

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Minutes of the **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** held on **Thursday, October 10, 2013** at 9:02 A.M. in the County Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to Order by the Chairperson, Mr. Ron Bobocel in the presence of the following persons:

		<u>A T T E N D A N C E</u>
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Thursday, October 10, 2013</u>
1	Dareld Cholak	Present
2	Ron Bobocel	Present
3	Rick Cherniwchan	Present
4	Lori Danyluk	Present
5	Randy Orichowski	Present
A.F.	Kurt Holdis	Present
Fire Chief	Scott Franchuk	Present
C.A.O.	Cory Ollikka	Present
Asst. C.A.O.	Lydia Cielin	Present
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Present
Asst. A.F./R.S.	Evonne Zukowski	Present

Ed English, Peace Officer/ Parks and Recreation Manager, was present for the meeting.

1 member of the Public in attendance.

2. **Agenda:**

1010-13: Cholak That the Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Thursday, October 10, 2013 be adopted as amended:

Addition(s):

1. Executive Session: Legal Issue.

Carried Unanimously.

3. **Minutes:**

1011-13: Cherniwchan That the Minutes of the Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

1012-13: Orichowski That the Action List of August 27, 2013, Agricultural Service Board Meeting, be filed for information.

Carried.

PART 1: Agricultural Service Board

4. Request for Decision:

Economic Impact of Wildlife to Livestock Producer Study; Funding Request

1013-13: Danyluk That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board support the “Economic Impact of Wildlife to Livestock Producer Study” in the amount of \$107.00 as per the letter request received from Fred Hays, Policy Analyst on behalf of the Wildlife Working Group, Alberta Beef Producers, dated July 25, 2013.

Carried.

5. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board: Report

The Agricultural Fieldman presented an updated report on the following issues:

■ **Agricultural Service Board – Manager’s Report:
September 19, 2013 to October 4, 2013.**

1014-13: Orichowski That the Smoky Lake County Council who can attend and the Agricultural Service Board staff attend the 2013 North East Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference being held on November 1, 2013 hosted by the Municipal District of Provost.

Carried.

1015-13: Cherniwchan That the updated report presented by the Agricultural Fieldman, dated September 19, 2013 to October 4, 2013 be accepted, and filed for information.

Carried.

Assistant Agricultural Fieldman: Environmental Services Report:

**Updated report presented Evonne Zukiwski, Assistant
Agricultural Fieldman; Environmental Services:
October 10th, 2013**

September/ October:

- Typed ASB Meeting minutes from August 27th, 2013
- Submitted forage/ drought and crop reporting conditions
- Arranged fields for Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network to come and collect soil for wheat midge surveys
- Planning the 2014 Agriculture Workshop
 - Continuing to send out sponsor letters
 - Working on brochure and conference proceedings draft
- Grasshopper surveys
 - Submitted survey data to Alberta Agriculture on September 30, 2013
- Submitted 2013 Noxious weed survey data to Alberta Agriculture
- Attended the NE AAAF Regional Meeting
 - September 12, 2013
 - Appointed the new regional Secretary/ Treasurer
 - Meeting on September 24, 2013 to transfer signing authority
- Sent monthly report to Thorhild
- Emailed all 2013 ASB minutes to date, to Alberta Agriculture staff

- Environmental Stream Conference call
 - Lots of funding for projects still available
 - Applications must be received in the Edmonton office prior to making any purchases. Once the application is received and 'date stamped' purchases will be accepted, however, the application is still not approved at this time.
- Submitted Fall Forum to AAAF
- Working on ASB Grant
 - Grant was mailed via Purulator September 27, 2013

1016-13: Danyluk That the updated report presented by the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman; Environmental Services, dated October 10, 2013 be accepted, and filed for information.

Carried.

2011 Field Visit Follow-Up

A follow up report was presented on the 2011 Smoky Lake Field Visit, received from Maureen Vadnais, Manager, Agricultural Service Board Program, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, on March 5, 2012.

<p><u>Spraying</u></p> <p><i>ARD Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Spraying program is one area where some additional focus could be placed to improve the program" - "The fieldman needs to continue with the proposed plan of spraying 1/3 of the ROW each year while maintaining the spot spray program for problematic areas. - A reverse fenceline spraying program may resolve some of the weed issues that were noticed during the field visit. <p><i>Improvements made to date:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASB staff continues to follow the VMP of blanket spraying 1/3 of the county per year and spot spraying problem areas as required - Reverse fenceline program implemented in 2013
<p><u>Pest Monitoring & Control</u></p> <p><i>ARD Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ARD would like to see grasshopper survey data for the entire county <p><i>Improvements made to date:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2011, 2012 and 2013 grasshopper survey data has been submitted to ARD for every township within Smoky Lake County
<p><i>ARD Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ARD would like to see more overall participation in other provincial insect surveys <p><i>Improvements made to date:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smoky Lake County has participated in Bertha Army Worm surveys in 2012 and 2013 - In 2013, Smoky Lake County arranged fields to be sampled for wheat midge (samples were collected by AIPMN staff) - Smoky Lake County will participate in Diamond Back Moth surveys as requested by AIPMN
<p><i>ARD Comments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ARD would like to see at least two people with Form 7 training for distribution of toxicants for coyote control <p><i>Improvements made to date:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of March 15th, 2012 all full time ASB staff have received Form 7 training and are now licensed to distribute toxicants for coyote control

<u>Environmental Stream</u>
<i>ARD Comments:</i> - ARD would have liked to see more examples highlighted in the Environmental Stream (newsletter, projects that received funding (before and after pictures))
<i>Improvements made to date:</i> - Following Field Visit Report receipt, newsletter from 2011 were sent to ARD - Going forward when working with producers that applied for Growing Forward funding, will be taking pictures of projects implemented before and after funding
<i>ARD Comments:</i> - Use applied demonstration projects
<i>Improvements made to date:</i> - Use demonstration sites as hands on training and information sessions for producers when applicable - Demonstration sites and programs will be dependent on the level of Environmental Funding for the 2014-2016 grant cycle
<i>ARD Comments:</i> - County staff are encouraged to take advantage of all environmental program training opportunities
<i>Improvements made to date:</i> - Spoke with Dale Chrapko about what training opportunities were offered to Environmental Stream staff on March 7, 2012 - Training opportunities include those offered directly through ARD, as well as, those offered through other organizations (ex: Farm Tech, Western Canadian Grazing Conference, training offered by Cows and Fish, on-line courses, etc.) - Continuing to keep up to date on current issues and attending training opportunities on a variety of topics throughout the year - Registered for on-line Integrated Crop Management through Lakeland College to begin in the fall/ winter of 2013
<u>Other Comments</u>
<i>ARD Comments:</i> - Develop a Weed Notice Appeal Board Committee
<i>Improvements made to date:</i> - By-law passed March 5 th , 2012 - Advertisements for appeal board committee members placed in the Smoky Lake Signal and Redwater Review for the week of April 23 rd and April 30 th , 2012 - September 24, 2012 ASB Meeting, Motion #820-12: ‘That Smoky Lake County Council appoint Barry Feniak, Norman Schmidt and Robert Semeniuk to serve as members for the Agricultural Service Board Independent Appeal Panel for Weed Control, and appoint Ed Doktor as an alternate member.’ - Weed Appeal Panel packages were mailed out to member in January of 2013
<i>ARD Comments:</i> - Add participation of the Shelterbelt programs as an additional strategy to the “Soil Conservation” portion of the business plan
<i>Improvements made to date:</i> - Smoky Lake County ASB participated in the shelterbelt program until the program was cut by the Federal Government. ASB will continue to assist landowners with Shelterbelt concerns. Reduced environmental funding will impact level of programing
<i>ARD Comments:</i> - Make more use of the county website (add newsletters, information about problematic weeds, other agricultural issues, etc)
<i>Improvements made to date:</i> - Continue to update the Smoky Lake County website with upcoming events and current agricultural issues that are arising in the county in a timely fashion - Work with communication staff to update website and provide timely agricultural updates to appear in the Smoky Lake County Grapevine
<i>ARD Comments:</i> - Staff appear to have a lack of direction
<i>Improvements made to date:</i> - Full time Agricultural Fieldman position has been created to strengthen leadership of the Ag Department - Assistant Agricultural Fieldman assists the ASB part time and completes weed, insect and pest surveys, weed inspections, weed notifications and other administrative duties to allow for the Agricultural Fieldman more time in the field

1017-13: Cholak That the 2011 Smoky Lake Field Visit Follow-Up report, be accepted and filed for information.
Carried.

Shelterbelt Equipment Correspondence

1018-13: Cherniwchan That the Agricultural Fieldman's update on the placement of shelterbelt planting and maintenance equipment in municipalities within the North East region, be filed for information.
Carried.

6. Correspondence:

2012-2013 Alberta Farm Safety Annual Report

1019-13: Cholak That the letter and report received from Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Alberta Farm Safety Centre, dated August 19, 2013 regarding the 2012-2013 'Safety Smarts' Annual Report, be filed for information.
Carried.

Cypress County Letter of Support for the AIPC

1020-13: Bobocel That Smoky Lake County send a letter of support to Cypress County in response to the letter sent by Garry Lentz, Chairman, Cypress County ASB, dated August 12, 2013 to Honourable Verlyn Olson expressing Cypress County's support for the Alberta Invasive Plants Council, and that if requested by Cypress County to also send a letter to Verlyn Olson supporting the Alberta Invasive Plants Council.
Carried.

Environmental Stream Partnership with Thorhild County

1021-13: Cholak That the email received from Jim Squire, CAO, Thorhild County, dated September 26, 2013 regarding Thorhild County's withdrawal from the partnership to apply for the 2014 – 2016 Environmental Stream Funding, be filed for information.
Carried.

PART 2: Fire Protection Services

4. Request for Decision:

Waskatenau Fire Department New Emergency Response Vehicle

1022-13: Danyluk That Smoky Lake County Council confirm to the Village of Waskatenau that Unit #408 Waskatenau Fire Department's new emergency response vehicle remain in the Village of Waskatenau as stated in Bylaw 1248-12.
Carried.

Smoky Lake County Fire/ Rescue Levels of Service

1023-13: Cholak That the Smoky Lake County Fire Chief research mutual aid agreements for high angle rescue and bring forth the findings to a future meeting.
Carried.

5. **Issues for Information:**

Fire Chief's Report

The Fire Chief presented an updated report on the following issues:

■ **Fire Chief – Manager's Report:
September 19, 2013 to October 7, 2013.**

1024-13: Cherniwchan That the Town of Smoky Lake be invited as a delegation to the next Agricultural Service Board and Fire Protection Services meeting to discuss Unit 405 and natural gas pipelines.

Carried.

1025-13: Cholak That the updated report presented by the Fire Chief, dated September 19, 2013 to October 7, 2013, be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

“170” Fire Expenses and Grant Update

That the Fire Chief presented an updated report of the “170 Fire” Timeline, application for Municipal Wildlife Assistance Program and ‘170 Fire’ expenses, as of October 10, 2013.

170 Fire Timeline

May 11-13 Fire started in the north ditch in Smoky Lake County on township 600 between Range Road 170 and 171. With high winds and dry conditions the fire spread across the open field and into the bush. Smoky Lake Fire Department and Waskatenau Fire Department responded to the incident along with the County tanker and cat. Fire crews were able to control the fire in the open fields and protected structures. 3 private contract cats were called in to help cut a fire perimeter around the fire. Crews worked all night and a perimeter was established around the fire by 4 pm on May 12. Fire crews and cats worked on hot spots around the perimeter until May 13.

May 14-19 Fire area was monitored to make sure the fire did not cross the fire perimeter. Smoky Lake Fire Department received 17 9-1-1 calls during this time and the fire department responded 10 of the calls due to the fire breaching the perimeter. The other 7 calls were investigated and the fire was burning inside the perimeter.

May 21-23 County cat was working on hot spots close to the perimeter when the fire crossed the perimeter. High winds pushed the fire north west. With the fire extending further into the bush 6 contract cats were called in along with the county cat and 1 grader used to establish another fire perimeter. Disaster Service Coordinator was notified of the fire and 5 residents were put on evacuation notice. Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) was made aware of the fire and actions taken. Smoky Lake, Vilna and Waskatenau fire departments were on scene protecting structures waiting for the fire to reach open fields for access to extinguish the fire. 3 cats and 1 grader established a fire perimeter on the south west side of the fire and was completed by 7 pm on May 24. One May 22 around 11 pm, the 3 cats cutting a fire perimeter on the north west side of the fire got stuck. Around 2 am, we told the operators to shut down for the night due to safety concerns. Rig mats would be needed to free the equipment. At this time a beaver dam blown to help extinguish the fire and to lower the water levels so the cats can get out. Rig mats were picked up for Apache on May 23 and the cats were out again by 3 pm. The north west fire perimeter was completed by 11 pm on May 23. Fire crews (Smoky Lake and Waskatenau) worked the night extinguishing all hot spots around the fire perimeter.

- May 23-24 Disaster Services Coordinator made arrangements with AEMA to pick up a fire pump and 2 miles of pipe from High Prairie. The pump and pipe were picked up and delivered to the site on May 24. Rig mats were rented from Lac La Biche Transport, county staff and track hoe started working on building a pump pad to place the pump by the creek.
- May 24-26 Fire perimeter was driven once every 2 hours. County staff continued to work on building the pad by the creek. We also received rain on May 24 around 6 pm which helped suppress the fire.
- May 27 Council held a special meeting to discuss the “170 Fire”. County staff continued to work on building the pad by the creek. The 2 miles of pipe was laid down and was started to be connected.
- May 28 All pipes were connected and the pump was serviced. At 3 pm the fire pump was started and pumping water to the ground fires. A schedule of County personnel was created to monitor the fuel and check the pump every 8 hours for the duration of the pumping.
- May 28 – June 17 County cat, trackhoe, along with 1 contract cat and 2 contract track hoes dug out hot spots and trenched water to the ground fires. The cats also cut trails through the bush for us to move the pipe. On June 4, 11 and 14 the pipe was moved to different areas to help extinguish ground fires.
- July 8-26 2 contract track hoes and 1 contract cat was used to cover all trenches and bury all hot spots found. County equipment was unavailable due to dewatering at the county gravel pit.
- Aug 18 Smoky Lake Fire Department out extinguishing hot spots.
- Aug 27 Costs to date of the “170 Fire” was presented to Council at the Ag/ Fire meeting.
- Sept 23 Smoky Lake Fire Department out extinguishing hot spots.
- Sept 24 AEMA Wildfire grant application was submitted as a working document.
- Sept 26-27 County track hoe to bury hot spots.
- Sept 29 Smoky Lake Fire Department out extinguishing hot spots.
- Oct 10 Present up-to-date information to Council at the Ag/ Fire meeting.

“170 Fire” Application for Municipal Wildfire Assistance Program

Fire Details

On May 11, 2013 a fire started in the ditch of township 600, 400 meters west of range road 170 in Smoky Lake County. By the time fire crews arrived on scene the fire had spread into the adjacent field, bush and became a wildfire. 40 to 60 km per winds from the south east and hot, sunny dry condition fueled the fire. One the fire reached the bush the fire got in the peat moss, starting ground fires as well as igniting spruce and poplar trees. The wild land fire burnt out of control until May 23, 2013 covering 18 quarter sections of land. During this duration 5 residents in the area were put on evacuation notice but were never evacuated. Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) and Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) was made aware of the fire evacuation notices. SRD sent out a helicopter to fly the wildfire to help gain perspective of the fire and help create a plan of attack with regards to cutting fire guards.

Fire Suppression

Fire crews were able to control and extinguish the fire in the fields. Poor access and soft terrain would not allow for emergency vehicles to access and extinguish the fire that spread into much of the bush. 3 cats were brought in to cut fire guards. Fire crews were able to extinguish the east side of the fire once it reached the open fields. After the first 48 hours of the fire a perimeter around the fire was established with fire crews working on controlling ground fires in the fire guard. With high winds and hot weather the following day the fire jumped the fire guard on the west side.

Fire Suppression Continued...

3 more cats and 2 graders were called in to help cut fire guards in open fields and bush. During this time Smoky Lake County requested SRD for mutual aid to help extinguish the fire on crown land. They were unable to meet the request due to lack of manpower as all their crews were out fighting other fires. On May 23, 2013 we once again had a perimeter established with crews extinguishing hot spots around the fire guard. As well we received rain and cool weather which helped with controlling the fire. NW-1-60-17-W4 and NE-1-60-14-W4 became the main focus because the land was 90% peat moss and we had to deal with ground fires. On May 23, 2013 AEMA was contacted and Smoky Lake County requested to use their fire pump and 2 miles of pipe. A water source was secured for the pump but a pad was needed to be built in order to get the pump close enough to the creek. Rig mats and gravel were in to build the pad. On May 27, 2013 we started pumping water to flood out the ground fires. 2 cats and 2 track hoes were used to clear brush and trench the water to the ground fire. Some ground fires were 8 feet deep into the peat moss. This operation lasted 22 days on June 19, 2013 the pump was shut off and crews started to pick up pip as the pump and pipe were needed to go to Calgary due to the flooding. From July 9 to July 25 we and 2 track hoes and 2 cats reclaiming the land due to safety concerns as well as it provided access to drive and monitor the fire. The crews still found ground fires but were able to bury them as they covered the worked on reclaiming the land. We continue to monitor the fire and have fire crews back at the location extinguishing ground fire that flare up in August and September. The “170 Fire” monitoring will continue until we receive a good snow cover.

“170 Fire” Expenses

Smoky Lake County:	\$370,729.62
Smoky Lake Fire Department (\$200/hr @ 252 hrs):	\$50,400.00
Waskatenau Fire Department (\$200/hr @ 46 hrs):	\$9,200.00
Vilna Fire Department (\$200/hr @ 8 hrs):	\$1,600.00

Smoky Lake County Managers

Cory Ollikka (CAO):	\$2,359.65
Scott Franchuk (Fire Chief) + company vehicle:	\$43,614.12
Ed English (Deputy Fire Chief) + company vehicle:	\$2,681.42
Doug Ponich (Public Works Foreman) + company vehicle:	\$6,177.89
Bob Novosiwsky (Public Works Asst. Forman) + company vehicle:	\$16,613.76
Lydia Cielin (Assistant CAO):	\$141.82
Brenda Adamson (Finance):	\$121.18

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$509,639.46**

Carried.

1026-13: Danyluk

That the updated report presented by the Fire Chief on the “170 Fire” Timeline, application for Municipal Wildlife Assistance Program and ‘170 Fire’ expenses as of October 10, 2013, be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

6. Correspondence:

No Correspondence.

8. Executive Session:

1027-13: Orichowski

That County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a legal issue, time 9:39 a.m.

Carried.

1028-13:

That County Council go out of Executive Session, time 9:51 a.m.

Carried.

Next Meeting

1029-13: Cholak

That the next Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for Friday, **December 13, 2013** at 9:00 a.m. to be held at the County Council Chambers.

Carried.

1030-13: Orichowski

That the Town of Smoky Lake be invited as a delegation to the Agricultural Service Board/ Fire Protection Meeting on Friday, December 13, 2013 to discuss Unit 405 and natural gas pipelines.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

1031-13: Bobocel

That this meeting be adjourned, time 9:55 a.m.

Carried.

CHAIRMAN

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER