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**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING AGENDA
Monday, March 12, 2018**

1. **ORDER – 9:00 a.m.**
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**
- Agricultural Service Board Meeting – January 22, 2018 ✓
4. **PRESENTATIONS**
 - a) 9:05 a.m. ALUS Canada – Howie Bjorge, Agrologist ✓ Kim Barkwell
 - b) 9:35 a.m. Alberta Drainage Council and Cameron Drainage District ✓ Garrett Broadbent
5. **MUNICIPAL POLICY - AGRICULTURAL SERVICES**
 - a) AE-03 Control of Clubroot Disease in Canola ✓ Aaron Van Beers
 - I. Clubroot Status Report
 - II. Annual Policy Review
6. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - a) Action Items – Progress Report ✓ Garrett Broadbent
 - b) Agricultural Services Department Activity Report ✓ Ag Svs Administration
 - c) Alberta Agriculture + Forestry – Key Contact Verbal Report Trevor Wallace
 - d) Rural Roadside Mowing Operational Plan ✓ Brendan deMilliano
 - e) 2018 Capital Project #2018-CP-014 Tractor Purchase ✓ Aaron Van Beers
 - f) 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour ✓ Garrett Broadbent
7. **AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE REPORTS**

(Refer to 4 b.)
8. **INFORMATION ITEMS** ✓ All Attached
 - a) Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)
 - i. Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program
 - ii. On-Farm Solar Photovoltaics Program
 - b) Email from Alberta Agriculture & Forestry – 2% LSC
 - c) February 21, 2018 Email from AB Farm Safety Centre
 - d) February 26, 2018 Letter from AFAC
 - e) Email from Alberta Agriculture & Forestry – Salt Study on City of Edmonton Trees
 - f) Alberta Government Agdex – Utilizing Highway Right of Ways and Culverts to Accommodate Manure Draglines
 - g) Grey Wooded Forage Association – The Blade February 2018
 - h) West-Central Forage Association – Forage Views February 2018

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Monday, January 22, 2018

- i) Upcoming Information Sessions:
 - i. Environmental Farm Plan Workshops – Monthly Registrations
 - ii. Working Well – March 20, 2018
 - iii. 2018 Weed and Pest Forecast – March 22, 2018
 - iv. Septic Sense – April 5, 2018
 - v. Ag Drone School – April 9-10, 2018

9. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES OF LEDUC COUNTY, AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 12, 2018 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE COUNTY CENTRE, NISKU, ALBERTA

Order and Roll Call

The Agricultural Service Board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 12, 2018 by Chair Glenn Belozar with Board Members Tanni Doblanko, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Ray Scobie, Rick Smith, Kelly Vandenberghe, Larry Wanchuck and Public Members-At-Large Roy Eckert and Russell Kushinski present.

Also present were Mr. Garrett Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Services; Mr. Aaron Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman; Mr. Brendan deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman; Mrs. Kim Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager; Mr. Duane Coleman, County Manager; Mr. Rick Thomas, Deputy County Manager/General Manager, Community & Protective Services; and Mrs. Lucinda Melnikel, Recording Secretary.

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Mr. Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist, was also in attendance.

Present as well were three individuals.

Adopt Agenda

011-2018 Board Member Doblanko - that the agenda for the March 12, 2018 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Previous Minutes

012-2018 Board Member Lewis - that the January 22, 2018 Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be confirmed, as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

ALUS Canada

Mrs. Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager provided background information on the Leduc County/County of Wetaskiwin partnership with ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services).

Mr. Howie Bjorge, ALUS Canada Agrologist, presenting on behalf of Christine Campbell, Western Hub Manager for ALUS Canada, conveyed information about ALUS Canada:

- A payment-for-ecosystem-services model which allows society to recognize the benefits to nature because of the stewardship of farmers and ranchers



- Producers cost-share establishment expenses and receive annual payments for the additional ecosystem services produced because of their management changes
- Promotes the growth of agriculture while protecting the sustainability of land and natural resources
- ALUS does many of the types of projects that PFRA used to do
- Ecosystem services "Landscape system services" include: Riparian buffers; erosion control; water purification; habitat creation; pollinator habitat; windbreak/shelterbelts; soil amendment; wildlife corridors; water control; sediment capture; water retention; flood control; carbon sequestration; biodiversity enhancement; air purification

Four individuals

Four individuals entered the Council Chambers at 9:12 a.m.

