

MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD Meeting
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124
October 20, 2020 9:00 a.m.
Zoom Video Meeting

MEMBERS	Sandra Melzer (Chair)	Flatbush (Council)
PRESENT	Damond Stadnyk (Vice-Chair)	Flatbush
	Robert Esau	Flatbush (Council)
	Jessica Mittelstadt	Flatbush
	Darren Fulmore	Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT

IN ATTENDANCE	Russ Jassman	Director of Rural Services
	Peggy Laing	Recording Secretary, MDLSR

CALL TO ORDER R. Jassman called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

First Call for Nomination of Chair

R. Esau moved to nominate D. Stadnyk to serve as the ASB Chair for the upcoming year.
D. Stadnyk accepted the nomination.

Second Call for Nomination of Chair

D. Stadnyk moved to nominate S. Melzer to serve as the ASB Chair for the upcoming year.
S. Melzer declined the nomination.

Third Call for Nomination of Chair

D. Stadnyk was elected as Chair by acclamation.

D. Stadnyk assumed the Chair at 9:10 am.

First Call for Nomination of Vice-Chair

S. Melzer moved to nominate J. Mittelstadt to serve as the ASB Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.
J. Mittelstadt accepted the nomination.

Second Call for Nomination of Vice-Chair

Third Call for Nomination of Vice-Chair

J. Mittelstadt was elected as Vice-Chair by acclamation.

ADOPT AGENDA

104-20

R. Esau moved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT MINUTES

105-20

S. Melzer moved the minutes of the September 16, 2020, Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

–

ADMINISTRATION: DIRECTOR OF RURAL SERVICES/AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

Russ Jassman

Highlights:

- Fall weather allowed for good harvest conditions
- Chantelle completed the Club Root of Canola Inspections with none found
- Fall Rural Roots will be completed shortly
- 2020-24 ASB Grant Agreement signed and funding should follow, no direction received for the resource funding at this time
- NW Region ASB Conference planning
- WCPP rebates
- VSI follow-up with local veterinarians
- Administrative duties for other departments
- Assisting with landscape project at Flatbush Community Complex

106-20

D. Fulmore moved to accept the Director of Rural Services/Agricultural Fieldman'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.

107-20

S. Melzer moved to accept the updated ASB Business Plan as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2020 Northwest Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

The Conference planning is a work-in-progress, but almost complete. The Conference agenda package was provided for the Board's reference. The format delivery will be via Zoom.

conference

Agenda topics for the Conference include

- Agriculture & Forestry – ASB Program Update
- Agriculture & Forestry – Emergency Management
- Alberta Transportation – Vegetation Management on Provincial Highways
- 2, 2020 Resolutions

The Board discussed the two resolutions that will be voted on at the Conference.

Resolution #1 Fusarium Testing After Cleaning - Majority Support
Resolution #2 Protect Farmers Rights to Use Farm Saved Seed – Majority

Support

108-20

S. Melzer moved to accept the NW Regional ASB Conference details and the resolution discussions as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Attracting and Retaining Veterinarians

ways to
Program.

A letter from a local Veterinarian was provided that speaks to some possible attract and retain new veterinarians to the northern Alberta via the VSI

medicine
Veterinary

Administration provided background on the Western College of Veterinary in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and the University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine in Alberta.

109-20

S. Melzer moved to forward the letter along with our comments to the VSI Manager as a discussion item for a future VSI meeting to find out what other regions are experiencing in veterinarian retention and their opinion on providing incentives for students.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEXT MEETING

November 12, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

110-20

D. Stadnyk moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:34 am.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chairperson

Agricultural Fieldman

Reports

Russ Jassman – Director of Rural Services

Well, it is official – the Agricultural Service Board is hereby established by Council via Bylaw 2020-19. The bylaw links the powers of Council under the Municipal Government Act to establish boards and committees and have thereby legitimized the Agricultural Service Board. This is the last step in ensuring that we (the Municipal District) have all of our t's crossed and i's dotted. More on this later.

On December 1st and 2nd I (and Chantelle) attended the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldman (AAAF) In-service Training via online Zoom meeting. The first day was what is called the "Industry Day" where there are training presentations that qualify for continuing education credits (CEC) necessary for the renewal of your pesticide applicator certificates. Training sessions included application technology, animal disease biosecurity, conflict resolution, integrated pest management, etc. The second day is for AAAF members only and included some excellent presentations from other Agricultural Fieldman on agritourism (Kneehill County), leafy spurge control via helicopters (MD of Provost), debt recovery notice appeals (Strathcona County and Wetaskiwin County), Agriculture & Forestry update (or lack thereof) and the annual general meeting of the AAAF members. Even though the event was online, it was very well done. The Northeast AAAF hired Zoom consultants to run the entire show and this is definitely the way to go. It was not necessarily better than our regional conference but for a conference that runs for two eight-hour days and 150 participants it is the way to go.

Of note are the following:

- Two appeals to a debt recovery notice have been made to the Minister of Agriculture & Forestry, these then get forwarded to an appointed adjudicator for decision, both appeals have been granted in the landowner's favour with the municipalities having no ability to recover enforcement costs
- Alberta Agriculture & Forestry will not provide clear and consistent direction on the enforcement of their Weed Control Act, they say it is up to each municipality to seek legal advice
- The appointed adjudicator is the final word
- The appointed adjudicator seems to be straying from the appeal at hand and looking back to the issuance of the Inspector's Notice and rendering a decision from that
- No news on the resource management stream of funding as yet

Administratively, I have worked on the following projects:

- Police Funding Model Freeze Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Resolution (passed)
- FCSS Program Policy (passed)
- COVID-19 Mitigation Plans
- Local Authority Election Procedures Bylaw 2020-20 (work-in-progress)
- Council brief for Deputy Minister of Alberta Environment & Parks lobby meeting
- Planning & Development (Expander Energy and Land Use Bylaw rewrite)

Russ Jassman

Unfinished Business 6.1

ASB Business Plan Update

Completed Activities:

- 2020 Northwest Region Agricultural Service Board Conference
- 2020 AAAF In-Service Training
- Pesticide Inventory
- Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19

Work-in-progress Activities:

- 2020 Fall/Winter Rural Roots (soon)
- Vendor Pesticide Warehouse Facility Research

Upcoming Activities:

- 2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference January 18 – 21

For Information

Unfinished Business 6.2

2020 Northwest Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

Big huge round of applause for Sandra, Peggy, Chantelle, Trisha and Brian for brilliantly pulling off the 2020 Northwest Region Agricultural Service Board Conference without a hitch. Team work is a powerful thing.

We are off the hook now for twelve years and I know that I won't be here, but I certainly hope things are a lot different than the COVID-19 situation we are in now.

From my end, I have wrapped all things up including the following;

- Resolutions have been forwarded to the Provincial ASB Committee (for inclusion in the 2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference)
- Resolution Meeting minutes have been forwarded to the host of the 2021 NW Region Agricultural Service Board Conference (Brazeau County)

This one is done and in the books.

One of the items that came from this conference was the livestock emergency preparedness presentation. Damond would like to have some further discussion on this at the meeting.

For Information

New Business 7.1
Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19

Over the last couple of years there has been discussion from Doug Macaulay with Agriculture & Forestry regarding municipalities having (or not) a bylaw in place for the establishment of their Agricultural Service Board. As it turns out, sixteen municipalities already have an establishment bylaw with about six more with an establishment policy.

Attached is the November 25th brief that administration prepared and presented to Council regarding an Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19.

Council gave the nod of approval to the Bylaw with the required three readings. This bylaw is now in the books and fully legitimizes the Agricultural Service Board. The Bylaw is attached for your reference.

Date: November 25, 2020

Department: Rural Services

Subject: Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19

Background

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) has been in existence since 1983 under the Improvement District No. 17 East and has continued on under the Municipal District to this day.

As part of its existence, Policy J.1 Agricultural Services Administration was created as a term of reference document for the structure of the Board including responsibilities of Council, the Board, the Agricultural Fieldman and the Director of Rural Services. Policy J.1 is attached for your reference.

In recent years, however, more and more municipalities are further legitimizing their ASBs via an establishment Bylaw. The *Municipal Government Act* is the vehicle for this establishment. Agriculture & Forestry are recommending that municipalities enact an ASB Establishment Bylaw.

Administration has researched various other municipal ASB bylaws and has drafted the attached Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19 for your attention. The Bylaw mirrors Policy J.1 Agricultural Services Administration and *the Agricultural Service Board Act*. This was done on purpose so that our policy and bylaw are clear, concise and consistent with the provincial legislation.

Analysis

The rationale behind the ASB establishment Bylaw is the ASB is empowered through the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, and to a lesser extent, the *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pests Act*, *Soil Conservation Act* and the *Animal Health Act* to enter upon land for inspection, direct weed and pest control, assist in the control of animal diseases and to declare land to be subject to supervision, rehabilitation or reclamation. All of these duties carry the potential for legal action against the ASB and/or the Agricultural Fieldman and/or the Municipal District. It is extremely important that the Municipal District has all of the required documents and appointments in order so that if legal action is taken, we can prove our due diligence in keeping our house in order. The ASB Establishment Bylaw is the cornerstone document that legitimizes the Municipal District ASB via the *Municipal Government Act*.

As part of our due diligence, we have already done the following:

- Policy J.1 Agricultural Services Administration reviewed and approved by Council on June 26, 2019
- Agricultural Fieldman (Russ Jassman) appointed by Council on March 11, 2020
- Annual appointment of seasonal Weed Inspectors and Pest Inspectors
- Other policies as approved by Council (i.e.: Clubroot of Canola Management Policy J.13)

Issue

The issue before Council is the decision to approve the Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19 as presented, as amended or not at all.

Recommendation

Administration recommends Council approve the Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19 as presented.

BYLAW 2020-19 OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124

Being a Bylaw to establish an Agricultural Service Board within the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 in the Province of Alberta

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 145 of the *Municipal Government Act*, a Council may pass bylaws in relation to the establishment and functions of council committees and other bodies and procedures to be followed by council, council committees and other bodies established by the council.

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to section 3 of the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, a Council may establish and appoint members to an Agricultural Service Board;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of the Municipal District deems it necessary to establish an Agricultural Service Board; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River in the Province of Alberta, duly assembled, and pursuant to the authority conferred upon it by the *Municipal Government Act*, enacts as follows:

1.0 SHORT TITLE

1.1 This Bylaw will be called the Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw.

2.0 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

2.1 The Agricultural Service Board is hereby established for the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124.

- 2.2 Agricultural Service Board members will be appointed annually by resolution of Council at the annual Organizational Meeting of Council.
- 2.3 The Agricultural Service Board will consist of five members as follows:
 - 2.3.1 two members from Council; and
 - 2.3.2 three members at large.
- 2.4 At large members must reside within the boundaries of the Municipal District.
- 2.5 The Agricultural Service Board will follow the Agricultural Services Administration Policy J.1 as amended from time to time.
- 2.6 Agricultural Service Board members will be entitled to remuneration (as per Municipal District policy as amended from time to time) for subsistence, travel and other expenses.
- 2.7 Agricultural Service Board members will be entitled to honorarium (as per Municipal District policy as amended from time to time) for attending meetings, events and functions of the Board.

3.0 DUTIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD

- 3.1 Act as an advisory body and to assist the Council and the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, in matters of mutual concern.
- 3.2 Advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and water conservation programs.
- 3.3 Assist in the control of animal disease under the Animal Health Act.
- 3.4 Promote, enhance, and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer.
- 3.5 Promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.
- 3.6 Exercise on behalf of Council all the duties and powers that are conferred on it by the Council, under this or any other enactment, with respect to agricultural matters.
- 3.7 Present a summary of its activities for the preceding year to the Council in a form acceptable to the Council containing the information required by the Council.

3.8 Provide input on annual operational and capital budgets and short and long-term business/strategic plans.

4.0 SEVERABILITY

4.1 If any clause in this Bylaw is found to be invalid, it shall be severed from the remainder of the bylaw and shall not invalidate the whole Bylaw

5.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

5.1 This Bylaw takes effect immediately after third reading and upon being signed.

READ for a first time this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Murray Kerik, Reeve

Barry Kolenosky, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

READ for a second time this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Murray Kerik, Reeve

Barry Kolenosky, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY to proceed to third reading this _____ day of _____, 2020

READ for a third and final time this _____ day of _____, 2020.

Murray Kerik, Reeve

Barry Kolenosky, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

For Information