

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Friday, June 12, 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

Absent: Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

The Chairman Clr. Bill Lawson called the meeting to order at 8:55 a.m.

16/15 Moved by Grant Rathwell to approve the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

17/15 Moved by Clr. Zajic that the minutes from February 4, 2015 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

The board reviewed the March, April, May and June monthly reports that were outlined in their packages.

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1. (March 11, 2015) Christina Carley, Alberta Pork Traceability Coordinator; sent out a letter summarizing Alberta's Swine Traceability Regulations under the Animal Health Act.
2. (April 14, 2015) Laura Nelson, Farm Safety Center; sent a letter thanking the M.D. of Wainwright for their contribution to the program this year.
3. (April 15, 2015) Scott Walker, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Wainwright; provided us with their weed control, and projected work report for the 2015 season.
4. (April 16, 2015) Alberta Farm Animal Care; sent out a request for membership in the AFAC organization. Attached is a pamphlet outlining who they are and what they do as well as their 2014 annual report.
5. (April 20, 2015) Farmers of North America; sent out a letter offering memorandum overview.
6. (June 9, 2015) Maureen Vadnais, ASB Program Manager; sent an email outlining her maternity leave, and the contact information for her replacement
7. (June 10, 2015) Crop Life Canada; an email was received from Crop Life Canada outlining a CleanFARMS Alberta update.
8. (June 10, 2015) Alberta Government; distributed pamphlets called Quick Facts about the recent threat from Quagga and Zebra Mussels

Accepted as Information.

18/15 Moved by Steve Raasok to accept the correspondence. **CARRIED**

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report:

James informed the board that 106 cases of strychnine have already been sold and we have now received our complete order of product for

the year. Neil inquired whether it was the same concentration; James informed him that it was, just a different manufacturer.

James gave the board a handout outlining the results of water tests completed on the 3 tank loaders. James informed the board that sampling is done every 4-5 years and numbers have not drastically changed throughout the years. We will have copies available in the office for any producers who would like the information. James stated the tank loader uses are as follows; Giltedge 862 cubes, Irma 560.44 cubes, and Ribstone 119.6 cubes have been used so far this year.

James informed the board that the Department of Highways will not have a weed control program for primary and secondary highways in Alberta, unless a notice is given. Their mowing program will consist of one shoulder pass for the season.

James gave an update on the Packrats found in Chauvin; he stated that 2 adults and 6 juveniles were caught. Rod worked with the town of Chauvin and property owner to place bait and traps around the property. No action has been seen in about a week and the traps will be pulled next week.

James informed the board on the current status of the spray program. Currently bush spraying is well under way when weather permits, weed spraying will start once the bush spraying is completed. James stated that everything is going smoothly, with just having to do some minor adjustments on the new spray truck. Clr. Zajic inquired what we use or bush spraying; James informed him that we use Garlon with Onsite.

James stated that mowing will start on or after July 15, 2015 and it will be the same contractor as last year. Farm member Steve Raasok inquired if James could inform the contractors to leave the ditch if they have been swathed. James stated that we do inform them to not mow if it has been swathed but we will stress that point when we have our meeting.

Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report:

Tanis gave an update on this year's pest monitoring. Tanis informed the boards that Diamondback Moth monitoring finished last week; numbers were low again this year with 10 moths being identified through the 6 week period. Bertha Army Worm traps were set up on June 11, with a site near Irma and one near Edgerton. Swede Midge traps are going to be put up next week with a single site near Irma.

Tanis briefed the board on an update of the 2015 Grazing School for Women held in the M.D of Bonnyville and the County of St.Paul. Tanis stated that it received very good feedback with the school mostly focusing on grazing management, 35 women were in attendance.

Tanis gave an update on Growing Forward 2. Tanis stated that there is going to be a conference call on June 24, 2015 to give an update on the program. As of June 11 the Food Safety System Producer Program is no longer taking applications, this program provided producers with cattle handling equipment.

Tanis informed the board that starting in July she will be advertising for the calendar photo contest, photo have already started to be received from rate payers.

19/15

Moved by Steve Neil Pugh to accept the reports. **CARRIED**

The Board took a break from 10:18 a.m. – 10:36 a.m.

The board discussed the Regional Resolution Responses

The board discussed resolution 1, that ARD enter into agreement with AFSC to decline insurance to canola growers if canola is grown back to back in rotation and that AFSC puts an insurance premium on canola if it has been grown in contradiction with the Provinces Clubroot Management Plan. The board rated it as an incomplete response.

The board discussed resolution 2, that under the Agriculture Pest Act you give mandatory notification of land location to municipality where clubroot is found. The board rated it as an unsatisfactory response.

The board discussed resolution 3, that all Agriculture Service Boards adapt a standard clubroot inspection procedure by reimbursing ASBs for each field surveyed for clubroot under the standard protocols in the amount of \$50.00 per field with a maximum of \$20,000.00 for each municipality through the use of a new grant. The board rated this response as unsatisfactory.

