

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Present: Chairman – Councillor Ryley Andersen  
Councillor Bob Barss

Farmer Members – John Campbell, Wayne Leskow and Bob Dixon

Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt

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

Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

The Chairman Clr. Andersen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

There were no additions to the agenda.

1/19

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

2/19

Moved by Wayne Leskow that the minutes from September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt and Tanis Ponath,

1. (Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018) County of Stettler No. 6; a letter advising that Council declared an agricultural disaster to raise awareness with the Provincial and Federal Governments due to unharvested crops and livestock feed shortages.
2. (Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Lac Ste. Anne County; a letter advising that Council declared an agricultural disaster to raise awareness with the Provincial and Federal Governments due to unharvested crops and livestock feed shortages.
3. (Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Beaver County; a letter advising that Council declared and agricultural disaster to raise awareness with the Provincial and Federal Governments due to unharvested crops and feed shortages.
4. (Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Gene Hrabec, Chairman, Beaver County Agricultural Services ASB; a letter to CN Rail advising the discovery of the highly invasive weed Phragmites along CN Rail in Beaver County. The letter encourages CN and Alberta Environmental and Parks take control measures as Phragmites does not fall under the weed control act.
5. (Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Grazing School for Women Committee; sent a thank you letter for the contributions the M.D. of Wainwright put forward towards the school to make it another great success.
6. (Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association; a letter requesting sponsorship for the upcoming 2019 Farm to Market to Table Conference.
7. (Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; 2018 livestock tax deferral – prescribed drought/flood regions.
8. (Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Al Kemmere, Chair, Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG); a letter advising the members and provincial stakeholders of the funding that became available from the Provincial Government for a province-wide agricultural plastics recycling pilot project. The APRG has submitted an application and hopes to have the Governments approval in 2019.
9. (Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Doug Macaulay, Manager, Agricultural Service ASB Program, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; sent a letter along with copies of reference material to help assist farmers and farm workers to better understand and implement the changes to the OH&S Code that now includes farms and ranches.
10. (Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Doug Macaulay, Manager, Agricultural Service ASB Unit; sent an email advising ASB ASBs of the ongoing ASB grant program review, the email also informed of the face-to-face meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in St. Paul to gain views of ASB members.

11. (Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018) Alberta Invasive Species Council; sent a letter outlining their 2018 activities and there plans for 2019. Also included was promotional items that can be ordered and a poster acknowledging their sponsors.
12. (Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018) Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; an updated version of the Alberta's Agricultural Service ASBs information document.
13. (Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018) Town of Wainwright; sent a copy of their Weed Control Work Summary report for 2018.

Tanis led a discussion with the ASB about the potential to send a letter to the Alberta Government regarding out Phragmites location along CN Rail west to Chauvin.

**3/19** Moved Wayne Leskow to write a letter to the Alberta Environment and Parks, CN Rail and the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry informing them of the Phragmites location in the M.D. of Wainwright and the urgency for control measures to be put in place. **CARRIED**

**4/19** Moved, Clr. Barss to send the ASB chairman and vice chair to the in-person Alberta Agriculture and Forestry ASB grant program review meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in St. Paul, AB with the Agricultural Fieldman or Assistant Agricultural Fieldman in attendance for information if possible. **CARRIED**

**5/19** Moved John Campbell to proceed with payment of \$4000.00 to the Town of Wainwright for their 2018 summer weed control program. **CARRIED**

**6/19** Moved by Wayne Leskow to accept the correspondence. **CARRIED**

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report.

James provided the ASB with a summary of the water usage at Irma, Giltedge and Ribstone tankloaders for 2018.

James provided the ASB with a summary of the 2018 strychnine sales. Additional strychnine was purchased in the fall of 2018 to ensure we have enough product for 2019. James led a discussion regarding the PMRA review of strychnine and the potential outcomes.

James led a discussion with the ASB regarding Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's key contact program and inquired if the ASB would like to participate in the program. It was the decision of the ASB to not participate in the program.

Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report.

Tanis provided the ASB with an update on the Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) Buffalo Trail Riparian Restoration Program. The program provided financial support for the 2 projects in 2018 and received 5 additional applications. BRWA hosted a field day in the County of Paintearth with 25 producers in attendance. Topics covered included riparian plant ID, frost-free nose pumps and CAP.

Tanis gave an update on FarmTech for those who are attending. The ASB discussed hotel and travel arrangements.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report.

Rat control year end reports have been sent in to the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Maps have been generated for rat checks and problem beaver locations. Rod provided the ASB with a yearly summary of his activities. Rod informed the ASB of the rabies testing for the Alberta Government he completed.

The ASB had a discussion on the increased raccoon activity in the M.D. The ASB suggested including some information and awareness in the newsletter.

7/19

Moved by Bob Dixon to accept the reports. **CARRIED**

The ASB took a break from 10:24 a.m. – 10: 39 a.m.

