



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's **Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting** held on Tuesday, **March 5, 2024**, at 1:02 P.M. held in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology.

The meeting was called to Order by the Chairperson, Dan Gawalko, in the presence of the following persons:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Tues. Mar. 5, 2024</u>
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Alt. Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Present Virtually
Alt. Committee Member	Lorne Halisky	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Kurt Melnyk	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Absent
County Interim CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present in Chambers
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh Danyluk	Present in Chambers
Assistant Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Khin	Present in Chambers
County Executive Services/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present Virtually
County Communications Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Present Virtually

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No Members of the Media were Present.  
 One Members of the Public were Present.

**2. Agenda:**

ASB29-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, March 5, 2024, be adopted as amended:

**Addition to the Agenda:**

1. Moisture Situation Update as of March 3, 2024.

Carried Unanimously.

**3. Minutes:**

ASB30-24: Flondra That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on February 12, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

**4. Request for Decision:**

Nil.

**5. Issues for Information:**

**Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report**

Dan Gawalko ASB report March 2024

- January 22-24 attended the 2024 ASB Conference in Leth bridge AB. With our Ag field man Carleigh, Amanda and producer rep Tamara Flondra the first day I attended the ASB town hall meeting, some points discussed were the Feds gave 36 million for OFCAF so far , new program coming out in February, increased funding for weed control on Alberta highways, Alberta bee keepers produced more honey than any other jurisdiction, some of the other topics of the conference included history and impact of ASB's in Alberta and ASB updates, history of the soil conservation act and reality of soil erosion, pest act, weed control act, clubroot protocols, a Cleanfarms update, the Alberta rat control program, hydrogen and energy transition for rural Alberta, drones in agriculture, farm transitions, the Taber sugar beet factory, and a presentation on

the story of the Irvine school agriculture discovery centre, a resolutions session, and a address from the Hon. RJ Sigurdson minister of Agriculture and Irrigation.

- February 5 attended the LARA meeting along with our 2 producer reps Barb Shapka & Amanda Fischer, municipal funding was discussed and the board made a decision that only the 55,000 dollar option was available to be able to contract LARA for extension and field plots for variety trials, Lakeland HR will be working on some of the policies and staff grid, met the new research scientists Angelica and Lance Ouellette they are excited to be at LARA and have some new ideas for research including hemp as a cash crop, rye grass inter crop, distance between rows using 15" rows for canola and using a seed master drill, also a camelina trial, the chair went to a recent RDAR meeting, Alyssa gave the executive directors report along with the financials she attended several ASB meetings LICA and a watershed meeting EFP's are being done, purchased a new Ford truck for towing the trailer, the RALP program opened up again and she is working on the financials for the ROAR audit.

Upcoming LARA events

- Feb 7 regenerative living labs workshop Vilna
- Feb 9 farmer appreciation Glendon
- Feb 13 sheep and goat forum Elk Point
- Feb 15 securing success programs and funding opportunities Lac La Biche
- Feb 21 gardening for pollinators Flat Lake Hall
- March 2 innovation on the ranch Lac La Biche
- March 6 LARA AGM Goodridge Hall
- March 12 Lakeland agronomy update Ashmont Agriplex
- March 13 securing success programs and funding opportunities Smoky Lake National Hall
- March 25 policy and regular meeting Ashmont
- Feb 9, I attended the Farmer appreciation evening in Glendon with our 2 producer reps Barb Shapka and Amanda Fischer along with some of their family members.
- February 12 chaired the Smoky Lake ASB meeting, had a presentation from Alyssa executive director of LARA and the board made a recommending motion to fund LARA for the 2024 year and for our ag field men to bring back how and what they could do for extension work in the county by Oct 2024 also received an event poster from connect for food happening on April 15next ASB meeting March 5.

ASB31-24: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson report prepared for March 5, 2024, be accepted for information.

Carried.

## Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview Year-2023

### Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview

The following is an overview of the report that is sent to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation outlining the outcomes of our programs in 2023.

#### AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD ACT

- Smoky Lake County changed its Agricultural Service Board structure from an all-Council member Board to a mixed Board comprised of Council members and Producers-at-Large.
- Smoky Lake County hosted the 2023 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference held at Metis Crossing on October 20, 2023.

#### AGRICULTURAL PEST ACT

- 2 Agricultural Pest Inspectors appointed
- 87 canola fields inspected for Clubroot - 4 Positive
- 4 fields inspected for Virulent Blackleg in canola
- 3 Bertha Armyworm trap locations monitored throughout the County for AB Ag
- 18 Townships surveyed for Grasshoppers on behalf of AB Ag
- 2 fields sampled for Fusarium Head Blight in wheat
- 3 new water stabilizers (Gizmos) installed
- **3 Gizmos repaired/upgraded**
- 9 1080 toxicant pills distributed as a last resort for coyote predation during calving
- 194 Problem beavers removed.
- 66 Beaver dams removed to protect County infrastructure
- **\*Internal purposes only\*** 49 problem muskrats removed
- Landowners can participate in Beaver Tail Bounty Program and Northern Pocket Gopher Tail Bounty Program
  - 351 Pocket Gopher tails brought in
  - 87 beaver tails brought in
- 0 Rat calls investigated
- 3 Wild Boar sighting calls received and responded to

#### WEED CONTROL ACT

- 2 seasonal Weed Inspectors appointed
- 657 weed awareness letters sent for noxious weeds on private land
- 1 Weed Notice issued with 24 locations to Alberta Transportation
- 0 Weed Enforcements
- 50% of Municipal right-of-way's were sprayed for control of noxious weeds and corner brush for sightlines in the West half of the County
- 2 locations received a combination of spraying and hand picking for Prohibited Noxious Hoary Alyssum
- Leafy Spurge biocontrol location was monitored after beetle release in 2022 and successful establishment occurred
- Weed awareness "WANTED" posters hung at all County truck fills and bulletin boards in all of the towns, villages and hamlets.
- Noxious weed awareness "centerpieces" displayed at Farmers Appreciation BBQ
- Lake lot hand picking and weed awareness campaign with AISC fact sheets prior to July long weekend.

- All County roads received 1 'shoulder' mowing pass early in the season and a second mowing pass to the 'property line' in the Fall. 3,036 total mowing miles in 2023
- Sat on the Weed Regulatory Advisory Committee with the Province and other stakeholders to complete risk assessments for current regulated weeds

**SOIL CONSERVATION ACT**

- 2 Soil Conservation Inspectors appointed.
- 0 Soil Conservation letters issued.
- Monitoring for different types of soil erosion occurs throughout growing season.
- Shelterbelts and best practices promoted at County events.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EXTENSION AND OUTREACH**

- 2 EFP's completed.
- 175 producers attended 25 extension events put on by LARA.
- 1 LARA trial plot location in the County
- Ag Department info booth at our Farmers Appreciation BBQ and LARA Annual General Meeting highlighting County programs, weed & pest awareness, shelterbelt info, Environmental Farm Plan info, beaver management techniques and Wild Boar 'Squeal on Pigs' Campaign
- Attended Lakeland College Career Fair on behalf of the AAAF as an opportunity to educate students on the AAAF & ASB's, weed & pest awareness, and an opportunity to recruit seasonal staff.
- Sat on the Grazing School for Women planning committee.
- Delivered the Classroom Agriculture Program to the Grade 4 students at schools within Smoky Lake County
- Completed Brodyk Lake Erosion Prevention Project to satisfy Alberta Environment and maintain the County's Recreation Lease that allows public access to the lake.

**Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview Year-2023**

ASB32-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview for Year-2023, for information.

Carried.

**6. Correspondence:**

**Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation**

ASB33-24: Flondra That the letter received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Corinna Williams, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Northern Sunrise County, dated February 8, 2024, outlining concerns in respect to being underrepresented in the pre-engagement review for the Year-2024 proposed changes to Weed Control Regulation, be filed for information.

Carried.

**ASB Connector Newsletter – January 2024**

ASB34-24: Melnyk That the e-newsletter received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, produced by the Government of Alberta, dated January 2024, be filed for information.

Carried.

**Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta**

ASB35-24: Flondra That the information guide received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, prepared by the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA), titled: A Guide for Declaring Municipal Agricultural Disasters in Alberta, which was provided for awareness, be filed for information.

Carried.

Dave Franchuk, Smoky Lake County's Environment and Parks Manager, entered Chambers, for the purpose of being an information resource to answer questions in respect to the County's Water Truckfills in relation to drought preparedness, time 1:32 p.m.

Dave Franchuk, Environment and Parks Manager, left Chambers, time 1:40 p.m.

**Addition to the Agenda:**

**Moisture Situation Update – Informal - as of March 3 2024**

ASB36-24: Melnyk

That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from the Section Administrator / Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program Coordinator, Crop Assurance Programming Section, Primary Agriculture Division, Agriculture and Irrigation, dated March 3, 2024, providing an update on the moisture situation as follows, be filed for information:

**Total precipitation since the Feb 28<sup>th</sup> report was released (Map 1) .**

- Many of the mountain stations saw more than 40mm of additional precipitation.
- Foot hills between Hinton and the US boarder 10-15 mm
- Eastern side of the province from the Special Areas up to Wood Buffalo, 5-10 mm
- Reasonable accumulations in the western portions of the Central and North West regions (5-10 mm)
- Relatively dry < 2mm across parts of the south and through Athabasca county and nearby lands.

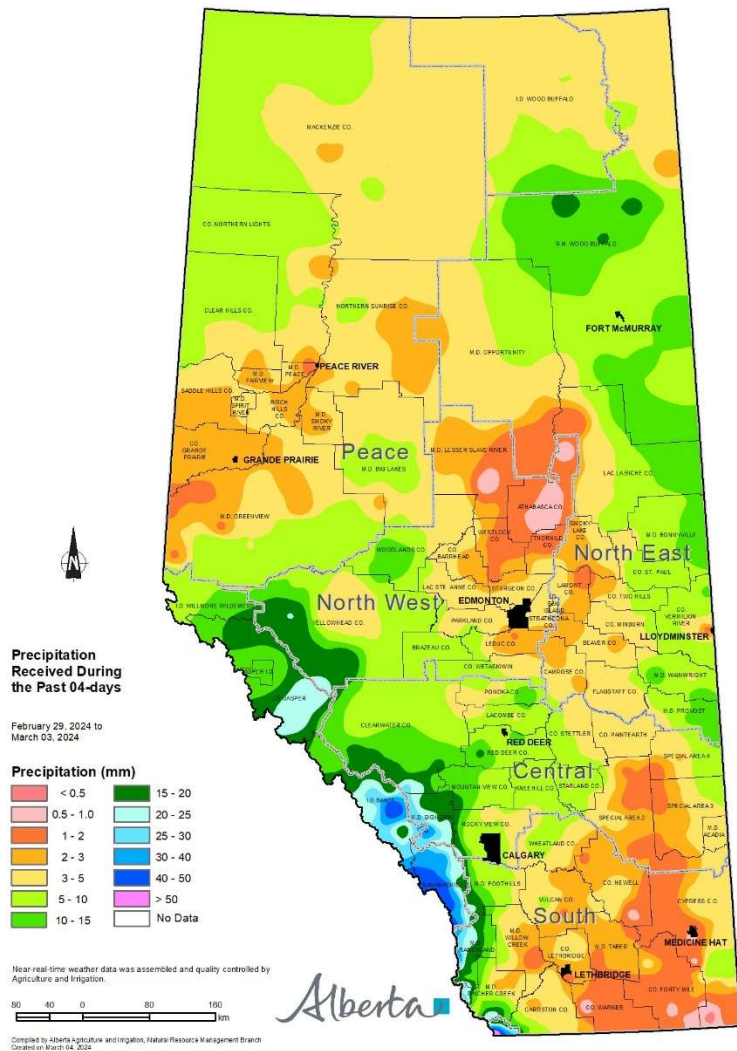
**Perspective:** For the entire month of March average accumulations (Map 2) range from about 20-25 mm in the foothills, down to less than 10 mm in parts of the Special Areas.

**Additional Maps:**

Snow pack water equivalent (Map 3) and snow pack relative to normal (Map 4)

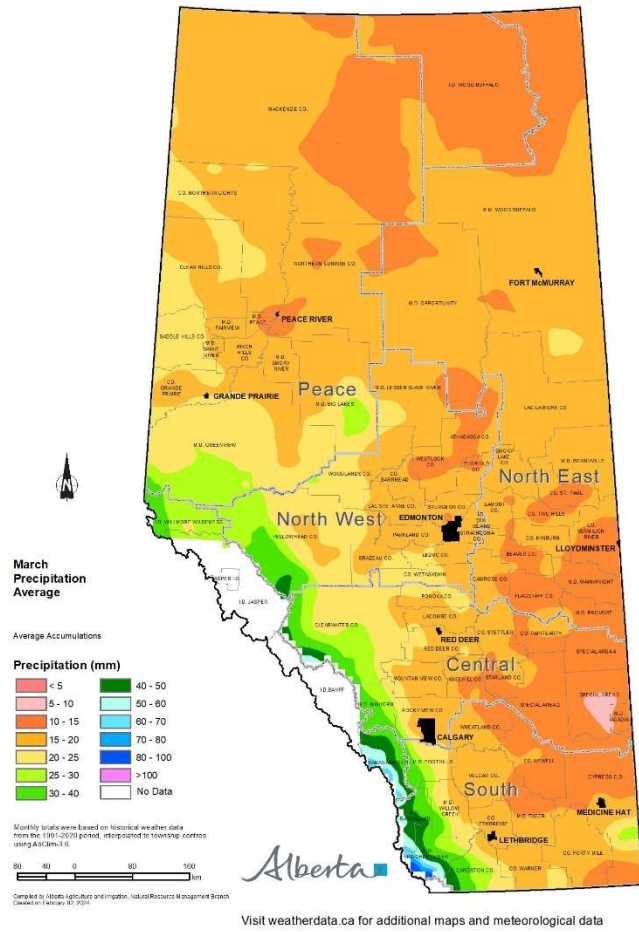
- Very poor snowpack development across much of the north-half of the province, down at least as far south as Red Deer.

**Map 1**

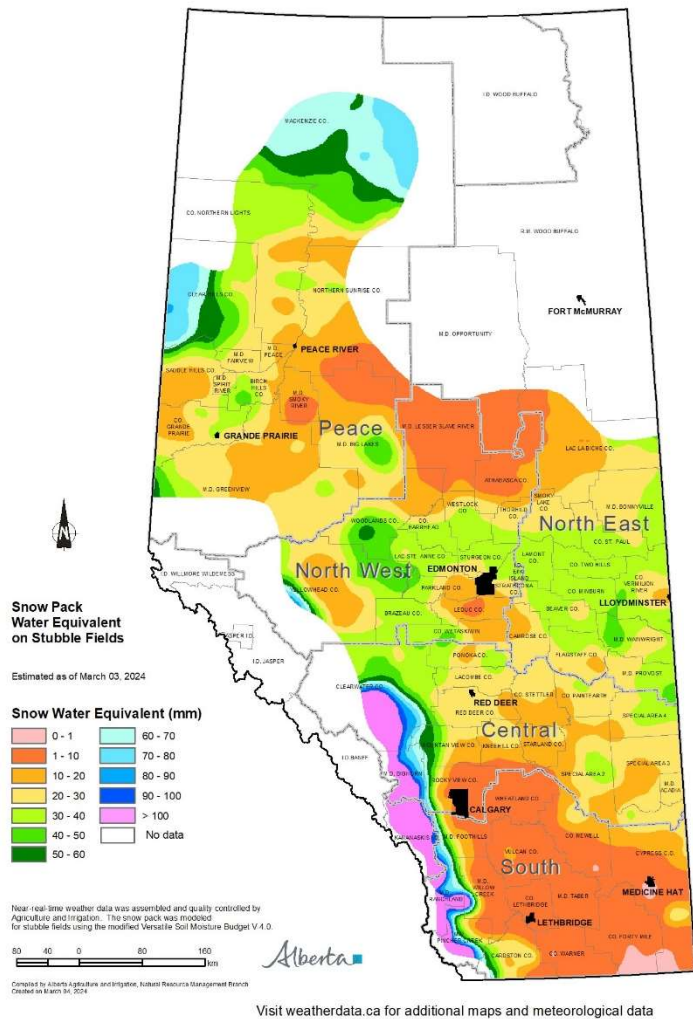


Visit [weatherdata.ca](http://weatherdata.ca) for additional maps and meteorological data

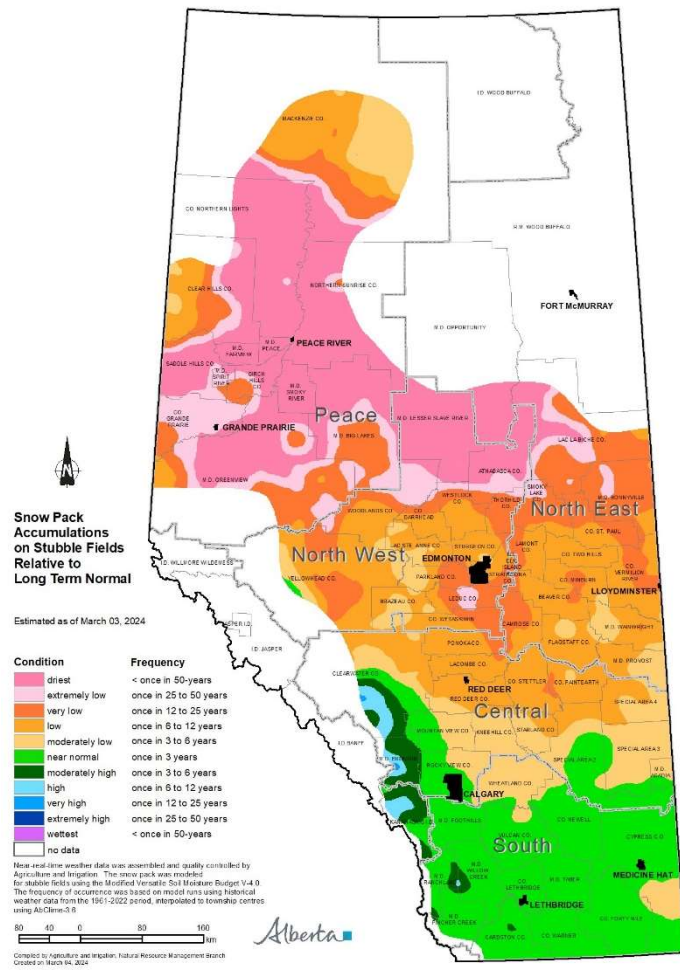
Map 2



Map 3



Map 4



Carried.

**7. Delegation:**

Nil.

**8. Executive Session:**

No Executive Session.

**9. Date and time of Next Meeting:**

**Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting**

The next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting will be scheduled at the call of the Chairperson.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

ASB37-24: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of March 5, 2024, be adjourned, time 1:41 p.m.

Carried.

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 CHAIRPERSON

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 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER