



Agricultural Service Board

Agenda

Council Chamber, County Centre, Nisku, AB

Monday, March 13, 2023

1. **Order – 10:00 a.m.**
2. **Adoption of agenda**
3. **Adoption of previous minutes**
- January 16, 2023 Agricultural Service Board meeting v
4. **Public presentations**
No presentations scheduled
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) 2023 Northwest Regional Agricultural Service Board conference v A.Van Beers
host v
 - d) 2023 Provincial Budget - Potential implications for Agricultural Service Boards A.Van Beers
 - e) Crop insurance premium increases – verbal report A.Van Beers
6. **Agricultural Drainage Reports**
No agricultural drainage items
7. **Information items** v
 - a) Ag Forward: managing on-farm plastics
 - b) Verified Farmers' Market Vendor program
 - c) Agricultural moisture situation update – March 2, 2023
 - d) Coming events
 - i) Working Well online workshop March 16, 2023
 - ii) Talk Ask Listen – Mental Wellness in Agriculture March 18, 2023
 - iii) Green Acreages workshop March 23, 2023
 - iv) Getting into Horticulture Perspectives on Planting March 23, 2023
 - v) Farm to table dinner & farmers' market August 12, 2023
 - vi) Open Farm Days 2023
 - vii) MD of Taber letter to Minister of Health – Decision RVD2021-04 request for extension
8. **Next meeting date – April 17, 2023**
9. **Adjournment**

v Attachment provided



Agricultural Service Board

Minutes

Council Chamber, Leduc County Centre, Nisku, AB

Monday, March 13, 2023

Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023 by Glenn Belozar as chair and board members Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Dal Virdi, Larry Wanchuk, Ray Scobie and public members-at-large Debbie Hofstra and Russell Kushinski present.

Board members Tanni Doblanko and Rick Smith were 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
- Kim Barkwell, Coordinator – Sustainable Agricultural Services
- Sharon Faye, Coordinator – Local Food
- Lucinda Melnikel, Agricultural Services Administrative Assistant / Recording Secretary

Agenda adoption

011-2023 Board member Wanchuk – that the agenda for the March 13, 2023 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Previous minutes – January 16, 2023

012-2023 Board member Lewis – that the minutes for the January 16, 2023 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Action items progress report

013-2023 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 seasonal staff recruitment that took place during the January and February 2023 period:

- The non-potable water point facility was back in service as of mid-February following identification of a malfunction with the security control module. Replacement parts were acquired and installed by a technical contractor.
- Discover Leduc Region – Updates to Agritourism and Local Food listings. Leduc Farm Stand, providing a retail outlet for Hahn Family Farm and other local producers, will be opening in April at Jar'd Mercantile.

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- Farm to Table dinner - 60 seats available, event includes pre-dinner bus tour.
 - ALUS grant allocation for 2023 projects has been confirmed.
 - Canada Agriculture Day awareness – Targeted Grade 4 in terms of curriculum fit. Contacted all schools within the Black Gold and STAR Catholic Schools division areas. Activity sheet packages provided for 987 students at responding schools with 79% of schools participating overall. Surveys were provided to teachers for feedback.
 - 2 Billion Trees initiative funding provided by Government of Canada; coordinated by Agroforestry & Woodlot Extension Society (AWES) for shelterbelt, eco-buffer, and reforestation projects.

014-2023 Board member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Agricultural Services department activity report for the January through February 2023 reporting period as information.

Carried Unanimously

2023 Northwest Regional Agricultural Service Board conference host

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers presented the staff report regarding the 2023 Northwest Regional Agricultural Service Board (ASB) conference. Each year, one of the thirteen municipalities within the region takes a turn to host the regional ASB conference event. Leduc County last hosted the conference in 2010 and is on schedule to be the host of the regional conference in November 2023.

015-2023 Board member Lewis – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the March 13, 2023 report regarding the 2023 Northwest Regional Agricultural Service Board conference as information.

Carried Unanimously

Alberta Budget 2023 – Potential implications for Agricultural Service Boards

016-2023 Board member Scobie – that the Agricultural Service Board receive the March 13, 2023 report regarding the 2023 Alberta budget implications for Agricultural Service Boards as information.

Carried Unanimously

Crop insurance premium increases – verbal report

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers provided remarks on news media reports of an anticipated 60% increase to crop insurance premiums: A review of the budget and forecast numbers suggests potential premium increases over two years at an approximate 22% increase per year. The premium formula is based upon a number of contributing factors such as cropland production rates, commodity market values and recent payout history. The federal and provincial governments are contributors to overall premiums with producers paying 40% of the premium cost.

Board member Kushinski provided his analysis of the premium formula calculation reckoning that the increase for producers will be in the range of 12-22% per year over the two-year period and remarked that individual producer claim history is an additional factor in determining premium rates. There have been at least two very high payout years overall on the prairies.

017-2023 Board member Hofstra – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the verbal report regarding reported crop insurance premium increases as information.

Carried Unanimously



Information items

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers provided comments about the Municipal District of Taber February 28, 2023 letter to the Minister of Health, Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos. The letter requests that the Government of Canada extend the implementation timeline on the re-evaluation decision to cancel the registration of insecticide Lambda-cyhalothrin for use in livestock feed. Lambda-cyhalothrin products, such as Matador, are used to control insect pests including flea beetles and grasshoppers in crops. In Canada, the product continues to be approved under label for use on food products for humans but has now been deemed unsafe to be used on grain that may be used for livestock feed.

United States (US) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review of the product has maintained registration for use on grain both for human and livestock use. This inconsistency will potentially restrict importation of US grain into Canada for livestock feed and would have significant impacts to southern Alberta feedlots when Canadian feed grains are in short supply. Alternative insecticides are available but Matador has been the best option in terms of safety and pre-harvest intervals. Grasshoppers tend to build up closer to harvest and the pre-harvest interval period following application is a critical crop management point.

Health Canada Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) utilizes data algorithms for decision-making. There is an abundance of data on the product that establishes safety for human food products, but little data for safety on livestock feed. It is felt that this data discrepancy has been a key factor leading to cancellation of the registration of Lambda-cyhalothrin for use on livestock feed grain. Health Canada PMRA and the US EPA have different guidelines and evaluation processes and it is not uncommon that approvals differ from one country to the other. The MD of Taber's well-written letter requests urgent consideration of an extension to allow more time for meaningful research on the Lambda-cyhalothrin product and clearly states the impact that this restriction would impose on Canadian agriculture.

018-2023 Board member Wanchuck – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the following correspondence as information:

- a) Ag Forward: managing on-farm plastics
- b) Verified Farmers' Market Vendor program
- c) Agricultural moisture situation update – March 2, 2023
- d) Coming events
 - i) Working Well online workshop March 16, 2023
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Carried Unanimously



Adjournment

019-2023 Board member Viridi – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.



Agricultural Service Board Chair

Manager - Agricultural Services