

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, December 10, 2013.

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

Members Present: Ronald Harty
Steven Wikkerink
Bryne Lengyel
Gerald Reimer
Chantel Timmons
Joan Hughson

Also Present: Dale Brown, County Administrator
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman
Darrell Van Arragon, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
Sandra Reid, Secretary to the County Administrator

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on October 1, 2013.

CARRIED.

Amendments to the Agenda

MOVED that the October 1, 2013 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved and adopted with the following amendments:

- Review Agenda
- Greater Sage Grouse

CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 30, 2013.

CARRIED.

STAFF REPORT

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

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

- Additional roads were sprayed for *Canada Thistle* in October.
- Residual herbicide was applied on roadsides south of Foremost.
- Heavy infestation of *Canada Thistle* was noted south of Foremost and west of Secondary Highway No. 879.
- Additional spraying was completed east and north of Etzikom.
- Mowing on secondary highways was completed the end of October.
- Grass seeding was completed on Secondary Highway No. 880 Construction Project. The Sunrise road, Bow Island Oil and Secondary Highway No. 500 seeding will be completed in the spring.
- All the spray trucks have been winterized.
- Time was spent cleaning and providing maintenance and repairs to the old Public Works Shop as well as moving items into the Shop.
- Dave Matz and Joan Hughson attended the *Southern Alberta Offset Pilot Project* Meeting in Medicine Hat regarding a promotion by Alberta Agriculture in the Manyberries area. The Province is looking at requiring energy companies to pay landowners to restore land back to native range to offset leases that take land out of native range. Much discussion

was centered on how it could only work if it was a mandatory program and that raises many questions of how it would impact farmers.

- A Meeting with *Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)* discussed sampling for rabies. Currently if anyone suspects an animal has rabies the CFIA will send an inspector to collect the sample and have it lab-tested. Now, CFIA will no longer collect samples, but will still perform the testing. How the samples will be collect is yet to be determined.
- The move to the Public Works Shop is almost complete. Mr. Matz has also moved his office to the Shop. The old Agriculture Shop still contains some items. The Chemical Storage Shed needs to be cleaned out and moved over this winter, as well as the Secan container for grass seed storage.
- *Kerb* was sprayed along Highway No. 61 to control *Foxtail* infestations.
- Time was spent working on the Agenda for the upcoming Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference.
- In-Service Training was attended the first week of December by the three full-time Agricultural Staff Members.
- A *Farmer Pesticide Course* is scheduled for December 12, 2013.
- Budget items will be finalized in December.
- When Shop setup is completed, equipment will be brought in for maintenance.
- The new one-ton will arrive in December.
- January will include working on equipment and preparing to host the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference in Medicine Hat.

Agricultural Department Services

Mr. Matz presented a summary of the services provided by the Agricultural Department, including Legislative responsibilities and Staff duties. Mr. Matz will provide a price breakdown for the various services being provided for review at the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

Agricultural Service Board Grant / Business Plan

The Board Members reviewed the Agricultural Service Board Grant and Business Plan.

The main grant is \$67,000 provided to every Agricultural Service Board mostly to fulfill legislative responsibilities. The second portion of the Grant Application is a minimum amount of \$15,000 to offset environmental expenses. The maximum to apply for is \$37,000 however, no current project meets the guidelines.

Project Tracking

Mr. Matz presented a summary of Staff hours tracked by project and activity for 2013.

Irrigated Crop Production Update

The *Irrigated Crop Production Update Conference* will be held January 21st and 22nd, 2014 at the Lethbridge Lodge Hotel.

Councillors Reimer and Wikkerink will be attending with Mr. Matz and Mr. Van Arragon. Mr. Matz will submit the registrations.

2014 Meeting Dates

The Board Members reviewed the proposed dates for the 2014 Agricultural Service Board Meetings.

MOVED approval of the following dates for the 2014 Agricultural Service Board Meetings:

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|--------------|---------------|
| - February 4 | - September 2 |
| - March 4 | - October 7 |
| - May 6 | - December 9 |
| - June 3 | |

CARRIED.

Agenda Review

Councillor Harty inquired as to why the County was not listed in the Minutes as attending at the South Regional Agricultural Service Board Committee Meeting. This Meeting was held after the general Meeting and the County representatives had other commitments to meet.

Dale Brown left the Meeting.

Greater Sage Grouse

Mr. Matz presented concerns regarding the protection of the Greater Sage Grouse. Issues seem to be directed towards oil companies and development matters with exemptions for Agriculture.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board Members reviewed the following Information Items:

Rabies Program

- County of Warner – Report and Invoice.

2014 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

- Draft Agenda – 2014 Provincial Conference – January 27th to 30th, 2013.

2013 In-Service Training

- Agenda – *In-Service Training* – December 2nd to 6th, 2013.

Minutes

- South Regional Agricultural Service Board Committee Meeting – *October 24, 2013* – Nanton, Alberta.

Farm Family Award

Councillor Reimer will contact the County Commentator regarding the procedures for the awarding of the Farm Family for 2014.

Reports

- September Report - Southern Alberta Weed Co-ordinator, Kelly Cooley.

Invoice

- Volker Stevin – Mowing, Spraying and Seeding - Invoice.

Board Members discussed reviewing mowing and spraying rates currently being charged at the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

Agricultural Staff discussed a presentation at the In-Service Training which highlighted a *Degelman* mower mounted with a wiping-blade sprayer with a 100 litre tank. The spray can be applied during windy conditions, as there is no drift. This may not work on all County roads due to the roadside slopes and because of haying purposes.

Reeve Lengyel requested Staff to inquire further into this option.

Thank You Card

- Bursary Thank You – Wyatt MacLeod.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:00 A. M.

CARRIED.