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**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD
MEETING AGENDA
Monday, June 10, 2019**

1. **ORDER – 9:00 a.m.**

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- Agricultural Service Board Meeting – March 11, 2019

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4. **PRESENTATIONS**

No Presentations Scheduled

5. **MUNICIPAL POLICY - AGRICULTURAL SERVICES**

No Policy Items

6. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a) Action Items – Progress Report
- b) Agricultural Services Department Activity Report
- c) Alberta Agriculture + Forestry – Key Contact Verbal Report
- d) 2020 Agricultural Service Budget – Preliminary Discussion
- e) Clubroot Status Report
- f) Nisku Native Prairie

- ✓ Garrett Broadbent
- ✓ Ag Svs Administration
Trevor Wallace
- ✓ Garrett Broadbent
- ✓ Aaron Van Beers
- ✓ Aaron Van Beers

7. **AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE REPORTS**

No Agricultural Drainage Items

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8. INFORMATION ITEMS

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All Attached

- a) ASB Grant Program Review Update
- b) Letter from the Minister, Agriculture & Forestry – Weed Control Act Appeal Process
- c) Alberta Farm Animal Care
 - I. 2019 Livestock Care Conference Highlights
 - II. 2019-2021 Strategic Plan
 - III. ALERT Line Flow Chart
- d) Alberta Open Farm Days 2019
- e) Prairie Pest Monitoring Network
- f) May 15, 2019 Letter from Brazeau County to Minister of Transportation – Farmer Class 1 Training Exemption
- g) Grey Wooded Forage Association – The Blade Newsletter
- h) West Central Forage Association – Forage Views Newsletter
- i) Breton Plots Field Day June 20, 2019
- j) ALUS – Project Site Visit June 21, 2019

9. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES OF LEDUC COUNTY, AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD ON JUNE 10, 2019 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, June 10, 2019 by Chair Glenn Belozar with Board Members, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Ray Scobie, Kelly Vandenberghe, Larry Wanchuk and Public Members-At-Large Roy Eckert and Russell Kushinski present. Board Member Rick Smith arrived after the call to order. Board Member Tanni Doblanko was unable to attend for personal reasons.

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. Rick Thomas, Deputy County Manager/General Manager, Community & Protective Services
- Mrs. Lucinda Melnikel, Recording Secretary
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Mr. Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist
- Ms. Brooke Fair, Manager of Financial Services

Adopt Agenda

026-2019 Board Member Lewis - that the agenda for the June 10, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted with the following addition:

6 g. Agricultural Support Services in Leduc County

Carried Unanimously

Previous Minutes

027-2019 Board Member Kushinski - that the March 11, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be confirmed, as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Action Items – Progress Report

Mr. deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman provided an update in response to a Board Member inquiry regarding coordination of operations and communication of information in relation to road/roadside maintenance:



- Discussion ongoing between Agricultural Services and Public Works foremen regarding scheduling of operations such as vegetation spraying in preparation for shoulder pull activities.
- Agricultural Services and Public Works continue to provide information to Communications for public circulation.

028-2019 Board Member Wanchuk – that the Action Items progress report be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Services Department Activity Report

Mr. deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman informed the Board that administration has identified Alberta Transportation roadside areas in need of weed control spraying in 2019 and this information has been provided as input for planning purposes as Alberta Transportation prioritizes contractor vegetation management activities for the 2019 growing season.

Mr. deMilliano made reference to a letter received from the provincial Minister of Agriculture and Forestry announcing the launch of a new appeal process that will dramatically reduce the duration of the process for Weed Control Act appeals.

Mr. Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman commented that his experience at recent blasting permit training program highlighted the professionalism of the Leduc County Pest Control Officer and his meticulous attention to details and surroundings. A Board Member inquiry was heard regarding beaver trapping procedures. Mr. Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Services emphasized that great care and careful consideration of circumstances is undertaken to reduce risks to the public and lethal devices are not utilized in populated areas.

Board Member Smith

Board Member Smith entered the Council Chambers at 9:20 a.m.

Mr. Broadbent provided information about the Genesee area non-potable water point:

- An agreement has been reached with the landowners who had submitted the Statement of Concern and the Water Act license application can now be finalized.
- At this point, there is no plan to charge a fee for water fill services and the Memorandum of Understanding with Capital Power stipulates that there will be no fee for use for the duration of that MOU.

Board Member comments were heard regarding the desirability of the development of an agricultural use load out access for water fill at Thorsby. Mr. Broadbent responded that a needs assessment surveyed in the past ten years had not indicated a reported need from area producers at that time, although he acknowledged that needs evolve,



particularly with reference to water requirements for spraying operations and a potential water fill development may need to be reconsidered.

029-2019 Board Member Eckert – that the Agricultural Services Activity Report for the period of March through May, 2019 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Alberta Agriculture + Forestry – Key Contact Verbal Report

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Mr. Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist provided a verbal report:

- Provincial government staff had been unable to promote programs during the period leading up to the election.
- Currently, discussion about existing programs have been taking place between staff and new Ministry.
- Briefing notes for Minister of Agriculture and Forestry: Commodity groups are scheduling meetings with the Minister to have their priorities and concerns heard.
- Agricultural Operation Practices Act – Regulations expiring next year
- Soil Conservation Act – Regulations expiring next year
- Canadian Agricultural Partnership programs – Funds remaining available in a number of programs
- A project to simplify user programs access via automation of producer profile is currently underway.

030-2019 Board Member Wanchuk – that the Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact verbal report be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

2020 Agricultural Services Budget – Preliminary Discussion

Mr. Broadbent, Director of Agricultural Services presented his report regarding preparation of a proposed 2020 Agricultural Services budget:

- The current ASB grant application is for the period of 2017-2019; a new grant application for next three year period will be submitted in 2020.
- Administration has been in discussion with Finance to develop planning to compartmentalize categories of services to include all expenses related to a particular service, including salaries and benefits.



- If supported by Executive Leadership Team (ELT), a restructure of seasonal staffing group to support a full time field foreman position, and an expansion of seasonal hours for the Clubroot Inspector position.
- Under capital expenses, replacement vehicle/equipment proposed:
 - 2010 PCO quad
 - 2015 15' rotary mower
 - 2014 mowing tractor
 - 2008 F250 pickup
 - 2009 F350 pickup
- Working with GIS group, along with PW to build a business case to support considerations for an integrated GPS/GIS program and possibly including potential for agricultural infestation mapping (weeds and crop pests), as well as for spraying activities, brushing, mowing, invertebrate pests.

Mr. Thomas, Deputy County Manager provided clarification that 2020 budget guidelines will be discussed and approved at Council later in June to provide direction to departments for the budget development proposals.

031-2019 Board Member Kushinski – that Agricultural Services administration proceed with using the following documents and information, as presented, in the development of the proposed 2020 Agricultural Services budget:

- Leduc County 2018-2021 Strategic Plan
- 2020 Budget Guidelines (as directed by Council)
- 2019 Agricultural Services Operational Plan
- 2017-2019 ASB Grant Application

Carried Unanimously

Clubroot Status Report

Mr. Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman reported that the University of Alberta has provided confirmation on clubroot pathotypes (either pathotype 3A or 3D) and notices have been issued based on that information. Producers had been notified late in 2018 regarding suspected pathotype shifts and most were expecting to receive the notice. One producer did question the field survey validity and met with administration, this earlier this spring, in the field for re-sampling of canola root tissue from the previous growing season. Clubroot galls were still evident even after the winter and additional samples were sent for testing.

Crop scouting is currently underway which will provide information to assist with the coordination of clubroot inspections as well as crop rotation data.



Mr. Van Beers informed the Board about the upcoming CanolaPALOOZA agronomy event to take place June 26, 2019 at the Lacombe Research and Development Centre.

032-2019 Board Member Vandenberghe – that the clubroot report dated June 3, 2019 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Nisku Native Prairie Reserve

Mr. Van Beers, Agricultural Foreman provided background information regarding the Nisku Native Prairie Reserve located in west portion of the municipal reserve land situated west of Kayda Vista. An agreement was struck with the Alberta Native Plants Council (ANPC) in 2000 for the management of this remnant plains rough fescue prairie ecosystem. Agreements are renewed at five year intervals and the latest agreement is in place to May 2021. Agricultural Services staff provide support for some of the maintenance of the reserve in the form of mowing and selective spraying as requested by ANPC, as well as garbage removal and providing water for any plant transplanting projects.

033-2019 Board Member Scobie – that the Nisku Native Prairie Reserve report dated June 3, 2019 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Agriculture Support Services in Leduc County

A Board Member verbal report was heard regarding the hardships experienced by local producers affected by a local agricultural products outlet in receivership. Pre-purchase of input products is a typical practice in the industry and a local retailers' business failure has resulted in producers not receiving pre-purchased product with limited recourse to recover funds except where purchases were made through a credit card.

034-2019 Board Member Lewis – that the Board Member verbal report regarding agriculture support services be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Information Items

035-2019 Board Member Wanchuk – that the following correspondence be received as information:

- a) ASB Grant Program Review Update
- b) Letter from the Minister, Agriculture & Forestry – Weed Control Act Appeal Process
- c) Alberta Farm Animal Care
 - I. 2019 Livestock Care Conference Highlights
 - II. 2019-2021 Strategic Plan



III. ALERT Line Flow Chart

- d) Alberta Open Farm Days 2019
- e) Prairie Pest Monitoring Network
- f) May 15, 2019 Letter from Brazeau County to Minister of Transportation – Farmer Class 1 Training Exemption
- g) Grey Wooded Forage Association – The Blade Newsletter
- h) West Central Forage Association – Forage Views Newsletter
- i) Breton Plots Field Day June 20, 2019
- j) ALUS – Project Site Visit June 21, 2019

Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

036-2019 Board Member Lewis – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting concluded at 10:27 a.m.


CHAIR
AGRICULTURAL FOREMAN