



County of St. Paul No 19
Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Minutes

Wednesday, December 1, 2021
9:00 AM
Board Room

Present

Reeve Glen Ockerman
Councillor Darrell Younghans, Division 1
Councillor Kevin Wirsta, Division 2
Councillor Ross Krekoski, Division 3
Councillor Maxine Fodness, Division 4
Councillor Dale Hedrick, Division 5
Councillor Louis Dechaine, Division 6
Sheila Kitz, CAO
Tim Mahdiuk, Director of Community Services
Keith Kornelsen, Agricultural Fieldman
Warren Leister, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
Arlene Shwetz, Communications Coordinator
Betty Richard, Executive Assistant

1. Call to Order

The Agricultural Service Board Meeting was called to order by Chairman Darrell Younghans at 9:00 a.m.

2. Minutes Approval

2.1 March 25, 2021, ABS Meeting Minutes

Resolution ASB20211201.1001

Moved By: Councillor Maxine Fodness

to adopt the Minutes of the March 25, 2021, Agricultural Service Board meeting as presented.

Carried

3. Addition to Agenda and Acceptance of Agenda

Resolution ASB20211201.1002

Moved By: Councillor Louis Dechaine

to accept the Agenda for the November 25, 2021, ASB Meeting with the following additions:

5.3 - Drainage on Private Lands

6.8 - Town Hall Meeting

Carried

4. Delegation

4.1 LARA Activities Up - Alyssa Krawchuk

Delegation, Alyssa Krawchuk, Manager and Forage & Livestock Specialist with LARA entered the meeting via Zoom at 9:02 a.m.

She presented their annual update for the County which included:

- LARA's Vision and Mission statements
- Local Area Producers and Organizational Structure
- Programs: Forage & Livestock, Cropping, Environmental, Horticultural
- Lots of Research Plots: 14 Trail Plots in County 1) Top Dressing Nitrogen on Spring Wheat 2) Regional Variety Trials 3) Canola Performance Trial (CPT)
- Field Scale Trials: 1) Soil Health Bench Marking 2) Rancher Research Enhancing Technology Adoption Project 3) Impact of Winter Grazing Strategies on Soil Health
- Extension Programs - Knowledge transfer to the agricultural producers
 - Extension events have had lower attendance for in-person events. Virtual event has been better attended
- Environmental Farm Plans (EFP) - 4 EFP were completed and 3 were completed in the County of St. Paul this year
- LARAWRAP partnership with Alberta Environment and Parks to administering funding for water management projects. Two projects

were completed in the County this year. Funding is available till November 30, 2022

- Website being upgraded: all project reports, upcoming events and news, offer assistance with grant application, forage testing, soil testing and a YouTube channel
- Funding: programs are added or deleted to balance budget
- Webinar currently available for producers to extend feed supply this winter

Ms.Krawchuk offered to share her presentation with the group.

Delegation left the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Mobile Seed Cleaning

The inspecting of Mr. Johnson's Mobile Seed Cleaning Plant will be December 3, 2021. The County worked with the MD of Bonnyville to gather seed samples from Mr. Johnson's plant. If he passes the inspection, he will be able to get a license.

5.2 Ashmont Daisies

Letters have been sent out to Ashmont area residents and did receive some good positive feedback from producers. Have made a map of the area where Oxeye daisies were found, to be used for when we re-inspect next year to see if we made any headway.

5.3 Drainage on Private Land

24 hr. Environmental Response Hotline 1-800-222-6514 - for any environmental concerns. They will always respond and investigate the complaint, but not necessarily very quickly, depending on the severity of the complaint.

Action: Tim/ Keith to gather more information on whose jurisdiction it falls into and what is our role and the Governments role on residents ditching and it affecting our infrastructure, and possibly amend our Land Use Bylaw to reflect this.

6. New Business

6.1 Strychnine

The last day we can sell our product is March 4, 2022. We have 1200 bottles left. Sales have been slow and will promote more in the new year.

Action: Arlene to promote on social media in the new year.

6.2 Spraying in Fall

Chemical was used up by the end of August. Could be putting some chemical away for spraying in the fall of 2022 if needed.

Chemical needs to be registered for Canada Thistle and can be sprayed in the spring when the plant is germinating.

We need to show we are controlling the weeds not eradicating. The program could be expanded into the fall, as there is a need.

Action: Keith to look into finding a lower cost chemical to stretch the chemicals out further, include more fall spraying and to include tree regrowth.

6.3 Mowing

Currently mow about 900 miles of roadway every year at \$104/mile (both sides of road) 2020 cost: \$104 /linear mile is an estimated cost for roadside mowing, not subdivisions. Every road in the County would be 500 more miles to mow and would cost an additional \$50,000.

Possible three options: 1) mow all ourselves 2) mow a portion ourselves and contract out the rest 3) status quo and add a little bit more every year.

Possibly mow out to the fence lines to assist with drying of the roads and to keep tree growth more under control.

Do we contract mowing services out? Contract out a portion of the mowing instead of requiring an increase capital?

Action: Keith/Tim to look into cost comparison of contracting a portion (or all) of the additional 500 miles of road. (Allocate the \$50,000 to 2022 mowing budget)

6.4 Capital Purchases

The cost of the items that could be replaced: (most of the equipment is at the 5 yr mark)

Schulte Mower \$33,890

Degleman Mower \$37,328

Wetblade \$29,751

Trailer \$12,000

Total \$112,969

Possibly stagger the purchases to assist with budget restraints.

6.5 Fee Schedule

Will be brought to the Policy Committee this week with the following changes:

Remove the Tree Planter, Mulcher and change the Mouse Poison to \$4.
All trap deposits to be \$200.

6.6 Clubroot Policy

Club Root Policy (Code of Practice) changes:

- pull 50 plants for the initial survey
- pull 200 plants for an incidence test
- no pest notice for 0-2 plants
- incidence tests on land that just comes off a pest notice

To be taken to policy committee. Code of Practice should be a part of the policy moving forward.

Action: Keith to bring back more information on the cost and effectiveness of the program. Do we continue?

6.7 Weed/Pest Appeal Board

Do we form a Regional Board? Typically, only meet when there is a dispute between the County and landowner after a weed/pest notice has been given and have only met once in the last 10 years.

Action: Keith to bring forward at the AAAF conference is there an interest of one member from each municipality to form a Regional Board.

6.8 Town Hall Meeting

A Town Hall Meeting for questions to the AG Minister for all the counties in the province. ASB Chairman should be the one addressing the AG Minister. Questions that should be addressed. Darrell to address.

- 1) Communication about the negative comments being made about the agricultural pollution and carbon impact.

Any other questions, send to Darrell before the Town Hall Meeting.

Action: Keith to send link to ASB Members

7. Reports

7.1 ASB Report

Wild Boar Hotline 403-330-8441 Website: af.wildboar@gov.ab.ca

There have been sightings in the Derwent, Elk Point, Riverview and Lindberg areas.

Action: Keith to follow up with residents that did have Wild Boar sightings

Action: Arlene to communicate the hotline and website on our social media

Swede Midge: in Ontario right now, not yet in Alberta or Saskatchewan. Would probably show up in Southern Alberta first. Has a big impact on the Canola plant at the bolting stage. The GOA site: The Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network is where all the research is being put for producers to view as more research is completed on this. LARA will be the one to reach out to the ASB when there is a concern in this area.

Beaver Control: (program to be continued)

Brought in by trappers: 2019 - 301 Mainly Division 1 and 6

2020 - 448 Mainly Division 1 and 6

2021 - 302 Mainly Division 1 and 6

Beaver Reduction Program:

2019 - 709

2020 - 449

2021 - 564

Seeding and Back Sloping: over 30-40 places where we have seeded roadways due to the winter mulching program, back sloping has been a little over budget this year. A lot of our back sloping has been taking over by Public Works. The winter mulching program has decreased our back sloping but increased our seeding.

Action: Keith to price check if we are getting a fair market value on the seed - tender to buy our seed

7.2 Regional ASB Zone Meeting

We will be hosting the Zone meeting tentatively **November 4, 2022**.
Currently looking for speakers. Location to be determined at a later date.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Grande Prairie

To file as information. Possible letter to be sent out in the Springtime.

8.2 Woodlands County

To file as information. Possible letter to be sent out in the Springtime.

Action: Keith to send link to ASB group

9. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be in Spring 2022, either late February or March.

Action:

Chairman Younghans has asked the ASB group to bring back to the next meeting:

"What more can we be doing for Agricultural services in the County?"

10. Adjournment

Business on the agenda being concluded, Chairman Darrell Younghans adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

Date

ABS Chairman