



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Monday, November 18, 2019

1. **ORDER** – 9:00 a.m.

2. **NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR and VICE-CHAIR**

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

4. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- Agricultural Service Board Meeting – September 9, 2019

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5. **PRESENTATIONS**

No presentations scheduled

6. **MUNICIPAL POLICY - AGRICULTURAL SERVICES**

No policy items

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

- a) Action Items – Progress Report
- b) Agricultural Services Department Activity Report
- c) Alberta Agriculture + Forestry – Key Contact Verbal Report
- d) Agricultural Plastics
- e) Clubroot Report
- f) Local Food Report
- g) Vegetation Management Programs-Year in Review
- h) 2020 Provincial ASB Conference

- ✓ Aaron Van Beers
- ✓ Ag Svs Administration
Trevor Wallace
- ✓ Aaron Van Beers
- ✓ Aaron Van Beers
- ✓ Sharon Faye
- ✓ B.deMilliano/A. Van Beers
- ✓ Aaron Van Beers

8. **AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE REPORTS**

No agricultural drainage items

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9. INFORMATION ITEMS

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All Attached

- a) October 25, 2019 Email – Terminated AF Programs
- b) ALUS
 - i. Project Participants
 - ii. ALUS Signage
 - iii. 2019 ALUS National Hub Conference
- c) FCC – Mental Health Public Service Announcements
<https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/ag-knowledge/mental-health-psa.html>
- d) Pest Insider
- e) Grey Wooded Forage Association – The Blade
- f) West-Central Forage Association – Forage Views
- g) Coming Events
 - i. November 20, 2019 – Verified Beef Production +
 - ii. November 21, 2019 – JEDI Annual Ag Forum
 - iii. November 27, 2019 – Chickens + Coops II
- h) REAL Agriculture News Release-CN Union Strike Notice (Addition)
- i) Leduc Co-op Verbal Update (Addition)

10. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES OF LEDUC COUNTY, AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 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, November 18, 2019 by Aaron Van Beers, Manager of Agricultural Services with Board Members Glenn Belozar, Tanni Doblanko, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Ray Scobie, Rick Smith, Kelly Vandenberghe, Larry Wanchuk and Public Member-At-Large Russell Kushinski present. Public Member-At-Large Roy Eckert arrived after the call to order.

Also present were:

- Garrett Broadbent, Director, Road Operations and Agricultural Services
- Brendan deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman
- Kim Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager
- Sharon Faye, Local Food Coordinator
- Rick Thomas, Deputy County Manager
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist
- Lucinda Melnikel, Recording Secretary

Nominations for the Position of ASB Chair

Aaron Van Beers, Manager of Agricultural Services called for nominations for Agricultural Service Board Chair pursuant to Leduc County By Law 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 Organizational Meeting".

Board Member Kushinski nominated Board Member Belozar for the position of Agricultural Service Board Chair.

Aaron Van Beers called for nominations a second time.

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

Nominations Cease – ASB Chair

038-2019 Board Member Doblanko - that nominations cease for the position of Agricultural Service Board Chair.

Carried Unanimously

Board Member Belozar was declared elected as Agricultural Service Board Chair.



Assume Chair

Chair Belozer assumed the position of the Agricultural Service Board Chair for the balance of the meeting.

Nominations for the Position of Vice-Chair

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

Board Member Wanchuk nominated Board Member Scobie for the position of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

Chair Belozer called for nominations a second time.

Chair Belozer called for nomination a third and final time.

Nominations Cease – ASB Vice-Chair

039-2019 Board Member Doblanko - that nominations cease for the position of Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

Carried Unanimously

Board Member Scobie was declared elected as Agricultural Service Board Vice-Chair.

Adopt Agenda

040-2019 Board Member Lewis - that the agenda for the November 18, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted with the following addition:

9 h. REAL Agriculture News Release-CN Union Strike Notice

Carried Unanimously

Previous Minutes

041-2019 Board Member Scobie - that the September 9, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be confirmed, as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

Board Member Eckert

Public Member-At-Large Eckert entered the Council Chambers at 9:04 a.m.



