

# 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

**Tuesday, June 15, 2021** at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

Held virtually through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87373522079?pwd=MVhtdnlXSFBjdkpzNitYUTNWeVBWZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 7352 2079 Passcode: 185835

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**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 **April 13, 2021** – Agricultural Service Board Meeting. ©

**Recommendation:** Motion to Adopt.

3.2 Agricultural Service Board Meeting: April 13, 2021 – **Action List.** ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

**4. Request for Decision:**

4.1 2021 Farmers Appreciation Event. ©

**5. Issues for Information:**

5.1 ASB Chairman’s Report. ©

5.2 Agricultural Department Report. ©

5.3 Resolution Responses and Grading. ©

5.4 2021 Brush Spraying. ©

## **6. Correspondence:**

- 6.1 Letter received from Ian Sundquist, Agricultural Service Board Chair, MD of Willow Creek, dated April 20, 2021 RE: Letter from Red Deer County regarding Provincial ASB Conference resolutions. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 6.2 Letter received from Leanne Beaupre, Reeve, County of Grande Prairie No. 1, dated May 14, 2021 RE: ASB Grant Reduction. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 6.3 Letter received from Jordan Jensen, Executive Director, Farm Safety Centre, dated May 7, 2021 RE: Farm Safety Centre Funding Thank you. ©

**Recommendation:** File for Information.

- 6.4 E-mail received from Ed Basaraba, Bonnie Lake Resort Resident, dated June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 RE: Additional Mowing at Bonnie Lake Resort

**Recommendation:** Council discretion.

## **7. Delegation(s):**

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

## **8. Executive Session:**

- 8.1 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

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

**Adjournment**

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:

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<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:

<b>Title:</b> Mowing Program	<b>Code:</b> P-R	<b>Policy No.:</b> 28-03
<b>Section:</b> 62		<b>Page No.:</b> 1 of 3
<i>E</i>		
<b>Legislation Reference:</b> Alberta Provincial Statutes		
<b>Purpose:</b>	Smoky Lake County will govern the municipal mowing program on developed road allowances and County lands under the Agricultural Service Board.	
<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b>		
<b>1. STATEMENT:</b>		
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.	
1.2	The mowing program promotes effective control of weeds and brush within the municipal right-of-way encroaching the roads surface.	
1.3	The County will mow County lands on a as needed basis.	
<b>2. DEFINITION(S):</b>		
2.1	<b>County Lands:</b> Property owned and/ operated by Smoky Lake County	
2.2	<b>Developed Road Allowances:</b> Road allowances containing a gravel or hard surfaced roadway under the jurisdiction of Smoky Lake County.	
<b>3. OBJECTIVES:</b>		
3.1	Define areas that will be mowed within the right-of-way and on County lands.	
3.2	Provide the level of right-of-way mowing as set out by the Agricultural Service Board.	
3.3	The County's desire to achieve the following objectives with its roadside mowing program:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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</li> <li>▪ to enhance road maintenance with minimal gravel loss and allow positive drainage of rainwater to be more efficiently channeled to the right-of-way</li> <li>▪ to increase visibility of wildlife crossing and reduce obstructed visibility of signs at intersections for the safety of the travelling public</li> <li>▪ to provide a fire break and reduce the amount of fire load material in right-of-way.</li> </ul>	

<b>Title:</b> Mowing Program	<b>Code:</b> P-R	<b>Policy No.:</b> 28-03
<b>Section:</b> 62		<b>Page No.:</b> 2 of 3
<i>E</i>		
<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines:</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 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</li> </ul>	
<b>4. GUIDELINES:</b>		
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.	
4.2	Ditch clean-up and equipment maintenance will commence 2 weeks prior to mowing program start date.	
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 1 <sup>st</sup> .	
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.	
4.5	Without limiting the program or its effectiveness, it will generally be planned as following:	
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.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These secondary passes should be a minimum of 5ft.</li> <li>• Main roads into lake resorts will only be mowed prior to the July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year)</li> <li>• The Iron Horse Trail shall only be mowed once per season</li> <li>• It is recognized that inclement weather, such as rain and early winter could prevent completion of the program</li> </ul>	
4.6	All other mowing requests will be at the discretion of the Agricultural Service Board and added to <b>Schedule "A": Approved Additional Mowing</b>	

Section 62 Policy 28-63

 **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 years' 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 Chemiwchan, 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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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 health workshop went well.

**Upcoming LARA Events**

- Succession planning April 13, 2021 2:00 pm
- Pasture management April 27, 2021 11:00 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



3.2



● Draft ● Not started ● On Track ● Behind ● Overdue ● Complete → Direct Alignment --- Indirect Alignment

### COUNCIL MOTIONS/INQUIRY PLAN

### COUNCIL MOTIONS 2021

Meeting Date	Council Motion #	Goal	Details	Owner	Progress Update	Current Completion	Start Date
						On Track	2021/04/13
2021/04/13	572-21	→ <b>Policy Statement No. 62-28-03: Mowing Program</b>	That Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-28-03: Mowing Program, be amended:	Municipal Clerk	<b>Carleigh McMullin:</b> <b>Achievements:</b> Jenna updated Policy 62-28-03, and provided amended copy on April 19th, 2021.  <b>Challenges:</b> No value  <b>Next Steps:</b> No value  <b>Carleigh McMullin:</b> <b>Achievements:</b> Copy of amended policy sent to Jenna on April 19th for formatting.  <b>Challenges:</b> No value  <b>Next Steps:</b> No value	Complete	2021/04/16

3.2

→ **Bellis 4-H Belt Buckle Sponsorship**

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 Waskatenau, in response to the letter received from Justin Cherniwchan, President of the Bellis 4-H Beef Club, dated March 7, 2021.

Finance Manager

**Patti Priest:**

**Achievements:**  
Municipal File: 62-36

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:**  
Information provided to Accounts Payable on April 19th to issue the Bellis 4-H Club a cheque in the amount of \$750.00 for their Achievement Day.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*



→ **Bellis 4-H  
Achievement  
Day**

That Smoky Lake County sponsor lunch for the Bellis 4-H Achievement Day, show and sale, scheduled for June 11, 2021 in 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.

Finance Manager

**Patti Priest:**

**Achievements:**  
Municipal File: 62-36

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:**  
Spoke with Donna Cherniwchan of the Bellis 4-H Club on April 19th to keep in touch on the plans for the Achievement Day. We will have the cheque issued closer to the day to ensure it's going to still be a 'go'.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*



→ **Do More  
Agriculture  
Foundation**

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.

Finance Manager

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:** E-mail sent to the Do More Agriculture Foundation on April 19th to find out where we can send the donation cheque to because the website just has the option to do an online donation via credit card.

Another e-mail sent June 7th.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*



→ **Year-2021 19th Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day**

That Smoky Lake County **defer** further discussion of the idea of holding 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.

Agricultural Fieldman

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:**

- Smoky Lake Field Day is actually July 22, 2021.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:**

Reached out to Amanda at LARA on April 19th to let her know we are thinking about doing something in conjunction with the plot day. We will stay in touch as the restrictions change.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*



2021/04/13

579-21

→ Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Beaver Management Regulations

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.

Agricultural Fieldman

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:** A letter was sent to the DFO, Shannon Stubbs and Glenn van Dijken on April 6th in response to council motion 500-21. I have now sent a carbon copy of that letter to Soren Odegard, Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA).

**Challenges:** No value

**Next Steps:** No value

Complete

2021/04/13

2021/04/13

581-21

→ Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC)

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.

Finance Manager

**Brenda Adamson:**

**Achievements:** Cheque #51166 for \$1,000 payable to Alberta Invasive Species Council was prepared April 23, 2021

**Challenges:** No value

**Next Steps:** No value

**Patti Priest:**

**Achievements:** Municipal File 62-21

**Challenges:** No value

**Next Steps:** No value

Complete

2021/04/13

2021/04/13

582-21

→ Farm Safety Centre

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.

Finance Manager

**Patti Priest:**

**Achievements:**  
Municipal File 62-31

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:**  
Information provided to Accounts Payable on April 19th to issue a cheque to Farm Safety Centre in the amount of \$518.00.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

Complete

2021/04/13

2021/04/13

585-21

→ Grazing School for Women Committee

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.

Municipal Clerk

**Jenna Preston:**

**Achievements:**  
Promotional items were given to the Assistant Agricultural Fieldman on April 20, 2021 for the Grazing School for Women event.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

Complete

2021/04/13



2021/04/13

587-21

↳ **Provincial  
Agricultural  
Service Board  
Program - Field  
Visits 2021**

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.

Agricultural Fieldman **Patti Priest:**

**Achievements:**  
Municipal File 62-1

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

**Carleigh McMullin:**

**Achievements:**  
Date has been confirmed by Alan Efetha of Alberta Ag and Forestry that they will be coming June 29th, 2021 for the ASB Field Visit.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2021/04/13

Complete



<b>REQUEST FOR DECISION</b>		<b>DATE</b>	June 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	<b>4.1</b>
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>2021 Farmer Appreciation Event</b>			
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	<p>At the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 ASB Meeting Council made motion 577-21," That Smoky Lake County <b>defer</b> further discussion of the idea of holding 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."</p> <p>We are bringing the Request for Decision forward once more. A decision was made at the April 13<sup>th</sup> ASB Meeting to sponsor the 4-H belt buckles, as well as sponsor a lunch for the participants of the 4-H Achievement Day if the event is to move forward.</p> <p>Smoky Lake County holds a Farmer Appreciation event annually in June in conjunction with the Bellis 4-H Beef Club Achievement Day. Smoky Lake County would sponsor the 4-H belt buckles for the last few years.</p> <p>In 2020 no event was held due to Covid-19 regulations. The Bellis 4-H Club is planning to hold their Achievement Day on June 11, 2021 in Waskatenau. We are looking for direction on whether to proceed with an event in 2021 with ever changing Covid-19 restrictions.</p>			
<b>CORRELATION TO BUSINESS (STRATEGIC) PLAN</b>				
<b>LEGISLATIVE, BYLAW and/or POLICY IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>BENEFITS</b>				
<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>				
<b>ALTERNATIVES</b>		None		
<b>FINANCE/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>Operating Costs: \$1500</b>		<b>Capital Costs:</b>		
<b>Budget Available:</b>		<b>Source of Funds:</b>		<b>ASB Operational Budget</b>
<b>Budgeted Costs:</b>		<b>Actual Costs:</b>		
<b>INTERGOVERNMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS</b>				
<b>COMMUNICATION STRATEGY</b>				

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	
<p><u>Option 1:</u> That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board take no action for an event in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board host the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation Day in conjunction with the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), Plot Tour on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.</p>	
<b>Agricultural Fieldman</b>	

Meeting of Board of Directors  
Zoom Meeting

**LARA Minuets of March 29<sup>th</sup>,2021**

**Present:**

Barb Shapka	Wanda Austin	Luc Tellier	Charlie Leskiw
George L'Heureux	Murray Scott	Patrick Elsen	Marc Jubinville
Phil Amyotte	Lauren Halinsky	Johnny Cherwinican	Kevin Wirsta
Ulf Herde	Stephanie Bilodeau	Kellie Nichiporik	Amanda Mathiot
Danny Gawalko	Laurier Bourassa		

**Recording Secretary:** Amanda Mathiot

**A. Opening**

Wanda called the meeting to order 1:03 pm

**Motion 21-17:** George moved to adopt the agenda. Charlie seconded. Carried.

**Motion 21-18:** Dan moved to adopt the minutes of February 22, 2021, as presented. Murray seconded. Carried.

**B. Business Arising**

None

**C. Standing Business**

**A. Chair Report (Wanda)**

a. Nothing to report

**B. FarmRite (Amanda)**

a. RDAR committed \$750,00. CARA will distribute the funds. The rest of the money will be distributed after April 1st.

b. FarmRITE is working on PowerPoint to show the RDAR board.

c. Looking into hiring a consultant to try and get some of the additional funds RDAR is offering.

**C. Manager Report (Amanda)**

a. Created and presented at ARECA annual general meeting.

b. Worked with Barb and Charlene on finances for the AGM

c. Worked on the core grant and sent additional information for grant reports.

d. Had a meeting with the HR committee

e. Sourced plot land for Smoky Lake

## 5.0 Correspondence

A. Telus weather station. Charlie will contact Telus.

## 6.0 Board of Directors (Closed Session)

**Motion 21-20:** Marc **moved** to go in camera at 3:01 am, Danny seconded. **Carried**

**Motion 21-21:** George **moved** to come out of camera at 3:48 pm, Murray seconded. **Carried**

## 7.0 Closure

Next Board Meeting: April 19th, 2021 at 1:00 pm

**Motion 21-22:** Wanda **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 pm

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LARA Director

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LARA Director



5.2



AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARD PLAN  
(ASB) PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Goal	Progress Update	Current Com...	Start Date	Due Date
<b>Council Member Inquiry (ASB): 100%</b>	<p><b>NEW Carleigh McMullin:</b></p> <p><b>Achievements:</b> 1) Request sent May 29th to speak to a landowner about Dandelions on neighbouring property. <b>Result:</b> Carleigh called landowner on May 31st, and left a voicemail requesting for them to call back if they needed any further clarification. Never heard back from landowner.</p> <p>2) Request sent on May 25th to unplug culvert at Bonnie Lake Resort. <b>Result:</b> Unplugged on May 28th, and set two traps and successfully caught 2 more beavers. Grate will be put on culvert at this location.</p> <p>3) Request sent on May 17th that culvert on RR 133 North of 602 was plugged. <b>Result:</b> Unplugged on May 18th, and trap set.</p> <p>4) Request sent on May 12th that culvert at Smoky Lake Creek Culvert on RR 174 north of TWP 590. <b>Result:</b> Unplugged May 20th and set traps.</p> <p>5) Request sent April 20th for mowers to mow Bellis Curling Rink. <b>Result:</b> Asked the Councilor to get the Association to send a formal request to Council with all the information so an informed decision can be made to whether it gets added to Schedule 'A' Additional Mowing or not.</p> <p><b>Challenges:</b> <i>No value</i></p> <p><b>Next Steps:</b> <i>No value</i> 2021/06/07</p>	<p>100%</p> <p>100 / 100%</p>	2017/12/31	2020/12/30

5.2

**Achievements: Meetings & Training attended from April 13th- June 15th**

- Asset Management Meeting: April 30th, 2021
- Decision Analysis & Risk Management: April 20th, 2021
- ASB Update Webinar: April 21st, 2021
- Carleigh attended AAAF Education Committee Meeting: April 22nd, 2021
- Departmental Meeting: April 27th, 2021
- Corteva Stewardship Training: May 11th, 2021
- Grazing School for Women Meeting: May 12th, 2021
- Carleigh met with Patti May 12th, 2021 to go over zoom use
- Joint Health & Safety Committee Meeting: April 15th & May 13th, 2021
- Munisight/AGMobile Training: May 14th, 2021
- NE AAAF Weed School: May 19th, 2021
- Carleigh attended Indigenous Consultation session June 2nd, Amanda attended Part 2 June 3rd
- Carleigh in Blasting course June 3-4, 2021
- TDG Training May 31st, 2021
- JH& Safety Meeting: June 10th, 2021

**Ag. Department Highlights**

- We had 22 applicants for the mower operator position, interviewed 7 with the assistance of Dave Kully.
- Two Weed Inspectors have started for the season May 3rd
- New tractor arrived June 3rd

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2021/05/11

80%  
80 / 100%  
6% behind

**Blasting Activity (ASB): 100%**

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

**Achievements:**

- Finally received confirmation from the DFO that in case of an emergency (loss of property or public safety) we can blast without doing a full submission for review.
- Smoky Lakes "timing windows" are April 16th- July 16th. No blasting can take place during this time period **unless** it's considered an emergency situation. EX. Infrastructure is being lost, emergency route
- All current DFO submissions have been approved should we need to remove those dams
- Must be detonations of less than 1 kg.

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2021/05/11

**Weed Control (ASB): 100%**

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

**Achievements:**

- Weed Inspectors have began doing weed awareness: posters at the truckfills
- Weed Inspections are in full swing; 45 Inspections as of June 7th, 2021.

**Challenges:**

- Munisight is experiencing data download issues on iOS devices, it's a known issue they are working on. Weed Inspectors were just writing inspections down in their day timers, and have since been transferring them over to Munisight once they are back in the office.

**Next Steps:**

2021/05/11

**Mowing Activity (ASB): 100%**

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

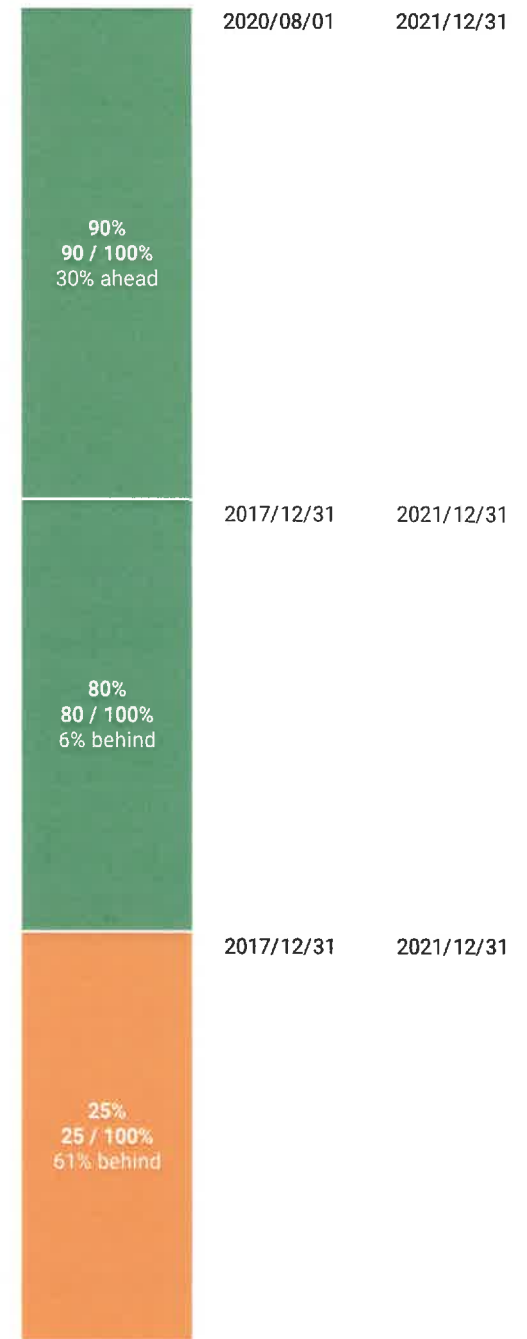
**Achievements:**

- Two mower operators have been hired.
- Ditch clean-up begins May 17th
- Non-herbicide mower operator begins June 14th
- Mowing in Zone 2 & 3 have begun June 8th

**Challenges:**

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2021/05/11



Spraying (ASB): 100%

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

**Achievements:**

- Brush spraying and spraying corners for sight-lines began June 1st in Zone 1 (West End)

**Challenges:**

- Wind and rain are always a contributing factor when planning our spraying program.

**Next Steps:** *No value*

2021/05/11

Pest Control (ASB): 100%

**NEW** Carleigh McMullin:

**Achievements:**

- 82 beavers as of June 7th, 2021
- 3 new pond levelers have been installed and 4 repairs as of June 7th, 2021

**PEST MONITORING:**

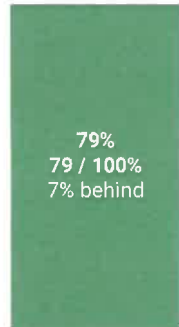
- Bertha Armyworm trap locations will be set up the week of June 14th

**Challenges:** *No value*

**Next Steps:**

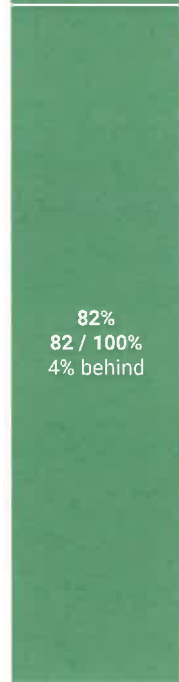
- We have 5 pond leveler installs coming up, these are the ones we received grant funds to complete.
- Pond leveler upgrades and repairs are ongoing
- Trevor Cameron is working at getting all the pond levelers across the County and marked in Munisight, as well as enter problem beaver areas.

