

MINUTES

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD Meeting
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124
March 14, 2019
Flatbush Sub Office Building, Flatbush AB

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandra Melzer (Chair)	Flatbush (Council)
Damond Stadnyk (Vice-Chair)	Flatbush
Robert Esau	Flatbush (Council)
Jessica Mittelstadt	Flatbush

MEMBERS ABSENT

Orin Sand	Hondo
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IN ATTENDANCE

Barry Kolenosky	Agricultural Fieldman, MDLSR
Peggy Laing	Recording Secretary, MDLSR

CALL TO ORDER

S. Melzer called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

ADOPT AGENDA

20-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to adopt the agenda with the following addition:
9 c. CRTS Clarification of Check-off Program

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT MINUTES

21-19

D. Stadnyk moved the minutes of the January 10, 2019, Agricultural Service Board meeting, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

22-19

R. Esau moved the minutes of the February 4 and 5, 2019, Agricultural Service Board special meeting, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADMINISTRATION

AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN – Barry Kolenosky

Highlights:

- Completed final plans for the two FAO Lease workshops held at Smith and Fawcett on Feb.21/19
- Continuing to work on SWAT Analysis info to be presented at a future date
- Continuing to work on ASB policy review and drafting of new requested policies
- Considerable time spent researching and drafting articles for Spring 2019 Rural Roots, tentative distribution date, week of April 15/19
- Completion of year-end inventory requirements
- Researching watershed development guidelines and Firesmart grazing pilot project for CAO
- Working on summer department work plan, Agricultural and Landscape
- Working on Summer staff recruitment and training schedule
- Working on Extension program

Administration indicated that applications received for seasonal positions are significantly down from previous years.

23-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the Agricultural Fieldman's report as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

ASB Grant Program Review Face-to-Face Session – S. Melzer & R. Esau

Highlights:

- Having done our recent ASB review was an advantage to providing input at the session for our representative members
- Many items identified at our ASB SWAT analysis were findings that also emerged as a consensus of those attending the review
- They appreciated the clarification on how resolution responses are categorized,

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**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

- and the criteria used for the categories
- It was suggested to have more direct contact from the Key Contact by inviting him to more meetings or request an email update for the meetings
- Both ASB members who attended said it was beneficial to have participated in the ASB Program Review

24-19

R. Esau moved to accept the ASB Grant Review report as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ATV Training for Pembina North Community School (PNCS)

The funding has been provided to facilitate our partnership in the delivery of the ATV training and helmets for the students at PNCS. The Date of the training is May 24th and Peggy will attend if they need assistance.

25-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the update on ATV training for PNCS students as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ASB Policy Review

Administration provided drafts for two new ASB policies:

Agriculture Appeal Panel

This will replace the current Weed Control Act and Pest Control Act Appeal Committee policies as well as includes a Soil Conservation appeal process.

Reverse Fenceline & Headland Herbicide Application Program

This policy was drafted at the request of the Board. The purpose of the policy is to allow for a program for herbicide application from inside a landowners' fenceline out into the road allowance. The object is to implement control on wide right of ways for the strip of ground that is left between the MD roadside spray program and the farmer spraying up to their fenceline.

Administration reviewed the points of the policies and noted the Board's comments.

26-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to direct administration to complete the *Agriculture Appeal Panel* and the *Reverse Fenceline and Headland Herbicide Application Program* policies and bring them forward for final review at a future ASB meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Farmers Advocate Office Presentation Recap:

Abandoned/Bankrupt Industrial Lease Workshop

On February 21st specialized presentations on abandoned or bankrupt industrial leases were given by Michele Del Colle, Energy, Utilities and Policy Specialist for the Farmers Advocate Office. She presented at Smith at 1:30 PM to 10 attendees and at Fawcett at 6:30 PM to 16 attendees. Attendees were from, Smith, Hondo, Flatbush, Fawcett, Jarvie, Dapp and Westlock. Coffee break supplies were provided by SHARA in Smith and PACO in Fawcett; we appreciated their partnering.

27-19

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the recap on the FAO presentation as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

From Farm to Market to Table Conference

J. Mittelstadt, S. Melzer and P. Laing attended the Farm to Market to Table Conference.

Highlights:

- Most presenters were involved in the Farmer's Market or agriculture diversification mode of entrepreneurship
- The conference presenters were for the most part Alberta based
- There was quite a bit of information provided for starting a Farmer's Market or managing an existing one
- Advertising and marketing options were covered in several sessions

- The focus was predominantly on agriculture related products
- Many innovative concepts were presented

There were also representatives attending from PACO Ag Society and since attending the conference they are taking the lead on developing a local Farmers Market in cooperation with the Flatbush Community Association for summer 2019.

28-19

R. Esau moved to accept the report of the From Farm to Market to Table Conference as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SWAT Analysis

The Board reviewed the rankings identified in the Feb 4th and 5th SWAT analysis of the ASB. This information will be used to prioritize programming and direction for administration going forward.

29-19

R. Esau moved to accept the ASB SWAT analysis data as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Farm Safety Center Request for Funding

Annually the Farm Safety Center sends us a request for funding to the MDLSR ASB. The funds support Farm Safety Smarts Program delivery in local schools including Smith and Slave Lake. In the past we have supported funding for Smith for all grades and occasionally for select grades in a Slave Lake School, depending on the amount of funding required. There is no record of the Town of Slave Lake contributing to this program, although many other Town municipalities do.

The 2019 request for funding is \$1,501.50 to facilitate delivery in Smith School to the entire student body of 52 @3.50 for \$182.00 plus E. G. Walstrom School (in Slave Lake) to 377 students @3.50 for \$1319.50.

30-19

R. Esau moved the request for Safety Smarts program funding, by the Farm Safety Centre, be honored at \$182 to support 2019 delivery to the 52 Smith School students.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rural Roots 2019 Spring Edition

Administration presented several topics, mostly centering around spring time and planting, that could be included in the next *Rural Roots* edition scheduled for mail box delivery about April 22nd. During the recent ASB SWAT analysis it was identified there would be value in sending the newsletter to the rural MD population, not only the agricultural ratepayers. The Board agreed this is an ambitious project and hoped we could identify those who would like to receive publications electronically to reduce mail out costs.

Administration will proceed with the final preparations and publication of the newsletter.

31-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to increase the distribution of the Rural Roots Newsletter to all rural MDLSR residents.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2019 Extension Activities – Seasonal Programming

Administration is recommending a partnered, proactive, seasonal planned approach to extension and is currently drafting a Seasonal Extension Program. It will include partnering with community groups at planned events and workshops. The goal is greater public participation and expanding up-take of agricultural/food extension activities. The programming will be done within the confines of the 2019 budget and staff capability.

Board members acknowledged that the day-to-day work of administration, surrounding the busy summer season and increased responsibilities, would take precedents over any extension programming.

32-19

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the 2019 extension plan as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BMO Farm Family Award 2019 Application

Every second year MDLSR is given the opportunity to nominate a local farm family for the Farm Family Awards. During Farm Fair, recipient families are invited to Northlands for a dinner and awards ceremony and presented with gate sign that states they are a farm family winner.

The Farm Family Award has specific criteria that the nominees must meet in order to qualify. The Application deadline for completed submission is May 31, 2019.

Board members reviewed the list of previous MD family recipients and were asked to bring forward potential nominees at the next ASB meeting. There is no obligation to select a nominee each eligible year.

33-19

R. Esau moved have BMO Farm Family Award 2019 Application as a returned agenda item for the April 11, 2019 ASB meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Farm Animal Care Conference March 20 & 21

34-19

R. Esau moved that B. Kolenosky and J. Mittelstadt attend the Farm Animal Care Conference on March 20 and 21, 2019.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/INFORMATION**

2019 ASB Business Plan

Administration presented the updates to the 2019 ASB Business Plan and asked the board for additional input.

35-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the updated ASB Business Plan as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alberta Plastics Recycling Pilot Project

The Agriculture Plastics Recycling Group (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.

The MDLSR ASB was one of the first to bring a resolution forward to the ASB provincial body for the support of an Ag Plastics Recycling program. Recently the APRG received government approval and funding to implement 3-year pilot programs, to recycle grain bags and twine. With the grant the Alberta Beef Producers will coordinate the recycling program on behalf of the APRG. S. Melzer reported that Westlock will do a pilot program and Athabasca will be approached to conduct one. The anticipated pilot start date is Fall of 2019.

36-19

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the APRG pilot program implementation details as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CRTS Clarification of Check-off Project

D. Stadnyk brought forward information from the Canadian Round-Table for Sustainable Beef organization. He said that in attempting to register for Verified Beef he became more informed about the check-off project.

37-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the report regarding the CRTS as information.

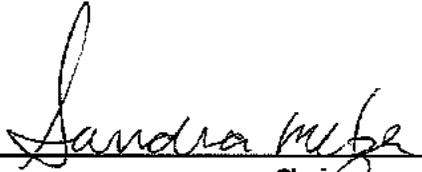
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

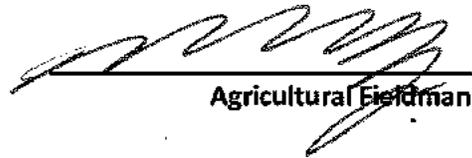
NEXT MEETING

April 11, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

S. Melzer adjourned the meeting at 12:45 PM.


Chairperson


Agricultural Fieldman