

The Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, December, 15, 2011.

Present: Chairman – Clr. Myron Zajic, Clr. Bruce Cummins, Farm Members – Harold Gulbraa, Grant Aykroyd, Rod Thirsk. Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson, Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman & Secretary – Aimee Wonsik. Delegation of Alberta Agriculture Key Contact Darrell Bignell.

The Chairman Clr. Zajic called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

24/11 Moved by Grant Aykroyd to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED

25/11 Moved by Grant Aykroyd the minutes from October 12, 2011 be accepted as presented. CARRIED

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1. (Fall 2011) Battle River Watershed Alliance, "The Current Newsletter".
2. (October 2011) Government of Alberta, "Pesticide Trainer Newsletter".
3. (October 13, 2011) Soren Odegard, Chairman, Agricultural Service Board, County of Two Hills, letter to ASB Chairmen determining interest for a Regional Coyote Reduction Program from the NE region.

Letter had been reviewed at October Council, in which Council did not think a bounty program was required at the time. It was brought to the ASB for information review and discussion. The \$15 Bounty Program, is being used in other Counties, however the M.D. of Wainwright may have only 6x 1080 tablet call outs of verified livestock loss in a regular year. There has not been many phone calls from producers with livestock kills in our area; producers handle coyote problems themselves.

4. (October 18, 2011) The East Central Times Newspaper, article on "Agricultural Service Boards in Alberta".
5. (October 19, 2011) Kelly Buchinski, Administrator, Myron Zajic, A.S.B. Chairman, Bob Barss, Reeve; email conversation regarding letter from County of Two Hills determining interest for a Regional Coyote Reduction Program.
6. (October 24, 2011) Government of Alberta, Gahya Sieusahai (no title included on letter), letter highlighting Alberta Weed Control Act sections.

Letter was sent to Alberta Rural and Urban Municipalities, highlighting responsibilities under the Weed Act, in which more awareness is key for success.

7. (November 15, 2011) Doyle Wiebe, President, Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association, invitation to "2012 Conservation Agriculture Conference, Saskatoon".
8. (November) State of the Battle River Watershed Report

The information gathered in the Report comes partially from the Battle River Watershed area in the M.D. of Wainwright. In November, a public information meeting was held in Wainwright, in which George Poruchnek farm member for the BRW Alliance helped bring local producers to. Charts and graphs in the report show that the water in our local area is fair to good.

9. (December) ASB Summer Tour, Invite Card

Peace River and Fahler areas is the location of the upcoming Summer Tour will be held, hosted by Northern Sunrise County and M.D. of Smoky River. It is a good networking opportunity for ASB members to discover other issues that are important in the different parts of the Province. Clr. Myron Zajic says that is is very interesting and well worth it. July 10-13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Also there will be wind breaker coats that will be given at the tour, so coat sizes should be given to James or Aimee. Main site will be in Nampa. More information will be given as received.

10. M.D. of Wainwright, A.S.B. Report for December

Council receives the ASB report every month, and Aimee thought it would be good to also submit to ASB members for review for our daily activities.

11. Viking Newspaper, article of local hunter controlling Wild Boar; November 29, 2011.

It has been 3 years since M.D. of Wainwright has dealt with a Wild Boar sighting. Now that Wild Boar have been upgraded to Pest status on the Act, they can be controlled the same as a coyote.

James reviewed the new Dupont Industrial Chemicals for roadsides and rite ways with the new registered names.

26/11

Moved by Harold Gulbraa to accept the correspondence as presented and to be filed. CARRIED.

James Schwindt gave his report stating that Rural Routes August 17, 2012 has been chosen as the date; and the entertainment will be Roman Danylo who is a comedian. Rural Routes is an appreciation night for area farmers saluting the agriculture industry and honoring the 100 year award Farm Families.

The Seed Cleaning Plant inspections were successful. Elwin Dzwenska, Regional Seed Cleaning Plant Association Chairman assisted James and Aimee with the Wainwright and Edgerton plants, to ensure seed is being cleaned to a certain standard. Findings are documented and brought to the cleaning plant boards attention.

Clubroot – there were no visual positive symptoms found in 40 canola fields surveyed this year. University of Alberta also conducted testing on 23 canola fields, concentrating on highway 41 corridor north end of the M.D, near Vermilion County boarder.

Grasshoppers – found species are identified and densities taken and submitted to ARD. M.D. of Wainwright's survey shows no significant high numbers for 2012.

Wheat midge – M.D. of Wainwright survey was fine, Clr. Myron Zajic commented threshold numbers seem to be too low to determine when to be spraying. Should be higher before needing to spray. James said that threshold numbers are dictated by Alberta Agriculture.

Tankloaders – Ribstone May to Oct 485cubes, Irma meter was down April-June, 457cubes new meter installed, Gilt Edge 1714 cubes. Harold Gulbraa mentioned the Irma Tankloader is always busy. James says hopefully we don't have a break down on monitoring system in 2012 so that the numbers reported can be more accurate. Rod Thirsk questioned if Ribstone still has naturally occurring arsenic, and James confirmed that is still does, however it is too cost prohibited to treat. The Ribstone tankloader is placarded not to be use for livestock use.

Aimee Wonsik gave her report by mentioning she will be bringing 6 local farmers to the upcoming Farm Tech on January 24,2012.

Aimee also read an email she received from Steven Miller, President, Seed Cleaning Plant Association of Alberta. Aimee had emailed him comments of support that the association has now included 2 Fusarium graminearium checks on their inspection form. Even though the 2 checks does not affect licensing of the plants, she sees this as a huge action step towards awareness and support by the Association to their cleaning plants, and also support to Alberta grain farmers against this stoppable grain pest.

The A.S.B. took a short break from 10:10 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

The A.S.B. took a group photo to be uploaded onto the municipal website.

Rod Gabrielson gave his report by stating he is continuing his rat patrol checks with no active sites in the M.D. of Wainwright rat control zone. Most of the work Rod does is preventative by distributing bait; this year he has distributed 9300 units so far. Rod reviewed a letter that he received from Vaughn Christiansen, Manager Regulatory Service Division, ARD, commending the work that Rod does and the support of the Municipality for allowing him to participate in other area rat problem clean-ups. The A.S.B. thanked Rod for his skill and expertise and also his time and effort spent in being a rat control officer. Rod mentioned that his November meeting with his SK counterparts had good feedback; and the Saskatchewan government is getting more organized to get rats added to their pest legislation. Rod noted that he will be attending a planning meeting for the annual Alberta rat control training day in December. Rod will also be attending a January 24 workshop in North Battleford, where he will obtain more pest control credits. Rod stated that beaver numbers were down this year and in the Ribstone creek area, he notes land owner changes and no blasting in that area this past year. Magpie traps still are being used by ratepayers quite regularly.

27/11

Moved by Clr. Bruce Cummins that the reports be accepted as presented.  
CARRIED

Discussion on the preliminary ASB budget, which will be reviewed again at the upcoming January ASB meeting. These figures are used as estimates for Municipal Planning purposes and also for reporting procedures for Alberta Agriculture.

28/11 Moved by Harold Gulbraa to use the preliminary ASB Budget for planning and reporting purposes, until approved at the January ASB meeting. CARRIED

James briefly discussed the ASB Management Plan, which is a requirement for ASB Grant process. This plan is to be annually reviewed and will be discussed in further detail at the January ASB meeting.

James led discussion on the ASB Policy Manual changes, and noted there is no significant change of intent, only removal of out-dated information. Also, the update to policy of addressing a title change for a present ASB staff member to represent duties that are being carried out currently, and also some changes to responsibilities of a vacant ASB Weed Inspector job position. More discussion of these 2 job positions will covered later in the meeting.

ASB Conference Jan 31- Feb 3, Agenda Package was shared, and James would like to know by January 6, 2012 who will be attending. James also handed out the ASB Resolutions that will be covered at the Conference. These resolutions will be discussed in further detail at the next ASB meeting, however ASB members are to take home the information for review.

James led discussion on new job description for an ASB Foreman. The current employee that is in this position has worked for the ASB the past 15 years. More responsibilities of computer systems for the municipal spray trucks, plus the mapping and GPS information systems will be covered in the Foreman role. Extra authority will be given to this individual to over see the other 2 Weed Inspector positions when required.

29/11 Moved by Rod Thirsk to recommend to Council to change the current job description for Dennis Fuder of Municipal Weed Inspector, to ASB Operations Foreman. CARRIED

James talked about an existing ASB/ Public Works shared job position that is currently vacant. This position covers the general duties of Municipal Weed Inspector for the ASB. In order to hire a qualified individual, the ASB would prefer to start advertising for this position in January 2012.

30/11 Moved by Grant Akryod to recommend to Council, to advertise the vacant ASB position in January 2012. CARRIED

James handed out a 2012 Proposed Roadside Mowing Map to the ASB members, of the proposed 2012 roadside mowing map. The main roads and school bus routes are the roads that have focused mowing activity on. James proposed to ASB that all the green colored roads on the map be completed with a 10 foot mower, and the red roads on the map be covered with a 15 foot mower. Harold Gulbraa mentioned that some of his local Irma area roads are not suitable to be mowed. James mentioned that it is the Councilors responsibility to choose and add or delete roads within the amount of miles that they are allotted per division. Discussion on the issues of the 15' mowers on older roads with a 66' road allowance and steep shoulders commenced. Grant Akroyd mentioned he would rather have a good job with 10' verses a poor job with a 15'. Harold said that the physics of the mower's ability is all dependent on weather/ rainfall/ vegetation growth which all plays a factor in a clean mowing job. The mowing program starts on July 15, therefore early enough in season for re-growth to occur.

James presented the 2011 Fusarium survey results, in which 18 fields were sampled by a 3<sup>RD</sup> party. After persistently inquiring where the results were, Aimee finally got the answer to be able to share with the ASB. There is 1 confirmed positive field of Fusarium graminearum for 2011, which adds to the growing concern of the 1 positive field found in 2010. Aimee will add more information in her upcoming newsletters, which will stress fusarium awareness to grain farmers. A notice can be written even though the M.D. of Wainwright does not have a policy at this point. Harold Gulbraa states that this year might be a worse year for Fusarium since the ergot focus has taken precedence for grain separations and not necessarily cleaning of grain, in which cleaning requires a Fusarium test but separations do not. Wheat that gets hauled for ergot separations does not need to be tested for Fusarium when it goes through the plant, which could potentially be a source of contamination. The average farmer does not think about it and has a false sense of security of his grain lots. Both Harold Gulbraa and Rod Thirsk are very concerned since this affects the livelihoods of local grain farmers.

31/11 Moved by Harold Gulbraa for James to bring a draft Fusarium graminearum Policy to the next ASB meeting. CARRIED

Next meeting January 16, 2011 or January 23, 2011 as a backup date.

32/11 Moved by Clr. Bruce Cummins that the meeting be adjourned. (12:14 p.m.) CARRIED

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Chairman

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Secretary

(1/2 Day)