

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Minutes of the **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** held on Tuesday, **October 11, 2022**, at 9:10 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, Dan Gawalko, in the presence of the following persons:

ATTENDANCE		
<u>Div. No.</u>	<u>Councillor(s)</u>	<u>Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022</u>
1	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
2	Linda Fenerty	Present in Chambers
3	Dominique Cere	Present in Chambers
4	Lorne Halisky	Present in Chambers
5	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
CAO	Gene Sobolewski	Present in Chambers
Assist. CAO	Lydia Cielin	Virtually Present
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Virtually Present
Acting Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Kihn	Present in Chambers
Assist. Ag. Fieldman	Tori Stang	Present in Chambers
Executive Services/R.S.	Patti Priest	Virtually Present
Communications Tech	Evonne Zukiwski	Virtually Present
Natural Gas Manager	Daniel Moric	Virtually Present
GIS Operator	Carole Dowhaniuk	Virtually Present
Fire Chief	Scott Franchuk	Virtually Present

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

Carleigh Danyluk, Agricultural Fieldman, Smoky Lake County, (currently on maternity leave), was virtually present as an observer.

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

2. Agenda:

1093-22: Fenerty That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, October 11, 2022, be adopted as amended:

Addition to the Agenda

1. Grow What We Eat, Eat What We Grow - Workshop at the Gathering Place Co-op..

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

1094-22: Halisky That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

1095-22: Halisky That the Action List from the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

5. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report

The Agricultural Service Board Chairperson: Dan Gawalko, provided the following written Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's report:

LARA Board of Directors Meeting – October 3, 2022

Dan Gawalko councillor division one

- Dan Gawalko councillor division one
- Kellie talked about some of the safety concerns no working alone policy lack of trained staff with first aid still using older boomers that require snipes to secure loads and a lack of fire extinguishers in equipment they will be updating some safety equipment and policies now
- Wanda gave her chair report she attended all the plot tours and had a meeting with Farmrite
- Farmrite hired an advocacy group to try and get more funding, core funding is in the air, research associations submitted a rough draft to RDAR a surviving and a thriving model RDARs mandate is to fund producer associations agriculture is an economic driver in Alberta call or talk to your MLA
- Kellie gave the executive directors report working on financials repairing equipment and purchased some ergonomic chairs for staff also in her AESA report EFPs are steady working on connect for food events meeting with living labs and canola council, will be switching to blue cross for health benefits for staff and she also presented the financial report
- Amanda gave the cropping report field tours had good attendance the trials were approved spraying has been done and will be bringing in quotes for a new sprayer and will look at drone sprayers also, combine is working well only fava beans left to harvest and the research tech has given notice that she will be leaving
- Megan gave the livestock and forage report silage trials are done looking at a proposal to RDAR for more funding
- Wanda gave the LFA report they will be looking for a new pasture manager next year, full count of 380 heifers came out of the pasture with good weights
- Talked about OFCAF (on farm Canada action fund) up to 75,000 dollars for producer for grazing, cover crops, cross fencing next years funding will reopen in February 2023
- Upcoming events will be presented at the next ASB meeting
- Directors went into closed session to discuss an employee issue under FOIP
- Next meeting will be in Ashmont on October 31 @ 10:00 am
- For more information on the financials or the minutes of the meeting please contact the executive director of LARA in Ft. Kent.

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's Report

1096-22: Halisky

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Chairman's report for the period: August 12, 2022 to October 11, 2022, in regard to the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), be accepted for information.

Carried.

Agricultural Service Board Department's Report:

Sale of Capital Equipment - Unit 454, Year-2012, 24', Enclosed Interstate Trailer

1097-22: Cere

That Smoky Lake County advertise to sell the Agricultural Service board Department's Unit 454, Year-2012, 24', Enclosed Interstate Trailer, as is - where is, with a sale value in the amount of \$10,000.00 or best offer pending Council's approval; as there was no successful sale of the said trailer with an anticipated sale value in the amount of \$16,500.00, further to the June 17, 2022, Motion #779-22.

Carried.

Agricultural Service Board Department's Report

1098-22: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board department's written report as of October 11, 2022, be accepted and filed for information.

Carried.

7. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board from 9:33 a.m. to 9:49 a.m., was Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), to provide Council a verbal report of LARA activities, including but not limited to the following points:

- Harvest has been completed as of last week.
- The hemp trial has been pulled and is being sent away for THC testing and analyzing, as required by regulations.
- Lots of feed samples are coming in – all producers within Smoky Lake County each get 2 samples analyzed for free.
- Receiving may calls for Environmental Farm Plans (EFP).
- Extension events:
 - October 26, 2022 – “CowBytes” key principles of ration balancing with Ruminant Nutritionist Barry Yaremcio.
 - November 17, 2022 – “When Stress is More Than a Season” – Lesley Kelly.
 - November 18, 2022 – “Young Farmer Social”, a night of great food, networking and a special presentation from Lesley Kelly.
 - December 16, 2022 – “From the Ground Up”, find ways to improve your soil health and overall
- Calf trials are wrapping up.
- October 13-15, 2022 is the Soil Heath & Winter Grazing Conference in Edmonton.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

1099-22: Serben That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board, accept the verbal report from Alyssa Krawchuk, Manager, Forage and Livestock Program, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), for information as presented on October 11, 2022.

Carried.

Amanda Mathiot, Cropping Coordinator, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually left the meeting, time 9:55 a.m.

One Member of the Public, virtually joined the meeting, time 10:05 a.m.

Lydia Cielin, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, virtually left the meeting, time 10:50 a.m.

Bob Novosiwsky, Public Works Road Foreman, entered Chambers, time

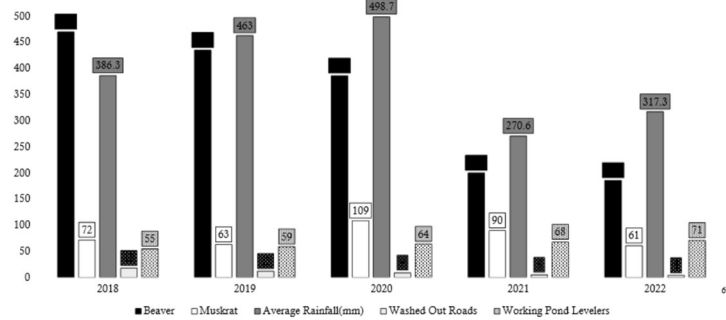
Animal Control Technician

The Agricultural Service Board Council was provided a slide show as presented by Trevor Cameron, Animal Control Technician which included but was not limited to the following information:

- What is an Animal Control Technician
 - o As Smoky Lake Counties Animal Control Technician I am tasked with ensuring our infrastructure is not compromised by problem wildlife, specifically Beaver and Muskrat. I install and maintain the pond levelers and ensure grates are installed at problem culverts. I clean blockages from culverts and blast dams. I also respond to calls of stray dogs throughout the county and either pick them up or trap these dogs and take them to the pound.

Beaver & Muskrat Summary

Catches vs Yearly Precipitation & Number of Flooded Roads



- Integrated Management Plan
 - o An IMP is the idea of using a wide variety of control methods to stop and issue, fix it, and prevent it from happening again.
 - o This approach can be as simple as a single control method, or a combination of several.
 - o By using an IMP we are able to proactively manage beavers and save infrastructure before the damage has been caused, rather than react to the problem when it's too late.
- Trapping and Shooting
 - o Trapping of Muskrats and Beavers can involve many different variations of sets and traps to be successful and efficient.
 - o Weather, Safety, and terrain all factor into what sets are being used.
 - o Traps used must adhere to the International Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards which is in international law enforced by provincial Fish And Wildlife officers.
 - o Trapping and shooting are conducted when laws dictate by open season or under DCL if required.
 - o Shooting is used as a last resort as it is time consuming and less effective than trapping.
- Control By Season
 - o Under Ice Trapping
 - Allows for access to areas inaccessible during open water season
 - Easier to catch educated beaver
 - AEP allows for trapping of crown lands
 - Safe to trap parks, campgrounds, public areas
 - Fur can be utilized instead of wasted
 - Allows for "clean up" of beavers not previously known about.
 - Proactive Trapping
 - o Open Water Trapping
 - Easier to confirm the entire colony has been removed
 - Pertains mostly to at or around culvers and other problem area sites.
 - Hazardous to pets and children and the public
 - Not recommended near parks, shorelines, public areas, and campgrounds
 - Hides are wasted as there is no commercial value
 - Reactive Trapping

Bob Novosiwsky, Public Works Road Foreman, and Trevor Cameron, Animal Control Technician, left Council Chambers, time 11:27 a.m.

8. Executive Session:

1100-22: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Issue in regard to the Animal Control Technician, under the authority of the FOIP Act, Section 24: Advice from Officials, in the presence of all Council, Chief Administrative Officer, Interim Agricultural Fieldman, Temporary Assistant Agricultural Fieldman, and in the virtual presence of the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Finance Manager, and Executive Services Clerk, time 11:35 a.m.

Carried.

1101-22: Cere

That Smoky Lake County Council go out of Executive Session, time 11:49 a.m.

Carried.

Animal Control Technician Position

1102-22: Cere That Smoky Lake County Council approve to make the temporary fulltime salaried Animal Control Technician position **permanent**, further to the August 24, 2021, Regular Council Meeting, Motion #1073-21, which approved the temporary position for the term of November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022.

Carried.

2022 Roadside Mowing Progress Map

1103-22: Halisky That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept Smoky Lake County's Year-2022 Roadside Mowing Progress Map as of September 29, 2022, for information.

Carried.

2022 Roadside Spraying Progress Map

1104-22: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept Smoky Lake County's Year-2022 Roadside Spraying Progress Map as of September 12, 2022, for information.

Carried.

2022 Pest Monitoring – Bertha Armyworm Monitoring

1105-22: Halisky That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the 2022 Pest Monitoring – Bertha Armyworm Monitoring final report from July 26, 2022, for information.

Carried.

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Report Card on Resolutions 2022

1106-22: Cere That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the provincial Agricultural Service Board Report Card on Resolutions for 2022, as follows:

- #1-22 Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways - *Accept in Principle;*
- #2-22 Restoration of Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development Regional Network of Experts - *Accept in Principle;*
- #3-22 Celebrate Canada Agriculture Day in Alberta Schools (Feb 22, 2022) - *Accept the Response;*
- #4-22 Properly Managing Ungulate Populations – *Incomplete;*
- #5-22 Exemption of Natural Gas and Propane for Agriculture Under the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act – *Incomplete;*
- #6-22 Amendments to The ASB Conference Resolution Rules of Procedure - *Accept the Response.*

Carried.

Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference

1107-22: Halisky That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board members who can attend – attend the Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference, scheduled for November 4, 2022, to be held at the Ashmont Agriplex, Ashmont, Alberta.

Carried.

5. Correspondence:

InnoTech Alberta

1108-22: Halisky That the information received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from Jan J. Slaski, CHTA Director & Expert Researcher, Plant Sciences, InnoTech Alberta, dated September 12, 2022, in respect to the Year-2022 National Hemp Conference, scheduled for November 15-17, 2022 to be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, be filed for information.

Carried.

Adequacy and Affordability of Crop Insurance for Market Gardens.

1109-22: Halisky That the letter received by Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board from Connie Huelsman, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Red Deer County, dated September 20, 2022, in respect to adequacy and affordability of crop insurance for market gardens, be filed for information.

Carried.

Addition to the Agenda:

Grow What We Eat, Eat What We Grow Workshop at Gathering Plan Co-op..

1110-22: Halisky That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board who can attend – attend the “Grow What We Eat, Eat What We Grow” Workshop scheduled for October 19, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Gathering Plan Co-op., as presented by Community Futures in partnership with NE AB Food Marketers Association; and promote the event on County social media.

Carried.

4. Request for Decision:

Policy Statement No. 62-28-05: Mowing Program

1111-22: Halisky That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board amend the Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-28-05: Mowing Program:

Title: Mowing Program		Policy No.: 28-06
Section: 62	Code: P-R	Page No.: 1 of 3 E
Legislation Reference: Alberta Provincial Statutes		
Purpose:	Smoky Lake County will govern the municipal mowing program on developed road allowances and County lands under the Agricultural Service Board.	
Policy Statement and Guidelines:		
1. STATEMENT:		
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.	
2. DEFINITION(S):		
2.1	County Lands: Property owned and/ operated by Smoky Lake County	
2.2	Developed Road Allowances: Road allowances containing a gravel or hard surfaced roadway under the jurisdiction of Smoky Lake County.	
3. OBJECTIVES:		
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"> ▪ to assist with weed control by preventing the seed set of noxious weeds in the right-of-way and to cut any brush regrowth encroaching on the road ▪ to enhance road maintenance with minimal gravel loss and allow positive drainage of rainwater to be more efficiently channeled to the right-of-way ▪ to increase visibility of wildlife crossing and reduce obstructed visibility of signs at intersections for the safety of the travelling public ▪ to provide a fire break and reduce the amount of fire load material in right-of-way. ▪ 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 	
4. GUIDELINES:		
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.	

Title: Mowing Program	Policy No.: 28-06
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:	
4.2	Roadside prep and equipment maintenance will commence 2 weeks prior to mowing program start date.
4.3	Mowers will begin mowing operation the third week in May. All mowing operations will cease no later than November 1 st .
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 will be mowed twice a season: All grassy areas along oiled, or gravel roads receive a shoulder pass first, meaning one width of the mower. A second seasonal pass to the property line will be completed once all developed road allowances have received the first seasonal shoulder pass. The second seasonal pass will be completed where the mowers began mowing in the early season and if there is high grass regrowth, and approved by the Agricultural Fieldman. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowers will begin mowing outwards from their 'home base' to avoid high blading and eliminate unnecessary travel. • These secondary passes to the property line should be a minimum of 5ft. • Main roads into lake resorts will only be mowed prior to the July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year) • Township Road 610 from Range Road 181 East to HWY 855 (gravel haul road) and Victoria Trail will be mowed in conjunction with the lake resorts prior to July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year) • The Iron Horse Trail shall only be mowed once per season • It is recognized that inclement weather, such as rain and early winter could prevent completion of the program
4.6	All other mowing requests will be at the discretion of the Agricultural Service Board and added to Schedule "A" Approved Additional Mowing

Section 62

Policy: 28-06



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
Victoria Trail

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

Next Meeting

1112-22: Halisky

That the next Smoky Lake County **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** be scheduled for **Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 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:

1113-22: Cere

That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting of October 11, 2022, be adjourned, time 12:19 p.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER