

## MINUTES

### AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD Meeting MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124

September 16, 2020 9:00 a.m.

Zoom Video Meeting

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

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

#### IN ATTENDANCE

Russ Jassman	Director of Rural Services/ Agricultural Fieldman, MDLSR
Chantelle Borris	Agriculture Technician, MDLSR
Peggy Laing	Recording Secretary, MDLSR

#### CALL TO ORDER

S. Melzer called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

#### ADOPT AGENDA

##### 93-20

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

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### ADOPT MINUTES

##### 94-20

D. Stadnyk moved the minutes of the August 13, 2020, Agricultural Service Board meeting, be adopted as corrected.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### REPORTS

**ADMINISTRATION: DIRECTOR OF RURAL SERVICES/AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN – Russ Jassman**

Highlights:

- Roadside herbicide program completed
- Inspectors Notices were issued and resolved
- Contract sprayer completed and is retained for 2021 with possible extension for 2022
- Flatbush will be roadside control location 2021
- Planning 2021 for more extensive survey and clean up of the gravel pits
- WCPP going well even without the MD dispensing product
- Fall Newsletter fielded by Chantelle, hoping for mid-October delivery
- NW Region ASB Conference Planning
- Planning and Development duties
- Canyon Creek Harbor Authority Transition

Administration informed the Board that although the contact with CN rail regarding weed inspecting along the tracks in the MD seemed promising, that CN did not follow through on their commitment. They will be approached again in 2021 seeking cooperation.

##### 95-20

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the Director of Rural Services/Agricultural Fieldman's report as information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Agriculture Technician – Chantelle Borris**

Highlights from the 2020 vegetation management season:

- Staff orientation done virtually
- Chantelle managed the south MD and Tara the north
- 386 inspections completed - double the number of inspections logged than in previous years
- 5 notices issued for prohibited noxious weeds and none required enforcement
- Technicians sprayed Canada Thistle on 24 patches in MD right of ways

- Due to Covid-19 impacts the rental equipment for weed control saw minimal use (no Weed Control Wednesday hand out observed this year)
- Throughout the season Chantelle worked with Munisight to clean up the MD Ag Mobile database
- Completed the articles for the Fall Rural Roots Newsletter
- Grasshopper surveys not done, due to no reports of infestations
- Clubroot inspections will be done in the coming weeks

C. Borris explained the work she did to clean up the MD Ag Mobile database. She streamlined the number of inspections listed on a given quarter to make the data base more concise as specifics are especially important if a legal situation arises.

**96-20**

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

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

***UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS***

**ASB Business Plan Update**

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

An item for 2021 budget consideration is a storage facility that would suffice for the MD to secure a vendor license to be able to resume the dispensing of herbicide to coincide with the practices of the previous WCPP.

**97-20**

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

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Pesticide Packaging**

Administration communicated our response to the Key Account Manager with Bayer Crop Science, providing details that the size of containers desired would be sufficient to spray one to five acres, thus reducing the initial cost and avoiding the storage of un-used herbicide.

His response was that this would not happen for 2021, but beyond that it may be possible, and the suggestion would be brought forward to the next product production meeting.

It has been discovered that there are ag retailers that offer a service of dispersing a granular product in an amount requested by the buyer. This is a positive practice to support our suggestion.

**98-20**

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the response regarding reduced sizing of herbicide containers from Bayer Crop Science as information.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Declaration of Municipal Agricultural Disaster**

The Board was asked to review recent moisture and frost maps as well as the Alberta Crop Reports with a view to assessing the need, or not, to declare a Municipal Ag Disaster. Board members also considered the actual harvest projections for this year.

More municipalities are declaring as we progress into fall; some of them have historically done so for several years. There have been no programs or tax deferral benefits offered by the provincial or federal governments that would hinge on our MD having declared.

Administration will keep this on the radar if conditions in the MD downgrade.

**99-20**

R. Esau moved **not** make a declaration of agricultural disaster in MDLSR at this time.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**2020 Northwest Region Agricultural Service Board Conference**

The conference planning is a work-in-progress. The process of hosting in a Zoom format was explained. It will be important to convey to all Ag Fieldman that all ASB members must sign into the meeting to each have a vote. Administration provided background for the tentative agenda items.

Closing date for receiving resolutions is September 30<sup>th</sup>. If no resolutions are received there is a possibility of not having a conference, but currently the plans will continue.

**100-20**

D. Stadnyk moved to accept the details for the NW Region ASB Conference we are planning to host.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Flatbush Community Complex Kiosk Landscaping**

The MD has installed a new kiosk at the Flatbush Community Complex. As part of the landscaping, Administration requested that the ASB discuss the idea of placing an antique piece of agricultural equipment next to it with a display sign that speaks to the history of the Flatbush area and how agriculture fits in.

**101-20**

J. Mittelstadt moved to have Administration select an antique agriculture implement from a Flatbush family, and arrange for appropriate signage, to enhance the Flatbush Complex kiosk site.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Provincial Highways Vegetation Management**

The Provincial ASB Committee met with the Deputy Minister of Alberta Transportation to discuss vegetation management (or lack of) on provincial highways. Following the meeting, the Regional Director North Central and Ft. McMurray Regions requested to attend the ASB Regional Conferences, including ours on October 29<sup>th</sup>, to provide an update. Municipalities are seeking some clarity and consistent communication regarding the provincial highway's vegetation management plan.

**102-20**

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the outcome of the meeting, of Provincial ASB Committee and the Deputy minister of Transportation, as information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**NEXT MEETING**

October 8, 2020, via Zoom

**ADJOURNMENT**

**103-20**

S. Melzer adjourned the meeting at 10:15 AM.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

  
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Agricultural Fieldman