

The Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 12, 2011.

Present: Chairman – Clr. Ted Wilkinson, Councilor – Myron Zajic. Farm Members – Harold Gulbraa, Chris Oracheski, Grant Aykroyd. Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson, Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman & Secretary – Aimee Wonsik. Not present delegation of Darrell Bignell from ARD.

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

01/11 Moved by Myron Zajic to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED

02/11 Moved by Harold Gulbraa the minutes from August 9, 2010 be accepted as presented. CARRIED

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1. (August 30, 2010) Laura Nelson, Executive Director Alberta Farm Safety Center, funding request.

Some discussion on the Alberta Farm Safety Program letter. In 2009-2010 there were 1000 students that took part in the program across the municipality learning about farm safety, which was the initial year the M.D. Wainwright participated in the program. Chris Oracheski wants to know how many of those students are planning on staying on the farm. Myron Zajic and Harold Gulbraa both support farm safety especially being taught in the schools to children.

03/11 Moved by Myron Zajic to support the Alberta Farm Safety Program, and recommend to Council the request for \$3542.00. CARRIED

2. (August 31, 2010) Carol MacKinnon-Hagan, Administrative Assistant Agriculture Awards Program, Northlands Farm Family Nominations.

Brian and Sharon Perkins of Perkins Farm Inc. was named the 2010 Northlands Farm Family Award winners. Their application was submitted on behalf of the local Wainwright agricultural society. Ted Wilkinson went to ceremony on behalf of the M.D. of Wainwright ASB.

3. (September 2010) Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian, Foot and Mouth Disease Brochure & Poster.
4. (September 21, 2010) Eileen Chauvet, ASB Program Supervisor letter to Phil Valleau past ASB Chairman, thanking James and Aimee for hospitality during tour and ASB Strategic Planning day.
5. (October 29, 2010) Jim Henderson, Manager of V.S.I. Services letter to consider program assisting producers with veterinary procedures.

Some discussion as to the ASB involvement towards the V.S.I. program, however the board at this time will not be participating in the program. Currently there is not a large animal veterinarian in the municipality.

6. (November 26, 2010) letter from Patrick Gordeyko Chairman Provincial A.S.B. Committee to Honorable Jack Haden Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in regards to response to the 2007 Provincial A.S.B. Resolution

James to get copies at break of the proposed amendments for the Income Tax Act for the ASB members, specifically to review the change from 10 to 20% Capital Gains Reserve.

7. (December 1, 2010) Rick Atkins, Technology & Innovation Branch Head letter to Ted Wilkinson stating the successful grant application into the Environmental Funding Stream.

04/11 Moved by Grant Aykroyd to file correspondence as presented. CARRIED

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman, presented his report: There is an upcoming training session with pesticide applicator credits being offered at the IVMAA Conference in March; the 3 municipal spray operators and Aimee will be attending. Seed Cleaning plant inspections in December were both completed and both Edgerton and Wainwright Seed Plants passed with flying colours. James directed the ASB to look at the 2011 Road Spray maps for the next 3 years (1/3 of the municipality will be blanket sprayed per year, all the paved roads will be under a 2 year rotation). There is also an increase in the amount of roads being mowed for 2011, up from 700 to 850 miles.

The ASB took a short break from 10:10 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

Aimee Wonsik, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, presented her report: Aimee Wonsik discussed with her ASB the frustration and dysfunction of the Provincial Fusarium Management Committee that she sits on; which sends recommendations to the Agriculture Minister. However nothing is being agreed upon; due to the differences of opinion from the south and north part of the Province. Aimee believes that the best scenario is to remove the assumption from local M.D. of Wainwright farming practices that they are not exclusive from becoming Fusarium infected. This means a strong awareness and education campaign is needed. Aimee has put articles in her newsletter (which the January edition was just printed with over 1400 copies being mailed) and will be putting articles in the local newspaper. Harold Gulbraa suggested putting together a brief, straight-forward poster for Fusarium awareness, since infection will deny malt and feed commodity entry into markets. Aimee will create the Fusarium Awareness poster for next ASB meeting, and give to ASB members to put up at their local seed facilities and retailers. Myron wants to uphold zero tolerance for Provincial regulation for Fusarium as well. Edgerton and Wainwright Seed Cleaning Plants require Fusarium tests before any unloads, however other out of area seed cleaning plants do not, which local producers are unaware of. Some discussion started from the ASB on the mobile seed cleaning plants, and lack of information on them. Since fieldmen are unable to locate mobile units, and complete mandatory testing and inspections, unknown service quality occurs and this in the end negatively affects local farmers. Myron Zajic suggested to have a Fusarium Policy for the M.D. of Wainwright drafted by next ASB Meeting.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer, presented his report: Rod estimates it takes 3 hours to build a Magpie trap with \$30 in cost of materials to build. Rod also suggests to have a deposit system for the trap, so that they are easily accounted for. Discussions from the ASB on the benefits of the magpie traps and also how the rental agreement will be set up, which will be further discussed at the next ASB meeting. It was agreed by the ASB to have Rod build 7 traps using municipal resources. Rod also has been involved with new rat infestations in the Special Areas 3. A breeding pair of rats can make 15000 offspring within one year; each offspring is sexually mature at 6 weeks of age, therefore the fast response time to rat infestations is critical in order to be successful.

05/11 Moved by Myron Zajic to have Rod Gabrielson Pest Control Officer build 7 magpie traps. CARRIED

06/11 Moved by Harold Gulbraa to support the Safety Training for Pest Control Officers in the amount of \$500. CARRIED

County of Two Hills has presented a regional Coyote bounty program. However at this time, the M.D. of Wainwright ASB does not support this program. It was discussed that most livestock producers take care of their own coyote populations and only in the event of problem calls require the assistance of the Pest Control Officer. Last year there were 7 problem predation calls that Rod received.

07/11 Moved by Harold Gulbraa that the reports be accepted. CARRIED

08/11 Moved by Chris Oracheski, to recommend to Council, to sign and submit the 2011 Alberta-Municipal Rat and Rabies control agreement. CARRIED

Discussion on the current Agricultural Pests Act and if there are suggested changes to be made. Grant Akroyd stated that some of these pests on the Act are old, forgotten pests; however allowing them to stay on the Pest Acts enables the ability for a municipality to set out repercussions to keep populations in check. Harold Gulbraa agrees that Fusarium and Cattle Warble Fly should remain on the Pest Control Act.

Discussion on the proposed 2011 ASB Draft budget. Further discussion and in-depth review at February meeting.

ASB Conference Agenda and hotel room confirmation numbers were given out for next week's itinerary for the 2011 ASB Conference in Edmonton, Alberta, January 18-21, 2011.

ASB Resolutions reviewed and discussed with the group, as to background and what the ASB thought appropriate to support at the upcoming ASB Conference.

ASB to invite AFSC to February meeting for cattle insurance knowledge discussion with more information on the new level of assistance with back-grounding cattle coming into effect.

Next meeting announcement for February 9, 2011.

09/10 Moved by Grant Aykroyd that the meeting be adjourned. (12:05 p.m.)
CARRIED

Chairman

Secretary

(1/2 Day)