

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Friday, October 31, 2014.

Present: Chairman – Councilor Bill Lawson

Councilor Myron Zajic

Farmer Members – Grant Rathwell, Steve Raasok and Neil Pugh

Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt

Secretary – Mackenzie Duncan

Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

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

Chairman Lawson welcomed the new members and existing members to the board.

15/14 Moved by Clr.Zajic to approve the agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

16/14 Moved by Steve Raasok the minutes from May 5, 2014 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

1.(May 20, 2014) Letter of Appreciation from Lesley and Ted Hassall – Thanking Rod Gabrielson for his assistance in dealing with a Pack Rat.

2.(May 22, 2014) Agricultural Service Board Grant Program Environmental Stream 2014-2016. They received our Application and it was reviewed and recommended to receive funding under both programs, with details and conditions to follow.

3.(May 29, 2014) Letter from Gayah Sieusahai, ARD – Regarding Municipal responsibilities under the Agricultural Pests and Alberta Weed Controls Acts.

4. (June 12, 2014) Nature Conservancy of Canada – Stewardship Credit Program Pilot Project – A How To Guide for Implementation

5. (June, 2014) Quick Facts – Property Rights Respected Under the Alberta Land Stewardship Act pamphlet

6. (June) Landuse Framework, Terms of reference and discussion guide for developing the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan, Profile of the North Saskatchewan

7. (August 12, 2014) Natural Resources Conservation Board- Annual Report 2013-14.

8. (August, 2014) Farm Safety Centre 2013-14 Annual Report.

9. (September 4, 2014) Land Stewardship Centre – Report to Community and 2013-14 Report Card.

10. (September 22, 2014) ATB Agriculture Farm Family Awards 2014 – Our nomination from our municipality (Haldenby Family) has been received and the family has been notified. Program Outline attached

11. (September 23, 2014) Marketland's Alberta Shelterbelt Program 2015 Applications Forms. Also recently introduced a new bulk tree seedling program available for County use only.

12. (September 29, 2014) Farm Safety Centre – Letter of Appreciation for our 2014 contribution for the in-school farm safety programming.

13. (October 15, 2014) Battle River Watershed Alliance Annual Funding Request

Clr. Zajic inquired if indexing in the value of the ASB grants took place and James advised it had not.

Board member Steve Raasok wanted some more info on the property rights respected under the Alberta Stewardship Act, James passed around a quick facts sheet for everyone to view.

James advised the board the Battle River Water Shed Alliance put in an annual request for funding, they suggested 0.50 per capita and the ASB board does have an allotted amount in the ASB Budget. The board discussed that not very many projects are done within the M.D. of Wainwright and it would be beneficial to see some projects in our area. James will inquire with the BRWA about possible projects in our area.

17/14

Moved by Clr. Zajic that the ASB board support the Battle River Watershed Alliance Annual Funding request and a request be made for more information on the potential projects available to the M.D. of Wainwright. **CARRIED**

18/14

Moved by Neil Pugh to accept correspondence. **CARRIED**

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report:

James informed the board on the grasshopper counts this past summer, and advised that it is broken down by numbers and species, which is then forwarded to Alberta Agriculture and a forecast is made from this. James advised that there are hot spots but many areas didn't have a large number. In areas that did have hotspots producers did experience damage to their crops. Chairman Lawson asked of the importance of this survey to the M.D. of Wainwright. James advised that one of the grants we receive requires a grasshopper survey to be done. James then described to the board how the counts are carried out.

James briefed council on Clubroot surveys, and discussed the University of Alberta being interested in doing the survey in our area, James advised that we have not found any in our municipality as of yet but it does exist in municipalities around us. James advised the board of the policy if clubroot was found on a property. Chairman Lawson asked if other municipalities in the area had the same policy we did on the clubroot. James talked about how infestation happens, cross contamination of equipment etc.

James advised the board about Strychnine sales for 2014 and advised that we did run out this past year. Rozol was brought up as a replacement, and the board had mixed reviews of how it works and why ratepayers do not like to use it. Application has to be applied earlier in order for Rozol to work as it is a multi-feed product.

Road side mowing was brought up, 850 miles were done this year. There was a couple operator issues such as excessive grass on the road. The contract will be put up for bid in 2015 and will have to be advertised on the APC website for tender, James commented that an increase in miles mowed may need to be considered as more roads have been paved.

James talked about the tankloaders and presented the board with usage of each tankloader. Irma and Giltedge are close in numbers and Ribstone was lower. There is a situation at Giltedge that the pump continues to run and results in overheating and burnt seals etc. If we do fix the Giltedge tankloader it could make the tankloader slower which is a major con. Discussion on the tankloader and multiple

solutions were discussed amongst the board.

Road side spraying was discussed and 1/3 of the roads are completed each year within the municipality. A lot of toadflax was found this year and hand spraying was done, James advised that he sent Carilion and the Alberta Department of Highways a list of roads and where the toadflax was. James isn't sure if they had completed everything and they started too late in the year to tell if they sprayed it all. The communication is very poor and that leads to us not knowing when they complete certain areas. James tried numerous times to email and call to discuss these issues.

James advised that Aimee's position has been filled and the individual will be starting November 17th.

Delegation

The delegation Phil Merrill, Provincial Rat and Pest Control Specialist visited the board and talked about the limited number of small isolated infestations in Alberta. Saskatchewan is the only province that has a significant infestation level. The lack of budget for Rat Control contributes to the problem in Saskatchewan. Phil advised there is a new Rat Manual that will be online, it is mainly for people that are not familiar with Rat Control. Phil advised of a new newsletter called the "Pest Insider" that comes out quarterly and is available only through email, and it is for those that may not be familiar with rat infestations. Phil showed the board a new trap for rats that does not use poison and is very well built and is said to be very effective. This new device is now being tested in Alberta. Phil also advised that there is a new hotline number for rat reports that is essentially a 24 hour line, the main thing is being effective with the calls. Bumper stickers are now becoming available. Phil was looking for feedback on the rat contract that expires in 2017, a piece that may be taken out of the contract is rabies. Phil advised the board that he is concerned with Strychnine Concentrate availability. The company that holds the Federal concentrate registration has had issues getting the raw concentrated chemical. There are conflicting messages from other manufacturers about the availability of the concentrate. It is a possibility that Strychnine may not be available for this Spring. Phil discussed other options such as Rozol. Phil mentioned that they do have an interactive Rat Control exhibit for offices or trade fairs. Phil also discussed with the board the Medicine Hat Rat infestation.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report, and advised that he is almost done all his rat checks for this year and that there are no infestations in Alberta. Manitou Lake supplies Rod with bait for the Saskatchewan checks. Rod advised that he has been busy helping ratepayers with beaver dams and with Riverdale beavers. Rod is waiting for a trackhoe to re do the dams at Riverdale as the beavers have rebuilt their dams. Rod is waiting for the Public Works department to have the trackhoe available. Clear Lake beavers were briefly discussed. Rod advised the Skunk population has increased and that there has been cougar and wolf sightings within the M.D.

Dennis Fuder was invited by the board to brief them on the building of the new ASB Spray truck. Dennis advised that the deck is finished and all tank and all the components and hoses are here, waiting for odds and ends. There is still some work to be done but it is going very well. Inside the truck all the switches are being modified to suit the operator. Dennis advised that the arm on the new truck will fold and tuck into the truck so there will be no height restrictions, and it won't break anything if the arm is hit. James advised the board that if they were interested after the meeting they could go see the new truck. James mentioned over the next three years that hopefully there will be a couple new

trucks being built. Dennis thought the truck would be done by Spring. Some discussion occurred regarding testing the new truck to make sure it had enough power to handle the weight. James advised the old truck will be sold whether on tender or sent to Richie Bros. James advised the board that he would like to keep the old truck until the new one is running perfectly. Clr. Zajic thought the truck should be sold early in the new year. Referred to the budget meeting.

James discussed Bill 201 – Agricultural Pests. James mentioned he listened to the testimony, and they have 7 recommendations which were discussed. The committee urged that ARD consider a review of the Agricultural pests Act provisions and that they consider the recommendations during this review. The board then discussed what they thought about the bill. James did have the full report available for the board to view.

The board took a break for lunch at 11:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The board discussed the Regional Resolution Response Reviews, James mentioned that Aimee and Ted did attend this meeting. James advised that he had emailed the document to the ASB Board. The Provincial ASB Resolutions Committee has had some changes with the ARD Support person's role. The AAAF Executive is trying to fill the support void on the Committee. ARD felt that their staff were in a conflict of interest situation with their previous role on the committee and the new role is an advisory position only. The Resolutions Committee is struggling with belief that they are not a lobby group (which they clearly are) but a partner of the Provincial Government. Hopefully this Committee comes to terms with this change and are able to move forward in an effective manner.

Resolutions that municipalities have brought forward were brought up. The board discussed these resolutions. James advised that at the provincial meeting each municipality will have two votes towards the resolution. It was the consensus of the board that they support the first resolution.

The board discussed the second resolution with regards to recycling, James mentioned that each municipality has its own standards and that it would be beneficial to have a program to deal with this the recycling. It was the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution.

The board then discussed the third resolution regarding clubroot and whether or not the municipalities should be notified if clubroot is found in the municipality. No consensus with the board, they would like to hear what it said when it is discussed.

James discussed the Agenda for the Regional agenda and what to expect at the conference. James mentioned they will be taking names for a councilor elected representative

James discussed the 2015 Provincial ASB Conference and mentioned that there will be two different hotels and when the registration and agenda come out James will send out the information.

2016 Provincial Conference will be held at the Fantasyland Hotel and will be hosted by the North East Region. James mentioned that if anyone thought of any topics or speakers to talk to James as they are always looking for ideas. Clr. Zajic suggested Fred Keton as an MC for the 2016 Provincial Conference.

James brought forth the next agenda item which is the Clean Farms/Stericycle, he advised that our site is a mess and now bad

habits are coming back this year. James mentioned dealing with Clean Farms has been a very slow process, and that they are bagging the bulk at our site. James mentioned a resolution is coming from the south that they think it should be the retailer's responsibility to deal with these bags. James has a meeting next week to talk about this issue.

The M.D. has offered the Town of Wainwright a grant for \$4000 and the Town of Wainwright submits a report each fall of what the town has done for noxious weed control. Chairman Lawson asked James how the relationship is with the town and the progress for this year. James mentioned some of it got done and there was improvement, the residential weeds in the area are not being dealt with as the bylaw officer is very busy. The prohibited noxious Spotted Knapweed remains the top priority followed by Scentless Chamomile, Tansy, Toadflax and other noxious weeds.

19/14

Moved by Clr. Zajic that the ASB Board release the 2014 Town of Wainwright Weed funding and to continue this grant in 2015.
CARRIED

The ASB discussed BSE surveillance and that we are not currently meeting the BSE testing requirements. BSE Surveillance is required by the World Governing Body (OIE) and Canada producers need to significantly increase the number of animals that are submitted for testing. The Canada and Alberta BSE Surveillance Program (CABSESP) accepts animals 30 months of age or older in 5 categories: Showing neurological signs, dead, dying, diseased, distressed (injured), so you must contact an approved veterinarian, who will visit your farm to take the required samples. If we don't meet our testing requirements other countries could place trade sanctions on Canadian beef which could significantly affect future market. The ASB Board discussed this issue along with the reduction of producer payments to \$75/ animal. James mentioned posting the posters around town and having a list of available veterinarians that do the testing available for producers to access.

The ASB discussed Agri-Minute Radio spots and the radio stations they now have to use because the old station was shut down. James was concerned if the cost of the ads was worth what they were paying and if we were getting our messages to enough of our target audience. James brought up the possibility of using the radio for event orientated ads as needed as an option to the Agri-minute spots if the ASB felt a change was needed.

20/14

Moved by Raasok that the ASB Board do not renew the Agri-Minute contract for 2015, and that only event orientated ads be scheduled as needed. **CARRIED**

Next meeting at the call of the Chairman.

21/14

Moved by Neil Pugh that the meeting be adjourned. (2:11 p.m.)
CARRIED.

Chairman – Clr. Lawson

Secretary – Mackenzie Duncan

