Agricultural Service Board Meeting
AGENDA

Tuesday, June 18, 2019
9:00 AM
Council Chambers
County Administration Building

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. MINUTES APPROVAL
   3.1 Agricultural Service Board Minutes, March 13, 2019

4. REPORTS
   4.1 Director of Agricultural Services Report for March 14, 2019 to June 18, 2019 - Report
       Stephen Majek
   4.2 Sustainable Agriculture Report for March 14, 2019 to May 31, 2019 - Report
       Kim Barkwell
   4.3 Horticulturist Report for December 1, 2018 to June 14, 2019 - Report
       Heather Dickau

5. DELEGATION - 9:00 A.M. - Agricultural Service Board Program Team
   5.1 2019 Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Field Visit – Report
       Stephen Majek

6. DELEGATION - 9:30 A.M. - Joan Miller, Director of Economic Development, JEDI
   6.1 2019 JEDI AG Forum – Report
       Joan Miller

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
   7.1 von Arx Properties Update – Report
       Stephen Majek
   7.2 Agriculture Plastics Recycling Update – Report
       Stephen Majek
   7.3 2019 Farm Family Awards Update – Report
       Stephen Majek
7.4 Hosting an Agricultural Conference in Wetaskiwin – Report

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. INFORMATION ITEMS
   9.1 Horticultural Agronomy Services Agreement – Report
   9.2 ALUS Information Item - Report

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

11. ADJOURN
Agricultural Service Board Meeting
MINUTES

Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 9:00 AM
Council Chambers
County Administration Building

Present
Chairperson Josh Bishop
Board Member Stephan Dewald
Board Member Mike Schmidt
Board Member Lyle Seely
Board Member Bill Krahn
Board Member Ken Adair

Absent
Board Member Garth Parker

Staff Present
Jeff Chipley, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services
Kim Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator
Carmen Reimer, Recording Secretary
Naomi Finseth, Municipal Intern

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 9:05 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Resolution AG20190313.001
MOVED: by Board Member S. Dewald
that the Agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

3. MINUTES APPROVAL
3.1 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes, Friday, December 14, 2018
The Agricultural Service Board Meeting minutes of Friday, December 14, 2018 were
presented to the Agricultural Service Board for approval as presented.

Resolution AG20190313.002
MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely
to approve the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting held December 14,
2019 as presented.

Carried Unanimously

4. REPORTS
4.1 Director of Agricultural Services Report from December 14, 2018 to
March 13, 2019 - Report
Mr. Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services, provided his Director of
Agricultural Services Report from December 14, 2018 to March 13, 2019, which was as
follows:
"Seasonal Staff for 2019 have been hired with several staff returning from last year.
New to the County in 2019 will be three Weed Inspectors, one mower operator, and
one groundskeeper. Most of the staff will start on May 1, with the exception of the
Mower Operators, who start June 1, and one spray crew member, who starts on April 1."
The Service Board attended the Provincial ASB Conference in Calgary in January where the focus was on mental health, market trends, and soil health.

Strychnine has been ordered for the 2019 season, which may be the last year to get strychnine based products for ground squirrel control. Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has not provided an official position on the review and its future plans for strychnine.

Rental equipment has been serviced and is ready to be used by producers.

Administration completed the changes and updates to the Agricultural Service Board Strategic Business Plan and presented it to Council in December.

Administration has completed some Building Maintenance projects such as updating condenser coils for new air conditioning units to be installed in the spring for the Administration Building and completed construction of 30 picnic tables and 10 outhouses for Parks Department.

The Horticulturist for Leduc County is retiring effective March 29, 2019. The County of Wetaskiwin has an agreement with Leduc that expires December 31, 2020. The County of Wetaskiwin pays approximately $47,000 per year as part of the agreement. Leduc County is exploring their options for a new Horticulturist to fill the current position. They are also investigating the reorganization of the position and having someone for Leduc County only.

Administration has compiled information regarding weed notices from several municipalities which will be talked about later on the agenda. “

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

Resolution AG20190313.003
MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely
that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Director of Agricultural Services Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously

4.2 Sustainable Agriculture Report for December 14, 2018 to March 13, 2019 Meeting - Report

The Sustainable Agriculture Report was as follows:

Alberta Agriculture has requested that their programs be promoted and the following is an overview of the programs.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)

Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change Producer Program – New Changes in Effect February 13, 2019

- Funding now available for Commercial Manure Applicators – apply for specific manure application equipment and other items related to improved land application of manure.
- Innovative category – definition clarified, new application form and eligible expenses retroactive to April 1, 2018.
- Revision to “in-kind contribution rule”: caps increased from 25% to 50% for riparian fencing and shelterbelt establishment projects.

Farm Water Supply

- Still seeking applications. Require an approved Long Term Water Management Plan before proceeding with project.
- Funding for new wells, dugouts, indirect watering systems on man-made structures and more.
Special incentives for well decommissioning, well pit conversions

Producer Available Government Programs outside CAP also seeking applications:

**Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program (FEAP)**
- Farm Energy and Agri-Processing Program (FEAP): December 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019 updated funding list with new items. Funding list subject to change after March 31, 2019.
- New items include, but not limited to: circulation pumps, grid-tied batteries, tire pressure control systems, onboard vehicle load scales.
- Program also includes insulation for new builds and existing buildings.
- This program has some retroactivity to April, 2016.

**Farm Health and Safety Producer Grant Program (2018-2021)**
- For farmers and ranchers with waged, non-family workers and a WCB account.
- 50% cost share on eligible expenses.
- Maximum of $5000 per fiscal year and $10,000 for life of program.

**On Farm Solar Photovoltaics**
- Still accepting applications.
- Grid Tied, Micro-Generation.
- Retro-active to April 15, 2017.

**Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and EFP Operations Committee**
- Committee input on modifying questions and interactive, online display.
- Update requirement, and perhaps the recent cold weather, have continued area increase in online enrollment. Environmental Farm Plan activities accounted for 10% of Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator time in 2018.

**Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) – Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC)**
- Advertised for new PAC members. Filled County of Wetaskiwin vacancy and calling potential Leduc County producers.
- Participant annual maintenance payments processed.
- Year-end reporting required by ALUS Canada completed.
- Advertisements submitted to the Leduc Representative as a Leduc County producer representative is still required for the PAC. Efforts to date highlight the need for improved ALUS brand recognition in our communities.
- At January 28, 2019 PAC meeting, the committee agreed to move ahead with a ‘Multi-Criteria Decision Mapping Process’ facilitated by the GIS department of the Environmental Stewardship Branch of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. First workshop is scheduled for the afternoon of March 13, 2019.
- Some project inquiries from recent advertising campaign.

**Activities**
EFP reviews and support. In person, producer assistance with Long Term Water Management plans and FEAP application reviews.

Workshop planning. Including multiple conference calls for Farm to Market to Table Conference.

Training on BookKing Program for online workshop registration.

Alberta Conservation Association – Conservation, Community, and Education Grant submission (to support ALUS projects).

December 24, 2018 – January 1, 2019 – Out of office on scheduled vacation.


The Environmental Approvals System (EAS) is the Government of Alberta’s vision to manage all approvals under all the enactments in one place. The Alberta Energy Regulator developed OneStop, a technology framework for online applications. Alberta Environment and Parks has adapted OneStop to their purposes. After testing in limited regions last fall, all Water Act approvals, amendments and code of practice will be going through the OneStop, online application system starting January 18, 2019. Water licenses do not fall under the new system.

January 19, 2019 – Beginner Bee Workshop, Nisku Recreation Centre


January 28, 2019 – ALUS PAC meeting, County of Wetaskiwin.

February 21, 2019 – Farm Agreements Workshop, Nisku Recreation Centre, 49 attendees.

February 28, 2019 – March 1, 2019: Farm Market Table Conference, Nisku Inn, approximately 150 attendees.

March 1, 2019 – Ladies Livestock Lessons - Nisku Recreation Centre, Partnership event with West Central Forage Association, 65 attendees.

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

Resolution AG20190313.004
MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair
that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Sustainable Agriculture Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Agricultural Service Board Program Review - Report

At the November 2, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting, the Board was advised that Agriculture and Forestry was beginning a review of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program starting in the fall of 2018. The goal of the review is to verify previously identified issues, identify any new issues, and identify potential solutions to improve the effectiveness and impact of the ASB grant program. At the November 2, 2019 meeting, the Board resolved to appoint Chairperson J. Bishop and Vice-Chairperson M. Schmidt to participate in the regional sessions once the locations, dates, and times for these sessions are set. (Ref. Resolution #AS20181102.2011)

Chairperson J. Bishop and Vice-Chairperson M. Schmidt both attended a session on February 14, 2019 in Lacombe. Administration asked Chairperson J. Bishop to provide a report on the session, which was provided as follows:

"Mike and myself joined other ASB members from central region as well as A.F. staff to conduct a program review session.

The program's mandate is to:
• support rural development
• manage risk to agriculture
• environmental stewardship
• maintain market access

There are pressures and changes stemming from:
• Social/Demographics
• Technological
• Economical/Financial
• Political

Alberta’s agricultural exports are now over $5.4 billion and market access is crucial for sustainability. Our surveillance and inspection programs are vital in maintaining market access. Businesses are attracted to our system due to its reliability and assurance checks.

There was a reoccurring theme throughout the process and that was a need for education and communication and our role as an ASB.

With the increasing use of social media we are seeing how important it is to be involved in the narrative as misinformation spreads at an astounding rate. Education will be key and we need to adopt a proactive approach rather than having to keep reacting to the negative light that is cast upon agriculture in increasing frequency.

My group focused on the Social and Demographics related pressures faced by agriculture today. At the end of the day, each group presented their findings to the whole group and we had further discussion on the top issues.

There is an increase in interest towards how our food gets to the table and there is a big push from younger, urban, consumers to have this information. Here are some efforts we can use to position ASB's to succeed.

1. We need to be stronger advocates.

In order to compete with, and in some cases combat against, special interest groups who professionally lobby the government. Our voice can be drowned out by all the noise these groups can generate and we need to make sure we are heard.

2. Social Media/Trends

We have seen how quickly a picture can spread via social media and a narrative develops without all of the facts. The oil sands is an example for us to learn from, the oil companies were slow to react to the criticism and as a result had to spend millions to show how well they reclaim the land. The public still do not even realize that they are actually in fact cleaning up a natural oil spill and doing the environment a favour. Attacks on our industry will increase in the current culture shift that is happening.

• accusations of inhumane handling and living conditions
• safety of the food
• gmo/antibiotic/hormone
• ever-changing Canada Food Guide based on the latest social trends or loudest advocates

• Carbon tax disproportionally affecting rural, not to mention that it is entirely political and not evidence based.
• the zero cow movements.

3. Education is the key

The only way to effectively insure ourselves is to educate the public with that facts. This will include both urban and rural and there is an increasing need to educate the urban about rural sustainability because that is where all the food comes from. The graphic
about hormone levels comes to mind, most people only know the narrative provided thanks to certain fast food chains, but the majority of people do not even know the truth that hormone injected beef has less hormone on the plate than broccoli!

So how are we to accomplish these efforts? One example is from Starland County, they are hosting a screening of the film called "Before the Plate" to help start the conversations. It will be provided free to the public. "Starland County is proud to host this event to help better connect the modern consumer with their food, and bust common myths about modern farming"

Another avenue is our resolutions, they can be brought forward from multiple associations for maximum exposure. Council, ASB's, RMA, Societies. Policy takes time and advocacy will speed it up especially when there are many organizations attacking the same issue it will inevitably rise to the top of the priorities. Letters to MLA's and Ministers further the cause and keeps our priorities front and center. Educating the policy makers from an AG perspective can be done through simple things like farm tours.

Take action.

"Take action" is really the most important step and probably the step that has been missing. Everyone sort of knows what we need to do but for some reason we keep talking about it and not acting.

- provide funding for the education component and develop a communications strategy with our goals in mind. One county has hired a school resource officer to teach about agricultural issues.
- encourage producers to host farm tours and help organize more uptake in the communities. Expand what we are already doing.
- host events such as "before the plate" to educate the public.
- create a policy environment that is business friendly. We do not want to regulate the small operation right out of business.
- think bigger. We may look at joining with other organizations to put on a bigger and better event much like the ASB conference that anyone can come to featuring similar speakers. It has been said many times that "other people need to hear this".

Highlights from some of the other presentations:

- utilize your "key contact" - key contacts are a free resource from the department of A.F. who provide support services and expertise in various fields.
- It was noted it is a very under-utilized service and I can attest I have never seen one. There are ASB's who have their key contact come to every meeting. Some prefer to go it alone, but why not use another expert? You can request a key contact in a specific area of expertise.
- We need to do a better job of getting the information from conference back to the public.
- telling our story accurately."

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the report from Chairperson J. Bishop on the Agricultural Service Board Program Review Session as information.

General discussion ensued on ideas on getting the information from conferences back to the public and to potentially have a Professional Development Day for teachers to learn about agricultural issues.

Board member M. Schmidt was also in attendance at the Agricultural Service Board Program review and indicated that a big take from the session was to educate the public. Another item that was discussed was that once resolutions are passed at provincial conference, additional follow-up needs to occur on the overall effect and outcome of the resolution.
Further discussion ensued on sending fewer people to the Provincial ASB Conference and using the funding saved to host a local conference in the area.

**Resolution AG20190313.005**

MOVED: by Board Member M. Schmidt

that Administration investigate the potential of having teachers involved in Professional Development related to agricultural issues.

Carried Unanimously

**Resolution AG20190313.006**

MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair

that Administration investigate the particulars, including costs, of hosting a one day Agricultural Conference in the Wetaskiwin area to be hosted by the County of Wetaskiwin.

Carried Unanimously

**Resolution AG20190313.007**

MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the report from Chairperson J. Bishop on the Agricultural Service Board Program Review Session as information.

Carried Unanimously

7. **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 9:56 a.m.

8. **RECONVENED**

The meeting reconvened at 9:59 a.m.

5. **DELEGATION - 10:00 A.M. - Doug Macaulay, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry**

A delegation consisting of Doug Macaulay, Agriculture and Forestry and Gayah Sieusahai, Plant and Bee Health Policy Section entered the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

5.1 **Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Presentation & Discussion with Agricultural Service Board - Report**

At the August 22, 2018 Agricultural Service Board (ASB) meeting, the Agricultural Service Board resolved that a meeting be set up with Doug Macaulay, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, at the 2019 Provincial ASB Conference to discuss the von Arx weed issue and other ASB topics of concern. (Ref. Resolution #AS20190822.1003)

Administration decided it would be more beneficial to invite Mr. Macaulay to an Agricultural Service Board meeting due to the hectic schedule of Mr. Macaulay at the 2019 Provincial ASB Conference and that having him at a meeting will allow for more fruitful discussion to occur. Mr. Macaulay will be in attendance to provide information regarding the *Weed Control Act* and to answer any questions that the Board may have.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the presentation made by Mr. Doug Macaulay on behalf of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry as information.

Mr. Macaulay and Mr. Sieusahai provided a presentation. A review of the process and steps that are required were given.

9. **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 11:25 a.m. and the delegation left at this time.

10. **RECONVENED**

The meeting reconvened at 11:31 a.m.
11. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Presentation & Discussion with Agricultural Service Board - Report

General discussion ensued on the von Arx property and what the next steps should be.

Resolution AG20190313.009

MOVED: by Board Member B. Krahn

that Administration investigate and proceed with the potential of the supervision of the von Arx property.

Carried Unanimously

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Weed Notice Process - Report

Through previous discussions by the Agricultural Service Board, Administration was requested to complete research on the Weed Notice process and timelines/deadlines utilized by other rural municipalities. Administration has contacted surrounding municipalities and the following information was obtained:

Strathcona County
- Issue weed notices in the growing season, but wait for plants to be growing prior to issuing a notice.
- Work with landowner to prevent having to issue a notice.
- Issued 1,000 notices per year.
- Had one (1) notice appealed in the past decade with no court appearances.

Sturgeon County
- Issue weed notices in the growing season.
- Work with landowners to prevent having to issue a notice.
- Seventy-nine (79) weed notices issued in 2018 and 130 friendly letters.
- No appeals with no court appearances as well.

Leduc County
- Issue weed notices in the growing season.
- Weed notice issued after two (2) or three (3) years of trying to work with the landowners.
- No appeals with no court appearances as well.

Camrose County
- Issue weed notices during the growing season.
- Work with landowners prior to issuing a notice.
- Perform custom spraying at a reduced cost for herbicide.
- No appeals with no court appearances as well.

Ponoka County
- Issue weed notices during the growing season.
- Work with landowners prior to issuing a notice.
- No appeals with no court appearances as well.
Red Deer County
- Issue weed notices during the growing season.
- Will send letters in the fall to producers stating that they are going to be weed noticed in the following year.
- No appeals have been made.

Parkland County
- Issue weed notices during the growing season.
- Will send a reminder letter to producers who have an enforcement date upcoming.
- No appeals have been made, but one (1) court case has occurred.

Brazeau County
- Issue weed notices during the growing season.
- Issued fifteen (15) weed notices in 2018 with only one (1) actually enforced.
- No appeals with no court appearances as well.
- Rebate program is moving from thirty percent (30%) to sixty percent (60%) coverage in 2019 with no maximum amount.

In respect of the information acquired from neighbouring municipalities, Administration is concerned about issuing notices during the non-growing season (winter) due to the following reasons:
- Potential for more appeals as producers could state no weeds are currently growing in the winter.
- The difficulty in determining whether a producer sprayed for weeds prior to the onset of winter.
- The difficulty in determining whether the producer worked (broke) the pasture or hay meadow as winter makes it difficult to determine with snow on the field.
- Difficulty in guaranteeing that weeds are on the property during the conditions of winter.

Alternatives
Options for consideration by the Agricultural Service Board include:
1. That the Agricultural Service Board accept the details outlining the process neighbouring municipalities utilize for weed notices as information.
2. That the Agricultural Service Board direct Administration to issue Weed Notices to property owners during the month of January of each year.
3. That the Agricultural Service Board provide Administration with direction on how to move forward with the Weed Notice process.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the details outlining the process neighbouring municipalities utilize for weed notices as information.

General discussion ensued on the weed process.

Resolution AG20190313.010
MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely
that the Agricultural Service Board accept the details outlining the process neighbouring municipalities utilize for weed notices as information.

Carried Unanimously

12.2 2019 Farm Family Awards - Report

Correspondence was received from Northlands Agriculture dated March 1, 2019 regarding the 2019 Farm Family Awards.

Northlands is proud to once again partner with BMO for the 2019 BMO Farm Family Awards. Since 1969, farm families from Northern and Central Alberta have been recognized by Northlands with this prestigious honour. The County of Wetaskiwin is eligible to nominate a family in 2019.

The Agriculture Industry is an essential industry in Alberta and Northlands recognizes outstanding farm families with the Farm Family Awards, presented by Alberta Motor Association.

The objective of the Farm Family Awards is to recognize outstanding farm families in an area north of Township 34 (Red Deer). The Farm Family Awards honour those who best exemplify the value of the family farm to our rural communities and society by being leaders in the industry. When nominating a Farm Family, municipalities are encouraged to equally consider farming business practices and community involvement. As a note, a Farm Family is considered to be the immediate family currently involved in the family farm operation.

Families are hosted at a gala dinner at Northlands and are recognized for their contributions to the farming community and the agricultural industry. This year, The BMO Farm Family Awards Ceremony will take place during Farmfair International on November 9, 2019 at the Edmonton Expo Centre.

At the March 6, 2007 Council General meeting, Council approved that the rotation system for recognizing future farm families. (Ref. Page #2007/80C)

The rotation system the County of Wetaskiwin follows for recognizing farm families is as follows for the next three (3) years:

2019 - Division 3
2021 - Division 6
2023 - Division 1

This year, the rotation falls for Division 3 to nominate a family for the Farm Family award.

The Submission deadline is May 31, 2019.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board direct Administration and the Division 3 Councillor to discuss potential candidates to be nominated for the 2019 Farm Family Awards and that the candidate is selected from Division 3 in accordance with the rotation set out by Council in 2007.

Resolution AG20190313.011
MOVEd: by Board Member L. Seely

that Administration and the Division 3 Councillor discuss potential candidates to be nominated for the 2019 Farm Family Awards and that the candidate be selected from Division 3 in accordance with the rotation set out by Council in 2007.

Carried Unanimously

12.3 Class 1 Driver Requirements for Farmers – Letter from Brazeau County - Report

The County of Wetaskiwin received a letter from Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Sara Wheale dated February 20, 2019 regarding Class 1 Driver Training Requirements for Farmers that was addressed to the Honourable Brian Mason, Minister of Transportation.
The letter read as follows:

"On behalf of the Brazeau County Agricultural Service Board (ASB), we are writing to request that agricultural producers be exempt from the Class 1 commercial driver training requirements.

Agriculture is one of Brazeau County’s key industries with 655 farm operators reported in the 2016 census. The ability to get their products to market is essential for all 57,605 of Alberta's producers. The new Class 1 driver training requirements are an added cost and time commitment for producers looking to obtain their class 1 license. Margins and time are already tight for agricultural producers.

We understand and agree that the safety requirement for Class 1 drivers licensing is of utmost importance for all of our citizens, however, we feel the requirement should not be the same for commercial drivers compared to agricultural producers due to the distance and frequency differences in the industries.

Saskatchewan has provided an "F" exemption for farmers on their Class 1 licenses. Brazeau County's ASB encourages the Ministry of Transportation to implement a similar exemption for Alberta's agricultural producers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions."

Options for consideration by the Agricultural Service Board include:

1. That the Agricultural Service Board accept the letter received from Brazeau County addressed to the Minister of Transportation regarding Class 1 Driver Training Requirements for Farmers as information.

2. That the Agricultural Service Board approve writing a letter to the Minister of Transportation regarding Class 1 Driver Training Requirements for Farmers.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the letter received from Brazeau County addressed to the Minister of Transportation regarding Class 1 Driver Training Requirements for Farmers as information.

Administration found the following article in an Agriweek of March 11, 2019: "The Alberta government, in a rare positive response to a concern of agriculture organizations, extended the March 1 deadline by which farm workers were to receive mandatory semi-trailer truck driver training and testing. The new date is March 1 2020. Farm groups pointed out there was not enough time before the start of the peak spring season."

Resolution AG20190313.012
MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the letter received from Brazeau County addressed to the Minister of Transportation regarding Class 1 Driver Training Requirements for Farmers as information.

Carried Unanimously

12.4 Farm Safety Centre – Funding for 2019 - Report

Correspondence was received on January 9, 2019 from the Farm Safety Centre regarding funding for 2019.

During 2018, a total of 52,007 children in the rural and remote regions of Alberta received in-class Safety Smarts messages. The generosity of many Albertans continued to make this unique extension effort possible. In 2018, more than 290 entities made cash contributions to support this historically successful farm safety initiative and the Farm Safety Centre is grateful for each and every dollar donated. Fifty-nine (59) of these contributions came from Alberta's Counties and Municipal Districts (MD's).

2018 was not an easy year, with the tightening economy impacting both corporate and government contributions. The Farm Safety Centre acknowledged with sadness that was necessary to contract delivery efforts in 2018 to match funds available, so some children were missed. The Farm Safety Centre followed the motto taught by many grandparents "Use it up – Wear it Out – Make it do – Or do without. Farm Safety
anticipates renewed reach (60,000+) in 2019 as a long awaited source of grant funding is expected soon.

The continued commitment of Counties and MD’s across Alberta kept the Safety Smarts program viable this last year. The Farm Safety Centre requests that sincere thanks be given to each Agricultural Service Board. The Farm Safety Centre’s budget realities make it impossible for Farm Safety to support all requests, and therefore are hopeful that the County of Wetaskiwin may again have funds available to support program delivery in 2019.

The Farm Safety Centre’s 2019 request, based on 2018 delivery to 2,224 children at $3.50 per student, is $7,784.00.

Each contribution, of any amount, is greatly appreciated and the Farm Safety Centre acknowledges the generous contributions received from the County of Wetaskiwin in previous years.

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 indicated that investing in our children now is a wise investment in the future. Influencing their personal attitudes and actions as they grow and mature will pay significant dividends as they move forward and become the decision makers of tomorrow.

Regarding the request made by the Farm Safety Centre, Administration notes that funding to the organization is already covered under the Grants to Organizations Policy #12.3.2 of the County of Wetaskiwin. As per Policy #12.3.2, the Farm Safety Centre Safety is currently provided $2,600.00 annually for the Safety Smarts Program.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board 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.

General discussion ensued on whether the County of Wetaskiwin is providing enough funding for this program.

Resolution AG20190313.013
MOVED: by Board Member M. Schmidt

that Council approve the Agricultural Service Board 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.

Carried Unanimously

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

13.1 Recycling Pilot Tackles Agricultural Waste - Report

On January 21, 2019, a media release was received from the Government of Alberta regarding a recycling pilot regarding agricultural waste. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is helping fund a three-year pilot program that will recycle agricultural plastics.

The Alberta Beef Producers will use the $750,000 grant to coordinate the recycling program on behalf of the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) – Twenty (20) stakeholder organizations ranging from commodity associations and rural municipalities to retailers.

The Alberta Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program is aimed at:

- Recycling grain bags and twine
- Researching markets for other agricultural plastics not included in the pilot program
- Conducting a waste characterization study to determine agricultural plastic volumes
- Surveying producers to get feedback
Educating producers on the program and how to recycle their plastics

Oniel Carlier, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, was stated as saying that “Making agriculture more efficient and environmentally sustainable is a win for everyone. Not only are we tackling the longstanding problem of wasted twine and agricultural plastics, we’re working with partners to find policy solutions that really work. This pilot program is shaping a move toward an environmentally sustainable future for our province.”

The pilot will determine the financials, logistics, and operations of recycling agricultural plastics that could help inform a future policy solution to the issue.

Al Kemmere, Chairman, Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group, stated that “The Alberta government’s commitment to the pilot program is a welcome announcement. The APRG will explore an on-the-ground assessment of ag plastics on the provincial landscape to support the environmentally sound end use of these materials.”

Assare Grinde, Director, Alberta Beef Producers, and executive member, Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group, stated that “We would like to thank the Alberta government for supporting the agricultural industry in our efforts to recycle our waste plastics. We are excited to start working out the details of the program and will send more information to producers as soon as possible.”

Neil Gorda, director, Region Four, Alberta Barley, and executive member, Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group states: “There is strong support for this program from the agriculture sectors in Alberta. We look forward the rollout of this much-needed initiative and appreciate and speedy response and support from the Alberta government.”

A Government of Alberta study in 2012 revealed that around fifty percent (50%) of agricultural producers were burning their agricultural plastics on-farm. Sending plastics to a landfill was also a common method of disposing of agricultural plastics.

Saskatchewan ran a pilot program from 2011 to 2017 and is now operating the first regulated recycling program in Canada for grain bags. Alberta’s pilot program includes both grain bags and twine.

On January 22, 2019, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) released a Bulletin titled: “Funding for Agricultural Plastics Recycling Project Announced”.

The bulletin advised that moving forward, the APRG will hire a program operator to collect and recycle the grain bags and twine. Municipalities interested in hosting collection sites are encouraged to watch for future announcements.

On February 13, 2019, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) released a Bulletin titled: “Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program Updates”.

The bulletin advised that those interested in becoming the program operator for the three-year agricultural plastics recycling pilot program were encouraged to submit an expression of interest through Alberta Purchasing Connection.

The bulletin also advised that in response large amount of interest in the program, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry announced an additional $250,000 in funding on February 6, 2019, bringing the total to $1 million for the pilot program. These funds will allow for additional collection sites to be included in the pilot program.

On February 13, 2019, the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) released a Bulletin titled: “Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group Website Launched”.

The bulletin advised that the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) is responsible for implementing the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program (APRPP). The APRG launched its own website where information on APRPP will be shared, including updates on program implementation.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence on the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program as information.

Discussion ensued on the West Dried Meat Lake Landfill Authority and whether the Authority would consider taking agricultural plastics.

**Resolution AG20190313.014**

MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely
that the Agricultural Service Board send a letter to West Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill Authority encouraging them to participate in the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program in the collection of plastics.

Carried Unanimously

13.2 Agricultural Bursary Thank You Correspondence - Report

On November 2, 2018, the Agricultural Service Board resolved to award six (6) Agricultural Bursaries, to Wilson Schulz, Jesse Senz, Laura Haenni, Anne Germain, Hasse van der Kamp and Cole Schwengler, who have not previously received the Agricultural Bursary. (Ref. Resolution #AS20181102.2009)

Administration has received the following thank you correspondence from Ms. Haenni, Ms. Germain, and Mr. Schulz, which were as follows:

"I'd like to thank you for awarding me with the Wetaskiwin County Agricultural Bursary for 2018. It is a big help and reduces some stress financially. I appreciate the time you and the department take to make this scholarship available." - Laura Haenni

"Thank you for supporting me as I pursue a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness. It is fantastic to have the agricultural service board partnering with students to help progress agriculture and help feed the world. Thank you for your generosity through the giving of the bursary." - Anne Germain

"Thank you so much for the Agricultural Bursary. I appreciate the help funding my studies, and am deeply grateful. I hope 2019 is a great year for you and the county." - Wilson Schulz

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the thank you correspondence from Ms. Haenni, Ms. Germain, and Mr. Schulz regarding their selection as a 2018 Agricultural Bursary recipient as information.

Resolution AG20190313.015

MOVED: by Board Member M. Schmidt

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the thank you correspondence from Ms. Haenni, Ms. Germain, and Mr. Schulz regarding their selection as a 2018 Agricultural Bursary recipient as information.

Carried Unanimously

13.3 ALUS Information Item - Report

The ALUS e-newsletter titled: The Post, December 2019: Season’s Greetings! is provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board accept the ALUS e-newsletter titled: The Post, December 2019: Season’s Greetings! as information.

Ms. Barkwell advised that two ALUS participants won the 2018 OTIS Awards. The OTIS award is named after the star character in the book series "Otis and Friends: Environmental Adventures". OTIS is also an acronym for OutsTanding In Stewardship.

One of the ALUS participants who won the 2018 OTIS Awards was an ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc participant. The OTIS Awards are presented annually by the Battle River Watershed Alliance to businesses, organizations, individuals and youth in Alberta's Battle River and Sounding Creek watersheds for taking action though on-the-ground efforts, education, and the responsible overseeing and protection of the watershed's environment as "something worth preserving".

The Farm Award went to Tin Forest Farm, where ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc participants Alana and Justin Schamber are excellent wetland caretakers who also work to raise awareness about local food and connect people to the land through farm tours and kids camps.

Resolution AG20190313.016

MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely
that the Agricultural Service Board accept the ALUS e-newsletter titled: *The Post, December 2019: Season’s Greetings!* as information.

Carried Unanimously

14. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Resolution AG20190313.017

MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair

that the date of the next Agricultural Service Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Carried Unanimously

15. **ADJOURN**

Resolution AG20190313.018

MOVED: by Board Member B. Krahn

that the meeting adjourn at 12:17 p.m.

Carried Unanimously
Background

Mr. Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services, provided his Director of Agricultural Services Report for March 14, 2019 to June 18, 2019, which is as follows:

"Seasonal Staff started on May 1 with several staff returning from last year. New to the County in 2019 are three Weed Inspectors, one mower operator and one groundskeeper. Roadside Mower Operators started June 1 and one spray crew member will start at the beginning of July.

Strychnine was been ordered for 2019, sales have been better than the last couple of years. Most likely due to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and their position on strychnine. To date no official decision has been communicated on PMRA’s review and the future of strychnine.

Rental equipment has seen several rentals with the sprayers being utilized by several producers. Magpie and skunk traps continue to be the highest rental usage.

Roadside Spraying Program started on June 17 with all Range Roads (north/south roads) North of Highway 13 on the grid for 2019. The crew started at the west end of the County for more timely applications for the Hawkweeds.

Numerous weed notices (approximately 50) were issued to Landowners who had been given letters in 2018 with a deadline that had surpassed. These notices are due within the next week or two. Any producer not fulfilling their obligation under the notice will have their property sprayed and they will be invoiced. Should the property owner not pay the invoice, Administration will recommend to Council to add the invoice to their respective taxes.

Administration completed several Building Maintenance projects in 2019. A couple of projects are on hold as other building maintenance issues have appeared.

Beaver Control has been very active again this year with over 70 beaver removed from various locations throughout the County. The County has also helped Alberta Highways remove beaver from Highway 20, Secondary 780 and Highway 13 at Winfield.”
Recommendations

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

Recommended Resolution

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

The Sustainable Agriculture Report is as follows:

**Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP)**
- Primary producer-farmer-rancher related programs are still accepting applications. As this is a five-year partnership until March 2023, no large program changes are anticipated.

**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 and taking applications and there were no indications of change on their websites.

**Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and EFP Operations Committee**
- Input and support for operations committee: Country Guide BMP article, new banners, WebBook

**Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) – Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC)**
- One on one meetings and on-farm site visits for ALUS project proposals.
- March 13, 2019 – ALUS Multi-Criteria Decision Mapping – First Workshop
- ALUS Quarterly Reporting
- April 29, 2019 – ALUS PAC Meeting – New Project Proposals
- May 15, 2019 – ‘Garage Party’ – Casual Community Outreach at Participant’s Home Near Buck Lake
- May 27-28, 2019 – ALUS Western Hub Conference – County of Vermilion River
- Still actively seeking projects in the Modeste Watershed and Leduc County for 2019 season.
  - Planning for:
    - ALUS Open House, June 12, 2019, Glen Park Hall, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
    - ALUS Field Tour, June 21, 2019, west of Millet, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**Activities**
- Participate in Solar PV investigations for C+OC building.
• EFP reviews and support, in person, by phone or online. In person, producer assistance with Long Term Water Management plan. CAP grant support.
• Prepare and distribute 2,500 copies of ASB News and Views to farms in Leduc and Wetaskiwin Counties.
• March 12, 2019 – ‘Grazing through Adverse Conditions’ workshop, Winfield. Partnership with Grey Wooded Forage Association – 24 attendees
• March 14, 2019 – Wetlands Education Network – Nisku Recreation Centre. Participate as part of the Agriculture Action Group within the network.
• March 16, 2019 – Chickens and Coops workshop – Nisku Recreation Centre. 50+ attendees
• March 21, 2019 - Alberta Farm Animal Care – 2019 Livestock Care Conference
• March 22, 2019 – Ambassador Day – County of Wetaskiwin
• April 8, 2019 – Weed Workshops – Assist County of Wetaskiwin Director of Agricultural Services, Winfield 24 attendees, Alder Flats 15 attendees
• April 17, 2019 – Classroom Agriculture Program Presentations – Four (4), Grade 4 classrooms at St. Andre Academy, Beaumont
• April 18, 2019 – Battle River Watershed Alliance, Communications and Education Committee Meeting, Ponoka County
• April 29, 2019 – ALUS PAC Meeting, County of Wetaskiwin
• May 3, 2019 – County of Wetaskiwin Open House – 400+ in attendance
• May 15, 2019 – ALUS Garage Party – 3 attendees (2 families)
• May 25, 2019 – Big Stone Creek Riparian Planting Workshop – adult, morning portion cancelled due to low enrollment. Afternoon, youth event proceeded. (Junior Forest Wardens, Grove Grizzlies)
• May 27-28, 2019 – ALUS Western Hub Conference – County of Vermilion River

Recommendations

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

Recommended Resolution

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

Keynote, Dr. Rebecca Gimenez Husted: Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue – Practical considerations, specialty equipment and techniques behind the safe extraction of a live large animal from entrapments (trailer wrecks, barn fires) in local emergencies and disaster areas.

- Biggest obstacles dealing with entrapments are human factors – assess the hazards and keep it simple
- Most common natural disasters in Alberta are flooding and fires. Have an emergency plan. How would animals be evacuated?

Equine RRSP – Retirement, Rescue, Slaughter and Public Attitudes... or if you rescue horses, you no longer have an RRSP! – Dr. Bettina Bobsien

- Horses have a lengthening lifespan, used to be 20 years but now with better nutrition and medication, more like 30 years.
- Changing attitudes toward horse euthanasia
- May need a 10-year retirement plan but not everyone can afford this: “There is no bad welfare associated with a timely euthanasia decision”.

Growing Pains, Anti-Microbial Use and Anti-Microbial Resistance Panel

- Cattle/Hogs – seeing little change for producers that already had a vet-client relationship
- Beekeepers – huge change, as they did not have any vet relationship prior. ABVMA has been very helpful in fostering relationships and educating their members. Beekeepers need to reach out to local veterinarians.
- Poultry – need to take lessons from cattle/hogs in terms of prescriptions. Have been voluntarily moving away from Category 1 and Category 2 antibiotics.

Regulatory Panel: ALERT line, RCMP, Alberta SPCA and Livestock Inspection Service (Farmer’s Advocate Office was originally on panel but could not attend because of the election)

See ALERT line document.

Navigating Touch Conversations in Animal Welfare - Becky Taylor and Sage Pullen McIntosh

- With great conflict, dialogue can provide a great solution.
- What makes conversations difficult?
- Mis-information
- Emotions
- Urban-rural gap

- What are the top issues?
  - Transport
  - Housing
  - Hormones/antibiotics

- Keep it professional, NOT personal
- Self awareness – what’s your bias?
- When negative emotions arise…try name and tame! Acknowledging an emotion by naming it diminishes it. An emotional brain is not a thinking one.
- Respond – be transparent. Gain respect.
- How to approach?
  - Online and Face to Face are similar:
    - Gain perspective – ask good questions
    - Listen and digest
    - Online - Read first. Read again to seek clarity - take time to think before you answer
    - Identify the problem
    - ‘Flip the Switch’ – be curious about why people think that way

**Poultry Behaviour and Lighting – Dr. Karen Schwean Lardner**

- Research in broiler barns highlights the importance of darkness on poultry behaviour. Traditionally, there was use of constant or near-constant lighting. Dr. Schewan-Lardner’s research has shown the importance of dark periods to the birds’ overall welfare and production performance. Minimum of four dark hours recommended.

**Feedlot Assessment Tool – Dr. Joyce Van Donkersgoed**

- Feedlot assessment tool was developed by the Canadian feedlot industry with feedlot producers and technical experts, including feedlot veterinarians, beef cattle animal scientists, and welfare experts from Cargill, JBS, and Tyson Foods based on the needs of federal processors and retailers for a certified welfare standard for Canadian feedlots.
- The tool is certified by the Professional Animal Auditor’s Association (PAACO) as a credible feedlot audit tool.
- Where Food Comes From Inc. (WFCF), one of Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beefs’ Certification Bodies, will offer feedlot producers the ability to do combined CRSB and PAACO feedlot audits. Feedlots can be audited at the same time by certified auditors and receive certification to both the CRSB Beef Production Standard and the PAACO Certified Canadian Feedlot Animal Care Assessment Standard.
Horticulturist Report for December 1, 2018 to June 14, 2019 – Report

Meeting Date (Report Reference Only): 2019/06/18
Meeting (Report Reference Only): Agricultural Service Board

Background

The Horticulturist Report is as follows:

- December 6, 2018 – Harvested Christmas tree from Firver Green Tree Farm, Falun.
- February 20, 2019 – March 22, 2019 Vacation.

Events

- March 16, 2019 – Chickens & Coops, Nisku Recreation Centre, assisted Kim Barkwell, Sustainable Agricultural Coordinator. Cassandra Kirkpatrick has her own small flock in High River, Alberta. Some of her hands-on experience with poultry comes from being a certified Poultry Welfare Auditor.
- April 1, 2019 – The horticulturist resigned from Leduc County and the joint shared Horticulturist position was terminated.
- May 1, 2019 – The horticulturist was rehired in a seasonal position with the County of Wetaskiwin for ten (10) days per month, Monday, Wednesday, and alternating Thursdays.
- May 3, 2019 – County of Wetaskiwin Open House

Mountain Pine Beetle Update (as of March 29, 2019)

There are now eleven (11) sites with Mountain Pine Beetle infestations, the furthest east is at Lakedell and the furthest west are on Highway 22 east of Alder Flats. Several days were spent marking attacked trees and educating landowners of their options on next steps to take. Administration has kept in contact with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry to report numbers and locations of infestations. They have concluded that the long cold winter was not severe enough to destroy the population so administration can continue to recommend the removal of
all trees with over forty (40) attacks. Administration has found a wholesaler who can supply verbenone mountain pine beetle repellent pouches that prevent attacks on all varieties of pine trees. Verbenone is an anti-aggregation pheromone that signals incoming beetles that the tree is already infested and there is “No Vacancy”. The result is that the beetles are forced to fly elsewhere making them vulnerable to natural predators. A local proprietor in Alder Flats has agreed to sell the pouches since that is the area with the heaviest attacks and Administration will also distribute through the County Administration Building much like strychnine is sold.

**Mountain Pine Beetle Update (as of June 10, 2019)**

There have now been fourteen (14) confirmed mountain pine beetle locations in the County. Administration has purchased 500 verbenone pouches from West Green Global Technologies, Langley, BC. Pouches are being sold at zero markup cost of $10.00/pouch.

**Farm Visits**

The Horticulturist made twenty-one (21) farm/acreage visits concerning mountain pine beetle, cytospora canker, spruce spider mites, hail damage, fireblight, bruce spanworm, leafrollers, poplar borer, herbicide damage, rhizosphaera needle cast, western gall rust, pruning tips, sunscald, winter kill, cooley spruce gall adelgid, white pine weevil, spring cankerworm, yellow headed spruce sawfly, trees planted too deep, June bugs, topping trees, drought, and tree selection.

**Grounds Maintenance**

Annual flowers have purchased and planted in the planters around the buildings. Weeds have been pulled and perennials fertilized.

**Training**

- June 12, 2019 - First Aid, West End Firehall.
- June 14, 2019 - Defensive Driving, West End Firehall.

**Recommendations**

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

**Recommended Resolution**

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

On March 14, 2019, correspondence was received from the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Manager of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program, Doug Macaulay.

The correspondence advised that the Agricultural Service Board Program Team is planning fifteen (15) field visits across Alberta this year and are planning to visit the County of Wetaskiwin. The purpose of the visit is to strengthen the relationships with ASBs and to fulfill recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General. This is a unique opportunity for the ASB to highlight programs, accomplishments, and meet with ASB Program staff.

The request was to meet the County of Wetaskiwin ASB between May and September. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry realizes this is a busy time of the year for ASB programs, but the objective of the visit is to see the results of the County of Wetaskiwin ASB Programs as they get the best sense of the success of the programs undertaken by the County when they are actively ongoing.

It was noted that a field visit is a full-day process starting with a short meeting with the ASB members followed by an office and field tour with the Agricultural Fieldman. The primary focus of the field visit is to tour the County of Wetaskiwin to see examples of programs implemented under the Legislative and Environmental Funding Streams of the ASB Grant Program. The field visit focuses on the outcomes and deliverables of the Strategic Plan of the County of Wetaskiwin Agricultural Service Board and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry may request to see outcomes of particular programs as part of the field visit. During the meeting, staff from Alberta Agriculture and Forestry will be in and will being joining Mr. Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services, for a field visit after the meeting.

Alberta Agricultural and Forestry has provided some Field Visit Frequently Asked Questions, which have been provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board, along with the full correspondence received.

Recommendations
Administration recommends that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Alberta Agricultural and Forestry Field Visit as information.

**Recommended Resolution**

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Alberta Agricultural and Forestry Field Visit as information.
March 7, 2019

Mr. Josh Bishop, Chair
Agricultural Service Board
County of Wetaskiwin No. 10
Box 6960
Wetaskiwin, AB T9A 2G5

Dear Mr. Bishop:

The Agricultural Service Board Program Team is planning 15 field visits across Alberta this year and are planning to visit your municipality. The purpose of our visit is to strengthen our relationships with ASBs and to fulfill recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General. This is a unique opportunity for the ASB to highlight programs, accomplishments and meet with ASB Program staff.

We would like to schedule a date to meet with your ASB between late May and late September. We know that this is a busy time of year for ASB programs but the objective of our visit is to see the results of your programs as we get the best sense of the success of your programs when they are actively ongoing.

A field visit is a full day process starting with a short meeting (approx. one hour) with your ASB members followed by an office and field tour with your Agricultural Fieldman. The primary focus of the field visit is to tour the municipality to see examples of programs implemented under the Legislative and Environmental Funding Streams of the ASB Grant Program. The field visit focuses on the outcomes and deliverables of your Strategic Plan and we may request to see outcomes of particular programs as part of the field visit. We have included a “Frequently Asked Questions” document with this letter that provides a general overview of the field visit process.

Please arrange a time for us to come visit with your ASB. If you have any questions regarding the field visit please contact Alan Efetha at 403-381-5852 or alan.efetha@gov.ab.ca. Once you have chosen the date that will work best for your field visit please contact Pam Retzloff, ASB Program Coordinator at pam.retzloff@gov.ab.ca or phone (780) 427-4213 as she will be coordinating the dates for the 15 field visits being done this year.

We are looking forward to the opportunity to come and visit with you this summer.

Sincerely,

Doug Macaulay, Manager
Agricultural Service Board Program

Enclosure

cc: Steve Majek, Agricultural Fieldman
    Rod Hawken, CAO
Field Visit FAQs

Why do you do field visits?

The ASB Program has been asked by the Auditor General to conduct a field visits approximately every five years to ensure that the grant dollars we allocate are supporting activities related to enforcement of delegated legislation and environmental extension activities. To accomplish this we conduct a field visit to that focuses on learning more about the ASB’s enforcement and environmental programs.

How many field visits do you do every year?

Our goal is to do 15 field visits every year. We select three municipalities per region for a field visit annually. We will be doing 15 field visits in 2019.

What time of year will you come for the field visit?

The field visits are scheduled between late May and September.

What is the process for a field visit?

A field visit consists of two components: meeting with the ASB members and then a field tour with the Agricultural Fieldman.

We prefer to keep the meeting with the ASB members short to allow us to look at as many projects as possible. One to two hours is generally enough time for us to meet with the ASB members. This is their opportunity to ask questions regarding the program and to discuss any concerns.

We want to spend the majority of our time in the field looking at examples of your programs and accomplishments. We want to see examples of your inspection and control programs, environmental projects and anything that you do that is unique in your municipality. We will need time to stop and take pictures of the different projects you are currently working on.

We understand that it may not always be possible to visit with your ASB members as this is the busiest time of year for them. If this is the case, we will arrange to meet with the fieldman during the spring/summer and then return in the winter to meet with ASB members as needed.

Who will be coming to do our field visit?

A member of the Plant Bee Health Policy Section plans to attend every field visit. In some instances another AP staff member may attend the field visit. For example, Plant Bee Health Surveillance Section members have expressed interest in attending some of the field visits to gain a better understand the role of ASBs and agricultural fieldmen. Some of your Key Contacts have also expressed interest and may be invited to attend the field visit.
Should my ASB members come on the “field” portion of the visit?

It is up to each individual ASB to decide whether or not the ASB members come for the “field” portion of the visit.

What will you be looking for?

The purpose of a field visit is to be able to provide proof to the Auditor General that ASBs are using the ASB Grant dollars allocated to them to support programs related to enforcement of delegated legislation and environmental extension. This means we want to see if you have inspection, enforcement and control programs in place related to the Agricultural Pest Act, Soil Conservation Act and Weed Control Act and that you are prepared to assist with the Animal Health Act. We will also ask questions to see if you are in compliance with duties related to the Agricultural Service Board Act.

For example, questions we may ask:

- Did you provide a report of your activities to your council? What date did you report to council?
- Has the municipality appointed appeal committees for the Acts you are delegated to enforce?
- Do you have policies in place for administering the Acts you are delegated to enforce?

We may also ask to take copies of:

- Records for your inspection and spraying programs
- Newsletters or other advertisements for extension events you hosted
- Policies
- Form 7 certificates
- Appointment of inspectors
- Inspector ID cards
- Letters issued for enforcement
Typical Field Visit Activities

- Meet in the office to review maps and data related to inspection and application programs
  - Take pictures or get copies of notices issued, maps for spraying programs, examples of newsletters or advertisements for extension events
  - Look at AIMS/other programs that collect data for inspection programs
  - Copies of policies that you work under
  - Certification (i.e. Form 7) or identification

- Tour the shop to look at equipment for programs
  - Herbicide storage
  - Toxicant storage
  - Rental equipment yard

- Meet with inspectors and other ASB Program staff
  - Inspectors may be asked to produce their identification

- Road tour:
  - Look at areas where roadside vegetation program has been completed
  - Roadside seeding
  - Biocontrol projects
  - Fields where notices have been issued/enforcement completed
  - Environmental projects
    - Solar water demonstration sites
    - Riparian sites
    - Bioengineering projects
    - Ag plastics recycling
  - Other activities your ASB may be involved in
    - Tankloader sites
    - Water pipeline
  - Any other project related to enforcement of the Acts or included on your ASB Strategic Plan
  - Problems you are currently managing
  - Areas where a problem has been successfully managed
  - Unique programs/projects you are working on
  - Areas that are unique to your municipality
Background

The Agricultural Service Board plays an important role in promoting and supporting the agriculture industry in the County. As one of JEDI’s key industries, Agriculture plays an important role in our economy and community, therefore, collaboration between the Agricultural Service Board and JEDI is imperative.

JEDI’s main agriculture event is the annual JEDI AG Forum.

This was JEDI’s second time hosting an AG Forum. The first AG Forum was a half day event held on December 7, 2016 with seven (7) speakers in the morning and lunch served afterwards. The 2016 event saw ninety-five (95) total attendees including both farmers and stakeholders.

Due to feedback received following the 2016 event it was decided that the 2018 event would be a full day event from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The 2018 event had four (4) speakers before lunch and five (5) speakers following lunch.

The second JEDI AG Forum was held on November 23, 2018 at the Best Western Wayside Inn in Wetaskiwin. Eighty-eight (88) people registered for the event and eighty (80) people attended including three (3) people that were not registered, an 87.5% turn out of registered attendees. This event was targeted to farmers in the region and therefore, JEDI tried to limit stakeholder attendance. Stakeholders in attendance included elected officials, community stakeholders, community partners, agricultural businesses, and staff of the event partners.

JEDI’s two main goals of the event were to provide more operational business value to the regional farmers and agricultural businesses and for JEDI to gain further knowledge and engagement with the agricultural stakeholders of the region and according to the feedback received, JEDI accomplished both of these goals.

Following the event, attendees, being farmers only, completed an event survey that also served as the door prize entry form. From the survey answers, JEDI observed that attendees were once again very pleased with the event. JEDI also gained a good view of what type of topics farmers would like to see at future events.
The 2019 JEDI AG Forum date has been set for Thursday, November 28, 2019 and the event will once again be a full-day event held at the Best Western Wayside Inn in Wetaskiwin.

Last year, JEDI staff worked closely with Kim Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, and met with the Agricultural Service Board to allow its Members an opportunity to provide input in the topics for the event.

JEDI is once again seeking direction from the Agriculture Service Board regarding the 2019 JEDI AG Forum as follows:

- Suggestions as to what type of speakers/presentations would be valuable to regional agricultural producers; and
- Whether the Board is interested in partnering with JEDI on the 2019 JEDI AG Forum and if so what type of involvement would the Board be seeking, both in organizational and monetary aspects.

**Recommendations**

Administration recommends that the Board provided JEDI with direction with regards to the 2019 AG Forum regarding the following:

- Suggestions as to what type of speakers/presentations would be valuable to regional agricultural producers; and
- Whether the Board is interested in partnering with JEDI on the 2019 JEDI AG Forum and if so what type of involvement would the Board be seeking, both in organizational and monetary aspects.

**Recommended Resolution**

that the Board provide JEDI with direction with regards to the 2019 AG Forum regarding the following:

- Suggestions as to what type of speakers/presentations would be valuable to regional agricultural producers; and
- Whether the Board is interested in partnering with JEDI on the 2019 JEDI AG Forum and if so what type of involvement would the Board be seeking, both in organizational and monetary aspects.
Save the date for
JEDI's Annual AG Forum

NOVEMBER 28th, 2019

EXPERT SPEAKERS, LUNCH & MORE

FREE FOR JEDI REGION AG PRODUCERS

Join us for a day of learning and collaboration! Check our website & follow us on Social Media for more information as it becomes available.

www.jedialberta.com/about-us-2/events/
von Arx Properties Update – Report

Meeting Date (Report Reference Only): 2019/06/18

Meeting (Report Reference Only): Agricultural Service Board

Background

At the March 13, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting, Mr. Doug Macaulay, Agriculture and Forestry, and Gayah Sieusahai, Plant and Bee Health Policy Section, were in attendance. Mr. Macaulay and Mr. Sieusahai provided a presentation and a review of the process and steps that are required for reclamation. The Board resolved "that Administration investigate and proceed with the potential of the supervision of the von Arx property.” (Ref Resolution #AG20190313.009)

At the May 17, 2019 Council for Planning and Economic Development meeting, Council resolved that a Hearing be held regarding the noxious weeds on the properties at the County of Wetaskiwin Administration office on Tuesday, June 6, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in accordance with the Section 10 of the Agricultural Service Board Act. (Ref. Resolution #PD20190517.026).

On May 17, 2019, Mr. von Arx was hand delivered the Notice of Hearings Letters.

On June 6, 2019, Mr. John von Arx, Mr. Jonathan Lessing, Mr. Nagib Krameddine, Mr. George Heslup, Mr. Tim Lessing, and Administration attended the Hearing held during the Council General meeting at 9:30 a.m.

At the Hearing, Mr. Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services, provided Council details regarding the process when a municipality declares possession and control of land for reclamation under Section 12 of the Agricultural Service Board Act.

Mr. von Arx advised he has been negligent in farming practices and explained the attempts he made for weed control by spraying with Round-Up, as well as his plans for burning that did not occur. Mr. von Arx acknowledged his lack of compliance with the direction of the County of Wetaskiwin for continued weed control.

Mr. Majek responded the best thing for the subject land being discussed is cultivation for continued weed control measures. The County would be eligible to regain lost expenses such as annual taxes, reclamation costs, and administrative fees under the Agricultural Service Board Act and any surplus funds resulting from a lease(s) with a producer would go back to the landowner(s). The County of Wetaskiwin would be registered on the property title(s) for land
management and caveat(s) registered against title would not hinder future sales if Mr. von Arx wished to sell.

Mr. Najib Krameddine submitted a signed rental agreement made on June 5, 2019 between himself, Mr. von Arx, and Mr. Jonathan Lessing for a five (5) year term to farm all eight (8) parcels of land owned by Mr. von Arx et al. and that weed control would be addressed.

Mr. George Heslup advised he has rented and farmed the SE 33 for the past three (3) years from Mr. von Arx. Mr. Heslup submitted a signed rental agreement made with Mr. von Arx on June 3, 2019 for him to continue renting the SE 33 for an additional three (3) years.

Furthermore, Mr. Majek advised that the SW 34 has been farmed by Mr. Paul Kalke for several years.

A discussion ensued that the County should go the reclamation route and honour individuals with signed agreements.

Mr. Heslup reiterated that he feels the SE 33 should not be on the list for reclamation as he has been farming and controlling the weeds on that quarter for the past three (3) years. He stated he has not sure why this parcel of land is listed for reclamation.

Mr. von Arx advised he wanted to get a fire permit to burn the land as a measure to control weeds.

Councillor D. Woitt questioned the producers as to why it took so long to get agreements to which Mr. von Arx responded he was going to enter into agreements, wanted to, and planned to, but just did not get there.

Mr. Lessing outlined his plan, under the new agreement, on how he would manage the lands.

Councillor J. Bishop, as Chairman of the Agricultural Service Advisory Board, recommended to Council that the lands be taken under reclamation.

At the time, Council passed Bylaw 2019/30, which is a bylaw for the purpose of declaring that possession and control of the lands be taken under reclamation under Section 12 of the Agricultural Service Board Act.  
(Ref. Resolution #CG20190606.007)

Council also resolved that the County of Wetaskiwin Agricultural Service Board discuss the option of offering the first right of refusal to the current leaseholders (Nagib Krameddine & Timothy Lessing, George Heslup, Paul Kalke) to allow them first opportunity to work with the County during the three (3) year reclamation process under Section 12 of the Agricultural Service Board Act.  
(Ref. Resolution #CG20190606.008)

Administration sent Mr. von Arx a letter on June 12, 2019 advising Mr. von Arx the outcome of the June 6, 2019 Public Hearing.
Additionally, Administration has been working with the County of Wetaskiwin Assessment Department to get the properties registered with Alberta Land Titles. The process of getting the properties registered with Alberta Land Titles could potentially take a few months before the County of Wetaskiwin appears on title.

Regarding the resolution made by Council related to agreements between individuals and Mr. von Arx for the renting of lands, the agreements that have been signed between the landowners and Mr. von Arx are provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

If the County of Wetaskiwin were to honor the agreements that were signed before the Public Hearing, it could be perceived that the County of Wetaskiwin would be going outside of Purchasing/Tendering Policy #12.4.5. If it is the opinion of the Agricultural Service Board that the agreements be honored, the Board should recommend to County of Wetaskiwin Council that they approve the agreements outside of the Purchasing/Tendering Policy #12.4.5.

**Recommendations**

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Service Board provide direction regarding the potential option of offering the first right of refusal to the current leaseholders.

**Recommended Resolution**

that the Agricultural Service Board provide direction regarding the potential option of offering the first right of refusal to the current leaseholders.
RENTAL AGREEMENT

June 3, 2019

The following property is rented to George Heslup for 3 years:

- SE 33-47-25-W4 (Roll # 1699.00)

John von Arx

June 5/2019

George Heslup

June 5/2019

Submitted at hearing

June 6, 2019.
To whom it may concern;

Our proposal is that we be allowed to maintain a lease with the landlord (Mr. John VonArx) beginning immediately. For the 2019 year no crop is likely to be harvested, and therefore no rent will be paid. We will spray twice with either Escort or Kill All to eliminate the bulk of the tansy population, after allowing the chemical to take effect all airable land will be worked down and summer fallowed. In 2020 rent will be paid @ $50.00 per seedable acre. The land will be actively farmed until at least 2025. All necessary action will be taken to keep any weeds under control, especially Tansy at no cost to the county. From 2021 till 2025 land rent will be paid @ $85.00 per acre. We will do all we can to eliminate the Tansy around buildings and keep them down for the time of the lease.

