



AGENDA

Agricultural Service Board

Monday, November 18, 2024 - 10:00 AM - Flatbush

Page

CALL TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 2.1 November 18th, 2024 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda

Proposed Motion: Move to accept the November 18th, 2024 Agricultural Service Board Agenda, as presented.

APPOINTMENT OF ASB CHAIRPERSON

- 3.1 Appointment of ASB Chairperson
Call for Nominations

Proposed Motion: Move to appoint _____ as ASB Chairperson.

- 3.2 Appointment of ASB Vice-Chairperson
Call for Nominations

Proposed Motion: Move to appoint _____ as ASB Vice-Chairperson.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 October 10th, 2024 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes

4 - 5

Proposed Motion: Move to accept the October 10th, 2024 Agricultural Service Board Meeting Minutes, as presented.

[20241010 DRAFT Minutes](#)

REPORTS

- 5.1 Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman

6

Proposed Motion: Move to accept Agricultural Fieldman report for information.

[20241118 RFD Agricultural Fieldman Report](#)

- 5.2 Regional ASB Conference-D.Stadnyk & S.Melzer

Proposed Motion: Move to accept the Regional ASB Conference information, as presented.

DELEGATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1	Agricultural Business Plan	7 - 14
	<i>Proposed Motion: Move to accept the Agricultural Business Plan as presented.</i> 20241118 RFD Agricultural Business Plan 2025-2029 20241118 Agriculture Business Plan 2025-2029	

7.2	20th Annual Fall Social Report	15 - 20
	<i>Proposed Motion: Move to accept 20th Annual Fall Social Report as presented.</i> 20241118 RFD Annual Fall Social Report 20241118 Fall Social Survey Results 20241118 Fall Social Expenses	

NEW BUSINESS

8.1	AG-63-01 Agricultural Services Administration Policy	21 - 30
	<i>Proposed Motion: Move to direct administration to take AG-63-01 Agricultural Services Administration Policy & Procedure to an upcoming Council meeting for approval, as presented.</i> 20241118 RFD AG-63-01 Agricultural Services Administration Policy & Procedure 20241118 AG-63-01 Agricultural Services Administration Policy-DRAFT 20241118 AG-63-01.01 Ag. Services Administration Procedure-DRAFT 20241118 J1 Agricultural Services Administration 2022	

8.2	AG-63-03 Agricultural Service Board Rental Equipment Policy	31 - 41
	<i>Proposed Motion: Move to direct administration to take AG-63-03 Agricultural Services Administration Policy & Procedure to an upcoming Council meeting for approval, as presented.</i> 20241118 RFD AG-63-03 Agricultural Service Board Rental Equipment 20241118 AG-63-03 Rental Equipment Policy-DRAFT 20241118 AG-63-03.01 Rental Equipment Procedure-DRAFT AG-63-03 Agricultural Service Board Rental Equipment Policy-OLD	

8.3	2025 ASB Meeting Schedule	42 - 44
	<i>Proposed Motion: Move to accept the 2025 ASB Meeting Schedule, as proposed.</i> 20241118 RFD 2025 ASB Meeting Schedule 2025 Council Calendar	

PERSONNEL

CORRESPONDENCE

10.1	Correspondence	45 - 52
	<i>Proposed Motion: Move to accept Correspondence as presented.</i> 20241118 RFD Correspondence 2024 9 11 Strengthening Regulation to Address Wild Boar Farming 2024-11-07 Letter of Concern Re Ground Squirrel Damage 20241114 Q3 VSI Report Attachment	

NEXT MEETING

January 16th, 2024 10:00am

ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

**AGRICULTURE SERVICE BOARD Meeting
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LESSER SLAVE RIVER NO. 124
October 10th, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
Flatbush Sub-office Boardroom**

MEMBERS PRESENT	Damond Stadnyk (Chair) Jessica Mittelstadt (Vice Chair) Sandra Melzer Darren Fulmore Joe Borris	Flatbush Flatbush Flatbush (Council) Smith (Council) Flatbush
ABSENT	N/A	
IN ATTENDANCE	Kendra Kozdroski Morgan Cryderman	Agricultural Fieldman, MDLSR Vegetation Lead Hand, MDLSR, Recording Secretary
CALL TO ORDER	D. Stadnyk called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.	
ADOPT AGENDA	<p><u>Motion 070-24</u> Motion by D. Fulmore to adopt the October 10, 2024, Agricultural Service Board agenda as amended. -Add: ASB AGM Topics</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
ADOPTION OF MINUTES	<p><u>Motion 071-24</u> Motion by S. Melzer to adopt the September 12th, 2024, Agricultural Service Board meeting minutes as amended. -Motion numbers 068 & 069 need to be changed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
REPORTS	<p>4.1 AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN REPORT, Kendra Kozdroski</p> <p><u>Motion 072-24</u> Motion by J. Mittelstadt to accept the Agricultural Fieldman Report as information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>4.2 Field Tour Big Lakes County, Jessica Mittelstadt/Damond Stadnyk</p> <p><u>Motion 073-24</u> Motion by J. Borris to accept the Field Tour in Big Lakes County as information.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	<p>6.1 2024 Clubroot Update</p> <p><u>Motion 074-24</u> Motion by D. Fulmore to accept the 2024 clubroot update for information, as presented.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	
NEW BUSINESS	<p>7.1 2025 Policy & Procedure List</p> <p><u>Motion 075-24</u> Motion by S. Melzer to bring back AG-63-01 and AG-63-03 for review at the next meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	

7.2 ASB Northwest Regional Conference

Motion 076-24

Motion by J. Mittelstadt to send five ASB members to the ASB Northwest Regional Conference on October 30th, 2024, hosted by Parkland County.

CARRIED

7.3 ASB AGM Topics

Motion 077-24

Motion by J. Borris to take four topics to the ASB Northwest Regional Conference meeting.

- 1. Wild Boar Problems
- 2. Grizzly Bear Populations
- 3. Coyote Predation Issues
- 4. Weed Issues on Public Lands

CORRESPONDENCE

Motion 078-24

Motion by S. Melzer to accept the correspondence for information, as presented.

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

November 14th, 2024 10:00am Flatbush Sub-Office

ADJOURNMENT

Motion 079-24

Motion by J. Borris to adjourn the Agricultural Service Board meeting at 11:35 am.

CARRIED

DRAFT

Chairperson

Agricultural Fieldman



Lesser Slave River

Request for Decision

Title:	Agricultural Fieldman Report
Date:	11/18/2024
Presented By:	Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Attachments:	

Proposed Motion	<i>Move to accept Agricultural Fieldman report for information.</i>
Administration's Recommendation(s)	As proposed.

BACKGROUND:

- ASB Grant Opened November 4th, 2024
- Extension planning underway
- Tree Grant Opportunities
- Fall Social November 2nd, 2024
- Budget review still underway
- ASB ADM November 14, 2024

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Option 1: Move to accept Agricultural Fieldman report for information.
Option 2: ASB may alter or deny the motion.

BENEFIT/RISKS:

Benefit: ASB is aware of what is happening in the department.
Risk: No perceived risks.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Agricultural Service Board Act

Prepared By: Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Reviewed By: Sandra Rendle, Associate Director Legislative Services



Lesser Slave River

Request for Decision

Title:	Agricultural Business Plan 2025-2029
Date:	8/15/2024
Presented By:	Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Attachments:	

Proposed Motion	<i>Move to direct administration to take the Agricultural Business Plan 2025-2029 to an upcoming Council meeting for review.</i>
Administration's Recommendation(s)	As proposed.

BACKGROUND:

Agricultural Service Boards are entering into a new grant period for 2025-2029. Since there is a new grant period, it gives the department an opportunity to align the Business Plan with the grant application. An agricultural business plan provides strategic direction, ensuring efficient resource allocation and clear goal-setting for impactful agricultural programs. It supports transparency, accountability, and performance tracking, while also enhancing opportunities for funding and partnerships. Overall, it helps manage risks and promotes sustainable growth, benefiting both the local economy and community engagement.

