

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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

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

*Members Present:*        *Bruce Robertson*  
                                     *Ronald Harty*  
                                     *Ronald Lane*  
                                     *Tom Thacker*  
                                     *Craig Widmer*

*Also Present:*            *Dale Brown, County Administrator*  
                                     *Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman*  
                                     *Sandra Miller, Secretary to the County Administrator*

*Absent:*                    *Councillor Bryne Lengyel*

### Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

CARRIED.

### Delegations

10:00 A. M. – Tim Romanow – Milk River Watershed Council Canada  
11:30 A. M. – Farm Family Award – Theo Krooshoop Family

### Items Added to the Agenda

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

### Agricultural Fieldman's Report

The Agricultural Fieldman's Report was presented by Dave Matz and attached as Addendum 'A' to the Minutes.

### Items discussed:

Kevin Jesske has been repairing equipment. He will be attending a Water Conference the third week of March.

Mr. Jesske attended a seminar on invasive plants. Mr. Matz would like to test the Luna Pubescent Wheat Grass to compete with Downey Brown.

The Burdett cenotaph incurred some masonry damage. Mr. Matz would like to look at replacing some damaged bollards and update the landscaping. Mr. Matz will apply for grant funding, of which the County would be required to contribute fifty per cent. Mr. Matz will inquire if other groups would be interested in contributing funds towards this project.

Mr. Matz will be attending the following courses and meetings:

- *Train the Trainer*
- *Animal Disease* through Alberta Agriculture
- *Invasive Plant Meeting* through Milk River Watershed Council Canada
- *Agricultural Fieldman Meeting* – discussion regarding CPR spraying. The County will still be contracted to control the weeds along Highway No. 3.
- *Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference Planning* – The Southern Region will be hosting in 2014.

Clean Farms will be holding an *Obsolete Pesticide Roundup* this fall.

Mr. Matz informed the Committee that Don Wentz has agreed to contract his services to the County in assisting landowners experiencing salinity problems. Mr. Matz will form an agreement to be presented at the next Agricultural Meeting.

Mr. Matz inquired if the Agricultural Department or the Utility Department is responsible for the Irrigation System in Burdett.

The Committee confirmed that the Agricultural Department is responsible for the mowing, and the Utility Department is responsible for the irrigation system.

#### Alberta Farm Safety Centre

The Committee discussed the request for funding from the Alberta Farm Safety Centre. Presently, the County supports the Family and Community Support Services directive in this regard. Mr. Matz will contact Alberta Farm Safety Centre and suggest they look to local Agriculture Societies for sponsorship.

#### Budget 2012

The Committee Members reviewed the Agricultural Department Budget for 2012.

Mr. Matz requested approval to bring back two seasonal staff to help with equipment repairs as Mr. Jesske is spending approximately thirty per cent in the Utility Department with his weekly water run plus an additional day per week. In 2011, forty per cent of his hours were spent in Utilities and sixty per cent in Agriculture. After review the Committee suggested that one seasonal staff member be brought back earlier to assist with equipment repairs.

Tim Romanow, Director, Milk River Watershed Council Canada present.

#### Milk River Watershed Council Canada

Tim Romanow attended the Meeting to provide the Committee Members with an update of the Milk River Watershed Council Canada goals, projects, and commitments.

Their mandate is to engage government, stakeholders, other partnerships, and the public in watershed assessment and watershed management plan, considering existing landowners and resource management.

The Major projects for 2012 include:

a) *IWMP (Integrated Watershed Management Plan) Draft:*

Currently the draft plan is to have an integrated watershed management plan which combines all aspects including water quality, both surface and groundwater; water license transfer (transboundary water management discussions); biodiversity planning (anthropogenic impacts) and the state of the watershed. Their goal is to have a public consultation of the draft IWMP in the Spring of 2012, followed with revisions, endorsement and implementation phase in 2013.

b) *2012 Groundwater well monitoring project with the PFRA:*

This program is continuing with the assistance of the Geological Survey of Canada with the focus to gather data of water levels, available digitized water records, well abandonment, well refill speed of filling stations for bulk water and any other applicable groundwater information. The Geological Survey of Canada will produce a 3D map of the state of the watershed. Well Abandonment and Groundwater Well Water Quality projects are also being pursued in conjunction with Agriculture Canada and Alberta Environmental Sustainability Boards.

c) *Surface Water Monitoring Summary and Future Work:*

This program focuses on tributary sites and the purchase of multi-meters to fill in data gaps previously identified, namely dissolved oxygen.

d) *2013 SOW (State of the Watershed) Report:*

The Milk River Watershed Council Canada hopes to deliver an update report and online version in 2013.

e) *Invasive Weed Managers Workshop:*

The Milk River Watershed Council Canada will be hosting a joint Milk River Weed Workshop March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. Their goal is to provide a forum for discussing programs, successes/challenges/common concerns in Invasive Plant/Weed Management within the

Milk River Watershed in Canada and the United States and to explore opportunities for future cooperation among area stakeholders. Mr. Romanow is interested in a possible weed survey on the River.

f) And working closer with Municipal Partners.

Mr. Romanow reviewed an indepth Water Monitoring Program from 2006 to 2011 which will help to establish the objectives for the Milk River Watershed Council. This Program includes water monitoring locations, precipitation levels, St. Mary / Milk River Diversions, Milk River flows, electrical conductivity, phosphorus and nitrogen levels, fecal coliform counts, mainstem tributaries, riparian health assessment and wetland health.

Milk River Watershed Council Canada will be holding their Annual General Meeting April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Milk River.

Council thanked Mr. Romanow for his presentation. Mr. Romanow left the Meeting.

Theo Krooshoop and family present.

#### Farm Family

Chairperson, Joan Hughson, presented the Farm Family Award to Theo and Regina Krooshoop and their son Cody.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:50 P. M.

CARRIED.