

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, February 3, 2015.

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

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

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

Absent: Gerald Reimer

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on December 9, 2014.

CARRIED.

Amendments to the Agenda

MOVED that the February 3, 2015 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved as presented.

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.

- In January, Agricultural Staff moved snow for the Office, Shop and 40 Mile Park, covered for Staff in Utilities, installed a new sink in the Concession at 40 Mile Park, worked for Public Works rebuilding a pipe rack at the Utilities Shop, and performed maintenance on a spray truck.
- In December, Mr. Matz taught a Farm Pesticide Course, moved snow at the Office and the Park, and spent time on administrative duties. In January time was spent finalizing last year's Budget, planning the 2015 Budget, compiling Performance Measures for the Agricultural Service Board Grant, and writing articles for the joint Newsletter with Cypress County. Mr. Matz also attended the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference where he attended a Meeting on the review of the Agricultural Pest Act.

Consultations for the Pest Act Review have not begun as the Committee is awaiting approval. The Review Committee received a number of recommendations from Service Boards and some suggestions were to combine the Pest Act and the Weed Act, as many issues cross the boundaries from one Act to the other. Another suggested would be to include zebra / quagga mussels, currently an invasive species, into the Fisheries Act.

- Agrium will no longer sell 2% strychnine. Maxim will be the only company selling strychnine, however the company is still in the process of obtaining registration to manufacture the product. Currently the County has ten cases, which can be sold. The County will not be able to order more product until Maxim receives their registration.
- In February Staff will be focused on equipment maintenance, as well as performing a safety review of all equipment to identify any defects.

2015 Budget

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2015 Budget. The Committee discussed the high cost of repairs for the no-till drills as well as reducing programs and cutting expenses. The Committee requested Mr. Matz to reduce the budget by approximately \$16,000.00.

No-Till Drill – Repairs

Mr. Matz presented a total cost of parts / repairs required for the no-till drills. The consensus of the Committee was to order the necessary parts and perform the required repairs.

The Committee discussed building a hydro-seeder. Mr. Matz will provide additional information for the next Meeting.

Rental Rates

Mr. Matz presented the current and proposed rates for rental equipment. Mr. Matz will present the changes at the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting for the Committee's final approval.

Safety Smarts Program

The Committee reviewed a funding request from the Farm Safety Centre for \$1,739.50 to assist in the delivery of the 2015 Safety Smarts Program. Last year the Agricultural Service Board funded \$1,000.00.

MOVED to provide financial assistance in the amount of \$1,250.00 to the Farm Safety Centre to assist with the delivery of the 2015 Safety Smarts Program.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting

Mr. Matz presented the Performance Measures to be submitted as a requirement of the Agricultural Service Board Grant.

Councillor Wikkerink suggested providing pertinent information on Clubroot prevention / treatment to Canola growers. Councillor Lengyel also suggested a Fusarium alert be provided when the conditions are such that the risk of Fusarium spreading is increased. Mr. Matz will add these suggestions to the Newsletter.

Invasive Species Meeting – Brooks

The Committee reviewed an invitation for two representatives to attend an Invasive Species Meeting in Brooks hosted by the Eastern Irrigation District (EID) on February 18, 2015.

Darrell Van Arragon and Chairman Widmer will attend the Meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

2015 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference – Resolutions

The Committee reviewed the Resolutions presented at the 2015 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference.

Newsletter

- The Pest Insider – January, 2015.

South Region Agricultural Service Board Committee Update

Fusarium: Councillor Wikkerink discussed accessing the Weather Bug system for Producers to receive Fusarium alerts. Mr. Matz will inquire into contacts for the Weather Bug system.

Councillor Wikkerink will provide a Newsletter for the South Region which will contain 'wrap-up' information from the Conference. He hopes to expand on the outcome of the Meetings with the Minister, and include the Best Management Practices for addressing Fusarium with a map of the affected areas in the Province.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:45 A. M.

CARRIED.

Chair Person

Recording Secretary