

MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD Meeting
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124
December 10, 2020 9:00 a.m.
Zoom Video Meeting

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

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

IN ATTENDANCE

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

CALL TO ORDER

D. Stadnyk called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

ADOPT AGENDA

111-20
R. Esau moved to adopt the agenda with the following addition:
7.3 Agricultural Services Board Provincial Committee Funding
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DELEGATE

Lesser Slave Watershed Council – Meghan Payne, Executive Director

- Purpose for attending was to share the projects that they are involved in in Big Lakes County with a goal to be able to share these programs in MDLSR
- WRRP Grant
- Examples of projects considered
- Canadian Ag Partnership Program
- Environmental Farm Plan
- Project Process, work, monitoring and reporting
- Work to date and work in progress
- What are the needs of LSR?
- No funding required from LSR, just in-kind support

112-20
R. Esau moved to accept the presentation from Lesser Slave Watershed Council as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT MINUTES

113-20
J. Mittelstadt moved the minutes of the October 20, 2020, Agricultural Service Board meeting, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF RURAL SERVICES/AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN – Russ Jassman

Highlights:

- The Flatbush MD sub-office will be closed to the public for the coming 4 weeks and staff will be working from home as much as possible. Staff will ensure levels of service are maintained. MD head office open by appointment, no access to main office, only foyer.
- 2020 NW Region ASB Conference administration and execution
- Pesticide Inventory review complete
- ASB bylaw 2020-19 established by Council
- Attended AAAF In Service Training
- No news on the Resource Management stream of ASB funding yet
- 2020 Fall/Winter Rural Roots Newsletter in development
- Vendor pesticide warehouse facility research on going

An item arising from the AAAF In-Service Training is the current process of how the appeals process for debt recovery of a Notice is being handled and being ruled on

that is contrary to the authority of municipalities. Administration will contact AAAF executive to support seeking legal advice on the matter.

The virtual 2021 Provincial ASB Conference will be held January 18 -21. The ASB will be registered as a whole, with D. Stadnyk and S. Melzer identified as the voting delegates. The agenda package will be provided at the next ASB meeting.

114-20

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sandra Melzer – VSI Annual General Meeting

S. Melzer attended the VSI AGM and gave a verbal report. The MDLSR levels of service and allowable number of services remained unchanged.

115-20

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the report on the VSI Annual General Meeting 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.

116-20

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2020 Northwest Region Agricultural Service Board Conference

It was agreed that the execution of the 2020 NW Region ASB Conference was handled very professionally by our staff and Board. The follow-up actions required have been completed. We are off the hook for 12 years.

The livestock emergency preparedness presentation was of particular interest for Board members. Previous training, scheduled in March 2020 for fire departments, has been put on hold due to the COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

Administration will check with other municipalities to see if they have this type of plan in place. The conference presenters could provide guidance when formulating a plan for our MD. This could be an additional item in the MD's overall Emergency Response Plan.

117-20

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the report on the Northwest Region Agricultural Service Board Conference as information and hats off to us for such a well-executed conference.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Agricultural Service Board Establishment By-Law 2020-19

Although the ASB has been in existence since 1983, it was identified that the MD did not have an ASB Establishment Bylaw. Agriculture and Forestry are recommending that municipalities enact an ASB Establishment Bylaw.

Administration shared the new ASB Establishment Bylaw 2020-19 that was approved by MD Council recently. This bylaw is the cornerstone document that legitimizes the MD ASB via the *Municipal Government Act*. With the bylaw in place, in the event of legal action, we can prove the due diligence of the ASB, the Agricultural Fieldman and the MD.

118-20

S. Melzer moved to accept the ASB Establishment Bylaw 2020-19 as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Lesser Slave Watershed Council

The earlier presentation by the Lesser Slave Watershed Council was very well received by the Board. The group does not require funding but rather in-kind support such as the occasional use of office space, assistance from MD staff i.e., landowner introductions, potential projects, information and assistance in executing events.

They bring to the table: the draft of a work plan and budget for 2022-23 projects, communication materials for us to provide to farmers, they will undertake projects within our MD, provide staff support to assist farmers in doing applications for Canadian Ag Partnership Program and Environmental Farm Plans. The indication is they are open to suggestions from the MD and 2021 projects may also be possible.

119-20

R. Esau moved to have Administration follow-up with the Lesser Slave Watershed Council to indicate the MD's interest in partnering providing it is not a conflict of interest with the proposed Resource Management stream of our ASB grant plan for a partnership with County of Big Lakes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee Funding

An email was received from the ASB Provincial Committee regarding the need to identify a sustainable funding model for the committee. ASB's have been asked to consider supporting the proposal for the Committee's operational funding to be funded by municipalities at flat fee per ASB. The Committee's members individual expenses will still be funded by members individual municipality. This will be voted upon at the 2021 provincial ASB Conference.

NEXT MEETING

January 14, 2021, via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT

121-20

D Stadnyk adjourned the meeting at 10:58 AM.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Chairperson



Agricultural Fieldman