



**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD  
MEETING AGENDA  
Monday, January 22, 2018**

- 1. **ORDER – 9:00 a.m.**
- 2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
- Agricultural Service Board Meeting – December 11, 2017 ✓
- 4. **PRESENTATIONS**
  - a) 9:05 a.m. West Central Forage Association – Melissa Freeman, General Manager, WCFA ✓ Kim Barkwell
- 5. **MUNICIPAL POLICY - AGRICULTURAL SERVICES**
  - a) Status Report-AE-03 Control of Clubroot Disease in Canola ✓ Aaron Van Beers
- 6. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS**
  - a) Action Items – Progress Report ✓ Garrett Broadbent
  - b) Agricultural Services Department Activity Report ✓ Ag Svs Administration
  - c) Alberta Agriculture + Forestry – Key Contact Verbal Report Trevor Wallace
- 7. **AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE REPORTS**
  - a) Drainage Districts Overview ✓ Garrett Broadbent
- 8. **INFORMATION ITEMS** ✓ All Attached
  - a) Alberta Farm Animal Care Year in Review
  - b) AFAC 2018 Livestock Care Conference
  - c) Environmental Stewardship News – December 2017
  - d) The Pest Insider – January 2018
  - e) Insect Forecast Maps + Field Heroes Links
  - f) Coyote Management Information Pieces
  - g) Upcoming Information Sessions:
    - i. Alberta EFP – Online Workshops
    - ii. Hort Snacks-to-Go Webinar Series
    - iii. Cow-Calfenomics
    - iv. Wetlands and Your Farm #2– January 25, 2018
    - v. Septic Sense – February 1, 2018 Calmar
    - vi. Ladies Ranching Retreat – February 2, 2018
    - vii. AB Health Services – Food Regulations for Farmers’ Markets – February 7, 2018 Webinar
    - viii. Curt Pate Stockmanship – February 10, 2018

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- ix. Explore Local–Getting into Farmers’ Markets–February 15, 2018
- x. Wetlands and Your Farm #3 – February 15, 2018
- xi. Gate to Plate – February 15, 2018
- xii. Building a Working Destination Farm – February 21, 2018
- xiii. Sour Cherry+Haskap Production Workshop – February 21, 2018
- xiv. Grazing Management + ALUS – March 6, 2018
- xv. Septic Sense – March 8, 2018 Falun
- xvi. Working Well Workshop – March 20, 2018 Falun
- xvii. Septic Sense – April 5, 2018 Cloverlawn

### 9. ADJOURNMENT



**MINUTES OF LEDUC COUNTY, AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON JANUARY 22, 2018 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE COUNTY  
CENTRE, NISKU, ALBERTA**

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**Order and Roll Call**

The Agricultural Service Board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Monday, January 22, 2018 by Chair Glenn Belozar with Board Members Tanni Doblanko, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Ray Scobie, Rick Smith, Kelly Vandenberghe, Larry Wanchuck and Public Members-At-Large Roy Eckert and Russell Kushinski present.

Also present were Mr. Garrett Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Services; Mr. Aaron Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman; Mr. Brendan deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman; Mrs. Kim Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager; Mr. Rick Thomas, Deputy County Manager/General Manager, Community & Protective Services; and Mrs. Lucinda Melnikel, Recording Secretary.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Mr. Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist, was also in attendance.

Present as well were two individuals.

**Adopt Agenda**

**001-2018** Board Member Doblanko - that the agenda for the January 22, 2018 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

**Previous Minutes**

**002-2018** Board Member Lewis- that the December 11, 2017 Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be confirmed, as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**Presentation – West-Central Forage Association**

Ms. Melissa Freeman, General Manager, West-Central Forage Association and Mr. Shayne Horn, West-Central Forage Association Board of Directors and Leduc County agricultural producer provided the following information about the West-Central Forage Association (WCFA):

- Non-profit agricultural organization serving forage and livestock producers in six counties; Yellowhead, Parkland, Leduc, Woodlands, Brazeau, and Lac Ste. Anne.



