

*MINUTES*  
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD Meeting  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124  
June 11, 2020 9:00 a.m.  
Zoom Video Meeting

**MEMBERS  
PRESENT**

Sandra Melzer (Chair)	Flatbush (Council)
Diamond 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
Peggy Laing	Recording Secretary, MDLSR

**CALL TO ORDER**

S. Melzer called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

62-20  
J. Mittelstadt moved to adopt the agenda with the following:  
7.1 Replaced with: Agricultural Road Use Awareness  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ADOPT MINUTES**

63-20  
D. Stadnyk moved the minutes of the May 14, 2020, Agricultural Service Board meeting, be adopted as presented.  
**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**REPORTS**

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

Highlights:

- Multiple infestations of Orange Hawkweed and Field Scabious identified
- Rapid response plan being developed
- Touch up required on previous year Woolly Burdock infestation
- All prohibited noxious weed infestations will be managed via the Notice process
- T. Wright skill set has left a huge gap in our ability to prepare equipment, have no seasonal applicator and no pesticide applicator for the landscape side.
- Tara and Chantelle both obtained their authorized Pesticide Application Assistants training to perform some herbicide application on our road allowances
- As the summer evolves Russ may be able to provide them some training to deal with larger weed control projects
- Tara is assigned to the areas north of the Athabasca River and Chantelle will work the south zone
- Investigating some options to ensure the safety of the Weed Inspectors regarding working alone

The Board asked about the ability (staff, time, equipment) to back up notices with enforcement if we are called upon to do so. Administration is confident that we can manage using the Notice route as we are bound by the Weed Control Act and Legislation.

Administration outlined the process of issuing a Notice to Control and stated time is of the essence. Staff will work with the landowner to do the control. If the landowner is not cooperative, when the notice expires, the MD will hire or do the work at the landowners' expense. There is a period in which the landowner can initiate the appeal process. As in the past, though, it is administrations intention to work with the landowners, if possible, to prevent an appeal or enforcement. Timing is very important in this process to get effective control.

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

**64-20**

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

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**ASB Business Plan Update**

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

The Newsletter has had to take a backseat to more urgent items, but it is still on the list to complete but no exact date of distribution.

**65-20**

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

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Weed Control Partnership Program Policy J.15**

As discussed at a previous ASB meeting Administration has researched further into the subject of pesticide sales and have come up with the same conclusion, we must stop our herbicide sales/vending/dispensing program. Further to that, dispensing herbicide into canister sprayers (even though there is no fee) should be stopped as well.

Also, with the COVID-19 pandemic we are trying to limit one-on-one interactions with folks so the herbicide handout program should be nixed for this season anyway.

Over the winter Administration can explore the option of building a warehouse to the standard for the MD to become a vendor and investigate staff training requirements for staff to provide the service. He will consult with other municipalities to see how they are managing their services.

Lakeland College has developed a course for farmers and acreage owners to be able to be certified for herbicide application online.

It was suggested that a representative of an herbicide producer/distributor company be asked to attend an ASB meeting to discuss the option of herbicide being produced for sale in smaller containers.

An amended Weed Control Partnership Program Policy J.15 was provided for consideration.

**66-20**

R. Esau moved to accept the amendments to Policy J.15 and submit it to Council for consideration of approval.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**67-20**

R. Esau moved that the ASB investigate opportunities to encourage pesticide production companies to also make 1 L containers of herbicide available for purchase, rather than only in larger quantity containers that may result in long term storage.

***CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY***

**CN Letter**

Administration wrote a letter to CN regarding their right-of-way vegetation control program and stating the benefit of having contact information for them. The letter speaks to their process to carry out the vegetation control and our request to do a ride-along for areas that are beyond visual sight lines of a road crossing in our MD. This ride-along will allow us to use CN's Noxious Weed Spray Program request form for submitting all individual locations along their right-of-way in need of control. No response has been received at this time.

**68-20**

J. Mittelstadt moved to accept the letter to CN as information.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Road Bans**

The implications of agriculture equipment and commodities being transported during road bans were discussed. MD Peace Officer was on hand to give interpretation of the legislation as pertains to farm products and equipment. It was identified that the agricultural parties who are not complying with weight restrictions are contributing to the deterioration of MD roads.

This item was discussed to raise awareness for farmers to make note of road conditions (road ban status, recent precipitation etc.).

**69-20**

O. Sand moved to accept the discussion of agriculture transport on local roads awareness.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ASB Chair/Deputy Minister Conference Call – Fusarium graminearum**

Information was received that Fusarium graminearum has been deregulated from the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation bringing Alberta in line with best practices from other provinces.

**70-20**

D. Stadnyk moved to provide the Fusarium graminearum Policy J.5 to Council to be rescinded.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

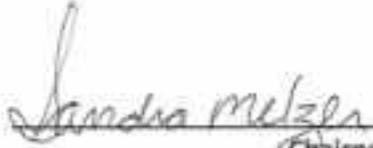
**NEXT MEETING**

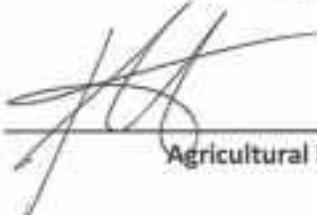
July 9, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT**

**71-20**

J. Mittelstadt adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM

  
Chairperson

  
Agricultural Fieldman