

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday October 3rd, 2017.

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.

23/17

Moved by Don Jones to approve the agenda as presented. **CARRIED**

24/17

Moved by John Campbell that the minutes from February 13th, 2017 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

The ASB monthly reports from July, August and September were available to the board for review, questions were asked with clarification.

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt and Tanis Ponath,

1. (January 2017) Alberta Government; an information pamphlet recognizing the ASB grant program, the 2015-2016 annual impacts and programs completed such as weed control and pest management were showcased.
2. (March 2017) Town of Wainwright; sent their Weed Control Projected Work Report for 2017.
3. (April 11, 2017) Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Safety Center; letter confirming they received the M.D. of Wainwrights contribution of \$3633.00 for the program.
4. (May 5, 2017) Lyle Marianchuk, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; letter informing the M.D. that our lone wild boar producer has achieved full containment standards.
5. (May 8, 2017) Alberta Farm Safety Program; a letter outlining the multiple farm safety resources targeted towards youth that are available to order. Multiple samples enclosed for reference.
6. (May 17, 2017) Beaver County; letter indicating Beaver County declared a State of Agricultural Disaster in response to extreme moisture conditions.
7. (May 30, 2017) Ag for Life; a letter requesting funding for the multiple education programs. Ag for Life aims to educate both rural and urban residents about agriculture.
8. (May 30, 2017) Delinda Reyerson, Executive Director, Alberta Invasive Species Council; a letter outlining the AISC mandate and requesting funding for their programs.
9. (July 11, 2017) Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Safety Center, a letter outlining the success of the program in 2017 and attached the 2016-2017 annual report.
10. (August 9, 2017) Alberta Farm and Animal Care; provided an information package on keeping urban chickens and small flocks.
11. (August 9, 2017) Katherine Altman, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; a letter and outreach package for producers that contains material to educate on the premise identification traceability pillar.
12. (August 21, 2017) Alberta Farm and Animal Care (AFAC); a letter outlining AFAC program and a membership invitation for the M.D. of Wainwright.

13. (September 25, 2017) Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee; the 2017 report card on the resolutions for Agricultural Service Boards was recorded.

Accepted as information.

25/17

Moved by Grant Rathwell to accept the correspondence. **CARRIED**

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report.

James provided the board with an update on the strychnine sales for 2017. To date we have sold 149 cases and 15 bottles to 86 producers.

James updated the board on the usage of the M.D. tankloaders. To date the usage has been, Irma 3145.83 cubes, Giltedge 2374 cubes and Ribstone 995.1 cubes.

James informed the board Round Corner Welding completed 900 miles of roadside mowing in the M.D. The mowing contract will be up for tender in 2018 and will be brought to council for decision.

Rural Routes date has been set for August 10th, 2018 at the Elk's Hall. Council made the decision to extend the catering contract for an additional year for Thyme for You Catering.

Tanis Ponath, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report.

Tanis updated the board on the various workshops hosted this year. The Livestock Workshop for Ladies was another success in its second year with 14 ladies in attendance. Tanis coordinated a crop pest workshop; however, it was cancelled due to no registrations. The M.D. in conjunction with Flagstaff and Paintearth County hosted a Tree Care Workshop with 40 people in attendance. The M.D. helped promote the Jim Gerrish workshop hosted by the County of Vermilion River, 4 Wainwright residents participated. Lastly, we launched the Buffalo Trail Riparian Restoration Project with a field day at Riverdale Mini-Park.

Tanis updated the board on the Buffalo Trail Riparian Restoration Program. She will be meeting with the Battle River Watershed to clarify funding and program requirements.

Tanis gave an update on the Toadflax and Hoary Alyssum trials held in partnership with Lakeland College. The project is almost completed and final results will be sent out once they have become available. Tanis hosted a field tour that showcased the Toadflax trials. M.D. ratepayers and other Fieldman from the surrounding areas attended.

Tanis informed the board that Growing Forward 2 will be closing March 31st, 2018. It will be replaced by the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) which comes into effect April 1st, 2018. Once more information becomes available, it will be sent out to producers.

Tanis gave an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) update. The program is moving towards self-registration for producers which is going to launch in October. The board discussed some upcoming changes to the program that will effect producers.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report.

Rod informed the board he has completed all GPS for rat control inspections this year in Alberta and Saskatchewan. No rat infestations have been found to date. Rod stated, coyote populations have increased so we may see a rise in calls this winter. Over 200 beavers have been removed to date, no dynamite has been used.

Rod informed the board the gas chamber for skunk euthanasia has been completed and he will be completing the trapping for rabies testing before the end of the year.

26/17

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

The board took a break from 10:20 a.m. to 10:32 a.m.

James led a discussion with the board regarding clubroot which was found in the M.D. of Wainwright for the first time this year. To date there have been 7 confirmed locations with 1 pending lab test results. James stated landowners with confirmed results will receive a notice with guidelines the producer must follow for 4 years. The adjacent landowners will also receive letters indicating clubroot has been found. The M.D. hosted a clubroot meeting for producers to come and learn more about the disease, 44 producers attended the meeting. James and Tanis have been spreading clubroot awareness using the M.D.'s website, Facebook page and bi-monthly newsletters. The board discussed using rotation, resistant varieties and sanitation as ways to manage clubroot and the spread. The board expressed interest in having another clubroot meeting for producers, James and Tanis will look into organizing another meeting. James informed the board we will be reviewing our policy on cleaning A.S.B equipment when we have to access locations on cultivated land.

James provided the board with a spraying update. The M.D. of Wainwrights general roadside spraying is completed. It was delayed a few weeks due to weather but our weed inspectors were able to complete the program. Alberta transportation was sent a GPS list of weed locations on Alberta highways, there was approximately 265 locations. Spot spraying was completed by Carillion, a blanket spray was done on parts of highway 14 and 881 according to Alberta Transportations 4-year rotation, implemented this year. The M.D. continues to monitor CN on weed issues. A blanket spray was completed along the railway from Wainwright to our border. Saskatchewan Transportation was contacted for weed control along highway 17. We will continue to develop a working relationship with them to better address weed issues in the future.

James led a discussion with the board on the renewal of the Rat Control Grant. Due to the restructuring of the program, the M.D. of Wainwright would see a significant decrease in funding. After a meeting with council and program representatives there will be a decrease in funding but not to the full extent as originally thought. The Alberta Government will be sending out contracts to program participants this fall and it will be forwarded to council for decision.

The board discussed the issues surrounding our A.S.B. and Environmental grants. The M.D. of Wainwright along with other municipalities have not received our grants for 2017. Our concerns will be brought forward on behalf of council to the AAMDC.

James led a discussion with the board on hosting a farm safety workshop. The M.D. of Wainwright has been approached by AgSafe Alberta which is an industry led program. They provide workshops on a variety of safety initiatives. They are also running a pilot program which is open to producers who want to develop a safety program for their operation. It was with the consensus of the board to wait for Government recommendations before hosting a workshop for producers.

James informed the board that the 2017 Regional ASB Conference will be November 2nd, 2017 at Flat Lake Hall in the M.D. of Bonnyville.

James thanked outgoing farm member Grant Rathwell for his 3 years of service on the A.S.B board.

James led a discussion on the various farm safety programs that have reached out and requested funding. It was with the consensus of the board to continue with the Farm Safety Center's funding and re-visit the topic in our budget meeting discussions.

James asked the board to brainstorm activities they want the A.S.B. department to explore for the next meeting.

Next meeting at the call of the chair.

27/17

Moved by Grant Rathwell that the meeting be adjourned. (11:39 a.m.)
CARRIED

Chairman – Clr. Valleau

Secretary – Tanis Ponath