

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 6, 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 9:01 a.m.

1/15 Moved by Steve Raasok to accept amended agenda, adding Grain Bag Roller, Neil Pugh seconded. **CARRIED**

2/15 Moved by Clr. Zajic the minutes from October 31, 2014 be accepted as presented, Grant Rathwell seconded. **CARRIED**

1.(November 26, 2014) Kristen Lorenz, Director, Farm Water Supply Branch, letter informing holiday dates, and reminding us that agriculture clients interested in Growing Forward 2 On – Farm Management Program must first complete a Long Term Water Plan and have it approved before construction.

2.(December 9, 2014) The Integrated Environmental Plant Management Association of Western Canada sent out an information package and registration information regarding there 19th annual conference held in Kelowna B.C.

3.(December 18, 2014) Union Forage letter announcing new forage seed options for Western Canada

Clr. Zajic inquired about a list of programs that are still funded under Growing Forward 2, what has been cut, and if an updated list could be sent out to members. James informed him that there is a conference call set for January 15, 2015 that will give an update.

Clr. Zajic inquired if the Canadian Pacific Railway was apart of the Integrated Environmental Plant Management Association of Western Canada Conference. James advised it was not believed so and there was an update given at AAAF conference in December.

Board member Steve Raasok inquired about the increased number of monitoring wells being drilled by the Irma CPR landfill site, they have been drilling farther out, therefore he was interested whether they have found contamination, and who is responsible for it. James advised that he was unaware and will look into the issue further.

Board Member Neil Pugh inquired if there was a reason to switch to Union Forage, James advised that the M.D is going to stay with the CPS and Andrukow group solutions for our seed requirements.

3/15 Moved by Grant Rathwell to accept correspondence, Neil Pugh seconded. **CARRIED**

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report:

James informed the board of the ASB conference coming up January 21-23, 2015. A handout was passed to the board member informing them of their hotel confirmation numbers. James advised that any members leaving early to inform the hotel. An agenda was passed out to board members for reference.

James briefed the board on the Strychnine update; he stated that Agrium is no longer conducting business in the pest control sector.

Agrium at this time currently holds the only import permit, unless sold; we will not be able to import the product. Chairman Lawson expressed his concern for what product we will use to control the pest. James informed him about the product Rozol; however they are currently waiting to see who is going to distribute the product. In addition, James informed the board of a product Phostoxin, however, it is more dangerous and a course is required to handle the product. The ASB board inquired if the M.D. could become a distributor, James informed the board that we do not have a vendor's license to distribute the product; but could acquire one if needed. It is a process and would require an upgraded storage facility. The ASB decided to see the outcomes this year regarding the product and make a decision from there. James informed the board that Rozol was used in the parks last year, Board member Neil Pugh inquired how useful the product was, and James stated that Shannon LaHaye head of public works would have more information.

James gave an update on roadside mowing. James informed the board that an additional 50 km has been added and approved by council. James is finalizing the contract RFP. With the increase in size James has to advertise the contract through the Alberta Purchasing Connection. James is hoping to have the contract out next week and have it ready for approval at the February council meeting. James stated that last year went smoothly minus an operator who got excessive grass on the roads. James informed the board that all pavement, terracem, and high traffic roads get mowed. Board member Steve Raasok inquired about mowing wider in the ditches, James stated that they have done so in the past, and it caused increased mechanical issues for the mowers. Board member Grant Rathwell asked if the contract was based on lowest bid, James informed him that it was however is based on request for proposal evaluation criteria formula which includes price, equipment, and service availability, letters of reference, and safety record and program. Also stated in the contract is an out, after the first year of the multiple year contract if we are not satisfied.

James updated the board on the situation at the Giltedge tank loader station. He stated that a down pipe insert has been installed. James stated that we may get an influx of complaints because the insert has caused decreased water flow, if this is the case may have to determine another solution.

Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report:

Tanis informed the board of the upcoming conference call regarding Growing Forward 2 on January 15, 2015.

Tanis confirmed with the board members who are interested in attending the FarmTech conference and which day we are planning. Steve Raasok, Myron Zajic, and Bill Lawson have confirmed that they are attending, and want to attend on Thursday January 29, 2015. James inquired whether the board would like to extend invitations to outside member and pay for their registrations. The board was in agreement.

