

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Monday, January 20, 2014.

Present: Chairman – Councilor Ted Wilkinson
Councilor Bill Lawson

Farmer Members – Rod Thirsk, Steve Raasok and Neil Pugh

Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman & A.S.B. Secretary – Aimee Leggett

Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

The Chairman Clr. Ted Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

01/14

Moved by Rod Thirsk to approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

02/14

Moved by Rod Thirsk the minutes from December 10, 2013 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

The ASB reviewed the December 2013 A.S.B. Report.

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1. (December 16, 2013) Rod Carlyon, Chair, Agricultural Hall of Fame Selection Committee; letter of invite to participate in the 2014 nomination process.

The A.S.B. would like to review a list of past recipients of this award, with more information on local area producers that have been nominated in the past. Accepted as information.

2. (December 12, 2013) Dale Chrapko, Environmental Programs Manager, letter of recommended approval for 2014-2016 Environmental Funding Stream Agriculture Service Board Program.

Clr. Wilkinson would like to thank James and Aimee for the successful application. Accepted as information.

3. (January 10, 2014) Marilyn Reinhart, M.D. of Provost, Copy of the 2013 Regional ASB Conference Minutes from November 1, 2013 at the Czar Hall, Czar AB. (Handout)

The Board reviewed the Czar Meeting Minutes. Accepted as information.

4. (January 13, 2014) Maureen Vadnais, A.S.B. Program Manager, email that has been forwarded from Lyle Marianchuk, Branch Head Inspection and Investigations Branch, of approved minimum standards for Containment of Wild Boars.

Accepted as information.

03/14

Moved by Clr. Bill Lawson to accept correspondence. **CARRIED**

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report:

A.S.B. Conference Registration and Agenda January 27-30, 2014.

James has booked the shuttle bus for the A.S.B. if needed when down in Medicine Hat at the Conference.

James reviewed the Alberta Farm Safety Center Program responses he received from contacting local area teachers, as to what their feedback was from the program. All the comments were positive and that the program is well received. The M.D. supports the program with a \$3.50 per student fee per year with approximately 856 students of the grade four aged range within the municipality.

04/14

Moved by Steve Raasok to recommend to Council for Budget Approval, to support the Alberta Farm Safety Center Program, in the amount of \$3000.00. **CARRIED**

Steve Raasok and Neil Pugh talked about Farm Safety as an important issue and topic to remain in the classroom for school aged, grade four children. Steve and Neil discussed how local Ag Societies are a good fit for manpower resources for helping to roll out such a program with instruction and flexibility of topics ranging from grain farming to cattle ranching. Since James mentioned that Lacey Ryan from CARA (Chinook Applied Research Association) had contacted him about this matter, Neil replied that James should tell her to contact the local Agricultural Societies for Resources, for the Classroom Agriculture Program Initiative.

James brought up the Empty Pesticide Container Collection Program, and how the local sites are usually cleaned out by this time of year, however that this year has not been successful yet because of mechanical and contracting issues. Contractors are hired by Crop Life Canada, using the check-off funds placed on pesticides by manufacturing companies. James will continue to monitor the situation.

James mentioned that there will be 2 resolutions at the upcoming Provincial A.S.B Conference, as previously discussed at the last A.S.B. Meeting that will be removed from the sessions in Medicine Hat. This was a clerical error made by the conference committee.

Aimee Leggett, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report; she briefed the A.S.B. on the past Agronomy Update in Red Deer that she attended and what she learned on cereal crop applied PGR's (plant growth regulators) using fungicides to help evenly stage wheat and barley crops more evenly, for more successful pest and disease management, and harvest management aid (less straw through the combine). The primary goal of PGR's is to shorten plant height, improving straw strength and reducing the chances of a lodging crop canopy when grown under high input levels of nitrogen fertilizer; this also has a benefit of improved harvestability and less trash left in field with reduced straw amount. Aimee also brought to the Board's attention the upcoming Battle River Watershed Source Water Protection Workshop at 7p.m. on Thursday January 23 in Wainwright at the Communiplex; she hopes the Board can attend.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report, which included his annual activities for 2013: Rod answered 9 coyote calls, and removed 35 coyotes from the municipality. Rod utilized dynamite for 6 beaver dams, 20 dams needed a backhoe and 62 dams were removed by hand. Overall there was an increase in beaver problems with 155 beavers being removed in 2013. The magpie traps were utilized 27 times during the year, and the skunk traps were used 24 times. There have been some inquiries on the 2 raccoon traps that are available for the municipality. Rod will come out to the landowner's property to help set up the raccoon trap if requested to do so.

05/14

Moved by Clr. Bill Lawson to accept the reports. **CARRIED**

The A.S.B. took a short break from 10:05 a.m. to 10:23 a.m.

Sarah Skinner entered the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Sarah is the Watershed Planning Coordinator with the Battle River Watershed Alliance (BRWA) and came to present to the A.S.B. the newest updates from the WPAC (Watershed Planning Advisory Council) group, and what they are planning for 2014 activities. The M.D. of Wainwright A.S.B. has supported the Battle River Watershed Alliance in the 50 cents per capita Invest50 Program, which promotes watershed awareness and healthy riparian areas within the Battle River Watershed. This Invest50 program can be specifically based towards a certain project if requested. Projects include: Battle River Buddies Poster Contest for school aged children, Experience Your Watershed day long program for students, 2014 Bike Tour on July 7 from Camrose to Lake Winnipeg, Bug Dipping to find water critters and add to the database found within the watershed, and Caring For Our Watershed project ideas from school children how to protect their watershed. Sarah thanked the A.S.B. for their continued support of Battle River Watershed projects. Sarah left the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Dennis Fuder, A.S.B. Operations Foreman, entered the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Currently there are 2 gas engine equipped spray trucks being considered for replacement, 2 x 2001 year F450s. These 2 trucks perform the duties of roadside spray application however when upgraded to new model gas engine trucks, the task of pulling the A.S.B. utility trailer loaded with the A.S.B. spray ranger on difficult terrain spray jobs, these trucks may be under-powered and therefore the choice of diesel engine trucks is being considered. Dennis was able to answer some operational questions the Board had in regards to spray applications plus the in-house building of new spray trucks. Dennis is comfortable with wiring harness and electronic devices, plus all the compatible spray system components. Dennis is confident the new fleet trucks would be built in a practical manor to suit municipal spray operations. The discussion regarding a gas verses a diesel engine was debated at length, with costs of purchase and repair plus mileage being main issues between the 2 choices, however at this time the board is unable to come to a decision. The board requested seeing a cost quote of both gas and diesel engines from different manufacturers. The decision of which method to retire the old trucks will be discussed at the next meeting.

Dennis Fuder left the meeting at 11:50 p.m. Clr. Ted Wilkinson called for a break for lunch from 11:50 p.m. to 1:10 p.m.

James led discussions of the 2014 Draft A.S.B. Budget. Each line item was reviewed by the Board, with questions being asked and answered with clarifications. The description of activities in Special Projects projections plus the 5 year A.S.B. Capital Purchase Prioritized List was also reviewed.

06/14 Moved by Steve Raasok to accept the proposed 2014 Draft A.S.B. Budget as presented, and to forward it to the Budget File for Council Approval. **CARRIED.**

Next meeting at the call of the Chairman.

07/14 Moved by Steve Rassok that the meeting be adjourned. (2:00 p.m.) **CARRIED.**

Chairman – Clr. Ted Wilkinson

Secretary – Aimee Leggett

(Full Day)