

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, August 6, 2013.

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Joan Hughson, at 9:40 A.M.

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

*Also Present: Sharon Burgess, Director of Finance
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman*

Absent: Ronald Harty

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on May 7, 2013.

CARRIED.

Amendments to the Agenda

MOVED that the August 6, 2013 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved and adopted with the following amendment:

- Highfield Cemetery Trees

CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval to accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending July 31, 2013.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORT

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

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

Mr. Matz provided Members with a short summary of various projects worked on during the months of May, June, and July, 2013.

- Preparation for Burdett Centennial in June; mowing, trimming, installation of signs and general cleanup.
- Spraying of Canada Thistle around the perimeter of the Hamlet of Burdett.
- Spraying and mowing at 40 Mile Park.
- First cut has been completed in the Cemeteries.
- Mowers have had issues with running hot.
- Grass seeding with ATV's.
- Roadside spraying on roads with the one-ton is progressing.
- Spraying Knapweed sites, scentless Chamomile and Leafy Spurge.
- Trials on a new herbicide from DuPont.
- Moving the *No-Till Drills* is quite time-consuming.
- Tree spraying farmsteads as worms were found in shelterbelts requiring immediate attention.
- Overabundance of Canada Thistle in 2013.

- The focus for August and September will be Roadside Spraying and performing a second cut in the Cemeteries.
- Grasshopper survey and Bacterial Ring Rot inspections to be completed.
- 2013 Spray Map was reviewed.

The Agricultural Service Board Committee discussed:

- Spraying and Mowing Program.
- Training new Staff on equipment.

Agricultural Service Board Application

Agriculture Members discussed changes in the Grant Program from the previous Grant cycle.

Agricultural Service Boards may apply for the Agricultural Service Board Grant in one of three ways:

- Legislative Funding Stream only
- Legislative Funding Stream plus Environmental Funding Stream Basic
- Legislative Funding Stream plus Environmental Funding Stream Enhanced

Agricultural Service Boards applying for Environmental Funding Stream Enhanced, as part of a partnership, are eligible to submit a separate application.

The Environmental Funding Stream will be allocated using a “merit based with minimum” model. Applications that meet the minimum criteria will be eligible to receive a minimum of \$15,000 for the Environmental Funding Stream Basic component.

Members advised Mr. Matz to complete the application and submit it to Council at the September 25, 2013 Meeting for further discussion prior to the October 1st application deadline.

Economic Impact of Wildlife

Members discussed a Study on the impact of Wildlife to Livestock Producers.

All rural producers are affected as they contribute to the support for feed and habitat in the rural ecosystem with little financial compensation in return.

Alberta Beef Producers Wildlife Working Group has requested funding from Municipalities and Improvement Districts to study the financial impact of wildlife on farms and ranches.

MOVED approval to provide the requested funding to the Alberta Beef Producers Wildlife Project Study in the amount of \$146.00.

CARRIED.

Highfield Graveyard Trees

Councillor Lane advised he had received a request for financial assistance from the Burdett Cemetery Committee in planting beautification trees in the Highfield Cemetery.

The Members discussed nursery trees, donated trees and the cost to relocate trees.

Committee Members directed Mr. Matz to contact Randy Vos and advise the County would consider work-in-kind.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Committee Members reviewed the following Information Items:

Letter

- 2013 Agricultural Service Board Grant

Reports

- Southern Alberta Weed Co-ordinator Activity Report – June, 2013.
- Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program – Waterton Group Update – June, 2013.

Environmental Farm Plan

- News Release – Environmental Farm Plan – new Manager, Fiona Briody.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:05 A. M.

CARRIED.