

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 4, 2014.

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

*Members Present:* Steven Wikkerink  
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

*Absent:* Ronald Harty  
Bryne Lengyel

### Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on February 4, 2014.

CARRIED.

### Delegation

- Farm Family Award – Crooymans Family.

### Amendment to the Agenda

MOVED that the March 4, 2014 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved and adopted with the following amendment:

- Winnifred Cemetery

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.

- Time was spent repairing equipment, writing articles for the Newsletter, finalizing project tracking numbers, Safety Manual reviews, updating rental rate forms, budgeting, and planning pesticide purchases.
- Mr. Matz attended a one-day Seminar on Supervising and Leadership.
- Agricultural Staff has been building a new spray boom for the spray truck to improve the reach along roadsides. Modifications were also made to the engine mounts to accept a larger motor and the plumbing has been laid out.
- Agricultural Staff has also been assisting Public Works for two weeks, rebuilding mowers and repairing gravel trailers.
- Fusarium Action Committee has voted on increasing the tolerance level for the Fusarium.

#### March Projects:

- March 10 - Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen Regional Meeting.
- March 11 – Potato Growers Association (PGA) and Counties in Taber.
- March 18 – Pest Surveillance Update in Brooks.
- March 19 – Teaching a Farmer Pesticide Course.
- March 26 – Bio-Control Meeting with Agriculture Canada.

- Agricultural Staff will be attending a Water Operator Conference March 10-14, 2014.
- Agricultural Staff will be setting up the new 1-ton and rebuilding the tree sprayer frame to fit on the short-box truck.
- The Seasonal Agricultural Employee will return to work in April to assist with equipment maintenance and begin moving trees at the Public Works Shop and the Cemeteries if weather permits.
- Staff will begin applying Krovar as soon as weather permits and roads are dry.

#### Agricultural Service Board Grant Report

Council reviewed the Performance Measures to be submitted for the 2013 Grant.

MOVED approval of the Performance Measures as presented for the 2013 Agricultural Service Board Grant.

CARRIED.

#### Rotary Mower

The Committee reviewed the quotes for a 15 foot rotary mower with a flex arm.

##### John Deere

- 2014 CX15 Flex-Wing Rotary Cutter \$21,300.00
- 2014 Degelman Rev 1500 \$29,900.00
- 2014 CX14 Flex Wing Rotary Cutter \$23,799.99

##### D & H Equipment

- Schulte Flx-1510 Flex Arm \$19,042.50
- Schulte XH 1500 Mower \$27,190.80

The Committee discussed retaining the current mower as a backup for the Agricultural and Public Works Departments. Councillor Timmons suggested requesting to demo the equipment prior to purchase.

MOVED to accept the quote from D & H Equipment for the purchase of a Schulte XH1500 Mower in the amount of \$27,190.80 subject to MSI Funding approval.

CARRIED.

#### Bacterial Ring Rot in Potatoes – Action Plan

Councillor Hughson provided an update of the Meeting held at the Municipal District of Taber regarding revising the Action Plan for Bacterial Ring Rot in potatoes. Bacterial Ring Rot is a Declared Pest under the Agricultural Pest Act. The Committee reviewed the Current Plan and a Draft Plan.

Ring rot is difficult to detect in the field, and is easily transferred in the storage of the potato. Each time an infected potato is moved and touches another, the disease moves and spreads.

The Potato Growers Association has requested the Agricultural Fieldmen to perform the Inspections and determined that one field for every grower in each municipality will be inspected (two inspections per field). If the disease is detected, the sample must be submitted for testing at an approximate cost of \$200. If the test is positive, a Response Plan for disinfection of machines, trucks, equipment, storage facilities, etc., is followed.

The Committee expressed the following concerns:

- Whose responsibility it is to pay for the testing.
- Whose responsibility it is for the provision of equipment to be used to treat the disease upon detection.
- Compensation for provision of the Inspector.
- Time frame for Inspections – inspect prior / during the harvest as opposed to after the harvest when the potatoes are piled, increasing the risk of spreading.

The Committee believes the onus should be on the Producer to pay for the testing, and perform the cleanup independent of County involvement. Mr. Matz suggested having a Representative from the Potato Growers Association attend an Agricultural Service Board Meeting to explain the program and the process.

Mr. Matz will provide the Committee's position at the next Action Plan Meeting.

### Spring Sale Items

The Committee reviewed the list of Agricultural equipment to be included for sale. Mr. Matz and Mr. Van Arragon are considering adding the Agricultural and Park Equipment items with the Public Works Equipment. The Committee discussed sending the items to auction or holding a local auction.

MOVED approval for the Agricultural Equipment listed as per Addendum 'B' to the Minutes be sold at Auction.

CARRIED.

Auction Dates are:

- April 11 - Seven Persons
- April 17 - Lethbridge

### Safety Smarts

Mr. Matz provided additional information regarding the letter received from the *Farm Safety Centre* requesting support for this years' Program.

After receiving the initial funding request and reviewing the Schools that received the Program, the Committee requested clarification on how the funding and delivery of the Program is determined.

The intention of the Centre was to provide the course to all Schools however due to an unplanned staffing shortage the Centre was unable to complete that goal. The Centre receives support through sponsors, and the main sponsor, UFA has withdrawn from the Program. The Centre has requested and received donations from Schools as well.

Councillor Timmons suggested Mr. Matz contact the Schools after the Centre's presentation for feedback regarding the effectiveness of the Program.

Councillor Timmons suggested the Mennonite Schools and the Home Schools be contacted as a potential for Program delivery and that the Centre contact the local agricultural societies, as funding is available to these societies to provide financial assistance through partnering for training and education. Mr. Matz will provide this information to the Farm Safety Centre personnel.

MOVED approval to provide financial support to the Farm Safety Centre at a flat rate of \$1,000.00.

CARRIED.

The support for the Program will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

### Tree Biology and Care Course

Mr. Matz requested the Committee's approval for Agricultural Staff to attend a two day Tree Biology and Care course as hosted by the Municipal District of Taber at a cost of \$275.00.

MOVED approval for Darrell Van Arragon and Kevin Jesske to attend the two day Tree Biology and Care course.

CARRIED.

### Agricultural Service Board Bursary

Mr. Matz presented the current County Policy regarding the criteria for the Agricultural Service Board Bursary. This item will be tabled to the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

#### Winnifred Cemetery

Mr. Matz referenced a development in Winnifred and inquired if the Committee would consider requesting permission from the Developer to install a drip line to water trees in the Cemetery.

The consensus of the Committee was that no action be taken.

#### Cemetery Signs

Chairman Widmer inquired as to the status of the construction of powder-coated metal signs for the Cemeteries. Mr. Matz explained the Whitla sign was completed but the supplier has not completed any others and Mr. Matz has not inquired into a new supplier. Mr. Matz also indicated he would like to use the funds to have the cemeteries surveyed, particularly Assumption.

Councillor Wikkerink suggested contacting the Gershaw School regarding sign construction. The Committee discussed the possibility whether both projects would be able to be completed.

#### Farm Family Award

The Crooymans Family was presented with the 2013 Farm Family Award.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:20 A. M.

CARRIED.