

The Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 4, 2013.

Present: Chairman – Clr. Bruce Cummins, Clr. Ted Wilkinson
Farm Members – Grant Aykroyd, Rod Thirsk, Steve Raasok
Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt
Assistant Agricultural Fieldman & Secretary – Aimee Wonsik
Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

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

Aimee Wonsik discovered a date error on the previous meetings minutes, and Ted Wilkinson noted a spelling error.

11/13 Moved by Ted Wilkinson to approve the minutes, as amended.
CARRIED.

Steve Raasok requested an addition to the current meetings agenda, a discussion of Foreign Ownership of Alberta Farm Land; as a potential Agricultural Service Board Resolution.

12/13 Moved by Rod Thirsk, to accept the addition as part of the agenda.
CARRIED

The Board reviewed the past 2 months A.S.B. reports and activities for February and March 2013.

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1. (November 2, 2012) Minutes from the 2012 North East Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference at the Vilna Cultural Center.
2. (January 28, 2013) Gerard Vaillancourt, Director, Information Management Division, 2013 Information Catalogue resource for current publications available from Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

Aimee handed out copies of the ARD 2013 Information Catalogue resource to the A.S.B. members.

3. (January 17, 2013) Ken Sauve, Wheatland County, Agricultural Service Board Chairman, letter on concern of registration status of 2% liquid strychnine concentrate.

ASB members discussed the renewal process for 2% Liquid Strychnine for the Province to continue to support of the program

4. (February 13, 2013) Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Safety Centre, M.D. of Wainwright 2012 "Safety Smarts" Delivery program tally results.

A.S.B. members discussed the municipal Safety Schools results: 938 students in 7 schools in the M.D. of Wainwright received Safety Smarts presentations. This is \$3.50 per child which is approximately 1/3 of the total per student delivery cost. James has contacted teachers in the past, who found this program worthwhile.

13/13 Moved by Ted Wilkinson that it be recommend to Council that A.S.B. support the 2013 Alberta Farm Safety School Program in the amount of \$3283.00, as requested. CARRIED.

5. (March 1, 2013) David Hildebrand, Resource Information Management Specialist, Agroclimatic Atlas of Alberta from 1971-2000 booklets.

At the upcoming Wainwright and District Trade Fair, the additional copies of the Agroclimatic Atlas for distribution.

6. (March 7, 2013) David Samm, General Manager, Battle River Watershed Alliance, invitation "Rolling Down the River 2013".

The Board discussed the benefits and drawbacks of the bike-ride event, and agreed that supporting a "hands on" watershed project that works directly with rural people would be more beneficial. Going into schools and interacting with children about the watershed is also a good idea. The board determined this to be for information only.

14/13

Moved by Ted Wilkinson to accept correspondence. CARRIED.

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report:

- Strychnine Update

James stated that currently he is hearing from retailers there is a shortage of technical strychnine (what is required to make manufactured product), therefore there will be some municipalities that may face product shortages and have no product for their farmers. At this time, A.S.B. Wainwright has sufficient product and will not be sharing with other municipalities. This is to insure the M.D. of Wainwright meets the needs of our local farmers; only property owners within municipal boundaries are allowed to purchase our strychnine.

- Roadside Mowing Program 2013, Request for Proposals

James presented the information on the 2013 mowing program successful contractor, with a winning bid of \$88.50 per mile. This is the same contractor as 2012 year. The completed miles will also be the same at 850 miles with a 10 foot width. The mowing program will commence July 15.

- 2012 Prohibited Noxious and Noxious Provincial Weed Maps

James passed around the Provincial weed maps with highlighted locations for all Counties that participated. The A.S.B. members viewed the findings, and found the information interesting and useful to guide our own program with target species.

- 2013 APC Alberta Purchasing Connection Herbicide Order

James mention that so far there have been 2 bids submitted, with the bid system closing tomorrow. The bids will be forwarded to Council for approval once they have been evaluated on a point scale.

The A.S.B. took a short break from 9:55 a.m. to 10:10 a.m.

The A.S.B. members took a group photo for the municipal website Agricultural Service Board section.

Aimee Wonsik, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report:

- Agricultural Waste Plastics

Aimee discussed meeting minutes found on the AAAF chat page from an Agricultural Waste Plastics meeting. A point of information was that Merlin Plastics and also Bridon Cordage handle used agricultural plastics. Merlin has been accessed in the past, however troubles with contamination issues which in turns makes it difficult to market recyclables. Bridon Cordage is there own market/ vertically integrated company so they will continue to accept twine. Net wrap also seems to be gaining popularity which Grant Aykroyd mentioned. Grant said net wrap contains more dirt and debris, which would make it difficult to handle. Ted mentioned that as long as ag-plastics are being bundled and baled instead of blowing around or burned it is a good thing. The Board agreed for Aimee to put a newsletter article together on recycling ag-plastics and Wainwright Waste to Energy Facility accepting location,

- FAO, Farmers Advocate Office, Land and Energy Negotiating Surface Rights for Farmers.

Aimee suggested to the Board to consider hosting an evening meeting by the end of June with Carol Goodfellow from the FAO. The Board agreed this would be a good idea. Aimee will set up meeting (April 29, 2013).

- Environmental Programs Update, Growing Forward 2

Aimee briefed the board that GF2 has been launched, and that On-Farm Stewardship, On-Farm Energy Management, On-Farm Water Management has all opened up grant availability, with application forms available. Aimee will continue familiarizing herself with the forms, plus assist any producers that inquire.

