

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING
Mountain View County

Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Monday, March 16, 2015, in the Council Chambers, 1408 Twp Rd. 320, Didsbury, AB.

PRESENT: Councilor J. Sayer
Councilor K. Heck
Councilor D. Milne
Chair E. Iversen
Member G. Cunningham
Member B. Buschert
Vice Chair B. Rodger

IN ATTENDANCE: J. Fulton, Manager of Agricultural Services
Fiona McCarthy, Recording Secretary
Lorelee Grattidge, Sustainable Agricultural Specialist
Chris Chrenek, Assistant Agricultural Fieldman
Darcy Alm, Agriculture Coordinator
Andrew Wilde, Communications Coordinator

ABSENT:

CALL TO ORDER: Chair E. Iversen called the meeting to order at 9.01 a.m.

AGENDA: One item was added to the Agenda which was a delegation from Reeve Bruce Beattie regarding Alberta Agricultural Product Market Council, Agenda item 3.3.

Moved by Brian Rodger
ASB15-009 That the Agricultural Service Board adopts the agenda for the Agricultural Service Board meeting of March 9, 2015 as amended.

Carried.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Moved by Duncan Milne
ASB15-010 That the Agricultural Service Board adopts the Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting January 12, 2015.

Carried.

3.0 DELEGATION

3.3 Alberta Agricultural Product Market Council

Reeve Bruce Beattie spoke to the Agricultural Service Board on the topic of "What strategies the Province should be pursuing to assist agriculture in Mountain View County, and the remainder of Alberta". He took feedback from the Board members regarding wide ranging topics and intends to present these comments to the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council.

4.0 OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Farm Family Award

As an information update to the Agricultural Service Board, Jane Fulton notified the Board that the Overguard Family had accepted the BMO Farm Family Award nomination, and also they had accepted the Mountain View County Farm Family Award. The family would be receiving their award as Mountain View Farm Family on March 25, 2015 in a regular meeting of Council.

4.2 2015 ASB Tour

Staff reminded Agricultural Service Board that the RSVP cut off for the 2015 Agricultural Service Board Tour in Grande Prairie is June 1st 2015. This allows Staff to book tours and hotel rooms.

NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Agricultural Grant Funding

Agricultural Service Board reviewed the applications for the 2015 Agricultural Related Project Funding. The proposed budget was \$25,000 increased from \$15,000 in 2014. Applications for grant monies exceeded the budget. The projects that resembled the intention of the funding, as set out in the policy, as well as those organizations which supported 4H and Youth Clubs, were ranked the highest in terms of apportioning the grant funds.

Chair E. Iversen recessed the Agricultural Service Board meeting at 09:55 a.m. Chair E. Iversen reconvened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. March 16, 2015.

DELEGATION :

3.2 Farm Safety Centre

Laura Nelson Executive Director Farm Safety Centre informed the Agricultural Service Board of two main topics, the successful Farm Safety in Schools program and the new initiative of Sustainable Farm Family, a health and wellness as well as safety program.

The school program reaches about 50,000-55,000 children and teaches and engages them on issues of farm safety using a variety of child engagement tools such as games, puppets etc. The cost of this program is approximately \$3.50 per student.

The Sustainable Farm Family initiative uses registered nurses to take health indicators from farmers and show farmers how lifestyle changes and safety can improve their lives.

5.1 Agricultural Grant Funding Continued

The review of the programs continued. Grant applications for this year were compared with similar grant requests received in 2014 as regards determining funding. Also Agricultural Service Board recommended that some of the funding be conditional such that it could only be used for the purpose applied for, or the Agricultural or leadership events in the application.

DELEGATION:

3.2 Alberta Phosphorus

Project

Madison Kobryn, Water Quality Specialist provided the Agricultural Service Board with a brief overview of the Alberta Phosphorus Project. Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and the Intensive Livestock Working Group have initiated a three-year watershed study to develop and test a phosphorus risk management tool. The Alberta Phosphorus Management Tool will provide producers with BMP (Beneficial Management Practices) suggestions to reduce nutrient loss from their farms. The tool will be used to assess the risk of phosphorus loss and prioritize BMPs on environmental effectiveness and cost.

The project team will work directly with producers to evaluate the Alberta Phosphorus Management Tool on-the-ground in two agricultural watersheds: Acme Creek near Acme and Tindastoll Creek near Penhold. These watersheds were selected based on the diversity of livestock production and watershed characteristics. In addition, two control watersheds were selected where BMPs will not be implemented: Lonestone Creek north of Acme Creek and Three Hills Creek southeast of Tindastoll Creek. The tool will be used to assess the risk of phosphorus loss based on landscape, environmental, and management factors. In consultation with the producers, BMPs will be identified and implemented broadly throughout the watersheds.

Trevor Wallace, Nutrient Management Specialist, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development spoke on Nutrient Management. Manure application based on nutrient management planning was discussed, this included looking at the different types of manure and benefits, the timing of the application, incorporation of surface-applied manure, setbacks, livestock management, controlled access to waterways, timing of grazing altering infrastructures – culverts, dragging, wintering relocation of animals from a waterway and advancing agricultural stewardship. The intention is to deliver science based information to improve farming practices and to protect the environment.

5.1 Agricultural Grant Funding Continued

Using the priorities that Agricultural Service Board had developed during the review of the applications, Agricultural Service Board determined the funding to the applicants. Not all the grant funds were allocated but Agricultural Service Board determined that applications could still be heard at a later date, or the remainder of the funds be carried over to the 2016 budget.

The funding amounts Agricultural Services Board allocated were summarized during the meeting on the table below;

Organization	Amount Received
Bergen 4 H Club	
Bergen Institute	\$2,200.00
Carstairs & District 4 H Club	\$500.00
Cremona 4 H Club	\$600.00
Didsbury Agriculture	\$6,000.00
Didsbury Outlaws 4 H	\$1,000.00
Lone Pine Agriculture Society	\$200.00
Olds Regional Exhibition	\$10,000.00
Sundre Agriculture Society	\$2,400.00
Sundre 4 H Multi Club	\$250.00
Total	\$23,150.00

ASB15-010 Moved by Councilor Duncan Milne
That the Agricultural Service Board approve Agricultural Related Grant Funding projects as per the table above, totaling \$23,150.00

Carried

INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 a) Seed Plant Updates

Member B. Buschert reported there had been a meeting of the Mountain View Seed Cleaning Plant and there had been some changes to the team, Warren Fox and Grant Bird are new members.

Councilor D. Milne also reported on the Olds Seed Processing Co-op.

b) Upcoming Workshops

Due to some members having information technology system constraints where possible staff will provide links to information held on the web rather than duplicate the information in the Agenda. The Agricultural Service Board were shown the link on the Agenda which brought them to the "Events in Mountain View County" Pages which listed the upcoming workshops e.g. The Working Well Workshop".

7. Next Meeting Date

Next Meeting April 20, 2015

ASB15-011

Moved by Chair Eric Ivesen
That the Meeting of March 16, 2015 be adjourned at 12:05 p.m.
Carried.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are correct.

Manager, Agricultural Services