The board discussed resolution 4, that the ARD give additional funding of up to \$75,000.00 to municipalities with ASBs that are affected by the constant flow of prohibited noxious weeds coming into their area from outside the province. The board rated this response as incomplete.

The board discussed resolution 5, that the ARD continue to regulate thistle as a noxious weed on the weed control act. The board rated this response as accept in principal.

The board discussed resolution 6, legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the Weed Control Act on CN Rail. The board rated this response as incomplete and unsatisfactory.

The board discussed resolution 7, prevention of the introduction of Zebra and Quagga Mussels into Alberta water bodies. The board rated this response as accept the response.

The board discussed resolution 8, that regulations be put in place by ARD to monitor the use and movement of ergot levels into livestock feeds until research can determine acceptable levels, and that the ARD better inform livestock producers about ergot toxic feeds. The board rated this response as accept in principal.

The board discussed resolution 9, that the ESRD implement an Elk Quota Hunt based on the principals of the former Chronic Wasting Disease Quota Hunt or any other ways that can alleviate the problem. The board rate the response as accept in principal.

The board discussed resolution 10, Alberta Fish and Wildlife office availability. The board rated the response as unsatisfactory.

The board discussed resolution 11, wildlife predator compensation for domestic equine loss. The board rated this response as incomplete.

The board discussed resolution 12, that the ESRD in conjunction with Alberta Recycling implement a program that provides funding for the collection and recycling of agriculture plastics in Alberta. The board rated the response as unsatisfactory.

The board discussed resolution 14, that ESRD transfer management of farm development leases and agricultural leases to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The board rated this response as unsatisfactory.

The board discussed resolution 15, regarding farm property assessment. The board rated this response as incomplete.

The board discussed emerging resolution 1, that ARD consider as a recommendation during the review of the *Fusarium gramineum* management plan, a zero tolerance level of the disease be accepted. The board reviewed this response as unsatisfactory.

A regional meeting is being held in June to discuss the above resolutions. Clr. Lawson and Agricultural Fieldman James Schwindt will be in attendance to bring our discussion forward.

James led a discussion regarding the M.D. cattle scale.

James informed the board that the cattle scale was used by the Greenshields and Irma 4-H clubs, and they found that there were inconsistencies in the weights when weighing the project steers. The scale has been taken to Edmonton to determine if there is a mechanical problem. James stated that the scale is 20 years old and we could consider purchasing a new one; a handout was given to the board with a new scale option. The board was concerned whether they was still enough producers using it to warrant a new scale. James informed the board that the M.D make approximately \$300.00 dollars and is used by roughly 5 producers a year. Clr. Lawson inquired if we did purchase a new one, if the old scale could be put out for bids. James informed him that it could and neighboring areas have done this in the past and acquired a good price for their old scales. The board discussed whether we should donate the scale to the 4-H clubs. If a new scale is going to be purchased it will be placed into the budget for next year and have to be approved by council. The board decided to take this as information and determine if the scale works after being fixed, then revisit the topic with a decision.

James led a discussion on the possibility of a new tank loader, funding can be accessed from the Growing Forward 2 program, Regional Water Supply Strategic Program for engineering, planning, and other strategic studies.

Clr. Lawson informed the board that council was approached by producers that they would like to see a tank loader constructed in the Passendale area near Irma. James informed the board the when the past 3 tank loaders where constructed we had access to grants and PFRA carried out the engineering and extensively looked into areas that would have a large enough water supply to sustain a facility over a long period of time. Tanis informed the board that there may be funding available through growing forward. The board decided to acquire more information on the process and how much funding could be received and the costs that it covers.

20/15

Moved by Steve Raasok that the ASB board supports the construction of new tank loaders and seek approval from council to explore funding, costs and potential locations. **CARRIED.**

Tanis led a discussion regarding possible tours to organize for the M.D of Wainwright.

Tanis informed the board on the possibility of organizing another garden tour, focusing on roof top gardens which are becoming a popular new trend in cities. Board member Steve Raasok expressed the concern that it may be too late in the season for a garden tour, and inquired about the possibility of touring vegetable gardens as well. The board was in favor of this idea, however have decided to revisit the topic and organize a tour for the spring of 2016. Tanis informed the board that we will not be able to organize a tour at the Highmark

Biodigestor because the facility is closed for the summer but will re – open in November. Tanis provided the board with information of a tour at Alberta Innovates Technology in Vegreville. This facility focuses on Agriculture related research that includes new crop technology and alternative soil additives. The board was in favor of this idea. Clr. Zajic inquired if a fee should be charged and if we should set a minimum amount of people attending to make it viable. The board decided on a \$10.00 registration fee and a minimum of 20 participants. The board wants to schedule the tour for the end of July. Tanis will email Scott Lundy with AITF about organizing a tour.

Next meeting at the call of the Chairman.

21/15 Moved by Neil Pugh that the meeting be adjourned. (12:09 p.m.)
CARRIED.

Chairman – Clr. Lawson

Secretary – Tanis Ponath