

The Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 24, 2009.

Present: Chairman – Clr. Ted Wilkinson, Councilor – Phil Valleau. Farm Members – Dennis Leggett, Chris Oracheski, Karla White. Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson, Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman & Secretary – Aimee Wonsik.

The Chairman Clr. Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

07/09

Moved by Karla White to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED

08/09

Moved by Dennis Leggett that the minutes from January 15, 2009 accepted as presented. CARRIED

1. (January 14, 2009) Donald Dumont, Reeve/A.S.B. Chairman, letter directed to Eileen Chauvet regarding mowing costs eligible for grant funding.
2. (January 16, 2009) Eileen Chauvet, Supervisor A.S.B. Grand Program, letter describing RFID Tag Reader Program.
3. (January 19, 2009) T. Brian Brewin, A.S.B. Chairman M.D. of Taber, letter directed to Jason Krips regarding seed lab accreditation for clubroot testing.
4. (January 22, 2009) Joe Gendre, A.S.B. Chairman County of Stettler, letter directed to Honorable George Groeneveld regarding A.L.M.A., and to support Alberta Beef Producers recommendations into A.L.M.S. strategy.
5. (January 27, 2009) George Groeneveld, Agriculture Minister, letter to Carla Bick and supporting A.S.B. regarding A.L.M.S.
6. (January 28, 2009) Lindsey Metheral, Education Coordinator Alberta Beef Producers, email looking for volunteers for Classroom Agriculture Program.
7. (February 2, 2009) Cory Ollikka Chairperson AAMD&C, letter of information NSWA Newsletter and agenda items by Municipal Forum February 10, 2009
8. "Strengthening Stewardship", July 8-11, 2009, postcard and invitation
9. Agriculture and Food Council, Agri-Environmental Policy in Alberta, March 4, 2009
10. Agriculture and Food Council, Call for Nominations (by Feb 27, 2009)

Correspondence was reviewed.

09/09

Moved by Clr.Phil Valleau that the correspondence be filed. CARRIED

The Agricultural Fieldman James Schwindt presented his report.

- Mowing Update
- Ribstone Tankloader Update
- Lacombe County ASB Tour, July 6-9th

James updated the A.S.B. on the 2009 Mowing Program. There is 641 miles of road identified for mowing this year.

James reported that Twyla Legault from PFRA was in attendance at the February 17th council meeting. She announced that the new medium used to remove the naturally occurring arsenic from the Ribstone tankloader is working, however it did not last as long as what it was supposed to, and was estimated at \$.20 per litre of water treated, therefore may not be feasible to continue treatment.

The Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Aimee Wonsik presented her report.

- March Newsletter, to be completed and mailed 574 households by Feb27.
- Upcoming Events
 - "Making the most of your Landscape", March 20th (Horticulture Meeting)

Aimee commented that the February Environmental Farm Plan meeting (which had 11 participants) and the February Water Well Workshop (which had 17 people in attendance) were both positive meetings.

The Rat Control officer Rod Gabrielson presented his report. Rat inspections are up to date and there are zero infestations in the M.D. of Wainwright. The area in the southeast portion of the municipality is under close scrutiny from infestation potential from the SK border.

10/09 Karla White made motion to support the annual Alberta Rat Patrol meeting, to be held June 19 in Cold Lake, in the amount of \$500. CARRIED

Rod led discussion with the A.S.B. on dynamite storage in a class 6 standard day and overnight box. More discussion to follow in future meetings.

11/09 Chris Oracheski moved that the reports be accepted. CARRIED

Break 10:00a.m. – 10:15a.m.

James reviewed and led discussion on the 2009 ASB Budget.

12/09 Dennis Legget motioned that the proposed 2009 A.S.B. budget be forwarded to Council Budget File. CARRIED

13/09 Chris Oracheski moved that it be recommended to Council that a new laptop and mount be purchased for a spray truck. CARRIED

Vaughn Christiansen arrived at 10:23a.m.

Vaughn Christiansen presented 3 topics to the A.S.B.; Alberta Rat Control, 2% L.S.C. program, and updates on the provincial Wild Boar program. First, Vaughn played the D.V.D “Eradicator” format of the Alberta Rat Control Program. (there are 3 disk formats, multiple copies available upon request.) James asked Vaughn if there are lobbying efforts between Alberta Agriculture and Saskatchewan counterparts regarding rat control along the border, but he replied no. Vaughn said that until SK gets actual legislation, it will be difficult to facilitate. \$60,000 spent on bait for province of AB last year. SK will need to take initiative. A.S.B. encourages Vaughn to continue working with SK counterparts for developing inspection and control programs.

The use of strychnine is available once again for 2009. There are other RGS control options that are being looked into.

Wild boar producers may be soon regulated, like the cervid industry, for housing wild boars. The ASB thanked Vaughn for his presentation and invited him to attend the April 17-18 Wainwright trade fair.

The powerpoint presentation on Rat Control in Alberta, which was created by Rod Gabrielson was viewed.

Vaughn Christiansen left the meeting at 11:12a.m.

A.S.B. supports having strychnine on hand for the 2009 season, and available to be purchased by ratepayers for the start of spring, by March 31st, 2009.

14/09 Karla White motioned to continue selling the Stychnine at \$7.00/bottle, as per previous 2008 year. CARRIED

James displayed the Gallagher RFID tag reader, purchased by the ASB. The M.D. of Wainwright will not be charging anything for rent nor charging a deposit. Aimee was requested to set up with a calendar for scheduling and booking of reader to ratepayers.

Mowing maps available for viewing. Also Strychnine feedback reports from 2008 have been compiled and results available for viewing.

Next meeting tentatively set for the month of April (TBA).

15/09

Moved by Clr. Phil Valleau that the meeting be adjourned. (11:58a.m.)
CARRIED

Chairman

Secretary

(1/2 Day)