



# Agricultural Service Board

## Agenda

Council Chamber, County Centre, Nisku, AB

Monday, March 7, 2022

1. Order – 10:00 a.m.
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of previous minutes
  - January 17, 2022 v
4. Public presentations
  - a) 10:05 a.m. Wetaskiwin Seed Cleaning Plant  
-Board Members Curtis Henkelmann, Mitch Lokke, Aaron Hundebay
5. Department reports and recommendations
  - a) Action items progress report v A.Van Beers
  - b) Agricultural Services department activity report v Ag Svs staff
  - c) Federal Climate Plan – fertilizer emission reduction target v A.Van Beers
6. Agricultural Drainage Reports
  - No items v
7. Information items v
  - a) Minister of Transportation response – 2022 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolution 1-22
  - b) 2021 Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance initiative - Phase two
  - c) Alberta Seed Processors *Connections* February 2022 newsletter
  - d) January 2022 letter from Alberta Farm Animal Care
  - e) Letters of concern to Minister of Environment and Climate Change – Proposed target for reduced emissions from fertilizer
    - i) Flagstaff County
    - ii) Cardston County
    - iii) Municipal District of Taber
    - iv) Municipal District of Lesser Slave River
  - f) Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada news release - On-Farm Climate Action Fund
  - g) Health Canada cancellation of registration of strychnine – Implementation timeline
  - h) Health Canada – Avian Influenza
  - i) Squeal on Pigs campaign
  - j) Upcoming Events
    - i) West-Central Forage Association events
      - WCFA 2022 Annual general meeting

v Attachment provided

- Finding Fairness in Farm Transitions
- Western Canada Conference on Soil Health & Grazing
- ii) Cover Crops & Cows
- iii) Alberta Open Farm Days – courses for hosts
  - Special Events Licenses
  - Food Permits

**8. Next meeting date – April 11, 2022**

**9. Adjournment**



*v Attachment provided*

## Agricultural Service Board

### Minutes

Council Chamber, Leduc County Centre, Nisku, AB

Monday, March 7, 2022

#### Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 7, 2022, by Glenn Belozar as chair and board members Rick Smith, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Kelly Vandenberghe, Larry Wanchuk, Ray Scobie, and public members-at-large Roy Eckert and Russell Kushinski present.

Board member Tanni Doblanko was absent for personal reasons.

#### Other attendees

- Duane Coleman, County Manager
- Garrett Broadbent, Director – Road Operations and Agricultural Services
- Aaron Van Beers, Manager – Agricultural Services
- Nathanael Berg, Coordinator – Agricultural Services
- Lucinda Melnikel, Agricultural Services Administrative Assistant / Recording Secretary
- Three other individuals

#### Agenda adoption

**010-2022** Board member Lewis – that the agenda for the March 7, 2022 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

#### Previous minutes –January 17, 2022

**011-2022** Board member Scobie – that the minutes for the January 17, 2022 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

#### Public presentation

##### Wetaskiwin Seed Cleaning Plant

Wetaskiwin Seed and Grain Cooperative (WSGC) board members Curtis Henkelmann, Mitch Lokke and Aaron Hundebly were invited to speak to their presentation:

- Request for support is not intended to be competition for the Warburg Seed Cleaning Co-op but rather a request to find areas of collaboration that would benefit both seed cleaning plant cooperatives and area producers
- The low level of fusarium head blight in the area is an advantage for local seed growers and is identified as a potential area of agribusiness growth
- A number of Leduc County producers (estimated to be 430 of approximately 1700 plant customers) currently do business with the WSGC, partially due to the logistical convenience for producers east of Highway 60



- Some areas of beneficial collaboration: producer crop and disease information sessions, promotion of stationary seed cleaning plant cleaning and inspection services, identifying the benefits of a seed cleaning cooperative as a neutral structure is a value to producers

In response to a board member inquiry regarding specifics around a request for support/resources, Mr. Henkelmann responded with a suggestion for Leduc County representation on the WSGC board with support for some of the business aspects such as policy development, guidance on health and safety directives, communication campaigns to promote seed cleaning plant cooperatives.

Director of Road Operations and Agricultural Services Garrett Broadbent commented that while Leduc County does inspections on mobile seed cleaning plants entering the County, some mobile plants do not notify the County. Public messaging may be required to communicate that inspection of mobile seed cleaning plants is an important aspect of maintaining standards. Mr. Henkelmann noted that he understands that the County of Wetaskiwin is developing an information piece for one of their upcoming newsletters defining the differences with mobile and stationary seed cleaning plants. Mr. Lokke commented that crop insurance claim submissions request indication of whether a mobile or stationary seed cleaning plant was utilized.

**012-2022** Board member Vandenberghe – that the Agricultural Service Board accept as information the presentation by board representatives of the Wetaskiwin Seed Cleaning Plant Cooperative.

Carried Unanimously

#### **Action items progress report**

**013-2022** Board member Wanchuk – that the Agricultural Service Board accept as information the action items progress report.

Carried Unanimously

#### **Agricultural Services department activity report**

**014-2022** Board member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Service Board accept as information the Agricultural Services department activity report for the January – February 2022 period.

Carried Unanimously

#### One individual

One individual exited the council chamber at 10:46 a.m.

#### **Federal Climate Plan – fertilizer emission reduction target**

Manager – Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers presented a staff report on the topic of the federal government's Environment and Climate Change Canada plan and the statement that this plan would set "a national emission reduction target of 30% below 2020 levels from fertilizers . . ."

- Reference is made in the 2020 document A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy regarding a reduction target but it does not specify what targets the plan is intended to address
- On-Farm Climate Action Plan announced February 22, 2022 with \$182.7 million in funding to be utilized by a number of recipient organizations (including ALUS) to deliver programs in several areas for Canadian producers to help meet national emissions reduction targets



- To date nine letters of concerns have been sent to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change from municipalities which focused on two areas of concern: 1) consequences on effect to production 2) ambiguity of reduction target statement with a request for clarification
- Efficiency in fertilizer use is a well-accepted positive for producers and while there has yet to be clarity around what the actual reduction targets may be, many crop producers within Leduc County may not need to make significant changes to their current practices

Comments were invited from the crop producer members of the public in attendance and Mr. Henkelmann remarked that there likely is not broad awareness of the technologies already utilized by crop producers that are addressing fertilizer use efficiency. Mr. Lokke further offered the perspective of the value in an expression of interest in the agricultural industry being part of developing a plan for a reduction solution.

**015-2022** Board member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Service Board accept as information the March 7, 2022 report with reference to the Federal Climate Plan fertilizer emission reduction target.

Carried Unanimously

#### Information items

**016-2022** Board member Eckert – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the following correspondence items as information:

- a) Minister of Transportation response – 2022 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolution 1-22
- b) 2021 Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance initiative - Phase two
- c) Alberta Seed Processors *Connections* February 2022 newsletter
- d) January 2022 letter from Alberta Farm Animal Care
- e) Letters of concern to Minister of Environment and Climate Change – Proposed target for reduced emissions from fertilizer
  - i) Flagstaff County
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    - WCFA 2022 Annual general meeting
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    - Special Events Licenses



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- Food Permits

**Adjournment**

**017-2022** Board member Lewis – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.



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*Agricultural Service Board Chair*



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*Manager - Agricultural Services*