

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 29th, 2016.

Present: Chairman – Councillor Phil Valleau
Councillor Ted Wilkinson

Farmer Members – Grant Rathwell, Don Jones and John Campbell
Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman and A.S.B Secretary – Tanis Ponath
Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

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

20/16 Moved by Clr. Wilkinson to approve the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

21/16 Moved by Don Jones that the minutes from the ASB meeting held on April 28th, 2016 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt and Tanis Ponath

1. (April 25, 2016) Doug Macaulay, Agricultural Service Board Program; sent a letter outlining the ASB field visits for 2016 and requested to schedule a tour with the M.D. of Wainwright.
2. (June 13, 2016) Maurice Pinco, Natural Resources Canada; sent James Schwindt and Tanis Ponath approval letter for Access to High Hazard Explosives (Type E, I or D).
3. (July 11, 2016) Doug Macaulay, Agricultural Service Board Program; sent a letter advising our ASB has been approved for the 2016 grant year.
4. (September 15, 2016) Battle River Watershed Alliance; sent a letter requesting funding for 2017 in the amount of \$2069.00.
5. (September 26, 2016) Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Farm Safety Center; sent out their full annual report detailing school-by-school delivery and other important program information.
6. (November 9, 2016) Kendra Tippe, Alberta Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee; sent a letter of acknowledgment to Patrick Porter regarding his concerns regarding Absinth Wormwood.
7. (November 9, 2016) Bruce Hamblin, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; sent a letter outlining the 1-year extension of the current Alberta-Municipal Rat and Rabies Control Agreements. The 15-month extension will allow Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to complete a more thorough review of the program.
8. (November 10, 2016) Cathie Erichsen Arychuk, Agricultural Fieldman, County of Vermilion River; sent an email inquiring if other municipalities have had issues with securement of bales when producers are moving them. The County of Vermilion River would like to know if other municipalities would support changes to the current provincial legislation. No action.
9. (November 12, 2016) Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties; sent out a draft copy of a Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta.

10. (November 18, 2016) Don George, Classroom Agricultural Program; sent out an article requesting volunteers for the program.

11. (November 22, 2016) Clear Hills County; sent a letter declaring an agricultural disaster due to abnormally high precipitation levels during harvest season.

Accepted as Information.

22/16

Moved by John Campbell to accept the correspondence. **CARRIED**

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report:

James presented the board with an update on 2% liquid strychnine. This year we sold 248 cases and 23 bottles of strychnine to 122 producers. James informed the board that we had a request for information regarding our strychnine sales for the review of the strychnine label for 2018.

James led a discussion with the board regarding bill 6 and farm safety. A few of the consultation committees have completed their mandate however, with a slow harvest some groups are taking longer than expected. James informed the board, we have been receiving calls from private companies who would like to host a workshop on farm safety and safety plans in our area. It was the consensus of the board that we hold off on any workshops until the rules and regulations have been release by the Alberta Government regarding bill 6.

Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report:

Tanis inquired if any board members would like to participate in FarmTech 2017. Tanis provided the board with an agenda and list of activities.

23/16

Moved by Grant Rathwell to authorize any ASB members who are interested in attending FarmTech 2017. **CARRIED**

Tanis informed the board of the upcoming workshops she will be attending throughout the winter. To date Tanis has attended an online EFP workshop in Leduc and an Advanced Soil's Workshop hosted in Vermilion. This winter she will be attending the FarmTech, PVMA and AISC conferences.

Tanis informed the board, that in 2017 the 15th anniversary of the Grazing School for Women is being held in Vermilion at Lakeland College. She is involved with planning the facilities, catering, tours and looking after the budget.

The board took a break from 10:14-10:19 a.m.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report:

Rod informed the board that the rat inspections in Alberta and Saskatchewan are 95% complete and have been logged by GPS. Rod informed the board that the definition of a rat check has changed, every 5 acres is considered one check even if it is within the same area. There is an infestation near Senlac, Sask, Rod is awaiting confirmation to assist the R.M. and the producer.

Rod informed the board that the Pest Control Officers in Rat Controlled municipalities are going to have a yearly fall meeting that involves training and updates.

Rod informed the board that this year was very busy for beaver control. Rod responded to over 200 beaver issues on municipal right-a-ways and blew 5 dams for private producers. As of today all beaver issues are resolved until spring. Farm member Don Jones inquired if we do any work with muskrats. Rod informed him he will only deal with muskrats if he is dealing with a beaver in the same area. Coyote populations have increased this year and Rod is anticipating an increase in 1080 pellet requests this spring.

24/16

Moved by Clr. Wilkinson to accept the reports. **CARRIED**

Dennis Fuder, Agricultural Foreman entered the meeting from 10:19-10:40 a.m. to give an update on the spray truck build. All truck components have been ordered. The deck tank and injector pumps have been mounted on the trucks. Dennis is currently working on the booms and pumps; last thing will be the wiring. This is the third truck that Dennis has built and so far everything is going as planned. All three trucks are designed the same so operators can run any truck. The spray trucks are equipped with the Raven system, a 730 imperial tank, 6 injector pumps, and 3 agitators. This gives flexibility and the ability to carry a wide range of chemicals. Dennis informed the board that he hopes to have the truck completed in February. James informed the board that we will be focusing on grass seeding in the spring due wet conditions in the fall we were unable to get the grass seeding completed.

James informed the board that there were a few inconsistencies with the new truck and the bid proposed. The truck was missing a battery and power converter. We are currently working with the dealership to mitigate these details.

James informed the board that we will be advertising the old spray truck for tender in the new year. We also have old excess parts that are not compatible with our new trucks that we will sell in addition to the truck.

25/16

Moved by Don Jones that the ASB department advertise a request for sealed price proposals for unit 041 the complete spray truck which includes 2004 F-550 4X4 serial number 1FDAF57P34EA86153, deck, injection system and excess parts in January to be forwarded to February Council Mtg. **CARRIED**

James brought forward and summarized the Town of Wainwrights weed control work summary report for 2016. The report will be forwarded to council for a motion to release the grant funds to the Town of Wainwright.

26/16

Moved by Clr. Wilkinson to recommend to council to release the funding in the amount of \$4000.00 for Town of Wainwright's 2016 Urban Weed Control Program. **CARRIED**

The board discussed highway weed control along provincial highways. The M.D. of Wainwright received many letters from other Municipalities addressed to the Minister of Transportation outlining their frustrations with the current weed control on Alberta highways. James informed the board that Alberta Transportation requires a notice to do any weed control on highways. This year the M.D. of Wainwright wrote 9 notices to Alberta Transportation. All were completed except one was non-compliant. The M.D. contracted the spraying out and billed Alberta Transportation for the costs. Clr. Valleau informed the board that due to the high volume of notices and letters from Municipalities across the province, the Government of Alberta is looking to re-instate a program to control vegetation along its highways.

James led the board in a discussion on wild boar.

To date the M.D. of Wainwright has one producer that farms wild boar. James informed Alberta Agriculture since wild boar producers must be documented and there are fencing regulations that the producer must follow. An inspector will be completing a follow up visit with the producer that Rod will attend. James informed the board that Alberta Agriculture sent out an agreement that would designate the M.D. of Wainwright responsible for the wild boar containment standards. The M.D. currently controls wild boar when they have escaped and are declared a pest. Council decided to take no action.

The board reviewed two factsheets about agricultural plastics from Alberta Agriculture. The factsheets highlighted the recent findings from a province wide survey regarding agricultural plastic issues in Alberta. Clr. Wilkinson informed the board that the Wainwright landfill accepts grain bags and stores them.

Tanis provided a summary to the board of the pest monitoring the M.D. participated in, in partnership with Alberta Agriculture. The M.D. of Wainwright participated in bertha armyworm, diamondback moth, swede midge, wheat midge, clubroot and grasshopper surveys in 2016. Bertha armyworm numbers are low however, they have started to accumulate in the Irma area and will require more monitoring in 2017. Diamondback moth numbers were low and no swede midge was detected. Wheat midge numbers significantly increased this year and will require monitoring by producers. Inspectors found no clubroot and grasshopper numbers were low.

Tanis led a discussion with the board regarding a recent webinar she participated in by Farm and Food Care Canada. Farm and Food Care Canada launched a public survey geared towards earning public trust in Canadian food and farming.

The board discussed the 2017-2019 Agricultural Service Board Grant application that is due January 31, 2017.

James led a discussion with the board regarding hotel rooms for the 2017 ASB Conference in Edmonton, January 24-27. Council and farm members will be staying at the Chateau Lacombe during the conference.

Next meeting January 10th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

27/16

Moved by Clr. Wilkinson that the meeting be adjourned. (12:15 p.m.)
CARRIED.

Chairman – Clr. Valleau

Secretary – Tanis Ponath