

MINUTES

AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD Meeting
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124
March 12, 2020
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
Russ Jassman Director of Rural Services, MDLSR

IN ATTENDANCE

Barry Kolenosky Director of Rural Services, MDLSR
Peggy Laing Recording Secretary, MDLSR

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADOPT AGENDA

27-20
R. Esau moved to adopt the agenda as amended.
Addition: New Business 8.4 Tour Westlock Regional Landfill
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATES

Mike Hittinger – Stewardship Extension Specialist AA&F

- Provincial Ag Minister has implemented downsizing throughout Alberta Agriculture & Forestry departments
- Going forward the 310-Farm call center will be staffed by nongovernment employees who will direct inquiries to nongovernment agencies and businesses. No government specialists were retained.
- Provided some updates and restructures on how producers can continue to access fundable remaining Stewardship Programs and how they may be approached
- Canadian Agriculture Program (CAP) Grain Dryer grant for enhancement or new purchase with energy efficiencies program still in place, keeping in mind the grant only funds the energy efficiency component of the items not labour for installation
- No progress in establishing carbon tax exemption for farmers needing to dry grain
- In this fiscal period no CAP grants have been approved above the level of the Extension Specialists recommendation.
- Mike has chosen not to renew his contract with AA&F as of March 30th
- Webinar upcoming for ASB Grant Program, Board will be notified when the information from the webinar is available

28-20

R. Esau moved to accept M. Hettinger's reports as information.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT MINUTES

29-20

D. Stadnyk moved the minutes of the February 13, 2020, Agricultural Service Board meeting, be adopted as presented amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION:

Barry Kolenosky
Highlights:

- Russ Jassman has been appointed by Council as the MDLSR Agricultural Fieldman working mostly out of the Flatbush Sub-Office
- Barry Kolenosky will be re-established at Head Office in Slave Lake
- Advertising for 2 Weed Inspectors and 9 Seasonal Staff- applications are minimal and closing is March 30, 2020

MINUTES

- Tender is out for Roadside Spraying Program
- Spring Newsletter is in the works and we will try to have it out for the target date of mid-April

30-20

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the Rural Services Directors reports as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

AAAF Response to MDLSR Letter Re: Concerns Relating to 2020 ASB Conference

This letter was discussed at the NW AAAF and was supported at that level.

31-20

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the response letter from the ASB 2020 Conference Committee as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Albert Agriculture and Forestry 2020 Agricultural Service Board Grant

There will be a reduction in the grant for the 2020-2024 ASB programs for the agricultural stream. There will be no change to the Environmental stream grants. There may be some tough decisions and evaluations of all the programs and services we are providing.

M. Hittenger identified the Environmental stream will be Resource management stream and the application process will be very fine tuned.

32-20

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the update on the Albert Agriculture and Forestry 2020 - 20204 Agricultural Service Board Grant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2020 Hwy 44 Rural Roots Farmers Market

The Board discussed the information regarding the upcoming Farmers Markets that are being facilitated by PACO (the Ag Society central to Fawcett). This organization supports endeavors of the ASB, and they have extended a partner opportunity for us to give back. Two markets will be held in Flatbush this year June 20th and August 16th. It was identified that although there is a dollar sponsorship program, that the ASB members and staff could elect to go the route of providing actual hands on help at the events.

33-20

J. Mittelstadt moved that the Hwy 44 Rural Roots Farmers Market Manager be contacted to gather information to see where the ASB and its' members could best serve to enhance the success for the Farmers Markets at Flatbush.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ag Drone School

There is a Drone School offered in the area and the Board discussed the many ways Drone technology could be utilized with in the MD, not only agriculture. To be fiscally responsibility, whoever attends the school should be prepared to provide conceptual information to our ratepayers at some future ASB event.

34-20

D. Stadnyk moved to sponsor J. Mittelstadt to attend the Ag Drone School hosted in Athabasca on April 6 and 7, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Westlock Regional Landfill Tour

Board Members and Administration attended the recent CARE conference including touring the Westlock Regional Landfill. It has been suggested that the ASB might find value in touring the facility to view their Ag plastics recycling in action and to have the Manager explain their operation and opportunities that MDLSR might implement.

Of note is that our ASB was a huge instigator of trying to further plastic recycling.

35-20

J. Mittelstadt moved to have Administration investigate the opportunity for the ASB to tour the Westlock Regional Landfill.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**CORRESPONDENCE
/INFORMATION**

2020 ASB Business Plan Update

Administration presented the updates to the 2020 ASB Business Plan and asked the Board for additional input.

36-20

R. Esau moved to accept the updated ASB Business Plan as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Alberta Shelterbelt and Eco-Buffer Initiative

37-20

D. Stadnyk moved to accept Alberta Shelterbelt and Eco-Buffer Initiative as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Farmers Advocate Office Update on Surface Rights

38-20

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept Farmers Advocate Office Update on Surface Rights as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEXT MEETING

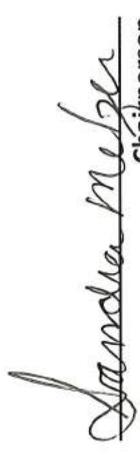
April 9, 2020 9:00 AM Start

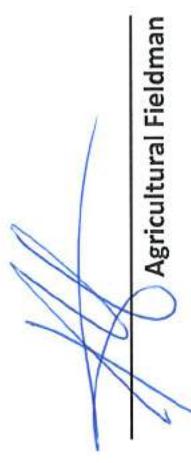
ADJOURNMENT

39-20

J. Mittelstadt moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 AM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY


Chairperson


Agricultural Fieldman