The ASB reviewed and discussed the 2019 ASB Resolutions.

The ASB discussed resolution 1-19, Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine. It was with the consensus of the ASB that they are in favor of this resolution.

The ASB discussed resolution 2-19, Wildlife Predator Compensation Program Enhancement. It was with the consensus of the ASB that they are in favor of this resolution.

The ASB discussed resolution 3-19, Deadstock Removal. It was with the consensus of the ASB that they are not in favor of this resolution.

The ASB discussed resolution 4-19, Carbon Credits for Permanent Pasture and Forested Lands. It was with the consensus of the ASB that they are in favor of this resolution.

The ASB discussed resolution 5-19, Multi-Stakeholder Committee to Work at Reducing the use of Fresh Water by the Oil and Gas Industry in Alberta. It was with the consensus of the ASB that they are not in favor of this resolution.

The ASB discussed resolution 6-19, Step Program Agriculture Eligibility. It was with the consensus of the ASB that they are in favor of this resolution.

Tanis led a discussion with the ASB regarding the Agriculture Service ASB Conference January 21-24, 2018. The ASB discussed hotels and travel arrangements.

The ASB reviewed the 2019 preliminary ASB budget. The ASB reviewed it, with questions being asked for clarification. The description of activities in Special Project projections plus the 10-year ASB Capital Purchase Prioritized list was also reviewed. The proposed ASB Budget will be reviewed and finalized at the next meeting and forwarded to council for approval.

James led a discussion with the ASB regarding the replacement of unit 941.

8/19

Moved John Campbell to recommend to council the ASB Department acquire unit Ford1-13 for the replacement of unit 941 subject to the Public Works Department approval of a new fleet unit. **CARRIED**

The ASB took a lunch break from 11:51 a.m.- 12:46 p.m.

The ASB reviewed the 2018 spray maps. Maps showed areas of the M.D. sprayed for brush and weeds. Another map was created to show the Prohibited and Noxious weed locations inspected by ASB staff.

James led a discussion with the ASB regarding our brush spraying program. James shared the complaints regarding the program with ASB. The ASB discussed with questions being asked with clarification.

James led a discussion with the ASB regarding the definition of a yard site. The ASB discussed with questions being asked with clarification.

James led a discussion with the ASB regarding the chemical used in our spray program. The ASB discussed with questions being asked with clarification.

The ASB recommended continuing with our 1 and 3 rotations for weed spraying and 1 and 2 rotations for brush spraying. The ASB would like to see additional information brought forward to the next meeting on alternative chemicals and a potential buffer around farm sites. Decisions made by the ASB will be brought forward to council for recommendation.

James led a discussion with the ASB regarding biological control. The ASB discussed and directed management to not go forward with biologicals for weed control.

James led a discussion with the ASB regarding the roadside mowing program. A & R Contracting will be entering into the second year of mowing. James brought forward the issue of increasing mowing miles or cutting back on others to compensate for new paved roads. James discussed timing of roadside mowing. The ASB discussed starting earlier in the season, it as with the consensus of the ASB to continue with the program as it is currently.

The ASB discussed the Regional ASB Conference that will be hosted in Wainwright on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The ASB discussed potential agenda topics, promotional items and catering. The ASB recommended to send out a request for quotes from local caterers.

Tanis led a discussion with the ASB regarding ASB programs and extension. Tanis informed the ASB of funding that is available through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership for municipalities. Lamont County approached municipalities in the NE region about collaborating on an Enhanced Clubroot Surveillance and Location of Highly Virulent Pathotypes in the NE Region of Alberta project.

It was the consensus of the ASB to not proceed with the NE Regional Clubroot collaboration project.

Tanis led a discussion with the ASB on potential workshops to host in Wainwright this spring. The ASB also discussed timing of workshops and whether or not a meal should be provided it hopes to attract more producers to the meetings.

**9/19**

Moved Clr. Barss to supply a meal at future ASB extension meetings.  
**CARRIED**

James led a discussion with ASB regarding a field size toadflax trial, it was with the consensus of the ASB to research and bring back potential costs to the next meeting for a decision.

James and Tanis led a discussion about the Alberta Farm Safety Association. It was with the consensus of the ASB to explore hosting a workshop and collaborating with Agriculture Societies in the M.D. The ASB will also explore the booth at the upcoming ASB Conference trade show.

James and Tanis led a discussion with the ASB regarding the Alberta Farm Animal Care association. The ASB will visit the trade show booth at the ASB Conference.

Next meeting February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 9:00a.m.

**10/19**

Moved by Wayne Leskow that the meeting be adjourned. (2:50 p.m.)

**CARRIED**

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Chairman – Clr. Andersen

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Secretary – Tanis Ponath