

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, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

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

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

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

*Absent:*                        *Councillor Joan Hughson*  
                                      *Councillor Ronald Harty*

### Minutes

Moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

CARRIED.

### Delegations

11:15 A. M. – Farm Family Award Recipients

### Items Added to the Agenda

No items were added to the Agenda by the Members present.

### Treasurer's Report

Moved approval of the Treasurer's Report as presented.

CARRIED.

### STAFF REPORTS

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

- Nomination Forms for the Farm Family of the Year Award were sent in.
- Final reports for the Agricultural Service Board Grant Program have been submitted.
- A new Rabies Response Plan is presently being developed by the Rabies Committee and should be ready for the May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Agricultural Service Board Meeting.
- Staff are almost finished building the new spray truck and will be completing final maintenance on other equipment.

### Draft 2010 Budget

A draft budget for the Agricultural Service Board's 2010 operations was presented for review and comment.

Bob Kaufman, Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician attended the Meeting and provided an update on the following issues:

- Planning for the Youth Range Daze 2010 in Cypress County is going well. Some parts of the Program will be finalized once the Park Staff return to their regular duties.

- Presently reviewing Environmental Farm Plans.
- Conference calls were scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 regarding Growing Forward and Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture.
- Leafy Spurge Workshop is a go.
- The first quarter newsletter has been completed and published and a few phone calls were received complimenting the Counties for putting out current information of interest.

#### *Future Planned Activities/Tours/ Workshops:*

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 – Ago Expo
- March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Leafy Spurge Workshop
- March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Southern Alberta Conservation Association Organizing Committee Meeting
- March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Water Well Workshop – Medicine Hat
- March 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Water Conference, South East Alberta Watershed Alliance – Medicine Hat
- March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 – Youth Range Daze Meeting

#### Fusarium Management Plan

The Fusarium Management Plan has been under review and there have been changes made to the Plan.

The one major change is that the Agricultural Service Boards will be requested to designate whether they are in a commonly found (CF) or not commonly found (NCF) area. Originally when the Plan was developed in 2001-2002, Fusarium Graminearum and symptoms of Fusarium Head Blight in weed crops and in harvested grain had been frequently found in the Province. However, recent development of this pathogen in southern Alberta has occurred leading to more frequent detection of Fusarium Graminearum and symptoms in both wheat and corn, especially under irrigation. In contrast the occurrence of Fusarium Graminearum and symptoms of Fusarium Head Blight in weed crops and harvested grain continues to be infrequent in areas outside of southern Alberta.

In order to address the contrast in circumstances with regard to Fusarium Graminearum in Alberta two broad areas are identified:

- 1) Not commonly found (NCF), which refers to those areas of the Province outside of the irrigated regions of Alberta and
- 2) commonly found (CF) areas which refers to those areas mainly southern Alberta where Fusarium Graminearum and symptoms of this disease are being found in increasing frequency. Especially in crops under irrigation.

They believe by the Agricultural Service Boards' identifying the two broad areas it will help target best management practices that will assist in limiting further introduction and spread of this pathogen.

#### Landownership Information Sessions

The Farmer's Advocate Office has embarked on a series of energy information sessions. The sessions are intended to provide a broader understanding of the lifecycle of energy development and assist landowners with taking a proactive approach to managing risks surrounding energy development.

The series includes two separate sessions:

*Session 101 – Balancing the Approach to Oil and Gas Development* provides a comprehensible overview of the energy life cycle. Everything from ownership, rights, seismic, survey, negotiating strategy, roles of agencies, mitigating impacts in the final stage of energy life cycle will be reviewed.

*Session 201 – Mitigating Risk of Oil and Gas Development* is intended for those who wish to create specific plans related to their land base.

Bob Kaufman was requested to contact the Farmer's Advocate Office to see if they would host the sessions in the Manyberries area.

#### Farm Family Award

Rob and Stephanie Van Roessel attended the Meeting to be presented with the Farm Family Award as selected by representatives of the County Commentator, the County and previous award recipients.

Craig Widmer welcomed the Van Roessel's to the Meeting and, then, Councillor Otto Gross provided an overview of their farming background and why they were the recipients of this year's award.

Moved that the Meeting adjourn at 11:25 A. M.

CARRIED.