Agricultural Service Board Meeting
MINUTES

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

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

Staff Present
Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services
Kim Barkwell, Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator
Jeff Chipley, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Carmen Reimer, Recording Secretary
Naomi Finseth, Municipal Intern
Ben Cowan, Municipal Intern
Doug Macaulay, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Marcia Hewitt-Fisher, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Chris Ullman, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

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 Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Resolution AG20190618.001
MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair
that the Agenda be accepted as presented.
Carried Unanimously

3. MINUTES APPROVAL
3.1 Agricultural Service Board Minutes, March 13, 2019
Resolution AG20190618.002
MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely
to approve the minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting held Wednesday, March 13, 2019 as presented.
Carried Unanimously

4. REPORTS
4.1 Director of Agricultural Services Report for March 14, 2019 to June 18, 2019 - Report
Mr. Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services, provided his Director of Agricultural Services Report for March 14, 2019 to June 18, 2019, which was 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 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.”

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

Resolution AG20190618.003
MOVED: by Board Member S. Dewald
that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Director of Agricultural Services Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously

4.2 Sustainable Agriculture Report for March 14, 2019 to May 31, 2019 - Report

The Sustainable Agriculture Report was 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:
  o ALUS Open House, June 12, 2019, Glen Park Hall, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
  o 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 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.

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

Resolution AG20190618.004
MOVED: by Board Member S. Dewald
that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Sustainable Agriculture Report as presented.

Carried Unanimously

4.3 Horticulturist Report for December 1, 2018 to June 14, 2019 - Report
The Horticulturist Report was as follows:
• December 6, 2018 – Harvested Christmas tree from Firever Green Tree Farm, Falun.
• December 14, 2018 – January 2, 2019 Vacation.
• 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, firelight, 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.

Administration recommended that the Agricultural Service Board approve the Horticulturist Report as presented.
Resolution AG20190618.005
MOVED: by Board Member S. Dewald

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

Carried Unanimously

5. DELEGATION - 9:00 A.M. - Agricultural Service Board Program Team

5.1 2019 Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Field Visit – Report

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 were present and will be joining Mr. Stephen Majek, Director of Agricultural Services, for a field visit after the meeting.

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

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

Mr. Doug Macaulay, Alberta Agricultural and Forestry, explained that the field visits are designed to check in with municipalities that are receiving grants. Of those municipalities visited ninety-five percent (95%) of the programs are doing well. Field visits are conducted during the growing season and some of the objectives of the visit are to see problem areas, weed and pest issues, notice process, and education process. The visit is basically a friendly audit and a report will be processed and shared.

Resolution AG20190618.006
MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely

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

Carried Unanimously

6. DELEGATION - 9:30 A.M. - Joan Miller, Director of Economic Development, JEDI

A delegation consisting of Joan Miller, Director of JEDI entered the meeting at 9:38 a.m.
6.1 2019 JEDI AG Forum – Report

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 Agricultural Service Board regarding the 2019 JEDI AG Forum as follows:

- Suggestions as to what type of speakers/presentations would be valuable to regional ag 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.

Administration recommended 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.

Ms. Miller advised that she is looking for potential date as to when the 2019 JEDI AG Forum could be held and as well as potential speakers. The following dates were discussed: November 21, 22, or 28, 2019.

Discussion ensued that the Board would be interested in partnering more with JEDI for the 2020 Forum. Ms. Miller indicated that the big costs of hosting a Conference or
Forum are the hall, food, and speakers. General discussion ensued on costs and speakers.

**Resolution AG20190618.007**

MOVED: by Board Member M. Schmidt

that the Agricultural Service Board continue to collaborate with JEDI in regard to the JEDI AG Forum.

Carried Unanimously

Ms. Miller left the meeting at 10:01 a.m.

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 **von Arx Properties Update – Report**

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. Nagib 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 2019/31, 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.

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.

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 were 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.

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

General discussion ensued regarding the von Arx matter.

It was noted that an article be placed in the local newsletter, to let our landowners know what can happen if nothing is done after receiving a weed notice.

Resolution AG20190618.008
MOVED: by Board Member G. Parker
that the Agricultural Service Board recommend to Council to go outside of the Purchasing/Tendering Policy #12.4.5 (1907) in regards to honoring the leases of the von Arx properties.

Carried Unanimously

7.2 Agriculture Plastics Recycling Update – Report

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 baler 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 were provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

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

General discussion ensued on Agriculture Plastic Recycling.

Resolution AG20190618.009
MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair

that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Agriculture Plastics Recycling Update as information.
7.3 **RECESS**

The meeting recessed at 10:31 a.m.

7.4 **RECONVENED**

The meeting reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

7.5 **2019 Farm Family Awards Update – Report**

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.

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

**Resolution AG20190618.010**

MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely

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

Carried Unanimously

7.6 **Hosting an Agricultural Conference in Wetaskiwin – Report**

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.

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

General discussion ensued on speakers for a Conference. Various speaker ideas were discussed and some speakers who were mentioned were: Vivian Krause, Friends of Science, Patrick Moore (as a speaker to draw attendees), Dr. Ross Fulston, Bernie Grumpelt from the Wetaskiwin Co-op, speaker from Lethbridge regarding implants, or Tim Caufield.

It was noted that the ASB should partner with as many organizations as possible when hosting a Conference. It was indicated that the ASB could partner with JEDI. It was also noted that the Wetaskiwin Chamber of Commerce would be a good to partner with. If the attendance at the Conference is at its maximum the trade show could be held in the arena and the Conference in the Drill Hall.

It would be helpful to have those attending purchase tickets to help cover the costs. Organizations such as G3, Manluk, and Co-op could be sponsors for a Conference.

Board Members are concerned that the information from Conferences is not getting out to the ratepayers and therefore, it would be better to host a Conference where ratepayers can partake and learn and take in information themselves.

Another point that was noted is that there should be lots of time allotted for questions at the Conference.

Discussion also ensued on who should be allowed to attend the Conference. The Board noted that we should include Ponoka County, Camrose County, Leduc County, the County of Wetaskiwin, and potentially urban residents but that County of Weatskiwin residents would be given first priority with registration.

**Resolution AG20190618.011**

MOVED: by Board Member M. Schmidt

that Administration prepare details on the Agricultural Conference and bring the findings forward to a future meeting.

**Carried Unanimously**

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

9. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

9.1 **Horticultural Agronomy Services Agreement – Report**

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 were provided for review by the Agricultural Service Board.

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

Resolution AG20190618.012
MOVED: by Board Member K. Adair
that the Agricultural Service Board accept the information regarding the Horticultural/Agronomy Services position as information.

Carried Unanimously

9.2 ALUS Information Item - Report

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

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

It was noted that the ALUS report, which is presented at the ALUS meetings, should also be included with the Sustainable Agriculture report at future ASB meetings.

Resolution AG20190618.013
MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely
that the Agricultural Service Board accept the ALUS Community Wire, Winter/Spring 2019, as information.

Carried Unanimously

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Resolution AG20190618.014
MOVED: by Board Member L. Seely
that the date of the next Agricultural Service Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Carried Unanimously

11. ADJOURN

Resolution AG20190618.015
MOVED: by Board Member B. Krahn
that the meeting adjourn at 10:57 a.m.

Carried Unanimously