Regards

Tim Lessing

Nagib Krameddine
Joint Agreement Between  
Nagib Kremaddine & Timothy Lessing  
LEASE AGREEMENT

I, John Vonarx, of RR2. Millet, Alberta T0C 1Z0 Agree to lease the following Lands:

- SW ¼ - 26 - 47 - 25 - 4  (16 acres)
- NE ¼ - 27 - 47 - 25 - 4
- SE ¼ - 27 - 47 - 25 - 4
- SW ¼ - 27 - 47 - 25 - 4 (2 Parcels)
- SE ¼ - 28 - 47 - 25 - 4
- George - SE ¼ - 33 - 47 - 25 - 4
- SE ¼ - 34 - 47 - 25 - 4

which I am the legal land owner of all the above land locations to lease to BOTH Nagib Kremaddine and to Timothy Lessing, and will agree to the terms set out by both Farmers.

1. TERM — MINIMUM OF 6 YEARS COMMENCING ON THE _6_ DAY OF
   _Jun_ 2019_ AND EXPIRES ON THE __30__ DAY OF __Dec 2025__.
2. The 1st year 2019 it will be summer follow and will clear all the tansies and weeds on all the lease properties. Will pay $50/acre for 2020.
3. The 2nd to the 5th year will seed the properties with wheat, Canola & etc.
4. STRAW DISPOSITION WILL BE AT THE FARMER'S DISCRETION.
5. TERM FOR PAYMENTS: CROP SHARE WILL BE GUARANTEED AT $__85___ PER ACRE after the second year.
6. _______ ACRES CULTIVATED.
7. K-DEEN FARM & TIMOTHY LESSING BOTH-agree to farm land in proper husbandry manner.

DATE AT MILLET, ALBERTA THIS _05_ DAY OF _Jun_ 2019 .

John Vonarx – Land Occupant

Nagib Kremaddine

Witness 5/06/19

Timothy Lessing

Submitted @ hearing
June 6, 2019
June 12, 2019

John von Arx
RR 2
Millet AB T0C 1Z0

Dear Mr. von Arx:

RE: Public Hearing held on June 6, 2019

Thank you for attending the Public Hearing on June 6, 2019 at the County of Wetaskiwin Office regarding the following properties:

- SE 33-47-25-W4 (Roll #1699.00)
- SW 34-47-25-W4 (Roll #1704.00)
- SE 26-47-25-W4 (Roll #1671.00)
- SE 27-47-25-W4 (Roll #1675.00)
- SW 27-47-25-W4 (Roll #1676.00)
- SW 27-47-25-W4 (Roll #1676.01)
- NE 27-47-25-W4 (Roll #1673.00)
- SE 28-47-25-W4 (Roll #1679.01)

After the hearing closed, County of Wetaskiwin Council decided to take the above noted properties under reclamation under Section 12 of the Agricultural Service Board Act.

The County of Wetaskiwin Agricultural Service Board will be discussing the option of offering the 1st right of refusal to the current leaseholders to allow them first opportunity to work with the County during the three-year reclamation process, at their next meeting on June 18, 2019. Following the decision of the Agricultural Service Board, regarding the leaseholders, Administration will be in contact with those affected.

Please note, once the County of Wetaskiwin’s name is on title of the above noted properties, the County of Wetaskiwin will have full control of these properties.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 780-361-6225.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rod Hawken
CAO
Agriculture Plastics Recycling Update – Report
Meeting Date (Report Reference Only): 2019/06/18
Meeting (Report Reference Only): Agricultural Service Board

Background
At the March 13, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting, the Agricultural Service Board was presented with information on Recycling Agricultural Waste. At the time, the Board resolved that the Agricultural Service Board send a letter to West Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill Authority encouraging them to participate in the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program in the collection of plastics.
(Ref. Resolution #AG20190313.014)

On April 9, 2019, correspondence was sent to Camrose County as the managing partner of the Wets Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill Authority, encouraging the West Dried Meat Regional Landfill to participate in the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program in collection of plastics. The correspondence advised that the Board feels that there needs to be a collection facility for agricultural plastics, and strongly encouraged West Dried Meat Regional Landfill to reconsider handling agricultural plastics.

In the April 5, 2019 Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Contact, there was an article under announcements entitled Agriculture Plastics Recycling. The Contact was presented to Council at the April 23, 2019 Council General meeting, at which time Council resolved that the topic of Agricultural Plastics be referred to the Agricultural Service Board meeting.
(Ref. Resolution #CG20190423.020)

The Announcement advised that the County of Vermillion River and County of Minburn created a joint environmental program to recycle grain bag and bale twine. To date, this successful program has diverted more than 80,000 pounds of plastic from landfills. A promotional video was also provided.

Additionally, on June 4, 2019, correspondence was received from the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG), advising that Cleanfarms has been named the recycling pilot program operator.

Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) through Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) have selected Cleanfarms as the program operator for a three (3) year pilot program to collect agricultural grain bags and twine for recycling.
Cleanfarms was successful in meeting the qualifications set out in an expression of interest for the provincial program. Cleanfarms will handle program logistics including collection and transportation to recycle the materials. Other responsibilities include market research for all types of agricultural plastics, a waste characterization study to determine plastic volumes and materials, surveys to producers, and education about the program. Cleanfarms is a Canadian non-profit organization that delivers recycling and disposal solutions that help farmers and their communities safely manage farm waste.

The success of programs undertaken by Cleanfarms highlights the commitment of farmers, manufacturers, retailers, distributors, municipalities, and provinces to agricultural environmental responsibility and sustainability. Cleanfarms draws on over thirty (30) years of experience implementing programs to collect and divert agricultural waste from landfills, waterways, and on-farm burning.

There has been an extremely positive response from municipalities across the province who want to participate in this program. The project budget will support up to twenty (20) collection sites across the province for the first year of the pilot.

The next step will be to engage those groups to determine the site locations with the goal to start material collection by early Fall.

Cleanfarms has requested that all interested sites go to their website to register interest in becoming a site.

Copies of the RMA Contact, correspondence from Cleanfarms, and the correspondence sent to the West Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill Authority have been provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Recommendations

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Agriculture Plastics Recycling Update as information.

Recommended Resolution

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Agriculture Plastics Recycling Update as information.
FEATURED:

Municipal Funding and the 2019 Provincial Election

Long-term, predictable, and responsive municipal funding is an election priority for the RMA - Canada’s municipalities own or manage nearly 60% of Canada’s infrastructure, yet gather less than 10% of the taxes paid by Canadians. As a result, municipalities across Canada and in Alberta rely on provincial and federal funding support for a large proportion of their budgets.

Learn more...

MEMBER BULLETINS

Member bulletins are posted to RMAAlberta.com regularly each week. Below is a list of all the member bulletins compiled from the past week.

RMA Engaged in Resource Communities of Canada Coalition

The RMA recognizes that responsible resource development is essential for the future of municipalities across Alberta. To accommodate coordinated advocacy, the formation of the Resource Communities of Canada Coalition (RCCC) has been supported by the RMA...

Learn more...

New Alberta Fire and Building Codes
Come into Force
On Monday April 1, Alberta’s new Fire and Building codes came into force. The new Alberta Building Code (ABC) and Alberta Fire Code (AFC) are based on the 2015 National Building Code and 2015 National Fire Code.
Learn more...

RMA Endorses Nurse Practitioner Position Statement
The NPAA position statement outlines the role of nurse practitioners (NPs), current barriers NPs face in serving in primary care roles, and provides recommendations for how NPs can contribute to improved community health care.
Learn more...

Interested In Developing a Renewable Energy Generation Facility?
The Municipal Community Generation Challenge is providing funding for projects and is now accepting applications. Register for the webinar on April 17 to learn more.
Learn more...

Spring Convention Presentations Available
Some of the presentations from the Spring 2019 RMA convention are now available on the RMA website. The presentations are provided with permission from the presenters; some presenters have not allowed their presentation to be posted, and therefore RMA is unable to share those presentations. Presentations will be added to the page as permission is received.
Learn more...
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alberta Community Crime Prevention 2019 Conference: Training Workshops

ACCPA 2019 pre-conference training may be taken alone - or with the conference. Workshops topics include crime prevention through environmental design, implementing neighbourhood crime prevention programs, effective community strategies for rural districts, radicalization leading to violence and lastly, developing and implementing SafeCity strategies & community safety planning – process and lessons from Perth, AU.

Candidates who choose the May 7 workshop on SafeCity Strategy will receive a joint Certificate of Completion from ACCPA and the City of Perth, Australia.

Learn more at albertacrimeprevention.com

MyHealth Records: A secure place for your personal health data

Albertan’s can now view certain parts of their healthcare records online. Users will be able to access immunizations, medications, and lab test results online.

Agriculture Plastics Recycling

The County of Vermillion River and County of Minburn created a joint environmental program to recycle grain bag and baler twine. To date, this successful program has diverted more than 800,000 pounds of plastic from landfills. Learn more about this program in this promotional video.

IN THE NEWS

- Resolutions call for government action
- With the 2019 provincial election race nearing the homestretch, action should trump promises
- Alta. town ‘over-the-moon excited’ about $25K
win for arena upgrades

- **Shell urges Canada's oil lobby group to support carbon tax**
- **Federal climate change report 'a strong warning,' Alberta scientist says** - new study says Canada is warming at twice the global rate
- **Drayton Valley residents get ready to vote after being hit hard by Alberta's economic woes** [video - RMA comment starts at 0:58]
- **Interview with Brazeau County’s reeve** [video]
June 4, 2019

Attention: Municipalities, waste commissions, agricultural fieldmen and managers of agricultural plastics

We are pleased to share with you that the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) through Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) have selected Cleanfarms as the program operator for a three-year pilot program to collect agricultural grain bags and twine for recycling.

Cleanfarms was successful in meeting the qualifications set out in an expression of interest for the provincial program. Cleanfarms will handle
program logistics including collection and transportation to recycle the materials. Other responsibilities include market research for all types of agricultural plastics, a waste characterization study to determine plastic volumes and materials, surveys to producers, and education about the program. Cleanfarms is a Canadian non-profit organization that delivers recycling and disposal solutions that help farmers and their communities safely manage farm waste.

The success of Cleanfarms' programs highlights the commitment of farmers, manufacturers, retailers, distributors, municipalities, and provinces to agricultural environmental responsibility and sustainability. Cleanfarms draws on over 30 years of experience implementing programs to collect and divert agricultural waste from landfills, waterways, and on-farm burning.

We have had an extremely positive response from municipalities across the province who want to participate in this program. The project budget will support up to 20 collection sites across the province for the first year of the pilot.

The next step will be to engage those groups to determine the site locations with the goal to start material collection by early Fall.

Cleanfarms has asked that all interested sites go to their website at https://cleanfarms.ca/alberta-ag-plastic-recycle-it-program/ to register interest in becoming a site. You will hear from Tammy Shields and/or other staff from Cleanfarms in the following weeks about the site selection process. An in-person information session for collection sites is also being scheduled for the last week in June.

Thank you for your continued interest and support to make this pilot project a
success.

Sincerely,

Al Kemmere
Chair, APRG

Info about the program
Funds for the pilot project were granted by the Government of Alberta and are administered by Alberta Beef Producers.

About the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group
The APRG is a group made up of over 20 stakeholder organizations from sectors across the province representing municipalities, producers, non-profits, recyclers and retailers among others. For a full list of members and more details please visit www.aprg.ca.

About ABP
Alberta Beef Producers (ABP) is the democratic and representative organization that speaks and works on behalf of close to 18,000 cattle and beef producers in Alberta. It is an organization of producers, run by producers, working for producers in all sectors of the cattle and beef industry and all areas of the province. The mission of ABP is to strengthen the sustainability and competitiveness of the beef industry for the benefit of beef producers in Alberta.

About Cleanfarms
Cleanfarms is a Canadian non-profit industry stewardship organization committed to environmental responsibility through the proper management of agricultural packaging and product waste. Emulated internationally, Cleanfarms develops, implements and operates:
• Canada-wide programs that collect and recycle empty, single-use pesticide and fertilizer containers, and collect and safely manage unwanted pesticide and old livestock medications;
• seed and pesticide bag collection programs in eastern Canada with pilots in western Canada; and
• a regulated grain bag recycling program in Saskatchewan.

Recovered agricultural plastics are recycled into new products such as farm drainage tile, flexible irrigation pipe and garbage bags. For more information, or to register interest in becoming a collection site, visit www.cleanfarms.ca
April 9, 2019

Camrose County
3755 43 Ave
Camrose AB T4V 3S8

Attention Darren King, Manager

Dear Mr. King:

RE: West Dried Meat Regional Landfill – Agriculture Plastics

At the March 13, 2019 County of Wetaskiwin Agricultural Service Board Meeting, the Board was presented with a media release from the Government of Alberta regarding a recycling pilot for agricultural waste. The Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) has also released various bulletins regarding Agricultural Plastics. The Alberta Agriculture and Forestry is helping fund a three-year pilot program that will recycle agricultural plastics. Municipalities interested in hosting collection sites are encouraged to watch for future announcements. The Agricultural Plastics Recycling Group (APRG) is responsible for implementing the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program (APRPP). The APRG launched its own website where information on APRPP will be shared, including updates on program implementation.

The County of Wetaskiwin Agricultural Service Board would like to encourage the West Dried Meat Regional Landfill to participate in the Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot Program in the collection of plastics. The Board feels that there needs to be a collection facility for agricultural plastics, and strongly encourages West Dried Meat Regional Landfill to reconsider handling agricultural plastics.

Should you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at 780-387-8483.

Sincerely,

Josh Bishop
Councillor Division 4
Agricultural Service Board, Chair

:crv
2019 Farm Family Awards Update – Report

Meeting Date (Report Reference Only): 2019/06/18

Meeting (Report Reference Only): Agricultural Service Board

Background

At the March 13, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting, it was resolved "that Administration and the Division 3 Councillor discuss potential candidates to be nominated for the 2019 Farm Family Awards and that the candidate be selected from Division 3 in accordance with the rotation set out by Council in 2007."
(Ref Resolution #AG20190313.011)

On June 7, 2019, a Farm Family Award Nomination Form was submitted to Northlands for Sunrise Farms, Randy and Sandy Lorentz, who farm in Division 3.

The County of Wetaskiwin should hear from Farmfair International regarding the BMO Farm Family Award in the next few weeks as to whether the nomination was successful for Sunrise Farms.

Recommendations

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Service Board accept the 2019 Farm Family Awards Update as information.

Recommended Resolution

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the 2019 Farm Family Awards Update as information.
Background

At the March 13, 2019 Agricultural Service Board meeting, the Board resolved "that Administration investigate the particulars, including costs, of hosting a one-day Agricultural Conference in the Wetaskiwin area to be hosted by the County of Wetaskiwin.” (Ref. Resolution #AG20190313.006)

In order to move forward with further investigation and preparation with the aforementioned resolution, Administration requires additional details on what the Board expects the one-day Agricultural Conference to entail.

Details that Administration requires additional clarification on includes, but is not limited to:

- The type of speakers is the Board looking at having at the Conference and how much does that the Board want to spend on speakers. Administration notes that guest speakers can vary immensely in price. Providing estimated budgetary parameters would assist greatly;
- The projected level of attendance that the Board is looking at attending the Conference. Previously, the Board had talked about having the Conference at a facility such as the Drill Hall, which holds approximately 400 individuals;
- Estimated budgetary parameters for the Conference, including how said funding will be provided, whether through new additional funding to the County of Wetaskiwin Budget or from the reallocation of funds; and
- Particulars surrounding whether attendees will be charged a fee to attend and whether the Board consider partnering with JEDI or any other organization or municipality to lower the costs involved in hosting such a Conference.

To proceed, guidance from the Agricultural Service Board in needed by Administration. Additionally, Administration notes that changes to the 2019 or future Budgets related to this matter, whether through reallocation or additional funding would have to be brought forward to County of Wetaskiwin Council for final approval, as well as any Strategic Plan changes that could occur as a result of direction from both the Agricultural Service Board and/or Council.
Recommendations

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Service Board provide direction on the proposed one-day Agricultural Conference.

Recommended Resolution

that the Agricultural Service Board provide direction on the proposed one-day Agricultural Conference.
Background

The County of Wetaskiwin and Leduc County had a joint Horticultural/Agronomy Services Agreement in place since 2006. The current Agreement came into effect January 1, 2016 and was to terminate December 31, 2020. Under this Agreement, a Horticulturist worked half-time in Leduc and half-time in Wetaskiwin.

On January 11, 2019, the shared Horticulturist employee provided retirement notice to Leduc County with her last working day in Leduc County being March 29, 2019.

After discussions between the two (2) municipalities, it was determined that horticultural programs would be best run independently of each other. On May 16, 2019, correspondence was received from Leduc County advising that their Council, at a meeting held May 7, 2019, resolved to provide notice to terminate the joint Horticultural/Agronomy Services Agreement with the County of Wetaskiwin, retroactive to March 29, 2019.

Leduc County advised they valued the successful cooperation under the Agreement with the County of Wetaskiwin for shared services of the Horticulturist and looked forward to other beneficial partnerships in the future.

The County of Wetaskiwin then hired the Horticulturist employee, that previously worked under the realm of the joint Horticultural/Agronomy Services Agreement, on a 0.5 FTE seasonal basis effective May 1, 2019 to October 31, 2019.

The approved 2019 Municipal Capital and Operating Budget of the County of Wetaskiwin allocated funding to the Agricultural Services programs for the year under the Horticultural/Agronomy Services Agreement.

At the June 6, 2019 Council General Meeting, Council accepted the notice from Leduc County to terminate the Horticultural/Agronomy Services Agreement between the County of Wetaskiwin No. 10 and Leduc County effective retroactively as of March 29, 2019.

(Ref. Resolution #CG20190606.029)

Copies of the former Agreement and the correspondence received from Leduc County have been provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Recommendations
Administration recommends that the Agricultural Service Board accept the information regarding the Horticultural/Agronomy Services position as information.

**Recommended Resolution**

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the information regarding the Horticultural/Agronomy Services position as information.
May 10, 2019

County of Wetaskiwin
PO Box 6960
WETASKIWIN, AB T9A 2G5

Attention: Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services

**Re: Horticultural/Agronomy Services Agreement**

Following the retirement of the Horticulturist from the full time position shared through an agreement between Leduc County and the County of Wetaskiwin, Leduc County has identified an opportune time to reconsider the position in terms of how it aligns with Leduc County’s strategic direction with reference to Agricultural Services programs and services.

The administration of both municipalities have had frank discussions about the potential of terminating the existing agreement and managing our horticultural programs independent of one another. It was agreed that the notice of resignation given by the Horticulturist on January 11, 2019 has provided ample time to make contingency plans to manage our respective programs and that a termination of the agreement retroactive to the Horticulturist’s last day of employment on March 29, 2019 would not create hardship for either municipality. An administration recommendation for termination of the agreement was presented to Leduc County Council at their May 7, 2019 meeting and the following motion was carried unanimously:

*That Leduc County Council terminates the horticultural/agronomy services agreement with the County of Wetaskiwin effective retroactively as of March 29, 2019.*

Leduc County has valued the successful cooperation that was afforded under the agreement with the County of Wetaskiwin for shared services of the horticulturist since enacting the agreement in 2006 and looks forward to continuing other beneficial partnerships in the future.

Yours truly,

Duane Coleman, CLGM
County Manager
HORTICULTURAL/AGRONOMY SERVICES AGREEMENT

BETWEEN:

COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10
(hereinafter referred to as “Wetaskiwin”)

-and-

LEDUC COUNTY
(hereinafter referred to as “Leduc”)

WHEREAS Leduc and Wetaskiwin wish to utilize the same employee to provide Horticultural/Agronomy Services in both municipalities;

AND WHEREAS a full-time Horticulturalist/Agronomist is employed to carry out programs for Wetaskiwin and Leduc;

AND WHEREAS Leduc and Wetaskiwin have been successful in sharing resources in other programs, such as the Sustainable Agriculture program;

NOW THEREFORE, Wetaskiwin and Leduc do hereby agree to the following:

1. The Horticulturalist/Agronomist will report to the Director of Agricultural Services of each Municipality.

2. Leduc and Wetaskiwin will manage their own payables and receivables pertaining to their individual Horticultural/Agronomist programs and budget. Mileage will be calculated from the respective Municipality and shall be approved by the respective Director of Agricultural Services and compensated by that Municipality at their mileage rate.

3. Leduc will manage all payroll and benefits pertaining to the Horticulturalist/Agronomist and Wetaskiwin will reimburse Leduc for one half of the payroll and benefits for that calendar year. The Horticulturalist/Agronomist will follow the policies of Leduc pertaining to Human Resources i.e. medical and pension, benefits, holiday schedule, salary grid and sick leave allocation. Attached as Appendix “A” is the Position Description and Appendix “B” is the salary.
It is anticipated that 50% of the Horticulturalist/Agronomist office and field hours will be spent in Leduc and the other 50% in Wetaskiwin.

5. The Horticulturalist/Agronomist will provide monthly written reports to both Leduc & Wetaskiwin Agricultural Directors and will attend Agricultural Service Board meetings as requested to provide updates on the program.

6. Notwithstanding the date of execution hereof, this Agreement is effective between January 1st, 2016 and December 31st, 2020 inclusive.

7. Either municipality shall have the right to terminate this Agreement at any time by providing Notice in Writing to the other party six (6) months prior to the effective date of termination.

8. This Agreement shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the parties hereto and their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns.

9. Each party shall be liable for and agrees to indemnify and save harmless each and every other party, its agents and employees from and against any and all damage, injury, loss (including loss of life), costs, causes of action, including legal costs of a solicitor and his own client, full indemnity basis and claims suffered or incurred by the Indemnified Party, its agents or employees which are in any way connected with the performance of the respective obligations contemplated in this Agreement and which are caused, directly or indirectly or contributed to, in whole or in part, by any act or failure to act of the Indemnifying Party, its agents or employees, in respect of which the Indemnifying Party, its agents or employees is liable or otherwise responsible at law, provided that such indemnity shall be limited to an amount in proportion to which the Indemnifying party and any of its agents and employees are at fault or otherwise held responsible at law.

10. The indemnification set forth in Section 9 hereof, will survive the expiration of the Term or the termination of this Agreement for whatever cause and any renewal or extension of the Term, as the case may be.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have hereunto subscribed our names and affixed the seals of the proper officers this 18 day of December, 2015.

COUNTY OF WETASKIWIN NO. 10

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

REEVE

LEDC COUNTY

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MAYOR
APPENDIX “A”
LEDUC COUNTY
POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Horticulturist / Agronomist

REPORTS TO: Director of Agricultural Services

FUNCTION:

Reporting to the Director of Agricultural Services for Leduc County and County of Wetaskiwin, the Horticulturist is responsible for assisting with the planning of, and fully implementing the horticultural services and programs offered to Leduc County and County of Wetaskiwin ratepayers.

PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Provide advice on horticulture (including insects, diseases, weed control, plant varieties, propagation, farmstead planning, shelterbelt maintenance, and general plant cultivation concerns), answering telephone and office inquiries and providing follow up with further information and assistance as required.

2. Co-ordinate and conduct on-site visits when necessary, to assist County residents with the diagnosis of horticultural problems and offer site specific management advice options.

3. Available as a guest speaker or advisor to local 4-H clubs, horticultural societies, agricultural societies, and local community groups.

4. Organize and facilitate speakers for annual workshops to provide information and benefit to Leduc County and Wetaskiwin County ratepayers on horticultural related issues.

5. Create landscaping designs for ratepayers as well as for Leduc County and Wetaskiwin roadside signage and shrub bed developments.

6. Development and maintenance of plantings on County properties with respect to planting, pruning, watering, and overall health inspection and remedy.

7. Performance of other related duties, as requested by the Director of Agricultural Services.
QUALIFICATIONS, ABILITIES AND SKILLS:

Education and Experience:

a) Bachelor of Science – Agriculture, Major in Horticulture OR Horticultural Certification program from an Agricultural College.

b) Knowledge of horticultural pests and management of pest problems; landscape and home garden plant materials; design concepts.

c) Must possess excellent communication, interpersonal, time management, and task organization skills and be able to work under minimal supervision.

d) Farming background and/or experience is an asset.

__________________________  __________________________
Employee                                      Department Head
APPENDIX “B”

LEDUC COUNTY
Trades/Labour Salary
As at January 1, 2015

Level 3c – Step 5
$72,674 salary + benefits = $92,434
ALUS Information Item – Report

Meeting Date (Report Reference Only): 2019/06/18

Meeting (Report Reference Only): Agricultural Service Board

Background

The ALUS Community Wire, Winter/Spring 2019, is provided for the review by the Agricultural Service Board.

Recommendations

Administration recommends that the Agricultural Service Board accept the ALUS Community Wire, Winter/Spring 2019, as information.

Recommended Resolution

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the ALUS Community Wire, Winter/Spring 2019, as information.
Greetings, ALUS program coordinators and PAC members!

Welcome to the revamped version of Community Wire, the ALUS Canada internal e-newsletter, coming to you in English or in French twice a year (Winter/Spring and Summer/Fall).

Thanks to everyone who participated in the focus group. We hope you enjoy the brand new format, designed to stimulate discussion on the issues that matter most to ALUS PACs across Canada.

Each new issue of Community Wire will feature an ALUS project, a special event and
In this issue:
1. National News
2. Top Tips
3. Featured Project: Partnership Power
4. Featured Event: Breakfast of Champions
5. Pick of the PACs: Modified Payment System
6. Hub News
7. ALUS in the News

1. National News –

National Conference
All coordinators and PAC members are invited to the first national ALUS Canada conference, hosted by ALUS Montérégie in Quebec from September 23 to 25, 2019. We look forward to sharing success stories from across the country, collectively troubleshooting some challenges, and touring some amazing ALUS projects. Stay tuned for more information!

Intact Supports ALUS
ALUS Canada is delighted to receive a generous donation of $248,850 in new funding from the Intact Foundation, in support of ALUS' natural-infrastructure projects benefiting Canadian communities in three provinces. Specifically, this new funding will flow to the ALUS Ontario East program, Manitoba’s ALUS Little Saskatchewan River program and Alberta’s ALUS Wheatland and ALUS Rocky View programs, to help 46 participating farmers and ranchers establish and maintain 365 acres of ALUS projects, including wetland riparian projects. Read about Intact here.
A Season of Growth

The ALUS program has been growing in a carefully managed way for several years now, and this past year was a great example. Some highlights:

- More than 200 Canadian farmers and ranchers joined ALUS last year.
- Participants enrolled nearly 5,400 additional acres into the program.
- ALUS Canada disbursed nearly $1.6 M in funding to 25 ALUS communities across Canada last year.
- Together we established three new ALUS communities: ALUS Chatham-Kent in Ontario, ALUS Wheatland and ALUS Rocky View in Alberta; and we also started funding the PEI ALUS program.

ALUS Canada is proud to work with dedicated partners, participants and supporters across the nation, and to make such a positive impact on the ground. Here’s to another season of growth! Read about recent growth here
ALUS Canada by the Numbers
Snapshot of ALUS Canada's impact on the ground

As at April 1, 2019

19,197 acres of wetland related ecosystems
+4,355 since last year

25 ALUS communities
+4 since last year

17,562 acres of pollinator habitat
+4,375 since last year

742 farmers & ranchers participate in ALUS
+213 since last year

23,694 acres of land enrolled in ALUS
+5,391 since last year

Nearly $8.1 M invested by ALUS Canada
+1.9 M since last year

4,240 acres reforested with native trees and shrubs
+793 since last year

ALUS active in 6 provinces

For farmers, ranchers and communities multiply our investment on the ground

ALUS.ca

2. Hot Tips –
PAC Manual: Ready to set up your ALUS PAC Resource Manual? Coordinators should start with the national template, which includes PAC policies, guidelines for ALUS communities, strategic planning tools, information about ALUS Canada, and other PAC resources. Coordinators can find instructions in the ALUS Canada Cookbook folder 2017-06-23\1. Administration\PAC Materials\PAC Resource Manual.

Boards and PACs: Is your ALUS community’s legal entity a non-profit where the Board of Directors are also PAC members? Please take note of the CRA’s rules about Director/Trustee compensation. For example, Directors cannot be financially compensated for their time spent governing the organization. If you are not sure whether you are in compliance, we recommend contacting CRA or your lawyer directly.

Drone’s Eye View: Do you have vast projects that are difficult to access, or time-consuming to verify with GPS technology? ASAP (ALUS Saskatchewan Assiniboine Project) Program Coordinator Jesse Nielsen has a great tip to help confirm boundaries: use a drone! Nielsen uses a drone to photograph ASAP’s established forage-conversion projects, which are often upward of 20 acres each, and confirms their acreage with a visual comparison to the GIS-mapped project polygons. This new technology leverages the community’s existing resources and saves time during the busy field season. See some examples of ASAP’s drone photography here.
3. Featured Project –

Plays Well with Others

With integration as one of our core principles, the ALUS program is designed to complement existing conservation programs. ALUS Little Saskatchewan River has embraced this tenet and joined with Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) on some projects. Each of these programs offers something unique, and they come together well to serve participants' overall land-management plans.

For example, PAC member and participant Gord Hammell likes the long-term easement offered by MHHC, who help to restore the water body itself, but recognizes that ALUS offers the flexibility and support he needs to enhance, manage and maintain the riparian zone around this water body, and to control the spread of burdock, an invasive weed plaguing the region. Read more here about a 2018 tour featuring some of these projects.
4. Featured Event –

Breakfast of Champions

In Ontario, both ALUS Norfolk and ALUS Chatham-Kent have hosted breakfast events to resounding success. In Norfolk, morning attendance has proven to be much higher than evening rates: farmers say they appreciate being able to attend an event before starting their day instead of having to interrupt their routine to come out. Bonus: breakfast food tends to be much cheaper to serve than lunch or dinner!

In February, ALUS Chatham-Kent’s official launch also event happened over breakfast. The buffet was followed by three speakers, a keynote presentation on best-management practices for reducing agricultural phosphorus run-off, and a lively Q&A session. There were approximately 70 people in attendance, who exhibited so much interest in the ALUS program that organizers ran out of Expression of Interest forms! Read more here.
How to Modify your Payment System

Recognizing that not all projects are created equal, ALUS Red Deer County is developing a responsive payment structure to reflect the PAC's chosen priorities and encourage projects that provide greater environmental impacts. The PAC challenged Program Coordinator Ken Lewis to come up with a system.

His "modifier approach" adjusts payments based on a sequence of factors: priority areas, size, type of wildlife habitat and size of livestock herd, with a 30% bonus for fencing around water bodies, and other factors. The PAC is currently piloting this approach for alternative watering systems, one of the community's most common project types, and may apply it to other types of projects in the future.

If you'd like to take a closer look, the modifier approach can be found in the Cookbook here: 3. Program Financials/Establishment Costs/Modifier Approach to Cost-Share on Watering Systems_Red Deer County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALUS Farmer / Rancher</th>
<th>TT</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Modified Max, $</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L. ALUS Priority Area</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>III ac = no change</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Acres Producing Ecosystem Services</td>
<td>III ac = no change</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Type of Acres</td>
<td>Not common water body = 20% Native Habitat = +20%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<td>4. Fencing Water Body</td>
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<td>5. Multiple Watering Sites</td>
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<td>75%</td>
<td>$4,800</td>
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<td>6. Number of animal units</td>
<td>20 (-20%)</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>$3,840</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Environmental Significance</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>$3,840</td>
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</table>

Photo: The "Modifier Approach" in action
Western Hub Update
from Christine Campbell

Come On Down! ALUS Canada’s Western Hub Field Conference is scheduled for May 27-28. While the conference is targeted to Alberta Coordinators and PAC members, all are welcome. Please contact ccampbell@alus.ca if you’d like to attend.

RMA Spring Convention
At this year’s Rural Municipalities of Alberta’s Spring Convention, ALUS Canada’s CEO, Bryan Gilvesy, presented the case for creative solutions to wetland restoration, accompanied by Parkland County’s mayor, Rod Shaigec. Gilvesy explained how ALUS helps communities invest in natural infrastructure on the landscape. Watch full video here (10 mins).

WRRP funding
Work is on track for the Modeste Natural Infrastructure Project, funded by a $720,000 grant from Alberta Environment and Parks' Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP). These funds will also help restore and enhance 650 acres of wetland and riparian areas in ALUS Wetaskiwin-Leduc, ALUS Parkland and ALUS Brazeau. An information sheet about the Modeste project is available here.

Prairie Hub Update from Paige Englot

Investment in Manitoba

Manitoba's new Conservation Trust will help fund ALUS projects in our flagship Manitoba community, ALUS Little Saskatchewan River, and also in the Seine Rat River Conservation District. As Premier Brian Pallister announced on April 16, investing in nature will build natural infrastructure for flood and drought mitigation, cleaner air, cleaner water and more wildlife habitat. Visit ALUS LSR here.

Congratulations! The Conservation Trust will help fund ALUS projects in Little Saskatchewan River CD and Seine Rat River CD, two key areas in Manitoba where farmers & ranchers can make a difference on the ground. #flood #water #air #biodiversity.

It was an honour to join our Premier @BrianPallister for today's Conservation Trust announcement. 41 projects, for a total of over $22.5M that will benefit all Manitobans, and ensure we that we will remain the cleanest, greenest, most climate-resilient province...
Eastern Hub Update
from Casey Whitelock

Photo: ALUS was well represented at a special event held at the Ontario Legislature.

ALUS at Queen’s Park
Thanks to all the Program Coordinators and PAC members who helped make our “A Taste of ALUS” reception at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on March 19 such a success. ALUS Canada co-hosted the event with MPP Toby Barrett, who has put forth a private member’s bill in support of ALUS that is receiving unanimous support so far. Read more about the event here.

OTF Funds Farmer Liaisons
Six Ontario communities have received funding this year through a new Ontario Trillium Foundation grant secured by ALUS Canada. One focus of this funding is to engage ALUS community Farmer Liaisons. We will be hosting a training session this July for all new and existing farmer liaisons in the Eastern Hub. Stay tuned for more information!

7. ALUS in the News –

Did you catch these ALUS articles when they came out? Here's a reading list of recent media coverage from coast to coast, with lots of good ideas to discuss at your next PAC meetings. For more, click here for the full collection of publications about ALUS


Ontario news: “New crop of hall of fame inductees” (includes ALUS co-architect Dave Reid), by Brian Thompson, Simcoe Reformer, April 8 2019.

Quebec news: “Le Comité de bassin versant de la rivière Pot au Beurre remporte un prix Agristars,” (among this farm collective’s accomplishments: more than 4 hectares enhanced and conserved through the ALUS Montréal program), by Jean-Philippe Morin, Les 2 Rives, April 11 2019.


About this newsletter

Community Wire is an internal bulletin that connects ALUS program coordinators and PAC members in our shared mission of supporting farmers and ranchers to produce cleaner air, cleaner water, biodiversity and other ecosystem services for the benefit of all Canadians. To find out more about any of the content, or to contribute a story idea, please contact your Hub Manager.

“Conservation will ultimately boil down to rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest”

-Aldo Leopold, 1934