

MINUTES

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD Meeting
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124
December 18, 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
Orin Sand	Hondo

IN ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

S. Melzer called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

ADOPT AGENDA

113-19

O Sand moved to adopt the agenda with the following addition:

Upcoming events after New Business

Unfinished Business: Feed Testing

Molasses Additive

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT MINUTES

114-19

R. Esau moved the minutes of the October 22, 2019, Agricultural Service Board meeting, be adopted as presented corrected.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN – Barry Kolenosky

Highlights:

- Budget planning, RFPs for Agricultural and other departments
- Budget items of note – conference attendance costs needed to be increased, Weed Control budget requires increase to accommodate expanded services, Rural Roots will become a defined budget item due to its 2019 popularity.
- Discussion paper for restructuring weed inspection program from two annual seasonal weed inspectors to one Agricultural Technician full time part of the year and part time part of the year.
- Provided the Board with a copy of latest Rural Roots that was mailed out to all regional MD households. He gave credit to C. Borris for creating all the content in this edition his topic suggestions and her own ideas.
- Current status of the Agricultural Plastics Recycling partnership – we can get bags from Westlock County for twine recycling and the farmer delivers the filled bag there but only e 15% contamination. The upcoming CARE conference will reveal what their equipment can handle. Would like to see a recycling brochure created to provide the public with accurate information.
- Will need to revisit the Weed Control Policy to reinstate the legal entities
- Will need to revisit the Weed Control partnership Program to include a deadline date to have program receipts in
- Workshop priorities were defined: Living by Waters Edge will be slated for late spring 2020 and Apiculture (Bees) Workshop will be developed

115-19

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Board Member Report- Jessica Mittelstadt

J. Mittelstadt attended 4 workshops on behalf of the ASB:

Opportunities In: Fruit, Vegetables, Greenhouse (3 workshops)

She reported that these were all industry entry level workshops dealing with the aspects of these type of business from concept to opening the doors.

Ag Food Business Conference

The biggest take away component was the concept of turning biowaste into a positive by resulting in a reduction of volumes in landfills.

116-19

R. Esau moved to accept the report as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Fall Social Final Report

P. Laing presented the final report on the 2019 Fall Social. The advantages of receiving partnership funding from SHARA, PACO and Flatbush Community Association as well as the shared budget with MD FCSS department were evident.

SAVE THE DATE: SAT NOV. 7th, Fall Social 2020, Theme Country – Egypt.

117-19

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the report as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

2020 ASB Provincial Conference Update

Two ASB members will attend the 2020 ASB Conference with B. Kolenosky. Some board members stated the exorbitant cost associated with of attending, was their reason for not going. Every effort will be made to curb costs by the attendees including travelling together in an MD owned vehicle.

118-19

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the decision to send two Board members and the Agricultural Fieldman to the 2020 ASB Provincial Conference as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

119-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to direct Administration to write a letter to the ASB 2020 Provincial Conference Committee containing the following details:

- Fiscal responsibility negated the ability to register all MDLSR ASB members due to the escalated costs associated with attending
- we would like to have seen the conference at a more dominant agricultural location
- in the past the Ministers Forum has been of major interest and importance to conference attendees

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2020 VSI Agreements and Schedules

S. Melzer was appointed by Council as the MDLSR VSI representative and attended their AGM on November 8, 2019. She carried the message that the 2020 levels of service the MD will offer our members will be the same as 2019.

120-19

D. Stadnyk moved MDLSR, VSI levels of service in will remain unchanged in 2020 with the cost split of 40 % member/60% MD.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Beef Nutrition Workshops

Two Beef Nutrition Workshops were held on December 3rd, with a total of 17 people attending. Barry Yaremco addressed several topics surrounding cattle requirements and the options to provide the best quality and quantity of feed in what could be a less than optimum quality and quantity feed year. The workshop was well received. Of note was most attendees heard about the workshop through the flyer we sent sent out to all rural MD mailboxes.

121-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the results of the Beef Nutrition Workshops as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Proposal for ASB Cost Shared Program for Feed Testing

After discussion of offering an ASB cost shared feed testing program, the Board decided that this was not a fiscally responsible time to develop such a program.

122-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the discussion of a possible ASB cost shared feed testing program, and the decision not to pursue this, as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS**Bill 26 Farm Freedom and Safety Act**

The Farm Freedom and Safety Act will come into effect on January 31, 2020. This legislation will allow employers to have a choice when it comes to workplace insurance yet ensures basic safety standards on all farms.

123-19

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept Bill 26, the Farm Freedom and Safety Act, details as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Farm FireSmart Program

Information on the Farm FireSmart Program was provided for the Board to determine if this is a workshop topic or a program the ASB could promote. This program was offered previously in the MD with not much uptake. It was suggested to approach the regional fire halls to see if the topic could be presented at their annual open house barbeques.

124-19

O. Sand moved to have administration further investigate opportunities for delivery of the Farm FireSmart Program and present the results at a future ASB meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Apiculture (Bees)

Bees are considered livestock under the Act and Canada Health. At the VSI, AGM it was asked if municipalities were in favor of the Apiculture industry qualifying for the half-hour veterinarian consultation to establish a client-vet relationship.

125-19

R. Esau moved to direct Administration to request a letter from Council in support of the Apiculture producers, operating in the MD, qualifying for the VSI half-hour consultation fee for the establishment of a client-veterinarian relationship, only if the veterinarian is qualified to deliver services relating to Apiculture.

UPCOMING EVENTS**Farmer's Appreciation Night**

This event is presented in Weslock on January 20th by the Soul Sisters Memorial Foundation and will address mental health support options for farm families.

We will assist them by advertising on the MD website and social media and posters in our communities.

126-19

O. Sand moved to accept the details of the Farmer's Appreciation Night as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/INFORMATION****2019 ASB Business Plan**

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

Completed activities:

- Fall Social
- Attended NW Regional ASB Conference
- Beef Nutrition Workshops
- Budget decision papers
- Completed WCPP invoicing and payments
- Fall Newsletter mailed
- Coloring contest with promotion toques to be awarded to all participants

MINUTES

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127-19

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the updated ASB Business Plan as information.

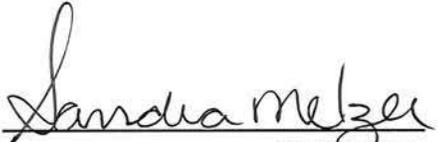
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEXT MEETING

January 9, 2020, 9:00 AM Start

ADJOURNMENT

S. Melzer adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.


Chairperson


Agricultural Fieldman