

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 1, 2018.

The Meeting was called to order by the Agriculture Chairman at 8:53 A. M.

Members Present: *Chantel Timmons*
 Craig Widmer
 Stacey Barrows
 Joan Hughson
 Gerald Reimer
 Steven Wikkerink
 Diane Harty

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

Delegations: *10:00 A. M. - Phil Merrill / Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact*

Minutes

MOVED approval of the Minutes of the Regular Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on March 6, 2017.

CARRIED.

Amendments to the Agenda

MOVED that the May 1, 2018 Agricultural Service Board Agenda be approved with no amendments.

CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report

MOVED approval to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

CARRIED.

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

MOVED to accept the Agricultural Fieldman's Report as per "Addendum A" to the Minutes.

CARRIED.

Rental Equipment

The Agricultural Service Board Committee Members discussed the use and replacement of equipment available for rent to Agricultural Producers and Members agreed not to buy a new drill. The Committee Members agreed to rent the no till drills for one more season and then the drill will no longer be available for rent to producers but be used on County projects like reclamation of gravel pits and road construction.

Burdett Days Preparations

Agricultural Service Board Members discussed parade floats for various celebrations in the County and agreed a vehicle in place of a float be utilized with magnetic County signs attached to the side.

Policy Review

The following policies were reviewed by the Agricultural Service Board:

Agricultural Fieldman

Duties
Meetings and Convention Attendance
Role

Agriculture Service Board

Chairman - Role
Convention, Tours, Meetings
County Administrator – Role
Members

- Attendance
- Duties
- Meeting Dates
- Role
 - Objective
 - Structure

Mr. Matz to revise these policies and bring them to the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting for approval.

Highway 61 Weed Control

Alberta Transportation has provided direction on performing weed control along the Highway 61 construction project.

Agricultural Service Board Members agreed to leave the spraying of weeds for now and Mr. Matz will contact a spray plane operator to discuss options.

Delegation Present / Mr. Phil Merrill / Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact

Mr. Merrill discussed with the Agricultural Service Board Members various methods of poisoning ground squirrels/gophers such as Phostoxin, Strychnine (which will only be available until December 31, 2019), Rozol, Ramik Green, Zinc Phosphide, and Zylitol.

Mr. Merrill updated the Agricultural Service Board Members on the following:

- Red Deer, Ponoka, and Lacombe Counties have jointly purchased a roller to provide an option for recycling agricultural plastics.
- Aerobic digested liquid manure fertilizer (liquid composting) applied to the soil increases carbon levels resulting in higher nutrients for plants and increased soil fertility.
- Manure application systems to reach various fields can be accommodated by accessing existing highway culverts and road right of ways to move manure by applying for approval to the Alberta Government.
- Alberta Agriculture is still having difficulty with Fusarium Graminearum a serious fungal disease of cereal grains and is one of the most significant crop pests currently threatening agriculture in Alberta; a survey was done but the results have not been released and there is no strategy on reducing/terminating the growth of Fusarium Graminearum.
- The Canadian Agricultural Partnerships are federally funded activities that support sector growth and include the following six programs: AgriMarketing, AgriCompetitiveness, AgriScience, Agrilnnovate, AgriDiversity and AgriAssurance that are available to producers.

Mr. Steven Wikkerink present in the meeting.

Mr. Phil Merrill left the meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Pest Insider Newsletter - April 2018
- Bio Control Summary 2017

MOVED that the Meeting adjourn at 10:55 A. M.

CARRIED.