

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, May 1, 2012.

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

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

Also Present: *Dale Brown, County Administrator*
 Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman
 Darrell Van Arragon, Assistant 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 March 6th, 2012.

CARRIED.

Items Added to the Agenda

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

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Matz reported that the Agricultural Service Board Grant increased \$13, 571.42, for a total of \$163,571.42 for 2012.

Bryne Lengyel present.

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2012.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

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

Dave Matz welcomed Darrell Van Arragon to the Agricultural Service Board Meeting. Mr. Van Arragon began work mid-March and has spent most of his time at 40 Mile Park and learning the Administrative aspects in the office.

- Committee Members discussed dust control for the new road construction at 40 Mile Park.
- Ross Upton returned to work the beginning of April.
- Staff has been repairing equipment and moving trees.
- Maintenance has been completed on the outhouses in the Burdett campground and repairs made to the flower beds.
- Grass has been seeded at the new County Shop facility.
- Planning for repairs on the Cenotaph in Burdett is complete.
- Don Wentz will be assisting landowners experiencing salinity issues. This service will be provided at no charge to the landowners.
- First Newsletter was published in April in conjunction with Cypress County.
- Council discussed the newly seeded area along Secondary Highway No. 879. Mr. Matz will contact Alberta Transportation to suggest a means to improve the debris issue.

- The Agricultural Department will be spraying along Secondary Highway No. 879 and Highway No. 3 earlier this year.
- A test site for *Downy Brome* control along Highway No. 887 has begun.
- Mr. Matz attended an Animal Disease Workshop hosted by Alberta Agriculture and also attended a Meeting hosted by the Milk River Watershed Council and the Invasive Plants Council regarding the establishment of a Weed Awareness Group for the watershed area. Identified the need for a full Weed Inspection and Inventory of the Milk River perhaps to be organized this summer.

Agricultural Service Board Grant – Year End Report

Mr. Matz reviewed the *Agricultural Service Board Certified Statement of Income and Expenditures for 2011* and the *Year End Report* that was completed for the Annual Agricultural Service Board Grant.

Mr. Matz presented a detailed breakdown of the *2011 Strategic Plan*, including Performance Measures and an Environmental Component. This Report provides a breakdown of the specific work the Agricultural Department completes and the various projects, workshops, and training which is used as a reporting tool for grant funding.

MOVED approval of the Year End Report for the Agricultural Service Board Grant.

CARRIED.

Rabies Surveillance Program

The Committee discussed the cancellation of the Rabies Surveillance Program. Members suggested a notice be placed in the Newsletter and/or the paper informing landowners to contact the Agricultural Department for assistance.

Cenotaph Project

Mr. Matz provided the Members with a detailed presentation of proposed repairs and improvements for the Burdett Cenotaph.

Public Works has completed the landscaping around the cenotaph and removed the deteriorated bollards.

The proposal is to pour a sloped concrete pad approximately four feet from the cenotaph covering the existing sidewalk, continuing up to the cenotaph and including the damaged area at the bottom of the cenotaph. Parging would be placed on the bottom face of the cenotaph. Concrete bollards, twenty-nine inches high, would be installed eight feet apart, directly around the perimeter of the concrete. A border of landscaping ties and a gravel area would be placed around the concrete and bollards, to allow easier mowing. An exterior fence consisting of four foot metal posts installed twelve feet apart with chain attached between, would further protect the area. The cenotaph itself would have to be sandblasted and repainted. Two concrete benches could be placed on either side of the walkway.

Mr. Matz suggested he would write letters of application to the Agricultural Society, Fire Departments and the Bow Island Legion to request sponsorship of the cement benches.

Mr. Matz indicated there may be grant funding available of up to 50 per cent of the cash costs from Veteran Affairs. Total estimate cost of the project would be \$11,140.00.

The Committee Members suggestions included:

- Having the concrete tinted for the bollards if possible.
- Contacting the Legion Members regarding color and the cross.
- Using a half inch cable rather than chain.

MOVED approval to complete the required upgrades/repairs to the Burdett Cenotaph, with the exception of the benches, at an estimated cost of 9,140.00.

CARRIED.

Coyote Control

Joan Hughson, Agricultural Chairperson reported concerns received from Ranchers regarding coyotes. Ranchers conveyed it is difficult to prove a coyote kill and therefore difficult to obtain a release of the product to control the issue.

Committee Members suggested Mr. Matz submit an article to the paper instructing Ranchers to contact the Agricultural Department to request they attend the site and inspect the area.

Mr. Matz informed Council that a new Problem Wildlife Specialist, Phil Marrow has been hired for the Province, servicing the south region.

Centennial Float

Committee Members discussed the Centennial Float. Dave Matz will facilitate the manufacturing of the float.

Spraying Dump

Councillor Bryne Lengyel discussed weed spraying around the Waste Services areas. Mr. Matz will begin spraying as soon as possible.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Letters

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development - Minister Evan Berger regarding the increase in the Agricultural Service Board Grant.
- Municipal District of Smokey River – article and letter regarding Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Association discontinuing the Shelterbelt Program.

Council suggested writing a letter of support for the re-instatement of the Shelterbelt Program.

Alberta Environment – Special Areas Water Supply Project

- Resolution to support the Special Area Water Supply Project.

Thank You Cards

- Pheasants Forever – donation of book maps for their Silent Auction.
- Milk River Watershed Council Canada – donation of vests for Fundraiser.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:30 P. M.

CARRIED.