey to Community Pastures.
- Alberta Agriculture and Canadian Food Inspection Agency Negotiating Future Rabies Testing.
- *Strychnine Use* – Minister supports future use of strychnine.
- *Agricultural Service Board Act Review* – Board Members requested Maureen Vadnais as part of the Agricultural Service Board Review to clarify the steps in the Act relating to land under reclamation and land under supervision. The Board also discussed existing land under supervision and the steps that need to be followed when the time period expires.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Tom Simanton, provided an update on the following programs:

- Fall Spraying Program has been completed and all equipment has been winterized.
- Canada Thistle and SOW Thistle problem areas were covered twice this year. Agriculture Staff sprayed all the roads north of Highway No. 3 and the majority of the roads west of the Nemiscam Road in the second pass.
- Mowing Program has been completed for Volker Stevin.
- Weather permitting Agriculture Staff are proposing to seed grass along the 501 and south of Foremost where the speed corner was removed.
- Agriculture Staff will be transferring the spray system onto the new Ford Three Ton purchased in 2009.

Bob Kaufman present.

Mr. Kaufman reported on the following activities and programs:

- The livestock water tour went over very well with twenty two people in attendance and there has been some interest in well water and spring developments.
- A workshop has been scheduled in conjunction with South East Alberta Water Association's State of the Watershed and Agriculture Meeting – November 12th, 2009 with Dixson Hammond commenting on what the Beaver Creek Watershed has accomplished.
- The Ranching for Profit Workshop with Dave Pratt went over very well with 109 people registered. A summary of the evaluation forms will be sent out as soon as they have been completed. There have been a few inquiries about having Dave Pratt back for a full six day course.
- Youth Range Daze 2010 in Cypress County is on schedule for July 13 – 15, 2010. An organizational meeting will be scheduled for November, 2009 for everyone involved.
- A Growing Forward Training Session was held in Airdrie on Monday, October 26th, 2009.
- Presently have four clients for Environmental Farm Plans and will be offering a short introductory session with the group prior to completing the individual programs.
- The South Alberta Conservation Association Conference is on schedule and registrations and other information forms have been sent out.
- The third quarter newsletter has been completed, printed and distributed.

Planned Activities/Tours/Workshops:

November 12, 2009 - South East Alberta Water Association - Agriculture Issues meeting with speakers

November 16 - 17, 2009 - Environmental Farm Plan Mini workshop

November 26 – 27, 2009 - Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture reporting

Goals:

- Assist the following watershed groups:
 - Milk River Watershed Council
 - Cypress Watershed Groups (Seven Persons, Cavan Irrigators, Ross Creek)
 - South East Alberta Water Association Tech Committee

Alberta Agriculture and Food – Agriculture Stewardship Division

The Board assisted in completing the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Farm based program survey.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture 2010 Program

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Service Board to apply for Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture 2010 Grant Funding in partnership with Cypress County.

CARRIED.

MOVED to renew Bob Kaufman's Contract as the Cypress County / County of Forty Mile No. 8 Resource Technician.

CARRIED.

Southern Alberta Conservation Association Conference

The Southern Alberta Conservation Association Conference has been scheduled for December 1st and 2nd, 2009 at the Lethbridge Lodge.

Agricultural Fieldman, Dave Matz, is proposing to attend one day at the Conference.

NW17, 10-12-W4

The Agricultural Fieldman has been having ongoing issues with the farming practices that are occurring on North West 17, Township 10, Range 12 West of the Fourth Meridian. The land is currently in a state of heavy weed infestation with various nuisance weed, along with approximately fifteen to forty acres of Canada Thistle which is listed as a noxious weed under the Alberta Weed Act. Lack of co-operation from the landowner has resulted in Canada Thistle seed to spread. A letter has been forwarded to the landowner regarding present and future farming practices for the above noted quarter.

Lynden Hutchinson left the Meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

NE7, 8-6-W4 and NW8, 8-6-W4

This landowner has been neglecting an ongoing problem of Canada Thistle but is making attempts at improving the situation.

Rabies Surveillance Program

- Letters to the Honourable Gerry Ritz regarding testing of skunks submitted under the Rabies Surveillance Program
- Letter from the Honourable Gerry Ritz in response to the issue with Rabies Surveillance

Fish & Wildlife – Bulletin No. 5

Background information on Rabies and Rabies Management in Alberta.

Agriculture Grants Program Branch

Letter from Eileen Chauvet regarding Agricultural Service Board Grant Program Audits.

Agriculture and Rural Development – Information Bulletin

- Livestock Traceability and Age Verification

Alberta Farm Safety Centre

- Letter and information from the Alberta Farm Safety Centre regarding upcoming presentations

Thank you

- Thank you card from Marty MacLeod – this year's Bursary recipient

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:45 A. M.

CARRIED.