

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 6, 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: Sharon Burgess, Director of Finance
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman
Darrell Van Arragon, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman

Absent: Ronald Harty
Bryne Lengyel

Minutes

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

CARRIED.

Delegation

- Terence Hochstein, Potato Growers' Association.

Amendment to the Agenda

MOVED that the May 6, 2014 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved and adopted with the following amendment:

- Tree Spraying

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.

- Staff spent time repairing / readying equipment
- Staff assisted Welder rebuilding a gravel trailer
- Water Operator attended Water Conference
- Budget has been finalized, pesticide purchases have been established, Safety policies have been reviewed, and information for the Annual Meeting presentation was updated.
- Mr. Matz met with Fire Inspectors, electricians, and tradespeople, identifying items to be repaired and brought up to code following the Shop fire.

Meetings Attended:

- March 10 - Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen Regional Meeting
- March 11 - Potato Growers Association (PGA)
- March 18 - Pest Surveillance Update in Brooks
- March 19 - Provided Pesticide Course
- March 26 - Bio Control Meeting with Agriculture Canada

May Projects:

- New Staff Members Orientation
- Staff training for operation and loading/moving of mowers

- Tree moving, grass seeding at 40 Mile Park and Public Works yard
- Residual herbicide application at Public Works Shop yards and Landfill Stations
- Krovar spraying
- Relocation of SeCan container and chemical storage shed
- Leveling of pump house at Burdett Reservoir due to slumping berm

Urban Weed Control Grant

Mr. Matz presented the current policy regarding the Urban Weed Control Grant for the Committee's review. As this Program is no longer a budgeted item, Mr. Matz suggested the Policy be removed.

MOVED to discontinue the Urban Weed Control Program.

CARRIED.

Shelterbelt Establishment Program

Mr. Matz provided the Committee with the current Shelterbelt Establishment Program Policy. As this Program is no longer available, Mr. Matz suggested the Policy be removed.

MOVED to discontinue the Shelterbelt Establishment Program.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour 2014

Mr. Matz informed the Committee that the registration deadline for the Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour 2014 is June 13, 2014. This year's tour will be hosted by the County of Newell.

The consensus of the Committee was to table this item to the June Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

Tree Spraying

Mr. Matz advised the Committee of a new tree spraying company being established in the area. The consensus of the Committee was to not compete with the local company.

Members advised that the current Tree Spraying Policy / Rates should be reviewed at the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting.

Potato Growers' Association

Terence Hochstein present.

Mr. Hochstein attended the Meeting to provide the Committee with information regarding Bacterial Ring Rot and to discuss the Bacterial Ring Rot Action Plan.

Currently, inspections occur in five rural communities and are being performed by a general agreement.

The Plan applies to commercial potatoes produced in five municipalities in southern Alberta. The Plan does not include certified seed potato production in Alberta as such production is regulated, inspected and tested by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Mr. Hochstein urged the importance of being pro-active by random sampling of seed potatoes from a variety of growers.

Mr. Hochstein's presentation highlights included:

- Outline of Inspection and Follow-up Procedures
- Responsibilities outlined for:
 - Potato Growers of Alberta
 - Municipalities Agricultural Service Board Fieldman & Inspector

- Pest Surveillance Branch
- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Pest Surveillance Branch
- Processors and allied Industries
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency Regional Program Officer
- Reporting and Responsibilities:
 - Confirmation of Bacterial Ring Rot
 - Sanitary protocols during inspection and farm visits
 - Special practices when Bacterial Ring Rot is confirmed

The Committee discussed late blight which is predominately transferred from field to field by the wind.

Members also discussed the disposal of cull piles. Mr. Hochstein urged Council to be proactive regarding the clean-up of potato cull piles by amending the County's Unsightly Premises By-Law.

Mr. Hochstein advised he would provide Mr. Matz with a reference book on potato diseases.

Mr. Hochstein left the Meeting.

The review of the County's Unsightly Premises By-Law will be reviewed at the next Regular County Council Meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Letters

Committee Members reviewed the following information letters:

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development – Key Contact Staff assigned to local Agricultural Service Board
- County letter to the Honourable Maureen Kubinec – Fusarium Graminearium
- Bio-Vision Seed Labs – Fusarium Test Sampling Summary
- South Region Agricultural Service Board Committee – Fusarium Tolerance Levels
- Alberta Agricultural and Rural Development – Wild Boar Update
- Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms

Newsletter

- Pest Insider – April, 2014.

Auction Items

The Committee reviewed the items sold at Auction.

Lathe

Mr. Matz inquired of the Committee if the Public Works lathe could be sold or relocated from the Agriculture Shop. The Committee advised Mr. Matz to advertise the lathe for sale on Kijiji.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:25 A. M.

CARRIED.