

The Agricultural Service ASB (ASB) of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday December 16th, 2020.

Chairman Bill Lawson, Clr. Andersen, Agricultural Fieldman James Schwindt and Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Tanis Ponath met in person at the Administration Building. Farm members Bob Dickson, Mel Erickson, Jesse Campbell and Pest Control Officer Rod Gabrielson attended the meeting virtually.

Present: Chairman – Councillor Bill Lawson
Councillor Ryley Andersen
Farmer Members – Bob Dickson, Mel Erickson and Jesse Campbell
Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman and ASB Secretary – Tanis Ponath
Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

- 24/20 The Chairman Clr. Lawson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.
- Additions to the agenda:
16. Roadside Mowing Discussion
17. Grain Bag Roller Discussion
- 25/20 Moved by Clr. Andersen to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED
- 26/20 Moved by Mel Erickson that the minutes from October 27th, 2020 be accepted as presented. CARRIED

Correspondence was reviewed by the Agricultural Fieldman, James Schwindt and Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, Tanis Ponath.

- a. (November 1st, 2020) Town of Wainwright; provided the Weed Control Work Summary Report 2020.
- b. (November 23rd, 2020) Robert Spencer, Spencer Horticultural Solutions; a letter to municipalities outlining the services offered by Spencer Horticultural Solutions and the costs of these services.
- c. (November 23rd, 2020) Doug Meneice, Chair, Agricultural Advisory Committee, Big Lakes County; a letter to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry with concerns of the Results Driven Agricultural Research Committee recommendations to fund out of Province research.
- d. (November 24th, 2020) Toso Bozic, Yard Whispers; a letter to municipalities outlining the services offered by Yard Whispers for municipalities.

- 27/20 Moved by Bob Dickson to authorize payment to the Town of Wainwright for the Urban Weed Control Grant in the amount of \$2000.00. CARRIED
- 28/20 Moved by Mel Erickson to accept the correspondence. CARRIED

The ASB agenda package included the November and December ASB monthly reports. Taken as information.

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report.

The Agricultural Fieldman informed the ASB that the M.D. of Wainwright has received the Agricultural Service Board Grant, we still have not received the Resource Management Grant.

The current M.D. of Wainwright Rat Control Agreement expires March 31st, 2021. The M.D. of Wainwright will be working with the Government of Alberta on a renewed contract. Clr. Andersen inquired about an emergent resolution regarding funding for the Rat Control Program.

Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report.

The Assistant Agriculture Fieldman informed the ASB about a farm succession webinar she is potentially hosting.

The Assistant Agricultural Fieldman informed the ASB of an online survey she created to get feedback from ratepayers on rural extension programs.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report.

The Pest Control Officer spent 105 days on beaver control with 174 beavers removed, 72 days spent on rat control inspections and removed 8 coyotes.

The Pest Control Officer attended a meeting with Karen Wickerson the Alberta Rat Control Specialist. There was discussion on the availability of bait for the upcoming year.

29/20

Moved by Bob Dickson to accept the reports. CARRIED

The ASB discussed resolution 1-21, Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta.

The ASB discussed resolution 2-21, Pesticide Container Collection Program.

The ASB discussed resolution 3-21, An Effective Solution for Control of Richardson Ground Squirrels in Alberta.

The ASB discussed resolution 4-21, Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine.

The ASB discussed resolution 5-21, Fusarium Testing after Cleaning.

The ASB discussed resolution 6-21, Agricultural Research Association Check-off Option.

The ASB discussed resolution 7-21, Delegation of ASB's and AAAF to Agricultural Associations and Commodity Groups.

The ASB discussed resolution 8-21, Reinstating Provincial Agricultural Department Staff.

The ASB discussed resolution 9-21, Protect Farmers Rights to use Farm Saved Seed.

The ASB discussed resolution 10-21, Federal Fuel Charge. It was with

The ASB took a break from 12:10 p.m. – 12:26 p.m.

The ASB discussed the 2021 Agricultural Service Board Conference. The event was scheduled to take place January 18th – 21st, 2021 however, due to restrictions surrounding COVID-19 the planning committee has moved the conference to an online platform. The conference will take place virtually on January 21st, 2021.

The Agricultural Fieldman led the ASB in a discussion regarding the Sustainable Funding for the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee. The ASB recommended the Agricultural Fieldman contact the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee and acquire information on their yearly activities and where funds are utilized before the ASB makes a decision.

The ASB discussed the Special Project budget and any potential changes to bring forward to the 2021 ASB budget discussions.

The ASB discussed the division 1 and 2 weed inspector position with various options brought forward by the Agricultural Fieldman. The ASB recommended to begin advertising for the weed inspector position.

The ASB discussed potential parameters for selling strychnine in 2021.

The Agricultural Fieldman informed the ASB that currently there is 174 cases of 2% liquid strychnine in stock. The M.D. of Wainwright has 379 cases on back order.

30/20 Moved by Clr. Andersen to recommend to council that 2% liquid strychnine be sold to eligible rate payers on a first come first serve basis in 2021. CARRIED

The ASB discussed the Pest Control Officer position. The Agricultural Fieldman brought forward options for the ASB to review and discuss.

31/20 Moved by Mel Erickson that the Agricultural Fieldman move forward and address the vacancy of the Pest Control Officer position and determine the option that best suits the needs of the Agricultural Services Department. CARRIED

The Agricultural Fieldman led a discussion on roadside mowing.

32/20 Moved by Mel Erickson to accept the contact extension proposal from A & R Contracting for the price of \$86.00/mile up to 900 miles for the 2021 Roadside Mowing Program. CARRIED

The Agricultural Fieldman led a discussion with the ASB on the need for a grain bag roller for rural ratepayers.

33/20 Moved by Mel Erickson that the Agricultural Fieldman and Assistant Agricultural Fieldman explore options and gather prices for a grain bag roller and bring them forward to the 2021 ASB budget discussions. CARRIED

Next meeting at the call of the chair.

34/20 Moved by Clr. Andersen that the meeting be adjourned. (2:08 p.m.) CARRIED

Chairman – Councillor Bill Lawson

Secretary – Tanis Ponath