

**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, October 6, 2015.**

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

**Members Present:** *Chantel Timmons  
Gerald Reimer  
Bryne Lengyel  
Ronald Hart  
Joan Hughson  
Steven Wikkerink  
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 September 1, 2015.**

**CARRIED.**

**Amendments to the Agenda**

**MOVED that the October 6, 2015 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

**Treasurer's Report**

**MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending September 29, 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 Department summer employees completed their employment at the end of the first week of September. This created a shortfall of manpower, however, good weather has permitted projects to be completed.

Mowing has started on County roads and been completed on the oil roads, Nemiscam Road, Warner Grade and Minda Trail before authorization was received to start mowing secondary highways. Mowing will be completed on the north portions of Highways 889 and 887, and all of Highways 885 and 879. Due to several days of inclement weather, mowing was finalized in Burdett parks, trees were watered, and assistance was provided in removing trees in ELCC Cemetery.

Fall spraying will continue every day weather permitting. There has been consistent progress on cleaning up Canada Thistle patches. On rainy days, trees have been cut in Burdett and ELCC Cemeteries with gradual clearing of Caragana trees that have been taking over the cemetery. Treating of tree suckers in ditches is continuing and moving the drills.

The no till drills have been fairly active with five farmers using them and the cattle scale has been used twice. The drills have seeded a lot of acres this year, although, most of them are

from one farmer. Many people had intentions to use them but just never had time once things were busy and the dry weather put off a lot of seeding projects.

The Agriculture Fieldman attended a meeting in early September in Nisku with other Agriculture Fieldman and the Pest Surveillance Branch. It was quite a detailed meeting, several issues were discussed and several updates as follows:

- New Minister has been asking for lots of information, atmosphere is less restrictive. Seven new positions were added including two in New Diagnostics Lab, Lethbridge Bee Pathologist, Bee Scientist in Edmonton, and a Pathology Scientist in Edmonton.
- Ministry is currently reviewing recommendations to add some new weeds to the weed list.
- Clubroot survey was performed to determine pathotypes and degree of resistance. Twenty-one fields are suspected to contain a new pathotype. New canola varieties are being rushed to market with limited testing. So far no major clubroot issues here in the south.
- Fusarium Graminearum decision has been slow in coming, Ministry has requested action on the commonly found proposal but the lack of consensus is making a decision very difficult.
- Municipal District of Smoky River has a resolution of AAMDC to include Fusarium Graminearum under the Seed Act.
- Wild Boar bounty has seen a reduction in claims, mostly due to farmers losing interest in allowing hunters access.
- Verticillium Wilt of Canola has been found in one field south of Winnipeg. Canadian Food Inspection Agency requested a survey to determine if it has spread. It may be put on the Ag Pests Act if found to have spread.
- Jimsonweed has been found in some Canola fields and has been linked to a specific seed lot, it is not invasive and is easy to control but contains toxic seeds.
- Rewriting of the Agriculture Pest Act is ongoing and when ready will be released for stakeholder review.

The Agricultural Fieldman met with Barbara Archibald who is the Growing Forward Specialist and together will possibly be organizing an Environmental Farm Plan Workshop this winter if there is enough interest. Ms. Archibald is willing to facilitate a workshop or assist any farmers if needed.

During October, roadside spraying will be finished and some soil sterilant possibly being applied to road shoulders. Several grass seeding projects remain to be completed along with some weed inspections on CPR lines. Once the mowing is done, trees will be moved at 40 Mile Park.

If weather permits during November, there are trees to be cut down, a new sign to be installed at Highland Cemetery, and numerous tasks at the 40 Mile Park. The Agriculture Department Staff intend to utilize some of their vacation time throughout November.

### **Roadside Spraying Report**

- Spraying concentrated close to Bow Island and Burdett where weeds are more prevalent.
- Used one ton in Manyberries area and sprayed glyphosate to control weeds
- Used one ton to spray roads close to Legend and Foremost
- Residual products applied to Canada Thistle

**MOVED approval for the purchase of an additional \$10,000.00 in spray for the control of Canada Thistle.**

**CARRIED.**

### **Farming Smarter Conference**

The poster and agenda for this years' Conference on December 8 and 9 in Lethbridge was presented to the Committee.

### **2015 In Service Training**

This years' training will be held in Edmonton from November 30 to December 4, 2015.

- Includes health training, environmental, and other sessions
- 15 credits over 3 years are required to retain their license
- \$450 per person to register for the training

**MOVED approval for Dave Matz, Darrell Van Arragon, and Kevin Jesske to attend the in service training in Edmonton from November 30 to December 4, 2015.**

**CARRIED.**

### **2015 Regional Resolutions**

The following Resolutions have been submitted for consideration at the 2015 Regional Conference:

- Used Pesticide Container Collection in Alberta,
- Species at Risk Act (SARA)

### **Updates**

- The Elk population was reduced by 2,000 at CFB Suffield through the Elk Quota Hunt
- Letter received from Kate Wilson of the Fish and Wildlife Branch indicated 22,000 boats were inspected with 17 mussel-fouled boats intercepted; 6 saltwater mussels and 11 quagga/zebra mussels
- Second year of an aquatic invasive plant monitoring pilot project and no new species or unknown locations have been detected

### **Delegation/Tim Romanow/Milk River Watershed Council Canada/ Projects and Programs Update**

Mr. Romanow provided an overview of the Milk River Watershed Council Canada and updated Council on all of its' projects and programs.

Mr. Romanow left the meeting.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

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

The Agenda for the South Region Agriculture Service Board Conference hosted by Special Area No. 4 was presented to the Committee.

#### **Watercraft Inspections and CFB Elk Hunt Letter**

Letter sent to Minister Shannon Phillips pertaining to watercraft inspections and the threat of zebra and quagga mussels to recreational waters and irrigation infrastructure and the elk quota hunt at CFB Suffield to reduce the elk population was presented to the Committee.

#### **Weed Control Along Provincial Highways**

Letter sent to Minister Brian Mason requesting the Department re-instate the practice of weed control and mowing ditches twice a year along provincial highways to improve safety was presented to the Committee.

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

**CARRIED.**