



# County of Grande Prairie No. 1

## Agricultural Service Board Minutes

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2019  
Time: 10:00 AM  
Location: Council Chambers

**Board Members Present:** Corey Beck, Chair  
Leanne Beaupre  
Karen Rosvold  
Linda Waddy  
Daryl Beeston  
Harold Bulford  
Peter Harris  
Bob Marshall

**Board Members Absent:** Ross Sutherland

**Staff Present:** Sonja Raven, Agricultural Fieldman  
Marny Kenney, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman  
Jill Henry, Rural Extension Officer  
Dan Lemieux, Director of Community Services  
Megan Beson, Recording Secretary

**Others Present** Lesley Nielsen-Bjerke

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**Resolution # ASB20190714.001**

**MOVED** by B. MARSHALL

That the agenda for the August 14, 2019 ASB Agenda be adopted as presented.

**Carried**

### MINUTES APPROVAL

**May 14, 2019 - ASB Meeting Minutes**

**Resolution # ASB20190814.002**

**MOVED by P. HARRIS**

That the minutes for the May 14, 2019 Agricultural Service Board be approved as presented.

**Carried**

**AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**100 Years of Farming Pioneer Award**

The Pioneer Award recognizes the contributions of pioneer farming families who have resided and farmed in the County of Grande Prairie for the past 100 years. The Marcy Family is to receive the Pioneer Award for 100 Years of Farming in the County of Grande Prairie.

The Pioneer Award was be presented to the Marcy family who homesteaded on the SW 28-71-4 W6 in 1919.

**Weed Warrior 2019 Awards**

Each year the Grand Champion title is awarded to the Weed Warrior team with the highest poundage of scentless chamomile picked. The Team Spirit award is presented to the team that exhibits the greatest enthusiasm and determination.

The Weed Warrior Grand Champion award was be presented to the Grande Prairie Garden Club with 4550 kg scentless chamomile picked. The Weed Warrior Team Spirit award was be presented to the Hillcrest Christian School. Cheques have already been disbursed. The Hillcrest Christian School was unable to attend the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Clear Hills County – Farmer Class 1 Training Exemption**

The Clear Hills County ASB board wrote a letter to Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Transportation, Deputy House Leader in support of farm workers being exempt from the Class 1 Mandatory Entry Level Training (MELT). Saskatchewan has provided an “F” exemption for farmers on their Class 1 licences, Clear Hills County ASB encourages the Government of Alberta to implement a similar exemption for the Alberta Agricultural producers and farm workers.

There was discussion surrounding:

- Proper training;

- Red tape reduction; and
- Challenging the MELT test.

**Resolution # ASB 20190814.003**

**MOVED by H. BULFORD**

That Administration write a letter of support to the Minister of Transportation for the endorsement for an agricultural exemption to the mandatory entry level training required for Class 1 drivers.

**Carried**

**Ropin' the Web – Agriculture and Forestry Website Concerns**

Ropin' the Web, and internet portal allowing access to specialized agricultural input and decision-making tools, is no longer functional since the last election. Specifically the general store, hay and pasture directory and custom rate surveys are no longer available to producers who used this to make informed management decision for their farming operations.

Clear Hills County and Red Deer County have expressed concerns to Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on behalf of agricultural producers who no longer have access to key information following new updates on the provincial website. They are encouraging provincial commitment to improve resources available on the website. They would appreciate other letters of support for the reinstatement of Ropin' the Web from other municipalities.

**Resolution # ASB 20190814.004**

**MOVED by D. BEESTON**

That a letter be sent to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Forestry requesting to ensure the information and tools previously available on Ropin' the Web is made available online.

**Carried**

**Program Update - Agricultural Fieldman**

The program update was provided to the Board by the Agriculture Fieldman, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman and Rural Extension Officer. Updates were provided on the following:

- Ag Pre-loved stuffy drive;

- Parade Season 2019;
- Rural Extension Seasonal Assistant;
- Workshops;
- Classroom AG Program;
- Environmental Farm Plan.
- West County Watershed Society AGM;
- Envirothon May 23 and 24 at Hinton Training Centre;
- National NCF Envirothon North Carolina State University;
- Riparian Spring Tour;
- Junior Forest Wardens Tree Planting;
- Youth AgVenture Tour;
- Your Agrarians Soils Tour;
- Watershed Restoration and Resiliency Grants (Streambank Restoration and Extension Project Year 3, Livestock Crossing Project, Wapiti Watershed Bank Stabilization Project);
- Weed Warriors and the incineration of the weeds once they are picked; Have sourced burlap sacking that can be burnt;
- Clairmont Bioswale Presentation from Rural Extension Seasonal Assistant;
- Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership - Cows and Fish Stream 2 Stream Workshop;
- Challenges with the weather and weed growth;
- Mowing: as of August 2nd mowers have completed 3100 miles of ditch and industrial developed roads;
- Herbicide Application and request for additional staff for the program;
- Weed Inspecting;
- Problem Wildlife and budget implications for 2 additional seasonal positions to be included in 2021;

Board Member Beaupre entered the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Board Member Rosvold left the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

- Discussion on Agriculture Information being included in applications that are brought forward to MPC;
- Summary of budget recommendations;
- Reporting back on QR Codes for weeds;
- Interprovincial Invasive Weeds Committee; and
- Clubroot testing by Public Works;

**Resolution # ASB20190814.005**

**MOVED by B. MARSHALL**

That a a letter of appreciation be sent to the Farm Families for their time and efforts to help with the County's rural extension endeavors.

**Carried**

**Resolution # ASB20190814.006**

**MOVED by H. BULFORD**

That the meeting be recessed until 12:45 p.m.

**Carried**

The meeting reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

Board Member Harris did not return to the meeting.

**Resolution # ASB20190814.007**

**MOVED by B. MARSHALL**

That Administration provide the Agricultural Service Board with a business case, including several years of statistics demonstrating increased demand, for additional problem wildlife officers.

**Carried**

**Resolution # ASB20190814.008**

**MOVED by L. BEAUPRE**

That Administration bring back information with regards to sucession planning and alternatives including hiring contractors, to alleviate staffing pressures on Problem Wildlife Officers.

**Carried**

**Resolution # ASB20190814.009**

**MOVED by L. BEAUPRE**

That any requests from the Agricultural Fieldman for capital and operational funds that relate to additional staff positions and equipment be funded through the Agriculture Reserve based allowable expenses through the Government of Alberta grant.

**Carried**

**Resolution # ASB20190814.010**

**MOVED by B. MARSHALL**

That the request for \$50,000 for contract enforcement of weed notices be forwarded to the December 2019 Budget Deliberations.

**Withdrawn**

**Resolution # ASB20190814.011**

**MOVED by L. BEAUPRE**

That the enforcement of weed notices be contracted out for the 2020 season at cost recovery provided a contractor can be obtained through a standing offer contract.

**Carried**

**Resolution # ASB20190814.012**

**MOVED by B. MARSHALL**

That Administration bring back a business case regarding the addition of 1 seasonal Herbicide Applicator in 2021 and ongoing at a cost of \$54,000 in the first year and \$33,500 ongoing and the addition of 2 seasonal Weed Inspectors in 2021 and ongoing at a cost of \$66,000 (including truck rental) to the 2021 fiscal plan.

**Carried**

**Resolution # ASB20190814.013**

**MOVED by L. BEAUPRE**

That Deryle Penner attend an Agricultural Service Board meeting to explain the current process of clubroot testing by Public Works related to covering industrial soil disturbances.

**Carried**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Beaver Dam Notice-Sexsmith**

Signage now posted by Town of Sexsmith to support Problem Wildlife staff efforts to control beavers for the town.

### **Clean Farms – Collection Bags for Empty Pesticide & Fertilizer Jugs**

To date, there has been no decision as to which locations will be selected for the trial of Clean Farms - Collection Bags for Empty Pesticide and Fertilizer Jugs. Should the County be selected, Administration will ensure that signage is provided.

### **Clubroot Awareness - Petroleum Show**

To continue be proactive on the prevention of Clubroot in the County and provide educational information to landowners, residents and industry in the County of Grande Prairie, Administration will provide clubroot information at the Grande Prairie Petroleum Show and attend WASP meetings as appropriate.

### **Rental Equipment Policy Update**

At the May 14, 2019 ASB meeting the Board directed Administration to change the rates and deposits required for rental equipment. Policy D10 now reflects those changes.

### **Resolution # ASB20190814.014**

**MOVED** by L. WADDY

That Policy D10 Rental Equipment Policy be approved with the following changes:

- All rental equipment requires a \$400.00 secured deposit; and
- Rental cost for skid-mount sprayers is \$50.00 per day.

**Carried**

### **Rental Equipment – Trimble GPS Systems**

It was requested that costs be investigated for GPS guidance for Rental Equipment Sprayers to provide precision agriculture functionality for herbicide application. The costs are as follows:

- Trimble entry-level guidance, EZ-Guide 250 system, 12-volt plug operation, push button display range from \$2600.00; and
- TrimbleCFX Display operated off battery, touch screen display \$4,100.00.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Newsletter**

The July #18 issue of the Mighty Peace Watershed Alliance Newsletter recognizes Jill Henry, Rural Extension Office for the County of Grande Prairie as ‘New to the Board’.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Thank you form the Grande Prairie Composite High School**

The students and advisors of the Grande Prairie Composite High Envirothon team thanked Jill Henry and the County of Grande Prairie for the unique learning experience and opportunity to participate in the Envirothon.

### **Alberta Envirothon**

The Alberta Envirothon Association recognizes the County of Grande Prairie for their contribution in the success of the 2019 Envirothon event. The Alberta Envirothon is an annual team-based competition aimed at increasing high school students’ knowledge of environmental sciences and natural resource management.

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Board Member Beaupre:

- Nothing to report.

Board Member Waddy:

- Nothing to report.

Board Member Beeston:

- Inquired about the Composite High School competing in the Envirothon competition.

Board Member Bulford:

- Inquired about the weed pickers process and bagging.

Board Member Marshall:

- Thanked the weed pickers for their work at RR84 and RR85; and



- ICF with Hythe and dealing with their weed issue areas.

Board Member Beck:

- Inquired about the Peace Region Regional Meeting date.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution # ASB20190814.015**

**MOVED by B. MARSHALL**

That the meeting be adjourned at this time being 2:27 p.m.

**Carried**

ASB20191009.002



CHAIRPERSON



AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN