

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

A G E N D A: County Council Meeting to be held for the purpose of discussing the **Agricultural Service Board**

on

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

Held virtually through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82061639124?pwd=RENseE9VN04vcXQwVEJNVWI4UFpqQT09>

1. Meeting:

1.1 Call to Order.

2. Agenda:

Acceptance of Agenda:
as presented or
subject to additions or deletions.

3. Minutes:

3.1 Adopt minutes of **August 18, 2020** – Agricultural Service Board Meeting. ©

Recommendation: Motion to Adopt.

3.2 Agricultural Service Board Meeting: August 18, 2020 – **Action List.** ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

4. Request for Decision:

5. Issues for Information:

5.1 ASB Chairman's Report. ©

5.2 Agricultural Department Report. ©

5.3 2020 Mowing Progress Map. ©

5.4 2020 Spraying Progress Map. ©

6. Correspondence:

- 6.1 Letter received from Jocelyn Whaley, Chief Administrative Officer, Brazeau County, dated August 31, 2020 RE: 2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

- 6.2 Email received from Honorable Devin Dreeshen, Minister, Agriculture and Forestry, September 3, 2020 RE: Smoky Lake County's Declaration of a Municipal State of Agriculture Disaster. ©

Recommendation: Acknowledge Receipt.

- 6.3 Email received from Kimberly Sekura-Zagar, Agriculture Coordinator, Northlands, September 3, 2020 RE: 2020 BMO Farm Family Awards. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

- 6.4 Fact Sheet received from Doug Macaulay, Manager, Agricultural Service Board Unit, September 18, 2020 RE: Agricultural Service Board Grant Program. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

- 6.5 Fact Sheet received from the Miistakis Institute, September 22, 2020 RE: Cost-Benefit Analysis of Beaver Coexistence Tools. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

- 6.6 Email received from Sebastien Dutrtisac, President, Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen, September 25, 2020 RE: Grant Payments. ©

Recommendation: Councils Decision.

7. Delegation(s):

- 7.1 Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) @9:30am re: LARA Update

8. Executive Session:

9. Date and time of Next Meeting(s):

Adjournment

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Minutes of the **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** held on Tuesday, **August 18, 2020** at 10:38 A.M. held virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting and physically in Council Chambers.

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

ATTENDANCE		
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Tuesday, August 18, 2020</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
2	Johnny Cherniwchan	Present in Chambers
3	Craig Lukinuk	Present in Chambers
4	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers
5	Randy Orichowski	Present in Chambers
Interim CAO	Lydia Cielin	Virtually Present
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh McMullin	Present in Chambers
Assistant A.F.	Amanda Kihn	Present in Chambers
Legislative Svcs./R.S.	Patti Priest	Virtually Present

Virtually listening to the meeting as observers were:

Jordan Ruegg, Planning and Development Manager,
Kyle Schole, Planning and Development Assistant, and
Daniel Moric, Natural Gas Manager.

Trevor Cameron, Smoky Lake County Trapper, was present in Council Chambers as an information resource.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), was virtually present for the meeting as a key contact for Smoky Lake County.

No Members of the Media were present.

One Member of the Public was Virtually Present.

2. Agenda:

1000-20: Lukinuk

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, August 18, 2020, be adopted as amended:

Addition to the Agenda:

1. Minister of Agriculture Invitation to Tour Smoky Lake County's Municipal Agricultural Disaster.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

1001-20: Halisky That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

1002-20: Orichowski That the Action List from the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, be filed for information.

Carried.

5. Issues for Information:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Smoky Lake Summer Field Day

1003-20: Orichowski That the Smoky Lake County acknowledge the verbal information provided by Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), including but not limited to the following points:

- Smoky Lake County Summer Field Day was held on July 23, 2020,
- Smoky Lake County has been provided a bale sampler for use which is available at the County Main Office,
- LARA offers free analysis for the first two samples of silage, bales or grain from each Smoky Lake County producer, and charges a fee of \$20.00 per sample of feed and \$25.00 per sample of grain, for any additional samples.

Carried.

Amanda Mathiot, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) virtually left the meeting LARA Left 10:44 a.m.

6. Correspondence:

Beaver Management

1004-20: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the email received from Landowner Dixie Mackintosh, dated August 10, 2020 in regard to a request to cost share beaver management on private land, and provide a written response including statistics of how many beavers were removed during what period of time, and what the estimated installation date is for a culvert and pond leveler, as well as provide a copy of Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-21-04: Beaver Control – Fee for Removal with Explosives for reference.

Carried.

Trevor Cameron, Smoky Lake County Trapper, left the meeting, time 11:06 a.m.

7. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report

1005-20: Lukinuk That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Chairman's Verbal Report, as of August 18, 2020, and the minutes provided from the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) meeting held on June 8, 2020, be accepted for information.

Carried.

Agricultural Fieldman's Report

1006-20: Halisky That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Agricultural Fieldman's Report, dated August 10, 2020, be accepted for information.

Carried.

2020 Pest Monitoring Update

1007-20: Lukinuk That the Smoky Lake County 2020 Bertha Armyworm Pest Monitoring report for the period of June 19, 2020 to August 4, 2020, be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

2020 Weed Inspection Update

1008-20: Cherniwchan That the Smoky Lake County 2020 Weed Inspection Update as of August 10, 2020, of 185 Weed Inspections, be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

2020 Mowing Progress Map

1009-20: Halisky That the Smoky Lake County 2020 Mowing Progress Map for Zones: 1, 2 and 3, as of August 10, 2020 be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

2020 Spraying Progress Map

1010-20: Cherniwchan That the Smoky Lake County 2019 Herbicide Spraying Progress Map for Zones: 1, 2 and 3, as of August 19, 2020 be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

8. Correspondence:

Alberta Invasive Species Council

1011-20: Halisky That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County from Megan Evans, Executive Director, Alberta Invasive Species Council, dated June

19, 2020, thanking the County for continued support, be filed for information.

Carried.

Inspection and Investigation Section Director, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

1012-20: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter from Bruce Hamblin, Inspection and Investigation Section Director, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, dated June 29, 2020 acknowledging there are no longer any Wild Boar producers within Smoky Lake County.

Carried.

Farm Safety Centre

1013-20: Lukinuk That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County from Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Farm Safety Centre, dated July 13, 2020 in respect to the COVID-19 changes to the Farm Safety programming within schools, be filed for information.

Carried.

Shannon Stubbs, Member of Parliament for Lakeland

1014-20: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the correspondence from Shannon Stubbs, Member of Parliament for Lakeland, dated July 29, 2020, in regard to the States of Agricultural Disasters, and share the said letter on County social media for public awareness of efforts being made.

Carried.

Addition to the Agenda:

Municipal Agricultural Disaster

1015-20: Halisky That Smoky Lake County acknowledge the letter sent as recommended by the July 17, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting Motion # 941-20, extending an invitation to the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agricultural and Forestry, to tour Smoky Lake County for the purpose of understanding the full impact of the devastating state of agriculture in our region in respect to the Municipal Agricultural Disaster declared on June 25, 2020, to bring awareness to the unseeded acres due to excessive moisture and/or the inability to complete the 2019 harvest, the loss of seeded acres due to excessive moisture, as well as pastureland and hay crops under water; and carbon copy Glenn van Dijken, MLA - Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency, as well as Shannon Stubbs, MP – Lakeland Constituency; and share the said letter on County social media for public awareness of efforts being made.

Carried Unanimously.

7. Delegation:

No Delegation.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

Next Meeting

1016-20: Orichowski That the next Smoky Lake County **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** be scheduled for **Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.** to be held Virtually and/or in the County Council Chambers.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

1017-20: Gawalko That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting of August 18, 2020, be adjourned, time 11:40 a.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

ACTION LIST:

August 18, 2020 Agricultural Service Board Meeting



MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION	STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL
1003-20	<p>That the Smoky Lake County acknowledge the verbal information provided by Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), including but not limited to the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoky Lake County Summer Field Day was held on July 23, 2020, • Smoky Lake County has been provided a bale sampler for use which is available at the County Main Office, • LARA offers free analysis for the first two samples of silage, bales or grain from each Smoky Lake County producer and charges a fee of \$20.00 per sample of feed and \$25.00 per sample of grain, for any additional samples. 	Ag. Fieldman	<p>Verbal information acknowledged for documenting the LARA events held in Smoky Lake County and the LARA services provided.</p> <p>Municipal File: 62-9</p>	
1004-20	<p>That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the email received from Landowner Dixie Mackintosh, dated August 10, 2020 in regard to a request to cost share beaver management on private land, and provide a written response including statistics of how many beavers were removed during what period of time, and what the estimated installation date is for a culvert and pond leveler, as well as provide a copy of Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-21-04: Beaver Control – Fee for Removal with Explosives for reference.</p>	Ag. Fieldman	<p>Smoky Lake, AB TDA 300</p> <p>RE: Cost Share Proposal</p> <p>Dear Ms. Mackintosh</p> <p>In response to your e-mail sent on August 10th, 2020 Smoky Lake County Council has declined the proposal of a cost share at this time. It is stated in our Policy No.62-21-06 'Beaver Control-Fee for Removal with Explosives' (see attached): any work that is done at the request of a landowner on private land there is a service fee required as well as an additional cost per stick of dynamite. Our Trapper is well aware of the water situation on TWP RD 611 and is working hard to mitigate the issues. To date we have trapped 7 beavers out of that location, and we just installed a pond leveler device on August 21st, 2020. Currently there is no date of a replacement culvert because Public Works wants to give the pond leveler a chance to work and see if there are any required changes to improve it further.</p> <p>We try our best to work with the beavers in these situations, and find long term solutions such as our pond leveling devices. If the water issues persist despite the pond leveling device, replacing the culverts may be an option. Please keep in mind the extensive travel patterns of a beaver. A beaver may travel upwards of 10 miles in search of an appropriate habitat to establish and may travel even further during times of breeding, thus making them difficult to control as they can easily relocate from one place to another. It is a landowner's responsibility to deal with beaver problems on their own land. I would be happy to recommend some local trappers if you would like to contact them in regards to private land beaver and/or dam removal. I hope you understand that Smoky Lake County must follow policy and is unable to accept your proposal.</p> <p>Sincerely, Carleigh McMullin</p>	

Handwritten initials

ACTION LIST:

August 18, 2020 Agricultural Service Board Meeting



MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION	STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL
1012-20	That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter from Bruce Hamblin, Inspection and Investigation Section Director, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, dated June 29, 2020 acknowledging there are no longer any Wild Boar producers withing Smoky Lake County.	Ag. Fieldman	Correspondence retained for documentation purposes and historical reference. Municipal File: 62-4	
1014-20	That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the correspondence from Shannon Stubbs, Member of Parliament for Lakeland, dated July 29, 2020, in regard to the States of Agricultural Disasters, and share the said letter on County social media for public awareness of efforts being made.	Ag. Fieldman Communications	Correspondence retained for documentation purposes and historical reference. Municipal File: 62-40 Shared on Social Media on August 27, 2020.	
1015-20	That Smoky Lake County acknowledge the letter sent as recommended by the July 17, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting Motion # 941-20: inviting the Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agricultural and Forestry, to tour Smoky Lake County for the purpose of understanding the full impact of the devastating state of agriculture in our region in respect to the Municipal Agricultural Disaster declared on June 25, 2020, to bring awareness to the unseeded acres due to excessive moisture and/or the inability to complete the 2019 harvest, the loss of seeded acres due to excessive moisture, as well as pastureland and hay crops under water; and carbon copy Glenn van Dijken, MLA for Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock, as well as Shannon Stubbs, MP for Lakeland; and share the said letter on County social media for public awareness of efforts being made.	Ag. Fieldman Communications	Correspondence retained for documentation purposes and historical reference. Municipal File: 62-40 Shared on Social Media on August 27, 2020.	



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD PLAN
(ASB) PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Goal	Progress Update	Current Completi...
Crop Surveying: 100%	<p>Carleigh McMullin:</p> <p>Achievements: We completed all required Blackleg, Clubroot, Fusarium and Grasshopper surveys for the Province of Alberta. As of October 5th, 2020 we have completed 40 of our in-house Clubroot surveys.</p> <p>Challenges: <i>No value</i></p> <p>Next Steps: <i>No value</i> 2020/10/05</p>	<p>86% 86 / 100% 6% behind</p>
Council Member Inquiry (ASB): 100%	<p>Carleigh McMullin:</p> <p>Achievements: Request e-mail sent on September 22nd, 2020 asking us to advertise on social media looking for 'Good News' harvest stories for local producers to submit. We received 18 submissions of pictures of family meals in the fields, kids enjoying combine rides, pets enjoying combine rides, sunset pictures etc.</p> <p>We completed this request on September 30th.</p> <p>Challenges: <i>No value</i></p> <p>Next Steps: <i>No value</i> 2020/10/05</p>	<p>100% 100 / 100%</p>

Administrative Activity: 100%

Carleigh McMullin:

Achievements: Carleigh and the Reeve met with Shannon Stubbs and MP Lianne Rood on October 1st to discuss the unseeded acres and flooding that took place in the Spring and Summer months.

Carleigh and Amanda attended Main Office staff meeting on Monday September 14th.

Carleigh and Amanda attended the NE Regional Meeting on September 23rd.

Carleigh attended September 24th Council meeting to bring forward ASB resolutions for Council to discuss.

Collecting information from Smoky Lake AFSC branch on unseeded acres. For Councils information AFSC does not store their information based on municipality rather they store it by branch claims. Smoky Lake Branch in the

2019 Crop Year had:

507 unseeded acres

12,144 unharvested acres

282,105.5 insured acres

2020 Crop Year:

Unseeded acres: 11,426

277,516 insured acres

Amanda registered all Council & ourselves for the NE Regional Conference on October 27th.

Carleigh attended September 10th budget meeting.

Challenges: *No value*

Next Steps: *No value*

2020/10/05

Blasting Activity (ASB): 100%

Carleigh McMullin:

Achievements: Blasting problem areas across the County has begun, and will continue until November 1st.

Challenges: *No value*

Next Steps: *No value*

2020/10/05



Weed Control (ASB): 100%

Carleigh McMullin:

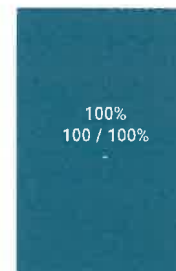
Achievements: 200 weed letters were sent out this summer to ratepayers. Mowing to the fence-line assisted with weed control.**

Zone 3 successfully had herbicide applied to majority road miles with the Onepass system.,

Challenges: Weather was the biggest challenge this summer due to the amount of wind and rain we received. **Mowing to the fence-line created new obstacles for operators due to large rocks that they were unable to move manually, piles of rocks left by producers over the fence-line, large debris Ex. barbed wire.

Next Steps: *No value*

2020/10/05



Mowing Activity (ASB): 100%

Carleigh McMullin:

Achievements: Mowing has been completed in all 3 zones as of September 22nd, 2020.

Challenges: *No value*

Next Steps: *No value*

2020/10/05



Spraying (ASB): 100%

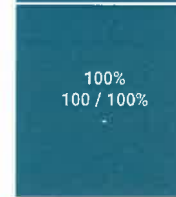
Carleigh McMullin:

Achievements: Spraying is completed for the season (Please see attached map). Despite weather challenges we were able to spot spray throughout the County.

Challenges: Excessive wind and rain this season.

Next Steps: *No value*

2020/10/05



Pest Control (ASB): 100%

Carleigh McMullin:

Achievements: We have successfully trapped 365 beavers. There has been 4 new pond leveler installs this year, as well as 7 replacements on existing levelers.

Challenges: *No value*

Next Steps: Continue with regular maintenance, and replacements as needed.

2020/10/05



ASB Environmental Services: 100%

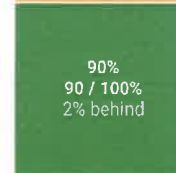
Carleigh McMullin:

Achievements: Amanda helped complete two Environmental Farm Plans for local producers this summer.

Challenges: *No value*

Next Steps: *No value*

2020/10/05



Training Activity (ASB): 100%

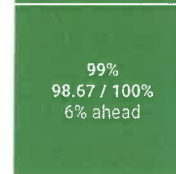
Carleigh McMullin:

Achievements: Carleigh completed final Cascade training on September 8th.

Challenges: *No value*

Next Steps: Currently no upcoming training.

2020/10/05



Safety Activity (ASB)

Carleigh McMullin:

Achievements: Attended August 13th and September 17th Joint Health & Safety Meetings.

Monday morning AgBay meetings for all ASB staff to go over our plans for the week, any concerns, feedback from the previous week.

Challenges: *No value*

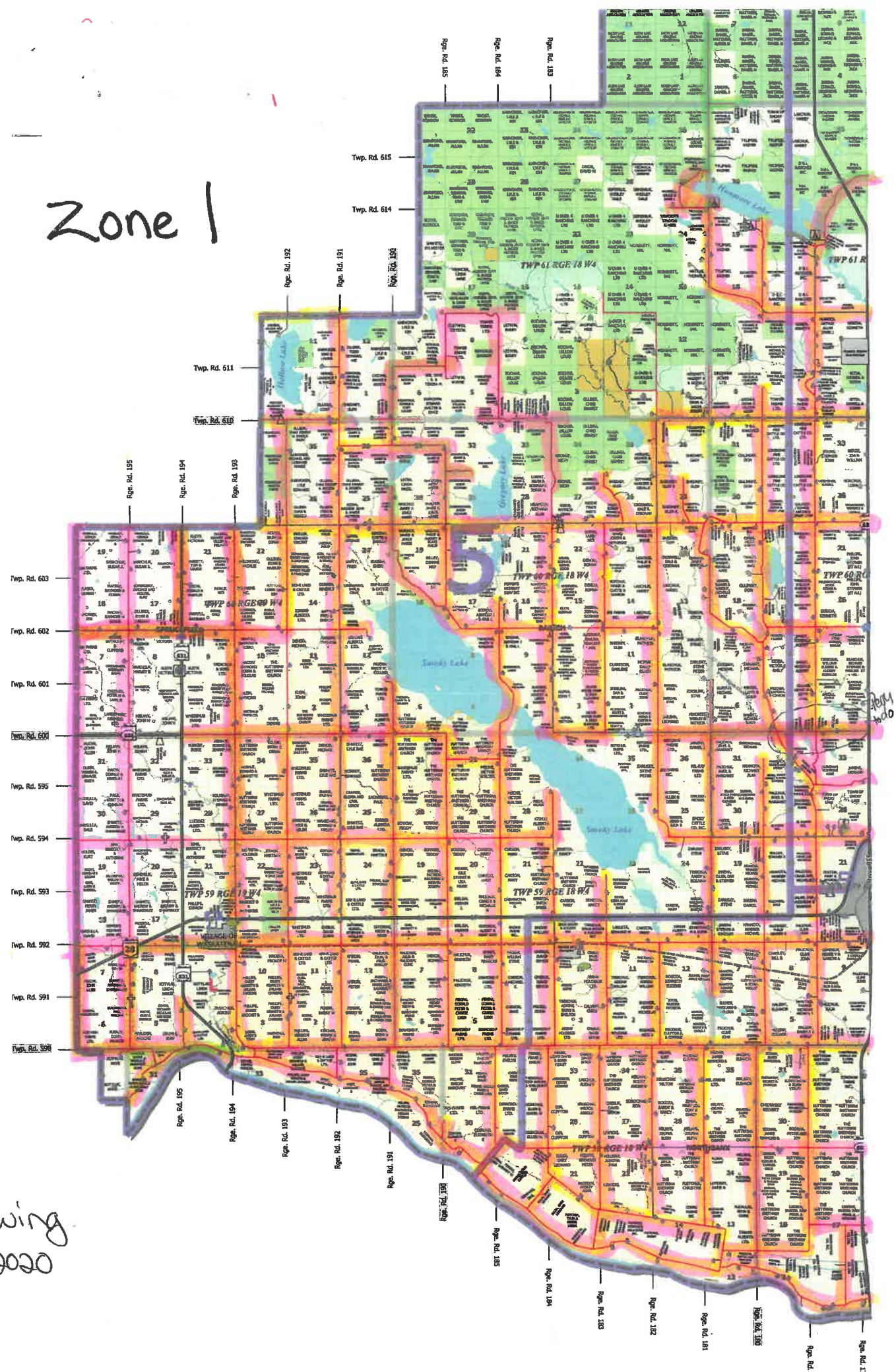
Next Steps: *No value.*

2020/10/05

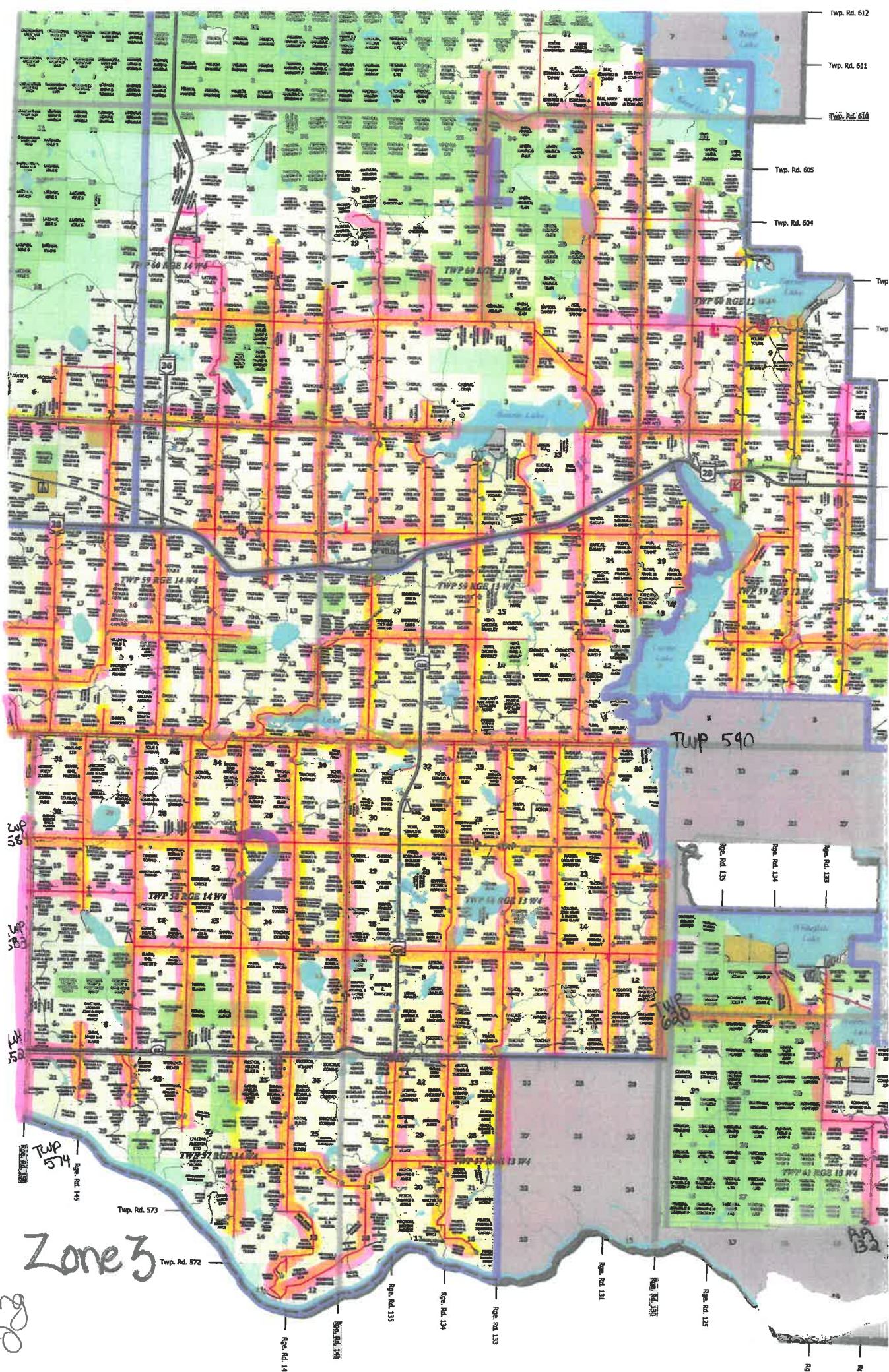


5.3

Zone 1



2020 mowing
Oct 5th, 2020



Zone 3

2020 mowing
Oct 5th, 2020

310
315
318

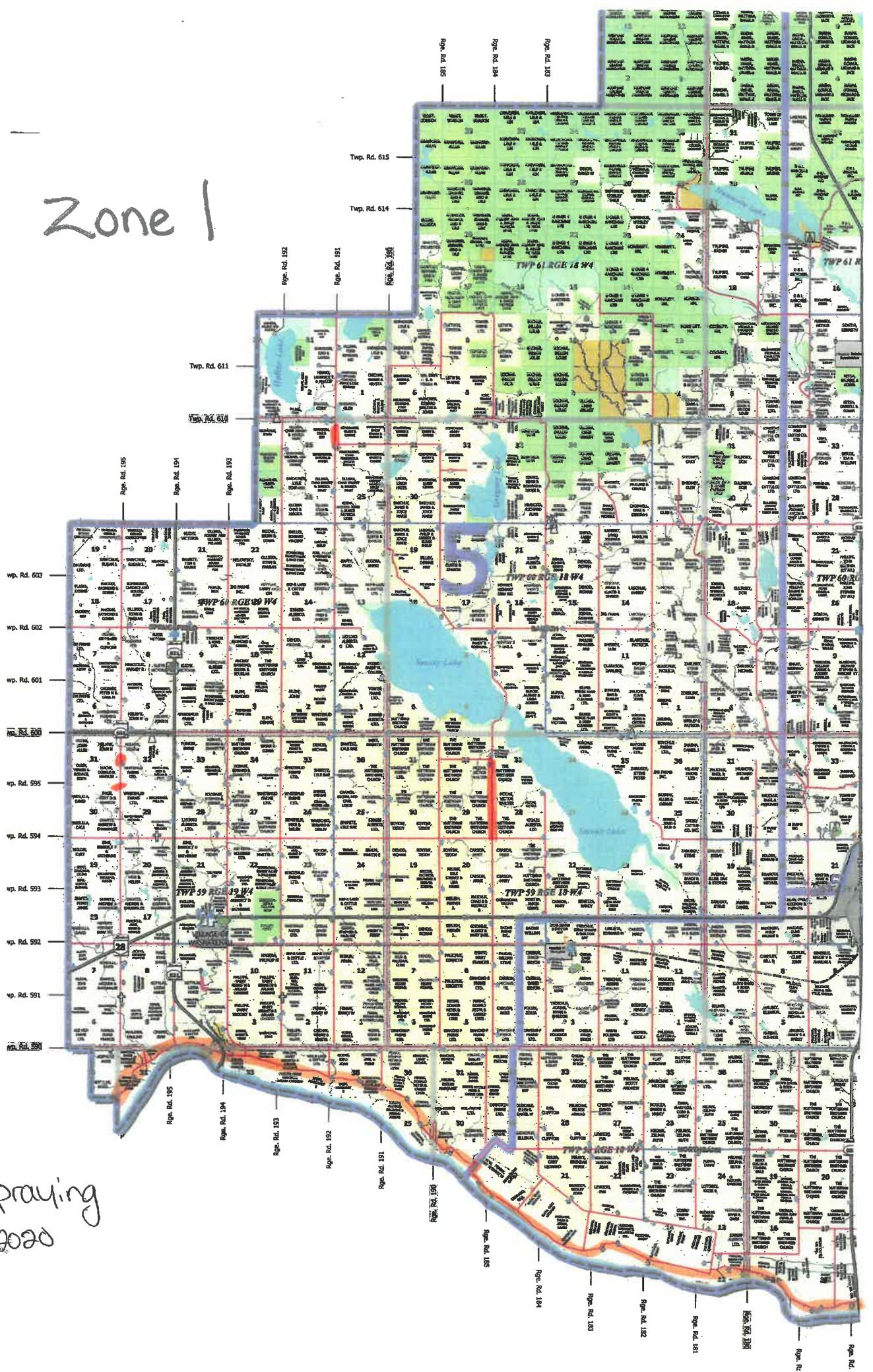
TWP 590

TWP 600

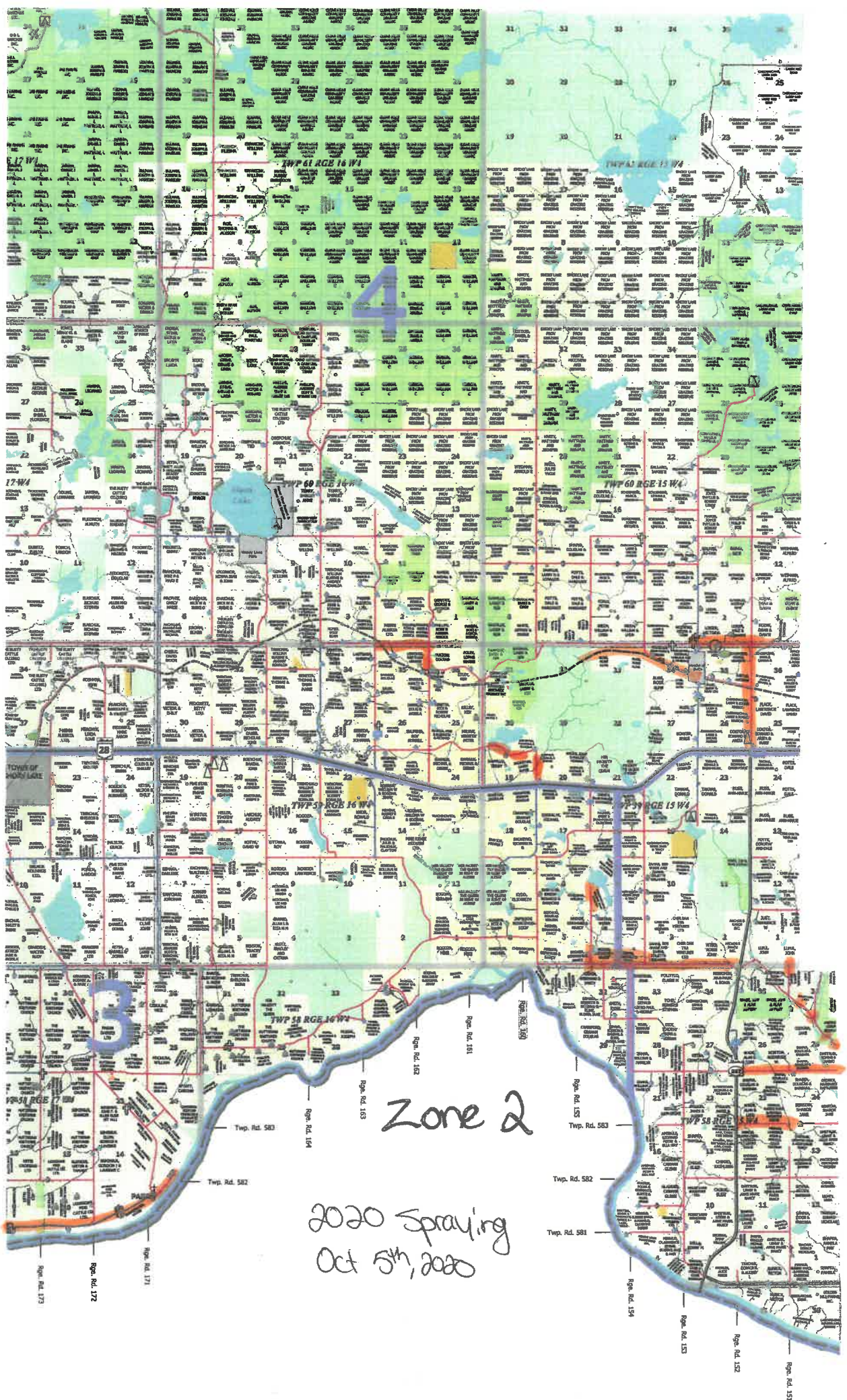
313

314

Zone 1



2020 Spraying
Oct 5th, 2020



4

Zone 2

2020 Spraying
Oct 5th, 2020

Twp 61 RGE 16 W

Twp 61 RGE 16 W

Twp 61 RGE 15 W

Twp 60 RGE 15 W

Twp 60 RGE 14 W

Twp 60 RGE 15 W

Twp 59 RGE 16 W

Twp 59 RGE 15 W

Twp 58 RGE 16 W

Twp 58 RGE 15 W

Town of
Kosciuszko

Twp 57 RGE 16 W

Twp 57 RGE 15 W

Twp 56 RGE 16 W

Twp 56 RGE 15 W

Twp. Rd. 583

Twp. Rd. 582

Rgn. Rd. 171

Rgn. Rd. 172

Rgn. Rd. 173

Rgn. Rd. 181

Rgn. Rd. 182

Rgn. Rd. 183

Rgn. Rd. 184

Rgn. Rd. 185

Rgn. Rd. 191

Rgn. Rd. 192

Rgn. Rd. 193

Rgn. Rd. 194

Rgn. Rd. 195

Twp. Rd. 583

Twp. Rd. 582

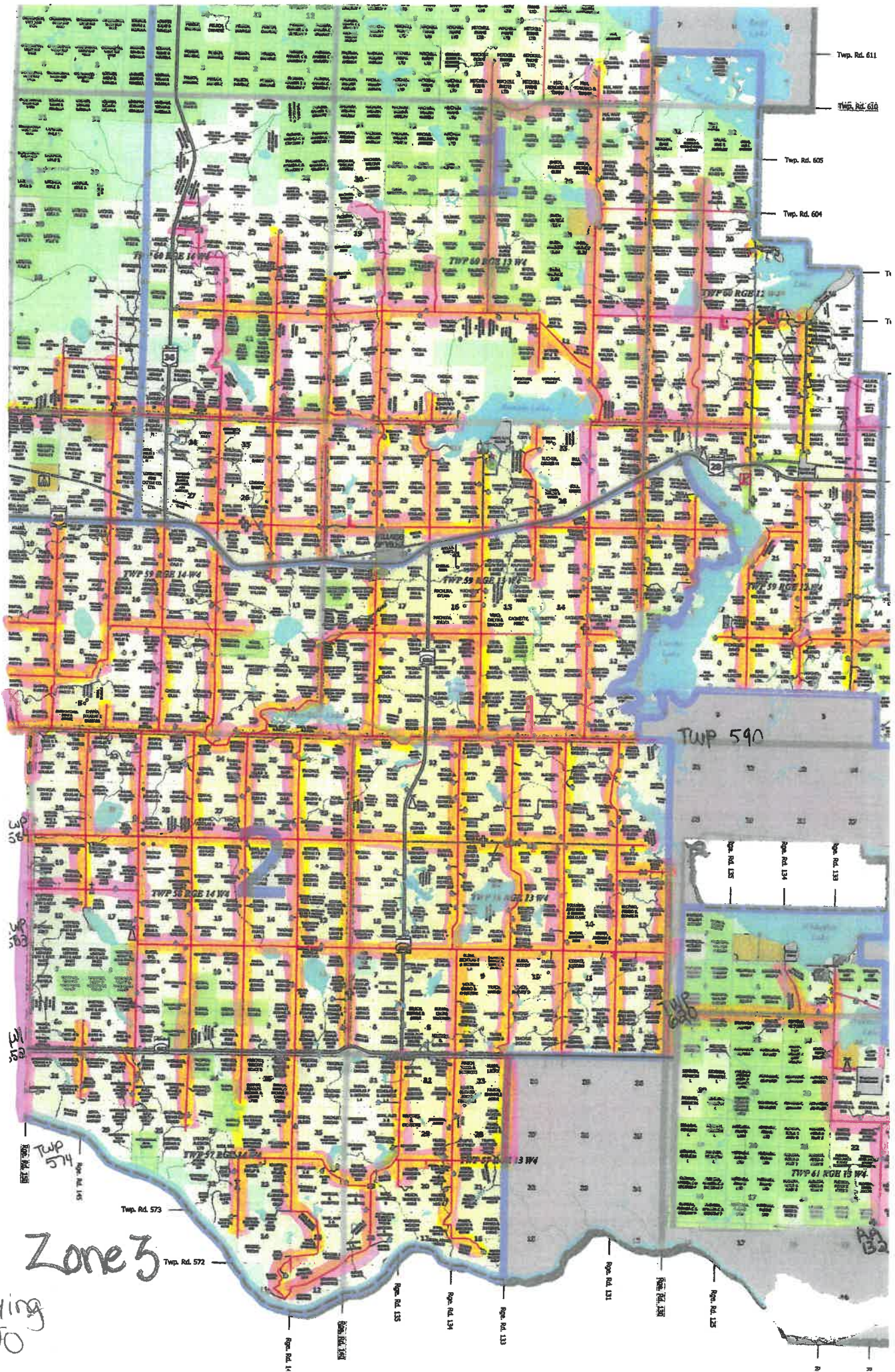
Twp. Rd. 581

Rgn. Rd. 154

Rgn. Rd. 153

Rgn. Rd. 152

Rgn. Rd. 151



Zone 3

2020 Spraying
Oct 5th, 2020



Brazeau County

7401 – Twp Rd 494, P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1
PHONE: (780) 542-7777 FAX: (780) 542-7770
www.brazeau.ab.ca

6.1

August 31, 2020

Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman
Attention: Sebastien Dutrisac, President
135 Sunrise Road, Bag 1300
Peace River, AB T8S 1Y9

Dear Mr. Dutrisac:

RE: 2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour

Due to the current uncertainty with Covid-19 and where municipal assessment will be in the future, Brazeau County Council discussed the 2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Tour at their August 18, 2021 meeting. The following motion was made:

2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour

D. McCann presented a request to ratify the decision to cancel the 2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour.

0587/20-08-18 Moved by A. Heinrich to ratify the cancellation of the 2021 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour.

IN FAVOUR

M. Gressler
D. Wiltse
K. Westerlund
A. Heinrich
H. Swan

OPPOSED

S. Wheale
B. Guyon

CARRIED

It is with sincere disappointment that we announce the cancellation, but as our Municipal counterparts across the province, we hope that you understand.

Yours sincerely,

Jocelyn Whaley
Chief Administrative Officer

CC: Alberta Agricultural Service Boards
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee

Dear Mr. Craig Lukinuk:

Thank you for your recent letters regarding Smoky Lake County's declaration of a Municipal State of Agriculture Disaster. While my schedule precludes a tour in the near term, I can assure you that I recognize the challenges facing producers in the North East, North West and Peace regions of Alberta as they deal with consecutive years of excess moisture. Last fall's difficult harvest conditions combined with excessive moisture this spring and summer, is leaving many producers in Smoky Lake County unable to complete their 2019 harvest and spring 2020 seeding. My colleagues and I, as well as our federal counterparts, recognize the stresses and financial concerns facing producers impacted by these conditions.

The Governments of Canada and Alberta provide Alberta producers with Business Risk Management programs to help offset the risk inherent in farming. These programs, delivered through Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), help mitigate many of the potential effects of weather-related disasters. Producers have access to AgriInsurance, AgriStability and AgriInvest—each of which plays a unique role in managing risk. These programs have proven successful and have helped producers who face production and revenue declines.

For 2019, the AgriInsurance program has been responding to insured producers and has paid approximately \$3.7 million in payments to producers in your county. The claims process for unseeded acres for 2020 continues with an estimated 12,204 unseeded acres, representing 7.8 per cent of the total acres in Smoky Lake County. AFSC will continue to send adjusters to inspect the unseeded fields as quickly as possible to ensure that producers receive their payments and are able to manage the unseeded acres as they see fit.

In 2019, \$95 million in AgriStability payments were paid to Alberta producers who incurred severe margin declines (five-year average). While the program takes time to respond, its individualized approach means producers' coverage is based on their operation and its history. Producers enrolled in the program can apply for interim payments, which provide 50 per cent of their estimated payment. This advance is deducted from their final claim calculation when the final claim is processed. To speed up processing of their applications, producers are encouraged to submit their tax and supplemental information (inventories) before the September deadline.

Additionally, as of July 26, 2020, Alberta producers have had access to approximately \$643 million in AgriInvest accounts, with an average account balance of \$27,300. Producers who have these funds available are encouraged to access these funds as needed.

In the meantime, I can assure you that I am monitoring the situation throughout the province as the 2020 crop year progresses. I recognize the urgency producers feel; however, the need for disaster programming in your area and in other parts of the province cannot be determined until harvest is completed. I will re-assess the situation in the fall based on how existing programs respond to determine if there is further need for disaster programming.

AFSC's team is also ready to work with clients to meet their individual needs. I encourage you to ask local producers to reach out to AFSC for any assistance they require.

Thank you again for taking the time to update me on the situation in Smoky Lake County.

Sincerely,

Honourable Devin Dreeshen
Minister, Agriculture and Forestry

Amanda Shapka

From: Kimberly Sekura-Zagar <ksekurazagar@northlands.com>
Sent: September 3, 2020 3:01 PM
To: Northlands Agriculture
Subject: 2020 BMO Farm Family Award

Thank you for nominating a deserving family from your municipality for the 2020 BMO Farm Family Award.

The awards banquet was scheduled to take place during Farmfair International this November. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic and event gathering restrictions, Northlands was forced to make the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 event.

BMO & Northlands have been in discussions on how to best recognize the hard work and dedication of this year's recipients outside of the traditional event program. It was decided that the best course of action was to postpone any recognition event until 2021. We will continue to monitor the situation and update you as soon as we know the date of the rescheduled event.

We have also notified all of the 2020 recipients and will continue to keep them updated as more information becomes available.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions at 780 720 7806 or ksekurazagar@northlands.com.

Regards

Kimberly

Kimberly Sekura-Zagar
Agriculture Coordinator
Agriculture
northlands.com

Direct: (780) 471-7246
Mobile: (780) 720-7806

**IMPORTANT NOTICE OF ADDRESS CHANGE**

Please note that our office has moved and we are now located at 2693 Broadmoor Boulevard, Suite 132, Sherwood Park, Alberta, CA, T8H 0G1

Confidentiality: The information transmitted is intended only for the addressee and may contain confidential, proprietary and/or privileged material. Confidentiality, privilege, and/or its proprietary nature are not lost by this information having been sent to the wrong person. Any unauthorized review,

Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards

Agricultural Service Board Grant Program

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Grant Program promotes long-term sustainability of the agriculture industry and rural communities and the development and delivery of resource management programming. ASBs are responsible for implementing and enforcing legislative requirements under the *Agricultural Service Board Act*, the *Weed Control Act* (WCA), the *Agricultural Pests Act* (APA), the *Soil Conservation Act* (SCA) and assist with the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act* (AHA).



2019-20 Annual Impacts

6.4

- **\$11.4 million** in annual grants awarded to **69** Agricultural Service Boards to support legislative requirements
- **\$1.78 million** in annual grants to **64** Agricultural Service Boards for environmental programming
- ASBs work to protect **50.5 million acres** of farmland, **62,000 farm operators** and **43,000 farms** from agricultural pests, weeds and soil erosion by enforcing the APA, WCA, and the SCA
- **220 full-time, 155 part-time and 434 seasonal employees supported.**
- ABSs leveraged grant dollars at a **4:1 ratio** (i.e. 80% municipal and 20% provincial funding). The accumulative economic output is **valued at \$102.6 million** annually.

Market Access

ASBs are key to Alberta's robust pest surveillance network that helps Albertans maintain market access by mitigating the risk of agricultural pest threats.

Weed Control

- **52,417** prohibited and noxious weed infestations (sites) were investigated and managed
- Over **103,172 kilometers** of municipal roadways weeds controlled by Integrated Pest Management means including mechanical, chemical and cultural methods such as hand picking or biological control technologies

Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards

- **100%** of the **67 Seed Cleaning Plants** Operating in Alberta are inspected

Partnerships in Action

Together we can support our agriculture sector and meet the needs of our rural communities as they continue to evolve.

Pest Management

- **10,416** fields inspected for clubroot
- **2,373** fields inspected for virulent blackleg
- **1,062** fields inspected for *Fusarium*
- **2,761** pest insect surveys including Grasshopper, Wheat Midge, Bertha Armyworm and Diamond Back Moth



Environmental Protection and Soil Conservation

- **325** Extension events delivered, engaging over 14,500 producers
- **703** Producers met with regarding their Environmental Farm Plan
- **988** Producers educated on the CAP programs
- **636** fields inspected for soil erosion issues

Alberta Agriculture & Forestry ASB Key Contact Program

AF matches those interested with a key contact who are contacts for ASBs to provide general updates or topic specific updates, provide information on government programs and grants and take questions and concerns back to AF.

Key contacts work with ASBs and Agricultural Fieldmen to strengthen our existing partnerships and look for new ways to collaborate and share information.

Agricultural Service Board Unit Contacts:

Doug Macaulay, Manager
Agriculture and Forestry
Primary Agriculture Division
Agriculture Development Unit
Leduc, Alberta
Ph. 780-980-4878

Alan Efetha, ASB Provincial Specialist
Agriculture and Forestry
Primary Agriculture Division
Agriculture Development Unit
Lethbridge, Alberta
Ph. 403-381-5852

Pam Retzloff, ASB Program Coordinator
Agriculture and Forestry
Primary Agriculture Division
Agriculture Development Unit
Edmonton, Alberta
Ph. 780-427-4213



Assurance Partners

Crop Health Assurance Branch and Agriculture Service Boards (ASB)

Market access impact

Grass-root organizations

69 Farmer-led Ag Service Boards

800+ jobs created annually



\$8.5 6:1 return on AF's investment;

ASB's invest an additional \$6 for every \$1 from AF

Delegated Authority for

- Ag Service Board Act
- Agricultural Pest Act
- Weed Control Act
- Soil Conservation Act
- Animal Health Act



Inspect and certify

100% of the provinces
67 seed cleaning plants



Mandated by legislation

ASB's act as an advisory body to the Minister on matters of mutual concern.



It would cost AF over \$30 M to replace all legislated work done by ASB's.



Supports Alberta Ag Exports of \$11.2B/year primary and processed

Assist with surveillance and monitoring for diseases and pests in ~ 17,000 fields annually: in 2019

- 10416 fields – clubroot
- 2373 fields – virulent blackleg
- 1062 fields – Fusarium

2761 fields – insects (grasshopper, wheat midge, bertha armyworm, diamond back moth)

Education over Legislation

Conduct ~ 52,000 weed inspections annually



Identifying, monitor and address concerns that could impact market access



Weed control on > 103,000 km municipal roadways annually to assure public safety and pest management.

COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF BEAVER COEXISTENCE TOOLS

1. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

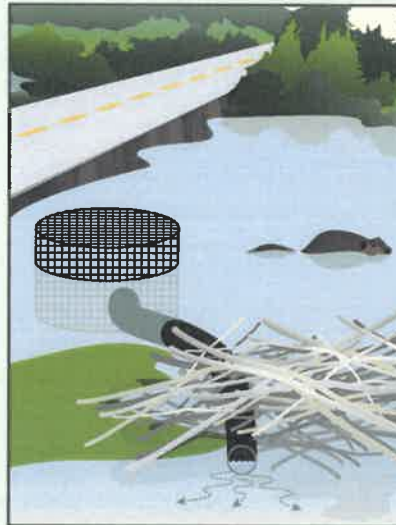
While beavers and the wetlands their dams create play an important role in our ecosystem (biodiversity, water storage, resiliency to flood and drought), beaver dams can create considerable damage to human infrastructure (fell trees and shrubs, impound waters that flood agricultural lands, timberlands, buildings and roads). To reduce this damage, municipalities and land managers manage beavers through traditional means of lethal trapping, shooting, dam removal (manually, backhoe, or with explosives), bounty hunting, relocation, nuisance permits and poisoning.

These management regimes are costly, often do not permanently solve the problem as dams are quickly rebuilt as beavers recolonize and they limit the ability to realize the environmental benefits afforded by having beavers present on the landscape.



2. WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

Coexistence tools such as pond levellers or culvert protectors are water control devices that are designed to prevent problems associated with beaver damming activity and present an alternative that is more efficient and cost-effective to managing beaver conflict compared to expensive annual beaver population control, repeated road maintenance and repairs, and damage to infrastructure due to flooding.



Pond levellers mitigate flooding by acting as an overflow valve through a beaver dam, allowing for the pond level to be managed at a level that prevents flooding but allows beavers to maintain their pond and habitat.



Culvert protectors prevent plugged culverts that can cause flooding of roads and other areas.

3. ARE THESE TOOLS COST EFFECTIVE?

Yes, these tools save money because *Traditional Beaver Management is costly!*

A survey of 52 municipalities in Alberta found that the most common methods for managing beaver problems are removing dams with explosives or backhoes and trapping or shooting beavers.

The survey also showed that on average, annual municipal costs for traditional beaver management include:

Beaver control
\$21,933

Maintenance and repairing damage
\$108,615

Examples of cost effectiveness

COOKING LAKE/BLACKFOOT PROVINCIAL RECREATION AREA, ALBERTA

TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT

Dam removal (manually, backhoe, or explosives) lethal trapping, shooting, bounty hunting, poisoning.

VS

COEXISTENCE TOOLS

Includes monitoring, maintenance, and installation costs.

Pond levellers: installed 12 pond levellers over 3 years (calculated over expectant 7-year life span for pond leveller)

Total cost per site

\$19,624

Total cost all sites **\$235,488**

Total cost per site

\$1,934

Total cost all sites **\$23,208**

COST SAVINGS
90%

(Hood, Manaloor, & Dzioba, 2017)

ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK, ALBERTA

TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT

Dam removal (manually, backhoe, or explosives) lethal trapping, shooting, bounty hunting, poisoning.

VS

COEXISTENCE TOOLS

Includes monitoring, maintenance, and installation costs.

Pond levellers: installed 4 pond levellers in 2019 (calculated over expectant 5-year life span for pond leveller)

Total cost per site

\$2,841

Total cost all sites **\$11,363**

Total cost per site

\$1,075

Total cost all sites **\$4,300**

COST SAVINGS
62%

(Bruinsma, 2020)

ADDITIONAL CASE STUDIES

Case studies from other jurisdictions show variability in the amount of cost savings, however a consistent result of significant savings.

Billerica MA installed 43 pond levellers from 2000-2019 resulting in a 44% cost savings annually*.

**over expectant 10-year life span for pond leveller*

(Callahan, Berube, & Tourkantonis, 2019)

Coastal Plain VA installed 33 coexistence devices at 14 sites from 2004-2006* resulting in an 85% cost savings.

**costs for first year*

(Boyles, Stephanie & Savitzky, Barbara, 2008)

Foothills County AB installed two beaver-proof culverts at a site in 2012, costing \$35,000 but requiring no further maintenance. Installation costs recouped, now saving \$5,000-\$10,000 annually.

(Oel & Gallant, 2019)

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Cost savings outlined in this fact sheet are conservative. They do not factor in the other benefits that coexistence tools allow:

- **Worker safety.** Repairing blocked culverts manually, or by using heavy equipment is an expensive, arduous, and potentially dangerous task compared to the routine maintenance required with coexistence tools.
- **Ecological services.** One study quantified the value of wetlands created by beaver activity to be \$7000 per acre per year. Combined, the value derived from water storage, erosion control, reduction in turbidity, flow and flood control and habitat creation is invaluable.
- **Coexistence with wildlife.** These tools offer a humane management solution to beaver related challenges, addressing the public movement toward coexistence with wildlife.

SUMMARY

The costs to install and maintain coexistence tools were significantly lower compared to traditional beaver maintenance approaches. Given the demonstrated low costs to build and maintain flow devices, municipalities and transportation agencies may substantially reduce costs by installing and maintaining flow devices at chronic beaver damage sites.

Reference list can be viewed at www.rockies.ca/beavers



Miistakis
Institute



FUNDERS

Alberta Environment and
Parks' Watershed Resiliency
and Restoration Program
The Calgary Foundation

CONTACT

Putting Beavers
to Work
www.rockies.ca/beavers

Miistakis Institute
403-440-8444
institute@rockies.ca
www.rockies.ca

Amanda Shapka

From: AAAF <info@aaaf.ab.ca>
Sent: September 25, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Amanda Shapka
Subject: ASB grant delays

Good morning,

During these difficult times, it seems some of the different provincial grant applications are still sitting on a desk awaiting signatures including our 5 year ASB grants. As some of the municipalities, ARAs and other collaborative agencies do not have enough capital and reserves to see them through these tough times, we would like to invite all ASB's and Council to reach out to their MLA's regarding the release of the grant payments.

This is also an opportunity for those who did not receive the maximum amount to discuss the reduction as a percentage. If you are a municipality that didnt recieve the full amount for the last 3 year agreement and you have made improvements and continue with commitments in your new 5 year grant, **I again strongly urge those municipality to advocate to your MLA** as the grant amount allocated had nothing to do with eligibile expenditures in the new grant application. **If the application has no bearing on the amount to be received they why make us redo the application?** So much for Red Tape Reduction!

As always, if you need a sounding board or some additional information, please do not hesitate to contact your executive, your directors and your colleagues. As family, we are here for you.

In service,

Sebastien Dutrtisac,

AAAF President,

NSC Agricultural Fieldman