



Agricultural Service Board

Agenda

Council Chamber, County Centre, Nisku, AB

Monday, April 11, 2022

1. Order – 10:00 a.m.
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of previous minutes
- March 7, 2022 ✓
4. Public presentations
a) 10:05 a.m. ALUS
-Rhonda King, Western Canada Lead
5. Department reports and recommendations
a) Action items progress report ✓ A.Van Beers
b) Agricultural Services department activity report ✓ Ag Svs staff
c) Wetaskiwin Seed & Grain Cooperative – Discussion
d) City of Edmonton Mosquito Abatement Program ✓ A.Van Beers
6. Agricultural Drainage Reports
a) Spring drainage verbal report A.Van Beers
7. Information items ✓
 - a) Environment and Climate Change Canada - *A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy plan*
 - i) Canadian Centre for Food Integrity – Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Canadian Agriculture: Estimates and Measurements panel discussion
 - ii) Real Agriculture-Environment and Climate Change Canada 2030 emission reduction plan, long on numbers, short on details
 - iii) Share ideas: Fertilizer emissions reduction target
 - iv) Letter to the Minister – MD of Spirit River
 - b) Letter to Minister of Environment and Climate Change – Support for Bill C-234
 - c) Red Deer County letter – 2022 Provincial ASB Conference
 - d) Alberta Climate Information Service – March 27, 2022 moisture situation update
 - e) Government of Canada News release-Launch of new phase of Local Food Infrastructure Fund
 - f) Wild Boar Control program
 - g) Ducks Unlimited Canada – Marginal Areas Program

✓ Attachment provided



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- h) Cleanfarms Ag Plastic
 - i) Twine collection pilot program
 - ii) Pesticide container recycling bags
- i) Coming Events
 - i) West-Central Forage Association – Adaptive Grazing Webinar Series
 - ii) Getting into local food and local markets
 - iii) Local farmers, local food ag tour

8. Next meeting date – June 13, 2022

9. Adjournment

V Attachment provided



Agricultural Service Board

Minutes

Council Chamber, Leduc County Centre, Nisku, AB

Monday, April 11, 2022

Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 11, 2022, by Glenn Belozar as chair and board members Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Kelly Vandenberghe, Larry Wanchuk, Tanni Doblanko, Ray Scobie, and public members-at-large Roy Eckert and Russell Kushinski present. Board member Rick Smith was absent for personal reasons.

Staff members

- Garrett Broadbent, Director – Road Operations and Agricultural Services
- Aaron Van Beers, Manager – Agricultural Services
- Kim Barkwell, Coordinator – Sustainable Agricultural Services
- Sharon Faye, Coordinator – Local Food
- Lucinda Melnikel, Agricultural Services Administrative Assistant / Recording Secretary

Others

- Rhonda King, ALUS

Agenda adoption

018-2022 Board member Lewis – that the agenda for the April 11, 2022 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Previous minutes – March 7, 2022

019-2022 Board member Kushinski – that the minutes for the March 7, 2022 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Staff member Berg

Coordinator - Agricultural Services Nathanael Berg entered the council chamber at 10:05 a.m.

Presentation

Chair Belozar invited ALUS representative Western Canada Lead Rhonda King to deliver her presentation to the Agricultural Service Board.

Where Agriculture & Nature Meet presentation:

- Mission statement “ . . . helps farmers and ranchers build nature-based solutions on their land to sustain agriculture and biodiversity for the benefit of communities and future generations.”
Particularly on marginal lands for wetland restoration and enhancement, riparian buffers, shelterbelts, afforestation and native prairie grass restoration
- Not-for-profit, community based - participants meet agricultural producer eligibility criteria

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- ALUS guiding principles: community-developed; farmer-delivered; science-based; market-driven; integrated: targeted; accountable; voluntary
 - ALUS projects primarily focused on marginal lands: bank restoration; pollinator habitat; wetlands; wildlife habitat; tree planting; exclusion fencing
 - New pilot project: enhanced grazing projects on the working land – adaptive multi-paddock grazing
 - Biodiversity and ecosystem services: water filtration; cleaner air; carbon capture; aquifer recharge; native habitat; nutrient cycling
 - Biodiversity benefits: restored and constructed wetlands (drought and flood mitigation); restored tallgrass prairies; ecobuffers
 - Since inception in 2006, has expanded to be active in 31 communities across six provinces, with 1103 farmer/rancher participants (as at March 2021)
 - On a Canada-wide perspective, generally larger projects in Alberta (as estimated on benefitting acres)
 - Innovation and technology: data tools to support decision making and delivery of projects
 - Numerous research partners including University of Guelph (hydrological software), InnoTech Alberta (formerly Alberta Innovates), Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development, University of Quebec
 - Municipality coordination: public works/infrastructure, planning and development
 - Support from various private foundations, corporate, in-kind
 - Alberta represents highest numbers – municipal promotion and producer buy-in and commitment
 - Research with carbon capture: federal initiative in initial stages of gathering information to quantify
 - Stormwater management: currently working with Parkland County on municipal drainage plans
 - Grazing forward, adaptive multi-paddock grazing project
 - Recently, \$700,000 approved for indigenous bison initiative through federal On-Farm Climate Action fund. Approval represented small part of a much larger application.

020-2022 Board member Wanchuk – that Agricultural Service Board accept as information the presentation by Rhonda King, ALUS Western Canada Lead.

Carried Unanimously

Action items progress report

Manager – Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers reported on the on-going monitoring of the large diameter culvert located at Airport Road east of Range Road 234. Water is flowing freely through the culvert and staff performed some hand clearing in the week prior to this report. Administration is coordinating with Road Operations to perform a more thorough clean out. Beaver removal work has taken place and the Pest Control Officer continues to monitor for beaver activity and holding capacity downstream.



021-2022 Board member Doblanko – that the Agricultural Service Board accept as information the action items progress report.

Carried Unanimously

One individual

One individual exited the Council chamber at 10:36 a.m.

Agricultural Services department activity report

Manager - Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers, along with other Agricultural Services staff, presented the Agricultural Services department activity report for the March 2022 period.

022-2022 Board member Lewis – that the Agricultural Service Board accept as information the Agricultural Services department activity report for the March 2022 reporting period.

Carried Unanimously

Wetaskiwin Seed & Grain Cooperative – discussion

A brief discussion took place regarding the March 17, 2022 presentation to the Agricultural Service Board by a delegation from the Wetaskiwin Seed and Grain Cooperative (WSGC). A letter is anticipated from the WSGC board outlining their request for Leduc County representation and possibly other supports.

023-2022 Board member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Service Board accept as information the discussion on the March 17 2022 presentation by the Wetaskiwin Seed and Grain Cooperative.

Carried Unanimously

City of Edmonton Mosquito Abatement Program

Manager – Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers provided additional information pertaining to the City of Edmonton mosquito abatement program notification. A very limited area of Leduc County could be included within the proposed program area, with permission from property owners, for ground treatment for aquatic larval stages of nuisance mosquitoes.

024-2022 Board member Scobie – that the Agricultural Service Board direct administration to respond to the City of Edmonton granting permission to conduct their 2022 mosquito monitoring and control program activities on Leduc County owned, operated, or leased lands utilizing products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) only.

Carried Unanimously

Spring drainage – verbal staff report

Manager – Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers provided a verbal staff report with reference to drainage performance from the 2022 spring run-off:

- Buckinghorse: licensed channel clean out and the addition of road culverts in a problematic location has improved run-off flow and drainage performance over all
- Clearwater: clean out work performed at Highway 814 south of Airport Road in 2020 and 2021 has improved system drainage and, overall, has worked very well in 2022



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- Hay Lakes and Cameron drainage district areas are working as intended, but snow and ice accumulations have been slower to thaw in the east area and run-off has been moderate
 - Roadside mowing performed in the fall to clean out identified roadside ditch areas has facilitated spring flows

Director – Road Operations and Agricultural Services Garrett Broadbent provided comments on the clean out in the roadside ditch in the area of Township Road 492 west of Range Road 243. The drainage improvements have worked well in 2022 and additional work to further build up the road is being considered to provide additional benefit.

025-2022 Board member Wanchuk – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the verbal staff report regarding 2022 spring run-off and drainage performance as information.

Carried Unanimously

Information items

Manager – Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers provided comments about upcoming changes to the Cleanfarms pesticide container recycling collection process.

026-2022 Board member Eckert – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the following correspondence items as information:

- a) Environment and Climate Change Canada - *A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy plan*
 - i) Canadian Centre for Food Integrity – Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Canadian Agriculture: Estimates and Measurements panel discussion
 - ii) Real Agriculture-Environment and Climate Change Canada 2030 emission reduction plan, long on numbers, short on details
 - iii) Share ideas: Fertilizer emissions reduction target
 - iv) Letter to the Minister – Municipal District of Spirit River
- b) Letter to Minister of Environment and Climate Change – Support for Bill C-234
- c) Red Deer County letter – 2022 Provincial ASB Conference
- d) Alberta Climate Information Service – April 5, 2022 moisture situation update
- e) Government of Canada News release-Launch of new phase of Local Food Infrastructure Fund
- f) Wild Boar Control program
- g) Ducks Unlimited Canada – Marginal Areas Program



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- h) Cleanfarms Ag Plastic
 - i) Twine collection pilot program
 - ii) Pesticide container recycling bags
 - i) Coming Events
 - i) West-Central Forage Association – Adaptive Grazing Webinar Series
 - ii) Getting into local food and local markets
 - iii) Local farmers, local food ag tour

Carried Unanimously

Adjournment


027-2022 Board member Doblanko – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.



Agricultural Service Board Chair



Manager - Agricultural Services