- UCOP, Unit Cost of Production Meeting, co-host AFSC, April 4 at 7p.m. Aimee informed the Board that she would be helping Layne Clark from Agriculture Finances Services Corp. with Unit Cost of Production for Cattle Producers, and that the farm members should attend the night meeting if they had a chance.
- ADM, Archer's Daniels Midland, Ag Safety Days, co-host May 29, 2013 Aimee read an email request, from Mark Symington ADM Agri-industries, for helping in Ag Safety Day on May 29, 2013, in Edgerton with Chauvin and Paradise Valley Schools attending. The target grades are 3/4 and 5/6, with 10 to 15 different safety station lessons. The Board asked Aimee to find out more information of what was needed to help and what contributions are required.
- Shelterbelt center update Aimee informed that the program is ordered out, and that trees are scheduled to be delivered to the municipal office on April 30, 2013.
- No Spray, letters and ads Aimee informed the Board that the No Spray & Hay letters had been mailed out to the 2012 program participants. Advertising is also arranged with the newspaper for 2 weeks. Agreements must be signed and returned by May 1, 2013.

Rod Gabrielson, Municipal Pest Control Officer Report

- Rat Control Update, meeting with Phil Merrill
- Province of Alberta Rat Control Plan, Good document for urban areas, plus municipalities that are not involved in the rat control area as a guideline for responsibilities.
- "Cougars Brochure" Rod mentioned that there have been calls about cougars that pass through our area, for landowners that are concerned. Coyotes are active right now, and recommends that producers keep shooting, with the snow receding Coyotes will be eating more gophers. 7 Coyote calls in last 3 weeks, with 1080 pellets given out to 3 producers. With the snow this winter, the rat checks have been difficult to perform and the drifts have been as high as the bales. Rod will busy this spring with plugged culverts, for road infrastructure. Rod mentioned that beavers will need to be removed at Riverdale before people start camping which the A.S.B. thinks is a good idea.

15/13

Moved by Grant Aykroyd that the reports be accepted as presented.
CARRIED

James briefed the A.S.B. of the current Management Plan completed with the 2012 outcomes. This document will be directed to Council for approval and then submitted to ARD for the Grant Agreement.

Bruce asked the question if Mobile Seed Cleaning Plant inspections happened in 2012, which James said no. Aimee mentioned that maybe a zero should be listed in the Management Plan since they have been known to be in our area. A discussion on the differences between mobile seed cleaning plants and stationary plants followed, in relation to obtaining a business license for area farmers. If a plant is operating for "hire or reward", it must contact the municipal agricultural fieldman. Steve Raasok mentioned some high water volumes being taken out of the Irma tankloader, especially for hog barn cleaning activities and he wondered how it may affect seasonal spraying operations, James mentioned it might be something to consider and discuss for their operational schedule.

16/13

Moved by Rod Thirsk to submit the completed 2012 A.S.B. Management Plan Final Report with outcomes to Council, with the one change of "addition of mobile seed cleaning plant checks", for approval and submission to Alberta Agriculture. CARRIED.

James led discussion of the 2013 proposed A.S.B. budget. The board was directed to the Strychnine revenue amounts, to see if a trend has been noticed in previous years. The proposed budget was discussed per line item. The A.S.B. discussed and evaluated the proposed budget. Steve asked about the number for the Transfer to Seed Cleaning plant, and Ted answered that it is up to Council for approval and it is only used for capital purchases, every 2 years. Rod Thirsk asked about the Goods and Supplies increase column, which covers new sprayer components parts (sprayer motors and reels for 2 trucks). Ted asked about the Tank Loader expenses, which will be up to Accounting to make a decision at a finance meeting.

17/13

Moved by Steve Rassok, to approve the A.S.B. Draft Budget and to foreword to Council to be included in 2013 Budget meeting. CARRIED.

James discussed the 2013 Proposed Weed Control Plan, which looks to be in good order. Rod Thirsk asked if other surrounding towns and villages are aware of funding assistance for weed control responsibilities in town, and Ted mentioned it would be for Council to assess and approve any financial assistance. Ted mentioned that the M.D. continues to support surrounding areas with Weed information awareness.

Aimee and James helped the A.S.B. review the comments from the latest Focus Group Discussion on the ASB Grant Program. A checklist maybe added for activities that pertain to the different Acts that the A.S.B. works with. Steve commented that it is difficult to keep bureaucracy out of the process.

Dennis Fuder, A.S.B. Foreman, has put together 2012 Spray Activities Summary for Spraying. For the brush, it is on a 2 year rotational blanket spray program, for the general roadside there is a 3 year. Dennis' aptitude and work towards spray maps is appreciated by the Board. The A.S.B. commented that the amount of work completed for Toadflax spraying is commendable.

James also mentioned the dates for the A.S.B Summer Tour hosted by the M.D. of Bonnyville July 8-11, 2013. Rooms are pre-booked already, James would like to know from Board Members by May 8th, 2013 to make the decision if going or not.

Steve Rassok brought up for discussion, a potential proposal for a Resolution about Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Lands by Non-Canadian Citizens. Thorough discussion ensued with Bob Barss, Reeve of the M.D. of Wainwright and also President of the A.A.M.D.C. also joining the meeting to share his comments. James and Aimee will gather more information on the Act and Regulations and report back to the Board.

Next meeting at the call of the Chair during the summer 2013.

18/13

Moved by Ted Wilkinson that the meeting be adjourned. (12:42 p.m.)
CARRIED.

Chairman

Secretary

(Half Day)