

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 5, 2013.

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Joan Hughson, at 9:05 A.M.

Members Present: *Ronald Lane*
 Bryne Lengyel
 Bruce Robertson
 Ronald Harty
 Craig Widmer

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

Absent: *Tom Thacker*

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on February 5, 2013.

CARRIED.

Delegations

- Merlind Farms – Farm Family Award

Items Added to the Agenda

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

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORTS

Darrell Van Arragon present.

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

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

- Attended a one day course on *Human Resource Management* at the Lethbridge College.
- Began planning for speakers for next year's Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference.
- Work is progressing on mounting the water tank and pumps on Unit 591.
- Campsites in the new development at 40 Mile Park have been marked out. Public Works has begun hauling sand and gravel.
- Some minor changes have been made to site layouts.
- Next month will see the finalization of budgets and assembling of material for training newly hired Staff.
- The Park Hosts have informed Mr. Matz they will not be returning this year.
- The *Women's Grazing Conference* will be held in Foremost in July this year.
- Will continue to ready equipment at the Shop, assist with development at the Park, fill positions for Summer Staff, attend a Pest Surveillance Meeting at Lethbridge and finalize budgets.

Agricultural Service Board Grant 2014

The Committee Members reviewed the recommendations from the Agricultural Service Board Task Team regarding the format for next year's Environmental Grant.

Funding in the amount of \$15,000 would be awarded if the Application meets the basic minimum requirements. Additional funding may be available upon submission of a detailed plan to be reviewed by the Service Grant Board.

Several of the agricultural programs the County offers do not qualify for grant funding as the Task Team is looking more to fund a position to assist people in the Growing Forward Program.

MOVED approval for Darrell Van Arragon to attend the Growing Forward Workshop in Brooks.

CARRIED.

Mr. Van Arragon will provide the information from the Workshop to the County Ratepayers through the Annual Newsletter.

The Committee Members discussed options for hosting Workshops or Courses that could qualify for grant funding. Mr. Matz will inquire into potential opportunities.

Summer Staffing

Mr. Matz discussed options for Summer Staffing / Budget and the effect on services / equipment.

Summer Staffing:

- Combine three summer student positions into one seasonal position.
 - The employee could begin earlier, in April, and continue longer, to November.
 - Employee could assist at 40 Mile Park as needed.
- Combine three summer student positions into two summer student positions.
 - This would have less effect on services.

Budget

- Reduce roadside spraying.
- Reduce insect spraying.
- Eliminate CP Rail spraying; some loss of income however, less capital loss
- Sell two quads; purchase side-by-side.
- Increase rates for services – i.e., tree spraying cost.
- Eliminate the Roadside Mowing Program; use that employee to assist with other Agricultural Services or, increase the cost to perform that Program.

Farm Safety Center

The Alberta Farm Safety Center is a not-for-profit organization that developed a hands-on, interactive school-based farm safety program in an effort to reduce farm-related injuries and fatalities involving children.

The Farm Safety Center has requested financial support from the County in the amount of \$2,166.50. Last year the County contributed \$1,000.00.

MOVED approval to provide a financial contribution in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Alberta Farm Safety Centre.

CARRIED.

Milk River Watershed

A new *State of the Watershed* book will be released and presented May 31, 2013 at Writing-on-Stone Park from 1:00 P. M. to 4:00 P. M.

Milk River Watershed Council have also submitted an *Integrated Watershed Management Plan* which will be presented at a Public Meeting to be held March 6th, 2013 in Milk River from 6:30 P. M. to 8:00 P. M.

The Milk River Watershed Council Canada Annual Meeting will be held April 11, 2013 at the Milk River Civic Centre at 1:00 P. M.

Farm Family Award

Merle and Ella Nelson, Cory, Skylar and Mattias Nelson, and Lindsay and Travis Nelson present.

Merlind Farm family members attended the Meeting to receive the Farm Family Award presented by Chair Person, Joan Hughson.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 10:45 A. M.

CARRIED.