

Agricultural Service Board

Agenda

*Council Chamber, County Centre, Nisku, AB
Monday, November 18, 2024*

1. **Order – 9:30 a.m.**
2. **Nominations for CHAIR and VICE-CHAIR**
3. **Adoption of agenda**
4. **Adoption of previous minutes**
- September 9, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting ✓
5. **Public presentations**
a) Carri St. Pierre – Farming Forward
6. **Department reports and recommendations**

a) Action items progress report	✓	A. Van Beers
b) Agricultural Services department activity report	✓	Ag Svs staff
c) Agricultural Service Board Bursary	✓	A. Van Beers
d) 2024 Vegetation Management Programs	✓	N. Berg
e) 2024 NW Regional ASB Conference – verbal report	✓	A. Van Beers
7. **Information items**

a) Letter from ARECA – AgKnow	✓	A. Van Beers
b) AgKnow advocacy and briefing	✓	A. Van Beers
c) Letter from Kneehill-ASB Grant Program	✓	A. Van Beers
d) Letter from Stettler-Strengthening Regulation to Address Wild Boar Farming	✓	A. Van Beers
e) Letter from Wheatland County-Richardson Ground Squirrel	✓	A. Van Beers
f) Dutch Elm Disease-City of Edmonton update	✓	A. Van Beers
g) ALUS Field Tour	✓	A. Van Beers
h) Moisture Situation-October 8	✓	A. Van Beers
8. **Next meeting date – Monday, December 9, 2024**
9. **Adjournment**



✓ Attachment provided

Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024 by Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers and Agricultural Services Board members, Glenn Belozar, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Ray Scobie, Dal Virdi, and Rick Smith, public members-at-large Debbie Hofstra and Russell Kushinski present. Tanni Doblanko and Larry Wanchuk were absent with other engagements.

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 Agriculture
- Sharon Faye, Coordinator – Local Foods
- Nicole Fuhsel, Administrative Assistant – Agricultural Services

Nominations for the position of Agricultural Service Board Chair

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers called for nominations for the Agricultural Service Board Chair pursuant to Leduc County Bylaw 31-08 which states that “The Agricultural Service Board shall select a Chair and a Vice-Chair at its first meeting following Council’s annual organization meeting”.

Board member Kushinski nominated board member Belozar for the position of Agricultural Service Board Chair. Board Belozar accepted the nomination.

Mr. Van Beers called for nominations a second time.

Mr. Van Beers called for nominations for a third and final time

Nominations cease – Agricultural Service Board Chair

040-2024 Board member Lewis - that the nominations cease for the position of Agricultural Service Board Chair.

Carried Unanimously

Appointment of Agricultural Service Board Chair

Manager of Agricultural Services announced board member Belozar elected as Chair.

Board member Belozar assumed the Chair

Chair Belozar expressed appreciation to fellow board members, assumed the Chair and proceeded with the balance of the Agricultural Service Board meeting.

Nominations for the position of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair

Chair Belozar called for nominations for the position of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

Board member Smith nominated board member Kushinski for the position of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

Chair Belozar called for nominations a second time.



Chair Belozer called for nominations a third and final time.

Nominations cease – Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair

041-2024 Board member Scobie - that nominations cease for the position of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

Carried Unanimously

Appointment of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair

Chair Belozer announced board member Kushinski elected as Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

Agenda adoption

042-2024 Board member Lewis – that the agenda for the Monday, November 18, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated with the amendment of 6. f) Bill C-293.

Carried Unanimously

Previous minutes – September 11, 2024

043-2024 Board member Kushinski – that the minutes for the September 11, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Public Presentation – Carri St. Pierre, Executive Director, Farming Forward

- 2024 Key themes: Growth, Capacity, and Network
- They currently do not have a lot of engagement with Leduc County residents
- 2025 Potential Projects: Canada Thistle Rust Fungus, Nitrogen Technology Trials, Biological Amendments, Weed Control, Seeding Alternatives, Animal Carcass Disposal Methods, Soil & Plant Sensors
- 2025 Potential Extension: Forage, Animal Handling-Health & Nutrition, Biodiversity, Water Management, Grazing, Funding Opportunities, Winter Feeding
- Support requested of Leduc County: funding, sharing events, and collaboration
- Farming Forward are currently working a webinar series with Leduc County regarding livestock handling
- A Certification of Appreciation for support last year was presented to Chair Belozer
- Question and discussion on drone spraying for larger acre farms
- Question and discussion on organizational structure of Farming Forward
- Question and discussion about Canada Thistle Rust Fungus, with Farming Forward indicating they are leading this program

044-2024 Board member Scobie – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Farming Forward presentation as information.

Carried Unanimously

Action items progress report

045-2024 Board member Smith – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the action items progress report as information.

Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Services department activity report

046-2024 Board member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Agricultural Services department activity report for the September-October 2024 reporting period as information.



Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Service Board Bursary

047-2024 Board member Hofstra – that the Agricultural Service Board approve the awarding of the 2024 Leduc County Agricultural Service Board bursary of \$1000 each to Claire Duhaime, Jessica Knopp, Gabrielle LeBlanc, Sophia Lowie, and Jenaya Wegner.

Carried Unanimously

2024 Vegetation Management Programs

048-2024 Board member Virdi – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Vegetation Management Programs report as information.

Carried Unanimously

2024 NW Regional ASB Conference verbal report

049-2024 Board member Lewis – that the Agricultural Service Board accept 2024 NW Regional ASB Conference verbal report as information.

- Renewable energy and energy regulator presentations
- 2 regional resolutions (Farm Family Award and AgriStability and use of weather stations), both were passed and will be going to the provincial conference in January

Carried Unanimously

Bill C-293 verbal report

- Bill C-293 – Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act
- There may be a risk to agriculture due to vague language
- Concerns specifically with “Plans – contents (l) (ii) after consultation with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Minister of Industry and provincial governments, provide for measures to regulate commercial activities that can contribute to pandemic risk, including industrial animal agriculture”
- Concerns specifically with “Plans – contents (m) (ii) “include the following information, to be provided by the Minister of the Environment: a summary of the measures the Minister of the Environment intends to take to reduce the risk that the commercial wildlife trade in Canada and abroad will lead to a pandemic, including measures to regulate or phase out live animal markets”
- There is discussion of Agricultural Service Boards writing letters; some counties have already started sending in letters

050-2024 Board member Hofstra – that the Agricultural Service Board accept 2024 NW Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference verbal report as information.

Carried Unanimously

051-2024 Board member Hofstra – that the Agricultural Service Board direct Administration to draft a letter to send local senators from the Agricultural Service Board in advance of the next Agriculture Service Board meeting, regarding concerns with Bill C-293.

Carried Unanimously



Information items

052-2024 Board member Scobie – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the following correspondence as information:

- a) Letter from ARECA – AgKnow
- b) AgKnow advocacy and briefing
- c) Letter from Kneehill-ASB Grant Program
- d) Letter from Stettler-Strengthening Regulation to Address Wild Boar Farming
- e) Letter from Wheatland County-Richardson Ground Squirrel
- f) Dutch Elm Disease-City of Edmonton update
- g) ALUS Field Tour
- h) Moisture Situation-October 8

Board member Kushinski left Council Chambers at 11:05 a.m.

Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

053-2024 Board member Viridi – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.


Agricultural Service Board Chair


Manager - Agricultural Services