

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, May 3, 2016.

The Meeting was called to order by the Agriculture Chairman, Craig Widmer, at 9:05 A.M.

Members Present: *Chantel Timmons
Craig Widmer
Gerald Reimer
Bryne Lengyel
Joan Hughson*

Members Absent: *Ronald Harty
Steven Wikkerink*

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 March 1, 2016.

CARRIED.

Amendments to the Agenda

MOVED that the May 3, 2016 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved as amended.

- Letter to the Agriculture Minister
- In Camera Item

CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval of the Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 28, 2016.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

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

- March month was busy with numerous meetings taking place. Mr. Matz met with Public Lands to discuss budgeting for weed control on Lease Land as well as attending a meeting in Edmonton with the Pest Surveillance Branch.
- Mr. Matz took a week of vacation over the Easter Break.
- M
r. Matz hired a mower operator back on the third week of March to start helping get equipment ready.
- T
he garbage bin lids for 40 Mile Park were finished and that enabled Agricultural Staff to start going through equipment to perform oil changes, small repairs, and general maintenance.

- In April, the Agricultural Fieldman attended Budget Meetings and a Bio Control Meeting so he was able to allocate considerable time in the shop assisting with spray trucks and preparing equipment so it is ready to go. Most of the trees in our tree nursery were moved out with about a dozen left to go out to 40 Mile Park. The nursery has been rototilled again and once trees are finished moving, more can be planted in May.
- Most of the shop yards, hamlets, and waste service sites have been sprayed with soil sterilant and residual chemicals have been applied on some road shoulders that were pulled up last summer. Two days of spraying were completed at 40 Mile Park and about half of last year's seeding projects have been sprayed for weed control. Spraying weather has not been very good due to some very windy days and now wet weather will set us back a bit more. The No Till Drills have not been very busy and only used by four or five people so far. Sales of 2% strychnine have been brisk as many farmers have been getting an early start on gopher control.
- The irrigation pump in Burdett was installed and several changes were done to the plumbing after jacking and stabilizing the pump house. New doors were built and installed and summer Agricultural staff will paint the pump house when they are caught up on other projects. The bulletin board and picnic tables have had some repairs and were stained.
- Two new summer staff will be starting on May 2, 2016 and will be receiving training on spraying and weed identification. There are a lot of projects to work on as the Agricultural Fieldman would like to trim trees at the Administration Office and at the Burdett Park. The flower beds at Burdett Park need to have sprinklers added and the flower bed at the Community Hall needs to be changed. Mowing and spraying will take priority as the warm weather will make this one of our earliest starts for cutting grass and controlling weeds.

Report on Provincial Pests

Mr. Matz provided a brief report on a meeting with representatives from the AAAF and Pest Surveillance Branch.

Report from Fusarium Action Committee

- A big problem in commonly and uncommonly found areas; having difficulty defining a commonly found area
- Alberta Agriculture Department to conduct Fusarium survey again this summer on various fields
- Pest Act Review – no legislative changes until 2018
- Free testing provided by Alberta Provincial Pest Lab on any pest issues

Milk River Watershed Council Annual Meeting

The Milk River Watershed Council Committee has requested the County of Forty Mile No. 8 to sponsor their annual meeting on May 31, 2016. The Agricultural Service Board Committee Members reviewed the letter and meeting agenda.

MOVED that the County of Forty Mile No. 8 sponsor \$100.00 in support of the Milk River Watershed Council's Annual Meeting on May 31, 2016 as well as a donation of a 40 Mile Park Seasonal Pass with Boat for the silent auction.

CARRIED.

Transboundary Water, Weeds, and Stewardship Tour

The County of Warner is organizing a tour of upstream weed issues along the St. Mary and Milk River headwaters from August 8-10- 2016. The tour is intended for Councillors and Senior Staff.

- Councillors Reimer, Wikkerink, and Hughson interested in attending tour

Unit 374 – 3 Point Hitch Rototiller

The Agriculture Department has an older rototiller that requires a new gearbox, sprocket, and bearings. Parts will be approximately \$900.00 plus shipping from Spain.

Consensus of Committee Member’s is to research options to repair the unit at a lower price and bring back possible solutions to the next meeting.

2016 Provincial Agriculture Budget Cuts

- Cut backs in the Provincial Agriculture Budget will directly affect the Agricultural Service Boards across the province; the County of Forty Mile No. 8 should submit a letter to the Agriculture Minister and the Premier to outline major concerns
- Urban disconnect is a huge issue; communication between all departments is essential to better understand urban agricultural concerns

MOVED that a letter be submitted to the Alberta Agriculture Minister and Premier outlining significant concerns regarding the recent Provincial Agriculture Budget Cuts.

CARRIED.

In Camera Item

MOVED to go In Camera.

CARRIED.

MOVED to come Out of Camera.

CARRIED.

Item Discussed: Staff

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Farm Safety Centre
 - Thank you letter and short report on Municipal Donations included for review by Committee Members
- Thank You Cards for supporting District 4-H Clubs
- Report on Bio Control Activities for 2015

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 10:50 A. M.

CARRIED.