

**COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD**

**March 31, 2020**

1. The Agricultural Service Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Cliff Martin at 10:04 a.m., on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 via Zoom, from the County of St. Paul Office, there being present the following:

Councillor C. Martin, Chairman via Zoom Meeting  
Reeve S. Upham via Zoom Meeting  
Councillor D. Younghans via Zoom Meeting  
Councillor K. Wirsta via Zoom Meeting  
Councillor M. Fodness  
Councillor D. Hedrick via Zoom Meeting  
Councillor L. Amyotte via Zoom Meeting  
Sheila Kitz, CAO  
Tim Mahdiuk, Director of Community Services  
Keith Kornelsen, Agricultural Fieldman  
Warren Leister, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman  
Arlene Shwetz, Communications Coordinator  
Phyllis Corbiere, Executive Assistant via Zoom Meeting

2. **MINUTES**

Resolution ASB20200331.1001  
Moved by: Councillor Kevin Wirsta

to adopt the Minutes of the October 23, 2019 Agricultural Service Board Meeting with the following corrections:

- 6b) Beaver Bounty – estimating revenue of \$10,455 – should read estimating expense of
- 6c) Communication Plan – Draft – Agriculture Scholarship Program should read Vocational Scholarship Program

Carried

3. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA AND ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Resolution ASB20200331.1002  
Moved by: Councillor Laurent Amyotte

to accept the Agenda for the March 31, 2020 ASB Meeting with the following additions:

Business Arising from Minutes

- a) Weed Policy
- b) Ag Disaster Plan as Part of Regional Emergency Master Plan

New Business

- k) Sale of Public Works Equipment

Carried.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**a) Weed Policy**

Administration provided the Board with a Draft Weed Policy to deal with enforcing the Weed Control Act and prevent and control the establishment and spread of noxious and prohibited noxious weeds. The policy outlines the procedures and the process for providing notifications to landowners. The board discussed how the policy will address issues in Urban Centres

Resolution ASB20200331.1003  
Moved by: Councillor Darrell Youngmans

to refer the Weed Policy to policy committee for review. Carried.

**b) Regional Emergency Master Plan - Ag Disaster Plan**

Resolution ASB20200331.1004  
Moved by: Councillor Kevin Wirsta

to table further discussions on the Regional Emergency Master Plan. Carried.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) 2020 ASB and COVID 19**

The Ag Department has 2 new summer students, 2 new mower operators and 1 returning mower operator scheduled to start this spring. Summer students are scheduled to start in May and the mower operators in June. With all the uncertainty of COVID, the Ag Fieldmen are working on how to move forward with maintaining distances with summer staff and being unable to access shop. They are working on procedures to follow under provincial legislation.

Deadline to sign up for no spray is the end of April – information is available on the website.

The Board discussed messaging on the website regarding people reaching out to neighbours. County provide list of names of people who would be able to assist on the farm – County is the facilitator only.

**b) Beaver Bounty 2020**

Resolution ASB20200331.1005  
Moved by: Moved by Reeve Steve Upham

to suspend the 2020 Beaver Bounty season which runs from Mid-April to June 30<sup>th</sup> due to COVID-19. Carried.

**c) ASB Grant Update**

The board was provided with a draft copy of the ASB Grant which is due April 24<sup>th</sup>. Discussion on corrections and amendments to the grant application. The board was advised there will potentially be \$46,000 less per year for the next 4 years.

ASB purchased a Highline mower and sidearm for \$44,337. Budget was \$70,000. Will help offset the shortfall in the grant funding for 2020.

**d) Agricultural Plastics**

Warren Leister informed the Board that there was a lot of discussion on plastics at the Alberta CARE Conference in February.

He advised that there is a CAP Program available for producers to purchase a roller for plastic. The CAP program pays for ½ of a roller, but the program is not available to municipalities. Some municipalities have purchased the roller from a producer who accessed the CAP program. The board discussed the amount of silage plastic/twine/mesh/ grain bags being disposed of in pits at the landfills and potential methods and costs of recycling it. They also discussed the possibility of collecting it in specific locations, so it is available when there is a market for it.

Administration will look into the feasibility of creating collection sites for plastics at specific transfer station locations.

**e) Strychnine Update**

Municipalities have been advised that Health Canada is cancelling the use of strychnine to control Richardson's ground squirrels over the next two years, due to the potential of secondary poisoning.

Resolution ASB20200331.1006

Moved by: Moved by Councillor Darrell Younghans

that the County write a letter to Health Canada in opposition to cancelling the registration of strychnine and all associated end-use products, used to control Richardson's ground squirrels for sale and use in Canada. Carried.

**f) Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society Program AWES**

The AWES Program is tailored to farmers to create shelterbelts. They are looking for \$1000 cash contribution or in kind to be used as matching funds to apply for a grant. An extension project could include renting a venue and providing a meal for producers where they speak about their project.

Resolution ASB20200331.1007

Moved by: Councillor Kevin Wirsta

to support the Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society's application for funding for the Comprehensive and Enhanced Shelterbelt Guidance project that will give producers the ability to access information to create tree project, through an in kind contribution. Carried.

**g) Farm Safety Centre**

Resolution ASB20200331.1008

Moved by: Moved by Councillor Maxine Fodness

that the County contribute \$2,000 to the Farm Safety Centre to help offset the costs of the Safety Smarts Program delivered to the County schools, providing the program runs in 2020. Carried

**h) Capital Purchases**

Discussed above

**i) LARA Report**

Resolution ASB20200331.1009

Moved by: Moved by Reeve Steve Upham

to accept the LARA Report as information. Carried.

**j) Playgrounds**

Resolution ASB20200331.1010

Moved by: Motion by Councillor Darrell Younghans

to close the playgrounds at Lottie Lake and Lindbergh and put up yellow tape and signage consistent with the Towns of St. Paul and Elk Point. Carried.

Ag Societies in Mallaig, St. Lina and Ashmont will be notified that they should also close their playgrounds.

**k) Sale of PW Equipment**

Resolution ASB20200331.1011

Moved by: Moved by Councillor Dale Hedrick

to sell the Service Truck (T-51) to Michael Paradis for \$24,000 + GST.  
Carried.

Resolution ASB20200331.1012

Moved by: Motion by Councillor Laurent Amyotte

to ratify the sale of Motor Grader (MG-13) to 328766 Alberta Ltd. for \$195,000 + GST. Carried.

Resolution ASB20200331.1013

Moved by: Moved by Councillor Maxine Fodness

to ratify the sale of Motor Grader (MG-14) at Michener Allen Auction for \$185,000 GST included, less Auctioneer fees for net amount of \$166,885.48.  
Carried.

**6. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

a) 2020 ASB Provincial Conference

Council briefly discussed the 2020 ASB Conference. Information

**7. NEXT MEETING**

To be scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Business on the Agenda being concluded, Chairman Cliff Martin adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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Date

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ASB Chairman