- ALUS growth – Quick up-take in Alberta
- Long Range Goals: Steady growth in acre benefitted and communities invested; Balanced revenue stream with expanded fundraising and partnerships; Enhanced public awareness; Implementation of a national policy that recognizes farmers/ranchers as solution providers for many public priorities for climate and natural resource protection.
- Improve communications concepts: Re-branding "ALUS Canada-A Weston Family Initiative"; reach out to new audiences and decision makers; refine understanding and reputation of ALUS farmers and ranchers.
- New acre project: Marketing initiative to bring corporate funding into the ALUS program.
- Municipal market development through Green Infrastructure: Via municipal partnerships for delivery at the community level and with programs to validate concepts

Three Individuals

Three individuals entered the Council Chambers at 9:16 a.m.

- Municipal service delivery impacts on environment – ALUS can be seen as a conflict resolution tool. Green infrastructure to buffer impacts of development. Three most important stakeholders: Farmer, municipality, buyers of the ecosystem services.

013-2018 Board Member Smith - that the ALUS Canada presentation be received as information.



Carried Unanimously

Recess

The meeting recessed at 9:26 a.m. and reconvened at 9:31 a.m. with Chair Glenn Belozar with Board Members Tanni Doblanko, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Ray Scobie, Rick Smith, Kelly Vandenberghe, Larry Wanchuck and Public Members-At-Large Roy Eckert and Russell Kushinski present.

Also present were:

- Garrett Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Services
- Aaron Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman
- Brendan deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman
- Kim Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager
- Duane Coleman, County Manager
- Rick Thomas, Deputy County Manager/General Manager, Community & Protective Services
- Lucinda Melnikel, Recording Secretary
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist
- Katherine Degaut, Communications Coordinator

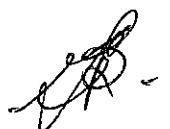
Present as well were nine other individuals.

Alberta Drainage Council and Cameron Drainage District

Mr. Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Services provided background information on the two drainage districts within Leduc County boundaries and introduced representatives from the Alberta Drainage Council and Cameron Drainage District in attendance for the presentation.

Mr. Gupta, representing the Cameron Drainage District, provided the following comments on his presentation to the Agricultural Service Board:

- Purpose of the presentation to seek additional support from Leduc County, specifically additional administrative assistance to make arrangements to have the Cameron Drainage District tax levy added to Leduc County tax notice.
- Cameron Drainage District (CDD) formed by ministerial order in 1949. Total land area within district is 3680 acres. A 14 km long ditch provides benefit to over 916 acres.
- The district was reactivated in 2012 after more than a decade of inactivity.
- Approximately half of the proceeds currently on account are from the donation of the honorariums of all three trustees back to the CDD over the past five years.



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- Need to re-evaluate benefitting acres in light of multiple subdivisions since last evaluation.
- Outstanding account status: Ongoing difficulties with defaulters who are opposed to the drainage district area of benefit evaluation and refuse to pay based on their conviction that a greater area is benefitted than has been evaluated.
- Out of 63 ratepayers, 31 have not paid in 2017 and 14 have not paid for five consecutive years. As of December 31, 2017 the total amount outstanding is \$9,601.51.
- At present, CDD is seeking a certificate of arrears registered to property title, but the process is unfamiliar to Land Titles and no progress has been made with this.
- Recently, an incident where a new property owner, unaware that the Cameron Drainage District was registered on the property title, has rejected the validity of the CDD tax notice and refuses payment.
- A plan of action has been itemized to address the issue of default through meetings with the defaulters to bring them on board with the aims of the drainage district and collect outstanding amounts. Additionally, seek resolution of culvert issues at two locations in CN right-of-way with the assistance of the Alberta Drainage Council.
- The drainage ditch does benefit all properties in the area and is of little visible consequence in the dry years, but has significant beneficial impact in wet years.

Mr. Todd Assen, Alberta Environment representative for the Alberta Drainage Council, explained that a letter will be provided by the Alberta Drainage Council to CDD ratepayers to confirm legitimacy of the CDD and will also notify the Alberta Real Estate Association to inform Realtors. Mr. Assen also urged Leduc County to take over administration of the CDD tax notice and collection process.

Mr. Steve Majek, County of Wetaskiwin Director of Agricultural Services, speaking on behalf of County of Wetaskiwin: County of Wetaskiwin has implemented a special bylaw and collects taxes on behalf of Bear Hills Drainage District. The Bear Hills Drainage District tax levy appears as a line item on the County of Wetaskiwin tax notice. The levy rate is set by Bear Hills Drainage District. County of Wetaskiwin collects the taxes and then the total collected levy is transferred to Bear Hills Drainage District by cheque payment.

Mr. Thomas, Deputy County Manager/General Manager, Community & Protective Services provided comments regarding Leduc County as a ratepayer of the Cameron Drainage District. A Road Benefit levy hasn't been paid in recent years, but substantial grant funding was provided by Leduc County, along with a provincial grant, for improvements performed on the drainage ditch through the 1990's. Mr. Broadbent also provided comments that in addition to administrative support with regard to the annual update of property owner and mapping information, weed



control, brushing, and beaver control work are performed by Leduc County in support of the function of the drainage ditch.

014-2018 Board Member Smith – that the presentation from representatives of the Cameron Drainage District be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

015-2018 Board Member Smith – that administration provide information for discussion at the Tuesday, March 27, 2018 Council meeting with reference to a proposal to consider collection of annual tax levies on behalf of the Cameron Drainage District.

Carried Unanimously

Nine Individuals and Mr. Thomas

Nine individuals and Mr. Thomas Deputy County Manager/General Manager, Community & Protective Services exited the Council Chambers at 10:21 a.m.

Municipal Policy - AE-03 Control of Clubroot Disease in Canola

Status Report

Mr. Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman provided an update on the preliminary results from samples submitted for pathotype shift. It appears that there may be as many as 10 of the samples submitted experienced a shift in clubroot pathotypes. Mr. Van Beers explained that samples were taken where levels found were above a "low level" threshold on cropland planted to a resistant variety. Confirmation is expected within a few weeks.

Mr. Thomas

Mr. Thomas Deputy County Manager/General Manager, Community & Protective Services entered the Council Chambers at 10:29 a.m.

016-2018 Board Member Eckert – that the Clubroot status report dated March 12, 2018 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Policy Review

Mr. Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman reviewed the terms of the existing policy, AE-03 Control of Clubroot Disease in Canola, and reported on the outcome of focus group meetings where feedback was provided by producers, agronomy consultants, and retail representatives. Discussion took place about the value of education and awareness and the 5% of producers who reject acknowledgement of the risks. A comment was



heard that, unfortunately, a major crop loss will be the message that speaks to those producers who have opted to reject the validity of potential risk.

Crops, such as potatoes, that require high tillage operations significantly increases the risks of distributing clubroot spores. Mr. Van Beers recommended updating the policy to include a three-year restriction on the growth of canola AND POTATOES. A Board Member suggestion was given to clarify what may be grown in the fourth year besides a clubroot resistant variety of canola. An additional suggestion was given to make references to property owner and resident consistent with property owner/producer throughout the policy.

017-2018 Board Member Doblanko – that with reference to the annual review of the Control of Clubroot Disease in Canola Enforcement Obligations Policy AE-03, the following revisions to the policy be approved:

Service Level Objectives

- c. change “property owners” to “property owners/producers”

Service Level Standards

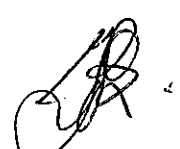
- b. change “resident” to “property owners/producers”
- e. Issue notices and enforce the Agricultural Pests Act as required.
 - i. change “restriction on the growth of canola on verified field and the use of a clubroot-resistant canola variety in the fourth year.” to “restriction on the growth of canola and potatoes on verified field. In the fourth year, potatoes or a clubroot-resistant canola variety may be grown.” And also change “requirement for a Management Plan signed by the landowner and/or renter” to “requirement for a Management Plan signed by the property owner/producer (renter, where applicable)

And further, that the revised policy be referred to Leduc County Council for ratification.

Carried Unanimously

Action Items – Progress Report

Mr. Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Services requested clarification with reference to coordinating a meeting to discuss agriculture strategy concepts with representatives from region municipalities. Clarification was provided by Board Member Doblanko that the intent of Agricultural Service Board Motion 097-2017 was to coordinate an opportunity as rural municipalities to come together to discuss the importance of agriculture in the region and to develop a cohesive rural strategy.

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018-2018 Board Member Lewis – that the Action Items progress report be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Services Department Activity Report

Mr. Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman reported that tenders are under review pending selection decisions. Mr. deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman provided a report on the ongoing road operations meetings between Agricultural Services and Public Works and developments of a mapping system to support coordination of management and maintenance activities.

Administration provided a brief overview of the Pest Control request process via the customer service database and the associated permission to enter, hazard assessment, and mapping documents.

Mrs. Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager supplied information about the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) and noted that Farm Energy Agri-Processing and On Farm Solar PV programs have been taken out of CAP and are being administered by Alberta Agriculture + Forestry. Additionally, there has been an incentive increase for well decommissioning under CAP.

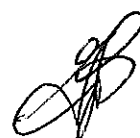
Cargill has sponsored a Canadian Sustainability Acceleration Pilot as a one-year initiative to promote involvement in the Verified Beef Production Plus program. A one-time premium payment has been offered if the audit and certification process has been adopted and subsequent follow up through the market chain bears out.

Mr. Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Service reported that Agricultural Services administration continues to work with Leduc County Planning and Development to restrict the dumping of soil and to regulate where and what through a permit process. Developers are highly motivated to get rid of soil, which is largely viewed as a refuse product. There are instances where ag production land may benefit from the addition of a certain level of topsoil without detrimental effect to local drainage and there are instances where the addition of topsoil will be detrimental.

Recent meetings have taken place with Planning and Development to discuss further clarification to the development permit process. It is Agricultural Service's perspective that a permit should have a specified end date.

Mr. Wallace

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist excused himself from the meeting to attend another commitment, and exited the Council Chambers at 11:34 a.m.

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019-2018 Board Member Vandenberghe – that Leduc County Agricultural Services administration work with the Planning and Development department and other stakeholders, such as other municipalities in the region, to develop an action plan for the management of top soil stripped from lands scheduled for development.

Carried Unanimously

Mr. Broadbent offered to Board Members that he would make arrangements for a tour during spring run-off, if there was interest from individual members.

020-2018 Board Member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Services department activity report for the month of February, 2018 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Rural Roadside Mowing Operational Plan

Mr. deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman provided a status update regarding the trial rural roadside mowing program scheduled for the 2018 growing season utilizing one tractor/mower unit. Tender proposals have been received for a mower and are currently being reviewed. A Board Member comment was heard regarding establishing a quantifiable means to measure the success of the trial program.

021-2018 Board Member Wanchuk – that the Rural Roadside Mowing status report dated March 5, 2018 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

2018 Capital Project #2018-CP-014 Tractor Purchase

Mr. Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman presented his recommendation regarding Capital Plan item 2018-CP-014, replacement 100 hp agricultural tractor to be utilized for roadside mowing. As per Municipal Policy Municipal Purchasing, all purchases over \$100,000 requires approval of a Council delegated authority and as such the tender evaluation criteria for the tractor tender which gives a weighted value to a list of considerations for evaluating tender proposals has been provided for review by the Board. A Board Member suggestion was heard to add frame weight as an evaluation criteria for future purchases.

022-2018 Board Member Smith – that the purchase of a New Holland T6.155 agricultural tractor at the quoted price of \$118,900.00 be approved, as per the tender submitted by Webb's New Holland.

Carried Unanimously

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2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour

023-2018 Board Member Wanchuk – that Agricultural Services Board members advise administration of their intentions with regard to their attendance at the 2018 ASB Summer Tour prior to April 18, 2018.

Carried Unanimously

Board Members Doblanko and Smith

Board Member Doblanko and Board Member Smith exited the Council Chambers at 12 Noon due to a commitment at another meeting.

Information Items

024-2018 Board Member Lewis – that the following correspondence be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

- a) Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)
 - i. Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program
 - ii. On-Farm Solar Photovoltaics Program
- b) Email from Alberta Agriculture & Forestry – 2% LSC
- c) February 21, 2018 Email from AB Farm Safety Centre
- d) February 26, 2018 Letter from AFAC
- e) Email from Alberta Agriculture & Forestry – Salt Study on City of Edmonton Trees
- f) Alberta Government Agdex – Utilizing Highway Right of Ways and Culverts to Accommodate Manure Draglines
- g) Grey Wooded Forage Association – The Blade February 2018
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Carried Unanimously



Adjournment

025-2018 Board Member Lewis – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting concluded at 12:07 a.m.



CHAIR

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL
SERVICES