

Agricultural Service Board

Agenda

Council Chamber, County Centre, Nisku, AB

Monday, March 11, 2024

1. **Order – 10:00 a.m.**
2. **Adoption of agenda**
3. **Adoption of previous minutes**
- December 11, 2023 Agricultural Service Board meeting ✓
4. **Public presentations**
 - a) *Fusarium graminearum* testing results – Morgan Webb, Lab Manager Seed Check Technologies
5. **Department reports and recommendations**

a) Action items progress report	✓	A.Van Beers
b) Agricultural Services department activity report	✓	Ag Svs staff
c) ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc summary	✓	K. Barkwell
d) Grain bag recycling report	✓	A.Van Beers
e) Wild boar bylaw investigation	✓	N. Berg
6. **Information items**

a) Canada Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance	✓	A.Van Beers
b) Moisture Report	✓	A.Van Beers
c) Removal of Canada Thistle from the Alberta Weed Control Act	✓	A.Van Beers
d) Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC)	✓	A.Van Beers
e) Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program	✓	A.Van Beers
f) Septic Sense	✓	A.Van Beers
7. **Next meeting date – Monday, April 8, 2024**
8. **Adjournment**



✓ Attachment provided

Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:59 a.m. on Monday, March 11, 2024 by Glenn Belozar as chair and board members Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Tanni Doblanko, Ray Scobie, Rick Smith, Larry Wanchuk, and public members-at-large Debbie Hofstra and Russell Kushinski present.

Board member Dal Virdi was absent

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
- Kim Barkwell, Coordinator – Sustainable Agriculture
- Nicole Fuhsel, Administrative Assistant – Agricultural Services
- Morgan Webb – Guest speaker, Lab Manager Seed Check Technologies

Agenda adoption

001-2024 Board member Wanchuk – that the agenda for the Monday, March 11, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Previous minutes – December 11, 2023

002-2024 Board member Kushinski – that the minutes for the December 11, 2023 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Public Presentation – Morgan Webb, Lab Manager Seed Check Technologies

003-2024 Mr. Webb presented on *Fusarium graminearum* testing results.

- *Fusarium* was considered a banned pest in Alberta at one time, but is now off the Agricultural Pest Act
- It is considered a fungal disease spread by spores, seed born
- It can be on plants or debris in the field
- *Fusarium* causes toxins which can lead to: problems making beer and bread, making animals sick and/or not gain weight, plants not being able to produce seeds, and poor germination
- For the optimal growth of *Fusarium*, it needs moisture and high temperature during flowering periods; dry and cool temperature means much less growth
- 8-10% of samples tested positive; of those 2-3% were highly infested making them unusable as feed
- Southern Alberta has historically had more, however with moisture and heat in July the highest numbers are within a 200 km radius of Edmonton this year
- Seeds can be tested with DNA (would not receive a percentage; detects positive even if spores are dead; have to follow with Plate Test if positive), or Plate Test (gives percentage; only living infection is counted)
- It is most commonly found on corn, barely, wheats, oats, and anything in the grass family; occasionally found on lentils



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- Fungus can be carried over a year or two later
 - To help prevent *Fusarium* infection:
 - rotate crops (especially from cereals)
 - spray fungicide (when weather conditions are favourable)
 - store cool and dry
 - treat seeds

Board member Kushinski – that the *Fusarium graminearum* presentation be accepted as information.

Carried Unanimously

Action items progress report

004-2024 Board member Scobie – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the action items progress report as information.

Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Services department activity report

005-2024 Board member Doblanko – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Agricultural Services department activity report for the December 2023 to February 2024 reporting period as information.

Carried Unanimously

ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc summary

006-2024 Board member Lewis – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc summary as information.

Carried Unanimously

Grain bag recycling report

007-2024 Board member Doblanko – that the Agricultural Service Board direct administration to look into the responsibility of grain bag retailers in the recycling of the product.

Carried Unanimously

008-2024 Board member Scobie – that the Agricultural Service Board receive the March 11, 2024 Grain bag recycling survey report as information.

Carried Unanimously

Attendee Kim Barkwell exited the Council Chambers at 11:26 a.m.

Wild boar bylaw investigation

009-2024 Board member Doblanko – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the report, and direct Administration to develop a stand alone wild boar by-law, and bring to the Agricultural Services Board for review by the end of quarter three 2024.

Carried Unanimously

Information items

010-2024 Board member Hofstra – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the following correspondence as information:

- a) Canada Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance
- b) Moisture Report
- c) Recent letters
 - i) Big Lakes County



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- ii) Northern Sunrise County-proposed change
 - iii) Northern Sunrise County-Pesticide Regulatory System
 - iv) Northern Sunrise County-to Minister re Removal of Canada Thistle from the Alberta Weed Control Act
 - d) Alberta Farm Animal Care Association (AFAC)
 - e) Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program
 - f) Septic Sense
 - g) Health Canada completely bans strychnine

Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

011-2024 Board member Doblanko – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.



Agricultural Service Board Chair



Manager - Agricultural Services