4/15

Moved by Neil Pugh to fund up 4 additional farmers to attend FarmTech, with space providing, Steve Raasok seconded. **CARRIED.**

Tanis informed the board that since the M.D. is no longer doing agri-minutes that there is extra money that can be spent. She asked for ideas that board members had to allocate the money to. Board member Grant Rathwell expressed interest in hosting another surface rights meeting. Councilor Zajic suggested another bus tour to the Highland Feeders biodigester. Board member Neil Pugh expressed

interest in having a marketing meeting directed at farm management. James informed him that Neil Blue does presentations. Tanis informed the board that the M.D. could host a Solar- Wind Energy Workshop for farmers and in conjunction with host a tour at the Center for Sustainable Innovation at Lakeland. The board was all in favor for this and Tanis will look into booking the workshop. Chairman Lawson expressed concern for the busy schedules of farmers in the spring, it was decided that the best time would be the beginning of March or April. Tanis informed the board of the Green Acreages Guide Workshop, this presentation is focused on helping acreage and hobby farmers the importance of stewardship practices that conserve and protect the value of there natural assets. The board was in favor and Tanis will further research the topic.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report:

Rod briefed the board on his year end report; Rod advised that he was within 10 percent of last years numbers regarding rat inspections. Rod informed the board that we are still rat free. Cutknife area was the closest where rats where found. Rod stated that 59 dams where removed from culverts by hand, 15 dams where removed using dynamite, 37 rat calls out of the rat control area, 6 coyote calls, 1 raccoon call, 147 beavers shot, and 3 rat control presentations where given. Chairman Lawson inquired if culvert size affects if beavers will build or not. Rod informed that as long as there is running water they will build. Rod advised the board that the rat poison ordered will be a month late coming in and Phil Merrill is working with a new distributor. Rat checks are commencing as of now, GPS locations will be taken at each location to build a new inspection site map. Rod informed the board that he has no key to dynamite shed in Vermilion, the storage center is currently in the process of being relocated, and will not get access until the move. Board member Neil Pugh suggest we have our own dynamite storage; James informed him that the cost would be too high for the amount that we use, and the shared agreement is working fine. James also informed the board that our license is up for renewal at the end of February 2015.

5/15

Moved by Clr. Zajic to accept the reports as presented, Grant Rathwell seconded. **CARRIED.**

The Board took a break from 10:23 – 10:31

Dennis Fuder was invited by the board to brief them on the building of the new ASB Spray truck.

Dennis advised the board that all equipment is strapped down on the truck bed. The wire harnesses have been ran through the truck but haven't been connected. The straps have been upgraded to a wider width for safety purposes. Dennis informed the board that they are still waiting on the GPS from Gemini, and the harness that communicates with the pump had to be exchanged for the proper model. James informed the board that we are on schedule to build another truck, inquired if we should go ahead with the model we are using now. James expressed concern that we don't know how this motor works yet. Board member Steve Raasok inquired when the bid is put out for tender if the cost difference to build a different truck would outweigh the time saved to build the same model. James informed the board that lowest tender will get the bid but they have to meet a set of criteria.

The board discussed the Regional Resolution Response Reviews,

The board discussed the first resolution; adapt crop insurance to protect clubroot tolerant varieties. James informed the board that this may be an option to manage farmers who do not use best management practices to reduce clubroot outbreaks. No consensus with the board, they would like to hear what is said when it is discussed.

The board discussed the second resolution, regarding the pest control act and clubroot. After reading the resolution, it was the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution.

The board discussed the third resolution, standardized clubroot inspection procedure. James informed the board that they standard procedure is confusing because from his experience this summer, procedures vary from institutions, for example the University of Alberta has different procedures than the Government of Alberta. Board member Steve Raasok informed the board on the issue of equipment spreading the disease from field to field. It was with the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution,

The board discussed the fourth resolution, adding funding for municipalities dealing with prohibited noxious weeds that come from outside of the province. James advised the board that years ago there was special weed control grants for this issue. It was with the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution, but want to clarify that it is a separate program from the ASB grant.

The board discussed the fifth resolution, maintaining Canada thistle as a noxious weed under the Alberta weed control act and regulation. James informed the board that now within the act there is new protocol that a weed must meet a certain criteria in order to be on this list, Canada Thistle does not meet this criteria. James stated that even though it is not listed under the act Municipalities can still have there own programs in place to deal with the weed. Board members Neil Pugh and Grant Rathwell were concerned if having the weed off the act, if individuals were no longer responsible for addressing infestations. No consensus with the board, they would like to hear what is said when it is discussed.

The board discussed the sixth resolution, legal opinion on the jurisdiction of the weed control act on CN rail. It was with the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution.

The board discussed the seventh resolution, prevention of the introduction of Zebra and Quagga Mussels into Alberta Water Bodies. James informed the board that a presentation from Albert Environment was delivered at the AAAF conference in December; the presentation informed us on the actions taken to prevent the spread of this pest. Clr. Zajic brought of the issue of how to prevent the spread from province to province not strictly at the border crossings. Board member Neil Pugh informed the board that he would like to see clearer communication and advertising to know where inspection are set up. It was with the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution.

The board discussed the eighth resolution, monitoring ergot levels in livestock feeds. It was with the consensus of the board that the resolution should be amended, and they would like to hear what is said when it is discussed.

The board discussed the ninth resolution, elk quota hunt. James advised the board that 250 tags are being drawn for, with each tag being credited to two elk. Board member Grant Rathwell wanted to

know what the principals of the former Chronic Wasting Disease Quota Hunt was. Rod informed him that it was to reduce herds until it limited the disease in that area. No consensus with the board, they would like to hear what is said when it is discussed.

The board discussed the tenth resolution, fish and wildlife officer availability. It was with the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution.

The board discussed the eleventh resolution, wildlife predator compensation for domestic equine loss. Board member Neil Pugh want to know the difference of a workable animal vs. an acreage pet. There was mixed reviews on the ASB, whether compensation would be worth it, and if we are encroaching on wildlife habitat. No consensus with the board, they would like to hear what is said when it is discussed.

The board discussed the twelve resolution, agriculture plastics recycling. It was the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution.

The board discussed the thirteenth resolution, pesticide container collection program. Board member Neil Pugh inquired whether there was any initial funding. James informed the ASB that he hasn't seen any since he has started, James stated that there may be funding for some new signs, however, the M.D. has funded the project in the past. It was the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution.

The board discussed the fourteenth resolution, management of farm and agriculture leases. Chairman Lawson agrees that agriculture land be managed by agriculture boards. No consensus with the board, they would like to hear what is said when it is discussed.

The board discussed the fifteenth resolution, farm property assessment. It was the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution.

The board discussed the sixteenth resolution, preventing licensing of tolerant wheat. It was the consensus of the board that they are in favor of this resolution.

The board discussed the regional resolution, elk population control at Canadian forces base Suffield, Alberta. No consensus with the board, they would like to hear what is said when it is discussed.

James discussed the 2015 preliminary budget and presented the board with a handout outlining the rough draft for the 2015 budget. James informed the board that this is a preliminary budget with more activities to be added. James asked the board to read through and if they have any questions to contact him or bring questions to the next meeting. James will have final copy ready for review and approval next meeting and it will be forwarded to the budget James advised that he and Tanis still need to gather numbers for Special Projects.

The ASB board discussed speakers for the 2016 ASB Conference

James discussed with the board about what speakers they would potentially want to see at the 2016 conference. Board member Neil Pugh suggested cattle marketing, succession planning for farms and Quagga Mussels. Board member Steve Raasok suggested an individual speaking on keeping youth in rural Alberta. Board member Grant Rathwell suggest beaver control.

Tanis advised to the board her findings regarding ALUS, the information provided was acquired from there website. Tanis informed the board that she is meeting with Joan Gabrielson from the County of Vermilion office to get more information. The ASB was collectively concerned with where the funding for the project comes from. James informed the board that he was concerned if the dollar amounts would be high enough to get farmers interested. Tanis will provide the ASB with this information at the next meeting.

Chairman Lawson advised the board on ordering a grain bag roller, to help deal with the issues regarding no recycle program for grain bags. Chairman Lawson stated that he sees a problem will bags being discarded in trees and ditches. Chairman Lawson has found a model that is self contained can pull with a half ton and is \$9000.00 dollars. Board member Steve Raasok was brought up a concern of storage space for the machine. James informed the board that we would need to make a decision on if we are going to rent it out, how much, would a member assist the individual on using the machine and maintenance on the machine. James informed the board that he will research the subject and have more information for the ASB for next meeting.

Next meeting on Feb 4, 2015

6/15

Moved by Neil Pugh that the meeting be adjourned. Steve Raasok seconded. (12:48 a.m.) **CARRIED.**

Chairman – Clr. Lawson

Secretary – Tanis Ponath