

**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, September 1, 2015.**

The Meeting was called to order by the Agriculture Chairman, Chantel Timmons, at 9:00 A. M.

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

**Members Absent: Craig Widmer**

**Also Present: Dale Brown, County Administrator  
Dave Matz, Agricultural Fieldman  
Darrell Van Arragon, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman  
Paula Mueller, Executive Assistant**

### **Minutes**

**MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on May 5, 2015.**

**CARRIED.**

### **Amendments to the Agenda**

**MOVED that the September 1, 2015 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

**MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 25, 2015.**

**CARRIED.**

### **Agricultural Fieldman's Report**

The Agricultural Fieldman's Report was presented by Dave Matz and attached as Addendum 'A' to the Minutes.

- Agriculture Fieldman took one week vacation in July and August.
- Agriculture Staff did some mowing and lots of spraying and gopher control at 40 Mile Park in May and June but that slowed in July and August. The Agriculture Staff assisted in installing a sprinkler line in August as well as other odd jobs such as picking up supplies throughout the summer.
- The Agriculture Fieldman dealt with farmland that is infested with Canada Thistle. The field has been finally sprayed and some parts worked down before the end of July.

Councillor Wikkerink present in the meeting.

### **Roadside Spraying**

- Spray Program has gone well this year with nearly all roads in the County covered.
- Weed pressure is dramatically lower than previous years and there is much less herbicide being used.
- Cemeteries required less work and Kaitlyn was trained to spray and performed Glyphosate applications.
- The 3 ton truck has been set up to spray glyphosate at the same time as ditches with good results so grass is being controlled as well.

**MOVED to submit a letter to the Agriculture Minister, requesting roadside spraying and mowing be re-instituted on our secondary highways.**

**CARRIED.**

### Noxious Weeds

- Noxious Weeds spraying has been cut back and focused more on knapweed at the Lane Pit with minor control work done at other sites across the County.
- Leafy Spurge is in decline with decent success from bio control beetles.
- Seed head weevil and root weevil were released at the Lane Pit for control of knapweed in mid-August.

### Cemetery Mowing

- Dry weather resulted in an easy time with mowing of hamlets and cemeteries this year.
- Burdett only required mowing once every couple of weeks and took half as long to cut as previous years.
- Cemeteries took half as long to cut to last year and first cut on cemeteries was finished by the end of June.
- Mowing was performed on windy days opposite the spray program.
- Second cut on cemeteries limited mostly to those located along highways and just required touch ups.
- Mowing at 40 Mile Park was quite limited as Park Staff easily kept up with the small amount of regrowth.

### Roadside Mowing

- Roadside Mowing went without incident this summer and focused mainly on County oil roads, some gravel roads, and hamlets.
- Highway mowing was delayed to allow for farmers haying ditches but commenced on the first week of July and finished at the end of July. There will only be one cut on highways unless a new provincial budget changes funding.

### Grass Seeding

- Seeding has been kept up and the ATV's were used on all projects shortly after construction was finished.
- This year's grass growth has been rather dismal.
- Projects seeded last year are looking quite good and there has been a good catch on the Sunrise Road.

### Pest Surveys

- The first round of Bacterial Ring Rot inspections in potatoes has been completed and second inspections to be completed at the end of August.
- The Fusarium Head Blight Survey was massive and required 48 fields to be sampled across the County.
- A Verticillium Wilt Survey of Canola was completed at the request of Alberta Agriculture, the Rabies Surveillance was collected at least 12 skunks, and traps were erected for collecting insects carrying Dutch Elm Disease.

### Hamlets

- Several days were spent in Etzikom preparing for the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Flowers were planted, spruce trees moved, and the 'Welcome to Etzikom' signs repainted. There was lots of mowing accomplished, some general cleanup, and all the playground equipment repainted.
- All other hamlets received general mowing and spraying and one week repairing underground sprinklers in Burdett to increase the coverage.
- Bronze Leaf Disease has moved into our area and is causing leaves of poplar trees to turn brown and fall off. This is mostly affecting trees that are drought stressed and is quite widespread. Burdett has four trees at the ball diamonds affected quite severely.
- This fall, roadside spraying will continue, as well as a second cut of roadside mowing, grass seeding, removing trees, spraying suckers, and there are lots of trees to be moved out to 40 Mile Park.
- There is a Regional Agriculture Fieldman meeting on September 2, 2015 and a Pest/Legislative Committee meeting with the Pest Surveillance branch in Leduc on September 8, 2015.

## **2015 Agriculture Service Board Resolution Report Card**

- Resolution 1; That ARD enter into an agreement with AFSC to decline insurance on canola acres if canola is grown back to back in rotation, and that AFSC put an insurance the Province's Clubroot Management Program, which recommends canola be grown in rotation no more than once every four years.
- Resolution 2; That Agriculture and Rural Development to review the Ag Pests Act and require mandatory notification of land location to the municipality where clubroot is found.
- Resolution 3; That ARD encourage Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards to adopt a standardized clubroot inspection procedure by reimbursing ASBs for each field of canola field surveyed for clubroot using the standard protocol in the amount of \$50 per field inspected, to a maximum of \$20,000 for each municipality through the use of a new grant.
- Resolution 4; That ARD supply additional funding up to \$75,000 per year for each municipality with the ASB that is affected by the constant flow of prohibited noxious weeds coming into their municipality from outside the Province of Alberta.
- Resolution 5; That ARD continue to regulate Canada Thistle as a noxious weed on the Weed Control Act.
- Resolution 8; That regulations be put in place by ARD to monitor the use and movement of ergot into livestock feeds until research can determine acceptable levels. That ARD better inform all those involved in feeding, shipping, and processing of feed containing ergot of the toxicity, symptoms, and devastating consequences of feeding ergot toxic feeds./ARD does not have regulatory jurisdiction to establish limits for ergot.
- Resolution 14; That Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) transfer management of Farm Development leases and agriculture leases to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD).

### **Agriculture Service Board Bursary**

- Application has been received from Mathilde Grol from Bow Island enrolled at the University of Lethbridge in the Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Studies for Fall 2015.

**MOVED to award Mathilde Grol the Agriculture Service Board Bursary for Fall 2015 based on the applicant's academic standing, social and community activities.**

**CARRIED.**

### **2015 South Region Agriculture Service Board Conference**

- The Regional Agriculture Service Board Conference will be held in Veteran on October 28, 2015.
- Steve Wikkerink, Craig Widmer, Darrell VanArragon, and Dave Matz to attend the Agriculture Service Board Conference in Veteran, Alberta on October 28, 2015.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

#### **Letter from Doug Macaulay**

- A letter from Doug Macaulay advising approval of the Agriculture Service Board Grant allocation for 2015.

#### **Invoice/Volker Stevin**

- Volker Stevin invoice for mowing.

#### **July Pest Insider**

Newsletter produced by Phil Merrill.

- Pet Rats in Alberta
- Rat Control Zone
- Feral Wild Boar Update
- Rat Update

**MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:10 A. M.**

**CARRIED.**