- The organization is run by a Board of Directors.
- Has been in existence for 40 years, providing extension and demonstration activities to producers as well as through involvement in applied research.
- Events and projects hosted in 2017 included Environmental Farm Plan & Growing Forward 2 workshops; solar workshops; winter feeding; sustainable beef; Corn 101 (grazing); farm succession planning; University of Saskatchewan plots field trip; grazing school; hemp field day; producer appreciation event at Wildwood plots; Tools to Build Your Cow Herd.
- Upcoming events include Curt Pate Stockmanship; Ladies Ranching Retreat
- Recent plot trials and demonstrations include: Corn variety trial, regional silage variety trials; pollinator mix demonstration; cover crop variety trials, perennial forages; winter grazing variety trials; pulp mill sludge vs fertilizer demo trial; industrial hemp variety trials; triticale swath grazing; Sainfoin non-bloat legume variety testing.
- WCFA attends various provincial and regional ag industry events and conferences to promote awareness about the organization.
- A monthly newsletter *Forage Views* provides articles of interest to producers and information about upcoming events.
- A variety of rental equipment is available to WCFA members, including forage and soil probes, pneumatic fencing stapler, wire roller, cattle scales.
- Feed ration balancing assistance is provided utilizing *Cowbytes* software
- Elementary school presentations in affiliation with the Stewardship Alliance for Conservation Agriculture (SACA) and Classroom Agriculture Program
- SACA partnership has included projects such as the Athabasca River Basin Initiative; ALUS Canada; a water quality initiative at Shiningbank Lake including riparian health assessments and water sampling.
- Biological controls of Canada Thistle initiatives for environmentally sensitive areas with the distribution of Canada Thistle Stem-Gall Flies and Canada Thistle Stem-Mining Weevils to paying producers.

Mr. Horn provided comments about his involvement with WCFA as a member for a number of years and now serving on the Board of Directors. Mr. Horn credited information that he and his wife gained from attendance at numerous WCFA extension events as having benefitted the development of their current farming operation and their livestock and forage production practices.

Mrs. Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager reported that the West-Central Forage Association extended their mandate to include Leduc County within their support area in 2014. The partnership has served Leduc County producers with useful extension programs and has helped to leverage the funds and strengths of both organizations for these events.



**003-2018** Board Member Wanchuk – that the West-Central Forage Association presentation and the January 9, 2018 report be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Two Individuals

Two individual exited the Council Chambers at 9:26 a.m.

**Municipal Policy – AE-03 Control of Clubroot Disease in Canola**

Mr. Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman reviewed his January 16, 2018 report providing the following information to the Board:

- Annual policy review will be delayed to the March Agricultural Service Board meeting pending discussion with producers at the upcoming focus group meetings.
- Discussions with the Agricultural Director for the Potato Growers of Alberta organization regarding soil movement and crop rotations have resulted in planning for a potato producers focus group meeting to discuss equipment sanitation practices and how to mitigate the risks of spreading soil borne diseases such as clubroot.
- Reminder letters will be sent out shortly to property owners/producers with active notifications on cropland.
- Follow up discussions with Dr. Strelkov regarding resiliency of spores in infill/stockpiling situations and a review of discussion points contained in a Master's thesis suggest an increase in spore load in the year following growing a resistant variety of canola but significant decreases in spore load following two years out of canola.

Mr. Van Beers, responding to a Board Member question, confirmed that potatoes are susceptible to some of the same disease as canola, such as blackleg, and therefore a canola-potato rotation is not the usual practice. Further clarification on the topic was provided that canola producer concerns centre around the potential of spreading the clubroot disease through the movement of soil due to usual potato production practices.

**004-2018** Board Member Kushinski – that the January 16, 2018 clubroot status report be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

**Action Items – Progress Report**

Discussion took place about the 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference and comments were heard praising the quality of the speakers but that the topics could have been covered in a shorter time frame per speaker and that the scheduling of the



presenters on the agenda could have been arranged better. Interest was expressed in acquiring speaker notes from the presenters.

**005-2018** Board Member Eckert – that the Action Items progress report be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

### **Agricultural Services Department Activity Report**

Mr. Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman provided the following comments relating to topics addressed on the Agricultural Services Department Activity Report:

- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's recent survey of producers on how to best manage *Fusarium graminearum* in the future suggests there may be some consideration being given to removing *F. graminearum* from the Agricultural Pests Act.
- Planning is under way for a March 22 workshop to discuss problem weeds and management strategies within the region as well as crop diseases and pests.
- Plans are being coordinated with *LandView* to organize an intensive two day Ag Drone School event early in April.
- Numerous inquiries have been made with other municipalities to learn about their experiences with various roadside mower options in preparation for developing specifications for a request for tenders for a rural roads mowing trial unit. At this time administration intends to trial a disc mower as this type is reported to be able to mow at a higher speed, handle thicker, taller vegetation, and have less down time due to repairs and maintenance.
- Requests for tenders have been posted for the approved replacement vehicles. Tractor and mower tenders will also be posted shortly.

Mr. deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman reported on a meeting with Public Works staff to discuss coordination of road maintenance activities to improve efficiency and timing of activities for vegetation and brush control.

Mrs. Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager provided comments on the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP):

- A ten year renewal will be a new standard coming in to effect in April 2018 under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program (post Growing Forward 2).
- Recognized value as a self-assessment tool to identify risk levels and for the development of plans to move ag producers' operation forward.
- Is a "benchmark" requirement for a number of producer programs.



- In many cases EFP's have been initially undertaken by producers as a means to access various program funding and other benefits have then been realized as a planning tool.

Mr. Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Services noted that a public notice will be in this week's local newspaper providing Notice of Application for a Licence under the Water Act with regard to the proposed non-potable water point facility at N.E. 15-50-02-W5.

**006-2018** Board Member Smith – that the Agricultural Services Department Activity Report for the period of December 2017 through January 15, 2018 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

### **Alberta Agriculture + Forestry – Key Contact Verbal Report**

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Mr. Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist provided his verbal report:

- The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program requirement and is the only risk assessment tool. EFP's are a requirement for some commodity/producer groups with more looking at integrating EFP with their organization.
- Consultations have been taking place with commodity groups to identify programs needs for CAP.
- A new funding stream under CAP "public trust" for commodity groups/producer organizations to support "telling the ag production story".
- Development work on the risk assessment tool – Phosphorus, water quality.
- Nutrient management – 4R concept of right product at the right rate at the right time in the right place.
- Canadian Certified Crop Advisors standards for certification being upgraded to include manure management within the scope of soil and water management subject areas.

**007-2018** Board Member Scobie – that the Alberta Agriculture + Forestry – Key Contact verbal report be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

### **Agricultural Drainage – Drainage Districts Overview**

Mr. Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Services provided a historical overview of drainage districts within Alberta and how drainage districts function:

- Cameron Drainage District (CDD) and Big Hay Lakes Drainage District (BHLDD) were established in 1954; two of the nine in Alberta are within Leduc County



- Drainage districts are typically established in large flood plain areas that are slow draining and improved drainage is desired for the benefit of agricultural production, residences, and road infrastructure.
- BHLDD has remained active through the years.
- CDD administration flagged for about a ten year period and has recently undergone revitalization and is now experiencing a variety of challenges.
- The Alberta Drainage Districts annual general meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2018

Mr. Thomas, Deputy County Manager provided additional information regarding the administration of Drainage Districts and that they operate under a legislated authority to levy and collect taxes, including from Leduc County for road benefit. Leduc County provides administrative support to the Cameron Drainage District with a view to supporting the function of the drainage district as an independent entity.

**008-2018** Board Member Smith – that the Agricultural Drainage Districts report dated January 12, 2018 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

### **Information Items**

**009-2018** Board Member Eckert – that the following correspondence items be received as information:

- a) Alberta Farm Animal Care Year in Review
- b) AFAC 2018 Livestock Care Conference
- c) Environmental Stewardship News – December 2017
- d) The Pest Insider – January 2018
- e) Insect Forecast Maps + Field Heroes Links
- f) Coyote Management Information Pieces
- g) Upcoming Information Sessions:
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Carried Unanimously

**Adjournment**

**010-2018** Board Member Lewis – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting concluded at 10:55 a.m.

  
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CHAIR

  
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DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL  
SERVICES