

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 5, 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 9:00 a.m.

8/14 Moved by Rod Thirsk to approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

9/14 Moved by Steven Raasok the minutes from January 20, 2014 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Business arising from the minutes; James reviewed the past participants of the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame Member.

The ASB reviewed the January – April 2014 A.S.B. Reports.

Ted asked Aimee if the amount of seedling tree inquiries has changed (with the absence of the PFRA program, and she responded it seems to have stayed the same. Aimee has prepared tree information packages located at the front office, which has current tree supplier and planting information for land owners.

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1. (January 16, 2014) Jean Luc Arpin, Director Chief Inspector of Explosives; letter listing new requirements for applying for and renewing explosives licenses and certificates.
2. (March 1, 2014) Trish Jordan, Public Affairs Lead, Monsanto Canada; letter announcing details of the 2014 Monsanto Fund Opportunity Scholarship program, deadline May 24.
3. (March 13, 2014) Kristen Lorenz, Head of Farm Water Supply Branch; letter with the updates from GF2 On-Farm Water Management Program updates running until March 15, 2018
4. (March 14, 2014) Gerard Vaillancourt, Director, Information Management Division Alberta Agriculture; letter and enclosure of 5 copies of the ARD's 2014 Information Catalogue of what is available for publications, videos and resources.
5. (April 10, 2014) Gerard Vaillancourt, Director, Information Management Division Alberta Agriculture; copy of complimentary Crop Protection 2014 Blue Book.
6. (April 15, 2014) Lillian Chan, Program Coordinator Alberta Century Farm & Ranch Award; 10 enclosed Century Farm & Ranch Award brochures with application forms.
7. (April 24, 2014) Maureen Vadnais, ASB Program Manager, letter initiating Key Contact survey assessment of effectiveness and value.
8. (May 1, 2014) Land Use Secretariat Alberta Government; email inviting ASB to the consultation process of the Phase 1 North Saskatchewan Regional Plan, Wainwright June 10, 2014.

Accepted as information.

10/14 Moved by Neil Pugh to accept correspondence. **CARRIED**

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report:

- Empty Pesticide Container collection Provincial program, James mentioned that he sees a concern with the surfactant/ adjuvant and obsolete pesticide (that should not be dropped off at sites) will not be accepted by the contractor of the program now being over seen by CleanFarms (which is a division of CropLife). James will continue to monitor the situation. The Agricultural Roundup occurs every 3 years, which happened in 2013. The annual household Toxic Roundup will take place May 10, 2014. This is an important environmental issue to continue to remove obsolete pesticides from off the landscape.
- 2014 Strychnine Sales-to-date Program for Farmers; James talked about the amount of farmers coming in and overall it has been slow.
- A.S.B. 2014 Summer Tour & Travel Plans; James double checked with the members of their plans, any changes James will need to know by May 12.
- 2016 ASB Conference (NE Hosting); James mentioned that the work has started by our region. James asked the ASB what their opinion is on having a professional speaker for the conference. The majority of the ASB preferred a professional speaker for the conference, if the budget is there to cover the cost.
- ASB Capital Update; James mentioned that Rod's new rat truck should be delivered by August. The successful spray truck bid was a dodge brand with the new larger sized engine (hemi 6.4L gas). Overall the bid process, which is advertised through the Alberta Purchasing Connection (APC), was satisfactory.

The ASB recessed for a short break 10:10a.m. – 10:23a.m.

James wanted to review with the ASB that a while back the M.D. Chauvin shop was broke into and that Rod's Rat Patrol work truck was stolen. The truck was recovered, however fails to run at this time. The Items that were stolen from the shop and truck have not been recovered yet by the RCMP.

Aimee Leggett, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report; she briefed the ASB on a graphed chart generated from the amount of Municipal Website views from over the past year. The Agri-Minutes received 3098 hits, the ASB documents had 983 hits, the Municipal weed section had 3235 hits, the AAAB Bursary had 236 hits, the ASB minutes were viewed 1027 hits, the Municipal Newsletters had 1484 hits; with a total of 10063 hits. Overall the entire municipal website had 31038 views, so the ASB section received 1/3 of the activity. Aimee also reviewed the land locations that applied for No Spray Zone or Haying Agreements by the annual May 1st deadline with the ASB. ASB members were impressed by the number of hits and complemented the amount and type of the information on the M.D. Website and the value it brings to our ratepayers.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report, which included an update of the Medicine Hat Landfill Norway rat situation which seems to be ongoing battle with the confirmed rats there. Also, Rod mentioned that he is currently handling a possible Pack Rat situation (not a Norway rat) which is causing havoc on a large bus type RV that travelled north from Idaho to our municipality. Rod will keep the ASB posted.

12/14

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

James led discussion on the 2013 Outcomes of the ASB Management Plan to ensure accuracy with the reported Evaluation Measures. The ASB commented throughout the document on the reported Evaluation Measures.

13/14

Moved by Rod Thirsk to approve the 2013 Outcomes of the ASB Management Plan, and to forward to Council for approval and submission to the ARD Grant Program. **CARRIED**

The ASB Key Contact Initiative Survey was reviewed and completed. There was lots of discussion on efficiency of the M.D. of Wainwright's Key Contact Program. The current ASB was unable to determine an effective role for the program to play. The M.D. of Wainwright has experienced long term staff and currently don't require this position to assist in their activities. They have an existing network to gather information that they require. The 310-FARM call center is still a valuable tool for local farmers to get in touch with specific individual specialists.

Fusarium graminearum Private Members Bill 201 was reviewed by the ASB, and learned that it has received both 1st and 2nd reading at the Alberta Legislature. This Private Members Bill is requesting an allowable level of 0.5% infection in grain for the Province. The ASB is interested in obtaining a copy of the legislature discussion from James of the MLA's debate and comments at the legislature. This very contentious issue affects local municipal grain farmers. This document is for information only.

Town of Wainwright submitted a Projected Weed Control Work Report for 2014; the ASB reviewed the proposed projected work.

Next meeting at the call of the Chairman.

14/14

Moved by Steve Rassok that the meeting be adjourned. (12:17 p.m.)
CARRIED.

Chairman – Clr. Ted Wilkinson

Secretary – Aimee Leggett

(Half Day)