



Agricultural Service Board

Agenda

Council Chamber, County Centre, Nisku, AB

Monday, April 17, 2023

1. **Order – 10:00 a.m.**
2. **Adoption of agenda**
3. **Adoption of previous minutes**
 - March 13, 2023 Agricultural Service Board meeting ✓
4. **Public presentations**

No public presentations scheduled
5. **Department reports and recommendations**
 - a) Action items progress report ✓ A.Van Beers
 - b) Agricultural Services department activity report ✓ Ag Svs staff
 - c) Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program ✓ A.Van Beers
 - d) City of Edmonton Mosquito Abatement Program ✓ A.Van Beers
6. **Agricultural Drainage Reports**
 - a) Drainage Report - Verbal A. Van Beers
7. **Information items** ✓
 - a) Office of Chief Provincial Veterinarian-Avian Influenza
 - b) Saddle Hills County Letter to Agriculture Financial Services Corporation-Drone Usage in Wildlife Damage Claims
 - c) Fusarium Seed Infection Surveillance Project
 - d) 2022 Plant Disease Survey Summary Report
 - e) Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership
 - f) Agricultural Moisture Situation Update
 - g) Coming Events
 - i) Getting into Horticulture-Managing Pests and Problems in Horticulture Crops
 - ii) Farm to Table Dinner & Market and Bus Tour
8. **Next meeting date – June 12, 2023**
9. **Adjournment**

✓ Attachment provided

Agricultural Service Board**Minutes***Council Chamber, Leduc County Centre, Nisku, AB****Monday, April 17, 2023*****Order and roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 9:59 a.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023 by Glenn Belozar as chair and board members Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Dal Virdi, Tanni Doblanko, Ray Scobie, and public members-at-large Debbie Hofstra and Russell Kushinski present. Board member Larry Wanchuk arrived after the call to order.

Board member Rick Smith was absent due to personal reasons.

Other attendees

- Garrett Broadbent, Director – Road Operations and Agricultural Services
- Aaron Van Beers, Manager – Agricultural Services
- Nathanael Berg, Coordinator – Agricultural Services
- Sharon Faye, Coordinator – Local Food
- Lucinda Melnikel, Agricultural Services Administrative Assistant

Agenda adoption

020-2023 Board member Doblanko – that the agenda for the Monday, April 17, 2023 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Previous minutes – March 13, 2023

021-2023 Board member Lewis – that the minutes for the March 13, 2023 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Action items progress report

022-2023 Board member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the action items progress report as information.

Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Services department activity report

Agricultural Services department staff provided comments on department program activities and upcoming events:

- Getting into Horticulture: Managing Pests and Problems in Horticulture Crops webinar - Seven municipalities partnering to sponsor event; 77 registrants to date for the April 25 webinar
- Networking with Business Entrepreneur Centre to encourage local producer ag-business connections

023-2023 Board member Scobie – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Agricultural Services department activity report for the March 2023 reporting period as information.

Carried Unanimously



Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers presented the staff report regarding the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program (RALP) under the federal-provincial Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (S-CAP), formerly Growing Forward and Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

- RALP is one of eight programs under S-CAP
- Funding for eligible best management practices projects for livestock producers in support of conservation and enhancement of environmental resiliency on a three-year term
- Similarities to ALUS programs, but projects can only be considered under one of these programs due to the carbon credit aspect
- Program is accepting applications retroactive to April 3, 2023 to provide more flexibility in light of delays anticipated due to the upcoming provincial election
- Potentially, support may be sought through municipal partnerships to promote the program and verify projects

Board member Wanchuk

Board member Wanchuk entered the Council chamber at 10:23 a.m.

024-2023 Board member Lewis – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the April 17, 2023 report regarding the Resilient Agricultural Landscape Program as information.

Carried Unanimously

City of Edmonton 2023 Mosquito Abatement Program

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers reported on the verbal request received from City of Edmonton administration regarding the proposed 2023 mosquito abatement program.

025-2023 Board member Doblanko – that the Agricultural Service Board direct administration to respond to the City of Edmonton, following receipt of their written request, granting permission to conduct their 2023 mosquito monitoring and control program activities on Leduc County owned, operated, or leased lands utilizing products containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) only.

Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Drainage verbal report

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers provided a verbal report regarding the performance of drainage systems recently inspected within Leduc County boundaries:

- Very little run-off has been observed throughout the County this spring
- Standing water along Township Road 484 in the Buckinghorse system is significantly reduced compared to previous years. Clean-up work was done in the roadside ditch at that location last fall and it has contributed to reduced flooding pressures on adjacent lands
- Beaver dam removals and beaver trapping work was completed last fall and through the winter along the Blackmud Creek and there are currently no issues within Leduc County boundaries



026-2023 Board member Wanchuk – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the verbal report regarding local drainage in relation to the spring 2023 thaw and run-off as information.

Carried Unanimously

Information items

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers commented on items of correspondence provided for Agricultural Service Board information:

- Avian influenza – Alert issued by the Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian regarding expected surge in Avian influenza cases with spring movement of migratory birds. Administration will be providing topic and contact information to Leduc County residents
- Fusarium seed infection report – Fusarium graminearum was found to be present in 1%-10% of samples in the Leduc County area at a very low severity of 0-0.3%
- Low to very low snow pack water equivalents have done little to mitigate dry soil conditions in the area. Weather data mapping models illustrate 10-year precipitation departures relative to normal at a 600 mm or greater deficit

Board member Lewis

Board member Lewis exited the Council chamber at 10:55 a.m.

027-2023 Board member Hofstra– that the Agricultural Service Board accept the following correspondence as information:

- a) Office of Chief Provincial Veterinarian-Avian Influenza - returning migratory birds are expected to bring another upsurge of with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus flock infections this spring
- b) Saddle Hills County Letter to Agriculture Financial Services Corporation-Drone Usage in Wildlife Damage Claims
- c) Fusarium Seed Infection Surveillance Project – present in Leduc County between 1%-10% of incidence but very low severity
- d) 2022 Plant Disease Survey Summary Report
- e) Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership
- f) Agricultural Moisture Situation Update – low snow pack; precip departures relative to 10-year normal 600 mm short of normal;
- g) Coming Events
 - i) Getting into Horticulture-Managing Pests and Problems in Horticulture Crops
 - ii) Farm to Table Dinner & Market and Bus Tour

Carried Unanimously



Adjournment

028-2023 Board member Viridi – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.



Agricultural Service Board Chair



Manager - Agricultural Services