

# MINUTES

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD Meeting  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124  
Aug 8, 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 9:07 AM.

## ADOPT MINUTES

### 71-19

R. Esau moved the minutes of the July 11, 2019, Agricultural Service Board meeting, be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## ADOPT AGENDA

### 72-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to adopt the agenda with the following addition:  
5.2 Powerline Herbicide Application

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## REPORTS

### ADMINISTRATION: AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN – Barry Kolenosky

Highlights:

- Informed the ASB of his enhanced duties due to Russ' medical leave
- Although the province approved the spraying of the wooly burdock infestation, the financial responsibility for eradication of it will fall on the MD as the province has no budget for weed control. The eradication is in the best interest of the MD as it is the only site of it identified and this will halt spreading. Further there is no budget for any provincial highways weed control at all this year.
- Any issues regarding weeds in the Town of Slave Lake will be discussed at the inter-municipal level
- 100Kg of weeds picked and bagged on Poplar Lane by landscape crew and there will be follow-up with spot spraying
- Weed Inspection program progressing despite no cooperation of weather
- Several landowners are participating in the WCPP and requesting consultations
- Staff attended Grasshopper workshop and survey is underway
- Policy J.14 and J.3 prepared for ASB final review
- Rural Roots with Weeds of Distinction leaflet distributed to 1731 MD households and 25 copies to industry. Head office counter copies depleted and more requested.
- Landscape and beautification projects progressing when weather cooperates
- Cancelled ASB/Council west end weed tour due to flood situation
- Partner for the Regional Ag Plastic Recycling site proposal
- Researching MD asset disposal process
- Plan to appoint ASB Appeal panel members and host a meeting

There was a discussion of 2020 budget items to consider: additional trailer sprayer, more quad and hand sprayers, larger herbicide budget, T. Wrights' replacement, use of local resources (contractors) etc. during peak or timely situations or where more project specific expertise is required.

The Board discussed ways to dispose of slightly damaged low-cost assets like hand sprayers, quad sprayers etc., given that it is time consuming, causes down time to repair in depth and creates a backup for list of users looking at a timely application period. The thinking was that a farmer may want one and have time to fix for occasional use.

**73-19**

J. Mittelstadt moved to direct administration to send a letter to the ASB Regional Committee to have "lack of weed control on major highways" as an agenda item.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**74-19**

R. Esau moved to accept the Ag Fieldman's report as information.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Powerline Vegetation Management Control Issue**

A recent local issue with a powerline vegetation control company allowing/ causing herbicide to drift onto private land was discussed. When contacted the REA did not respond so the individual was seeking advice to see if he had any right to expect compensation or to lodge a formal complaint. It was suggested this could be a case of Chemical Trespass and that the Farmer's Advocate office would be the most effective contact to aid in dealing with the issue.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS****ASB Rental Equipment Policy J.3****75-19**

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the updates to the ASB Rental Equipment Policy J.3 and to submit it to Council for consideration and approval.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Wild Boar Policy J.14****76-19**

R. Esau moved to accept the updates to the Wild Boar Policy J.14 and to submit it to Council for consideration and approval.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**NEW BUSINESS****Regulations Regarding Floodplain Development**

The Board reviewed a newspaper article covering the topic of the difficulties that farmers are having in a neighboring county, regarding regulations inhibiting floodplain development. The MD Planning and Development Authority, Ann Holden, could be invited to a future ASB meeting and would address the issue. She has expressed the need to gather input from the Board for inclusion in the new MD Land Use Bylaw document regarding agriculture development.

**77-19**

D. Stadnyk moved to direct administration to arrange for the planning and Development Authority to attend a future ASB meeting.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**2019 VSI 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report and Forecast of Deficit**

The Board was provided with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Report for the VSI program. The report along with a communication from the program manager, Rik Vandekerhove, indicates that due to an escalation in program use in the second quarter, if the trends of previous years use is realized, the third and fourth quarters will result in a program deficit with the current provision of funding. To date \$6,000 has been provided of the \$13,000, 2019 budgeted total.

**78-19**

R. Esau moved to provide the remaining 2019 budgeted funding of \$7000 to the VSI program to compensate for a forecast deficit with to date funding.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Smith Fall Fair Parade Float**

Chantelle and Peggy will decorate a truck to advertise the Fall Social in the Smith Fall Fair parade. There will need to be at least 2 people available to participate in the parade.

**79-19**

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the details of the Smith Fall Fair parade as information.

**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.

**80-19**

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Ag Plastics Recycling Newsletter**

A communication was received from the Alberta Agriculture Recycling Group confirming that Clean farms will announce approximately 20 sites for the first year of the program by the end of this summer.

**81-19**

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the Ag Plastics newsletter and update as information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Rural Roots Survey Response**

Administration shared some positive feedback from the survey on the website for regarding the newsletter. The survey will stay on the website on-going.

A Board member said he had been asked why we are not mailing them directly to landowners receiving outside the MD and the answer was the extraordinary cost of doing so. It was decided that we could add a note on the website and Lakeside Leader page to let those people know they can drop into the MD offices to get a copy if their mailing address is not in the flyer delivery communities.

**82-19**

R. Esau moved to accept the updates regarding the Rural Roots online survey and ways to expand delivery as information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**NEXT MEETING**

**TBA – dependant on Planning and Development Authority availability**

**ADJOURNMENT**

S. Melzer adjourned the meeting at 11:10 AM.

  
Chairperson

  
Agricultural Fieldman