Key Goals:

1. Ensure Sustainable and Effective Weed Control on Municipal and Private Lands
2. Promote Effective Pest Control to Minimize Agricultural Losses
3. Educate Landowners on Water, Land, and Air Stewardship
4. Increase Awareness of Agricultural Issues and Promote Healthy Rural Living

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Option 1: Move to direct administration to take the Agricultural Business Plan 2025-2029 to an upcoming Council meeting for review.

Option 2: ASB may alter or deny the recommended motion.

BENEFIT/RISKS:

Benefit: Used to help guide the decision-making process for the department.

Risk: No perceived risks.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Agricultural Service Board Act, Soil Conservation Act, Weed Control Act, Pest Control Act, Animal Health Act.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

Agricultural Services Grant, Agricultural Service Board Operational Budget (2-63)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Broad in nature to accommodate the diverse needs and priorities of the community and address a wide range of agricultural issues. This allows flexibility in adapting to changing circumstances, such as shifts in economic conditions, environmental challenges, or policy updates. A broad plan ensures that the municipality can strategically align various programs and initiatives, fostering comprehensive growth and resilience across the agricultural sector.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

The Business Plan will be advertised on the website to ensure transparency in the department.

Prepared By: Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman

Reviewed By: Sandra Rendle, Associate Director Legislative Services



**AGRICULTURAL
SERVICES**

Business Plan
Municipal District of Lesser Slave River
No.124



Our Vision and Mission

Our Vision: We will be a catalyst to prosperous agriculture communities.

Our Mission: The M.D of Lesser Slave River No.124 shall encourage good stewardship of the environment, while providing leadership and direction towards building a better agriculture community for present and future generations to come.

Agricultural Services

Business Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Situation Statement

The M.D of Lesser Slave River No.124 is located approximately 160 km north of Edmonton, Alberta. Our northern boundary is located along Lesser Slave River, where the municipality gets its name. The M.D of Lesser Slave No.124 is part of the northwest region.

The municipality contains seven hamlets: Canyon Creek, Chisholm, Flatbush, Marten Beach, Smith, Wagner, and Widewater. The region is economically strong with opportunities in forestry, mining, agriculture, petroleum, and tourism. The municipality covers an area of 10 041 km².

Farming practices in the M.D of Lesser Slave River include cereal, oilseed, hay, beef, horses, bison, and sheep. The municipality is home to numerous mixed farm operations and acreages.

ASB Program History & Continuity

The M.D of Lesser Slave River Agricultural Service Board (ASB) was established in 1993. The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) operates under the authority of the *Agricultural Service Board Act* and as such has powers delegated to it by the Provincial Government by enforcement of the following acts; *Weed Control Act*, *Agricultural Pest Act*, *Soil Conservation Act*, and the *Animal Health Act*. Our ASB is composed of two Councilors and three Members-at-Large.

The M.D of Lesser Slave River No.124 has established many programs and partnerships;

- Weed Inspection Program
- Pest Control Program
- Roadside Vegetation Management Program
- Rental Program
- Fall Social
- Extension
- Rental Program
- V.S.I Services
- Weed Control Partnership Program

Agricultural Services

Business Plan

LOOKING AHEAD: GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Goals:

1. Ensure Sustainable and Effective Weed Control on Municipal and Private Lands
2. Promote Effective Pest Control to Minimize Agricultural Losses
3. Educate Landowners on Water, Land, and Air Stewardship
4. Increase Awareness of Agricultural Issues and Promote Healthy Rural Living

Goal 1: Ensure Sustainable and Effective Weed Control on Municipal and Private Lands

Strategies:

- Implement comprehensive weed control measures on municipal lands and roadside areas.
- Encourage private landowners to adopt effective weed control practices.

Key Activities:

- Advertise for seasonal staff through various channels.
- Engage contracted spraying services to cover designated areas.
- Use integrated weed management practices for sensitive zones.
- Conduct staff training on weed identification and management techniques annually.
- Raise awareness of invasive species through local media, online resources, and workshops.
- Develop and implement an equipment replacement schedule.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Spray 33% of the municipality's land each year.
- Provide timely responses to all weed-related referrals on municipal lands.
- Increase public awareness and requests for weed control information.
- Rotate spraying and mowing schedules for MD-owned properties.

Agricultural Services

Business Plan

Goal 2: Promote Effective Pest Control to Minimize Agricultural Losses

Strategies:

- Provide residents and stakeholders with relevant information on managing agricultural pests.

Key Activities:

- Distribute informational pamphlets on pests like clubroot and monitor canola fields for infestation.
- Participate in provincial pest surveys and share the findings.
- Host workshops and share pest management resources on the municipality's website.
- Continue to review and develop pest control policies.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Increase the number of residents requesting pest management information.
- Improve attendance at informational sessions and workshops.
- Receive positive feedback on pest-related mail-outs and initiatives.

Goal 3: Educate Landowners on Water, Land, and Air Stewardship

Strategies:

- Provide educational programs on soil and water conservation in partnership with local and regional entities.

Key Activities:

- Collaborate with partners to offer workshops on topics like riparian health, weed control, and manure management.
- Promote conservation efforts through news releases and events.

Measurable Outcomes:

- High participation in workshops and extension events.
- Strong working relationships between partners and MD staff.

Goal 4: Increase Awareness of Agricultural Issues and Promote Healthy Rural Living

Strategies:

- Offer learning opportunities for board members, staff, and landowners.
- Provide resources to support the economic sustainability of local producers.

Agricultural Services

Business Plan

- Foster community pride and retention by encouraging safe rural living.

Key Activities:

- Attend provincial and regional ASB meetings for continued learning.
- Host extension events and workshops on topics like farm transitioning and innovative technology.
- Keep residents informed through social media and the MD website.
- Promote student bursary programs and maintain up-to-date agricultural resources.

Measurable Outcomes:

- Well-trained staff capable of meeting work requirements.
- High resident engagement in programs and events.
- Operational MD equipment that meets community needs.

IN CLOSING

The MD of Lesser Slave River No.124's Agricultural Services Department is an integral part of the municipality. It serves as a resource for agricultural and environmental needs for residents and producers. These crucial services encourage good stewardship of the land and environment, while providing leadership and direction towards building a better agriculture community for present and future generations to come.



Lesser Slave River

Request for Decision

Title:	20th Annual Fall Social Report
Date:	11/18/2024
Presented By:	Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Attachments:	<i>Fall Social Survey Results</i> <i>Fall Social Expenses</i>

Proposed Motion	<i>Move to accept 20th Annual Fall Social Report as presented.</i>
Administration's Recommendation(s)	As proposed.

BACKGROUND:

On November 2nd, 2024, the Agricultural Service Board hosted the 20th Annual Fall Social Event. This events purpose is to bring together producers for an evening of entertainment and socializing.

The event had over 210 people attend, one of the best attended since this event has been hosted.

Total Cost (excluding staffing hours): \$12,984.38

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Option 1: Move to accept 20th Annual Fall Social Report as presented.

Option 2: The Agricultural Service Board may alter or deny this motion.

BENEFIT/RISKS:

Benefit: Brings a sense of community to MDLSR Ratepayers.

Risk: The event takes numerous hours and dollars to host. It can be hard to plan with the normal day to day operations that are needing to be completed.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

2-63-13-00-259 Professional/Contracted Services (VSI/Extension)-\$15,000

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

This event may be best suited to be posted bi-annually.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

Event is advertised via social media, newspaper and posters.

Prepared By: Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman

Reviewed By: Sandra Rendle, Associate Director Legislative Services

Fall Social Agriculture Survey

Are you a producer within the MD?

- Cattle Producer
- Grain Producer
- Cattle/Grain Producer
- Not a Producer Here
- Other

What topics would you like to see more information or workshops on?

- Cover Cropping
- Soil Health
- Veterinary Services
- Crop Rotation
- Crop Diseases
- Environmental Farm Plan
- Other

Where is the best place to advertise events?

- Online
- Posters
- Newspaper

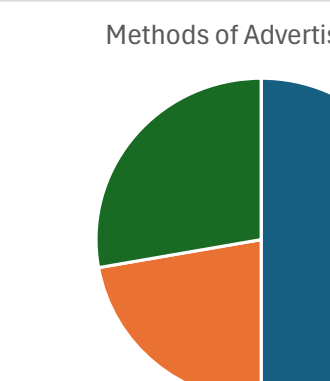
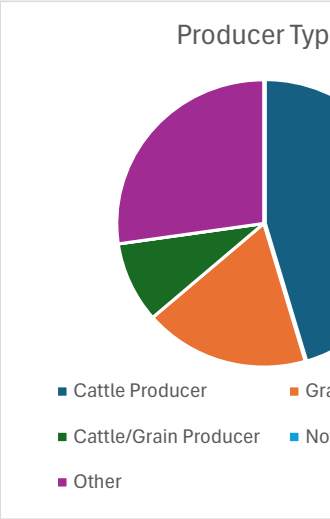
Do you prefer in-person or online events?

- In-person

5
2
1
0
3 Honey -2 Hay Sales-1

6
8
6
2
3
6
3 Farm Transitioning
Legal Advise
Ag Financials & Book keepir

9
4
5
10





3

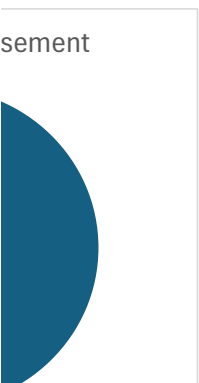
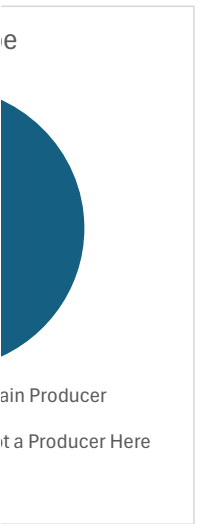
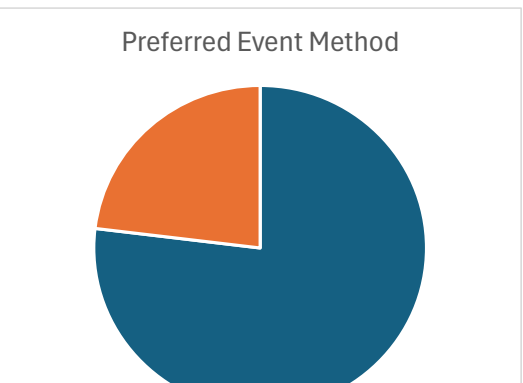
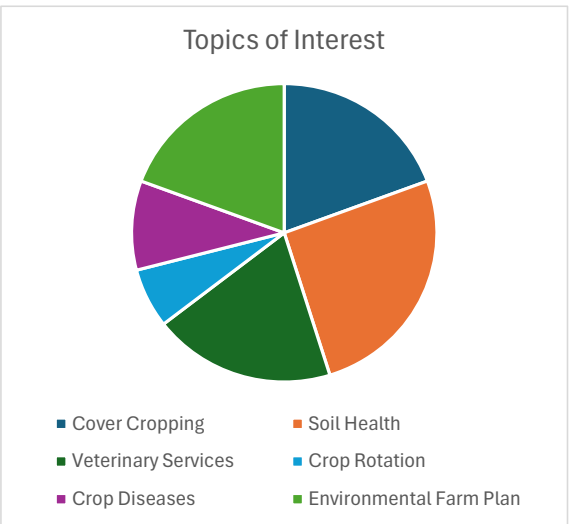
Retirement Hobbies
Homesteading

Online

Skills & Technologies you are interested in learning about

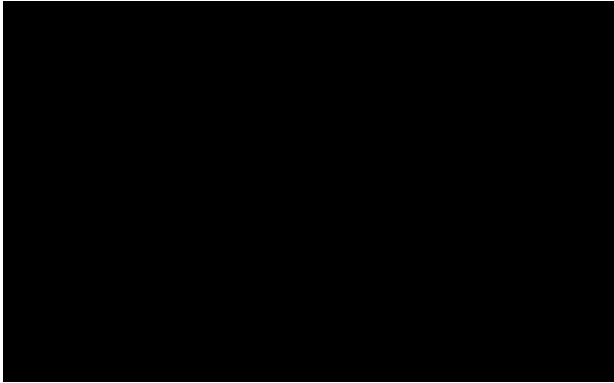
Total Surveys Filled

12





2024 Fall Social

Date	Business	Cost	Expenditure	Credit card used
18-Jan-24	Jaedyn's Tributes - Deposit	\$ 875.00	Entertainment	
10-Oct-24	Jaedyn's Tributes - Remaining Balance	\$2,625.00	Entertainment	
1-Sep-24	Mtech Printing & Signs	\$ 54.00	Poster and 200 tixs	
11-Oct-24	Canadian Tire - Jars	\$ 56.67	Decorations	
11-Oct-24	Canadian Tire - Helium	\$ 229.79	Decorations	
22-Oct-24	Lindt Chocolate Canada	\$ 169.05	Decorations	
23-Oct-24	Mrs. Meyn	\$ 100.00	AGLC License	
10-Oct-24	Amazon	\$ 16.67	Decorations	
10-Oct-24	Amazon	\$ 226.94	Decorations	
10-Oct-24	Amazon	\$ 791.96	Decorations	
29-Oct-24	Baba Sue's Kaing & Catering	\$ 7,839.30	Supper	
		\$ 12,984.38		
	Employee Hours			
	Kendra		6	
	Morgan		20	
	Tanya		24	
	McKenzie		16	
	Cristy		19	
	Total		85	



Lesser Slave River

Request for Decision

Title:	AG-63-01 Agricultural Services Administration Policy
Date:	11/18/2024
Presented By:	Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Attachments:	<i>J1 Agricultural Services Administration-OLD AG-63-01 Agricultural Services Administration Policy-DRAFT AG-63-01.01 Agricultural Services Administration Procedure-DRAFT</i>

Proposed Motion	<i>Move to Move to direct administration to take AG-63-01 Agricultural Services Administration Policy & Procedure to an upcoming Council meeting for approval, as presented.</i>
Administration's Recommendation(s)	As proposed.

BACKGROUND:

Administration has amended AG-63-01 Agricultural Services Administration Policy with updated guidelines and procedure as outlined in ADM-25-25 Policy & Procedure Development.

Changes include separated the procedure from the policy and updating verbiage to align with updated definitions.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Option 1: Move to direct administration to take AG-63-01 Agricultural Services Administration Policy & Procedure to an upcoming Council meeting for approval, as presented.

Option 2: ASB may alter or deny recommended motion.

BENEFIT/RISKS:

Benefit: Alignment with MDLSR policy and procedure development.

Risk: No perceived risks.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

ADM-12-25 Policy & Procedure Development

Agricultural Service Board Act

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

N/A

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

New policy and procedure will be available on the MDLSR website.

Prepared By: Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Reviewed By: Sandra Rendle, Associate Director Legislative Services



Lesser Slave River

Title:	AGRICULTURE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION POLICY
Policy Number:	AG-63-01
Effective Date:	YYYY-MM-DD
Resolution:	To be added once approved by Council
Lead Department Responsible:	Agriculture & Environmental Services
Supersedes Policy No:	
Next Review Date:	

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 (MDLSR) has established an Agricultural Service Board under the *Agricultural Service Board Act of Alberta* (RSA 2000, Chapter A-10). This policy defines the structure and responsibilities of the Agricultural Service Board and the role of Agricultural Fieldman with respect to the administration of agricultural programs within the MDLSR.

DEFINITIONS:

“**Agricultural Service Board (ASB)**” means a board established by a MDLSR to promote and support agricultural programs and initiatives as per the Agricultural Service Board Act.

“**Agricultural Service Board Act**” means the legislative framework (*RSA 2000, Chapter A-10*) that governs the formation, structure, and responsibilities of ASBs in Alberta.

“**Agricultural Fieldman**” means an appointed officer responsible for the implementation and administration of agricultural programs and activities within the MDLSR, working under the direction of the ASB.

“**MDLSR**” means the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124.

PRINCIPLE:

1. The Agricultural Service Board (Board) has been established via the Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19
2. The Board will consist of five members as follows:
 - a. Two members from Council; and
 - b. Three members from the public at large.
3. During the first Agricultural Service Board meeting following the Organizational meeting, the members shall appoint the Chair of the Board by a majority vote.
4. Once a chairperson has been selected, the Agricultural Service Board members shall appoint the Vice-Chairperson of the Board by Majority vote.

- 5. The Agricultural Service Board shall act as an advisory body to Council and exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred on it by Council with respect to agricultural matters.

Chief Administrative Officer

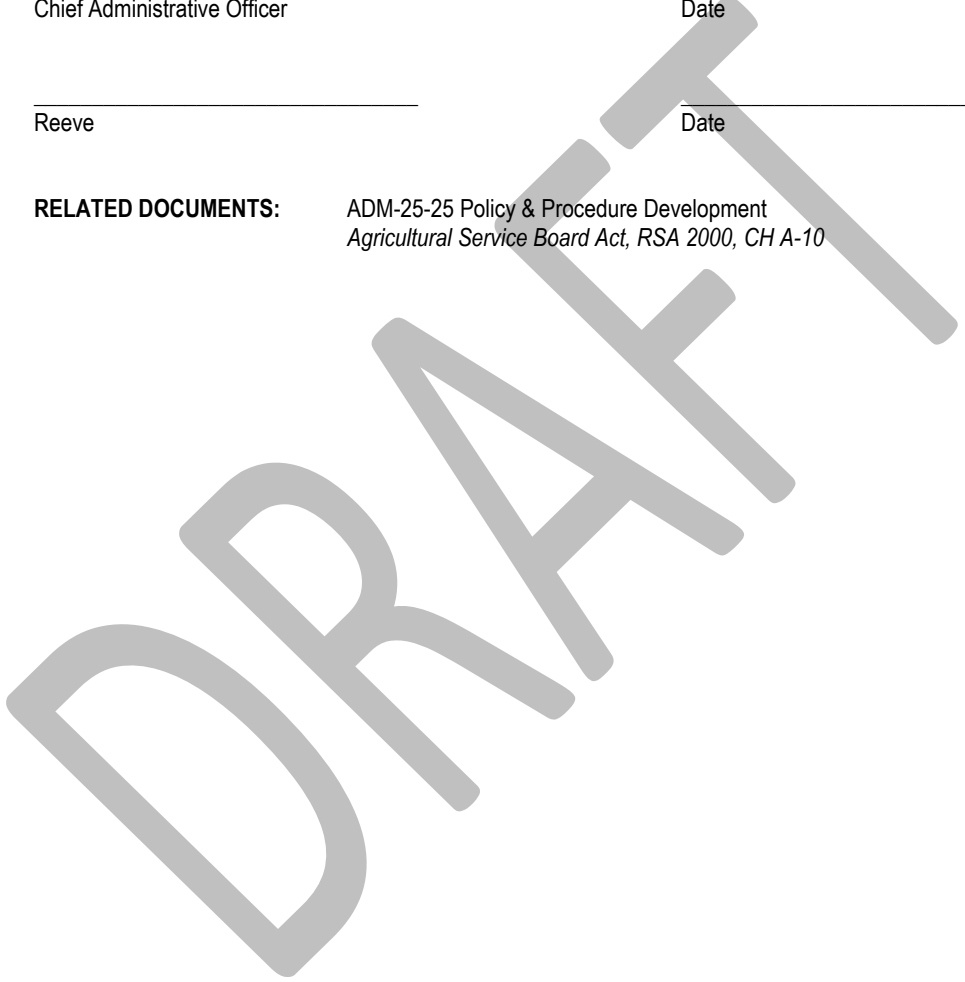
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Reeve

Date

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

ADM-25-25 Policy & Procedure Development
Agricultural Service Board Act, RSA 2000, CH A-10





Lesser Slave River

TITLE: AGRICULTURAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

PROCEDURE NO: AG-63-01.1

RESOLUTION:

EFFECTIVE DATE:

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: Agriculture & Environmental Services **NEXT REVIEW DATE:**

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is structured to advise and assist the municipal Council and the Minister of Agriculture on agricultural concerns, organize key programs, and ensure the development of policies supporting sustainable and viable agriculture. The Agricultural Fieldman, appointed by the Council, acts as an official to enforce agricultural legislation and implement projects in alignment with the ASB's mandates.

DEFINITIONS:

“Chair and Vice-Chair” means elected leaders of the ASB responsible for overseeing board meetings and facilitating discussions.

“Quorum” means the minimum number of members needed to be present for the Board to conduct official business (in this case, three members).

“Agricultural Fieldman” means a designated officer employed by the municipality to carry out agricultural policies and enforce relevant legislation, such as the Weed Control Act, Agricultural Pests Act, and Soil Conservation Act.

“Resolution” means a formal decision or expression of opinion adopted by the Council or Board.

“Expenditure Officer” means a person authorized to oversee budget-related expenses as set by the Chief Administrative Officer and Council.

PROCEDURE:

1. AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD STRUCTURE
 - a. Board members will be appointed annually by resolution of Council at the annual Organizational Meeting of Council.
 - b. Board members should include persons who are familiar with agricultural concerns and issues and who are qualified to develop policies consistent with the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.
 - i. Any vacancy on the Board may be filled by resolution of Council.
 - c. Council may remove a member from the Board by resolution at any time.
 - d. A Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected at the first Board meeting or hearing after the annual Organizational Meeting of Council.
 - e. The Chair and/or Vice-Chair may be re-elected for two or more standings.
 - f. Quorum of the Board will be three members.



Lesser Slave River

- g. Voting on Board resolutions is by simple majority.
 - h. In the event of a tie vote, the resolution will be deemed to be lost.
 - i. The Board will develop a schedule of meetings for the calendar year including dates, times and locations.
 - j. Scheduled Board meeting can be cancelled, changed or postponed at the discretion and consensus of the Chair and the Agricultural Fieldman.
 - k. Special meetings can be called at the discretion and consensus of the Chair and the Agricultural Fieldman.
 - l. Board members will be entitled to such remuneration, travelling, living and other expenses as established by Council from time to time.
2. AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES
- a. The Board is responsible for the following duties:
 - i. act as an advisory body and to assist the Council and the Minister of Agriculture, in matters of mutual concern;
 - ii. advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and water conservation programs;
 - iii. assist in the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*;
 - iv. promote, enhance, and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer;
 - v. promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality;
 - vi. exercise on behalf of a 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; and
 - vii. 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. AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN
- a. The Agricultural Fieldman will be appointed by resolution of Council pursuant to the *Agriculture Service Board Act*.



Lesser Slave River

- b. The Agricultural Fieldman will act as a designated officer of the municipality:
 - i. in carrying out the functions, duties and powers of the municipality under any act relating to agriculture; and
 - ii. in implementing projects, respecting agriculture agreed on between the Council and the Minister.

- c. The Agricultural Fieldman is:
 - i. A Municipal Inspector under the *Weed Control Act*;
 - ii. An Inspector of the Municipality under the *Agricultural Pests Act*;
 - iii. A Soil Conservation Officer of the Municipality under the *Soil Conservation Act*;
 - iv. an Expenditure Officer as set by the Chief Administrative Officer and Council.

Barry Kolenosky – Chief Administrative Officer

Date

TITLE: AGRICULTURE SERVICES ADMINISTRATION POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE: TBD

POLICY NUMBER: J.1

STATEMENT

The Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 (~~MDLSR Municipal District~~) has established an Agricultural Service Board *under the Agricultural Service Board Act of Alberta (RSA 2000, Chapter A-10) as per the Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19*. This policy defines the structure and responsibilities of the Agricultural Service Board and the role of Agricultural Fieldman with respect to the administration of agricultural programs within the ~~MDLSR Municipal District~~.

POLICY

- 1.1 The Agricultural Service Board (Board) has been established via the Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19
- 1.2 The Board will consist of five members as follows:
 - 1.2.1 two members from Council; and
 - 1.2.2 three members from the public at large.
- 1.3 *During the first Agricultural Service Board meeting following the Organizational meeting, the members shall appoint the Chair of the Board by a majority vote.*
- 1.4 *Once a chairperson has been selected, the Agricultural Service Board members shall appoint the Vice-Chairperson of the Board by Majority vote.*
- 1.5 *The Agricultural Service Board shall act as an advisory body to Council, and exercise the powers and perform the duties conferred on it by Council with respect to agricultural matters.*

PROCEDURE:

2.0 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD STRUCTURE

~~2.1—The Agricultural Service Board (Board) has been established via the Agricultural Service Board Establishment Bylaw 2020-19.~~

~~2.2—The Board will consist of five members as follows:~~

~~2.2.1—two members from Council; and~~

~~2.2.2—three members from the public at large.~~

2.3 Board members will be appointed annually by resolution of Council at the annual Organizational Meeting of Council.

2.4 Board members should include persons who are familiar with agricultural concerns and issues and who are qualified to develop policies consistent with the *Agricultural Service Board Act*.

2.5 Any vacancy on the Board may be filled by resolution of Council.

2.6 Council may remove a member from the Board by resolution at any time.

2.7 A Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected at the first Board meeting or hearing after the annual Organizational Meeting of Council.

2.8 The Chair and/or Vice-Chair may be re-elected for two or more standings.

2.9 Quorum of the Board will be three members.

2.10 Voting on Board resolutions is by simple majority.

2.11 In the event of a tie vote, the resolution will be deemed to be lost.

2.12 The Board will develop a schedule of meetings for the calendar year including dates, times and locations.

2.13 Scheduled Board meeting can be cancelled, changed or postponed at the discretion and consensus of the Chair and the Agricultural Fieldman.

2.14 Special meetings can be called at the discretion and consensus of the Chair and the Agricultural Fieldman.

2.15 Board members will be entitled to such remuneration, travelling, living and other expenses as established by Council from time to time.

3.0 AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The Board is responsible for the following duties:

3.1.1 act as an advisory body and to assist the Council and the Minister of Agriculture, in matters of mutual concern;

3.1.2 advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and water conservation programs;

3.1.3 assist in the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*;

3.1.4 promote, enhance, and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer;

3.1.5 promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality;

3.1.6 exercise on behalf of a 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; and

3.1.7 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.

4.0 AGRICULTURAL FIELDMAN

4.1 The Agricultural Fieldman will be appointed by resolution of Council pursuant to the *Agriculture Service Board Act*.

4.2 The Agricultural Fieldman will act as a designated officer of the municipality:

4.2.1 in carrying out the functions, duties and powers of the municipality under any act relating to agriculture; and

4.2.2 in implementing projects, respecting agriculture agreed on between the Council and the Minister.

4.3 The Agricultural Fieldman is:

- 4.3.1 a Municipal Inspector under the *Weed Control Act*;
- 4.3.2 an Inspector of the Municipality under the *Agricultural Pests Act*;
- 4.3.3 a Soil Conservation Officer of the Municipality under the *Soil Conservation Act*;
- 4.3.4 an Expenditure Officer as set by the Chief Administrative Officer and Council.

POLICY HISTORY

Supersedes: June 29, 2021

MOTION #:

DATE ADOPTED:

Chief Administrative Officer

Reeve



Lesser Slave River

Request for Decision

Title:	AG-63-03 Agricultural Service Board Rental Equipment Policy & Procedure
Date:	11/18/2024
Presented By:	Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Attachments:	AG-63-03 Agricultural Service Board Rental Equipment Policy -REDLINED AG-63-03 Agricultural Service Board Rental Equipment Policy-DRAFT AG-63-03.01 Agricultural Service Board Rental Equipment Procedure-DRAFT

Proposed Motion	<i>Move to direct administration to take AG-63-03 Agricultural Services Administration Policy & Procedure to an upcoming Council meeting for approval, as presented.</i>
Administration's Recommendation(s)	As proposed.

BACKGROUND:

Administration has amended AG-63-03 Agricultural Service Board Rental Equipment Policy with updated principles and guidelines outlined in ADM-25-25 Policy & Procedure Development.

Changes include who can rent the equipment and where the equipment is allowed to be used in the MDLSR.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Option 1: Move to direct administration to take AG-63-03 Agricultural Services Administration Policy & Procedure to an upcoming Council meeting for approval, as presented.

Option 2: The Agricultural Service Board may alter or deny this motion.

BENEFIT/RISKS:

Benefit: Provides clear guidelines when renting equipment from the MDLSR.

Risk: No perceived risks.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

- ADM-12-15 Asset Disposal Policy
- ADM-12-25 Policy & Procedure Development
- ADM-12-26 Asset Management Policy
- ADM 12-26.01 Asset Management Procedure
- Rental Agreement Form

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

N/A

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

Inform-Updated documents will be available on the MDLSR Website.

Prepared By: Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Reviewed By: Sandra Rendle, Associate Director Legislative Services



Lesser Slave River

Title: AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY

Policy Number: AG-63-02

Effective Date: YYYY-MM-DD

Resolution: To be added once approved by Council

Lead Department Responsible: Agriculture & Environmental Services

Supersedes Policy No:

Next Review Date:

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 (MDLSR) may purchase, rent, or lease agricultural equipment and make it available to MDLSR residents on a rental basis. The MDLSR will have a policy in place for the purchase, rental, transportation, and disposal of this equipment.

DEFINITIONS:

“**Agricultural Fieldman**” means an appointed officer responsible for the implementation and administration of agricultural programs and activities within the MDLSR, working under the direction of the ASB.

“**MDLSR**” means the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124.

PRINCIPLE:

1. The MDLSR will rent equipment to non-profit organizations and ratepayers that are in good standing with the municipality, as per this policy.
 2. Rental equipment will be utilized only within the MDLSR boundary.
 - a. Rental equipment will be released to a renter following the completion of a MDLSR Rental Agreement form.
-

Chief Administrative Officer

Date

Reeve

Date

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- ADM-12-15 Asset Disposal Policy*
- ADM-12-25 Policy & Procedure Development*
- ADM-12-26 Asset Management Policy*
- ADM 12-26.01 Asset Management Procedure*
- Rental Agreement Form*

DRAFT



Lesser Slave River

TITLE: AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY PROCEDURE NO: AG-63-03.01

RESOLUTION:

EFFECTIVE DATE:

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE: Agriculture & Environmental Services **NEXT REVIEW DATE:**

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for purchase, rental, transportation and disposal of rental equipment in the MDLSR. The MDLSR recognizes the need for small rental equipment for ratepayers who are unable to purchase or rent similar items.

DEFINITIONS:

“Agricultural Fieldman” means an appointed officer responsible for the implementation and administration of agricultural programs and activities within the MDLSR, working under the direction of the ASB.

“Council Policy” means the written commitment of Council establishing service delivery, programs, and governance matters. Policy is approved, amended, or rescinded by Council and reflect Council’s values, established service levels and strategic goals.

“MDLSR” means the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124

PROCEDURE:

1. Equipment is to be used only on land within the boundaries of the municipality.
2. An Equipment Rental Agreement Form must be completed between the municipality and the renter.
3. A damage deposit must be left with the municipality in accordance with the schedule of fees bylaw.
4. Equipment that is rented for a weekend (Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon) will be charged for one day of use only.
5. The renter will be provided with instructions on the safe use and operating procedures of the equipment; this may be verbal or in the form of an instruction sheet.
6. A Rental Equipment Pre-Use Checklist Form must be completed in the presence of the renter and signed by the renter prior to any of the equipment leaving the rental site.
7. The equipment will not be rented to persons intending to utilize it for commercial purposes, or to be used to fill a contract, or to be sublet.
8. The renter must report any major breakdowns to the Agricultural Fieldman. Under no circumstances will the renter make any unauthorized repairs to the rental equipment.



Lesser Slave River

9. The maximum rental period for a piece of equipment will be three days or at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman.
10. The Agricultural Fieldman must be notified by the renter and approve any variance from the three-day maximum rental period.
11. Rental fees will be collected upon the return of the equipment.
12. The equipment will be inspected for damages by a Municipal District employee upon its return. Any damages other than normal wear will be deducted from the damage deposit. Damage more than the damage deposit will be charge
13. Labor to repair damaged equipment and/or cleaning of dirty equipment will be charged at \$25/hour for municipal employees and hired contract service providers at their rates.
14. Materials used to repair damaged equipment will be charged at cost plus 10%.
15. The Trailer Sprayer must be cleaned with pressured water and/or compressed air and be free of any soil buildup on the equipment. The soil probes will be sanitized by MDLSR staff between users.
16. The privilege to rent equipment will be withdrawn if:
 - a. the charges for damages or cleaning exceed the damage deposit and the charges are in arrears,
 - b. rental fees are in arrears, or
 - c. the equipment is abused and/or used in a manner that is not consistent with this policy.

PURCHASING OF NEW EQUIPMENT

1. The MDLSR may purchase, lease or rent equipment as deemed necessary and must meet the following criterion:
 - a. it must be shown that the rental fee is practical and will cover the expected costs of
 - b. purchasing, renting or leasing the equipment and must include maintenance costs to the equipment, and repair.
 - c. the equipment is not commercially available on a rental basis from other local sources; and
 - d. the equipment is not commercially available on a rental basis from other local sources; and
 - e. the equipment encourages innovative and/or best management practices.

DISPOSAL OF CURRENT EQUIPMENT

1. Disposal of any rental equipment will be in accordance with the municipalities ADM-12-15 Asset Disposal Policy. Municipal District Policy B16: Asset Disposal.



Lesser Slave River

Barry Kolenosky – Chief Administrative Officer

Date

DRAFT



Lesser Slave River

Title: AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD RENTAL EQUIPMENT POLICY

Policy Number: AG-63-03

Effective Date: 2022-09-28

Resolution: 295-22

Department Responsible: Community Services

Supersedes Policy No: J.3

Next Review Date: September 28, 2023

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124 (~~MDLSR~~ ~~Municipal District~~) may purchase, rent, or lease agricultural equipment and make it available to ~~MDLSR~~ ~~Municipal District~~ residents on a rental basis. The ~~MDLSR~~ ~~Municipal District~~ will have a policy in place for the purchase, rental, transportation, and disposal of this equipment.

Definitions:

Agricultural Fieldman means an appointed officer responsible for the implementation and administration of agricultural programs and activities within the MDLSR, working under the direction of the ASB.

MDLSR means the Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No.124

PRINCIPLE:

1. The MDLSR will rent equipment to non-profit organizations and ratepayers that are in good standing with the municipality, as per this policy.
2. Rental equipment will be utilized only within the MDLSR boundary.
 - a. Rental equipment will be released to a renter following the completion of a MDLSR Rental Agreement form.

1.0 EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROCEDURES

- 1.1 Equipment is to be used only on land within the boundaries of the municipality.
- 1.2 An Equipment Rental Agreement Form must be completed between the municipality and the renter.
- 1.3 A damage deposit must be left with the municipality in accordance with the schedule of fees bylaw.
- 1.4 Equipment that is rented for a weekend (Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon) will be charged for one day of use only.
- 1.5 The renter will be provided with instructions on the safe use and operating procedures of the equipment; this may be verbal or in the form of an instruction sheet.
- 1.6 A Rental Equipment Pre-Use Checklist Form must be completed in the presence of the renter and

signed by the renter prior to any of the equipment leaving the rental site.

- 1.7 The equipment will not be rented to persons intending to utilize it for commercial purposes, or to be used to fill a contract, or to be sublet.
- 1.8 The renter must report any major breakdowns to the Agricultural Fieldman. Under no circumstances will the renter make any unauthorized repairs to the rental equipment

The maximum rental period for a piece of equipment will be three days or at the discretion of the Agricultural Fieldman.

- 1.9 The Agricultural Fieldman must be notified by the renter and approve any variance from the three-day maximum rental period.
- 1.10 Rental fees will be collected upon the return of the equipment.
- 1.11 The equipment will be inspected for damages by a Municipal District employee upon its return. Any damages other than normal wear will be deducted from the damage deposit. Damage more than the damage deposit will be charge
- 1.12 Labor to repair damaged equipment and/or cleaning of dirty equipment will be charged at \$25/hour for municipal employees and hired contract service providers at their rates.
- 1.13 Materials used to repair damaged equipment will be charged at cost plus 10%.
- 1.14 The Trailer Sprayer and ~~soil testing probes~~ must be cleaned with pressured water and/or compressed air and be free of any soil buildup on the equipment. The soil probes will be sanitized by MDLSR staff between users.
- 1.15 The privilege to rent equipment will be withdrawn if:
 - 1.15.1 the charges for damages or cleaning exceed the damage deposit and the charges are in arrears,
 - 1.15.2 rental fees are in arrears, or
 - 1.15.3 the equipment is abused and/or used in a manner that is not consistent with this policy.

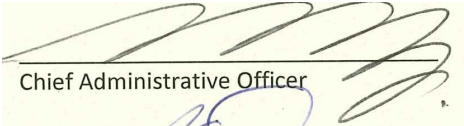
2.0 PURCHASING OF NEW EQUIPMENT

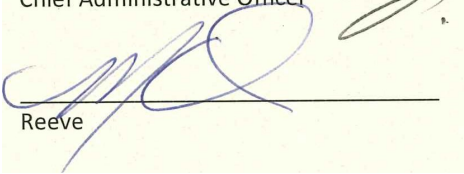
- 2.1 The ~~MDLSR Municipal District~~ may purchase, lease or rent equipment as deemed necessary and must meet the following criterion:
 - 2.1.1 it must be shown that the rental fee is practical and will cover the expected costs of purchasing, renting or leasing the equipment and must include maintenance costs to the equipment; and repairs
 - 2.1.2 the equipment is not commercially available on a rental basis from other local sources; and
 - 2.1.3 the equipment encourages innovative and/or best management practices.

3.0 DISPOSAL OF CURRENT EQUIPMENT

- ~~3.1~~ Disposal of any rental equipment will be in accordance with the ~~municipalities ADM-12-15 Asset Disposal Policy. Municipal District Policy B16: Asset Disposal.~~

AGENDA ITEM #8.2



Chief Administrative Officer


Reeve

0-3-8
Date

129/4-Jj?-8-
Date

RELATED DOCUMENTS: N/A



Lesser Slave River

Request for Decision

Title:	2025 ASB Meeting Schedule
Date:	11/18/2024
Presented By:	Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Attachments:	<i>2025 Council Schedule</i>

Proposed Motion	<i>Move to accept the 2025 ASB Meeting Schedule, as proposed.</i>
Administration's Recommendation(s)	As proposed.

BACKGROUND:

At the Organizational Meeting on October 23, 2024, Council made a motion to make the second Thursday of each month a Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. This day was the ASB meeting date, because of this ASB needs to make new meeting dates for 2025.

Proposed Meeting Dates: **THIRD** Thursday of each month.

- January 16, 2025
- February 20, 2025
- March 20, 2025 (may need to reschedule closer to date-conflicting with another potential meeting)
- April 17, 2025
- **May- NO MEETING**
- June 19, 2025
- July 17, 2025
- August 21, 2025
- September 18, 2025
- October 16, 2025
- November 20, 2024
- **December-NO MEETING**

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Option 1: Move to accept the 2025 ASB Meeting Schedule, as proposed.

Option 2: ASB may alter or deny this motion.

BENEFIT/RISKS:

Benefit:

Risk: No perceived risks.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Agricultural Service Board Act

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

Council & Board Member Honorarium

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The board may add or remove meetings as per the Agricultural Service Board Bylaw.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY:

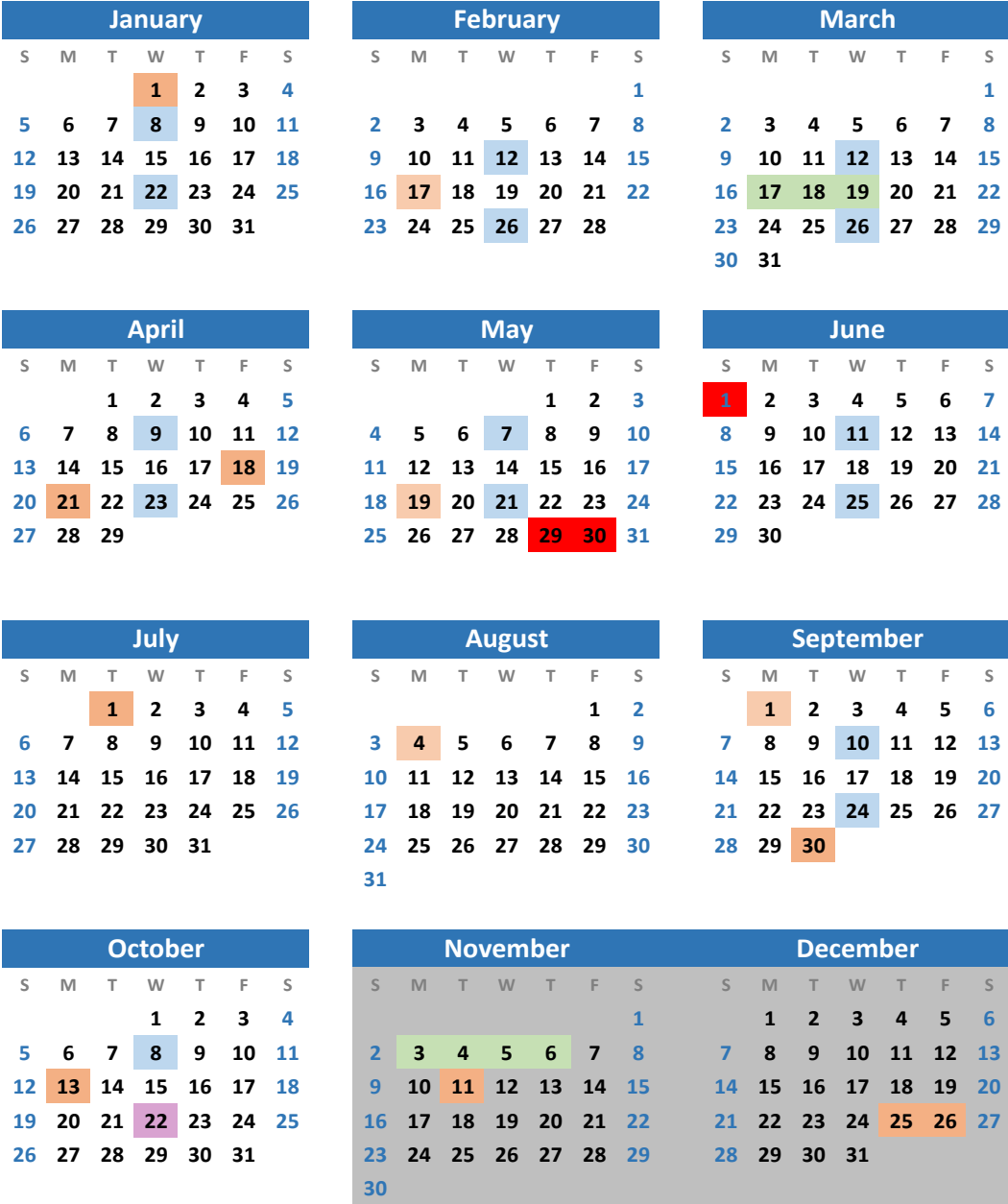
Meetings are on the MDLSR calendar on the website.

Prepared By: Kendra Kozdrocki, Agricultural Fieldman

Reviewed By: Sandra Rendle, Associate Director Legislative Services

2025

Council Calendar



- Regular Meeting of Council
- Special Meeting of Council and/or Committee of the Whole
- Organizational Meeting
- RMA Convention
- FCM Conference
- Statutory Holidays Tuesday, September 30, 2024 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - optional (Federally regulat



Lesser Slave River

Request for Decision

Title:	Correspondence
Date:	11/18/2024
Presented By:	Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
Attachments:	<i>Strengthening Regulation to Address Wild Boar Farming Letter of Concern Re Ground Squirrel Damage Q3 VSI Report Attachment</i>

Proposed Motion	<i>Move to accept the Correspondence as presented, for information.</i>
Administration's Recommendation(s)	As proposed.

BACKGROUND:

- Strengthening Regulation to Address Wild Boar Farming
- Letter of Concern Re Ground Squirrel Damage
- Q3 VSI Report Attachment

Important Dates

- December 9-12, 2024 **Western Soil Health & Grazing Conference (Edmonton)**
- January 15, 2025 ASB Meeting
- January 20-23, 2025 **Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference (Edmonton)**

Prepared By: Kendra Kozdroski, Agricultural Fieldman
 Reviewed By: Sandra Rendle, Associate Director, Legislative Services



County of Stettler No. 6

Box 1270
6602 – 44 Avenue
Stettler, Alberta TOC 2L0
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September 11, 2024

Honourable RJ Sigurdson
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
131 Alberta Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Honourable Nate Horner, MLA for Drumheller-Stettler
Minister of Finance and President of Treasury Board
208 Alberta Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Sigurdson and Minister Horner,

RE: Strengthening Regulation to Address Wild Boar Farming

The County of Stettler No. 6 would like to commend Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for their unified approach to agriculture through Agricultural Service Boards and for leading effective campaigns including "Squeal on Pigs" and "Clean, Drain, Dry." We take pride in Alberta's reputation as an innovator in agriculture, and appreciate the strong support the provincial government provides to our industry.

However, we believe the Province of Alberta has fallen short in its implementation of the Agricultural Pest Act (APA) and its related legislation concerning wild boar.

The County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Service Board acknowledges your response to Resolution 5-24 from the 2024 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference, specifically regarding the enforcement capabilities under the current APA and the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, with particular focus on the Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms (2015). While we recognize the enforcement mechanisms outlined, we remain deeply concerned about significant gaps and limitations within the current legislation.

The current APA does not provide inspectors with proactive tools for enforcing wild boar farming operations, relying instead on reactive measures only after wild boars have escaped. This approach fails to adequately address the severe risks that improper containment poses to agriculture, the environment, and the economy. To illustrate the magnitude of these risks, consider that in the United States in 2007, there were an estimated 5 million feral pigs, with crop damages and control costs

amounting to approximately \$300 per pig annually. This resulted in at least \$1.5 billion in damages and control costs nationwide (Pimentel, 2007). While similar estimates are not available for Canada, the potential impact on Alberta's agriculture could be equally devastating. Additionally, the biosecurity risk is immense—an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease could lead to an immediate shutdown of all Alberta pork and beef exports, with a nationwide cost of \$65 billion (Gillies, 2018).

The ability to effectively enforce the Minimum Containment Standards for Alberta Wild Boar Farms (2015) under Section 5(2) of the APA—requiring landowners to take active measures to prevent the establishment of pests—is essential for the proactive management of wild boar farming operations. However, since compliance with these standards is currently voluntary and Alberta pork producers raising wild boar as livestock are not mandated to adhere to them, enforcement remains inconsistent and insufficient. The lack of authority to impose penalties for non-compliance with these Minimum Containment Standards weakens efforts to ensure that these farms operate safely and securely.

Furthermore, our legislation lags behind other provinces in addressing this pest. On July 1, 2024, the Government of Saskatchewan enacted the Animal Production Act, which regulates wild boar farming. Under this act, wild boar farms in Saskatchewan are required to meet regulatory requirements, including annual inspections, fencing standards, escape reporting, and record-keeping. Acknowledging the significant risks associated with wild boar farming, Saskatchewan has also implemented a moratorium on new wild boar farms, effective January 1, 2025. This legislation underscores Saskatchewan's commitment to mitigating the environmental and agricultural risks posed by wild boar, setting a standard that Alberta should consider following.

In Alberta, wild boar farming is regulated under the Agricultural Operation Practices Act (AOPA), which is delivered by the Natural Resources Conservation Board (NRCB). This legislation focuses on the manure management and expansion of confined feeding operations, and for wild boar no explicit containment measures are listed. Wild boar farming operations are only subject to AOPA conditions if they are larger than 100 feeders or 50 sows (farrowing) (AOPA – Schedule 2 Agricultural Operations, Part 2 Matters Regulation), leaving smaller wild boar farms effectively unregulated by legislation. The annual inspections of wild boar farms and adherence to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's Compliance Principles are positive practices, yet they fall short without concrete legislative support. A fully-backed framework, similar to Saskatchewan's Animal Production Act, is crucial to ensure wild boar farming in Alberta is conducted in an environmentally sustainable and economically viable manner.

We also recognize wild boar present unique challenges as they are considered livestock when contained within a fence but become a pest once they escape. This dual status has led to a reliance on local regulations, with 22 of 69 municipalities enacting bylaws to prohibit wild boar farming within their jurisdictions. Despite this, the volume of local legislation has not prompted adequate concern or revisions to wild boar farming practices as part of the December 7, 2023 review of the APA.

Given these concerns, we urge the Provincial government to take the following actions:

Strengthen the Agricultural Pests Act: Explicitly include the Minimum Containment Standards for Wild Boar Farms within the Agricultural Pests Act or the Pest and Nuisance Control Regulation, ensuring non-compliance is considered an offence subject to penalties under Section 23.

Introduce Licensing and Regulation: Establish a licensing and regulatory framework for wild boar farms, regardless of size, to ensure consistent and enforceable standards across Alberta.

Thank you for your consideration and continued work towards ensuring Alberta Agriculture is innovative, effective and sustainable for the future.

Sincerely,



Les Stulberg
CHAIR, COUNTY OF STETTLER AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD

CC

Dale Nally, Minister of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction

Ric McIver, Minister of Municipal Affairs

Heather Sweet, Opposition Critic for Agriculture, Forestry & Rural Economic Development

Laura Friend, Manager, Natural Resources Conservation Board

Brenda Knight, Chair, Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC)

Aaron Van Beers, President, The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

Laura Poile, Secretary, The Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen (AAAF)

References:

Pimentel, David. "Environmental and economic costs of vertebrate species invasions into the United States." *Managing Vertebrate Invasive Species*, vol. 38, 2007.

Gillies, M. "Modernizing Canada's foot and mouth disease response plan." *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, vol. 59, no. 8, 2018, pp. 899-902.



Office of the Chair, Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board

November 7, 2024

Sigurdson, RJ, Honourable

Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation

Office of the Minister

Agriculture and Irrigation

131 Legislature Building

10800 - 97 Avenue

Edmonton, AB

T5K 2B6

To The Honourable Minister RJ Sigurdson, via email: (AGRIC.Minister@gov.ab.ca)

The Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board (ASB) wishes to extend our sincere support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation for their longstanding contributions to Alberta's agricultural sector. We particularly value the Legislative and Resources funding streams, which are instrumental in enabling our ASB to support agricultural producers in Wheatland County.

We also appreciate the recognition of agricultural concerns in the Premier's mandate letter dated July 6, 2023, which outlines the Minister's objectives and priorities. This letter acknowledges that:

- Alberta's agriculture sector is not only a key economic driver but also an integral part of the province's history and culture.
- Advocacy for Alberta farmers and ranchers is crucial, including promoting Alberta agriculture and opposing policies from other jurisdictions that hinder the sector.

Richardson Ground Squirrels (RGS), commonly known as "gophers," are prevalent in southern Alberta. Their prolific nature and the significant economic damage they cause to agricultural producers make them a notable concern. They can devastate crops such as oilseeds, cereals, hay, and alfalfa, and create hazards in pastureland, potentially endangering livestock. The Wheatland County ASB wishes to highlight the challenges many crop producers face due to RGS infestations. The emergency use registration of strychnine-based products, previously the most effective method for controlling RGS populations, was cancelled with a three-year phase-out period ending on March 4, 2023. As a result, many agricultural producers are now incurring additional expenses and facing time management challenges that are difficult to integrate into their operations.

The Government of Alberta's response provided to the Provincial Agricultural Service Board regarding Resolution 11-23, "Loss of 2% Liquid Strychnine," dated March 29, 2023, details the engagement of Agriculture and Irrigation (AGI) officials with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). This engagement sought to recommend support for producers transitioning away from strychnine, with a key component being "federal compensation to cover crop losses and the

Address: 242006 Range Road 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

Email: Shannon.laprise@wheatlandcounty.ca

www.wheatlandcounty.ca

cost differentials associated with using alternative pesticides". The Wheatland County ASB seeks to know if AAFC has provided any response to AGI's advocacy.

Additionally, there was an effort to duplicate the Government of Saskatchewan's study showing the efficacy of available alternatives such as ZP Rodent Oat Bait and Burrow Oat Bait in 2022 that was unsuccessful. We are interested to know if AGI will make another attempt to replicate the findings of the Saskatchewan study.

Alberta currently offers several compensation programs to reimburse agricultural producers for losses caused by wildlife. For example, the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program covers losses to eligible unharvested crops, stacked hay, stacked greenfeed, as well as silage and haylage stored in pits and tubes. Similarly, the Wildlife Predator Compensation Program offers financial assistance to ranchers whose livestock, such as cattle and sheep, are attacked by predators such as wolves and cougars.

Wheatland County's ASB would like to inquire about the possibility for AGI to extend similar financial assistance to crop farmers in Alberta who suffer significant losses due to RGS activity. Given the success of existing compensation programs, we believe that a comparable initiative for RGS-related crop damage would greatly benefit affected producers.

Wheatland County's ASB strives to proactively assist ratepayers in controlling RGS through initiatives such as funding for hawk posts, which can help to significantly reduce RGS populations, and maintaining a "Ro-Con" rental skid unit that enables ratepayers to humanely euthanize RGS using a non-toxic asphyxiation method. We believe a multi-pronged approach is needed to support the agriculture industry from RGS destruction and we hope to count on you to continue to advocate both provincially and federally on our behalf. Between all levels of government, we hope to provide the supports to our agriculture producers that they require.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Shannon Laprise

Wheatland County, Agricultural Service Board Chair

- cc. Martin Shields, MP, Bow River (Martin.Shields@parl.gc.ca)
Chantelle de Jonge, MLA, Chestermere-Strathmore (Chestermere.Strathmore@assembly.ab.ca)
Angela Pitt, MLA, Airdrie-East (Airdrie.East@assembly.ab.ca)
Joseph Schow, MLA, Cardston-Siksika (Cardston.Siksika@assembly.ab.ca)
Nathan Cooper – MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (OldsDidsbury.ThreeHills@assembly.ab.ca)
Wheatland County Council and the Wheatland County Agricultural Service Board

Address: 242006 Range Road 243, Wheatland County, AB T1P 2C4

Email: Shannon.laprise@wheatlandcounty.ca
www.wheatlandcounty.ca

V.S.I. SERVICES (1980) LTD

A nonprofit organization providing veterinary care in Alberta

BOX 137

FAIRVIEW AB T0H 1L0

PH 780 835 5440

vsiservices16@gmail.com

October 31, 2024

Mr. Barry Kolenosky, CAO
Municipal District of Lesser Slave River #124
Box 93 Flatbush, AB T0G 0Z0

Dear Barry,

I am sending this letter as a follow up to the third quarter report of VSI expenditures, for your jurisdiction, that was e-mailed to kendra.kozdroski@mdslr.ca and Sandra.Rendle@mdslr.ca.

	Claims		Payments		Balance
Jan. 1, 2024				\$	(1,221)
Payments 2024		\$	15,700	\$	14,479
First Quarter	\$ 3,530			\$	10,949
Second Quarter	\$ 5,191			\$	5,758
Third Quarter	\$ 1,776			\$	3,982

Balance based on 2023 end of year statement.

Administrative fees and investment income have not yet been included for the year 2024.

Overall, VSI had an \$10,528 (23.3%) increase in claims for the third quarter of 2024 compared to 2023. For the year we are 27,274 (6.6%) above last year's pace.

Ten (10) of the fifteen (15) VSI jurisdictions had an increase in their second quarter costs. Increases ranged from 5.9% to 77.3% of 2023 third quarter costs. Decreases in the other five (5) jurisdictions ranged from 12.6% to 62.6% of 2023 third quarter costs. For the year eleven (11) jurisdictions are above last year's pace, with increases ranging from 0.2% to 44.0% above 2023 numbers. Six of those jurisdictions are above the projected cost increases inclusive the 10% safety margin for 2024. Decreases in the other four (4) jurisdictions with lower costs than in 2023 range from 3.4% to 13.9%

Your 2024 third quarter claims are \$ 438 (32.7%) higher than they were in 2023. For the year you are \$2,513 (32.5%) above last year's pace. This is above the projected costs for 2024, and will likely result in a shortfall at the end of the year.

If you have any questions or if you detect any errors in the report or in my calculations in this letter, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

Rik Vandekerkhove, Manager

cc Kendra Kozdroski
Sandra Rendle