

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Minutes of the **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** held on Tuesday, **April 13, 2021** at 9:05 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, Apr. 13, 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	Virtually Present
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh McMullin	Present in Chambers
Assist. Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Kihn	Present in Chambers
Legislative Svcs./R.S.	Patti Priest	Virtually Present
GIS	Carole Dowhaniuk	Virtually Present
Planning & Dev. Assist.	Kyle Schole	Virtually Present
Natural Gas Manager	Daniel Moric	Virtually Present

No Members of the Media were Present.

No Member of the Public were Present.

2. Agenda:

569-21: Halisky

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, April 13, 2021, be adopted as amended:

Addition to the Agenda:

1. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry - Field Visits 2021.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

570-21: Orichowski

That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

571-21: Lukinuk

That the Action List from the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, be filed for information.

Carried.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually joined the meeting, time 9:18 a.m.

Kyle Schole, Planning and Development Assistant virtually left the meeting, time 9:21 a.m.

Kellie Nichiporik, P.Eng, Environmental Program Manager, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually joined the meeting, time 9:22 a.m.

4. Request for Decision:

Policy Statement No. 62-28-03: Mowing Program

572-21: Lukinuk

That Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-28-03: Mowing Program, be amended:

Title: Mowing Program		Policy No.: 28-03
Section: 62	Code: P-R	Page No.: 1 of 3

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Legislation Reference:	Alberta Provincial Statutes
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Purpose:	Smoky Lake County will govern the municipal mowing program on developed road allowances and County lands under the Agricultural Service Board.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:	
<p>1. STATEMENT:</p> <p>1.1 Smoky Lake County will mow developed road allowances annually to maintain safe visibility for the travelling public and to improve drainage of infrastructure.</p> <p>1.2 The mowing program promotes effective control of weeds and brush within the municipal right-of-way encroaching the roads surface.</p> <p>1.3 The County will mow County lands on a as needed basis.</p> <p>2. DEFINITION(S):</p> <p>2.1 County Lands: Property owned and/ operated by Smoky Lake County</p> <p>2.2 Developed Road Allowances: Road allowances containing a gravel or hard surfaced roadway under the jurisdiction of Smoky Lake County.</p> <p>3. OBJECTIVES:</p> <p>3.1 Define areas that will be mowed within the right-of-way and on County lands.</p> <p>3.2 Provide the level of right-of-way mowing as set out by the Agricultural Service Board.</p> <p>3.3 The County's desire to achieve the following objectives with its roadside mowing program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to assist with weed control by preventing the seed set of noxious weeds in the right-of-way and to cut any brush regrowth encroaching on the road ▪ to enhance road maintenance with minimal gravel loss and allow positive drainage of rainwater to be more efficiently channeled to the right-of-way ▪ to increase visibility of wildlife crossing and reduce obstructed visibility of signs at intersections for the safety of the travelling public ▪ to provide a fire break and reduce the amount of fire load material in right-of-way. 	

Title: Mowing Program		Policy No.: 28-03
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To prevent drifting on roads, where the blowing snow will travel across the road, rather than being trapped by standing vegetation which will travel across <p>4. GUIDELINES:</p> <p>4.1 The mowing program will be developed and planned by the Agricultural Service Board and implemented through the Agricultural Services Department. The defined mowing areas consist of three (3) zones, divided using range road 150 and Highway 855 as boundaries.</p> <p>4.2 Ditch clean-up and equipment maintenance will commence 2 weeks prior to mowing program start date.</p> <p>4.3 One-pass herbicide mowers will begin mowing operation the first week of June for more effective weed control. Non-herbicide mower operations will begin the last week of June. All mowing operations will cease no later than November 1st.</p> <p>4.4 Mowing Operations consist of three (3) tractors and mowers used to cut grass, brush, and noxious weeds. These mowers are able to accomplish a significant amount of mowing and right-of-way clearing very efficiently when compared to other methods of mechanical control.</p> <p>4.5 Without limiting the program or its effectiveness, it will generally be planned as following:</p> <p>4.5.1 Developed Road Allowances: All grassy areas along, oiled, or gravel roads will be mowed once a year mowing from roads edge to property line where conditions allow. Which may require several mowing passes to accomplish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These secondary passes should be a minimum of 5ft. • Main roads into lake resorts will only be mowed prior to the July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year) • The Iron Horse Trail shall only be mowed once per season • It is recognized that inclement weather, such as rain and early winter could prevent completion of the program <p>4.6 All other mowing requests will be at the discretion of the Agricultural Service Board and added to Schedule "A" Approved Additional Mowing</p>	



SCHEDULE "A"
APPROVED ADDITIONAL MOWING



Metis Crossing
Smoky Lake Rodeo Grounds
Smoky Lake Air Strip
Hamlin Ball Diamonds
Waskatenau Ball Diamonds
Bellis Ball Diamonds
Bonnie Lake Enviro Reserve 7921626

Carried.

7. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before Smoky Lake County Council from 9:40 a.m. to 10:07 a.m., was Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), and Kellie Nichiporik, P.Eng, Environmental Program Manager, LARA, to provide a verbal update, which included but was not limited to the following points:

- Have submitted the application to trial hemp crops.
- Confirmed a plot site within Smoky Lake County on Colin Starchuk's land along Highway 28 and have taken soil samples to determine the fertilizer required.
- The Year-2020 Annual Report is available on the LARA website.
- This year's plots will include silage, wheat, barley, oats, flax, and hemp with 140-150 plots located within Smoky Lake County.
- There are three webinars scheduled for this month.
- LARA was approved for a grant of \$142,000 to continue the water program.
- Conducting a Rancher Research Project to improve the uptake of livestock innovations through Tower Farms of Smoky Lake County.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), and Kellie Nichiporik, P.Eng, Environmental Program Manager, LARA, virtually left the meeting, time 10:07 a.m.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

573-21: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County Council accept the April 13, 2021, verbal report from Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), and Kellie Nichiporik, P.Eng, Environmental Program Manager, LARA, for information.

Carried.

Kyle Schole, Planning and Development Assistant virtually joined the meeting, time 10:09 a.m.

Bellis 4-H Belt Buckle Sponsorship

574-21: Halisky That Smoky Lake County sponsor the purchase of the Year-2021 Bellis 4-H Achievement Day Belt Buckles in the amount of \$750.00, which are to be provided for their annual show and sale scheduled for June 11, 2021 in the Village of Waskatenau, in response to the letter received from Justin Cherniwchan, President of the Bellis 4-H Beef Club, dated March 7, 2021.

Carried.

Bellis 4-H Achievement Day

575-21: Lukinuk That Smoky Lake County sponsor lunch for the Bellis 4-H Achievement Day, show and sale, scheduled for June 11, 2021 in the Village of Waskatenau, up to a maximum in the amount of \$500.00, subject to the event going forward in respect to the uncertainty of COVID restrictions.

Carried.

Do More Agriculture Foundation

576-21: Orichowski That Smoky Lake County, donate in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Do More Agriculture Foundation, which is a not-for-profit organization focusing on mental health in agriculture across Canada, based on the 3 pillars: Awareness - education and breaking the stigma; Community - being more than just a physical place, community is also a sense of belonging and being a part of something more; and Research - which is the backbone to creating further resources and ensuring they serve the agricultural industry; as part of or in lieu of the Year-2021 Farmers Appreciation Event which may not be hosted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic evolving gathering restrictions.

Carried.

Year-2021 19th Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day

577-21: Halisky That Smoky Lake County **defer** further discussion of the idea of hosting the Year-2021, 19th Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day in conjunction with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), Plot Tour scheduled for August 5, 2021, due to the uncertainty of COVID restrictions.

Carried.

5. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report

The Agricultural Service Board Chairperson: Dan Gawalko Councillor Division 1, provided a written Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's report as follows:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Board of Directors meeting - February 22, 2021 virtual

- Wanda Austin LARA's chair said the AGM is looking to fill up and is also working with Amanda on the policy and procedure manual.
- Charlie emailed all members the ARECA report and a motion was made not to join ARECA at this time.
- FARMRITE has a new board.

- RDAR would like to fund one organization not two (ARECA and FARMRITE) and the research associations would like them to become one and have one lobby group RDAR approved core funding for two million a year for two years between all the research associations.
- managers report by Amanda 7 cap grants done sent the application in for summer jobs and hired 3 summer students she also gave the research report about regional silage trials, oat and barley trials and the partnership trials for smoky lake county Amanda also gave the financial report - Kellie gave the AESA report attending ASB meetings working on newsletters workshop extensions, writing annual reports and admin work.
- Luc gave the LFA report all staff are coming back.
- AGM is on March 2 at 7:00 pm next board meeting March 29.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Board of Directors meeting - March 2, 2021 virtual

- Wanda Austin LARA's chair introduced the board of directors and thanked the municipalities that support LARA and thanked the staff and directors for the time and work they put into LARA.
- Amanda gave the managers report two municipalities declared agriculture disasters in 2020, she is looking for a successful 2021.
- Barb McCarthy gave the finance report, and she will continue to be our accountant in 2021.
- Organizational meeting was held, and Wanda talked about who was up for elections and thanked Carl Agnemark for being on the board for 9 years. Wanda Austin was re-elected on the board for Lac La Biche county and also as chair of LARA, Barb Shapka was re-elected for Smoky Lake county and Pat Elsen was elected for St. Paul county
- After the organizational meeting, the staff gave a presentation research update was given by Amanda.
- Lakeland Agricultural Research Association
- Vision - To be a leader in agriculture research and extension in Alberta.
- Mission- To conduct innovative unbiased applied agriculture research and extension supporting sustainable agriculture.
- Main office is in Ft. Kent Alberta they serve over 2,100 farms and over 1.9 million acres, in 2020 they did 32 research trials, 2,100 small plots, 50 producer 1 on 1 calls, 70 producer feed samples x 2. In 2021 they would like to do a hemp trial in Smoky Lake or Lac La Biche county if they are accepted for a license. Amanda also thanked all the ag fieldman and the ASB boards for the work they do.
- Stephanie Bilodeau gave her forage and livestock presentation.
- Kellie Nichiforik talked about riparian health assessment, in 2020 she did 18 extension events (980 producers), classroom agricultural program ,23 EF Plans, assisted 45 producers with CAP grant applications ,8 news letters sent out to over 2,100 farm mail boxes.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Board of Directors meeting - March 29, 2021 virtual

- Wanda opened the meeting and Amanda talked about FARM RITE , John Knap would like to keep ARECA and FARMRITE as separate entities she also gave her managers report, working on core grant reports had a meeting with the new HR committee, sourced land for Smoky Lake county Colin Starchuks along highway 28 , applied for a hemp licence just waiting for approval, hired 2 full time summer students May - Sept. and 1 part time for July and August and looking at amending some items in our policy that came up during a policy review.
- Stephanie gave the research report, sourcing seed for the trials, checking on. all inputs for spring seeding.
- Luc gave the LFA report wants to get some patrons on the board at the next meeting and Charlie suggested GPS ear tagging 5 head and record what they are up to during the grazing season Kellie gave her report has a meeting April 12 with Craigend discussing use of there land and is also presenting Lara to Lamont county on April 7 and she has some grant writing to do the mental heath workshop went well.

Upcoming LARA Events

- Succession planning April 13, 2021 2:00 pm
- Pasture management April 27, 2021 1:00 pm
- Working well workshop April 29, 2021 6:30 pm
- Soil health academy July 19-21, 2021 Mallaig AB.
- Tentative dates for summer field tours, July 8 Ft. Kent, July 22 Smoky Lake, August 5 St. Paul, August 11, Lac La Biche
- Next meeting April 19 at 1:00 pm

578-21: Lukinuk

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Chairman's written report from February 22 to March 29, 2021, in regard to the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), be accepted for information.

Carried.

Agricultural Fieldman Report

Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Beaver Management Regulations

579-21: Lukinuk

That Smoky Lake County provide a letter to lobby the Provincial Government to Lakeland MP Shannon Stubbs, for the purpose of advocating for a reduction in red tape in respect to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's beaver management regulations; and carbon copy Soren Odegard, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and Glenn van Dijken, MLA Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock Constituency.

Carried.

Agricultural Fieldman Report

580-21: Halisky That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Fieldman's written Report as of April 6, 2021 be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

6. Correspondence:

Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC)

581-21: Orichowski That Smoky Lake County purchase a bronze sponsorship of the Alberta Invasive Species Council for Year-2021, in the amount of \$1,000.00, in response to the letter received from Megan Evans, Executive Director, Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC), dated January 26, 2021, requesting a 2021 sponsorship of the Alberta Invasive Species Council.

Carried.

Farm Safety Centre

582-21: Orichowski That Smoky Lake County contribute funding in the amount of \$518.00 to the Alberta Farm Safety Centre towards their Year-2021 "Safety Smarts" school-based-farm-safety program focusing on initiatives to reduce farm injuries and fatalities involving children, based on the Year-2019 delivery to 148 children in Smoky Lake County at a rate of \$3.50/student; in response to the letter received from Laura Nelson, Executive Director, Farm Safety Centre, dated February 8, 2021.

Carried.

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

583-21: Lukinuk That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County from Connie Huelsman, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Red Deer County, dated March 11, 2021, concerning the effectiveness of the resolution session during the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held virtually on January 21, 2021, be filed for information.

Carried.

Sustainable Farm Families Alberta

584-21: Orichowski That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County from Keylan Kado, Program Manager, Sustainable Farm Families Alberta, dated March 15, 2021, introducing a Farm Safety Centre Rural Health Initiative which aims to remedy disadvantages by providing rural Albertans with in-depth physical and mental health assessments, be filed for information.

Carried.

Carleigh McMullin, Agricultural Fieldman, left the meeting, time 11:10 a.m.

Grazing School for Women Committee

585-21: Orichowski That Smoky Lake County provide County Promotional items as per Policy Statement No. 01-37-02: Promotional Items, to the 2021 Grazing School for Women event being held in Lamont County, in response to the letter request received from Tanis Ponath, Grazing School for Women Committee, dated March 18, 2021.

Carried.

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

586-21: Cherniwchan That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County from Adam Fitzpatrick, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Saddle Hills County, dated March 30, 2021, expressing dissatisfaction with the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference held virtually on January 21, 2021, be filed for information.

Carried.

Addition to the Agenda:

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Program - Field Visits 2021

587-21: Halisky That Smoky Lake County acknowledge receipt of the email received from Doug Macaulay, Manager, Provincial Agricultural Service Board Program, dated April 6, 2021 announcing the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Program Team is coordinating 15 field visits across Alberta in 2021, including a visit to Smoky Lake County; and respond by providing the following tentative dates to schedule the said visit on Monday, June 28, 2021 or Tuesday, June 29, 2021.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

Next Meeting

588-21: Orichowski That the next Smoky Lake County **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** be scheduled for **Tuesday, June 15, 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:

589-21: Gawalko That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting of April 13, 2021, be adjourned, time 11:15 a.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER