

Minutes of a Meeting of the Agricultural Service Board of the Municipal District of Peace No. 135, Province of Alberta, held February 10, 2016 at the Municipal Office, Berwyn, Alberta.

Present

Chairman	Veronica Bliska
Councillor Member	Sandra Eastman
Members at Large	Rick Keillor
	Nigel Thorne
	George Leger
	Bernadette Wearden
Agricultural Fieldman	Nasar Iqbal
Public Works Foreman	Barry Denison
Recording Secretary	Barbara Johnson

Call to Order

Chairman Bliska called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Adoption of Agenda

George Leger: MOVED that the agenda for the February 10, 2016 ASB meeting be adopted as presented.
Carried

Approval of Minutes

1. November 23, 2015 Agricultural Service Board Meeting
Rick Keillor: MOVED that the minutes of the November 23, 2015 ASB meeting be approved as presented.
Carried

Business Arising Out of Minutes

none

Delegation

1. Barry Denison, Public Works Foreman
The full ditch mowing program was discussed in detail.

Brushing areas will be determined before the start of the brushing season. Saskatoon and chokecherry trees will be left growing if possible.
Seeding will be completed where necessary in year of brushing or early the following year.
Road ditches will be sprayed in the year following brushing for further brush control. Mower operators will be hired mid-May and will pick rocks before and after mowing season as long as weather permits. One employee will be hired specifically for rock picking and weed pickers will also pick rocks when not picking weeds. Rocks will be removed from road shoulders as soon as possible after piling and a record will be kept of where rocks have been picked.
Ag. Fieldman will supervise mower operators before and after mowing season and Public Works Foreman will supervise them during mowing season. Mower operators will work together to have 25' of clean cut on all roads where possible.

Barry Denison excused himself from the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Reports

1. Agricultural Fieldman's Report
The Agricultural Fieldman reviewed his written report, outlining his activities from November 23, 2015 - February 10, 2016.

Sandra Eastman: MOVED that the Agricultural Fieldman's Report be accepted as presented.
Carried

New Business

1. 2016 ASB Program
The Board discussed the 2016 ASB work program at length.
George Leger: MOVED that the 2016 ASB work program be accepted as presented.
Carried

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2. Shelterbelt Tree Species for 2017 Program

It was suggested that the M.D. have on hand enough shelterbelt plastic mulch for those who have ordered seedlings and would use it. Customers would reimburse the M.D. for the cost.

Rick Keillor: MOVED that the M.D. request Woodmere Nursery in Fairview to have the following seedlings available for the 2017 shelterbelt program: lodge pole pine, white spruce, blue spruce, common lilac, villosa lilac, siberian larch, golden willow, hybrid poplar, green ash, buffalo berry, manitoba maple, chokecherry, paper birch, saskatoon and cranberry.

Carried

3. Hiring of Summer Staff

The sprayer operator has been hired and the Ag Fieldman will advertise for the other positions this month – 3 weed/rock pickers, 1 rock picker, 2 mower operators, 1 weed inspector.

4. 2016 Farmers' Appreciation Night

The Agricultural Fieldman provided an update on the planning for the Farmers' Appreciation Night which will be held at the Grimshaw Legion. The Board suggested that the Ag Fieldman discuss the full ditch mowing/brushing program and have slides which will include: new logo, new office building and locations for 2016 brushing program.

5. Classroom Agriculture

The Agricultural Fieldman informed the Board that he will be presenting the Classroom Agriculture Program to grade four students in the Berwyn and Grimshaw area in early spring. It was suggested that the Fieldman give the students small agriculture related items after his presentations.

6. Farm Safety Centre Funding

The Farm Safety Centre had submitted a report regarding improvements made to the school delivery program in the Peace region.

Sandra Eastman: MOVED that the M.D. donate \$500 to the Farm Safety Centre in 2016.

Carried

7. ALUS Program Update

The Agricultural Fieldman provided an update on the ALUS program in the Peace region.

Rick Keillor: MOVED that the M.D. continue to monitor and explore the ALUS program but not become involved at this time.

Carried

8. Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame Nomination

The Agricultural Service Board accepted for information only the request for nominations to the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame.

9. a) 21st Century Homesteading Conference - April 6/16 GPRC Fairview

Nigel Thorne: MOVED that Nigel Thorne, Bernadette Wearden, Sandra Eastman, Nasar Iqbal, Veronica Bliska, Rick Keillor and George Leger be authorized to attend the 21st Century Homesteading Conference on April 6, 2016 in Fairview.

Carried

b) Working Well Workshop - March 9/16 Grimshaw Legion Hall

Nigel Thorne: MOVED that George Leger and Sandra Eastman be authorized to attend the Working Well Workshop on March 9, 2016.

Carried

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c) FCC Ag Knowledge Exchange - March 1 Pomeroy, Grande Prairie

Sandra Eastman: MOVED that Nigel Thorne and Nasar Iqbal be authorized to attend the FCC Ag Knowledge Exchange in Grande Prairie on March 1st.
Carried

d) Solar Inservice Day & Landfill Biomass - Feb.12 Peace River

Sandra Eastman: MOVED that Nigel Thorne, George Leger and Rick Keillor be authorized to attend the Solar Inservice Day & Landfill Biomass workshop, tentatively re-scheduled to April 1 in Peace River.
Carried

Information

The Board discussed the information item.

**New Business
Continued**

10. Agricultural Fieldman 2015 Performance Review

Barbara Johnson and Nasar Iqbal excused themselves from the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Nasar Iqbal and Barbara Johnson returned to the meeting at 12:02 p.m.
The Board forwarded their comments to Lyle McKen, C.A.O.

11. Agricultural Fieldman Designation Change

The Agricultural Fieldman provided a list of titles that fieldmen in various municipalities are now referred to.

Bernadette Wearden: MOVED that the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council that the Agricultural Fieldman's title be changed to Manager of Agricultural Services.
Carried

**Members'
Business**

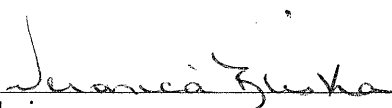
Rick informed the Board that Clear Hills County is working on a biomass project. The Agricultural Fieldman will contact the Board at a later date to see if any would like to attend the banquet at the Clear Hills County Trade Fair.

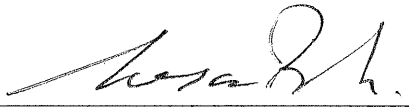
Next Meeting

The next Agricultural Service Board meeting is to be scheduled for Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. It was requested that Board minutes be emailed to members as soon as they are prepared, with mention in the email of the date the next meeting has been scheduled for.


Adjournment


Being that the agenda matters have been concluded, the meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.


Chairman


Agricultural Fieldman

These minutes approved by Council the 9th day of August, 2016.


Reeve


Chief Administrative Officer