

**AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2017**

TO ORDER AT
10:56 AM

The Regular Meeting of the Agricultural Service Board was held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Administration Building, 4504 – 53 Avenue, Provost, Alberta on Thursday, December 14, 2017 and was called to order by Chairman Charlton at 10:56 a.m.

PRESENT

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Present: Councillors Barrie Tripp, Lonnie Kozlinski, Darryl Carson, Ron Rustad, Richard Charlton and Allan Murray and Agricultural Fieldman Brian Carter.

ABSENT

Absent: Councillor Darryl Motley.

ALSO PRESENT

Also Present: Administrator Tyler Larson and Secretary Marilyn Reinhart.

AGENDA

Moved by Barrie Tripp to accept the agenda as presented. Carried

MINUTES

Moved by Lonnie Kozlinski to accept the minutes of August 10, 2017. Carried

ASB REPORT

Agricultural Service Board Report

GENERAL REPORT

General Report

I, Brian Carter started this position Ag Fieldman – February 16 / 2017. First of all, I must thank everyone from Tyler and down for all the help and support - I asked many questions and everyone did their best to help me out – and thank goodness because the job ended up in having a few more side streets than I thought it would – I relied a lot on Len the most and Tyler and Marilyn bailed me out or covered for me many times. Many of the other staff including my own workers that worked directly under my supervision helped me with how things were done in the past which really helped. I will hit on some of the highlights. I put on about 50 k on my truck throughout the MD. I want to tip my hat to Burt, he was very well liked in our MD – I went all year with not one bad word said to me – which is quite incredible when you look back at all them years – so thank you Burt for your help this year. Trade Show went well – lots of people stopped in. I am pleased to have my 5 licenses – AG – IND – PESTICIDE STORAGE – FUMIGATION – COYOTE AND SKUNK PREDATATION – and my rabies shot. Equipment rental went well - Spraying season went ok (lots of room for improvement). Reclamation went ok – (it also has room for improvement). Pest control seemed to be in good shape – and with the new contract it should improve more. I think our overall costs were down some this year for operating and repairs. I tried to use up existing inventory to use up money previously spent which was about \$80,000 in spray and grass seed. We now have inventory down to about 14,000 – going forward I hope to be able to get our maintenance down once we get everything tuned up. We also did a major clean up at the office and filed a lot of past supplies and put up on mezzanine – cleaned the bay out at office and let John in utilities take it over - also cleaned north shed out and north yard of misc. out dated stuff (junk) to scrap iron dealer or landfill – Len kept one eye on me (only pulled one thing back out of the pile). On the most part I did my best to deal with complaints from the rate payers that day or the next and always tried to do a follow up to see if we resolved the issue - I still have a couple that are ongoing but for the most part we are in good shape. Our summer Audit or Visit from the government

was a learning process and I learned a lot from that and I now know what they would like to see – I am enrolled in a course that I will do on line through the government to help me with being a Ag Fieldman. It will go through all of the Acts. We also need to do a little updating through council and ASB agenda. If needed I kept a daily diary of my day to day stuff and have my monthly reports if needed.

CONCLUSION

I must say it has been a challenging year – there were a few days I felt like throwing the towel in. But like my wife would tell me – all jobs have them days of which for next year I will know more of what to expect. I will not have to write 5 licenses and maybe not take so many other courses – hopefully not make as many mistakes and not ask so many questions.

SPRAYING REPORT

Spraying Report

Private land spraying

Sprayed 114 quarters for Leafy Spurge with about 50% of this being hand wand spraying – and the last 50% being Ranger and truck spraying.

We did spray somewhere between 25 and 30 other sites for Black Henbane – toad flax – thistle – cow cockle – dams rocket –mayweed and baby's breath.

We hand-picked 23 locations for dams rocket - mayweed – baby's breath – common mullen and cow parsnip - I have logged these sites to do a follow up in 2018. We bagged up around 320 to 330 big garbage bags of which we burnt in our new Incinerator that Doug built out of the old 500-gallon propane tank – it worked ok – going to tweak it a bit, definitely a lot better than the old burning barrow – this was another job we left to the rain and wind days to keep our laborers busy.

MD Road Spraying

Sprayed approx. - 794 miles of road for Trees - with Garlon – spot sprayed these miles - 2016 – 295 miles was sprayed.

Sprayed approx. - 242 miles of road with Aspect and Nauvius – these miles were sprayed wall to wall or the complete right away for each mile – 2016 – there was 237 miles spot sprayed.

Transfer Sites

We spot sprayed most of the transfer sites – fire department and water plant site at Cadogan – both Public Works yards – Provost office – spot sprayed some noxious weeds around Seed Cleaning Plant.

Collected chemical jugs on 4 occasions to keep the sites orderly from the big winds throughout the summer and fall and hauled to Provost collection site – 6303 chemical jugs including our own were taken to Provost (another rain or wind day project for the laborers). We also replaced the fence at Bodo with a new snow fence and more posts (Iris was concerned with the containment).

Conclusion – It was a tough spraying year – lots of wind and rain early on in the season – also lost one spray hand before season started - Public Works gave me a laborer about June 23 which really helped out. We set up a nurse truck with the 3-ton single axle sanding truck that was not being used and a water tank, I had at my farm – this helped us to increase production by 30 to 40 percent – which helped offset losing Brett earlier. I dug old yeller out and tried to assist in catch up and did some spraying approx. 2 weeks of time throughout the summer. We did end up spraying out the \$80,830 of spray I ordered and used up most of the old stock \$68,643 worth of inventory from previous year – with a total of \$49,473 sprayed in 2017

- there is approx. \$11,000 worth of inventory left over yet from previous years that I plan on finding a place to spray out to gain some value – these sprays have a residual so I will find a place to spray them in 2018.

We had a new noxious weed jumping out this year - Dams Rocket the staff says they have never picked it or sprayed it before this year - Cow Parsnip was another one – we hand-picked more than normal and still did not get all the spots I found. We still picked them but some did get past flowering stage.

Equipment has been acting up for the past 2 years the ladies said and we planned on taking them down to Strathmore again but could not get in for a couple of weeks - so we checked some things out and found that the flow meter had a bunch of stuff wrapped up in it – cleaned that out and system never missed a beat after that – I took one Saturday when the ladies were off for the weekend and plumbed both sprayers with in line filters on the pressure side with 200 psi filters I got at UFA for \$126.00 – and we have had no issues the rest of the year. I have a few ideas to make the truck sprayers we have work a little better and I will get them all set up to spray the road shoulder in the spring for Public Works – I have talked to Len and Marty – the plan is early May is to spray 3 feet on the edge of the road with round up to kill the grass that keeps coming in from edges.

MOWING REPORT

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2017 mowing season was long, we started mowing June 15 and finished October 30 - We had a year with rain every week pretty much until middle of June – this made conditions fairly wet and we ended up with the grass growing more than most years – some roads ended up getting mowed 3 times – we ran 2 and 3 Kuhn mowers most of the time and Kent full time on the rotary Schulte mower.

The status on the mower equipment is # 1. Kuhn is in good shape – 2nd is in very poor shape and needs replacing - 3rd will need repairs and we will be able to salvage some from the # 2 mower if it is replaced - the Schulte should just need blades and tires are questionable.

I was fortunate to have Len and Marty – they basically looked after the mowing situation most of the year and prioritized the roads for the mower people – I now have a better understanding of the process and will be able to help out next year. Next year I want to get a better plan together with the grader mulching program and try to help them out by mowing sooner and keeping grass down and discing for them.

RECLAMATION REPORT

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2016 – Road Twp 402 – 899 west 8 miles to Range Rd 41 – pick rocks – disc – harrow and seeded grass

2016 – Road (Kessler Hall) 6.5 miles – pick rocks – disc – harrow and seeded grass

2016 – Road (Gary Johnson) 1 mile – re-seeded grass

2015 – Road (Travis Horn) ½ mile – pick rocks and roots

2017 – Road Twp 402 from Range Rd 71 to Range Rd 85 – 10 miles – pick rocks – disc – harrow and seeded grass ALL DONE EXCEPT SOME BORROW AREAS AND 2 STEEP GRADES

2017 – Road Twp 364 from 899 to Range Rd 24 – 6 miles – disc and harrow MOSTLY PREPARED – DISC AND NO ROCKS TO PICK – JUST NEEDS SEEDING – LAST 2 MILES NEEDS TO BE PREPARED AND SEEDED

2017 – Cullen's gravel pit – 29 ac pick rocks – disc – harrow – pick rocks again and then seeded grass

Summary approx. 32 miles completed and 29 ac of the Cullen pit completed – these 32 miles still need approx. 2 weeks of work – we have 2 or 3 steep grades to seed and 4 borrow areas on 402 – we also need to seed 364 which is pretty much ready. We have also set out and staked around 700 square bales to help with the erosion on

**PEST CONTROL
REPORT**

the new roads. I expect to have to probably do some reseeding also – some of the roads did not have a good catch going back as far as 3 years. The other plan is to help the establishment in the spring with a broad leaf spray application on some of the 2nd year grass to give it a better chance to take over.

Pest Control Report

RAT REPORT FOR 2017

KENT - DID 714 INSPECTIONS IN RG 1 – RG 2 – RG 3 – W4

WE HAD - 5 SINGLE RAT CONFIRMATIONS -

DAVID BLUMES NW – 34 – 40 - 1 W4

MENZIE FARMS SE – 19 - 39 – 2 W4

AARON HECK NW – 11 – 37 – 1 W4

DENNIS SHECK SW – 34 – 36 – 1 W4

JEFF PAULGAARD SW – 21 – 37 – 1 W4

ALL OF THE ABOVE LOCATIONS WERE BAITED AND CHECKED NUMEROUS TIMES AND HAVE SHOWN NO MORE SIGNS OF INFESTATION

COYOTE REPORT

Coyote predation was done this spring using chicken heads acquired at the Hughendon Hutterite Colony and 1080 Sodium Monofluoroacetate. We set bait out at the 3 farms

SKUNK REPORT

18 SKUNK TRAPS went out to rate payers - New Contract with government would like 6 skunk heads sent in for rabies in 2018 through 2020

GOPHER PROGRAM (STRYCHNINE)

We changed up the way we handed out strychnine this year by making every Tues. the pickup day from May 1 to June 30 – with mornings in Provost and afternoons in Hughendon – we sold 77 cases and 10 bottles for 2017 down from last year 91 cases and 7 bottles

RUSTY GRAIN BEETLE REPORT (PHOSTOXIN)

We had an increase in Phostoxin sales - 70 Bottles up from last year - 39 Bottles

INSECT PROGRAM

4 People used the tree sprayer to control – spruce bud worm – yellow headed sawfly – spider mites and tent caterpillar

We also seen more tent caterpillar and for the first time we seen the paint caterpillar

BEE REPORT

We had 2 people check in with us – to make us aware that they had Bees and wanted us to try and make sure no one sprayed chemicals – we did our best to alert the spray planes this summer that we are getting a few Bee keepers starting more and more in this area

Vivian McElhinney had bees build a hive in her house walls, that she wanted me to deal with – I met with her son Dale and we think we resolved the issue when he came down from the city one weekend in September

MISC.

Dealt with one fish pond – (algae problem) Dealt with a Racoon family at Ove Aasen

Dealt with one grass problem (Fungus) and one Alfalfa Field problem (winter kill due to second cut being done to late the year previous)

CORN SURVEY (FUSARIUM)

We surveyed 2 sites this year with 30 samples taken at each site – wrapped in paper sleeves and boxed up and sent to Brooks for testing of fusarium - location # 1 - SE -14 – 38 – 2 W4 AND SW – 8 – 41 – 1 W4

CLUB ROOT AND BLACK LEG IN CANOLA SURVEY

42 Sites were checked throughout the MD for Club Root and Black leg – we tried to cover the perimeter, on the outside of the MD because we now have club root on our borders

At this time, we have not come across of any signs. (this does not rule out that the MD is clear of club root)

This is one area we should maybe develop a policy – most of our surrounding MDs and Counties have a specific policy towards club root

GRASSHOPPER SURVEY

48 Different sites were collected throughout the MD in an even grid to give a fairly good cross section of our MD with samples sent into the government from each division to get the type of grasshopper and estimate the number of grasshoppers. They estimated for next year and by their predictions they will be low to med threat for 2018 based on the counts we had.

The discussion items as follows were reviewed:

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Club Root
- ASB Audit
- Spraying Private Land and Ditches
- Manpower
- Trees

RECESS FOR DINNER

Moved by Richard Charlton to recess for dinner at 11:55 am. Carried

RECONVENED

Reconvened at 1:12 pm

PRESENT

Present: Councillors Barrie Tripp, Darryl Carson, Ron Rustad, Richard Charlton, Allan Murray and Ag. Fieldman Brian Carter.

ABSENT

Absent: Councillors Darryl Motley and Lonnie Kozlinski.

ALSO PRESENT

Also Present: Administrator Tyler Lawrason and Secretary Marilyn Reinhart.

Discussion continued with the discussion items.

The Capital Purchases list was reviewed.

APPROVE CAPITAL PURCHASES

Moved by Allan Murray to approve the Capital Purchases list as follows: Carried

2018 ASB Capital Purchases	Cost	
16 foot Packer Style Grass Drill from Empire - North Battleford and using the Valmar we already have and installing on Packer	30,000.00	
Epic Hydro Seeder	85,000.00	approx.
Sprayer Trailer with 2000-gallon tank and spray system similar to what we already have - all put on a skid so we can use the trailer in off seasons	48,000.00	
Schulte Flex Arm Mower	52,000.00	
150 HP Tractor	140,000.00	
20-foot Brillion Seeder to replace JD drill in rental fleet (can be used in rental fleet)	63,000.00 - 20,000.00	trade-in approx.
TOTAL	\$ 398,000.00	

ADJOURN

pm.

Moved by Darryl Carson to adjourn the meeting at 2:57
Carried

SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN