

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 28th, 2016.

Present: Chairman – Councillor Myron Zajic
Councillor Phil Valleau

Farmer Members – Grant Rathwell, Neil Pugh and Don Jones

Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman and A.S.B Secretary – Tanis Ponath

Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

The Chairman Clr. Zajic called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

11/16 Moved by Neil Pugh to approve the agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

12/16 Moved by Grant Rathwell that the minutes from February 3, 2016 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt and Clr. Zajic

1. (February 9, 2016) Pam Retzloff, Alberta Agriculture; forwarded a email to Agricultural Fieldman regarding Engagement with ASB's on the renewal of Canada's approach to emergency management in Agriculture.
2. (February 10, 2016) Prairie Shelterbelt Program; sent a letter introducing themselves as a new seedling distribution company out of Sundre, AB.
3. (February 15, 2016) Town of Wainwright; sent their Weed Control Projected Work Report for 2016.
4. (April 4, 2016) Monsanto; sent out there 2016 Monsanto Technology Use Guide which specifically outlines the 2016 launch of Roundup Ready 2 Xtend soybeans.
5. (April 11, 2016) Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Farm Safety Center; notification that the M.D. of Wainwright's contribution of \$3136.00 was received and appreciated by the Farm Safety Center. Also included was the County/M.D. contribution history for reference.
6. (April 13, 2016) Union Forage; sent out their new Barenbrug Forage Guide.
7. (April 14, 2016) Alberta Government; a letter outlining the 2016 Census of Agriculture which Statistics Canada will be conducting on May 10, 2016.
8. (April 27, 2016) Northern Sunrise County; a letter from the Agricultural Service Board requesting the Alberta Government to extend the April 30, 2016 deadline for WCB

Accepted as Information.

13/16 Moved by Clr. Valleau to accept the correspondence. **CARRIED**

Layne Clark from AFSC entered the meeting from 9:38-10:15 a.m. Layne discussed with the board changes to insurance programs and new information for 2016 that would be relevant to our producers. Layne introduced new crop insurance coverage for malt barley as well as changes to the haying and pasture programs.

The board took a break from 10:15-10:35

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report:

James presented the board with an update on strychnine. To date we have sold 61 cases and 18 bottles. Strychnine is sold every Tuesday from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the M.D. rec shop.

James gave an update on the 2016 spraying and mowing program. James informed the board that we are in our second year of our rotational blanket spray program for weeds. Each road is monitored every second year for brush spraying. We will continue to spot spray where needed, and send gps locations of weeds to the Department of Highway along their right-of-ways. Round Corner is still under contract for the 2016 mowing program. Between 850-900 miles are scheduled to be mowed; those miles will be finalized at a later date. James stated that not every road is mowed however priority is given to school routes and higher traffic areas.

James gave an update on the status of Jimsonweed that was discovered in multiple counties and M.D.'s last summer. Jimsonweed is regulated as a prohibited noxious weed seed under the federal Seed's Act and may not be present in seed imported into or sold in Canada. In the fall of 2015 the CFIA launched an investigation that involved seed lots suspected to be contaminated with Jimsonweed and confirmed the weed in one canola seed lot that has been planted in Alberta. The CFIA worked with the supplier to ensure that any remaining seed from that lot was destroyed.

James inquired if there was any questions regarding the monthly reports outlined in the boards packages. There wasn't however, Clr. Zajic suggested that we send out monthly reports to the farm members.

Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report:

Tanis informed the board that she attended a variety of conferences and workshops in March. PVMA, AISC, BRWA wetland workshop, EFP workshop and the Ladies Spring Break.

Tanis gave a report on the various workshops which she hosted this past winter. The Livestock Workshop for Ladies was held on February 16th the Working Well Workshop was held on March 16th, and the Tree and Shelterbelt Info Session was held on April 12th. All three workshops had a great turnout and the responses from the evaluation forms indicated that all workshops were well received by the participants. Many suggestions were given for workshops next year.

Tanis informed the board that the Diamondback traps went out this week and will be monitored for the next six weeks. After Diamondback monitoring the Bertha Armyworm traps will be set up along with the Swede Midge. Wheat Midge sampling is completed in the fall.

Tanis stated that she is busy organizing the 14th Annual Grazing School for Women. This year the event is being held at the Circle Square Ranch in Halkirk, AB with farm tours near Viking, AB. Tanis asked the board to spread the word about the school because they are always looking for new interested ladies to attend.

Tanis led a discussion with the board about the possibility of hosting a summer workshop day in the M.D. The board expressed interest in a backyard bee presentation and a field day showcasing insect and disease pressure that affects shelterbelts in the M.D.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report:

Rod informed the board that due to the mild winter the first round of rat inspection on both the Alberta side and Saskatchewan side are almost complete. In addition to rat call, Rod has responded to a few muskrat calls. Clr. Zajic inquired if there were any rat infestations close to our border. Rod informed him that there wasn't and the closest infestation is located near Cut Knife, SK.

Rod stated that he has been busy dealing with multiple beaver issues around the municipality. Most problems are due to plugged culverts.

James informed the board that the new spray truck is finished, Dennis is working through a few leaks but it will be ready for spray season.

Clr. Zajic informed the board that at the April council meeting Council made a motion to purchase a 2017 Ford for the final spray truck build.

14/16 Moved by Grant Rathwell to accept the reports. **CARRIED**

James led a discussion with the board about the 2015 ASB Management Plan outcomes. The board went through and reviewed the key objectives outlined in the management plan. The board discussed variable outcomes that were stated in the plan for the ASB's 2015 activities.

15/16 Moved by Don Jones to approve the 2015 outcomes of the ASB Management Plan, and to forward to Council for approval and submission to the ARD Grant Program. **CARRIED**

The board discussed any 2016 ASB Management plan template changes. It was consensus of the board that the ASB's management plan template stays the same as previous years.

16/16 Moved by Neil Pugh to approve the 2015 ASB Management Plan template for reporting in 2016. **CARRIED**

The board reviewed the 2015 ASB Statement of Income and Expenditures. James provided a handout to the board for reference.

17/16 Moved by Clr. Valleau to approve the 2015 ASB Statement of Income and Expenditures, and to forward to Council for approval and submission to the ARD Grant Program. **CARRIED**

Tanis informed the board of the 2016 Northlands Farm Family Award. This year it is the Irma Agricultural Societies turn to nominate a deserving farm family from their area. The Irma Ag Society will forward a family name to May council for approval.

James led a discussion with the board about drafting an "Approved" No Spray acknowledgement letter to participants outlining their responsibilities in maintaining the municipal right-of-way. It was the board decision to include in the letter if participants in the program do not meet the responsibilities of holding a No Spray they will not issued one in the following year.

18/16 Moved by Neil Pugh to approve a no spray acceptance letter be sent out to participants reinforcing their responsibilities as landowners to maintain the municipal right-of-way when they sign a no spray agreement. **CARRIED**

Farm member Grant Rathwell inquired about rural addressing. Clr. Zajic and Clr. Valleau advised this matter is being taken to council. They feel it is important issue for emergency services in the municipality.

Next meeting at the call of the chair.

19/16

Moved by Grant Rathwell that the meeting be adjourned. (11:54 a.m.)
CARRIED.

Chairman – Clr. Zajic

Secretary – Tanis Ponath