2021/05/11



2017/12/31

2021/12/31



2017/12/31

2021/12/31



**Achievements:**

- Weed Inspectors received orientation on May 3rd.
- Weed Inspectors received **free** herbicide stewardship training May 11th
- Authorized Assistant Training for Herbicide Mower operator & Weed Inspectors May 21st
- Attended JH&S Meeting April 15th, May 13th & June 10th
- TDG Training received May 31st
- Chainsaw Training for mower operators received May 26th
- Carleigh attended Blasting Course June 3rd and 4th

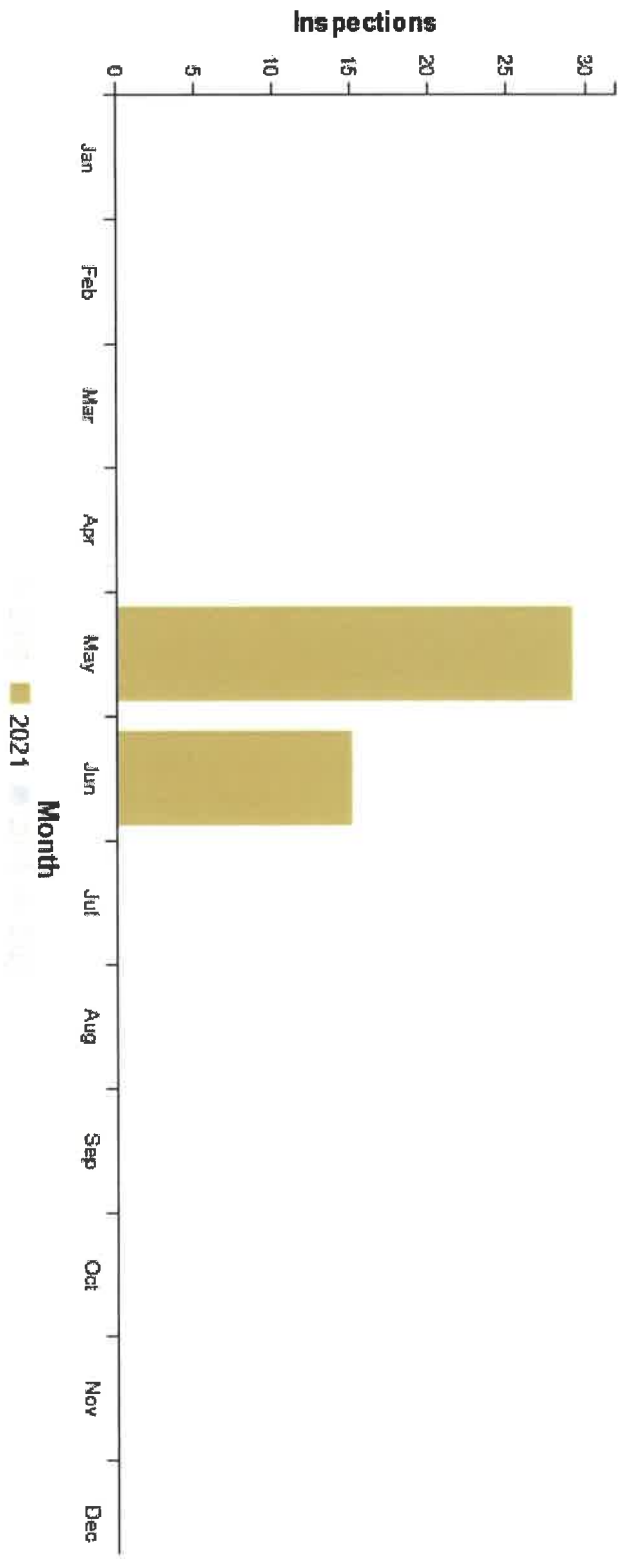
**Challenges:**

**Next Steps:** *No value*

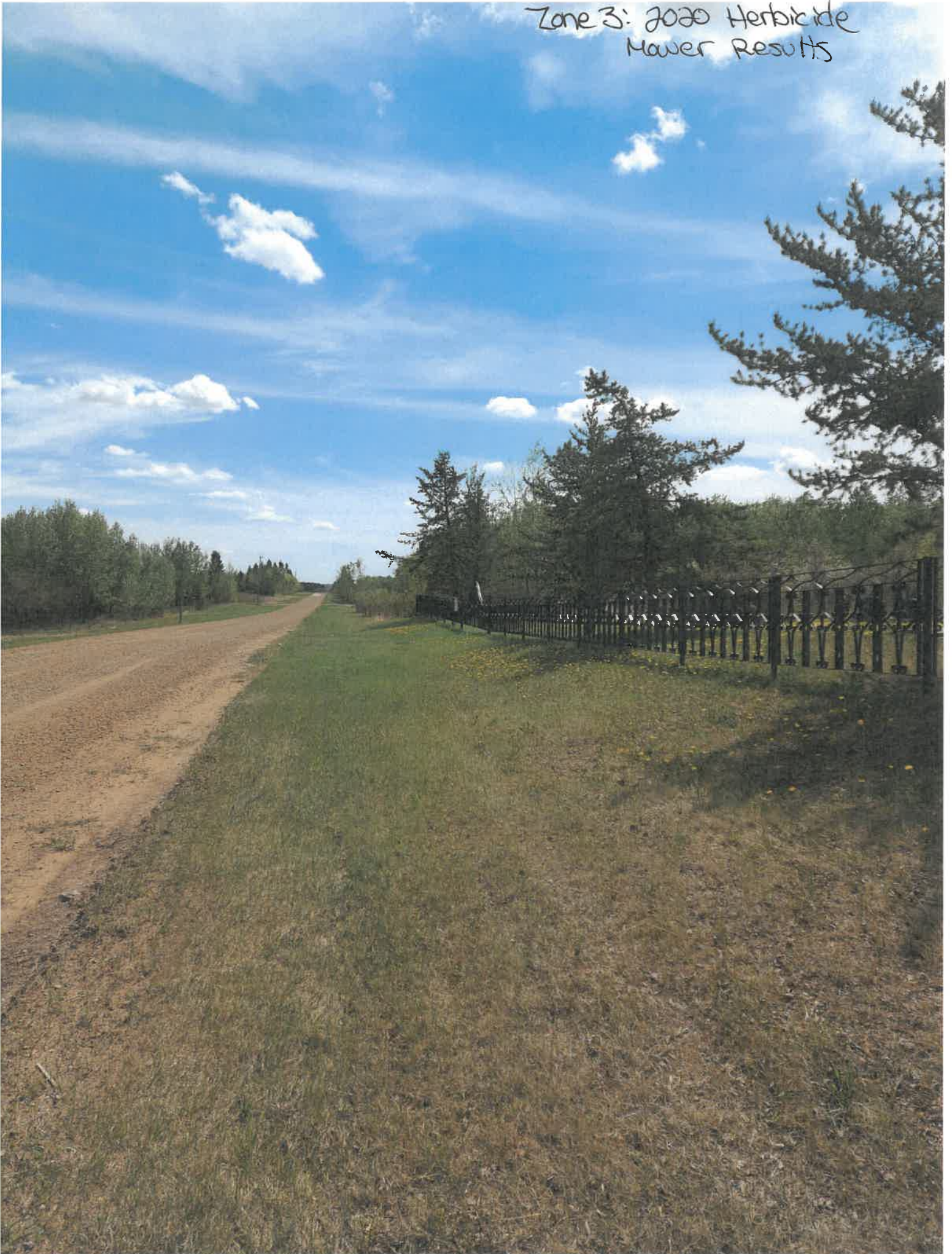
2021/05/11



Inspections By Month By Year : AS of June 7th, 2021



Zone 3: 2020 Herbicide  
Mower Results



Zone 3: 2020 Herbicide  
Mower Results



Zone 1: 2019 Herbicide Mower Results.



Zone 1: Herbicide Mower  
Results 2019



[www.beaver.ab.ca](http://www.beaver.ab.ca)



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**From:** ASB Committee <[asbprovcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asbprovcommittee@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2021 1:33 PM

**To:** Aimee Boese <[aboese@beaver.ab.ca](mailto:aboese@beaver.ab.ca)>

**Subject:** Resolution Responses and Grading sheets

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a summary of the 2021 resolutions, their responses, a summary of the initial grades given by the ASBPC and brief updates on activities to advance the resolutions.

Please input your ASBs grading and comments into the Excel sheet using the drop down menus where appropriate. This will make compiling the responses into the report card smoother. As always the ASBPC Representatives and myself are available to answer any questions you have regarding the resolutions thus far.

Resolution process:

- June 30 Grading sheets and comments back to the ASBPC ([asbprovcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asbprovcommittee@gmail.com))
- July/Aug ASBPC meets with Ministers regarding resolutions
- Sept 1, Final 2021 Resolution Report Card distributed to ASBs
- Nov ASBPC Reviews 2022 Resolutions/Organizational meeting
- Dec 1 - 2022 Proposed Provincial resolutions distributed to ASBs

Looking forward to receiving the grades and feedback from your ASBs by June 30.

--

Linda Hunt  
Executive Assistant  
Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee  
PH: 780-678-5984

Website: [www.agriculturalserviceboards.com](http://www.agriculturalserviceboards.com)

## RESOLUTION 1-21: WEED ISSUES ON OIL AND GAS SITES IN RURAL ALBERTA

**WHEREAS:** the Province of Alberta has experienced an extended period of economic challenge in the oil and gas industry. This has resulted in many resource companies becoming insolvent, forced into receivership, or ultimately claiming bankruptcy;

**WHEREAS:** there are over 1,000 oil and gas wells in the M.D. of Taber where regular lease maintenance is not being carried out as per the terms of private surface lease agreements. These include wells transferred to the Orphan Wells Association (OWA), companies in receivership or in bankruptcy proceedings, or companies currently still operating and producing product;

**WHEREAS:** there are no legislated timelines for oil and gas companies to reclaim inactive wells. This has resulted in 90,000 inactive wells in Alberta;

**WHEREAS:** the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has been reluctant to suspend well licenses or limit access to these sites for companies that are in non-compliance of their surface leases terms. These terms could include issues such as weed control, contamination issues, fence maintenance, non-payment of surface rentals, and/or non-payment of municipal taxes;

**WHEREAS:** the agricultural community in Alberta have been left to deal with the liabilities of countless oil and gas wells that have been abandoned by bankrupt companies or companies that are unwilling or financially unable to maintain their sites;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that Alberta Environment and Parks, Alberta Energy and the Alberta Energy Regulator, who are responsible for energy development, to put in place appropriate legislation and standards to protect landowners from undue hardship as a result of oil and gas company's neglect of oil and gas sites maintenance issues, namely weed control

**STATUS: Provincial**

#### **RESPONSE:**

##### ALBERTA ENERGY

I have consulted with Honourable Devin Dreeshen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, as well as the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) and the Orphan Well Association (OWA), and am responding to Resolution 1-21: Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta.

I recognize that weed control on oil and gas sites remains an important concern for ASS members, agricultural communities, and in particular for the MD of Taber. Legislated responsibility for weed control on these sites falls to different departments depending on the circumstance.

Under the Weed Control Act (Agriculture and Forestry), the landowners and/or occupant are responsible to control noxious weeds and destroy prohibited noxious weeds. Weed control on oil and gas surface leases is typically the responsibility of the oil and gas company, as



per the commitments made in a private surface lease agreement. On private lands, the AER does not have authority over weed control unless it impacts the function of the oil and gas site, in which case it would become a matter of public safety. On Crown Lands, the AER can follow up on weed control issues under the Public Lands Act.

Agriculture and Forestry understands that this can leave landowners in a difficult position and is seeking a viable solution. Agriculture and Forestry will update the ASS Provincial Committee as discussions progress. For updates, contact Minister Dreeshen's office at [AF.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:AF.minister@gov.ab.ca).

The AER has the authority to ensure that companies clean up and close their energy sites so that they pose no threat to the public or the environment. If a weed issue is within the AER's jurisdiction, and it is determined that the company is failing to meet their requirements under the Public Lands Act, a notice of noncompliance may be issued. ASB members may contact the AER at [inquiries@aer.ca](mailto:inquiries@aer.ca) or 1-855-297-8311 for clarification about the AER's role.

When a site is designated as orphan, it means the owner is no longer financially viable. Weed control for orphan sites falls under the care and custody of the OWA. Sites in the inventory of the OWA are managed in accordance with the its policies, and the OWA does not control weeds on suspended or abandoned orphaned oil and gas sites. Given the unprecedented growth of orphaned oil and gas sites in Alberta in recent years, the OWA prioritizes available funds for closure activities-instead of weed management-to ensure that energy infrastructure is removed from the landscape as soon as possible.

The OWA addresses weed infestations on orphan well sites only after the well has been moved into its reclamation inventory, where weed management is required for reclamation success. The OWA will control weeds during reclamation, prior to applying for a reclamation certificate from the AER. As well, the OWA will control weeds prior to reclamation, but only if the OWA believes that failure to do so will significantly impact reclamation efforts. The OWA, will not address weed control if the company is simply refusing to pay, is in receivership, or is in the midst of the AER process of having Working Interest Participants identified.

I understand the frustration of agricultural communities about delinquent oil and gas companies neglecting their responsibilities. That's why government is taking the boldest and strongest action to tackle oil and gas liabilities in Alberta's history. The Liability Management Framework, announced in July 2020, will contribute to a healthy oil and gas sector and ensure that industry bears the costs of site clean-up. During its multi-stage implementation, the new framework will begin to shrink the inventory of inactive and orphaned wells across the province, accelerating the timely restoration of land and protecting future generations of Albertans from experiencing a backlog of these sites.

In summer 2020 we strengthened orphan site management, including the OWA's ability to speed up site closures and the AER's ability to order the OWA to provide reasonable care and measures to prevent damage or impairment.

Under the new framework's Inventory Reduction Program, we're taking action to ensure a responsible and sustainable sector, including establishing five-year rolling annual spending targets for site clean-up and a formal opt-in mechanism, which will provide a way for landowners, land users, and communities to nominate specific inactive sites for clean up to the AER.

The Licensee Special Action function in the AER provides practical, proactive guidance for struggling operators. Working with struggling operators will protect Albertans from the financial and environmental burden of more inactive or orphaned sites-while ensuring operators can meet their environmental responsibilities. Additionally, the Licensee Capability Assessment System will replace the AER's current Licensee Liability Rating program, providing an improved method of assessing the capabilities of oil and gas operators to meet their regulatory obligations at each stage of the development lifecycle.

It is important to note that farmers can apply to the Surface Rights Board for compensation for adverse effects, which could include compensation for weed control, under the five-year lease review provisions of the Surface Rights Act (Section 27). Farmers can apply for compensation under section 30 of the Act for damage to any land that is offsite, which may include compensation for weed control or weed infestation. The board decides these matters based on the relevant evidence and arguments in each case.

The Farmers' Advocate Office can help landowners file their paperwork with the Surface Rights Board, or help direct municipalities or landowners to the appropriate agency. The Farmers' Advocate Office can be reached at [farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca](mailto:farmers.advocate@gov.ab.ca) or by calling 310-FARM (3276). For more information on how the Surface Rights Board has decided weed control and weed infestation issues, view decisions at CanLII's online law database at [www.canlii.org](http://www.canlii.org).

Finally, on May 1, 2020, the Government of Alberta initiated the Site Rehabilitation Program (SRP), to direct up to \$1 billion of federal oil and gas relief funding to provide grants to eligible oil field service contractors to perform well, pipeline, and oil and gas site closure and reclamation work. As part of SRP, we launched the Landowner and Indigenous Community Site Nomination program, and any landowner, Indigenous Community, or Metis Settlement resident may nominate a site for closure. For more information, see [www.alberta.ca/landowner-and-indigenous-community-site-nomination.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/landowner-and-indigenous-community-site-nomination.aspx).

Should the ASB wish to discuss how government is addressing oil and gas liabilities on the landscape further, contact Mr. Wade Clark, Executive Director of Resource Stewardship Policy, at 780-427-7426 or [wade.clark@gov.ab.ca](mailto:wade.clark@gov.ab.ca). Again, thank you to the ASB Provincial Committee for raising this important issue.

Sonya Savage  
Minister of Energy

## ALBERTA AGRICULTURE

Under the Weed Control Act (Agriculture and Forestry) the landowners and/or occupant are responsible to control noxious weeds and destroy prohibited noxious weeds. Weed control on oil and gas surface leases is typically the responsibility of the oil and gas company, as per the commitments made in a private surface lease agreement. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) will not review a weed control matter unless weeds impact the function of an oil and gas site, in which case it would become a matter of public safety.

A municipality may issue notice to an oil and gas company to control or destroy weeds on the lease site. However, the ultimate cost of weed control is the responsibility of the landowner. When a site is designated as "orphan", it means the owner is no longer financially viable. Weed control for orphan sites falls under "care and custody" and will be taken care of by the Orphan Well Association (OWA). The Association, however, will not address weed control if the company is simply refusing to pay, is in receivership, or is in the midst of internal AER process of having Working Interest Participants identified.

Agriculture and Forestry (AF) understands that this can leave landowners in a difficult position and has instigated conversations with the AER to seek a viable solution to this issue. AF will update the Provincial ASB committee as discussions progress.

Devin Dreesen  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

### **ASBPC INITIAL GRADE: Accept in Principle**

**COMMENTS:** All of the concerns from the resolution were addressed in the response. The Committee will follow up with the Ministry/Department of Agriculture and Forestry for updates. May 25, the Committee brought the resolution and the responses to the attention of ADM John Conrad who committed to checking in on the status and getting back to the Committee. The Committee will be sure to bring this up when they meet with Minister Dreesen later this year.

## RESOLUTION 2-21: PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION PROGRAM

**WHEREAS:** Since 1989, Alberta's municipalities have been involved with the collection of empty pesticide containers and have done so with only one time funding from Alberta Environment & Parks to establish permanent collection sites within their municipalities, which many of these sites are in need of repair;

**WHEREAS:** Municipal governments in cooperation with transfer station and landfill operators manage the day to day maintenance and supervision of the sites and cover the costs associated with the transfer of containers from temporary depots to permanent sites without any funding from Alberta Environment and Parks;

**WHEREAS:** The highest rinse rate compliance on pesticide containers are in the provinces that are currently running the program through the Agricultural Retail Industry as a result of their zero tolerance policy and container rejection if they do not meet the requirements due to their constant supervision;

**WHEREAS:** Collection programs are poised to become increasingly expensive and labor intensive with the addition of bale & silage wrap, Ag-film, twine and grain bag collection programs;

**WHEREAS:** Alberta and Manitoba are the only provinces in Canada that utilize municipalities to deliver the pesticide collection program within their province while the remaining provinces place this responsibility and cost on agricultural retail facilities who market and sell pesticide products;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Environment and Parks develop, with CleanFARMS, an empty pesticide container program that places the responsibility of collecting pesticide containers in Alberta with the Agricultural Retail/Dealer and removes the responsibility from the municipalities.

**STATUS: Provincial**

#### **RESPONSE:**

##### ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

Municipalities and agricultural retailers have been an integral component and important supporter of pesticide container collection since collection began in 1980. In 1989, the program was transferred to Croplife Canada, and then CleanFARMS, a stewardship offshoot of Croplife Canada formed in 2010. Since that time, there has been no provincial funding or Alberta government role in administering a pesticide container program.

Municipalities and agricultural retailers have been an integral component and important supporter of pesticide container collection since collection began in 1980. In 1989, the program was transferred to Croplife Canada, and then CleanFARMS, a stewardship offshoot of Croplife

Canada formed in 2010. Since that time, there has been no provincial funding or Alberta government role in administering a pesticide container program.

- the Pesticide Sales Handling Use and Application Regulation requires that no person shall dispose of a non-refillable plastic or metal container that held a pesticide listed in Schedule 1 or 2 except at a container collection site, and
- the Waste Control Regulation (all regulations are available at [www.qp.alberta.ca](http://www.qp.alberta.ca)) requires the following to be properly disposed of, unless otherwise authorized by the director:
  - contaminated paper, glass, cardboard material or a bag that contained pesticides listed in Schedule 1 or 2,
  - empty containers with pesticides listed in Schedule 3 or 4, and
  - empty containers with grains/seeds treated with pesticides.

Through Alberta's Natural Gas Vision and Strategy designed to transition toward a circular economy for plastics, Alberta aims to establish the western North American centre of excellence for plastics diversion and recycling by 2030. For more information, please visit [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca) and search for "natural gas vision and strategy."

Environment and Parks is engaging with stakeholders to develop and implement a new extended producer responsibility (EPR) policy framework. The aim is to shift responsibility for waste management and recycling from municipalities and taxpayers to product producers and consumers. Under this framework, the department is also considering new recycling programs for packaging and printed paper, and household hazardous wastes. This could also allow for recycling of additional plastic items and waste into the future.

For more information, please contact Mr. Nasir Shaikh, Pesticide Policy Specialist, in Edmonton, at 780-718-3490 (dial 310-0000 for a toll-free connection), or at [nasir.shaikh@gov.ab.ca](mailto:nasir.shaikh@gov.ab.ca).

Jason Nixon  
Minister of Environment and Parks

#### **ASBPC INITIAL GRADE: Unsatisfactory**

**COMMENTS:** The ASBPC feels that this response, does not address the issue brought forward by the resolution and has asked for further clarification from AEP as to the legal responsibilities of the municipalities should they choose to close their pesticide container collection site; who would become responsible for improperly disposed of pesticide containers, and how would the legislation be enforced. Additional response from AEP was not yet received on May 31. On May 25 the ASBPC brought this resolution to the attention of ADM for Primary Agriculture John Conrad and he agreed to speak to AEP on behalf of the ASBs as well.

Once the second response from AEP is received it will be posted on the ASB website.

## RESOLUTION 3-21: AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION FOR CONTROL OF RICHARDSON GROUND SQUIRRELS IN ALBERTA

- WHEREAS:** Strychnine will no longer be available for Richardson Ground Squirrel Control as of March 4, 2023;
- WHEREAS:** There is no efficacious, cost effective and environmentally friendly alternative to strychnine;
- WHEREAS:** Richardson Ground Squirrels can multiply quickly and can be very destructive to both annual and perennial crops and cause livestock injuries;
- WHEREAS:** It appears little research has recently been carried out on alternate, effective control measures;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

the Pest Management Regulatory Agency have Strychnine registration extended until an effective and safe alternative control be found and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry make significant funding available for research into a sustainable, long term solution for control of Richardson ground squirrels.

**STATUS: Provincial**

#### **RESPONSE:**

##### PMRA

As per the Pest Control Products Act, before a new pesticide is allowed to be used or sold in Canada, it must undergo a rigorous scientific assessment process to determine that the health and environmental risks of using the product are acceptable, when used according to label directions. The same is true when pesticides that are on the market are re-evaluated to assess whether they continue to meet the Department's health and environmental standards, and whether they should continue to be permitted for use in Canada. Health Canada must take regulatory action at any time should unacceptable risks to human health or the environment be identified.

As per the regular process for the re-evaluation of pesticides, the public was consulted on the proposed decision for strychnine (Proposed Re-Evaluation Decision, PRVD2018-13: Strychnine and Its Associated End-use Products (Ground Squirrel Use)). Multiple lines of evidence (risk assessment based on available information, incident reports, information from provinces including information generated through the Integrated Pest Management Committee) indicated that risks of concern for non-target poisonings continue to occur with the use of strychnine.

In the final re-evaluation decision (RVD2020-06), Health Canada reviewed and took into consideration all comments, data and information received from the Canadian public and stakeholders, including Agricultural Service Boards. However, the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine for the control of Richardson's ground squirrels (RGS) remained due to

the lack of practical mitigation measures to protect non-target organisms, including species at risk. As a result, Health Canada concluded that cancellation of the use of strychnine for the control of RGS was necessary.

Health Canada recognizes that products to control RGS populations are needed and acknowledges the value of strychnine to agricultural users. The following registered alternatives to strychnine were provided previously, although it is understood that these alternatives have their limitations as well:

- chlorophacinone and diphacinone (multi-feed anticoagulant baits);
- zinc phosphide (non-anticoagulant bait);
- aluminum phosphide (fumigant); and
- white mustard seed powder and sodium alpha-olefin sulfonate (foam)

Health Canada encourages grower groups to contact the registrants of potential alternative products, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), and their provincial representatives to discuss the possibility of pursuing further research into RGS control.

Please note that the Province of Alberta and several regional municipalities have submitted Notices of Objection (NoO) to request a “Reconsideration of Decision” following the re-evaluation decision. The NoOs are currently being assessed, and the outcome will be posted to Health Canada’s PMRA website in the Public Registry.

Peter Brander  
ED PMRA

#### ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Alberta continues to advocate for strychnine be reinstated for Richardson's Ground Squirrel control. In fall 2020, Alberta submitted a Notice of Objection to Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for the de-certification of Strychnine. In March 2021, the PMRA informed AF that the re-evaluation decision was still under internal review following delays in completing the assessment.

Departmental Responses  
Agriculture and Forestry

#### **ASBPC INITIAL GRADE: Accept the Response**

**COMMENTS:** The Committee graded this response as Accept the Response as it addresses the resolution as presented.

## RESOLUTION 4-21: REGISTRATION OF 2% LIQUID STRYCHNINE

- WHEREAS:** Under the authority of the Pest Control Product Act and based on the evaluation of currently available scientific information, Health Canada has stated that products containing strychnine for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels do not meet the current standards for environmental protection and, therefore, have been cancelled;
- WHEREAS:** Studies conducted by the PMRA and the province of Alberta indicated that risks associated with label-approved use to non-target species was low;
- WHEREAS:** Richardson's Ground Squirrels are considered agricultural pests due to the substantial damage they cause to crops, livestock, and equipment which can result in economic losses for farmers;
- WHEREAS:** Training in the safe use of pesticides can be provided to agricultural producers in Alberta by participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program;
- WHEREAS:** To help maintain a level of Richardson ground squirrel infestation below economic threshold;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Provincial Minister of Agriculture and Forestry lobby with all other Provincial Ministries of Agriculture to encourage Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to reinstate 2% Liquid Strychnine on the market available on a temporary basis to agricultural producers to utilize on their farms for control of Richardson's Ground Squirrels.

### **FURTHER THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create and maintain a system that provides producers participating in the Farmer Pesticide Certificate program the opportunity to purchase and use Strychnine safely.

**STATUS: Provincial**

### **RESPONSE:**

#### ALBERTA AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

AF and Environment and Parks, in partnership with the Farmer Pesticide Certification Committee, have developed a Farmer Pesticide Training Course and Certificate Examination. The training material is now housed on the Environment and Parks website. This is free of charge and is available for farmers needing to purchase or use pesticides on their own land (or land they rent or lease), and where the label requires all users to be certified.

In fall 2020, Alberta submitted a Notice of Objection to PMRA for the de-certification of Strychnine. In March 2021, the PMRA informed AF that the re-evaluation decision was still under internal review following delays in completing the assessment. Until a final decision is made by



PMRA on the use of strychnine for the control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel, the Farmer Pesticide Certificate Program is not looking to incorporate Strychnine training into the program.

Departmental Responses  
Agriculture and Forestry

PMRA

See response for 3-21

**ASBPC INITIAL GRADE: Accept the Response**

**COMMENTS:** The Committee graded the responses to 3-21 as Accept the Response as it addresses the resolution as presented.

## RESOLUTION 5-21: FUSARIUM TESTING AFTER CLEANING

- WHEREAS:** Fusarium Head Blight (FHB) is a fungal disease of cereal crops that affect kernel development, affecting yield and quality;
- WHEREAS:** FHB was added as a declared pest to Alberta's Agricultural Pest Act in 1999;
- WHEREAS:** The Fusarium graminearum Management Plan was released in 2002, hoping to limit the spread of the disease and lessen the economic impact;
- WHEREAS:** Currently some seed cleaning plants still require testing for FHB prior to cleaning in order to avoid transferring to other seed lots;
- WHEREAS:** The initial sample might not be representative of the seed lot due to improper sampling procedures;
- WHEREAS:** Seed can be sold as "Certified Fusarium Free", but still have a high concentration of the disease present due to improper sampling resulting in false negative test results;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada revise the labeling requirements to include "Fusarium graminearum Free" seed, in that the sample is taken at the seed plant after it is cleaned by the seed plant operator in order to ensure the quality of the certified seed, and test results, same as the germination test, will have to be provided to the buyer

**STATUS: Provincial**

#### **RESPONSE:**

##### AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA

As you may know, Canadian farmers and seed producers rely on efficient and flexible Seeds Regulations that help prevent fraud and ensure the traceability, quality, and safety of Canada's seed supply, which is the basis for all agricultural production. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has launched seed regulatory modernization, a multi-year, structured and comprehensive review of the seed regulatory framework. The goal of the modernization is to improve consistency, reduce complexity, and provide flexibility for seed systems to keep pace with advancements in industry as well as bolster consumer protection.

Seed regulatory modernization is an excellent forum to introduce seed testing and labelling issues for discussion, such as the one identified in resolution 5-21. There will be many opportunities for agricultural associations to provide input.

You can provide direct input on seed regulatory modernization to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency by emailing [cfia.seedregmod-modregsem.acia@canada.ca](mailto:cfia.seedregmod-modregsem.acia@canada.ca).

Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

**ASBPC INITIAL GRADE:** Incomplete

**COMMENTS:** The ASBPC graded this response as Incomplete because the response was not received on time and so was at the time of Committee review, Incomplete. Since this response was received the Committee has distributed the response to all the ASBs so they can provide their feedback through the email address provided by the Minister.

## RESOLUTION 6-21: AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION CHECK OFF OPTION

- WHEREAS:** Producers must pay mandatory checkoff's on various agricultural products;
- WHEREAS:** Producers have no voluntary option to chose where they send these checkoff dollars;
- WHEREAS:** This process seems to violate freedom of choice and would be an excellent candidate for red tape reduction;
- WHEREAS:** Agricultural Research Associations have conducted variety trials and provided proof of concept for farming practices for decades, efforts that are often unsung, and face a funding crunch under the changes to Agricultural Research funding in the Province of Alberta;

### **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That Alberta Agriculture and Forestry and the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council create the option for producers to allocate check-off dollars directly to their local Applied Research Association or various approved Agricultural Research and Development Organizations.

**STATUS: Provincial**

#### **RESPONSE:**

##### ALBERTA AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING COUNCIL

Each of Alberta's 20 agricultural marketing boards and commissions (MBCs) is created and governed by a set of regulations under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAPA). These regulations set out specific purposes and powers for each MBC, and clearly establish the requirement that service charges collected under each regulation are to be used to finance the respective MBC's activities. The formation of any MBC under MAPA requires producers of a specific commodity to take collective action to establish the organization for the express purpose of representing producers of that commodity. This includes demonstration of producer support to establish a service charge to fund the organization.

Shifting to a model that directs service charges to Applied Research Associations (ARAs) or Agriculture Research and Development Organizations (ARDOs) would require amendments to MAPA that may change the intent of the legislation and expand Marketing Council's mandate beyond commodity-specific MBCs. MBCs may choose to direct service charges toward research projects through ARAs or ARDOs – producers may present this option for consideration by the MBC Board, who would likely seek support from the majority of producers.

In addition, twelve of Alberta's 20 MBCs operate with a refundable service charge model. Producers in these sectors can request a refund of their service charge contributions and could potentially provide this funding to ARAs or ARDOs if they feel this is a more appropriate use of their funds.

Recently, Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) approved funding the ARAs \$2 million per year for 2 years (2021-22 and 2022-23). Funding is to be delivered to a single organization to administer. RDAR is open to providing this funding, including a potential increase, but will require a written plan demonstrating increased efficiency, results measurement, and a province-wide approach to activities. In addition, RDAR will further assist the ARAs by providing an additional grant in the range of \$50,000 to \$75,000 to hire a consultant to help the ARAs work through the planning process and writing of the detailed plan.

I encourage the ASB Provincial Committee to work with RDAR and the MBCs in defining specific opportunities for partnerships, which may also include funding or contracting research and extension projects.

Brent McEwan  
General Manager  
Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council

#### AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

Each of Alberta's 20 agricultural marketing boards and commissions (MBCs) is created and governed by a set of regulations under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act. These regulations set out specific purposes and powers for each MBC, and clearly establish the requirement that service charges collected under each regulation are to be used to finance the respective MBC's activities. The formation of any MBC under the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act requires producers of a specific commodity to take collective action to establish the organization for the express purpose of representing producers of that commodity. This includes demonstration of producer support to establish a service charge to fund the organization.

MBCs may choose to direct service charges toward research projects through Applied Research Associations (ARAs) or Agriculture Research and Development Organizations (ARDOs). Producers may present this option for consideration by the MBC Board, who would likely seek support from the majority of producers.

Twelve of Alberta's 20 MBCs operate with a refundable service charge model. Producers in these sectors can request a refund of their service charge contributions and could potentially provide this funding to ARAs or Agriculture Research and Development Organizations if they feel this is a more appropriate use of their funds.

Recently, Results Driven Agriculture Research (ROAR) approved funding to the ARAs of \$2 million per year for 2 years (2021-22 and 2022-23). Funding is to be delivered to a single organization to administer. ROAR is open to providing this funding, including a potential increase, but will require a written plan demonstrating increased efficiency, results measurement, and a province-wide approach to activities. In addition, ROAR will assist the ARAs reach these goals by providing an additional grant in the range of \$50,000 to \$75,000 to hire a consultant to help the ARAs work through the planning process and writing of the detailed plan.

AF encourages the ASB Provincial Committee to work with ROAR and the MBCs in defining specific opportunities for partnerships, which may also include funding or contracting research and extension projects.

Departmental Response  
Agriculture and Forestry

**ASBPC INITIAL GRADE: Accept the Response**

**COMMENTS:** The Committee graded this resolution response as Accept the Response because it addressed the resolution as presented.

On May 25 the ASBPC brought this resolution to the attention of the ADM and had a discussion about the importance of the Applied Research Associations (ARAs) to ASBs and producers. They discussed the importance of extension and base funding for the ARAs, and mentioned their concerns about ARAs accessing their funding through the Results Driven Agriculture Research association (RDAR) as RDAR is focused on research and not extension. It was acknowledged that extension is front of mind with the department and that they were also watching RDAR to see how things progress.

RESOLUTION 7-21: DELEGATION OF ASB'S AND AAAF TO AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMODITY GROUPS

**WHEREAS:** Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have been more vocal regarding provincial agricultural issues;

**WHEREAS:** Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have been increasingly discussing municipal/provincial policies and legislation;

**WHEREAS:** Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have a lack of legislative and municipal/provincial government experts on their board;

**WHEREAS:** Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations have made legislative and policy recommendations that negatively impacted the agricultural industry;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Commodity Groups and Agricultural Associations listed below be contacted and requested to have an Agricultural Service Board (ASB) representative chosen by the ASB Provincial Committee and a technical advisor chosen by the AAAF to be present as a delegation during policy and legislative discussions at their Board/Director meetings and/or Annual General Meetings & Special Meetings.

**STATUS: Provincial**

**GRADE: DEFEATED**

## RESOLUTION 8-21: REINSTATING PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT STAFF

- WHEREAS:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is responsible for supporting environmentally sustainable resource management practices;
- WHEREAS:** Staffing levels in the Agriculture and Forestry department have been reduced significantly;
- WHEREAS:** Municipal staff have been required to provide assistance to agricultural producers and acreage owners;
- WHEREAS:** Agriculture and Forestry staff members having years of experience represent institutional experience that cannot be replaced;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

That the Ministry of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry reinstates funding for extension staff that will assist agricultural, apicultural, and horticultural producers throughout Alberta.

**STATUS: Provincial**

### **RESPONSE:**

#### AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

AF understands the ASB Provincial Committee's concerns with the workforce adjustments that occurred in 2020 and early 2021, and the reduction in dedicated extension staff within the department. The Ag-Information Centre has transitioned from being the first point of contact for agriculture information and resources to being the first point of contact for department programs and resources for the agriculture community. AF is working with industry partners to ensure clients are connected with the right information and resources.

**ASBPC INITIAL GRADE:** Accept the Response

**COMMENTS:** The Committee graded this resolution response as Accept the Response as it addressed the resolution as presented.



## RESOLUTON 9-21: PROTECT FARMERS RIGHTS TO USE FARM SAVED SEED

- WHEREAS:** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) conducted consultations on implementing a system to collect royalties on farm saved seed in 2018/19;
- WHEREAS:** Paying royalties on farm saved seed will increase the price of seed and decrease profit margins for farmers;
- WHEREAS:** Royalties on farm saved seed could limit seed choices for farmers as seed companies move to deregister old varieties, which could mean farmers would be forced to pay royalties and to grow only newer varieties;
- WHEREAS:** AAFC and CFIA have not outlined details on how much a royalty would be, how it would be collected or how royalties would be dispersed;
- WHEREAS:** The Canadian Plant Technology Agency launched a pilot project in spring 2020 to test value use agreements whereby farmers would be required to pay royalties on farm saved seed;
- WHEREAS:** A royalty system has potential to decrease farmers' ability to make sound agronomic decisions and operate profitably;
- WHEREAS:** Other options to fund crop variety research are available, including increased investment of grain commission check-off funds in variety research;
- WHEREAS:** Options other than royalty systems to increase investment in crop variety development are required in order to maintain Canada's competitive advantage in the global market;

### **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada abandon the proposal to implement the adoption of End Point Royalties or farm saved seed "trailing royalty contracts" and pursue investment options for globally competitive crop variety development that have direct and tangible on farm benefits.

**STATUS: Provincial**

#### **RESPONSE:**

##### CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY

As you are aware, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency were asked by the Grains Value Chain Roundtable, a consultative body with representation from across the value chain, to launch public consultations on two proposed seed royalty models to stimulate greater investment and innovation in Canada's cereal sector. The first phase of the consultative process consisted of a series of face-to-face meetings across Canada in late 2018 and early 2019. These five sessions are viewed by government as an initial step in a multi-stage discussion process.

The Government of Canada understands that many farmers place considerable value on their ability to save seed and often choose specific crop kinds and varieties that allow for replanting of saved seed in subsequent years. At the same time, a large number of agriculture sector stakeholders have signaled a desire for Canada to consider some form of value-creation model that would allow increased investment in wheat variety development by both public and private breeding programs across the country. Many producers see increased investment in research as being key to ensuring the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Canada's cereals sector.

The government remains open to hearing all perspectives on this matter, and will consider the feedback heard to inform next steps in the process. Again, thank you for writing on what is a critical issue for the cereals sector, farmers, and Canadian agriculture.

Siddika Mithani  
President  
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

**ASBPC INITIAL GRADE: Incomplete**

**COMMENTS:** The Committee grading this response as Incomplete because it did not specify how ASBs and farmers could present their perspectives, offer feedback and participate in next steps in the process. The Committee wrote to Siddika Mithani to ask for further information on the process and how to participate.

Additional Response received May 27, 2021

CFIA

Thank you for your follow-up letter in regards to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's response to the Alberta Service Board Provincial Committee's seed royalty resolution (Resolution 9-21: Protect Farmers Rights to Use Farm Saved Seed), passed at your 2021 meeting. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your views, and to clarify the status of stakeholder engagement efforts around seed royalty models.

As indicated in my previous correspondence, the six in-person sessions held across Canada in late 2018 and early 2019 were part of a consultative process that was undertaken at the request of the Grains Value Chain Roundtable. From what we heard at these sessions, and from the letters sent by stakeholder groups such as yours, there was a lack of consensus on a clear path forward. As a result, a decision was made to postpone further consultations for the time being.

The Government of Canada will continue exploring ways to improve Canada's existing system for cereal variety development. In doing so, we remain open to all perspectives and options to enhance the profitability of the sector.

Siddika Mithani  
President, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

## RESOLUTION 10-21: FEDERAL FUEL CHARGE

- WHEREAS:** the Federal Fuel Charge (Carbon Tax) mandated under the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act came into effect in Alberta on January 1, 2020;
- WHEREAS:** the Federal Fuel Charge amount varies by fuel product offering and the Federal Government has announced targeting relief for certain sectors and individuals including farmers;
- WHEREAS:** the Climate Leadership Implementation Act effective January 1, 2017 states “that every recipient shall pay a carbon levy on purchases of natural gas and propane”;
- WHEREAS:** as purchasers, farmers cannot pass the additional costs on to consumers or international markets as the international markets set the price for agricultural products and that a producer trying to increase their price to compensate would not be able to sell their product and recover the additional costs;
- WHEREAS:** certain categories of customers are exempt from paying the Federal Fuel Charge, including:
- Farmers for gasoline, light fuel oil (diesel);
  - Fishers for gasoline, light fuel oil (diesel);
  - Registered Distributors;
  - Registered Air Carriers;
  - Registered Rail Carriers;
  - Registered Road Carriers;
  - Remote Power Plant Operators that generate Electricity for remote Communities for light fuel oil; and
  - A partial exemption at eighty per cent (80 %) for propane supplied to Greenhouse operators;
- WHEREAS:** propane and natural gas used by many farming operations in their agricultural production is not included in the list of eligible exemptions;
- WHEREAS:** under the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act eligible farming machinery means property that is primarily used for the purpose of farming and that is a “farm truck or tractor”, a vehicle not licensed to be operated on a public road, an industrial machine, or a stationary or portable engine, or prescribed activity;

### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

#### **THAT ALBERTA’S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST**

that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment and Parks, and Alberta Energy jointly lobby the Government of Canada alongside Alberta’s Agricultural Service Boards and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) to provide a carbon levy exemption for all consumption of propane and natural gas for all recognized agricultural production, including, but not limited to grain farming, greenhouse, and other similar practices.

**STATUS: Provincial**

## RESPONSE:

### AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

AF strongly supports the expansion of the carbon tax exemption for agriculture to include natural gas and propane. Minister Dreeschen wrote a letter in January 2020 to federal Minister Bibeau, outlining the undue burden that the federal carbon tax places on agricultural producers, with a particular focus on the use of natural gas and propane used in grain drying.

On a positive note, recently, a Private Members Bill (C-206) was introduced by MR Lawrence (Northumberland-Peterborough South) calling for the expansion of the exemption to include all agricultural use of natural gas and propane. The Bill recently passed second reading with cross-party support from the Conservative, Bloc Quebecois, and NDP.

In the interim, AF offers a cost-sharing program for producers to upgrade the efficiency of their grain dryers. The Efficient Grain Dryer Program will pay for half the cost of grain dryer components, on new or existing dryers, that improve the energy efficiency of the operation. These efficiency improvements will lower fuel costs for grain drying and provide relief from any future fuel cost volatility.

Department Response  
Agriculture and Forestry

### ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS

On May 1, 2019, the Government of Alberta repealed the Climate Leadership Implementation Act, ending the collection of the provincial carbon levy in Alberta. No such taxes are currently collected by the government, and no exemptions are awarded or managed.

The Government of Canada's Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (GGPPA) is not a provincial policy. Applicable starting in January 2020, consumers - including farmers - are obliged to pay a fuel charge (carbon tax), barring some specific farming exemptions. The Government of Alberta does not agree the federal government has the right to impose the GGPPA on the provinces. That is why the Alberta government has taken the federal government to court and is awaiting the decision from the Supreme Court of Canada on whether the federal government has the right to implement the GGPPA.

The Alberta government acknowledges the scope of exemptions offered under the GGPPA is too narrow to capture the breadth of farming activities, and we will raise these concerns in our discussions with the federal government. Furthermore, we encourage the Agricultural Service Board to contact federal representatives through engagement on the newly released federal climate plan, "A Healthy Environment and a Healthy Economy" (found at [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca)).

I also encourage you to contact Judy Meltzer, Director General Corporate Secretariat, Environment and Climate Change Canada, at [judy.meltzer@canada.ca](mailto:judy.meltzer@canada.ca). You could also contact Matt Parry, Director General for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, at [matt.parry@canada.ca](mailto:matt.parry@canada.ca).

Jason Nixon  
Minister Environment and Parks

**ASBPC INITIAL GRADE:** Accept the Response

**COMMENTS:** The Committee graded this response as Accept the Response as it addressed the resolution as presented.

Summary ASBPC 2021 Resolution Grading

RESOLUTION	GRADE	COMMENTS
1-21 : Weed issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta	Accept in Principle	All the concerns from the resolution were addressed in the response. The Committee will follow up with the Ministry/Department of Agriculture and Forestry for updates. May 25, the Committee brought the resolution and the responses to the attention of ADM John Conrad who committed to checking in on the status and getting back to the Committee. The Committee will be sure to bring this up when they meet with Minister Dreeshen later this year.
2-21: Pesticide Container Collection Program	Unsatisfactory,	The ASBPC feels that this response, does not address the issue brought forward by the resolution and has asked for further clarification from AEP as to the legal responsibilities of the municipalities should they choose to close their pesticide container collection site; who would become responsible for improperly disposed of pesticide containers, and how would the legislation be enforced. Additional response from AEP was not yet received on May 31. On May 25 the ASBPC brought this resolution to the attention of ADM for Primary Agriculture John Conrad and he agreed to speak to AEP on behalf of the ASBs as well.  Once the second response from AEP is received it will be posted on the ASB website.
3-21: An Effective Solution for Control of RG Squirrels in Alberta	Accept the Response	The Committee graded this response as Accept the Response as it addresses the resolution as presented.
4-2: 1 Registration of 2% liquid Strychnine	Accept the Response	The Committee graded the responses to 3-21 as Accept the Response as it addresses the resolution as presented.
5-21: Fusarium Testing After Cleaning	Incomplete	The ASBPC graded this response as Incomplete because the response was not received on time and so was at the time of Committee review, Incomplete. Since this response was received the Committee has distributed the response to all the ASBs so they can provide their feedback through the email address provided by the Minister.

6-21: Agriculture Research Association Check Off Option	Accept the Response	The Committee graded this resolution response as Accept the Response because it addressed the resolution as presented.
8-21: Reinstating Provincial Agriculture Department Staff	Accept the Response	The Committee graded this resolution response as Accept the Response as it addressed the resolution as presented.
9-21: Protect Farmers Right to Farm Saved Seed	Incomplete	The Committee grading this response as Incomplete because it did not specify how ASBs and farmers could present their perspectives, offer feedback and participate in next steps in the process. The Committee wrote to Siddika Mithani to ask for further information on the process and how to participate.  Additional Response received May 27, 2021
10-21: Federal Fuel Charge	Accept the Response	The Committee graded this response as Accept the Response as it addressed the resolution as presented.

# 2021 Resolution Grading

## How to Use:

1. Use dropdown menu to insert name of municipality in Box A24 (highlighted)
2. Use dropdown menu in column D to grade each resolution
3. Add comments that can assist the Committee in assigning final grade in Column E
4. Submit completed spreadsheet by **June 30** to Linda Hunt, Executive Assistant to the ASB Provincial Committee at: [asbprovcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:asbprovcommittee@gmail.com)

## Definitions:

### Accept the Response

A response that has been graded as **Accept the Response** addresses the resolution as presented or meets the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee.

### Accept in Principle

A response that is graded **Accept in Principle** addresses the resolution in part or contains information that indicates that further action is being considered.

### Incomplete

A response that is graded as **Incomplete** does not provide enough information or does not completely address the resolution. Follow up is required to solicit information for the Provincial ASB Committee to make an informed decision on how to proceed.

### Unsatisfactory

A response that is graded as **Unsatisfactory** does not address the resolution as presented or does not meet the expectations of the Provincial ASB Committee

Municipality Name	Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade	Comments
Smoky Lake	1-21	Weed Issues on Oil and Gas Sites in Rural Alberta		
	2-21	Pesticide Container Collection Program		
	3-21	An Effective Solution for Control of RGSquirrels in Alberta		
	4-21	Registration of 2% Liquid Strychnine		
	5-21	Fusarium Testing After Cleaning		
	6-21	Agriculture Research Association Check Off Option		
	8-21	Reinstating Provincial Agriculture Department Staff		
	9-21	Protect Farmers Right to Farm Saved Seed		
	10-21	Federal Fuel Charge		

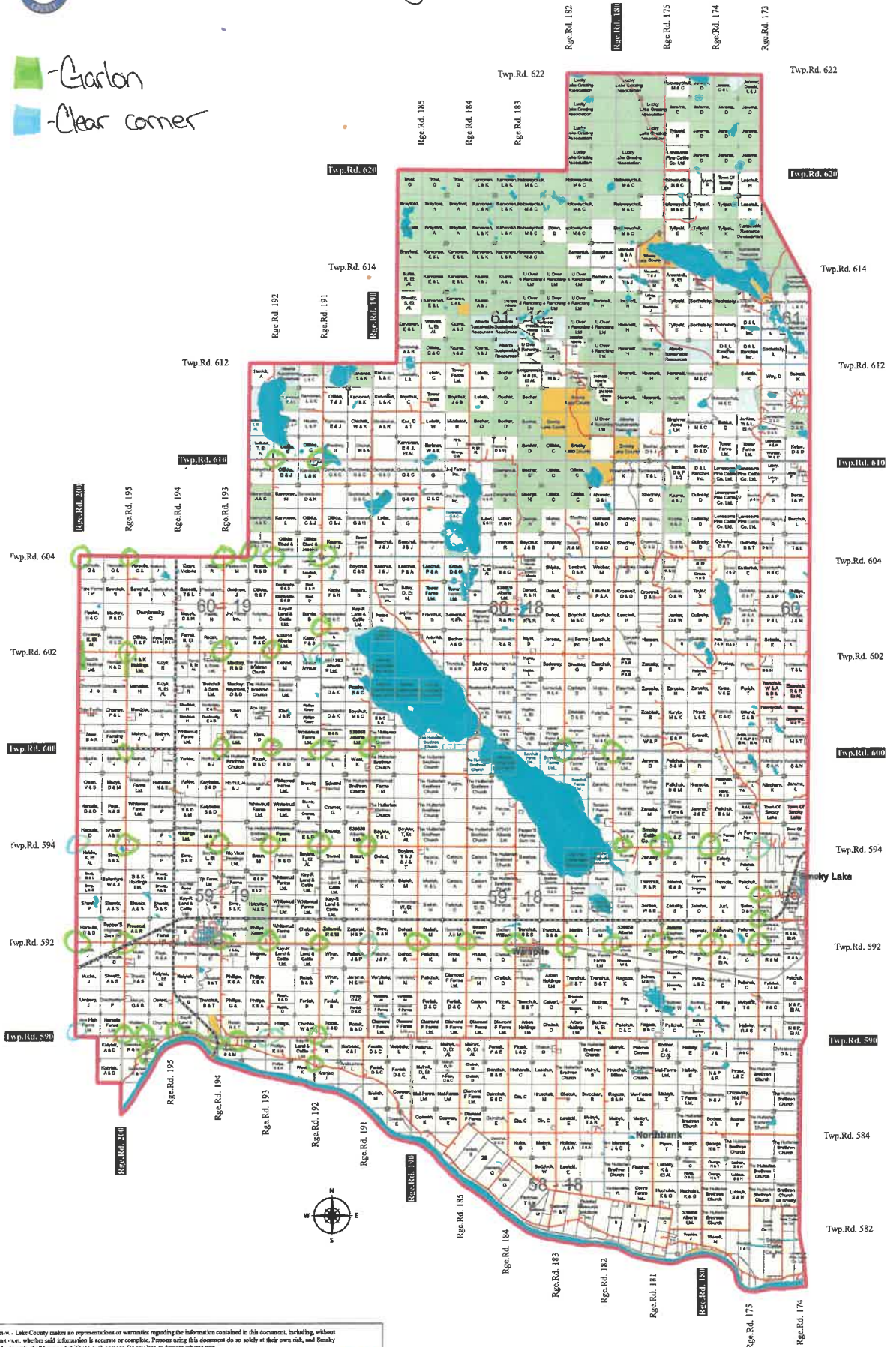




# 2021 Brush Spraying: As of June 8th, 2021

# 5.4

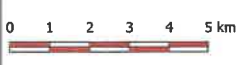
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*Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26*

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April 20, 2021

**RE: Letter from Red Deer County regarding Provincial ASB Conference resolutions**

Agricultural Services Board Provincial Committee,

The MD of Willow Creek Agricultural Service Board is writing this letter in support of the letter written to you by the Red Deer Agricultural Service Board on March 11, 2021.

We agree the resolution session at the Provincial Conference was flawed. We feel there is a need for a parliamentarian to be present to ensure proper voting protocols are followed.

We would suggest the Committee refer to the resolution protocols of the RMA Conventions. Resolutions should be properly written and the Committee should ensure this by screening prior to presentation to maintain the correct format and to eliminate duplications.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Sundquist

MD Willow Creek Agricultural Service Board Chair

Cc: Alberta Agricultural Service Boards  
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldmen

6.2



May 14, 2021

The Honourable Devin Dreeshan  
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry  
229 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Dreeshan,

The Council for the County of Grande Prairie, along with their Agricultural Service Board would like to draw your attention to some matters of concern.

In 1945, the first Agricultural Service Board was appointed to address agricultural concerns specific to the municipality it operated in. Today there are 69 ASBs currently serving the needs of their agricultural producers in virtually every municipality in Alberta. ASBs serve both the province and agricultural producers by bearing the responsibility for the administration of the Weed Act, the Pest Act, and the Soil Conservation Act of Alberta.

The work does not stop there. Municipal departments participate in weed, pest, and disease surveys each year, provide assistance to Alberta Agriculture and Forestry staff, provide support to the province for the Line Fence Act, the Provincial Vet if there is a livestock disease outbreak, and sundry other tasks. We also serve as a “go-to” for producers and ratepayers who have agricultural related questions that cannot be answered by Alberta Agriculture and Forestry staff.

Over the past decade or more, provincial funding for the Agricultural Service Boards that undertake this work on behalf of the municipalities has been stagnant at a maximum of \$150,000 per year, with an additional \$18,000 made available at times. In 2020, this funding was reduced to \$123,907 per year for the next five years, while the activities required to maintain eligibility were not reduced.

The reduction in funds comes while more tasks are being downloaded to our municipal agriculture departments. With the loss of Ropin' the Web, the virtual impossibility of locating the wealth of information formerly contained on that site, as well as the changes made to the 310-FARM telephone line, more and more questions are coming in to our agriculture departments to locate information and answers to questions. The loss of research and specialist staff means resource people formerly available to answer questions are no longer available to assist us in helping residents and producers 310-FARM has gone from being a place to call to reach an expert or specialist to more of a referral to producer groups for information. Producer groups can be an excellent resource, but they may not be as fully well-versed as a subject matter expert, who has a broader base of knowledge to draw from.

While the funding received from the province is greatly appreciated, it in no way begins to cover the costs of the inspections and activities we are required to do to maintain eligibility for our



annual grant. In our municipality alone, wages for seasonal staff hired for weed and pest/disease enforcement is over \$500,000 in addition to supplies, training and capital costs required to support these positions.

We know that our province has spent more on agricultural services than other provinces in the past. Perhaps that is what allowed us to become world leaders in agricultural production, research, and development. To compare other provinces to Alberta agriculturally, and reduce funding accordingly does our province a great disservice. For our province to remain competitive and continue to grow this powerful sector, we need the support of the province this directly benefits.

We understand full well the challenging financial times we operate in. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that agriculture is the backbone of this province. Reducing supports to the vital economic driver Albertans rely on is counterproductive to ensuring we can maintain a viable and thriving industry. By putting increased pressure on municipalities to deliver more with less, you compromise our abilities to undertake the important duties we are tasked with and weaken our ability to properly support our agricultural producers. We request that your government reconsider the amounts provided to municipalities to support the important work the province has tasked us with and provide greater access to subject matter experts to address concerns and questions from our agricultural producers.

Sincerely,

Leanne Beaupre,  
Reeve,  
County of Grande Prairie No.1

LB/ser

CC: Provincial ASBs  
County of Grande Prairie Council  
Joulia Whittleton, CAO  
Sonja Raven, Agriculture Fieldman



6.3

265 East 400 South – Box 291 – Raymond – Alberta – T0K 2S0 – Tel: 403 752-4585 – www.abfarmsafety.com

May 7, 2021

Carleigh McMullin - Agricultural Fieldman  
Smoky Lake County  
Box 310  
Smoky Lake, Alberta  
T0A 3C0



Carleigh:

Since our in-school Safety Smarts program was launched in 1998 – 23 years ago, more than 779,000 face to face, eye to eye, heart to heart learning moments have happened across rural Alberta. Since COVID forced a temporary pivot to virtual program delivery rural children in more than 400 classrooms have received Safety Smarts via Zoom. An additional 547 classrooms have booked presentation delivery between now and June 21, 2021.

Rural elementary school students attending all types of schools have had the opportunity over the past two decades to receive farm safety messages delivered directly to them in their school classrooms either in-person or via video conferencing by people who are familiar with farming and passionate about helping things go right.

Rural schoolteachers are excited when best practice safety messaging is provided to their students as they regularly hear of close calls and near misses in their rural communities. Feedback from teachers since virtual delivery began has been encouraging as most report students still being engaged and excited by Safety Smarts.

The \$518.00 contribution received May 3, 2021 was very much appreciated by the Farm Safety Centre. Find receipt 1501 enclosed. It is our hope to reach more rural children in your area in the coming years. The consistent financial assistance from committed contributors is greatly appreciated especially in this time of uncertainty. Recognition of contributions are always noted on our website under "Supporters".

I also want to take a minute to introduce you to one of our newer programs called the Rural Health Initiative. This program is designed to help rural Albertans improve their overall quality of life by learning more about their current physical and mental health status. Our team of Registered Nurses travels across the province to partner with rural organizations and offer in-depth physical and mental health assessments and education for those that choose to participate. Since 2014, we have delivered 135 workshops and have reached more than 1300 rural Albertans. Participant feedback from our external evaluations have identified that 97% of SFF participants felt the workshops were a good investment of their time and that 92% recommended the program to others.

I have included a simple poster which gives a little more detail about the program. If you are interested in learning more about this new and impactful program then please let me know, I am happy to answer your questions. We would be thrilled to partner with Smoky Lake County to offer this program to people in your area.

Thanks again for your support, it is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jordan Jensen | Executive Director  
Farm Safety Centre

Cell: 403-593-8960  
Email: j.jensen@abfarmsafety.com

6.4

## Carleigh McMullin

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**From:** Ed Basaraba <ebasaraba@telus.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 8, 2021 9:17 AM  
**To:** Carleigh McMullin  
**Subject:** Bonnie lake resorts Moving inlet  
**Attachments:** BLR-Mowing.pdf

Hi Carleigh,

I am writing to you to request that the County mow the open area to the east and west of Bonnie View Drive and north of the inlet during your regular mowing program.

The area to the west of the road and north should be done at the same time.

This will help with the fire prevention if the grass grows too large.

I have enclosed a map of the location.

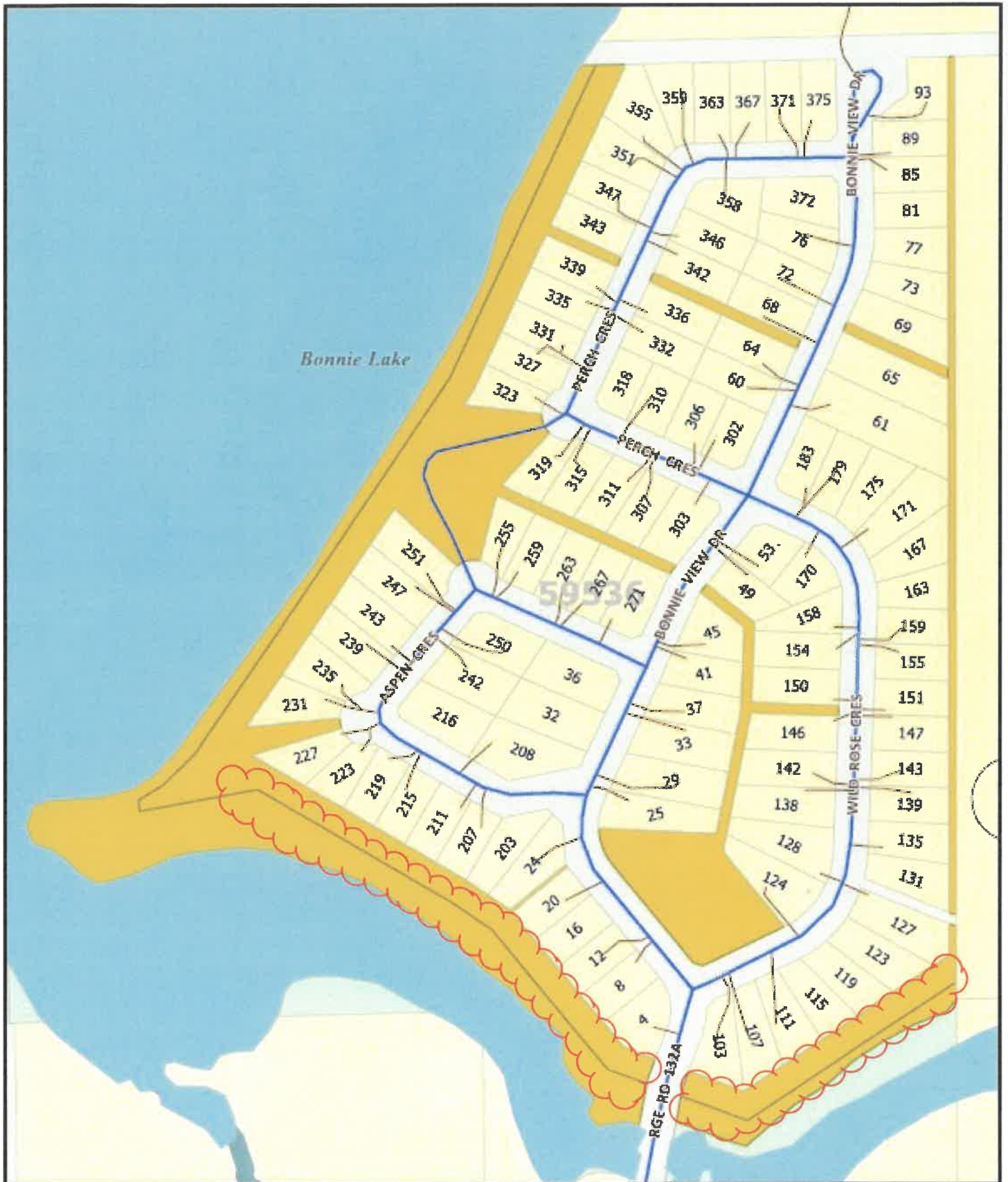
Thanks

Ed Basaraba,  
50, 54403 Rge Rd 251  
Sturgeon County, Alberta  
T8T 0B5

Cell: 780-498-6585  
WhatsApp +1-780-498-6585  
Fax: 780-973-6589

**Bonnie Lake Resort**  
59536 - Rge. Rd. 132A

Scale = 1:5,000

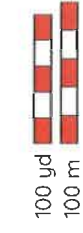




### Legend

- Railway
- Roads Labels
- Parks
- Roads
- Indian Reserves
- Cadastre
- Industrial Accounts
- LSD Grid
- Map Points
- Address Signs
- Weed Infestations (All)
- Beaver Problem Areas

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Scale 1: 5,079



## Smoky Lake County

Date Created: 6/8/2021

Smoky Lake County