

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 8, 2015.

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

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

Members Absent: *Gerald Reimer*

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 October 6, 2015.

CARRIED.

Amendments to the Agenda

MOVED that the December 8, 2015 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved as amended.

- **Leafy Spurge along South Saskatchewan River**

CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2015.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

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

Since the last meeting on October 6 some spraying projects have been finished up, worked in cemeteries, seeded roadsides, moved trees, and of course started taking vacation time.

At the previous meeting, it was decided to perform extra spraying as we had some good weather and extra revenue to work with. We managed to get a few days of great weather for spraying to finish up the roads that were a main priority, however, the Agriculture Department assisted in the Utility Department chlorinating wells, pump repairs, and service connections. The last half of October was quite windy so not as much spraying was completed as intended, but overall a tremendous amount of roads got sprayed this season.

The mower operator finished mowing highways on October 20, 2015 and moved trees for the remainder of October to the new campground loop at 40 Mile Park, until his layoff at the end of October. Grass seeding was completed on construction projects west of Burdett and near Winnifred.

The no till drills have been quite active with four farmers renting them, in addition to our own seeding projects. The fence at Comrey Cemetery was repaired and a new gate sign and fence were put up at Highland Cemetery. The irrigation pump at the Burdett ball diamonds was pulled out and sent for repairs as the back spacer needed replacing. All trucks and equipment have been cleaned up and winterized, and the shop has had a thorough cleaning and re-organizing.

At the beginning of December we will be away for our In Service Training, and there will be a Farm Pesticide Course on December 10, 2015. The rest of December will be finishing up year-end budgeting and other administrative duties. The Agriculture Fieldman plans to send out a joint newsletter with Cypress County in 2016, host a workshop for Environmental Farm Plans in February, and the Agriculture Fieldman is looking into the possibility of workshops for assisting farmers with understanding the new Occupational Health and Safety requirements.

Agriculture Staff has taken vacation time in November and will be taking much more in December. In January, equipment repairs and maintenance will be completed, and building lids for the garbage bins at 40 Mile Park.

2015 Spray Maps

Three spray maps were provided for the Committee Member's review outlining all areas sprayed in the County of Forty Mile No. 8.

2016 Meeting Dates

The suggested meeting dates for 2016 are as follows: February 2, May 3, September 6, October 4, and December 13.

MOVED approval for the 2016 Meeting Dates to be February 2, March 1, May 3, June 7, September 6, October 4, and December 13.

CARRIED.

South Region Agriculture Service Board Committee Meeting

Council discussed the minutes from the meeting held in Veteran on October 28, 2015 and the Agriculture Service Board Committee recommended an evening meeting for next year

Knapweed in Southwestern Alberta

At the South Region Agriculture Service Board Committee Meeting, it was suggested a letter be sent to the Minister of Environment from individual municipalities in support of increased funding for the control of Knapweed in Southwestern Alberta.

MOVED that a letter be sent to the Minister of Environment from the County of Forty Mile No. 8 in support of increased funding for the control of Knapweed in Southwestern Alberta.

CARRIED.

Hunting on Undeveloped Road Allowances

The Agriculture Fieldman has been contacted by Terry Raymond to see if there is support for his move to restrict hunting on undeveloped road allowances. This was

discussed at the March meeting but was tabled to see if there were any comments from local landowners.

Consensus was that “No Action” be taken on this.

2016 Provincial Agriculture Service Board Conference

The Agriculture Service Board Conference will be January 18 to 21, 2016.

Agriculture Service Board Resolutions

The Resolutions to be presented at the Provincial Agriculture Service Board Conference.

- The Government of Alberta restore funding levels to Alberta Transportation for summer maintenance programs for vegetation management on Alberta Provincial Highways (weed control and mowing). **Yes**
- That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstate the \$150.00 incentive given to producers for participating in the BSE program. **No**
- Alberta Agriculture Plastics Recycling Program research, development, and implement an agricultural plastics recycling program modelled after the pilot program in the Province of Saskatchewan. **Yes**
- That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstate the 2014 Agricultural Opportunity Fund increase that was allocated for the Agricultural Research and Forage Associations. **?**
- That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry increase the amount of weather stations in a geographically consistent manner in the agricultural areas to ensure accuracy of weather data used by Agriculture Financial Services Corporation. **?**
- That Minister of Environment and Parks add coyotes to the Compensation list as a predator under the Alberta Wildlife Regulation paying the same level of compensation for depredation that is paid for livestock death and injury from wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, cougars and eagles. **Yes**
- That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry update the Hay and Pasture Insurance Program to accurately cover the impact of the market fluctuation on hay production for livestock producers based on hay commodities. Amendments need to include removing the 50% price cap on the Variable Price Benefit, assistance to cover the cost of feed supplements due to poor quality as well as trucking costs due to insufficient quantity of feed. **?**
- To rebuild the current Species at Risk Act to improve it in a way that seeks a balanced and cooperative approach (economic, environmental, and social) to species protection that focuses on ecosystem protection; limiting impact on agriculture, industry, rural development, and land use in Alberta. **Yes**

Bill 6 – Occupational Health and Safety for Farmers

Cypress County submitted a letter requesting a delay in implementing Bill 6 and an open letter from the Premier regarding Bill 6 has been included.

- Organizing Farm Workers
- Occupational Health & Safety and Workmen’s Compensation Board to be implemented before discussions and input
- Safety is the main issue and more clarification is required; documentation on every work activity will be required.

Reeve Lengyel noted that the South East Reeve’s Mayor’s Association would be sending a letter of support.

Leafy Spurge along South Saskatchewan River/Councillor Timmons

- Agriculture
Fieldman stated there was a shortage of staff which resulted in a cut back on spraying and that insects were used instead to control
- Agriculture
Fieldman also noted that unrestricted access to the location to spray would be essential

INFORMATION ITEMS:

2015 In Service Training

The Agricultural Staff attended a training conference November 30, 2015 to December 3, 2015.

Highland Cemetery

A new sign and fence were recently installed at Highland Cemetery.

2015 Rabies Report

Rabies report from Barry Anderson and an invoice from the County of Warner.

Thank You

A letter was received from Mathilde Grol regarding the Agricultural Bursary.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 11:35 A. M.

CARRIED.