

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, June 3, 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
Bryne Lengyel
Joan Hughson*

*Also Present: Sharon Burgess, Director of Finance
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman
Darrell Van Arragon, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
Sandra Reid, Secretary to the County Administrator*

Absent: Ronald Harty

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on May 6, 2014.

CARRIED.

Amendment to the Agenda

MOVED that the June 3, 2014 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved and adopted with the following amendment:

- Equipment Review
- Cams – Spray Tracking
- Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Position

CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending May 31, 2014.

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.

- The Chemical Storage Shed and SeCan Container have been moved to the new Shop.
- The Summer Students hired for Mowing returned in May and have been mowing in the Hamlets, Cemeteries, and weekly in 40 Mile Park and Burdett.
- Summer Staff also planted perennials / flowers at the Administration Office, Public Works Shop, Agriculture Shop and the Burdett Community Park.
- Summer Staff also assembled and distributed new garbage cans in Burdett.
- The Summer Students hired for Spraying have sprayed the Shop Yards and Landfill Sites and also started on dandelion control in the Hamlets and three days of spraying at 40 Mile Park. Burdett Park and the ball diamonds have been fertilized. Staff have also begun spraying of Baby's Breath around Pakowki Lake as well as spraying streets in the Hamlets.
- Roadside Sprayer Operators have applied glyphosate on road surfaces and sprayed the Nemiscam Road, Comrey Road and some range roads north of Foremost. Staff has

begun spraying of Krovar soil sterilant on road surfaces, working with Public Works to complete 40 to 50 miles.

- Grass seeding on last year's construction sites was performed on the Sunrise Road, the oil road west of Bow Island and the intersection on Highway No. 500.
- An increase has been seen in the use of the no-till drills by ratepayers.
- Trees have been relocated along the fence by the new Public Works Shop. A drip line will be installed along with additional trees. Staff will begin moving spruce trees into Etzikom Cemetery and into 40 Mile Park as time permits.
- Seasonal Staff have been mowing the tree nursery, weed control along the oil road west of Bow Island, and empty lots in Winnifred and Burdett. The Village will be rototilling at the Tree Nursery this year.
- Full-time Staff completed the repairs on all the equipment, as well as the build of the new 1-ton, Krovar boom for Unit 639 and rebuilding the frame for the tree sprayer for the short box truck.

June Projects

- Leafy Spurge spraying and more roadside spraying / mowing will continue in June.
- As the season progresses control work will begin on Knapweed areas and Canada Thistle along roadsides.
- As the mowers complete the Hamlets and Parks, mowing will continue on the Cemeteries.
- Weed Inspection along the west end of the Milk River will be performed as time permits.
- Beetle release for Leafy Spurge will be done at Aden and possibly along the South Saskatchewan River, as well as monitoring previous releases to determine if populations are high enough to begin relocation to other infestation sites.
- Grasshopper Survey will also be done as will Bacterial Ring Rot inspections with the Potato Grower Association.
- Maureen Vadnais, Agricultural Service Board Specialist, will perform a field inspection of the Agricultural Shop, equipment and programs.

Mr. Matz presented a Spray Map for the Committee's review noting the areas sprayed to date.

Agricultural Bursary

Committee Members reviewed the current County Policy for awarding the Bursary and discussed rewording the policy to divide the bursary between two applicants if more than one individual applies.

The Committee discussed if an additional Bursary could be provided from the County, separate from the Agricultural Service Board. This will be discussed at a County Council Meeting.

MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board Bursary be divided between two applicants at the discretion of the Agricultural Service Board Committee if more than one individual applies.

CARRIED.

Youth Range Days

In previous years, the Agricultural Service Board has provided sponsorship in the amount of \$500.00.

MOVED approval to provide a \$500.00 financial contribution to the Youth Range Days Program.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour

The Committee reviewed the Agenda for the Summer Tour hosted by the County of Newell. Members will notify Mr. Matz if they wish to attending. Mr. Matz will inquire if one-day attendance is an option.

Equipment Review

Mr. Matz provided a list of equipment for the Agricultural Department.

- Unit 591 - 3 ton spray truck
- Unit 645 - 3 ton spray truck
- Unit 629, 629, 665 are 1 ton spray trucks
- Unit 601- mowing crew
- Unit 609 - fuel pickup truck
- Unit 592 - tree sprayer
- Unit 653 - supervisor pickup
- Unit 855 - ATV – used for spraying – 16 gallon tank
- Unit 871 – UTV
- Unit 773 - Schulte Mower
- Kubota Tractor with front-end loader
- Flat deck – used to haul mowers
- Flat deck with rails – used to haul UTV and ATV together
- Degelman Mower – 15' – spare
- 2 Kubota Mowers
- John Deere 6420 Tractor
- Cattle Scale
- No-Till Drills

Mr. Matz explained that all the spray trucks are fitted with two tanks; one with chemical and one with fresh water. This provides the ability to remix chemical in the field and also provides fresh water for cleanup.

Committee Members suggested all the vehicles be signed with the County logo.

Steven Wikkerink left the Meeting.

Cams – Spray Tracking

Mr. Matz provided the Members with an overview of the Cams System and the use of it in regards to Spraying. The System tracks the roads / areas sprayed, vehicle miles, quantity sprayed, etc. The System also allows the programmer to note problem areas and type of weed to determine if re-application is required.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Position

The Assistant Agricultural Fieldman position has been removed from the Union Contract as the supervisory duties have increased beyond the original scope of the position. Mr. Matz inquired if the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman position would be re-classified as Park Manager.

This will be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Farm Safety Centre

- Thank you letter to the Agricultural Service Board for financial support.

Bacterial Ring Rot – Action Plan

- Final Draft of the Bacterial Ring Rot.

Agricultural Service Board Grant Approval

Chairman Widmer reviewed a letter received from Alberta Agriculture noting the approval for grant funding. The letter also referenced a Specialist would be available to assist with the grant application process.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 10:55 A. M.

CARRIED.