

The Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, October 11, 2012.

Present: Chairman – Clr. Myron Zajic, Clr. Bruce Cummins
Farm Members – Harold Gulbraa, Rod Thirsk
Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman & Secretary – Aimee Wonsik
Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson
Absent – Grant Aykroyd, Farm Member

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

08/12 Moved by Bruce Cummins to approve the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

09/12 Moved by Harold Gulbraa the minutes from January 15, 2011 be accepted as presented. CARRIED

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1. (April 30, 2012) Laura Nelson, Executive Director Alberta Farm Safety, letter of appreciation for financial support of in-school farm safety educational programming in 2012.
2. (April 19, 2012) Maureen Vadnais, A.S.B. Program Manager, Alberta Agriculture, letter of additional Legislative Funding Stream grant money.
3. (April, 2012) Town of Wainwright, Weed Control Projected Work.

The A.S.B. continues to support the Town of Wainwright, with weed control and weed awareness campaign.

4. (June 11, 2012) NE Region Resolution Response Committee Meeting.
5. (June, 2012) Nicole Kimmel, Weed Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, distribution of Provincial weed posters and awareness campaign.

Myron suggested taking the weed posters to the 2 area seed cleaning plants, for public exposure and awareness. Aimee will drop them off at each plant.

6. (June 27, 2012) James Wuite, Head, Farm Water Supply Branch Alberta Agriculture, letter with details on the Growing Forward Water Management Program.

Harold Gulbraa commented to continue awareness of decommissioning of waterwells, with the added incentive of government grants of \$2000 or ½ project costs, or drilling of a new waterwell for \$5000 or 1/3 projects costs. Myron said that it is a very good program for farmers to easily take advantage of.

7. (July 25th, 2012) Barry Gibbs, Executive Director, Alberta Invasive Plants Council, letter requesting monetary support for A.I.P.C. council.

James stated that we currently hold a membership with the AIPC, and that we will return to the request at budget time for consideration. Myron would like to continue supporting the program as it is a valuable source of weed invasive plant gardening information for the general public of the Province.

8. (September 4, 2012) David Samm, General Manager, Battle River Watershed Alliance, letter of thanks for support of the Watershed Festival held at Riverdale.

A.S.B. recognized the significant contribution of George Poruchnek, local area farmer and past Battle River Watershed farmer board member; George's efforts and energy put forth for the watershed festival is commended.

9. (September 11, 2012) Garry Lentz, Cypress County A.S.B. Chairman, letter of thanks for assisting with city rat infestation control work and training.

10. (September 25, 2012) Diana McQueen, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, letter acknowledging M.D. of Wainwright concerns of large elk populations, (September 28, 2012) Dave Moore, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, email of draft proposal of wildlife management strategy.

A request from the M.D. of Wainwright for a “general” and “extended” hunting season to reduce the increasing Elk herd population has been acknowledge by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development. Estimated SRD municipal population is of 1000 animals, and harvest levels have not been high enough to curb numbers. There is a herd of animals near Ribstone, Dillberry Lake and also east of Spring Ridge. Swath grazing damage is not covered under crop insurance, since a swath is not baled or harvested; so if an elk herd comes into a field and cleans out the swaths, there is likely no compensation for the producer.

11. (October 2, 2012) Laura Nelson, Executive Director Alberta Farm Safety, package of 2012 activity, presentations and evaluations.

The Chairmen adjourned the meeting for a quick break from 10:06 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

10/12

Moved by Rod Thirsk to accept correspondence. CARRIED.

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman

- Carillion Highway Spraying Discussion

James submitted a list of weed types and locations during the season to Carillion and copied Alberta Transportation on the request, which was responded to weeks later by Carilion. James repeatedly kept requesting action, and felt that communication was poor, and effectiveness was slight. Ratepayers call to the municipal office with sightings of noxious weeds on primary and secondary highways however the M.D. does not have jurisdiction on these roads. The size of toadflax patches and visibility was very apparent this past season. James and the ASB chairman will set up a spring meeting to keep on track with spraying operation effectiveness.

Harold commented on the Canada Thistle problem south of Irma; James responded that it is an estate ongoing issue. Myron suggested that Council can help with the communications for this situation.

- Weed Control Program

Spray crews were finished spraying October 4, 2012, and now are finishing the season by winterizing the spray trucks.

- Tall Buttercup, Hoary Alyssum sites

Since Tall Buttercup is not an established noxious weed in the municipality, awareness and action will be important to continue being proactive for cost effectiveness of herbicide spraying. A few more new sites of Hoary Alyssum have been identified, and assumed to be moving with haying equipment and hay bale transport.

Aimee Wonsik, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman

- 2012 ATB Financial Farm Family Awards

Aimee briefed the ASB on details for the upcoming award ceremony at the Edmonton Farm Fair on Wednesday November 7. Wade Snyder's Family of Edgerton is nominated, and Aimee invited any members to attend if they wanted to.

- 2013 Municipal Calendars

The 750 copies of the calendar should be delivered to the municipal office near the end of October, available for municipal rate payers to pick up. Aimee was pleased with the quality of the photo entries, and has mailed back the winner's \$100 cash prizes.

- 2012 Wainwright and District Bench Show

This year's bench show brought a crowd of both urban and rural people to the communiplex, where Aimee had a 3 table weed display. The crowd got to see the Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds that are found locally within the municipality. Aimee believes that having live, fresh samples of weeds promotes great education to the general public.

Rod Gabrielson, Municipal Pest Control Officer

- Cypress County, Medicine Hat Rat Control Update

Rod estimates that there were a significant number of rats at the Medicine Hat landfill this past August. Rod trained approximately 60 people for the city on identification and management of rats. The overall situation does not seem to be resolved, as populations of rats still exist within the dump. Myron reiterated that the Rat-free status of the Province is important to Albertans, and the rat control program is invaluable. Locally, Rod has completed his municipal rat checks, and will be finished checking in Saskatchewan next week. Harold asked if Rod is assisting with the raccoon calls which seem to be on the rise. The A.S.B. is considering purchasing raccoon traps. Rod has been busy with beaver calls all summer and into the winter. Coyote kill complaints are down so far.

11/12

Moved by Rod Thirsk that the reports be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

Discussed the A.S.B. Program Review and Survey, deadline for comments to be submitted next week, with results to be presented at the regional A.S.B. meeting in November.

Discussion on sole northeast region resolution submitted from County of Beaver regarding Seed Cleaning Plant Modernization, with general consensus to support the resolution at the A.S.B. Regional Conference.

James led discussion on the Regional A.S.B. Conference in Vilna on November 2, 2012, with who will be attending, and procedures for resolutions.

James gave the dates for the Provincial ASB Conference, Jan 22-25, 2013, with hotel reservations at the Edmonton Nova. James also mentioned the dates for the A.S.B Summer Tour hosted by the M.D. of Bonnyville July 8-11, 2013.

Chairman M.Zajic thanked farm member H. Gulbraa for being on the A.S.B. for the past 3 years by saying the Irma area was represented very well with his comments and presence. Myron also mentioned that he will be leaving the chair position, and that Bruce Cummins will be taking the chair position. Bruce thanked Myron for his 2 years serving as chairman for the A.S.B.

Next meeting at the call of the Chair.

12/12

Moved by Harold Gulbraa that the meeting be adjourned. (12:10 p.m.)
CARRIED

Chairman

Secretary

(1/2 Day)