

MINUTES

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

Mountain View County

Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Monday, July 20, 2015, in the Council Chamber, 1408 Twp. Rd. 320, Didsbury, AB

PRESENT: Chair E. Iversen
Vice Chair B. Rodger
Councilor J. Sayer
Member G. Cunningham

ABSENT: Councilor D. Milne
Councilor K. Heck
Member B. Buschert

IN ATTENDANCE: Jane Fulton, Manager Agricultural Services
Fiona McCarthy, Recording Secretary
Lorelee Grattidge, Sustainable Agricultural Specialist
Chris Chrenek, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman

CALL TO ORDER: Chair E. Iversen called the meeting to order at 09:05 a.m.

A delegation was added to the Agenda, Mr. Jim Fisher Director of Conservation Policy Delta Waterfowl.

AGENDA Moved by J. Sayer
ASB15-031 That Agricultural Service Board adopt the agenda of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting of July 20, 2015 as amended.
Carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES Moved by Councilor B. Rodger
ASB15-032 That Agricultural Service Board adopt the Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board of June 15, 2015.
Carried.

OLD BUSINESS
ALUS & Riparian An overview was given of the proposed project for funding at SE 24-31-3-W5.
• Requested was 5 acres of area for fencing around dugout
• \$432 would be eligible for MVC funding
• \$2,097 for watering system was requested but did not meet funding scoring criteria

ASB15-033 Moved by B. Rodger
That the Agricultural Service Board defer decision for funding of the new watering system at SE 24-31-3-W5
Carried

ASB15-034 Moved by J. Sayer
That the Agricultural Service Board approves funding for the SE ¼ 06-31-28-W4 and SE ¼ 24-31-3-W5 fencing projects under Riparian and Ecological Enhancement Projects as outlined in the amount of \$1,242.
Carried

The Agricultural Service Board discussed funding decision considerations and the 3 ALUS projects proposed for funding.

- An ALUS project was approved at the June ASB meeting on N 14-32-04-W5
 - Project was brought forward to include additional funding for prevention of ditched or drained small, seasonal potholes
 - Amounts to an additional \$37.50 of payments over 3 year period
- Project on S ½ 06-31-26-W4
 - Tame Pasture seeding of 64 acres around wetland and watering system
 - Seeding funds requested \$2,344.20
 - Watering system funds requested \$1,575.50
 - Total project commitment \$11,541.80 for 3 years
 - Timing of grazing and value of project did not fall inside the intent of ALUS
 - Project funding to be considered under Riparian and Ecological Enhancement Program instead
- Project on NE ¼ 10-32-05-W5
 - 67 acres of fencing within a Restrictive Covenant
 - Rating for project was 75%
 - Funding for materials \$675.00
 - Total funding commitment of \$1,150.50

The meeting was recessed at 10:15 and reconvened at 10:30

DELEGATION

Jim Fisher, Director of Conservation Policy at Delta Waterfowl joined the meeting via conference call.

Small acreage projects

- Small acreage projects do not meet the intent of ALUS

- Other municipalities have developed separate funding programs

Small Seasonal Potholes and Their Significance

- Cropland potholes are the most vulnerable and important for early duck migration
- Main concern is to keep them from being ditched or drained
- Producers can receive payments even in dry years

ALUS projects in Restrictive Covenant Areas

- Examples of existing ALUS projects were sighted, within Wetland Easement areas still funded by ALUS
- ALUS will review, but in the meantime will carry on considering those types of projects

3 year terms and 5 year terms

- Points of experience from other ALUS projects:
 - 3 years is a short period of time which gives opportunity to speak with producer and make changes
 - Down side is loss of investment if producer does not renew ALUS project
 - Other groups seek minimum of 5 years
 - Funding partners prefer longer term projects
 - ALUS is open to a wide variety of projects

ALUS Updates

- ALUS received \$5 million grant that will accomplish making ALUS into its own registered charity
- Meanwhile it is still under Delta Waterfowl
- ALUS plans to stay flexible with funding for each community and distribute funds as needed
- ALUS received \$2 million grant from Environment Canada
- ALUS website will be updated to include MVC

IN CAMERA

Moved by B. Rodger

ASB15-035 That the Agricultural Service Board Meeting of July 20, 2015 go into closed meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Carried.

Moved by J. Sayer

ASB15-036 That the Agricultural Service Board Meeting of July 20, 2015 return to the open meeting at 11:21 a.m.

Carried.

ASB15-037 Moved by B. Rodger

That the Agricultural Service Board approves a funding increase for the N 14-32-4-W5 2015 Mountain View County (MVC) ALUS Projects for the total amount of \$8,328.70.

Carried.

ASB15-038 Moved by G. Cunningham

That the Agricultural Service Board approves funding for the NE ¼ 10-32-05-W5 2015 Mountain View County (MVC) ALUS Project as outlined in the project evaluation summary spreadsheet for the amount of \$1,150.50.

Carried.

2015 Provincial ASB Resolution Responses

ASB15-039 Moved by J. Sayer

That the Agricultural Service Board submits a response to the Central Region ASB Provincial Committee Representative in regards to the 2015 Provincial ASB Resolutions Response.

Carried.

Riparian Funding

ASB15-040 Moved by B. Rodger

That the Agricultural Service Board approves funding for the S ½ 6-31-26-W4 under the Riparian and Ecological Enhancement Project for the watering system for the amount of \$1,575.50.

Carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS Seed Plant Updates

- No updates were provided.

Workshop Updates

- 42 people attended the Pollinator Workshop (Bees, Trees and More) on July 7th 2015
- 95 people have registered in the “Building Soil – Creating Land (Part 2)” workshop presented by Dr. Christine Jones. It is being co-hosted with Foothills Forage and Grazing Association

Provincial Agriculture

Service Board Tour

- Jeremy Sayer provided a response circulated via e-mail to the members
- Recommended Mountain View County considers hosting an ASB Summer Tour

Legal Opinion
On jurisdiction of the
Weed Control Act on
Railways (verbal update)

- Provided when resolution responses were discussed.

Impact of
Wildlife Study

- Provided to the Board for information:
“This report is a summation of the survey of Alberta’s beef producers relating the impact of wildlife to their operations during the past 3 years.”

2015 ASB Grant

- E. Iversen added that the ASB grant has been approved by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry for \$228,359.46.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by B. Rodger

ASB15-041 That the Agricultural Service Board meeting of July 20, 2015 be adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Carried.

Next meeting Monday, August 17, 2015

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are correct.

Chief Administrative Officer