

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

Present: Chairman – Councillor Bill Lawson
Councillor Myron Zajic
Farmer Members – Grant Rathwell, Steve Raasok and Neil Pugh
Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman and A.S.B Secretary – Tanis Ponath
Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

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

7/15 Moved by Steve Raasok to approve the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

8/15 Moved by Neil Pugh to accept the minutes from January 6, 2015 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1.(January 8, 2015) Patrick Cherneski, manager of Climate Monitoring and Forecasting with the Government of Alberta; letter looking for individuals to participate in there monthly weather reporting. Included was a handout outlining the Prairie Agroclimate Update for fall 2014.

2.(January 15, 2015) Laura Nelson, Executive Director of the Farm Safety Center; letter requesting a donation from the Municipality in the amount of \$4945.50 to support Farm Safety presentations presented to schools in our Municipality.

3.(January 19, 2015) 20/20 Seed Lab Inc; handout outlining the degree of Fusarium infestations across the province.

4.(February 2, 2015) Becky Pederson, Edgerton Ag Society; sent out requesting funding in the amount of \$250.000 to cover the cost of renting the hall for the 2015 Ladies Spring Break.

5.(February 3, 2015) Alberta Resources Development; sent out a new factsheet outlining the Beneficial Management Practices Phosphorous.

Clr. Lawson inquired what zero tolerance meant with regards to Fusarium Head Blight, James informed him that according to the act it means you cannot seed any Fusarium infected seed.

9/15 Moved by Steve Raasok to support the Farm Safety Center in Wainwright and fulfill there request of \$4945.50 to support the 2015 program. **CARRIED**

10/15 Moved by Clr. Zajic to support Edgerton Ag Society to pay for the cost of the hall in the amount of \$250.00 for the Ladies Spring Break. **CARRIED**

11/15 Moved by Grant Rathwell to accept the correspondence. **CARRIED**

The board reviewed the January and February monthly reports that where outlined in there packages.

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report:

James informed the board of the situation regarding strychnine. James stated that there is no new information and they are still waiting on approval from PMRA if Maxim will be able to obtain an import permit for the strychnine concentrate. Rozol is another option, and approved for bait stations.

James informed the board that he has put in a price request to Crop Production Services and Andrukow Group Solutions Inc. regarding prices for grass seed for the upcoming 2015 season. James plans to order 2500 pounds and we are going to move to a hybrid brome instead of smooth brome which has been used in the past. James stated that we have chosen a grass seed mixture that works well in all soil types, to save from purchasing multiple types. James informed the board on the grass seeding that still needs to be completed from last fall due to weather circumstances. He stated that the grass seed for those projects has already been purchased.

James informed the board that the annual Rural Routes supper is going to be held August 7, 2015. The entertainer, hall and barbeque have all been booked for this date. Clr. Zajic stated that to host an event we have to apply for a special events license, and we are currently researching what type of license we require for our event.

James updated the board on the roadside mowing contracts. The request for proposal has been sent out and it closes on February 9, 2015. James stated that Tanis and Shannon will be reviewing the bids, evaluating them, and then presenting them to council for approval. James stated that since uploading our request on the APC website we have had more local inquiries.

Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report:

Tanis informed the board that there is a solar energy workshop being held on April 16, 2015 at the Center for Sustainable Innovation in Vermilion. Tanis briefed the board on the information gained from her Growing Forward conference call, so far they are unaware of what programs will be offered because it depends on the budget for this fiscal year. There is a high volume of applications that still need to be approved and will be first on the list before any new applications will be reviewed. Tanis informed the group of an email she reviewed providing information on the Managing your Cow Herd workshop held in Vermilion, and if they are interested in attending the deadline to register is February 6, 2015.

Tanis briefed the board on the upcoming conferences that she will be attending, Ag Visions in Lloydminster, Revolution of the Farmer in Smokey Lake, and EFP Training in Leduc.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report:

Rod stated that he has done 155 rat checks since the beginning of January and they have all been clean. There have been 2 coyote calls in the last week, and two calls regarding muskrats mistaken for rats. Rod informed the board that he received a bear call, a male black bear was shot by a farmer, because he was in his horse pens. The bear was then tracked back to his den which was situated in a culvert, Rod successfully euthanized the wounded bear. Fish and Wildlife were called and they gave some direction on the situation.

