

The Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61 met in the Administration Building at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 10, 2013.

Present: Chairman – Councilor Ted Wilkinson
Councilor Bill Lawson

Farmer Members – Rod Thirsk, Steve Raasok and Neil Pugh

Agricultural Fieldman – James Schwindt

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman & A.S.B. Secretary – Aimee Leggett

Pest Control Officer – Rod Gabrielson

The Chairman Clr. Ted Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed new Councilor Member Bill Lawson, and new Farm Member Neil Pugh to the Agricultural Service Board.

21/13 Moved by Rod Thirsk to approve the agenda as presented.
CARRIED

22/13 Moved by Rod Thirsk the minutes from April 4, 2013 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

23/13 Moved by Neil Pugh the minutes from the Special Meeting on September 13, 2013 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED**

The ASB reviewed the past 2 months A.S.B. reports for November, December 2013.

Correspondence was reviewed by James Schwindt:

1. (August 19, 2013) *Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Safety Centre, 2012-2013 School Year Safety Smarts Delivery Report.*

Accepted as information.

2. (August 20, 2013) *Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Safety Centre, letter of appreciation for financial support of in-school farm safety educational program.*

James will contact local schools, to get some feedback as to how local students felt about the lessons from the Alberta Farm Safety Center program and the value to the students.

3. (September 24, 2013) *Dean McQueen, Vice-President, Merchandising and Transportation, Viterra Inc; letter announcing the ownership of the Wainwright agri-products location will be transferred to Agrium.*

Accepted as information.

4. (September 15, 2013) *Chris Berggren, Manager, Alberta Shelterbelt Program; letter with enclosed Alberta Farmstead/Acreage Tree Application forms for the 2014 season.*

Accepted as information.

5. (October 7, 2013) *Alyssa DeGray, Shelterbelt Services, Alberta Shelterbelt Program; letter introducing new tree seedling bulk order program available for County use only.*

Aimee will continue to put together Tree Information Packages for ratepayer inquires that continue to remain strong coming into the office; plus planting tree seedlings is a Best Management Practice and inline with sustainable farming practices. Aimee will ensure that tree supplier information is accessible; however no single tree source will be endorsed. The free PFRA tree seedling Program is no longer offered by the Federal Government. The M.D. of Wainwright still maintains a seedling tree planter and plastic mulch roller available for ratepayer use.

6. (October 3, 2013) *Hugh Sanders, Board Chairperson, Battle River Watershed Alliance; letter requesting financial support for the annual "Invest 50 Fund".*

The Battle River Watershed Alliance is requesting the 50 cents per capita Invest50 Program, which promotes watershed awareness within the Battle River Watershed. The A.S.B. supports this as a worthwhile cause. Aimee has requested to get a representative from the BRWA to come to the next A.S.B. meeting to speak on the topic.

7. (October 31, 2013) *Paul Godley, Project Manager, Heartland Pipeline GP Ltd, wholly owned subsidiary of TransCanada Pipelines Limited; letter with revised land location correction for actual Lead Pump Station.*

Accepted as information.

8. (November 13, 2013) *Neil G. Miller, letter and DVD of "Nature's Beauty at Clear Lake".*

Discussion of the DVD ensued, and found that the effort and attention to detail of Neil G. Miller is admirable of his interest of Clear Lake nature.

9. (December 3, 2013) *Kevin Helash, Vice President, Agrium & Managing Director, Agrium Retail Canada, 2 separate letters recognizing existing financing arrangements from former Viterra relationship with the M.D. of Wainwright.*

Accepted as information.

24/13

Moved by Steve Raasok to accept correspondence. **CARRIED**

James Schwindt, Agricultural Fieldman presented his report: A.S.B. Conference Registration and Agenda January 27-30, 2014. James would like to ensure anyone that would like to attend gets registered by January 8, 2013.

Aimee Leggett, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman presented her report; she highlighted the upcoming dates for Agronomy Update in Red Deer January 17-18, and also Farm Tech in Edmonton January 27. Unfortunately the Farm Tech dates coincide with the ASB Conference, and therefore Aimee is unable to attend and take farmers with her to the event. However the farm members talked about an upcoming Conference in Saskatoon, January 13-16, 2014 that may be worthwhile to attend during Crop Production Week in Saskatchewan, once an agenda is reviewed.

25/13

Moved by to Neil Pugh that the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman Aimee Leggett is able to attend the Agronomy Update in Red Deer January 14-15, 2014 and/ or the Western Canadian Crop Production Show in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan January 13-16, 2014; and to register and bring with her interested local farmers or A.S.B. members. **CARRIED**

Rod Gabrielson, Pest Control Officer presented his report: there have been continued possible Norway Rat sightings from the Public, however after Rod investigates the calls, they have all turned out to be muskrats. Rod continues to follow up with all inquires, to maintain the Province of Alberta Norway Rat Free status.

26/13

Moved by Steve Rassok to accept the reports. **CARRIED**

The A.S.B. took a short break from 9:59 a.m. to 10:23 a.m.

James presented the 2013 Municipal Surveys on Grasshoppers, Clubroot and Wheat Midge. To date, there has not been any Clubroot found within the M.D. of Wainwright.

James talked about the past 2010-2013 Municipal Spray Program. The A.S.B. agrees the 3 year blanket spray program for roadsides plus 2 year brush spray program has been effective in controlling roadside weed issues and would like to forward a recommendation to Council to continue the Roadside Spray Program. The A.S.B. supports a 2nd cycle of the 3 year blanket spray for general weeds, plus 2 year of brush spray.

The A.S.B. discussed and agreed that the new 101.9 K-Rock FM radio station from Newcap, replacing the old Key 83 AM Country Music, does not have the same value of spreading sustainable agriculture farming messages to the target audience. This is because of the genre change from country music to a hard rock medium. To utilize the nearest country music station 95.9 Lloyd FM, based out of Lloydminster, it will have the same cost structure as current contract and can still be recorded at the Wainwright studio. The A.S.B. would like to continue having the Agri-minutes playing on 2 radio channels for diversity, for the same weekly 2 minute time periods that is currently being used.

27/13

Moved by Steven Rassok to recommend to Council that the Agri-minute Radio Contract with Newcap Radio be renewed and signed using the current quoted amount and utilize both the 93.7 Wayne FM and 95.9 Lloyd FM radio stations. **CARRIED**

James briefed the A.S.B. on the submitted 2013 Town of Wainwright Weed Control Report, which is submitted for a \$4000 grant given by the municipality. Currently the A.S.B. assists the town with weed information, identification, and management options for control support. The A.S.B. agrees continued communications and support work with the Town of Wainwright targeting weed control within the Town, especially Noxious Weeds but most importantly Prohibited Noxious Weeds, to protect agricultural lands for the municipality. The Prohibited Noxious weeds must be immediately addressed since there is a Provincial Act that regulates those types of weeds.

28/13

Moved by Clr. Bill Lawson to recommend to Council to accept the Town of Wainwright's Weed Control Program Final Report, and forward the \$4000 Urban Weed Control Program Grant to the Town. Also, the A.S.B. would like to meet with the Town of Wainwright Council in the new year to discuss the Urban Weed Control Program Grant and the importance of timely Prohibited Noxious and Noxious Weed Control. **CARRIED**

The A.S.B. reviewed and discussed the resolutions that will be brought forth to the upcoming 2014 A.S.B. Conference.

- Extermination of Wild Boar in Alberta
- Wildlife Damage Compensation Program
- Agriculture Financial Services Corporation pre-harvest hail adjustments
- CN Railways Weed Control
- Public Tender for Sale of Public Lands under Disposition
- Emergent – Elk Population Control

The A.S.B. discussed the purchase of a future rat control work truck, and it was determined that it is time to upgrade the truck. Since this is a capital expenditure, the new truck purchase will be forwarded to the Planning and Budget Meetings for approval. The existing vehicle will be transferred to the Public Works Department.

Also, the A.S.B. discussed the addition of another shop door at the Chauvin Municipal Shop. The Board viewed this change to be an efficient use of the existing shop and vehicle areas, to assist in moving both graders and trucks in and out easier. Another point is to continue to have the rat control work truck inside for safety reasons, as this vehicle transports toxicants and explosives as part of the job requirement.

Finally, the A.S.B. talked about the 2 Municipal Spray Trucks that were purchased in the year 2001; both trucks are getting high in mileage and also wear, and should be considered for replacement. The A.S.B. agreed at least one spray truck should be considered for replacement but the issue will be re-addressed at the next A.S.B. meeting. The question of who should build the truck, if privately or as part of the municipal Agricultural Foreman duties will also be looked at further with a cost analysis.

Next meeting at the call of the Chair for January 2014.

29/13

Moved by Steve Rassok that the meeting be adjourned. (12:05 p.m.)
CARRIED

Chairman – Clr. Ted Wilkinson

Secretary – Aimee Leggett

(Half Day)