

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 9, 2014.

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

*Members Present: Steven Wikkerink  
Chantel Timmons  
Bryne Lengyel  
Ronald Harty*

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

*Absent: Joan Hughson  
Gerald Reimer*

### Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on October 7, 2014.

CARRIED.

### Amendments to the Agenda

MOVED that the December 9, 2014 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

### Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 30, 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 Roadside Mower Operator continued with highway and County mowing, as well as tree moving, tree trimming and Shop work before being laid off the beginning of November. The Agricultural Fieldman Assistant completed step repairs at the Shop, sprayed out trees in ditches, trimmed trees and trained Public Works Staff on the proper use of chainsaws and tree falling. Both employees also trimmed trees at the Public Works Shop, the Highland and Whitla Cemeteries, the old tree nursery and all trees at the Burdett ball diamonds.
- The Agricultural Fieldman completed the water line blow out at 40 Mile Park, completed the Knapweed inspections, and spent three days grass seeding on construction projects. Trees were also moved at the Public Works Shop to replace those along the fence that died. Due to poor weather, trees were not able to be moved from 40 Mile Park as planned.
- During rain-days, Shop projects were performed. Trucks were cleaned / winterized, equipment cleaned, and mower radiators serviced.

The Shop roof was spray-foamed where the fire occurred, and a wall in the Parts Room and the concrete connecting the two buildings was also sprayed / rubber sealed. This has fixed the last major water leak. The ceiling in the Parts Room is almost complete with only cosmetic work remaining. A scissor lift was brought to the Truck Shop for the metal

workers and at the time the lift was also used by County staff to adjust the overhead doors, repaired shields on the furnace, and removed the old furnace in the Parts Room. An obsolete air exchanger attached to the Truck Shop was also removed as well as the gas line. The storage bay at the pole shed is almost empty.

- Time was also spent on project costing, work began on the winter newsletter, and other office work. Mr. Matz also attended the Park a few times, performed a Seed Cleaning Plant inspection and during one day of nice weather sprayed Kerb for Foxtail control.
- In-Service Training was attended the first week of December. A Farmer Pesticide course is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>. Office work will continue in December and equipment will begin to be brought in for maintenance.

### Project Costing

Mr. Matz reviewed project costing for Mowing, Tree Moving, No-Till Drills, Spraying and Hamlets / Cemeteries attached as Addendum 'B' to the Minutes. Items discussed / considered include:

#### Mowing

- Discussion regarding the costs / revenue to complete mowing for Volker Stevin.

#### Tree-Moving

- Cost-savings for tree moving by County Staff as opposed to contracting services.
- Purchase a tree-spade attachment for a bobcat to move smaller trees.
- The current tree-spade drills too large of a plug for moving smaller trees and is not sufficient for very large trees.
- Sell the current tree spade and purchase a bobcat with tree-spade attachment as any larger tree moving would require contracting.

#### No-Till Drills

- Rental fees are set to cover operating costs only.
- The drills will require repairs / maintenance over the winter.

#### Roadside Spraying

- Use of the 3-tons would provide greater efficiency and cost-savings.
- Sell one of the older 3-tons if the unit is not being used.
- Staff would require additional training and/or licencing.
- Use of residual chemicals may provide better control and could reduce labour costs for Public Works when maintaining.
- Navius, although more costly can be used earlier in the year.

The Members also discussed the amalgamation of 40 Mile Park with the Agriculture Department. This will assist in providing consistent staff for 40 Mile Park and create more efficient use of float hours by Agriculture Staff. This will require good communication between the Managers for project organization.

The Members also discussed that the County is one entity not individual Departments; therefore spare time be available Agriculture / Park / Public Works Staff can assist in different areas as required. The Members emphasized the need to become more efficient and streamlined in all areas.

#### Hamlets / Cemeteries

- Review of the 'Other' hours.

### 2015 Agricultural Service Board Conference

Mr. Matz presented the Agenda and Registration package for the 2015 Agricultural Service Board Conference to be held January 20 to 23, 2015. Mr. Matz will arrange to reserve a bus.

#### Fusarium Graminearum

Mr. Matz reviewed the following information:

- Letter to MLA Maureen Kubinec.
- Review of Bill 2010 by the Standing Committee on Resource Stewardship

- Proposed letter to the Minister of Agriculture.
- Final results on the 2010 Fusarium Head Blight survey by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Two summaries of Fusarium Graminearum from Bio-Vision Seed Labs for 2009 to 2013 and for 2013 to 2014.

The Members discussed the impact of Fusarium Graminearum on the County and the Province overall and the proposed letter to the Minister of Agriculture requesting an exemption from Fusarium Graminearum being declared a Pest for the farmers and lands within the County of Forty Mile No. 8. The Members discussed the impact of such a request upon seed growers that do not have Fusarium present.

MOVED approval of the letter to the Minister of Agriculture requesting an exemption for the 2015 growing season for the farmers and the lands within the County of Forty Mile No. 8 from the declaration of Fusarium Graminearum being a Pest.

CARRIED.

#### 2015 Proposed Meeting Dates

MOVED approval to schedule the 2015 Agricultural Service Board Meeting dates for:

- February 3, March 3, May 5, June 2, September 1, October 6 and December 8, 2015.

CARRIED.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS:

##### Salinity Research Proposal

- Farming Smarter Grant Application: Ken Coles, Farming Smarter Association, is applying for grant funding to research Combating Farm Level Salinity Using Site Specific Management. Mr. Coles is requesting support from three Counties.

##### In-Service Training

- Agenda – Annual In-Service Training  
Mr. Matz noted a few of the presentations attended:
  - CP Rail has established a Spray Train which sprays twelve feet both sides of the train.
  - The Ag Plastics Recycling project was not as effective as hoped and plans to alter the project have been established.
  - Hutterite Awareness presentation by John Cameron was well received.

##### Rabies Surveillance Report

- County of Warner report on the 2014 Rabies Surveillance Program.

MOVED to go in camera.

CARRIED.

MOVED to come out of camera.

CARRIED.

##### Items Discussed In Camera

- Agriculture Department Staff

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 12:15 P. M.

CARRIED.