

November 8, 2017 Minutes of a Meeting of the Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Peace No. 135, Province of Alberta, held November 8, 2017 at the Municipal Office, Berwyn, Alberta.

Present	Chairman	Sandra Eastman
	Councillor Member	Janice Reyda
	Members at Large	Rick Keillor
		Judy Bowcott
		Brian Grant
	Manager of Agricultural Services	Nasar Iqbal

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 November 8, 2017 ASB meeting be adopted with the addition of the following:

12. Farmers’ Appreciation Night

Carried

Approval of Minutes **April 26, 2017 Agricultural Service Board Meeting**

Janice Reyda: MOVED that the minutes of the April 26, 2017 ASB meeting be approved as amended.

Carried

July 20, 2017 Informal Meeting with Alberta Agriculture

Janice Reyda: MOVED that the minutes of the July 20, 2017 ASB meeting with Alberta Agriculture be approved as presented.

Carried

Business Arising Out of Minutes

1. Genetically Engineered Alfalfa/Roundup Ready Alfalfa

Nasar advised the Board that the Provincial Government has not yet approved the MD’s GMO Alfalfa Bylaw as the regulation of GMO crops is coordinated between the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada, and Alberta operates under their regulations.

2. Deferred Grain Cash Tickets

Nasar informed the Board that letters had been written as requested and replies had been received from the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Agri-Food Canada and the Minister of Finance.

3. Rural Acreage Owner Herbicide Program

Nasar advised the Board that the MD had not been able to begin this program as the MD’s registration with Alberta Environment required amending and the MD’s Emergency Response Plan required changes.

Janice Reyda: MOVED to replace the ASB’s participation in the Provincial Rural Acreage Owner Herbicide Program with an MD Rural Acreage Herbicide Weed Control program to commence in 2018 as a pilot project with weed control services being provided on a first come first serve basis to 10 acreage owners with the owners being charged for the service as per the MD’s standard rates.

Carried

The Manager of Ag Services is to bring a draft contract to the next ASB meeting and the pilot project will be advertised to ratepayers at the 2018 Farmers’ Appreciation Night.

4. Field Signage – What’s in the Field?

Nasar advised the Board that MD producers were ready to sign onto the program but the organization had run out of signs. The MD will try again in 2018 to obtain signs.

Reports

1. Manager of Ag Services Report

The Manager of Agricultural Services reviewed his written report, outlining his activities from May - October 2017.

Janice Reyda: MOVED that the Manager of Ag Services Report be accepted with the following amendments:
20. should be 31 fields that the MD surveyed for blackleg
25. add Rick Keillor to those attending Regional ASB Conference.
Carried

New Business

1. 2018 ASB Strategic Plan

Janice Reyda: MOVED that the 2018 ASB Strategic Plan be approved as presented.
Carried

2018 ASB Budget

Janice Reyda: MOVED that the 2018 ASB Budget be accepted as presented.
Carried

2. Purchase of Mower, Tractor and Truck

The Board accepted the various quotes for information only.

3. Benefit Cap for Producers Under VSI Program

The Board discussed the issue in length and requested that the VSI members' list be updated and that Nasar check what other Peace Region Municipalities are doing regarding VSI.

Janice Reyda: MOVED that this item be deferred until further information is obtained.
Carried

4. Clubroot in Peace Region and Roundup Future

Due to the discovery of Clubroot in the County of Big Lakes and the MD of Greenview, Nasar felt that our staff should continue to survey fields but should also do some random lab testing.

Rick Keillor: MOVED that the MD test 10 samples for Clubroot and that we also try to increase awareness of the disease.
Carried

It was requested that the ASB Clubroot Control Policy be placed on the next ASB meeting agenda for discussion and possible changes.

5. 2018 Shelterbelt Program

Nasar informed the Board that the 2017 shelterbelt program worked well and that ratepayers were satisfied with the quality of the trees and the distribution of some free trees.

Brian Grant: MOVED that the shelterbelt program be continued in 2018.
Carried

6. Hemp Decortication and Processing Plant Requirements

The Board accepted for information only the news that Peace Region AAAF will encourage NADC to organize some workshops in the Peace region promoting hemp and flax as alternative crops.

7. ASB Rental Mower/Purchase of Barbed Wire Roller

Nasar advised the Board that the rental mower continually has breakdowns and that renters are having to spend money to fix it.

Rick Keillor: MOVED that the mower continue to be rented in 2018, but that the ASB discuss the rental again at the end of the 2018 season.
Carried

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Rick Keillor: MOVED to not pursue the purchase of a barbed wire roller at this time.

Carried

8. What Are My Fencing Obligations

The Board accepted this item for information only.

9. Alternative Land Use Services – ALUS – Rick

Rick updated the Board on the Northern Sunrise County ALUS program tour. This item was accepted by the Board as information only.

10. Provincial ASB Conference January 16-19, 2018 in Grande Prairie

Judy Bowcott, Rick Keillor and Nasar Iqbal will attend the Provincial ASB Conference in Grande Prairie.

2018 ASB Summer Tour

Nasar informed the Board that the 2018 ASB Summer Tour is being organized by Strathcona County and will be held in July.

11. ASB Program Impact

The Board accepted this item as information only.

12. 2018 Farmers' Appreciation Night

Judy Bowcott: MOVED that the 2018 Farmers' Appreciation Night be organized for the 1st or 2nd week of April and that Nasar research entertainment and provide the Board with the options.

Carried

Members' Business

Rick Keillor will be away for the next month.

Information

Board members reviewed the information items.

The Board requested that Nasar work with PCBFA in order to have MD of Peace producers on their email list and that we advertise on Facebook that anyone wishing to be on that list must provide us with their email addresses.

Brian Grant: MOVED that a letter be written to the Alberta Minister of Labour requesting an extension of comment period to April 30, 2018 regarding recommendations by Occupational Health and Safety on the Enhanced Protection for Farm and Ranch Workers Act.

Carried

Next Meeting

The next Agricultural Service Board meeting will be held Wednesday, March 28, 2018.

Adjournment

Being that the agenda matters have been concluded, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Chairman

Manager of Agricultural Services

These minutes approved by Council the _____ day of _____, 2018.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer