

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday September 26th, 2018.

Present: Chairman – Councillor Ted Wilkinson
Councillor Ryley Andersen
Farmer Members – Don Jones, John Campbell and Wayne Leskow
Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman and A.S.B. Secretary – Tanis Ponath
Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

The Chairman Clr. Ted Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 8:57 a.m.

18/18 Moved by John Campbell to approve the agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

19/18 Moved by Wayne Leskow that the minutes from February 7th, 2018 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

The May, June, July, August and September monthly reports were presented to the ASB members for information.

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt,

1. March 5th, 2018) Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Safety Center; letter confirming they received the M.D. of Wainwright contribution of \$1995.00 for the program, in addition, a full list of all rural municipal contributions was enclosed.,
2. (March 13th, 2018) The Honorable Oneil Carlier, Minister of Agriculture, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; letter in response to the M.D. of Wainwrights letter regarding Agriculture Service Board (ASB) Grant Funding Program.
3. (April 5th, 2018) Dale Chrapko, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; forwarded an email on behalf of Dock 7 Material Groups which provides recycling for Agriculture Plastics worldwide.
4. (April 15th, 2018) Scott Walker, Town of Wainwright; provides the M.D. of Wainwright with the Projected Work Report 2018 for the Town of Wainwrights weed control program.
5. (June 14th, 2018) Raelyn Peterson, Alberta Farm Safety Program, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; enclosed were copies of several farm safety resources aimed at rural youth. The Alberta Farm Safety Program would like to partner with Municipalities by having resources on display and easily accessible to farm families.
6. (June 27th, 2018) Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Safety Center; the 2017-2018 Farm Safety Center Annual Report, included in the report is the 20-year program delivery program details and information from the recently completed program.
7. (June 30th, 2018) The Battle River Watershed Alliance; sent out the 2016-2017 Annual Report, the report gave details on management, community projects and events. The M.D. also paid \$2,069.00 to the BRWA in 2018.
8. (July 18th, 2018) Deputy Minister Andre Corbould, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; a letter send to the AAAF announcing the department changes within Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.
9. (July 31st, 2018) Joel Beatson, CEO, Landscape Alberta; a letter to the Minister of Agriculture providing information on the Emerald Ash Borer. Landscape Alberta is pushing to have Emerald Ash Borer as a named pest and include restrictions on movement.

10. (September 4th, 2018) Diane Harms, Director, Lakeland College Applied Research Center; a letter requesting support from the M.D. of Wainwright for Lakeland's proposed Commercial Agriculture Technology Access Center. A letter was sent on behalf of Wainwright Economic Development which is a partnership between the M.D of Wainwright and the Town of Wainwright.
11. (September 3rd, 2018) AgSafe Alberta; sent out their electronic newsletter.
12. (September 6th, 2018) Pam Retzloff, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; forwarded the 2018 Report Card on the Resolutions for the Agricultural Service Boards to review.
13. (September 19th, 2018) Brent Bushell, Board Member, Alberta Farm Animal Care; an invitation to the M.D. of Wainwright to become a member of Alberta Farm Animal Care (AFAC). AFAC works with livestock producers and the agricultural industry to promote responsible and humane animal care.

The board discussed Ag Safe Alberta. It was with the consensus of the board that the Agriculture Fieldman presents the board with more information at the next ASB meeting.

The board requested additional information regarding Alberta Farm Animal Care or AFAC at the next meeting.

20/18

Moved by Don Jones to accept the correspondence. **CARRIED**

The board took a break from 9:47 a.m. to 9:57 a.m.

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report.

James informed the board of the 2018 strychnine sales. To date we have sold 155 cases and 20 bottles to 67 producers. James led a discussion on PMRA's Proposed Re-Evaluation Decision of Strychnine and its Associated End-use Products.

James provided an update on the tankloader usage to date. Numbers are in imperial gallons.

Irma: 647 638

Giltedge: 532 180

Ribstone: 177 980

James informed the board that council approved the motion to extend the mowing contract to A & R Contracting for 2019. Overall, we were pleased with the work however, there were some inconsistencies that will be addressed before next season.

James led a discussion with the board regarding the replacement of the ASB can truck. The can truck is used to haul empty pesticide containers from our satellite sites and grass seeding operations which includes hauling the ranger and grass seed. Options will be brought forward to the next ASB meeting and purchasing a different truck will be included in budget discussions.

Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report.

Tanis gave an update on the success of this year's Rural Routes supper. There were approximately 350 rural residences in attendance and we received good reviews about the food and entertainment. We raised \$927.00 for the local Wainwright food bank.

Tanis gave an update on the M.D. pest surveys completed this year. The ASB department participated in diamondback moth, bertha armyworm, swede midge and wheat midge monitoring. James and Tanis completed grasshopper and clubroot surveys.

Tanis gave an update on the Fusarium Action Committee meeting she attended in Lacombe on June 19th, 2018. Alberta Agriculture gave a presentation showing the 2016 and 2017 Fusarium maps which showed the severity and spread across the prairie provinces. The action committee led a discussion on the proposed risk profiles and best management practices that if approved will be added to the Fusarium Management Plan. In addition, there are potential changes to the act on how Fusarium is controlled in the Province.

Tanis informed the board that FarmTech is January 29th – 31st, 2019. Once registration is open, she will forward the information to the ASB board.

Tanis led a discussion with the board about potential workshops the M.D. should host this winter. If any board members have suggestions, they are to send suggestions to Tanis.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report.

Rod informed the board that due to changes in the Rat Control Program rat checks will vary this year compared to recent years. The definition of what is considered a site and what ranges in the municipality are checked has changed. Rod stated the rat control checks are almost completed for the year and gave an update on the infestation in the M.D. of Provost. Rod continues to trap skunks for the Provinces rabies monitoring program, he has trapped 3 out of the 6 skunks that are required for testing. Rod gave an updated on the conferences and workshops he attended this year.

Rod informed the board there has been a significant increase in beaver issues this year. Rod has spent the majority of his time this summer removing beaver and muskrats from M.D. infrastructure. Clr. Wilkinson brought forth the idea of hiring a backhoe contractor to assist with cleaning out culverts when the M. D's backhoe is unavailable or if we needed a summer student to assist. The board requested information regarding estimated contracted backhoe costs to be brought forward to the next meeting and for budget discussions.

Rod is presenting at the Problem Wildlife Seminar in October on rat identification.

21/18

Moved by Clr. Andersen to accept the reports. **CARRIED**

James led a discussion with the board regarding the 2018 spray program. Our weed inspectors completed the projected work for the year. James informed the board that we received a significant amount of concerned call from rate-payers regarding our Roadside Spray Program, the majority of the calls were regarding the brush spraying. The board decided to bring this topic forward at the next meeting for further discussion.

Tanis provided the board with an update on the Phragmites location south east of Wainwright. James informed the board that we sent a list of noxious weed locations to CN Rail to spray from highway 41 to the border. James informed the board that GPS lists of Prohibited and Noxious weeds on Provincial highways was send to Alberta Transportation for control.

James informed the board that this year's ASB Regional Conference is being hosted by Beaver County in Kinsella, AB on Nov 2nd, 2018. James stated that it is the M.D. of Wainwright turn to host the ASB Regional Conference in 2019.

22/18

Moved by Don Jones to recommend to council that the M.D. of Wainwright host the 2019 ASB Regional Conference on Friday November 1st, 2019 at the Wainwright Communiplex pending availability. **CARRIED**

James informed the board the 2019 Provincial ASB Conference will be in Calgary from Jan 21st – 23rd.

James and Tanis led a discussion with the board about the potential to have a field size trial on the control options for the Noxious weed toadflax. It was with consensus of the board to bring forward more information for the next meeting.

Next meeting at the call of the chair.

23/18

Moved by Wayne Leskow that the meeting be adjourned. (11:52 a.m.)
CARRIED

Chairman – Clr. Wilkinson

Secretary – Tanis Ponath