

Minutes of a Meeting of the Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Peace No. 135, Province of Alberta, held April 26, 2017 at the Municipal Office, Berwyn, Alberta.

Present	Chairman	Sandra Eastman
	Councillor Member	Janice Reyda
		Rick Keillor
	Members at Large	Nigel Thorne
		Judy Bowcott
		Brian Grant
		George Leger @ 10:10 a.m.
	Manager of Agricultural Services	Nasar Iqbal
	Recording Secretary	Barbara Johnson

Call to Order Chairman Eastman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Adoption of Agenda Janice Reyda: MOVED that the agenda for the April 26, 2017 ASB meeting be adopted with the addition of the following:
9. Farm Family Awards
Carried

Approval of Minutes **February 15, 2017 Agricultural Service Board Meeting**
Janice Reyda: MOVED that the minutes of the February 15, 2017 ASB meeting be approved as presented.
Carried

Business Arising Out of Minutes

1. Genetically Engineered Alfalfa/Roundup Ready Alfalfa
Nasar advised the Board of the comments received from ratepayers. Board members discussed at length the issue of whether to declare GMO alfalfa as a prohibited noxious weed.

Rick Keillor: MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board recommend that Council pass a Bylaw designating any Alfalfa species, Medicago sativa, when genetically engineered, as a prohibited noxious weed in the M.D. of Peace No. 135.
Carried

Reports

1. Manager of Ag Services Report
The Manager of Agricultural Services reviewed his written report, outlining his activities from February - April 2017.

Janice Reyda: MOVED that the Manager of Ag Services Report be accepted as presented.
Carried

New Business

1. Agricultural Policy Framework Engagement Survey
George Leger joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.
The Agricultural Service Board completed the online survey regarding priorities for the next Agricultural Policy Framework after Growing Forward 2 expires in March 2018.

2. Deferred Grain Cash Tickets - 2017 Federal Budget
The Board discussed the 2017 Federal Budget changes that could impact grain producers if deferred grain cash tickets are eliminated.

Rick Keillor: MOVED that the Manager of Ag Services draft a letter to the Federal Minister of Agriculture, copying to AAMDC, Arnold Viersen, MP and MNP accounting firm, advising the following about the ability to defer grain cash payments:

- excellent economic tool
- used extensively
- very important for averaging cash flow, taxation and risk management.

Carried

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3. Alternative Land Use Services - ALUS

Peace Country Beef and Forage Association, through the environmental stream funding, is already taking part in the program and is considering coordinating the program in the Peace region.

Janice Reyda: MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board recommend that the M.D. of Peace support the ALUS model if the Peace Country Beef and Forage Association becomes the coordinator of the ALUS program involving Peace region municipalities.

Carried

4. Rural Acreage Owner Herbicide Program

The Agricultural Service Board requested that the M.D. advertise the program on the website and on Facebook.

George Leger: MOVED that the M.D. of Peace participate in the Rural Acreage Owner Herbicide Program.

Carried

5. On Farm Energy Management Program

The Board accepted for information only the memo received from the Provincial Government regarding changes to the On Farm Energy Management Program. The Board will re-assess the program once changes have been received.

6. Shelterbelt Program 2017

Nasar informed the Board that he has ordered 40 bundles of 10 species of tree seedlings for free use by M.D. residents and will advertise the program on the website and on Facebook.

7. Agriculture Education - Field Signage - What's In the Field?

Nasar advised the Board that no M.D. ratepayers had contacted the M.D. wishing to take part in the Field Signage program. The Board agreed that M.D. ASB staff, once producers have given their permission, offer to apply for several signs and install them on various producers' properties along the highways in the M.D. in order to get the program up and running.

8. Provincial ASB Tour - July 11-14, 2017

Rick Keillor, Sandra Eastman, Janice Reyda and Judy Bowcott advised that they would attend the Provincial ASB Tour hosted by Mountain View County and Red Deer County.

9. Farm Family Award

Nasar advised the Board that on the list that was compiled several years ago the Glenn and Lori Leitch family are first to be nominated, with Alan and Shelley Landaker family being second on the list. Board members are asked to think of other farm families to add to the list.

Members' Business

None

Information

Board members reviewed the information items.

Next Meeting

The next Agricultural Service Board meeting will be held Thursday, August 3, 2017.

Roundtable

Adjournment

Being that the agenda matters have been concluded, the meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Chairman

Manager of Agricultural Services

These minutes approved by Council the _____ day of _____, 2017.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer