

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, February 1st, 2011.

The Meeting was called to order by the Chair Person, Joan Hughson, at 9:10 A.M.

Members Present: *Bryne Lengyel*
 Ronald Lane
 Ronald Harty
 Tom Thacker
 Craig Widmer

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

Absent: *Councillor Bruce Robertson*

Oath of Office

The Oath of Office was administered to Chair Person, Joan Hughson.

Minutes

Moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on December 7th, 2010.

CARRIED.

Delegations

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

Items Added to the Agenda

One item was added to the Agenda by the Members present.

Treasurer's Report

Moved approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31st, 2010.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

- Instructed a Farmer Pesticide Certificate Course in Foremost December, 2010.
- Attended the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference.
- Presently working on year end budget items, reports and the preparation of the 2011 Budget.
- Goals for February:
 - Updating the County Website
 - Preparing news articles for the newsletter
 - Creating a Capital Plan for the Agricultural Service Board
 - Assist Bob Kaufman in getting started on 2011 Soil Salinity Projects

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman's Report – Tom Simanton

- Majority of time has been spent working in the Shop setting up the new spray and hydraulic system on Unit 591.

Agricultural Rural Extension Contract

A proposed Contract for the Cypress / County of Forty Mile No. 8 Conservation Co-ordinator was presented to the Board for their review and comment.

Agricultural Fieldman, Dave Matz, advised the Board that Cypress County will also be reviewing the Contract prior to scheduling a meeting with Mr. Bob Kaufman.

Bob Kaufman present.

Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Technician's Report

Mr. Kaufman presented his report and highlighted activities that he had been involved in for the months of December, 2010 and January, 2011.

Planned activities:

- Tours/Workshops:
 - January 18th, 2011 – Shelterbelt Workshop
 - January 20th, 2011 – Water Well Workshop
 - January 31st, 2011 – Environmental Farm Planning
 - February 2nd, 2011 – Agricultural Service Board – County of Forty Mile No. 8
 - February 8th, 2011 – Agricultural Service Board – Cypress County
 - February 9th, 2011 – Environmental Farm Planning
 - February 10th, 2011 – Nature Conservancy Canada Community Supper
 - February 18th, 2011 – Training the next generation
 - February 23rd, 2011 – Grass Carp, Salinity
 - March 3rd, 2011 – Weed Identification
- *Goals:*
 1. First Quarter Newsletter
 2. Southern Alberta Conservation Association Conference – Organizing Committee for 2011
 3. Assist with Growing Forward Interest
 4. Youth Range Daze – 2011
 5. Promote current workshops

Tom Simanton left the Meeting.

Environmental Funding Stream

The County of Forty Mile No. 8 has been advised that their application to receive grant funding from the Environmental Funding Stream of the Agricultural Service Board Program has been approved for funding in the amount of \$37,000.00 each year of the 2011 to 2013 grant cycle. The Program was created specifically to target funding dollars toward environmental outcomes.

The final funding approval for each year is subject to Provincial Budget approval on a yearly basis.

2010 Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Farm Based Grant Program

In 2010, an evaluation report for the Alberta Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture Farm Based Grant Program was presented and attached as Addendum "A" to the Minutes.

Agricultural Service Board Grant – Environmental Component Work Plan

The Environmental Component Work Plan for 2011 was presented and attached as Addendum “B” to the Minutes.

Agriculture Pest Act Review

The Legislative Review Committee of the Association of Agricultural Fieldman has forwarded several recommendations for changes to the Agricultural Pest Act and Regulations.

The following recommendations were made by the Agricultural Fieldman’s Legislative Committee and were presented to the Board for their review:

General recommendations:

A general Act needs to be written, with specific regulations i.e. Crop Diseases Regulation (for Clubroot, Fusarium, Blackleg, Bacterial Ring rot etc), Crop Insect & Nematode Regulation (grasshoppers, golden nematode etc), Vertebrate Pests Regulation (Norway rats, wild boar, skunk) to allow more specific and appropriate actions within each category.

Under these Regulations, BMPs and Action plans s/b developed or each Pest or Nuisance – perhaps as ‘codes’ under the Act (similar to AEPEA).

Similar to the Weed Control Act (WCA), the recommendation is to give the Municipality the right to elevate i.e. Nuisances to Pests, non-listed organisms of concern to either category (with the Minister’s approval).

Ensure that delegation to local authorities requires both rural and urban authorities to administer the Agricultural Pests Act (APA).

The Act should mirror more closely the WCA with the pest; shall issue a notice, and the nuisance; may issue a notice.

Consider stronger wording to enable prevention of introduction of pests into Alberta, such as “prohibited” agricultural pests, with regulations to support prevention.

Develop a protocol based on science to determine appropriate species to be identified as a regulated pest (including non-native, invasive, absent or in small numbers in the Province, of significant economic/ecological importance, etc.)

Consider a Minister’s expert advisory committee regarding ongoing pest regulatory issues.

Co-ordinate identification and regulation of pests with Federal agencies (Canadian Food Inspection Agency)

Establish a permitting process for research and educational institutions to have pests under certain conditions (like Norway rats under the APA).

The Minister should allow a public consultation period (i.e. minimum 30 days) on any proposed changes to the listings of Pests or Nuisances of the APA Pest and Nuisance Control Regulations.

Specific Section recommendations:

Section 3(3) – under the Minister’s powers – shall support or assist the Municipality or Inspector in the delivery of their duties.

Section 5 (2) (a – c) in summary the section says:

An owner or occupant shall take active measures to:

- a) prevent establishment of pests,
- b) control or destroy pests,
- c) destroy any crop, vegetation or other matter that contributes or may contribute to the maintenance or spread of a pest on or in the land, property, or livestock.

Is too much onus placed on the landowner? i.e. even growing Clubroot resistant canola on clubroot infested land 'may contribute to the spread'.

Section 12 (3) Sending notices by Registered or Certified Mail was removed from the WCA, which has created severe delivery problems. The entire section on delivery needs to be re-written and then used as a model to re-write the overly convoluted delivery within the WCA:

24 (2) The notice, except for a local authority's notice, must be served on a person

- (a) by delivering it personally to the person,
- (b) by leaving it with a person who appears to be 18 years of age or older at the private residence or place of business of the person, or
- (c) if service under clause (a) or (b) is impractical,
 - (i) by posting the notice
 - (A) on the land or, if practicable, on the personal property to which the notice relates, or
 - (B) at the private residence of the person intended to be served,and
 - (ii) by sending a copy of the notice by regular mail
 - (A) in respect of land, to the last address listed in the assessment roll of the municipality for the owner of the land, or
 - (B) in respect of personal property, to the last known address of the owner.
- (4) For the purpose of this section, a notice sent by regular mail is deemed to have been received by the person 7 days from the date of mailing.

A general statement to the effect that any method where the recipient acknowledges receipt of the notice (or invoice) should be written in i.e. *'delivered by mail, courier, fax or e-mail in a manner requiring the recipient to acknowledge receipt, and once the acknowledgement is made the notice will be considered delivered'*

Section 13 (2) – speaks of carrying out the measures described in the notice, it should be amended in a similar manner as what is in the new WCA:

An inspector, or any person authorized by an inspector, may take any action that the inspector determines is necessary to fulfill a requirement of a notice given under this Part that has not been complied with when

Section 14 (4) - The 'success' of an appeal, and whether the deposit is to be refunded needs to be elaborated on. Similar to the new WCA:

- 15 (1) If the appellant is successful in an appeal or review, the \$500 appeal fee will be refunded to the appellant.
- (2) If the appellant is partially successful in an appeal or review, the \$500 appeal fee may be refunded in whole or in part at the sole discretion of the appeal panel or the Minister, as the case may be.

Perhaps it could be one section like:

14 (4) *A notice of appeal shall be accompanied with a deposit in an amount set out in the regulations. The deposit may be refunded to the appellant in whole or in part at the sole discretion of the appeal panel or the Minister, as the case may be.*

Section 14(5) – the Appeal panel needs to be independent, like in the WCA.

Section 22(c) – add: clean, size – seed plants are saying they are not 'cleaning for seed' they are 'sizing'

Recommended amendments to the REGULATIONS

- 1 (1) (e) “infested” means having a condition that shows signs of the presence of a pest That seems extremely broad, could it be specified i.e. ‘showing signs’ may include positive tests coming from an accredited lab doing accredited tests, using sampling methods specified for the test? And then in definitions we would need to define accredited lab & test – perhaps specifying that the Minister must approve?
- 1 (f) “local inspector” means an inspector who has the requisite local jurisdiction for the action in question and is not a provincial inspector. This should be taken out completely. ‘inspector’ is defined very well in the Act, referring to Section 9. Section 9 could be expanded i.e. an inspector appoint by the local authority is a local inspector, an inspector appointed by the Minister is a Provincial Inspector.
- 2 (1) Recommend the following pests and nuisances be removed as either unenforceable, non-agricultural, or no longer a significant enough concern to warrant their placement on the Act:
 - d) Dutch elm disease (and e, f, h, s)
 - k) Grasshoppers
 - x) Chalkbrood

Nuisances: European Starling, Rock dove, Magpie?

Other thoughts: If we are going to leave the non-Ag pests (dutch elm, gypsy moth) i.e. for the Urban pest officers – then this needs to become the Pests Act, scratch ‘Agricultural’.

Section 14 (15 & 16) – remove the authorization to hunt coyotes with dogs

Section 8 vs 14 (11) – these contradict each other. And Section 5 (1) of the Act is in place allowing a landowner to hunt and destroy dens. Section 14 (11) can be deleted.

Fusarium

The Board Members had a lengthy discussion on Fusarium / Graminearium, and it was the consensus of the Board that future control / management of the pest needs to be consistent across the Province.

2010 Rabies Report

Rabies sector area covered Townships 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, Ranges 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Rabies control in the County of Forty Mile No. 8 started in the middle of September, 2010 and finished in the middle of October, 2010.

The test areas began in the Aden area close to the Alberta Montana border. From there he progressed north and east following Highway 501 finishing up in the Comrey area.

Total number of trap sites	-	39
Total number of Skunks caught	-	18
Total number of Skunks tested for Rabies	-	16
Total number of Skunks diagnosed for Rabies	-	0

Economic Development Alliance of Southeast Alberta

The Economic Development Alliance’s Agricultural Committee is hosting “*Training the Next Generation*”, a conference focused on family business management transfer and

re-organization. The conference is scheduled to be held on February 18th, 2011 at the Medicine Hat and Exhibition Stampede Grounds.

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

CARRIED.