Rod informed the board that in partnership with Country of Vermilion River they will be setting up a Rat Control booth at the 2015 Ag Visions held in Lloydminster. He will also be attending the Canadian National Pest Management Society Conference held in Calgary.

12/15

Moved by Steve Raasok to accept the reports. **CARRIED**

The Board took a break from 10:03 a.m. – 10:21 a.m.

James presented the 2015 budget for review and approval:

It was reviewed by the board, with questions being asked and answered with clarification. The description of activities in Special Projects projections plus the 5 year A.S.B Capital Purchase Prioritized List was also reviewed.

13/15

Moved by Steve Raasok to accept the 2015 Draft A.S.B Budget as presented, and forward it to the Budget File for Council Approval.

CARRIED

Dennis Fuder was invited by the board to give an update on the building of the new ASB spray truck. Dennis informed the board that the deck has been completed, one electric ram is missing, but has been ordered. GPS, two way radio, and laptop are ready to be put into the cab of the truck, after that is complete the truck will done. Dennis informed the board that after the truck is completed he plans to test all working parts, such as pumps and hoses to make sure everything is working before the 2015 season.

James stated that according to the budget we are on course to build another spray truck starting in the fall of 2015. James inquired whether the board was still supportive of the proceeding, it was concluded that they where.

James led a discussion on the outcome of the spray truck that will replaced, he inquired with the board if they agree to sell the old truck and if so, target other industries to maximize profit. James heard that there is interest for older spray trucks from other businesses. Rod stated that other private pest control companies have expressed their interest in the truck. Clr. Zajic stated that we should advertise the truck and inquire what it would be worth. James stated that we should potentially put the truck out for bids to see what the market will pay, and write up a descriptive ad.

14/15

Moved by Steve Raasok to put unit 011 (spray truck) up for request for bids to industry to maximize return value. **CARRIED**

James led a discussion on the grain bag roller and presented the board with a handout. The handout included prices for the Brown Bros. Welding and Fabrication, which James suggested would be best as a rental item. James informed the board that some municipalities have grain bag rollers or are thinking of buying, County of Vermilion River has one that they rent out. They have the Kirchner brand and would recommend buying a different because maintenance has been high. Clr. Zajic informed the board that he has talked with producers in his area, he stated that they all have plastic rollers, and now the problem does not know how to properly dispose of the waste. Board member Neil Pugh inquired whether we could partner with Minburn and there plastic disposal project. James stated that since it is a pilot project they may not be looking to partner with other municipalities. Clr. Lawson inquired with Tanis if she could post an ad regarding the grain bag roller in the next newsletter to determine if any interest is generated. Tanis presented the board with a handout outlining Growing Forwards Ag Waste Management program where farmers can apply for funding to buy a plastic roller. Clr. Zajic stated that we should set the issue aside for now until further information can be past along. It was the consensus of the board to take no more further action.

Tanis gave an update to the board regarding ALUS, James expressed concern and was unaware whether there was need or a want for this program from producers in our municipality. Clr. Zajic and Clr. Lawson where both concerned of the unavailability to become a mitigation agent and how much money the municipality would have to invest into the program. Clr. Zajic stated that if we decide not to partner with ALUS we can still be apart of environmentally friendly projects within our

area. Clr. Zajic stated that we should set aside for now and asked if Tanis could update the board if any new information comes in.

Tanis informed the group on the upcoming 2015 ASB Summer Tour July 14-17, 2015. Rooms have been pre-booked already, Tanis would like to know from board members by April/May who is going to attend, and if they would possibly like to camp.

Next meeting at the call of the Chairman.

15/15

Moved by Grant Rathwell that the meeting be adjourned. (12:12 p.m.)
CARRIED.

Chairman – Clr. Lawson

Secretary – Tanis Ponath