

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 2, 2016.

The Meeting was called to order by the Agriculture Chairman, Craig Widmer, at 9:04 A.M.

Members Present: *Chantel Timmons
Bryne Lengyel
Ronald Harty
Joan Hughson
Steven Wikkerink
Craig Widmer
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 December 8, 2015.

CARRIED.

Amendments to the Agenda

MOVED that the February 2, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved as amended.

- Report from Convention

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.

- In December and part of January, Agricultural Staff covered for Staff in Utilities, worked on equipment; assisted with building lids for dumpsters for 40 Mile Park, and worked for the welder to get caught up on projects in the Public Works Shop.
- In December and January, Mr. Matz taught Farm Pesticide courses with approximately 30 people completing the course.
- In January, time was spent finalizing last year's Budget, planning the 2016 Budget, and preparing the joint newsletter.
- Planning for Youth Range Days is well underway and the workload being spread over quite a few people.
- In February the Agriculture Fieldman has meetings planned with the Milk River Watershed Staff, the Weed Coordinator Committee, and the Health and Safety Committee.
- Many small repairs/maintenance are required to be done on equipment. Three injection pumps failed in the Fall so all four pumps on the big spray trucks have been completely dis-assembled so parts could be ordered and pumps rebuilt. Pricing is

being obtained for another injection pump so there is more flexibility in applying different pesticides on the go and this will be presented with capital purchases. All of the other equipment will be brought in for minor repairs and annual safety checks.

Budget 2016

- Agriculture Service Board Committee was presented a draft budget for review.
- STEP Program available through Provincial Government and being applied for by the County of Forty Mile No. 8.

2015 Performance Measures

Performance Measures that are submitted for the Agriculture Service Board Grant reporting were presented for the Committee's review.

MOVED approval for Performance Measures to be submitted for the Agriculture Service Board Grant reporting.

CARRIED.

Youth Range Days

This year's event will be held near Elkwater from July 5-7, 2016. The Board has made a \$500.00 donation for a number of years.

- An interactive event for youth and families interested in learning about a variety of rangeland, watershed, wildlife, and other topics related to natural resource management.
- Youth from all backgrounds are welcome to attend.
- This year camp is at the Group Camp which is located near Elkwater in Cypress Hills.

MOVED that the County of Forty Mile No. 8 provide a \$500.00 financial contribution to the 2016 Youth Range Days Program.

CARRIED.

Farm Safety Centre

A request for support in the amount of \$1,487.50 has been submitted. In 2015, the Board provided \$1,250.00 in funding.

- Municipal districts and counties across the province have become important partners helping fund Safety Smarts delivery to rural children within their boundaries
- During this school year the Farm Safety program will reach a significant milestone – delivering face to face farm safety messages to 500,000+ rural children in Alberta since the program began in 1988.
- The mandate of this program is to reduce injuries and fatalities in rural Alberta. Youth are not always fully aware of the many potential hazards presented by rural living. Increasing their awareness and ability to make informed personal safety decisions is extremely important.
- The power of the program comes from consistent, reinforced, face to face sharing.
- Investing in our children now is a wise investment in the future. Influencing their personal attitudes and actions as they grow and mature will pay significant dividends as they become future decision makers.

MOVED to support the Farm Safety Centre in the amount of \$1,250.00.

CARRIED.

Report from Agriculture Service Board Convention

- Almost all resolutions were passed

- Numerous questions regarding coal power and whether to get rid of coal power and change to natural gas
- In central Alberta a hutterite colony has created a recycling facility that is very clean and recycles all types of plastics
- Agriculture Minister indicated a recycling program for Agriculture Departments.
- Bill 6: Six discussion groups will be set up; use Agriculture Service Boards as information tool; government members would request Agriculture Service Board Committee members be invited and kept oriented and informed through various
- President of the AAMD&C indicated anyone attempting to contact Government representatives are having a difficult time doing so.

Species at Risk Act Resolution

Agriculture Service Board Committee discussed the resolution pertaining to the Species at Risk Act.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Letter from Minister Brian Mason

Letter from Minister Brian Mason regarding mowing and spraying on highways.

Pest Insider

Latest edition of pest newsletter from Alberta Agriculture.

Letter from Minister Oneil Carlier

Letter from Minister Oneil Carlier regarding spotted knapweed in Southwest Alberta.

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 10:42 A. M.

CARRIED.