

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Minutes of the **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** held on Tuesday, **February 16, 2021** at 9:34 A.M. held virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting and physically in County Council Chambers.

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

| ATTENDANCE | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Div. No.</u> | <u>Councillor(s)</u> | <u>Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021</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 |
| CAO | Gene Sobolewski | Present in Chambers |
| Assist. CAO | Lydia Cielin | Virtually Present |
| Finance Manager | Brenda Adamson | Present in Chambers |
| Ag. Fieldman | Carleigh McMullin | Present in Chambers |
| Assist. Ag. Fieldman | Amanda Kihn | Present in Chambers |
| Shop Foreman | Dave Kully | Present in Chambers |
| Legislative Svcs./R.S. | Patti Priest | Virtually Present |
| Plan. & Dev. Manager | Jordan Ruegg | Virtually Present |
| Planning & Dev. Assist. | Kyle Schole | Virtually Present |
| Natural Gas Manager | Daniel Moric | Virtually Present |
| Fire Chief | Scott Franchuk | Virtually Present |
| ***** | | |

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

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), was virtually present.

2. Agenda:

357-21: Lukinuk That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, February 16, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

358-21: Orichowski That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

359-21: Halisky That the Action List from the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, be filed for information.

Carried.

4. Request for Decision:

No Request for Decision.

7. **Delegation:**

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before Smoky Lake County Council from 9:38 a.m. to 9:51 a.m., was Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), to provide a verbal update, which included but was not limited to the following points:

- Completed one Environmental Farm Plan within Smoky Lake County.
- Engaged Tower Farms from Smoky Lake County to participate in a Rancher Research Project through a grant funding from Canadian Ag Partnership, for the purpose of increasing the utilization farming technology.
- Applied for the Riparian Action Program (RAP) grant and if the application is successful, will advertise for participation.
- The plan for Year-2021 has been completed and the Year-2020 Annual Report will be released at the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for March 2, 2021.
- Starting to line up the Summer Field Day and will be contacting producers next week seeking plot sites.
- Currently applying for a Hemp permits to allow for a Hemp crop plot site application.
- Core funding of \$2 million is split between 12 associations including LARA from the Provincial Government. LARA received \$177,000.00 in Year-2020 and is expected to receive the same amount for Year-2021.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually left the meeting, time 9:51 a.m.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

360-21: Lukinuk

That Smoky Lake County send a letter of support to the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Devin Dreesen, for the purpose of lobbying the Provincial Government to continue to provide funding to the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), and carbon copy MLA Glenn van Dijken, MLA David Hanson, MP Shannon Stubbs, Lac La Biche County, Municipal District of Bonnyville and County of St. Paul No.19.

Carried.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Awareness

361-21: Lukinuk

That Smoky Lake County promote the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)'s virtual Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., on social media for public awareness.

Carried.

5. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report

362-21: Lukinuk

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Chairman's written report from December 14, 2020 and January 18, 2021, in regard to the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), as follows, be accepted for information:

- Included in this agenda package: LARA Minutes from October 26, 2020, and December 14, 2020 as well as LARA's Operating Budget and financial reports.
- ARECA and FARMRITE renewals are coming up will discuss what route the board will take, Charlie Leskiw gave a report on ARECA he is the board rep for ARECA.
- Forage report was given by Stephanie B. patrons have been invoiced for pasture fees still waiting for a few to be paid, more trials to enter in data and sending samples away.
- AESA report by Kellie, applying for CAP and ROAR grants and planning extensions for next year. Asking producers what events they are interested in, lots of interest for a hemp workshop.
- Amanda (*Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)*) is attending meetings and working on a draft budget for 2021 purchased another bale probe and a new Gravely zero turn mower that will be delivered in spring 2021.
- Upcoming events Soil health academy July 19 - 21 2021
- Wanda Austin board chair attended a RDAR (*Results Driven Agriculture Research*) meeting December 17, 2020 and by late March they should have a new board in place.
- Amanda (*Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)*) talked about FarmRITE and a motion was made to join FarmRITE for the sum of \$4,500 dollars for 2021. Amanda also gave the managers report, she has done 5 grant reports and has 3 more to do, January 8, 2021 she attended the FarmRITE meeting and has completed the summer job and grant applications.
- The research report was presented by Amanda and Stephanie they are putting data together for the annual report, sending soil samples out for the liming trials and over 140 producer feed samples have been sent out for testing.
- Kellie gave her report she is working on CAP grants a few EFP coming in, water shed management plan and talking to Bob Bezpalko about hosting a hemp workshop.
- Next LARA meeting is February 22, 2021.
- And the LARA AGM will be held on March 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Carried.

One member of the Public virtually joined the meeting, time 10:13 a.m.

Weed Inspector & Secondary Trapper

363-21: Cherniwchan

That Smoky Lake County advertise in the local newspapers, County social media, County grapevine, County website, as well as through the Lakeland College, Olds College and AAAF websites to recruit two (2) Weed Inspectors for the Year-2021 season; and also advertise for a Secondary Trapper contract opportunity, on the County's social media, grapevine, and website.

Carried.

Dave Kully, Public Works Shop Foreman, left the meeting, time 10:17 a.m.

Dave Franchuk, Environmental Operations Manager, virtually joined the meeting, time 10:18 a.m.

Kyle Schole, Planning and Development Assistant, virtually left the meeting, time 10:19 a.m.

Jordan Ruegg, Planning and Development Manager, virtually left the meeting, time 10:21 a.m.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Beaver Dam Removal Best Practice

364-21: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County promote public awareness on social media, of the Federal best code of practice of removing beaver dams, as publicized by Federal Government, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and updated on July 8, 2020.

Carried.

Agricultural Fieldman Report

365-21: Lukinuk That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Fieldman’s written Report as of February 3, 2021 be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

6. Correspondence:

Alberta Agriculture and Forestry

366-21: Halisky That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County from Sharon Stollery, Manager, Farm Safety, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, dated December 1, 2020, in regard to the discontinuation of distributing Farm Safety materials in respect to the Farm Freedom and Safety Act in effect January 31, 2020, and the said materials being available through the OH&S Publications Store, be filed for information.

Carried.

MLA, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency

367-21: Cherniwchan That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the letter from Glenn van Dijken, MLA, Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency, dated December 22, 2020, stating: “Although the 2020 ASB program budget is reduced, Agriculture and Forestry increased program stability through the new five-year renewal under the ASB Grant Program. This five-year agreement replaces the previous three-year grant agreement.”, in response to the County’s letter dated October 20, 2020 questioning the Agricultural Service Board grant funding delays and reductions.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

Next Meeting

368-21: Halisky That the next Smoky Lake County **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** be scheduled for **Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** to be held virtually, through Electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 **and/or** physically in County Council Chambers.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

369-21: Gawalko That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting of February 16, 2021, be adjourned, time 10:43 a.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER