

The Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 09, 2011.

Present: Chairman – Clr. Ted Wilkinson, Farm Members – Harold Gulbraa, Chris Oracheski, Grant Aykroyd. Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson, Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman & Secretary – Aimee Wonsik.

Councilor Myron Zajic entered the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Not present delegation of Darrell Bignell from ARD.

The ASB had a quick photo taken before the meeting started to upload onto the mdwainwright.ca website.

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

10/11 Moved by Grant Aykroyd to approve the agenda as presented. CARRIED

11/11 Moved by Harold Gulbraa the minutes from January 12, 2011 be accepted as presented. CARRIED

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1. (January 12, 2011) Chris Berggren, Manager, Alberta Shelterbelt Program; letter to enclose Alberta Farmstead/ Acreage Tree Application Form for 2011 season.
2. (January 26, 2011) Chris Neeser, email requesting weed mapping project based on species per township.

Some discussion from ASB on the 2011 Township Weed Mapping survey, and agreed it would be favorable to participate in, if the summer time-schedule allowed.

12/11 Moved by Chris Oracheski to file correspondence as presented. CARRIED

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman, presented his report: James noted that because of the increase in the amount of municipal roads being mowed for 2011 (from 700 to 850 miles), he is awaiting decision from Council as to see how those roads will be divided per division. March 11, 2011 is the deadline for the bids to be submitted to the ASB for mowing, and after they are received and checked, will be presented to Council. James stated that Haying Agreements will still be honored, if producers apply with the M.D. before May 1.

Aimee Wonsik, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, presented her report: Aimee brought with her 4 poster designs for Fusarium awareness. She also told the ASB that the "6 Tips to Reduce Fusarium on Your Farm" document will run every week in February in the Edge newspaper. This is part of the strong Fusarium awareness and education campaign that is being launched for the M.D. of Wainwright for February. Aimee is gearing up for another newsletter for March with over 1400 copies being mailed. Aimee will also be starting up the Agri-minutes in March for the 2011 year. She will also complete Trichomoniasis posters for March, for the ASB members to put up.

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer, presented half of his report: Rod has been working on a year end total of rat checks and bait used, which was an average year. Rod mentioned that there are workshops starting in Saskatchewan for rat awareness, which is favorable for the success of the program. There have been zero rat infestations in the M.D. of Wainwright for the 2010 year.

Ted Wilkinson introduced Layne Clark from AFSC at 9:30a.m.

Layne Clark gave each ASB member a portfolio with information on AFSC programs, and then she presented a short powerpoint presentation to the ASB. Layne noted that Hay and Pasture insurance deadline is February 28. She also focused on the new Cattle Price Insurance Program which helps beef producer manage the price volatility with regards to protection against a decline in Alberta beef cattle prices over a defined time period. This program takes into account the price, basis and currency risk, and is time sensitive pricing. CPIP has 3 product areas – Fed, Feeder and Calf. More information is online at myafsc.ca or at a district office. Ordering online has discounts available such as Straight Hail Insurance at a 2% discount. Pasture insurance prices are down 20% for 2011, and Hay insurance is at \$0.035/lb. There will be awareness meetings coming up for the CPIP programs.

The ASB took a short break from 10:00 a.m. to 10:14 a.m.

Rod continued with the 2nd part of his report. He led discussion on the 7 magpie wire traps that he is currently building for the M.D. The ASB wants to have the rental agreement similar to the skunk trap agreement, with a clause to charge the value of the trap if not returned within a set amount of time.

13/11 Moved by Harold Gulbraa to have James Schwindt, Aimee Wonsik and Rod Gabrielson to set up a form for the magpie trap for rental agreement. CARRIED.

There was one more update for the ASB, from an email from Phil Merril. Phil indicated that there has been no response as of yet from PMRA regarding the Emergency Use of Strychnine for the 2011 season. This is in contradiction to what the ASB had been previously led to believe. The ASB is concerned with the lack of direction for the near spring. James will be looking into this further.

14/11 Moved by Grant Aykroyd that the reports be accepted. CARRIED

Discussion on the proposed draft 2011 Draft ASB Budget.

15/11 Moved by Myron Zajic that the 2011 Draft ASB Budget be submitted to Council for the Budget Meeting for approval. CARRIED

Discussion on the proposed draft ASB Management Plan, which is required by Alberta Agriculture as part of the annual grant process.

16/11 Moved by Harold Gulbraa that the draft ASB Management Plan be submitted to Council. CARRIED

Discussion on Agricultural Plastics recycling. Ted Wilkinson sits on the board for the Waste to Energy facility, and says agricultural plastics are accepted. Ted will get more information on the program and give it to Aimee to add as an article in the upcoming newsletter.

Discussion on the Draft Fusarium Policy for the M.D. of Wainwright with a general consensus of continued increased awareness for the month of February, noting the “presumptive positive” found within the municipality.

17/11 Moved by Grant Aykroyd that the ASB support strong Fusarium Awareness campaign within the municipality, and wait for more information and clarification regarding accredited testing and Pest Act status; until recommending a Fusarium Policy to Council. CARRIED

Discussion on Trichomoniasis led by Harold Gulbraa. Harold wants to see the awareness of this herd health management disease increased, as he does not agree with ignoring the problem. He would like the ASB to take amore active approach to help support grazing reservations and local cattlemen. Education and awareness helps beef producers eradicate this disease in local herds. In the month of March, Aimee will work on an awareness program.

Next meeting announcement at the call of the Chairman.

18/10

Moved by Chris Oracheski that the meeting be adjourned. (12:16 p.m.)
CARRIED

Chairman

Secretary

(1/2 Day)