Action Items – Progress Report

042-2019 Board Member Wanchuk – that the Action Items progress report be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Services Department Activity Report

Agricultural Services administration staff provided additional information on reporting within the Agricultural Services activity report:

- Following the provincial government review of programs the termination of the following programs was announced: Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program for producers and processors; On-Farm Solar PV Program; Energy Savings for Agri-Processors
- Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) alignment with international sustainability standards. EFP is a re-requisite for grant applications under Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), and participation in other programs such as Verified Beef Production Plus
- Local Food – Compiling an email contact listing as a means to alert producers/business of upcoming opportunities and events
- 76 in attendance at the Mountain Pine Beetle information workshop, a collaboration between Wetaskiwin County, Brazeau County, Leduc County, Alberta Agriculture + Forestry, and Rural Routes
- The Local Food policy (Leduc County Municipal Policy-Agricultural Services Programs) is in draft phase
- Work continues with Asset Management and Fleet Condition Assessment – Discussion continues on the development of parameters to accurately and consistently capture condition of light and heavy equipment, including trailers and agricultural tractors.
- Based on observations, approximately 12-15% of crops remain unharvested within the municipality as of early November. Almost no crops were taken off dry, yields are down overall, substantial increase in input costs due to drying activities, bin heating is already being reported.
- Provincially, unharvested acres are reckoned at 10-40% in central Alberta; 40-80% in the Peace area. Discussions are taking place among municipalities via the Agricultural Fieldmen on messaging to the province.



043-2019 Board member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Services Activity Report for the reporting period of September 1-November 15, 2019 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Alberta Agriculture + Forestry – Key Contact Verbal Report

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

- Alberta Agriculture & Forestry (AF) budget has been reduced by \$88 million, with a proposed additional reduction of \$80 million per year for the next three years. A portion of the reduction has been realized through the discontinuation or re-allocation of some programs. An estimated 51 staff positions will be eliminated.
- Internal AF changes – Five divisions have been consolidated into four divisions.
- Bill 16 to update the grazing lease fee framework will take effect January 1, 2020. The framework was last updated 25 years ago and changes will better align the fee structure with land values and livestock market fluctuations.
- Responding to a Board Member inquiry regarding manure spreading on frozen ground – Under some circumstances Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB), the agency responsible for administering Agricultural Operation Practices Act legislation, may give permission to spread if storage is at risk of being compromised and a set of specific criteria is met. As the regulating body, NRCB is responsive to producer requests as well as public concerns regarding farming practices.

044-2019 Board Member Vandenberghe – that the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact's update be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Plastics

Aaron Van Beers, Manager of Agricultural Services presented his report regarding the CleanFarms Recycle It! three-year pilot program for recycling agricultural plastics:

- First 20 collection sites for the pilot program began collecting grain bags and twine in October, 2019
- Yellowhead County has is one of the closest collection sites to Leduc County at present. Yellowhead County has three sites for collection, at existing transfer station facilities. Bulk bags are available on-site for bagging small quantities brought to the site, or bags may be taken to be filled at the farming operation. Yellowhead has purchased a jib crane to be utilized by County staff for loading filled bulk bags on-farm for transportation to the CleanFarms collection location.



- Yellowhead County staff reckon that there is likely a break-even when all advantages of removing the ag plastics material out of the dry waste stream is countered by the costs of administering the recycling program. Further, there is benefit to the community in terms of the feeling of positive action as well as the visible benefit of having the plastics material regularly removed from farm sites.
- Silage covering material is not included as part of the Recycle It! program.

045-2019 Board Member Lewis – that the Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program report dated November 8, 2019 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Clubroot Report

Aaron Van Beers, Manager of Agricultural Services presented his report regarding 2019 canola crop inspections for the presence of clubroot:

- 701 canola fields were inspected in 2019; 134 were confirmed positive for the presence of clubroot and the majority of those have been confirmed positive at some point in the past.
- 70.8% of confirmations were rated with infestation levels of less than 10/100; 16% (22 fields) with an initial inspection rating of 30/100 or higher.
- 26 samples have been submitted to the University of Alberta for pathotype testing.
- Farming Smarter, working with Alberta Agriculture + Forestry, conducted in-field trials with scent detection dogs trained to locate the scent of clubroot galls. Leduc County provided two sites of known infestation for field trial sites. As proven with quagga and zebra mussels detection, there is great potential in the detection of spores on equipment.
- The University of Alberta/Alberta Canola application for grant funding under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership program to continue work in surveillance and pathotype testing research was declined. Alberta Canola has re-submitted the application with an appeal to the provincial government to reconsider their decision. An emergent resolution will be brought to the Provincial ASB Conference to communicate the importance of the research and surveillance work done by the University of Alberta to the industry.
- December 12 has been set as the tentative date for the annual clubroot information meeting. A Nutri-Gold program representative has agreed to provide a presentation on their biosolids application program as well as liming applications.
- Inspections were performed for the City of Edmonton under the annexation agreement as a fee for service on cropland within the annexed area. The City of Edmonton currently does not have a clubroot policy. In 2019, there were few canola crops within the area.



Mr. Wallace

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist exited the Council Chambers at 10:20 a.m.

46-2019 Board Member Kushinski – that the clubroot report dated November 8, 2019 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Recess

The meeting recessed at 10:23 a.m. and reconvened at 10:32 a.m. with Chair Glenn Belozer and Board Members Tanni Doblanko, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Ray Scobie, Rick Smith, Kelly Vandenberghe, Larry Wanchuk and Public Members-At-Large Roy Eckert and Russell Kushinski present.

Also present were:

- Garrett Broadbent, Director, Road Operations and Agricultural Services
- Aaron Van Beers, Manager of Agricultural Services
- Brendan deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman
- Kim Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Program Manager
- Sharon Faye, Local Food Coordinator
- Rick Thomas, Deputy County Manager
- Lucinda Melnikel, Recording Secretary

Amendment to the November 18, 2019 ASB Agenda

47-2019 Board Member Doblanko – that the November 18, 2019 Agricultural Service Board agenda be amended to add Item 9. i) Leduc Co-op Update.

Carried Unanimously

Local Food Report

48-2019 Board Member Wanchuk – that the local food and agricultural innovation report dated November 12, 2019 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Vegetation Management Programs-Year in Review

Agricultural Services administration staff reviewed a summary of the 2019 Vegetation Management programs:

- There were ongoing delays to the spraying programs due to wet, windy conditions throughout the entire growing season. The Fenceline program was carried out in an abbreviated manner due to wet fields and delayed harvest activities and was

carried out by the Agricultural Foreman late in the fall after seasonal staff had completed their season.

- Over 2000 weed inspections were performed with approximately 1100 weed inspection reports delivered to property owners. 16 weed notices were issued with compliance achieved on 15; remediation action was undertaken on one property.
- Weed infestations and a lack of mowing along provincial highways through 2019 was a great source of frustration and administration heard numerous complaints from area residents.
- Abundant grass growth necessitated a third mowing pass in September along Airport Road, Looking Back Lake Road, and Joseph Lake Road. The disc mower did not perform well in the heavy, wet grass and some areas were left with untidy, ragged cuts. In spite of the challenging conditions, the operator was able to complete mowing on 1355 km of rural roadside ditches.

049-2019 Board Member Smith – that the 2019 Vegetation Management Programs report dated November 12, 2019 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

2020 Provincial ASB Conference

Aaron Van Beers, Manager of Agricultural Services provided information that each of the five provincial regions of the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF) is responsible for a given year's AAAF training and the provincial conference planning. The central region has heard many concerns regarding the costs of registration for the 2020 Provincial ASB Conference event as well as the choice of conference location.

Discussion took place about conference costs and the relative value of topics on the conference agenda. Private industry sponsorship has declined in recent years and that has also had an impact on the costs passed on through registration fees.

050-2019 Board Member Smith - that the 2020 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference report dated November 5, 2019 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

Information Items

A Board Member provided an update on Leduc Co-op's donation of the use of a plot of cropland to the Calmar & District Agricultural Society. Community contributions from a variety of local resources supported inputs and the harvest of a crop. Proceeds will assist with the purchase of an ice plant for the Calmar Curling Club.



051-2019 Board Member Doblanko – that the following correspondence and information items be received as information.

- a) October 25, 2019 Email – Terminated AF Programs
- b) ALUS
 - i. Project Participants
 - ii. ALUS Signage
 - iii. 2019 ALUS National Hub Conference
- c) FCC – Mental Health Public Service Announcements <https://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/ag-knowledge/mental-health-psa.html>
- d) Pest Insider
- e) Grey Wooded Forage Association – The Blade
- f) West-Central Forage Association – Forage Views
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 - i. November 20, 2019 – Verified Beef Production +
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 - iii. November 27, 2019 – Chickens + Coops II
- h) REAL Agriculture News Release-CN Union Strike Notice
- i) Leduc Co-op Update

Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

052-2019 Board Member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting concluded at 11:20 a.m.



CHAIR



MANAGER OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES