



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's **Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting** held on Tuesday, **June 18, 2024**, at 9:02 A.M. held in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology.

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

		<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
		<u>Tues. June 18, 2024</u>
<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Alt. Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Present Virtually
Alt. Committee Member	Lorne Halisky	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Kurt Melnyk	Absent
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Absent
County CAO	Kevin Lucas	Present in Chambers
County Assistant CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present in Chambers
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh Danyluk	Present in Chambers
County Executive Services/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present Virtually

No Members of the Media were Present.

One Members of the Public were Present.

Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), was present in Chambers.

2. Agenda:

ASB38-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, June 18, 2024, be adopted as amended:

Addition to the Agenda:

1. Change in Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Directors.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

ASB39-24: Ponich That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

Addition to the Agenda:

Change in Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Directors

ASB40-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the change in respect to the following three Producers from Smoky Lake County being removed or appointed, by Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) as Directors to the LARA Board:

- Barb Shapka, was removed in March 2024, due to resignation;
- Jamie Shapka, was appointed in March, 2024, and then removed in March 2024, due to being absent from three consecutive meetings of the LARA Board; and
- Charlie Leskiw, was appointed to replace Jamie Shapka for the remainder of the term; confirming Charlie Leskiw and Amanda Fischer as the Producers appointed from Smoky Lake County.

Carried.

7. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from 9:06 a.m. to 9:13 a.m., was Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), to provide the following report of LARA's activities:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association June 18th, 2024

It has been a very busy year so far in 2024! The research staff have been working hard to ensure seeding was completed by the end of May and preparing for upcoming field days and summer tours. We welcomed Kristy Tetreau to our staff in May in the part-time role of Environment and Communications Coordinator. In addition to providing environment related extension activities for our local farmers and ranchers, Kristy will be spearheading our youth education programs.

In total we have 4 small-plot research trials in the County:

- Regional Variety Trials – Oats
- **Investigating the impact of low-growing clovers (white and subterranean clover) and nitrogen rates on silage crop yield, weed pressure, cereal leaf disease levels, and forage quality.**
- Determining the effects of EcoTea seed dressing on the emergence rate and early season vigor of canola.
- Determining the effects of EcoTea and varying starter fertilizer on barley biomass, feed quality and yield.

We have hosted a total of 4 extension events in the County and 3 webinars. A few recent highlights of those events include:

- It's Dry: Now What on March 26th, 2024 at Bellis Hall. The event saw 33 local producers come out to listen to topics on cattle health considerations in extreme heat and dry conditions (Dr. Ann-Marie Russ) and rotational grazing for drought management (Kelly Sidoryk).
- Funding Assistance on March 25th, 2024 at the Smoky Lake County office saw 3 producers drop-in for assistance.
- Securing Success: Programs, Services and Funding Opportunities for your Farm or Ranch on March 13th, 2024 at the Ukrainian National Hall. This event included a booth and presentation by Smoky Lake County as well as information on funding programs open to local farmers. A total of 48 local producers attended.
- Overcoming Weed Challenges in Regenerative Agriculture on February 7th, 2024 at the Vilna Cultural Center. This event was presented by Dr. Kris Nichols and Kimberly Cornish and combined experience and science to explore the subject of weed management in regenerative systems. A total of 28 producers attended.

We currently have two (2) events scheduled in the County over the summer:

- Smoky Lake Summer Field Tour on July 30th, 2024 starting at the Smoky Lake Agriplex followed by a field tour to our research site. Topics and speakers include a spot spraying demonstration, canola disease management and new wheat varieties.
- Agricultural Drone Demonstration on July 24th, 2024. Location TBD.

We have been very busy with assisting producers with filling out and submitting funding applications through the Resilient Agriculture Landscapes Program (RALP) and the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF). LARA staff assist producers in the County free of charge and, so far, we have assisted over 30 local producers from the County. LARA has also been assisting producers with the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP), a grant administered by LARA to our local producers.

Our two environmental farm plan (EFP) technicians have been busy assisting local producers with completing and/or updating their EFP, which is now required for most funding opportunities available. As of May 31st, 2024, we have assisted 14 producers in the County with completing their EFP this year and have 4 more in progress.

We greatly appreciate the continued support we receive from Smoky Lake County! We are always looking for feedback on our extension and research programming, please reach out to any LARA staff if there is a specific trial or event you would like to see in the County.

One Member of the Public, joined the meeting virtually, time 9:14 a.m.

5. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report

Dan Gawalko ASB Chairperson Report June 2024

February 29, completed the ASB grant survey for the legislation stream, input will be used to inform the review and updating of the next ASB grant program documents and programming as the current 5-year grant cycle will conclude at the end of 2024.

March 5, Held a ASB meeting, received the ASB grant reporting overview for Smoky Lake county received the RMA guide for declaring municipal agricultural disasters in Alberta, received a moisture situation update from Alberta agriculture and irrigation, received a letter from Sunrise county proposed changes to the weed control regulation expressing their concern regarding lack of consultation and transparency throughout the process, the ASB connector was also presented to the board and anyone can sign up to receive it the link is ASB Connector, E-Newsletter-Agriculture Service Boards.

March 6 attended the LARA board meeting Wanda the chair gave her report attended a very well attended funding opportunity in Lac La Biche county and Innovation on the ranch, Alyssa gave the director report lots of ASB meetings, will be purchasing 2 wheel hoes, she attended LLB watershed meeting, LICA meeting, she is on the organizing committee of women's grazing school and western Canada soil health, a discussion on what subscriptions we need for our researchers, Lance gave the research report all proposals have been submitted, helping producers with the grants, sourcing seeds, Jay gave the LFA report they held their AGM 2 new board members, 140 people attended the farmer appreciation event in Glendon, the meeting was adjourned and we proceeded to have our AGM at Goodridge hall, Wanda Austin the chair will not be putting her name forward next term so she thanked LARA and the staff, RDAR and all the municipalities and directors involved in LARA, Alyssa gave the executive directors report some staff changes and going forward the 3 new staff members and the knowledge they have, the increased funding from RDAR, Barb from JMD gave the financial statements for the year, elections took place and Jamie Shapka was elected producer rep for Smoky Lake county, George L'Heureux Lac La Biche county and Patrick Elsen for St. Paul county all for 3 year terms. March 13, attended the LARA securing success: programs ,services and funding opportunities for your farm or ranch in Smoky Lake with councillor Lorne Halisky a very informative session on how to access and how much money you can receive from these programs and what is eligible a very good turnout with approx. 40 producers attending Lance and Alyssa from LARA really know a lot about these programs and are proving to be an excellent contact for both OFCAF On-Farm-Climate- Action-Fund, RALP Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program and the WRRP Watershed resiliency and restoration program Smoky Lake county fieldmen had a information booth along with a presentation from our county trapper on beavers and pond levelers and how producers can control the water levels in ponds and streams, EFP environmental farm plans were also talked about as most programs need this living document to access funds, upcoming events EFP workshop March 23 Craigend hall, Funding assistance March 25 Smoky Lake county, March 28 St. Paul county, Its dry now what March 26 Bellis hall or April 9 at Flat Lake hall, April 27 no-till vegetable gardening, and Western Canada conference on soil health and grazing in Edmonton December 10-12 2024.

A LARA meeting was held on March 25 I did not attend due to conflicting schedule.

April 15 attended the LARA meeting George L'Heureux is the new chairperson, discussed some capital funding through ARECA, policy manual update overtime must be pre-approved all overtime hours must be used within 6 months and can only bank 75 hours, reviewed some bylaws regarding board member roles & responsibilities and expulsion of a board member, will be replacing a truck that was in an accident, Alyssa gave her Executive director report she is trying to get our Facebook page back in our own name, will be doing a demo plot at Lakeland college, any events or things you would like to see or do please forward to myself or Alyssa at LARA, one member of the LARA team will be at Smoky Lake county office one day per month to help producers with funding applications or get questions answered, our next meeting is June 17 in Ashmont, other upcoming events include:

- June 10, Bellis 4H Beef Show & Sale @ Waskatenau VAS
- June 14, Farmer Appreciation Day Smoky Lake County @ Smoky Lake complex
- June 27, soil building school @ Ft. Kent
- July 25, Ft. Kent Field Day
- July 30, Smoky Lake Field Day
- August 1, Lac La Biche Field Day
- August 6, St. Paul Field Day

ASB41-24: Ponich

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson report prepared for June 18, 2024, be accepted for information.

Carried.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Delegation

ASB42-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the June 18, 2024, Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), as information.

Carried.

Compliance with License Coverage and the Vegetation Management Program

ASB43-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommend County Administration provide assurance of compliance with license coverage relating to the County's Agricultural Service vegetation management program.

Carried.

One Member of the Public, virtually left the Meeting time 9:30 a.m.

2024 Spraying Progress Maps

ASB44-24: Ponich That the document received by the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, displaying the 2024 Spraying Progress Map as of June 7, 2024, be filed for information.

Carried.

2024 Mowing Progress Maps

ASB45-24: Flondra That the document received by the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, displaying the 2024 Mowing Progress Map as of June 11, 2024, be filed for information.

Carried.

Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee 2024 Resolution Responses & Grading

ASB46-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accept the recommended initial grades for the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) Year-2024 Resolutions, as listed below which were reviewed and assigned by ASBPC on April 17, 2024 and on May 24, 2024; and notify the ASBPC of acceptance of same by the deadline of June 30, 2024, to assist the ASBPC, in assigning the final grades:

RESOLUTION	ASBPC GRADE
# 1-24 Agricultural equipment highway signs	Incomplete
# 2-24: Compensating producers for ecosystem services	Accept in principle
# 3-24 Creation of livestock production insurance	Accept in principle
# 4-24 Supporting a compensation multiplier	Accept in principle
# 5-24 Wild boar and the Alberta agricultural pest act	Accept the Response
# 6-24a Improving the sustainability of Canadian apiculture through bee package imports	Accept the Response Incomplete (CFIA)
# 6-24b Improving the sustainability of Canadian apiculture through the control of varroa mites	Accept the Response Incomplete (CFIA)
# 7-24 Re-registration of 2% liquid strychnine for certified applicators	Accept the Response
# E2-24 Support for the export of live horses for slaughter	Accept in principle
# PC1-24 Financial sustainability for Field Crop Development Centre (FCDC)	Accept the Response

Carried.

6. Correspondence:

Maintaining the Integrity of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency

ASB47-24: Flondra That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Corinna Williams, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Northern Sunrise County, dated February 12, 2024, to the Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, and Minister of Health Canada, in respect to maintaining the integrity of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency; and the related response to Northern Sunrise County from the Senior Director General, Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada, dated April 15, 2024, be filed for information.

Carried.

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conferences Location

ASB48-24: Serben That the letter received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Bob Chrenek, Agricultural Service Board Chair, County of Grande Prairie, to Agricultural Service Boards of Alberta, dated April 24, 2024, in respect to concerns with the centralization of the Provincial Agricultural Service Board conferences for the next three years, not allowing members outside of the central region to host, resulting in increased travel costs, be filed for information.

Carried.

Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation - Municipal District of Willow Creek

ASB49-24: Flondra That the letter received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from John Van Driesten, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Municipal District of Willow Creek, to the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation, dated April 22, 2024, in respect to concerns with the 2024 Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation, be filed for information.

Carried.

Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation - Saddle Hills County

ASB50-24: Ponich That the letter received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Dan Bourassa, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Saddle Hills County, to the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation, dated April 8, 2024, in respect to concerns with the 2024 Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation, be filed for information.

Carried.

Review of the Weed Control Act of Alberta - Yellowhead County

ASB51-24: Flondra That the letter received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Robert Mitchell, Agricultural Service Board Chair, Yellowhead County, to the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation, dated May 23, 2024, in respect to concerns with the 2024 Proposed Changes to Weed Control Regulation, be filed for information.

Carried.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation - Alberta Crop Report as of May 28th, 2024

ASB52-24: Ponich That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from the Government of Alberta, titled: "Alberta Crop Report" as of May 28, 2024, produced by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation on May 31, 2024, be filed for information.

Carried.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation - Moisture Situation Update as of June 5th, 2024

ASB53-24: Flondra That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from the Government of Alberta, providing a moisture situation update as of June 5, 2024, produced by Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation for the period of May 30, 2024 to June 5, 2024, be filed for information.

Carried.

Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation - Weed Control Act Survey

ASB54-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board approve action taken in completing the survey, in respect to the Weed Control Regulation (WCR) Review: AAAF / ASB, as requested by the Government of Alberta, by the deadline of June 28, 2024, for the purpose of the government receiving input in respect to the weeds being considered for reclassification, removal or addition into/from the Weed Control Regulation and identify unintended outcomes or concerns associated with these regulatory changes meant to protect Alberta's agricultural, riparian, urban and rural land from invasive weed species.

Carried.

Weed Control – Letter to Alberta Transportation

ASB55-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, recommend County Council write a letter to the Minister of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors, to address weed control and overgrown brush along provincial highways.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

9. Date and time of Next Meeting:

Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting

ASB56-24: Flondra That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., to be held to be held virtually, through Electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 and/or physically in County Council Chambers.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

ASB57-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of June 18, 2024, be adjourned, time 10:01 a.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER