AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, October 30, 2019, 9:00 AM
Council Chambers
County Administration Building

Present
Chairperson Josh Bishop
Board Member Garth Parker
Board Member Mike Schmidt
Board Member Bill Krahn
Board Member Ken Adair
Board Member Kathy Rooyakkers

Absent
Board Member Stephan Dewald

Staff Present
Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services
Jeff Chipley, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Carmen Reimer, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER
The Agricultural Service Board meeting for the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 was called to order by Chairperson J. Bishop in the Council Chambers of the County of Wetaskiwin Administration Office, commencing at 9:06 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Resolution AG20191030.001
MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair
that the Agenda be accepted as presented.
Carried Unanimously

3. MINUTES APPROVAL
3.1 Agricultural Service Board Meeting, August 7, 2019
Resolution AG20191030.002
MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair
to approve the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting held August 7, 2019 as presented.
Carried Unanimously

4. REPORTS
4.1 Director of Agricultural Services Report for August 1, 2019 to October 23, 2019 - Report
Mr. Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services, provided his Director of Agricultural Services Report for August 1, 2019 to October 23, 2019, which is as follows:
"ASB Summer Staff have completed their employment with the County for the 2019 season with only the nine (9) month position still employed.

Strychnine sales have been better than the past couple of years with 535 bottles of strychnine sold in 2019 compared to 378 in 2018 and 376 in 2017. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency’s (PMRA) decision still needs to be finalized for the long-term registration of strychnine. The concern is that PMRA will remove the
registration and producers will not have this additional tool in their toolbox to control ground squirrels.

Beaver Control has been very active so far this year with 203 beaver trapped or removed. To date sixty-seven (67) beaver dams have been breached from problem locations and County Infrastructure.

The von Arx property titles have the County of Wetaskiwin registered against the Land Title. Administration has entered verbal agreements with George Heslup, Paul Kalke, and Nagib Krameddine for renting the respective properties for three (3) years. The following list is a breakdown of who will be renting the respective properties and what work has been completed so far this year:

- **NE 27-47-25-W4M (Home Quarter)**
  - Krameddine – The south half of this quarter has been cultivated.
- **SE 27-47-25-W4M**
  - Krameddine – The entire quarter has been cultivated.
- **SW 27-47-25-W4M (Dairy)**
  - Krameddine – The west portion of this quarter has been cultivated.
- **SW 27-47-25-W4M (Rest of the Dairy Quarter)**
  - Krameddine – Nothing has been completed.
- **SE 28-47-25-W4M (Greenhouse)**
  - Krameddine – The entire quarter has been cultivated.
- **SW 34-47-25-W4M (Swedberg Quarter)**
  - Krameddine – Approximately sixty (60) acres of the one Hundred (100) acres have been cultivated.
- **SW 34-47-25-W4M (NW Corner)** – Approximately fifty-five (55) acres
  - Kalke – This area was sprayed with Escort and cows have been grazing on it.
- **SE 26-47-25-W4M (Property Beside Crough)**
  - Krameddine – Nothing has been done.
- **SE 33-47-25-W4M (Highway 616 and Highway 2 Quarter)**
  - Heslup – Has been sprayed and cultivated.

Rental equipment has been used by several producers, especially skunk traps. The sprayers have been rented by producers from all over the County. Administration tried to enter an agreement with a local (Winfield) business to have the equipment available to rent from the west end of the County, but no agreement was made. Administration is continuing to investigate its options.

Alberta Transportation had a major change this year with their Contractor and Contract Agreement. Main Roads has entered into a seven-year (7) agreement to maintain Highways in the Contact Maintenance Area (CMA) which includes the County of Wetaskiwin and Ponoka County. All maintenance on Highways 2 and East will come from the Ponoka Main Roads Shop while all other highways in the County will be completed from the Shop at Highway 771 and 13. The Contract also has Main Roads only maintaining the road surface and the first 4.3 m (15 feet) from the shoulder. All other vegetation management, beaver control, downed signs, etc. outside of that 4.3 m will be done at an additional cost to Alberta Transportation.

Two (2) Weed Identification workshops were hosted on April 8. One (1) in Winfield with twenty-four (24) participants and one (1) in Alder Flats with fourteen (14) participants. The Highlights of the workshops were weed identification of the problem weed in the local area and how to control them. The County collaborated with Wetaskiwin Co-op to host these workshops. The plan for 2020 is to host a workshop in Lakedell or Milhurst, as well as Millet or Hillside.”
Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Director of Agricultural Services Report as presented.

**Resolution AG20191030.003**

MOVED: by Board Member G. Parker

that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Director of Agricultural Services Report as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

### 4.2 Agricultural Service Provision Maps – October 2019 – Report

The Roadside Mowing Program started on June 1, 2019 with two (2) operators running tractor, sidearm and fifteen (15) foot mowers along County roads, and one (1) operator running a ten (10) foot pull behind mower to cut Subdivisions, Hamlets, Transfer Stations, Lagoons, etc. Provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board was a map of what has been mowed from July 26, 2019 until October 22, 2019.

Four (4) Weed Inspectors have been inspecting properties for Noxious and Prohibited Noxious Weeds throughout the County, while the additional two (2) Weed Inspectors have been working on *Weed Control Act* enforcement. Provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board were maps of the locations that have been inspected, weed infestation locations, and orange hawkweed locations until August 31, 2019.

The Roadside Spraying Program started on June 20, 2019 with the one (1) spray crew traveling and spraying all Range Roads North of Highway 13 with a three (3) ton truck spraying broadleaved herbicides for Noxious Weeds, Prohibited Noxious Weeds, Brush, and Sweet Clover. The grid spraying will continue until completed, then staff will focus on spot spraying throughout the County. Provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board was a map of where herbicide applications occurred until August 2, 2019, and a map of the roads driven.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the maps for the roadside mowing, weed inspections completed, weed infestation locations, orange hawkweed locations, and the roadside spraying herbicide applications as information.

**Resolution AG20191030.004**

MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the maps for the roadside mowing, weed inspections completed, weed infestation locations, orange hawkweed locations, and the roadside spraying herbicide applications as information.

**Carried Unanimously**

### 4.3 Agricultural Services Project Costing Report to October 15, 2019 - Report

The 2019 Municipal Budget was completed and approved at the May 6, 2019 Budget meeting.  
(Ref. Resolution #CG20190506.004)

Major highlights of the Project Costing Report were as follows:

Currently, the overall budget is $164,000.00 under budget. It should be noted that this Project Costing report is up to October 15, 2019 but does not include October 2019 salaries.

This report runs to October 15, 2019, which is eighty percent (80%) of the fiscal year so it would be expected that eighty percent (80%) of the budget would be used at this point.

**AG00121 (Other Programs)**

Currently under budget by $800.00 and will remain under budget.

**AG00130 (Horticulture)**

Currently under budget by $26,000.00 and will remain under budget.
AG00202 (Training Sessions)  
Currently over budget by $12,000.00 due to the additional training of staff to perform their work duties.

AG00220 (Roadside Spraying)  
Currently over budget by $14,000.00, due to the additional purchase of herbicide due to weed growth.

AG00221 (Common Tansy Control)  
Currently under budget by $2,100.00 and will remain under budget.

AG00230 (Weed Control Inspections)  
Currently under budget by $44,000.00 and will remain under budget. This is due to salaries being well below budget and salaries posted to AG00234.

AG00234 (Weed Notice Cost Recovery)  
A new project added to track weed notice and weed enforcement.

AG00240 (Pest Control)  
Currently over budget by $900.00 and will remain over budget due to salaries and supplies.

AG00250 (Brush Control)  
Currently under budget by $9,000.00 and will remain under budget due to supplies.

AG00301 (Roadside Mowing)  
Currently over budget by $47,000.00 due to equipment costs ($41,000.00) and benefits ($6,600.00).

AG00401 (Beaver Control)  
Currently over budget by $5,000.00 and will be approximately $15,000.00 over at year end due to equipment costs (currently $5,000.00) and supplies (currently $1,000.00).

AG00701 (Administrative Expenses)  
Currently under budget by $152,000.00 and will remain under budget at year end due to equipment costs and salaries.

AG00705 (Legislative Expenditures)  
Currently under budget by $8,700.00 under budget and will remain under budget due to Service Board Members not attending the Provincial ASB Summer Tour as there was no host municipality.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Agricultural Service Board Project Costing Report as presented.

**Resolution AG20191030.005**

MOVED: by Board Member M. Schmidt

that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Agricultural Services Project Costing Report as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

4.4 Sustainable Agriculture Report for August 1, 2019 to October 30, 2019 - Report

The Sustainable Agriculture Report was as follows:

**Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)**

- All the programs relevant to farmers and ranchers are currently open and accepting applications, except "Products to Markets (Small Projects)".

**Producer Available Government Programs outside CAP**

- At time of writing, Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program (FEAP), On Farm Solar Photovoltaics, and the Farm Health and Safety Producer Grant Program (2018-2021) were still open on their respective websites.

- The fate of FEAP and Solar PV programs should be clearer after the Provincial Budget.
**Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and EFP Operations Committee**

- Species at Risk chapter will launch soon.
- New EFP Reporting tool webinar.
- EFP Review Committee.

**Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) – Coordinator Activity**

- Yearly project monitoring and recording.
- New participant contract signed.
- Participant profiles with photographer supported by ALUS Canada. One (1) in the County of Wetaskiwin and one (1) in Leduc County.
- New ALUS signs purchased through ALUS Canada grant. Will be installed under Sustainable Ag Signs (County of Wetaskiwin) and Agricultural Area Signs (Leduc County).
- September 23-25, 2019 – ALUS National Conference, Monteregie, QC. Additional details were provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.
- September 27, 2019 – Meeting with Wendy Cotton, Policy Analyst, Ducks Unlimited.
- October 1-2, 2019 – Alberta Innovates Ecosystem Service Leadership and Innovation Program. First two (2) sessions of a free five (5) session program.
- ALUS Quarterly Reporting – Third Quarter.
- October 29-30, 2019 – Third and fourth session of Alberta Innovates Ecosystem Service Leadership and Innovation Program.

**Sustainable Agriculture Activities**

- CAP grants, producer inquiries, and EFP support.
- ASB News and Views – Created and mailed to over 2,100 farms.
- Fall/Winter workshop planning.
- September 26, 2019 – Northlands Urban Farm Tour.
- October 3, 2019 – Leduc County Staff Appreciation.
- October 22, 2019 – Farm Market Table – Initial planning meeting – Leduc/Wetaskiwin Chamber of Commerce.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Sustainable Agriculture Report as presented.

It was noted that both the FEAP and Solar PV programs were both discontinued.

**Resolution AG20191030.006**

MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair

that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Sustainable Agriculture Report as presented.

**Carried Unanimously**

4.5 **Horticulturist Report for August 1, 2019 to October 21, 2019 - Report**

The Horticulturist Report was as follows:

**Activities:**

- August 1, 2019 – Pruning trees at Mulhurst Bay Boat Launch.
- August 10, 2019 – Tin Forest Farm – “Farm To Table Dinner” – Justin & Alana Schambers.

August 19, 2019 – Perennial plants purchased for the Rain Garden from Cheyenne Tree Farm.

August 21, 2019 – Planted new perennials and native plants supplied by Alberta Low Impact Development Partnership (ALIDP) and completed other Rain Garden maintenance.

August 28, 2019 – Health & Safety Breakfast.

August 28, 2019 – Inspected the Coal Lake Campground for black knot and removed a load of infested plant material. There is a high population of native choke cherry, so it is difficult to control. In 2018, trees planted on the west bank of Coal Lake were pruned and raspberry patch weeded.

September 26, 2019 – Attended a meeting and field evaluation with Leta van Duin, Executive Director, ALIDP, on Municipal Bioswales and Rain Gardens at the Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach.

October 9, 2019 – Outdoor Fall Clean-Up.

**Upcoming Workshops:**

- Mountain Pine Beetle, Yeoford Hall, November 13, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
  - Mike Undershultz, Forest Health Officer, will cover the spread of the mountain pine beetle throughout our region and the province. He will also discuss control techniques and give a demonstration of harvesting the beetles from an attacked tree on site. The County of Wetaskiwin now has thirty-five (35) known and verified mountain pine beetle attack locations between the City of Wetaskiwin and Alder Flats. A list has been started to track orders for pheromone pouch sales in 2020.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Horticulturist Report as presented.

It was noted that there will be funding for Mountain Pine Beetle in the Provincial Budget and that Administration should obtain the details.

**Resolution AG20191030.007**

MOVED: by Board Member B. Krahn

that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Horticulturist Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously

### 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### 5.1 2019 Central Region Agricultural Service Board Conference – October 2019 Update – Report

At the August 7, 2019 Agricultural Service Board Meeting, the Board was advised that the 2019 Central Region Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Conference will be hosted by Red Deer County on November 27, 2019 in Bowden, Alberta.

(Ref. Resolution #AG20190807.014)

Since the last meeting, correspondence was received from Cody McIntosh, Agricultural Manager, Red Deer County, advising that the Conference will be held in Bowden at the new Paterson Community Centre, which is just off Highways 2 and 587 in Red Deer County.

Additionally, Mr. McIntosh notes that there will be an election held for the next Central Region Agriculture Service Board representative and an alternate to the Provincial ASB Committee. Should any of the Board Members of the County of Wetaskiwin Agricultural Service Board be interested in these positions, a copy of the ASB Provincial Committee Terms of Reference, which provide highlights as to the expectations of ASB Provincial Committee Members, was provided for review.
Furthermore, any resolutions were to be submitted before October 30, 2019 in order for the Regional Resolution Committee to review the resolutions. Any resolutions that were not received by the Regional Secretary by the aforementioned date will be treated as emergent and the sponsoring municipality will be responsible for bringing copies of the resolution on the day of the Conference. Mr. McIntosh noted that a couple of resolutions have already been submitted from the Central Region regarding the loss of the "Ropin’ the Web" website and the Agriculture Finance Services Corporation (AFSC) enforcing Clubroot Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) through crop insurance premiums.

The draft Agenda was provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board advise Administration as to which board members are interested in attending the 2019 Central Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference hosted by Red Deer County on November 27, 2019 in Bowden, Alberta.

**Resolution AG20191030.008**

MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair

that Councillors K. Adair, J. Bishop, and B. Krahn and Farm Members S. Dewald and M. Schmidt and the Director of Agricultural Services S. Majek be registered to attend the 2019 Central Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference hosted by Red Deer County on November 27, 2019 in Bowden, Alberta.

Carried Unanimously

### 5.2 2019 JEDI Ag Forum Update – Report

At the June 18, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting, the Board was presented and provided feedback in regard to the 2019 JEDI Ag Forum. At that time, the Agricultural Service Board resolved to continue to collaborate with JEDI in regard to the JEDI Ag Forum.

(Ref. Resolution #AG20190618.007)

The JEDI Ag Forum will be held on November 21, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Best Western in Wetaskiwin. In an effort to give back to the hardworking agriculture community, JEDI is proud to host the annual Ag Forum. The forum is geared towards addressing the operational needs of our regional farmers with a focus on grain and livestock operations. The event will be free with lunch for local farmers and Ag producers with the deadline to register being November 14, 2019.

The keynote speaker will be Rob Saik, presenting “FOOD 5.0: How We Feed The Future”. During his presentation, Mr. Saik takes you on a journey from the muscle era of farming to a future where the convergence of new technologies like sensors, robotics, and machine learning make infinite sustainability achievable. With the veil lifted on modern agriculture practices, individuals will be inspired to contribute to a culture where farmers can adopt the science and tools, they need to carry out their mission of feeding the planet. A book regarding this topic was released in August of 2019.

Other speakers include:

- Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations & Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Maskwacís-Wetaskiwin, and Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry;
- Jason Bradley, Director, Smart Ag. Olds College – “Olds College Smart Farm: 2019 and Beyond”;
- Allison Ammeter, Chair Plant Protein Alliance of Alberta – “Plant Protein – Potential, Potential, Potential”;
- Jan Slaski, Ph.D., P. Ag. (Dist.), InnoTech Alberta – “The Green-Gold Rush: New Opportunities for Industrial Hemp as a Multipurpose Crop”;
- Melissa Downing, Alberta Coordinator – “Verified Beef Production Plus”;
- Tammy Shields, Western Region Program Coordinator, Cleanfarms – “Alberta Ag-Plastic. Recycling It! Pilot Program”; and
• Dr. Michael Harding, Research Scientist in Plant Pathology – "Clubroot: A Disease of Concern for Alberta’s Canola Industry”.

A copy of the event poster was provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the information on the 2019 JEDI Ag Forum as information and that interested board members register on their own.

**Resolution AG20191030.009**

MOVED: by Chairperson J. Bishop

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the information on the 2019 JEDI Ag Forum as information and that interested board members register on their own.

Carried Unanimously

5.3 **Agriculture Plastics Recycling – October 2019 Update – Report**

At the March 13, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting, the Agricultural Service Board resolved that a letter be sent to the West Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill Authority (WDM) encouraging them to participate in the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program with the collection of plastics. (Ref. Resolution #AG20190313.014)

On April 9, 2019, a letter was sent to Camrose County, as a managing partner for WDM, encouraging WDM to participate in the Pilot Program for the collection of plastics.

Correspondence was received in June 2019 that Cleanfarms had been named the recycling pilot program operator.

On August 28, 2019, an email was received from Cleanfarms announcing the first twenty (20) collection sites for 2019 for grain bags and twines as follows:

1. Beaver Municipal Solutions
2. Big Country Waste Management Commission
3. Cardston County
4. County of Barrhead
5. **County of Camrose**
6. County of Grande Prairie
7. County of Paintearth No. 18
8. County of Vermillion River
10. Foothills Regional Services Commission
11. Lacombe County
12. Lethbridge Waste Management Services Commission
13. Mackenzie Regional Waste Management Commission
14. Mountain View County
15. Municipal District of Bonnyville
16. Municipal District of Fairview
17. Municipal District of Taber
18. Rocky View County
19. Wheatland County
20. Wildwood/Parkcourt/Peers Transfer Station
Cleanfarms notes that the goal was to begin collecting materials by October 1, 2019, pending finalized agreements.

Additionally, Cleanfarms states that due to the fact this is a pilot and there is a limited budget, only twenty (20) locations can be accommodated in 2019, but over the next three (3) years, the Pilot Program will grow to twenty-five (25) collection sites in 2020 and to thirty (30) collection sites by 2021, with the goal of a permanent, industry-funding program by the end of 2021. Furthermore, Cleanfarms will begin reaching out to additional sites during the spring/summer of 2020.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board receive the correspondence regarding the Agriculture Plastics Recycling Collection Sites as information.

The Board voiced concern that the bins at the transfer station(s) are not practical. It was noted that Administration will discuss with Public Works options for the Agricultural Plastic.

Resolution AG20191030.010
MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair
that the Agricultural Service Board receive the correspondence regarding the Agriculture Plastics Recycling Collection Sites as information.

Carried Unanimously

5.4 Ropin’ the Web – Response from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – Report

At the Agricultural Service Board meeting of August 7, 2019, it was resolved that a letter of support be written to the Minister of Agricultural and Forestry, regarding the loss of access to Ropin’ the Web.
(Ref. Resolution #AG20190807.012)

A letter was written on August 13, 2019 to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry regarding Ropin’ the Web. The County of Wetaskiwin expressed support to all letters already sent to Minister from the various municipalities in the province on behalf of agricultural producers who have lost access to the Ropin’ the Web. The County expressed that the website had a lot of useful information, was a one stop shop for our agricultural producers, that the various information that was available regarding Agriculture in Alberta was valued and appreciated by County producers, that Ropin’ the Web was easy to access and to navigate through, and that the information is now harder to find and access. In summary, the letter stated that the County of Wetaskiwin Agricultural Service Board is in full support of the reinstatement of Ropin’ the Web and the return to timely extension information to assist producers.

On October 7, 2019, correspondence was received from the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, contain a response to the concerns of the County of Wetaskiwin Agricultural Service Board. The correspondence was provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence from the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, regarding Ropin’ the Web as information.

It was noted that there was concern on the 'Ropin the Web' and that changes will be coming in the future and the new website will look different.

Resolution AG20191030.011
MOVED: by Board Member B. Krahn
that the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence from the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, regarding Ropin’ the Web as information.

Carried Unanimously
5.5 Weed Enforcement Process – Follow-Up – October 2019 Agricultural Service Board Update – Report

At the August 7, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting, the Agricultural Service Board was provided with the Weed Enforcement Process. At that time, the Board did not feel any changes needed to be made to the process and the ratepayers should be taking ownership of their weed infestations. The Board resolved to accept the Weed Enforcement Process as presented and that it be forwarded to Council for approval. (Ref. Resolution #AG20190807.008)

At the August 13, 2019 Council General meeting, Council was presented with the Weed Enforcement Process as Administration had been made aware of potential instances where landowners were suggesting changes be made to the current Weed Enforcement Process undertaken by the County. At the time, Council resolved to table the Weed Enforcement Process for clarification of process. (Ref. Resolution #CG20190813.018)

On August 15, 2019, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Rod Hawken sent an email to the Director of Agricultural Services requesting additional information on the Weed Enforcement Process in the form of questions. The questions and answers were provided for review by Council as follows:

1. Did the landowners receive any information (weed notice, warning, etc.) that advised what type of chemical was going to be applied and what the residual results of using that chemical might have on their operations?

   o The landowners were not given any information regarding what herbicide was being used as each individual case is unique. The herbicide selected for control of noxious weeds (N) and eradication of prohibited noxious (PN) weeds is based on the weed species present on the property. One of the Contract Companies (Custom Sprayer) sprayed Restore 2 for almost all of the properties that enforcement was completed. There were a couple of properties that had Common Tansy on them and Reclaim 2 was used on them as it controls Common Tansy. The other Contractor used the herbicide called Navius for the properties they enforced. This product also eradicates prohibited noxious and controls noxious weeds.

   o In 2020, product information through a copy of the respective herbicide label will be provided to each landowner.

2. Did the County complete any enforcement on properties with only noxious weeds (those that require maintenance vs eradication)?

   o The County did not enforce on properties that only had noxious weeds. Every weed notice enforced in 2019 had either Orange Hawkweed or Meadow Hawkweed on them which are both Prohibited Noxious weeds.

3. What was the process to decide whether to spray or mow on properties that had both Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds?

   o Legislation requires eradication of Prohibited Noxious weeds and control of Noxious weeds. Herbicides that control or eradicate PN weeds were selected for enforcement by Professionals who hold Pesticide Applicators Licenses and through consultation with Corteva Agriscience and Advantage Vegetation Management. In discussions with Doug Macaulay of Alberta Agriculture & Forestry, mowing is not considered a form of eradication and could not be used as a management tool for PN Weeds. Administration did discuss spot spraying where the PN weeds were and possibly mowing the rest of the area where N weeds were but the past Hawkweed Program showed that spot spraying is not very effective in eradication of Hawkweed as it appears in patches adjacent to where the previous spot spraying occurred.

4. What type of chemical was used and why was it chosen? What is the residual for this chemical?
Several herbicides were discussed when trying to decide which herbicide was best to use. The following criteria was used to select the most appropriate herbicide for the weeds that needed to be controlled or eradicated:

A) Environmental profile

B) Cost efficiency

C) Herbicide registered for range and pasture applications

D) Respective weeds listed as controlled on the herbicide label

Three different products were chosen to control N and eradicate PN weeds on the enforcement properties. These products were chosen as the respective weeds on the property were listed on the products as weeds that are controlled. All three products do provide residual carryover of more than one year as identified on their product label. The number of years of carryover varies depending on a number of factors including but not limited to soil type, soil moisture, rainfall, pH, organic matter, soil microorganisms, herbicide rate etc. When producers purchase or have these products custom applied they agree by contract to leaving the hayfield or pasture land for three years after the application as there are cropping restrictions on the products.

- In 2020, the product label will be given to the producer and the restrictions will be highlighted.

5. Does this chemical have any restrictions for use around animals such as cows, dogs, bees or other animals?

- Product labels available upon request, as there are a number of pages.

6. Are there any chemicals that control Prohibited Noxious or Noxious weeds that only have a one year residual?

- There are several hundred herbicides available to perform weed control. Not all herbicides are created equally. The products that control or eradicate weeds for a longer period of time cost more money to purchase and have residual carryover.

- There are several products that could be applied annually to control Noxious weeds. However, the Agricultural Fieldman is not aware of any annually applied herbicides that eradicate Prohibited Noxious weeds or have the PN weeds listed on their label. A product such as MCPA or 2,4-D (even though Hawkweed is not listed as a weed controlled on its' label) could be applied annually to prevent the PN Weed from going to seed (this is not eradication). Administration has conducted a cost comparison between some products as follows:
  - MCPA is $10.50 per litre
    - Application cost is $19.75 per acre.
    - Total cost is $30.25 per acre per application with some years possibly requiring two applications.
    - This done over three years is a minimum cost of $90.75.
  - Restore II is $45.00 per acre
    - Application cost is $19.75 per acre.
    - Total cost is $64.75 per acre per application with a three residual.
    - This done for the three year cost is $64.75.

- Environmental Benefits cannot be calculated but applying once every three years versus once or twice a year uses less fuel, less herbicide, less equipment, compaction, less risk of improper rates being applied, less risk of non-target species being affected and time.
7. Did the County tender for the services of weed control contractors?

- According to the Purchasing Tendering Policy #1907, tenders are not required as each property falls within the Greater than $1,000 but less than $20,000 under Section 2. Through contacting the companies, Administration found that Contractors were reluctant to provide tenders as the total number acres and properties could not be determined until the due dates on the weed notices came. Administration contacted several contractors to see their availability, ensure they had the proper equipment to perform the spraying and their rates. Three contractors (Flowline, GT Custom Spraying and Performance Ag Group) were not available as they took on new contracts and already had established clientele that they were working for. Hytek, Gunslinger and West Country provided pricing for their various pieces of equipment. Administration tried to use all three contractors but with the wet weather and some equipment issues were only able to use Gunslinger and West Country. Both Contractors were selected to perform enforcement on properties that were relatively close to each other with due dates close. Administration did not want to have the Contractors passing each other while doing enforcement.

8. What was the cost of the chemical application by the contractors you chose?

- The cost is still being determined but ranges from $55 to $120 per acre. The variation is due to the equipment costs, crew size and time for herbicide application on each parcel of land. Administration has not received all of the invoices from West Country to finalize the exact cost for each property that was enforced.

9. Were residents advised that if they wanted more information than just the invoice (i.e., what chemical, how much time, where sprayed) they would have to pay an additional cost? Can you explain why this might cause the County to incur additional costs?

- Residents were not informed of any additional costs as Administration is unaware of any additional costs. If a landowner (resident) is requesting the spray records and data from the Contractor, it may cost extra for them to provide these records and details to the County to forward to the landowner. In the Council Agenda Item, Administration suggested that it would/could be an extra cost to the resident to have this information provided. To date, Administration has only had one request for this additional information.

- In 2020, the County will request this information for all herbicide applications.

10. What type of guarantee did the contractors provide for the work? If the chemical did not work would they come back? If the equipment wasn't working (one boom plugged), is the invoice cheaper or would they come back?

- There were no guarantees provided by any of the Contractors. If the herbicide does not work, the County/Contractor will work with the herbicide manufacturer to ensure control or eradication is accomplished. The herbicide manufacturers are responsible to ensure their products are performing appropriate control levels are achieved.

- Each piece of equipment used for enforcement has global positioning system (gps) on it. This system would notify the Applicator if there was an issue with the equipment such as a plugged nozzle.

- A contractor would not reduce the invoice or come back to do additional work without compensation.

11. Can a list be provided of the properties that were sent weed notices, which ones made contact to do their own work, which ones made contact and didn’t do the work and which ones the County received no contact and sprayed?
A spreadsheet is provided with a list of properties and the individual weed reports are available upon request.

12. Did Mr. von Arx pay any penalties on the work that was arranged by the County (prior to 2019)? For example, if the County sent him an invoice for work, did penalties get added to any unpaid amounts?

- Mr. von Arx paid penalties on invoices when the penalties were applied. He paid $162.64 on one invoice and $278.43 on another invoice which the County added to the tax roll and was paid.

At the September 26, 2019 Council General meeting, Council was presented with the following report and resolved to accept the Weed Enforcement Process Follow-Up as information.

(Ref. Resolution #CG20190926.022)

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Weed Enforcement Process Follow-Up, which was presented to County of Wetaskiwin Council at the September 26, 2019 Council General meeting, as information.

General discussion ensued on the weed enforcement process and the concerns with the process used in 2019.

**Resolution AG20191030.012**

MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Weed Enforcement Process Follow-Up, which was presented to County of Wetaskiwin Council at the September 26, 2019 Council General meeting, as information.

Carried Unanimously

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 **2019 Agricultural Bursary Applications - Report**

A Councillor (Board Member) must be excused from the meeting as the *Municipal Government Act*, Part 5, Division 6, 170(1) states:

"Subject to subsection (3), a Councillor has a pecuniary interest in a matter if

(a) the matter could monetarily affect the Councillor or an employer of the Councillor, or

(b) the Councillor knows or should know that the matter could monetarily affect the Councillor’s family.”

and

The *Municipal Government Act*, Part 5, Division 6, 172 states:

"When a Councillor has a pecuniary interest in a matter before the council, a council committee or any other body to which the Councillor is appointed as a representative of the council, the Councillor must, if present,

(a) disclose the general nature of the pecuniary interest prior to any discussion of the matter.”

Board Member G. Parker declared a pecuniary interest as his son has applied for a bursary.

**Resolution AG20191030.013**

MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair

that Board Member G. Parker be excused from the meeting.

Carried Unanimously

Board Member G. Parker left the meeting at 10:24 a.m.
6.2 2019 Agricultural Bursary Applications – Report

Pursuant to Agricultural Bursaries Policy #62.1.1, five (5) $1,000.00 agricultural bursaries will be made available by the County of Wetaskiwin to any qualifying applicant who wishes to attend a post-secondary institution in a faculty relating to agriculture. The Policy states that applicants may only receive a bursary once from the County of Wetaskiwin. Applications are accepted up to October 1st of each year. The 2019 budget for Agricultural Bursaries is $5,500.00, which allows for advertising and the allocation of five (5) bursaries.

For 2019, seven (7) applications were received. The applicants for 2019 are as follows:

1. Wilson Schultz of Division 1 is currently enrolled at Olds College and working towards an Agricultural Management Diploma. After obtaining his Diploma, Mr. Schultz is looking forward to completing his education and working in the industry full-time. Administration notes that Mr. Schultz has received the bursary once before in 2018 for $750.00.

2. Tristan Rasmuson of Division 2 is currently a second year student at the University of Alberta, enrolled in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences working towards a Bachelor of Science of Agriculture, with a major in Crop Science. Mr. Rasmuson would like to pursue a career in plant breeding and genetic research after graduation.

3. Laura Haenni of Division 4 is currently enrolled at the University of Lethbridge in the Bachelor of Science program. Ms. Haenni is majoring in Agricultural Biotechnology and after completing her Degree, she would like to pursue a career in Agronomy or Horticulture. Administration notes that Ms. Haenni has received the bursary once before in 2018 for $750.00.

4. Hasse van der Kamp of Division 5 is currently enrolled at the University of Saskatchewan in the Agriculture and Bioresources program, majoring in Animal Science. In the future, Ms. van der Kamp plans to attend the Veterinarian program at the University of Calgary. Her goal is to become a rural dairy veterinarian in Alberta, but if she is unable to attend the Veterinary program at the University of Calgary, she will continue her education another area of agriculture. Administration notes that Ms. van der Kamp has received the bursary once before in 2018 for $750.00.

5. Cole Schwengler of Division 7 is currently enrolled at the University of Alberta and is in his second year of his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Major Animal Science Degree. Mr. Schwengler states that this program will help him to understand nutrition, physiology, and reproduction, which will allow him to establish his own clientele base under Raven Feeders and achieve his goal of becoming a Ruminant Nutritionist. Administration notes that Mr. Schwengler has received the bursary once before in 2018 for $750.00.

6. Miranda Wirch of Division 7 is currently enrolled at Lakeland College in Vermilion in her first year of Agribusiness. Ms. Wirch hopes to finish to finish the two-year program with a Diploma and go back for a third year to get a second Diploma in Agribusiness and Animal Science Technology. The plan of Ms. Wirch is to come out of school and take over the family farm.

7. Jacob Parker of Division 7 is currently enrolled in his second year at Lakeland College taking an Animal Science Technology Diploma, with the intention of extending for a third year to attain an Agricultural Business Diploma. After completing his education, Mr. Parker intends to return to the farm and help his parents run the operation.
Copies of the seven (7) applications, as well as Agricultural Bursaries Policy #62.1.1 were provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Options for Consideration by Council include:

1. That the Agricultural Service Board award three (3) Agricultural Bursaries to Tristan Rasmuson, Miranda Wirch, and Jacob Parker, all of whom have not previously received the Agricultural Bursary;

2. That the Agricultural Service Board provide direction on which applications should receive funding; or

3. That the Agricultural Service Board deny all the Agricultural Bursary requests received.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board award three (3) Agricultural Bursaries to Tristan Rasmuson, Miranda Wirch, and Jacob Parker, all of whom have not previously received the Agricultural Bursary.

Resolution AG20191030.014
MOVED: by Board Member K. Rooyakkers
that the Agricultural Service Board award three (3) Agricultural Bursaries to Tristan Rasmuson, Miranda Wirch, and Jacob Parker, all of whom have not previously received the Agricultural Bursary.

Carried Unanimously

G. Parker entered the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

6.3 RECESS
The meeting recessed at 10:29 a.m.

6.4 RECONVENED
The meeting reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

6.5 2020 Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Conference – Report
The 2020 Provincial Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Conference will be hosted at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel by the Central Region from January 21-24, 2020.

Accommodations have been booked and Administration is requesting for confirmation on who will be attending.

A copy of the agenda was provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board provide confirmation on who will be attending the 2020 Provincial ASB Conference from January 21-24, 2020 in Banff, Alberta in order to book accommodations.

Resolution AG20191030.015
MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair
that Councillors K. Adair, J. Bishop, B. Krahn, K. Rooyakkers, and Farm Members S. Dewald, G. Parker, and M. Schmidt and the Director of Agricultural Services, S. Majek, and Foreman of Agricultural Services, J. Albers, be registered to attend the 2020 Provincial ASB Conference from January 21-24, 2020 in Banff, Alberta.

Carried Unanimously

6.6 Weed Inspection Services Agreement with the City of Wetaskiwin – Report
The City of Wetaskiwin and the County of Wetaskiwin currently have a Weed Inspection Services Agreement effective January 1, 2018 until December 31, 2021.

On September 24, 2019, correspondence was received from the City of Wetaskiwin Enforcement Services stating that the City of Wetaskiwin is exercising the termination
Clause 8.2 in the Agreement between the City and County for the services of weed control as the City plans to do weed inspections on their own. The correspondence, which is dated September 19, 2019, serves as the required one (1) year notice to terminate the Agreement. The full correspondence was provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Administration notes that Clause 8.2 of the Agreement states the following:

"Notwithstanding any provision contained herein to the contrary, prior to the expiration of the Term, this Agreement may be terminated by either party by delivery of written notice to the other party to that effect, such termination to become effective one year after the delivery of such written notice."

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the letter from the City of Wetaskiwin regarding termination of the Weed Inspection Services Agreement as information and that the letter be forwarded to County of Wetaskiwin Council for acceptance and further that it be recommended to County of Wetaskiwin Council that investigation take place to potentially amend the termination clause to a date of April 1, 2020 so that the City of Wetaskiwin may complete the weed inspections on their own for the 2020 season.

Resolution AG20191030.016
MOVED: by Board Member B. Krahn
that the Agricultural Service Board accept the letter from the City of Wetaskiwin regarding termination of the Weed Inspection Services Agreement as information and that the letter be forwarded to County of Wetaskiwin Council for acceptance and further that it be recommended to County of Wetaskiwin Council that investigation take place to potentially amend the termination clause to a date of April 1, 2020 so that the City of Wetaskiwin may complete the weed inspections on their own for the 2020 season.

Carried Unanimously

7. INFORMATION ITEMS


At the March 13, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting, the Board resolved to accept the request for funding from the Farm Safety Centre as information as funding for the Farm Safety Centre is already covered under the Grants to Organizations Policy #12.3.2 of the County of Wetaskiwin. (Ref. Resolution #AG20190313.013)

A letter was received from the Farm Safety Centre, dated September 18, 2019, indicating that the $2,600.00 contribution received from the County of Wetaskiwin was very much appreciated. The letter stated that the funds will be used to deliver farm safety presentations to children attending rural and remote elementary schools during the 2019-2020 school year, which is the 22nd consecutive year of Safety Smarts delivery in Alberta. The generosity of many committed individuals and organizations continues to make this possible and Farm Safety is grateful for each and every dollar donated.

As the Agricultural Service Board is aware, the mandate of the Farm Safety Centre non-profit organization is to reduce injuries and fatalities in rural Alberta. Often youth, especially younger children, are not fully aware of the many potential hazards presented by rural living. Increasing their awareness and ability to make informed personal safety decisions is extremely important. The power of the Safety Smarts program comes from consistent, reinforced, face to face sharing. Hundreds of rural schools allow time for this program each year because they hear of the close calls and near misses and recognize the importance of their students receiving consistent best practice safety messaging. The Farm Safety Centre believes that teaching children is a wise investment in the future. Influencing the personal attitudes and actions as the children grow and mature will pay significant dividends as they move forward and become the decision makers of tomorrow.

The Farm Safety Centre provided an Annual Report for 2018-2019 for review by the Agricultural Service Board.
Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Farm Safety Centre Annual Report for 2018-2019 as information.

Resolution AG20191030.017
MOVED: by Board Member K. Rooyakkers
that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Farm Safety Centre Annual Report for 2018-2019 as information.

Carried Unanimously


A News Release was received from the Government of Alberta entitled “Beefing Up Supports for Alberta’s Ranchers” that states that The Public Lands Modernization (Grazing Lease and Obsolete Provisions) Amendment Act, otherwise known as Bill 16, has been introduced to ensure the sustainability of ranching and rangelands.

The News Release states that Bill 16 includes much needed modernizations to the rent and fees ranchers and cattle owners pay government for the use of public lands and that these proposed changes will create a system that is transparent and fair for ranchers, while ensuring that Albertans receive fair return for the use of the resources of the province.

If Bill 16 is passed the key changes will be:

- The development of a new fee structure that better aligns with land values and market fluctuations, so when markets are down, so are fees;
- Phasing in of fee increases over five (5) years to help ranchers adjust to the new rates;
- Proposing a flat-rate assignment fee to reduce administrative costs for ranchers;
- Creating a dedicated revenue stream to fund rangeland sustainability research and initiatives to ensure ranching remains a successful industry; and
- Streamlining the framework to remove outdated information and reduce red tape.

If passed the rental rate fee structure will be phased in over a five (5) year period, beginning in January 2020.

The complete News Release was provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board. Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the News Release on Beefing up Supports for Alberta’s Ranchers as information.

Resolution AG20191030.018
MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair
that the Agricultural Service Board accept the News Release on Beefing up Supports for Alberta’s Ranchers as information.

Carried Unanimously

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

Resolution AG20191030.019
MOVED: by Chairperson J. Bishop
that the date of the next Agricultural Service Board meeting will be held on December 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Carried Unanimously

9. ADJOURN

Resolution AG20191030.020
MOVED: by Board Member B. Krahn
that the meeting adjourn at 10:49 a.m.
Carried Unanimously

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CHAIRMAN

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CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER