

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Minutes of the Alberta Agricultural Field Visit Meeting held on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 9:00 A.M. in the County Council Chambers.

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

<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Wednesday, August 24, 2016</u>
1	Dareld Cholak	Present
2	Ron Bobocel	Present
3	Craig Lukinuk	Present
4	Cary Smigerowsky	Present
5	Randy Orichowski	Present
CAO	Cory Ollikka	Absent
Asst CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present
A.F.	Tori Cherniawsky	Present
Assistant A.F.	Amanda Shapka	Present
Ag Svcs. Tech.	Evonne Zukiwski	Present
Legislative Svcs./R.S.	Patti Priest	Present

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Doug Macaulay, Agricultural Service Board Supervisor, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, in attendance.

**Welcoming Address**

Smoky Lake County Reeve, Mr. Ron Bobocel at this time welcomed all those present for attending the Alberta Agricultural Field Visit Meeting, and self-introductions were made around the table.

**AGENDA**

921-16: Orichowski

That the Alberta Agricultural Field Visit Meeting Agenda for Wednesday, August 24, 2016 be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

**Agricultural Service Board Program Questions**

Dareld Cholak - Do we have anything to look forward to as far as the budget goes?

Doug Macaulay - The current 3 year program ends December 31, 2016.

- 13 million total budget
- 11.6 of that budget dedicated to legislation
- majority of remaining budget is allocated to environmental stream

Currently waiting for final sign off on the new 3 year program budget, that will be similar to the past budget.

The deadline to apply will be moved to the end of January from October.

Budgets are set at the end of March and ratified in April.

Ron Bobocel - Is the Agriculture Opportunity Fund (AOF) of \$441,000 over a 3 year period out of the same pot of money?

Doug Macaulay - Yes, the Agriculture Opportunity Fund (AOF) will be taken over by Alberta Agriculture.

Doug Macaulay - Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

- Reports on roadways and pests and the impact of the Agricultural Service Board on the Province.
- Started in 1945 with a budget of \$14,000.00
- Currently has 655 full and part time employees with 91 employees working in the environmental stream.
- 22% of overall ASB Municipal budgets are funded by Alberta Agriculture.
- Reports on 8,000 fields of Clubroot, 7,000 fields of Fusarium, 12,000 fields of Blackleg.
- 169 fields inspected according to the Soil Conservation Act.
- 12,000 weed infestations are reported every year

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'RB', is located at the bottom right of the page.

- 12,000 miles of roadway are managed
  - 250 events per year - extension programs
- I am here to learn about the local issues and funding concerns.
- Dareld Cholak - Will you be meeting with the province about why they took away the highway mowing program in respect to weeds?
- Doug Macaulay - We have been hearing about the lack of mowing and weeds along highways from everywhere. We have a meeting set up with the Province in regards to corridor weeds issues and spreading. We have been hounding them.
- Tori Cherniawsky - The spraying program needs increased funding. Oxeye daisy is really bad on the East end of the County. 350 letters have been sent to lake lot owners and 1,610 fact sheets on tansy are going to be included with the next Natural Gas Billing. We need more funding for awareness. We've sprayed 715 roadside miles as well as spot spraying and we are not done yet.
- Ron Bobocel - There is a cross ministry issue when it comes to environmental park and weeds around bed and shore, the debate is where the waterline is and whose responsibility it is.
- Dareld Cholak - There should be cross departmental discussions should be held to address the issues.
- Doug Macaulay - I encourage you to relay your message to Pat, the regional representative. We need to keep making outside industry aware of the economic impact of the weeds.
- Cary Smigerowsky - We need something on emergency handling of livestock (removal of livestock after an accident).
- Doug Macaulay - It is important to document how funding is being utilized, in relation to the 4 acts.
- Dareld Cholak - Why is there no regulation in regards pasture that is adjacent to lakes, it should be fenced so animals cannot access the lake, there should be something in the act restricting animal access.
- Doug Macaulay - There is stewardship funding for fencing and watering but no regulations.
- Cary Smigerowsky - We need funding to educate in regards to lake water and livestock.
- Ron Bobocel - ALUS Canada is bringing wetlands back into wetlands with funding for the revitalization of wetlands.
- Evonne Zukiwski - Producers are hesitant to fence off riparian areas because there is no financial benefit, funding is being put into programs that aren't being utilized and there is not enough incentive.
- Doug Macaulay - The "Growing Forward" program is ending March 31, 2018. I'm very interested in what the new program should look like and what percentage of funding should be dedicated.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
922-16: Lukinuk

That this meeting be adjourned, time 9:43 a.m.

Carried.

  
CHAIRMAN

SEAL

  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER