

MINUTES
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD Meeting
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124
July 15, 2021 10:00 a.m.
In Person and Zoom Video Meeting

**MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Damond Stadnyk (Chair)	Flatbush
Robert Esau	Flatbush (Council)
Sandra Melzer	Flatbush (Council)
Darren Fulmore	Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jessica Mittelstadt (Vice-Chair)	Flatbush
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IN ATTENDANCE

Russ Jassman	Director of Rural Services/ Agricultural Fieldman, MDLSR
Peggy Laing	Recording Secretary, MDLSR
Cole Paly	Weed Technician
Brayden Delisle	Weed Technician

CALL TO ORDER

D. Stadnyk called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion 38-21

Moved by D. Fulmore to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPT MINUTES

Motion 39-21

Moved by S. Melzer to adopt the June 10, 2021, meeting minutes of the Agricultural Service Board as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

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

Highlights:

- New range and pasture herbicide TruRange, equal in effectiveness to Restore II, but less expensive, could result in having to adjust our WCPP requirements and benefits
- The 2021 Roadside Vegetation Management Program has been completed with additional spraying of MD gravel pits
- We are partnering with Lesser Slave Watershed Council to host a Farm and Acreage Watershed Workshop (discussed further in agenda)
- Discovery of far more Orange Hawkweed infestations than was anticipated
- The potential of spread of this prohibited noxious weed is a serious issue so the focus on the remainder of the summer season will be on Orange Hawkweed inspections, lining things up for Inspector's Notices and some roadside spot spraying

Motion 40-21

Moved by R. Esau to accept the Director of Rural Services/Agricultural Fieldman's report as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ASB Member(s) June 15, 2021, Town hall Meeting with Provincial Minister of
Agriculture**

Highlights:

- Investigating carbon sequestering payments to farmer, is any
- Weed control on abandoned energy well and lease sights
- Pesticide container recycling programs
- Ag and Forestry Key Contacts

- ASB Grants should remain the same, no increases anticipated
- Guardian of the Grassland worth viewing – put on MD website

Motion 41-21

Moved by S. Melzer to accept the Town Hall Meeting as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Brayden Delisle – Weed Technician-

Presentation on Himalayan Balsam and the status and plans for control in our Municipality.

Cole Paly – Weed Technician

Presentation on Orange and Yellow Hawkweed and the status and plan for control in our municipality.

Motion 42 -21

Moved by R. Esau to accept the Weed Technicians reports as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

ASB Business Plan Update

Administration presented the updates to the 2021 ASB Business Plan and asked the board for additional input.

Motion 43-21

Moved by D. Fulmore to accept the updated ASB Business Plan as information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Permission to Trespass (herbicide) on Municipal District Road Allowance for Woody Species Vegetation Management Policy

As discussed at the June 10th ASB meeting, administration has drafted a policy to address the desire for fence line/road allowance woody species vegetation management program.

The policy is straightforward, with the onus on the landowner to provide the application equipment and herbicides to perform the vegetation management. There is zero cost to the municipality other than the Agricultural Fieldman's time to perform the inspection and approval.

The board viewed the draft on the policy for further discussion and it was noted it did not include specifics for weed control.

Motion 44-21

Moved by D Fulmore to accept the Draft Woody Species Policy as presented and to provide it to Council for consideration of approval.

Recorded Vote:

Opposed: Robert Esau
In Favor: S. Melzer, D. Fulmore , D. Stadnyk

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Farm and Acreage Watershed Workshop

Meghan Payne from Lesser Slave Watershed Council proposed a Farm and Acreage Watershed Workshop in our municipality. Peggy worked with Meghan to bring this workshop to fruition on August 12 at Smith Complex from 6:30-8:30 PM. Our Business Plan mandate encourages partnerships. Meghan will do all the hard work; we will provide the beverages and snacks and advertising. Registration can be done online or by calling the Flatbush sub office. Advertising will include our website, all social media options and a mailbox flyer to all MD residents.

It was suggested that Administration could look into adding a morning segment on Soil Health as a mini tour on the same day as the workshop.

Motion 45-21

Moved by D. Fulmore to approve the ASB partnership with Lesser Slave Watershed Council to facilitate the Farm and Acreage Watershed Workshop on August 12, 2021, at Smith Community Complex.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Crops/Forage/pasture/Livestock Report/Discussion

There was a discussion on the merits of declaring a State of Agricultural Disaster in our municipality. It was identified that there are many avenues to work with agencies for support for crops that lack yield. In years of similar circumstances there were opportunities to offset the income received if livestock herds had to be downsized due to the inability to purchase feed.

Motion 46-21

Moved by D. Fulmore to have Administration research the need to write a letter to appropriate levels of government to ensure that the state of agricultural lands be recognized as not producing average yields.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AgSmarts Conference

Motion 47-21

Moved by R. Esau to send J. Mittelstadt to the AgSmarts conference in Olds AB on August 10th and 11th.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday August 12 2021
Time: 3:00 PM
Location: Smith Complex Meeting Room
Supper to Follow

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 48-21

Moved by D. Stadnyk to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 am.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Chairperson



Agricultural Fieldman