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1. **ORDER** – 9:00 a.m.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- Agricultural Service Board Meeting – March 9, 2020

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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) Clubroot Report
- e) Local State of Agricultural Disaster Discussion
- f) Agricultural Services 2021 Programs Discussion

√ Aaron Van Beers  
√ Ag Svs Administration  
Trevor Wallace  
√ Aaron Van Beers  
√ Aaron Van Beers  
√ Brendan de Milliano

7. **AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE REPORTS**

No Agricultural Drainage Reports



**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING AGENDA**  
**Monday, July 20, 2020**

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**8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

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All Attached

- a) Declaration of Disaster
  - I. Thorhild County
  - II. Athabasca County
  - III. Lamont County
  - IV. Lac La Biche County
  - V. Smoky Lake County
- b) *Fusarium graminearum* Removed from Agricultural Pests Act
- c) The Blade – May/June 2020
- d) Forage View – Spring 2020
- e) Canada Thistle Stem-Mining Weevils Project
- f) Food for the Future: The Long Term Implications of COVID-19 on Food Supply

**9. ADJOURNMENT**



**MINUTES OF LEDUC COUNTY, AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON JULY 20, 2020 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE COUNTY CENTRE,  
NISKU, ALBERTA**

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**Order and Roll Call**

The Agricultural Service Board meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Monday, July 20, 2020 by Chair Glenn Belozar with Board members Tanni Doblanko, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Ray Scobie, Larry Wanchuk and Public Members-At-Large Roy Eckert and Russell Kushinski present. Board member Kelly Vandenberghe attended via teleconference. Board member Rick Smith arrived after the call to order.

Also present were:

- Duane Coleman, County Manager
- Rick Thomas, Deputy County Manager
- Aaron Van Beers, Manager of Agricultural Services
- Brendan deMilliano, Agricultural Foreman
- Lucinda Melnikel, Recording Secretary
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact, Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist

Garett Broadbent, Director of Road Operations and Agricultural Services arrived after the call to order.

**Adopt Agenda**

**024-2020** Board Member Doblanko- that the agenda for the July 20, 2020 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted with the following additions:

- g) Discussion – Wild Elk Challenges for Agricultural Producers
- h) Discussion – Agricultural Plastics
- i) Verbal Report on Current Crop Conditions in the County

Carried Unanimously

**Board member Smith and staff member Broadbent**

Board member Smith and Director of Road Operations and Agricultural Services Garrett Broadbent entered the council chamber at 9:03 a.m.



**Previous Minutes**

**025-2020** Board Member Lewis - that the March 9, 2020 Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes be confirmed, as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**Action Items – Progress Report**

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers reviewed the completed action items.

**Agricultural Services Department Activity Report**

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers reviewed the Agricultural Services Department activity report for the May-June period and provided additional remarks:

- Cameron Drainage District system is working well. There have been a few culvert issues that the drainage district is addressing themselves

**026-2020** Board Member Wanchuk – that the following reports be received as information:

- a) Action Items Progress Report – March 9, 2020 Items
- b) Agricultural Services Department Activity Report for the period of May-June 2020

Carried Unanimously

**Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – Key Contact Verbal Report**

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact Trevor Wallace provided his verbal report:

- 40% of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) staff have been working from home, and are starting to return to the office in stages through July
- AF staffing layoffs have been pushed to September 1 (affects approximately 200 staff)
- Results Driven Agriculture Research: Review of processes and logistical arrangements are currently underway. Discussions/planning ongoing indicate the intent to move staff, equipment, and maybe facilities to organizations such as the University of Alberta
- Public trust in agriculture: Canadian Agricultural Partnership Public Agriculture Literacy program to support initiatives on communicating facts about agriculture and the science behind hot button issues
- Forestry: Wildfires not as busy as expected, thus far

**027-2020** Board Member Smith – that the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Key Contact verbal report be received as information.



Carried Unanimously

**Discussion – Wild Elk Challenges for Agricultural Producers**

Board member Scobie described hardships that damages caused by wild elk are imposing on agricultural producers in Leduc County. The following points were discussed:

- Agricultural producers, particularly within divisions 6 and 7 have continued to experience severe problems with large herds of wild elk causing crop damage, feed stockpile damage, fencing damage. The past winter was especially bad with additionally losses being experienced with unharvested crops left in the field
- Fish and Wildlife has not been responsive to the complaints of agricultural producers
- Very few hunting licenses are issued for the wildlife management unit; hunting has not proven to be effective in managing numbers of elk
- Over the past year, at least two significant herds of over 100 each have been observed on agricultural lands in the area
- Expansion of hunting to reduce numbers of wild elk
- Compensation for damages being borne by agricultural producers, including loss of feed, crop, damages to fences
- Presence of wild elk pose herd health risks to cattle through the transmission of disease

**028-2020** Board Member Scobie – that with reference to damages being experienced by agricultural producers due to high numbers of wild elk within wildlife management unit #334:

- i. Administration draft a letter on behalf of the Agricultural Service Board to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development itemizing hardships being borne by agricultural producers and urging expanding the elk hunting season/number of licenses available to assist with the reduction of elk numbers, and
- ii. Administration develop a draft resolution for submission to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta for review at the 2020 RMA fall convention,

and further, that the foregoing be prepared prior to mid-August 2020.

Carried Unanimously



### **Clubroot Report**

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers provided a staff report on clubroot notices issued following the confirmation of pathotypes and field inspections on canola performed to date.

**029-2020** Board Member Kushinski – that the July 14, 2020 report on clubroot notices issued following the confirmation of pathotypes and field inspections on canola performed to date be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

### **Verbal Report on Current Crop Conditions in the County**

Public Member-at-Large Kushinski presented a verbal report highlighting the following:

- Driving survey of crops throughout the County: “Has never seen cropping conditions so bad; only 3-4% estimated to look good overall”
- A local producer who keeps detailed records commented that 2020 is the fourth wettest year so far (to date) since 1905, according to his records for conditions at his location
- Some crops still in the field from 2019 cropping season
- Many fields were too wet to be seeded and many more had severely reduced seeding area due to standing water
- Regardless of the cropping circumstances, rental on the land must be paid as agreed upon and other financial obligations fulfilled in relation to producer owned cropland as well as producers’ inputs
- Full water runs and overland flooding have caused soil erosion
- Wet conditions contribute to the risks for crop disease and most producers have been unable to get in to the field to spray to manage disease
- In the west area of the County it is estimated that 50% or less of the cropland was able to seeded or is not currently under water

### **Local State of Agricultural Disaster Discussion**

Manager of Agricultural Services Aaron Van Beers presented a staff report itemizing crop conditions.

**030-2020** Board Member Kushinski – that administration prepare a recommendation for Leduc County Council consideration with reference to a declaration of agricultural disaster for Leduc County.

Carried Unanimously



**031-2020** Board Member Doblanko – that administration draft a resolution for Leduc County Council for submission to Rural Municipalities of Alberta for the 2020 RMA fall convention to formalize a request that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry review and enhance support to farmers when a state of agriculture disaster is declared.

Carried Unanimously

**032-2020** Board Member Smith – that Leduc County Mayor and Agricultural Service Board Chair, along with Public Member-At-Large Kushinski, seek a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry to discuss programs and support for agricultural producers in circumstances of subsequent years of weather-related and production challenges leading to declarations of agricultural disaster.

Carried Unanimously

### **Agricultural Services 2021 Programs Discussion**

Agricultural Foreman Brendan deMilliano provided a staff report reviewing 2020 Agricultural Services programs levels of service.

**033-2020** Board Member Doblanko – that July 14, 2020 report reviewing 2020 Agricultural Services programs level of service be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

### **Agricultural Plastics - Discussion**

Chair Belozzer highlighted the following points relating to recycling of agricultural plastics:

- Under the CleanFarms “Alberta Ag-Plastic” pilot program, 20 sites were chosen in 2019 to collect grain bags and twine for recycling. Five additional collection sites are to be chosen for twine and grain bags recycling in 2020
- Leduc & District Regional Waste Management Authority has applied to be considered as a pilot site and has engaged Leduc County Agricultural Services administration staff to help assess agricultural producer interest and potential volumes of eligible ag plastics
- Consideration is also being given for a grain bag wrapper as a piece of equipment that could potentially be made available to producers
- Net wrap, as a composite material, and silage cover and haylage bags due to bio-residues of feed material are not included in the recycling program at this time



**034-2020** Board Member Belozer – that the discussion item regarding the Leduc & District Regional Waste Management Authority application to be a collection site under the CleanFarms Alberta Ag-Plastic pilot, be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

**Information Items**

**035-2020** Board Member Eckert – that the following correspondence be received as information:

- a) Declaration of Disaster
  - I. Thorhild County
  - II. Athabasca County
  - III. Lamont County
  - IV. Lac La Biche County
  - V. Smoky Lake County
- b) *Fusarium graminearum* Removed from Agricultural Pests Act
- c) The Blade – May/June 2020
- d) Forage View – Spring 2020
- e) Canada Thistle Stem-Mining Weevils Project
- f) Food for the Future: The Long Term Implications of COVID-19 on Food Supply

Carried Unanimously

**Adjournment**

**036-2020** Board Member Vandenberghe – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting concluded at 10:52 a.m.

CHAIR

MANAGER OF AGRICULTURAL SERVICES