



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, at 9:01 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>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Thurs. Oct. 3, 2024</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	Present in Chambers
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
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh Danyluk	Present in Chambers
Assist. Ag. Fieldman	Kierstin Dubitz	Present in Chambers
County Executive Services/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present Virtually
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Present Virtually

\*\*\*\*\*

No Members of the Media were Present.

1 Members of the Public were Present.

**2. Agenda:**

ASB58-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Thursday, October 3, 2024, be adopted as amended:

**Addition to the Agenda:**

1. Discussion on the County Brushing Program - to allow producers to effectively and safely move their equipment.

Carried Unanimously.

Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), virtually joined the meeting time 9:03 a.m.

**3. Minutes:**

ASB59-24: Flondra That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

**5. Business - Requests for Decision:**

**5.1 Policy Statement No. 62-05-06: ECO Grasshopper Bait Distributor**

ASB60-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommend County Policy Statement No. 62-05-06: ECO Grasshopper Bait Distributor, be updated with a relevant policy name and current practices and chemical resources, to be reviewed at a future meeting prior to recommending an amendment by County Council.

Carried.

**Approve Action in Rescheduling the August 1, 2024 meeting to October 3, 2024**

ASB61-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board approve action taken in rescheduling this meeting from Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. to Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m..

Carried.

#### 4. Delegation:

##### **Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)**

Virtually present before the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from 9:14 a.m. to 9:20 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 Report October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

It has been a very busy year so far in 2024 as we welcomed our three new staff members Lance Ouellete, Angelica Ouellete and Kristy Tetreau. They, along with Momna Farzand and our four-summer staff, worked hard at implementing and maintaining this year's research and demonstration program and applying for project funding.

This year, we had four small plot research trials in Smoky Lake County, including:

- Regional Variety Trials oats featuring 10 oat varieties.
- Industry trials with Eco-Tea assessing products on barley and canola.
- Assessing the economic and agronomic management of row spacing in pulse/cereal intercrops.

Staff have just finished up harvesting and are moving into processing grain trial samples. We are excited to share the results of our research trials in our annual report and upcoming events.

We have hosted 16 in-person extension events across our operational area and 3 webinars. A few highlights of those events include:

- Farmer Appreciation Night was held on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Glendon. We had a bit smaller of a crowd than pre-COVID with only 150 local producers attending, but it was a great evening of conversation and entertainment.
- Securing Success: Programs, Services and Funding Opportunities for Your Farm or Ranch on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Smoky Lake Ukrainian National Hall.
- Annual General Meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Goodridge.
- Effective Stockmanship Clinic with Dawn Hnatow of Cattle-up Stockmanship on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the St. Paul Ag Corral. We have had requests to bring her back for a two-day clinic next year.
- It's Dry: Now What hosted at the Bellis Hall on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Drone Spraying Clinic hosted at Tandem T Farms in Smoky Lake on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Smoky Lake Summer Field Day hosted at the Smoky Lake Agriplex on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

We are currently planning our fall workshops, a few planned so far include:

- Grow Your Own Microgreen happening in Ardmore on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- CowBytes Ration Balancing Workshops supported by the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) happening in Smoky Lake on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and in Fort Kent on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Ladies Ranching Workshop happening in Mallaig on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Agriculture Drone School happening in Vilna on November 4 & 5, 2024.

We are also planning for our 2025 extension program, with the following events/workshops in the works so far:

- Ranching for Profit 2-Day School coming in March 2025. Location TBD.
- Sheep and Goat Forum on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Elk Point.
- Innovation on the Ranch on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Bonnyville.
- Soils School with Nicole Masters happening summer 2025. Location TBD.
- 2-Day Effective Stockmanship Clinic with Dawn Hnatow of Cattle-Up Stockmanship happening fall of 2025. Location TBD.
- No-Till Gardening Workshop. Location TBD.
- Holistic Management School. Location TBD.
- Upcoming webinars:
  - o To Graze or not to Graze: Understanding and managing poisonous plants
  - o Riparian area management: effective grazing strategies

LARA staff assisted over 150 local producers, at no cost, with filling out and submitting funding applications through the Resilient Agriculture Landscapes Program (RALP), the On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) and the LARA Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) so far this year. As projects are completed, staff are currently assisting producers with submitting interim and final project reports. As well, the OFCAF program re-opened for an additional 150 applications and staff have assisted 15 local producers in the last week and a half. Both the RALP and OFCAF programs are expected to re-open in full in February – April of 2025.

Our two Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) technicians have been busy with assisting local producers in completing and/or updating their EFP, which is now required for most of the funding opportunities available. So far this year, staff have assisted 56 local producers with starting and/or completing their EFP, including 14 from Smoky Lake County. We have had requests to host EFP workshops in our operational area and are currently working on setting dates, times and locations.

We really appreciate the support we have received from Smoky Lake County over the years and are looking forward to continuing working with you in the years ahead. We are always looking for feedback regarding extension and research programming, please reach out to any LARA staff if there are specific trials or events you would like to see in the County.

##### **Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Delegation**

ASB62-24: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the October 3, 2024, Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), as information.

Carried.

Chris Minailo, Smoky Lake County Public Works Manager entered chambers, time 9:24 a.m.

**Addition to the Agenda:**

**County Brushing Program**

Discussion was held in respect to the difficulties of moving farm equipment along County roads that are overgrown with overhanging trees.

The Public Works Manager noted the County has the ability to conduct tree trimming with poll-saws that reach up to 12 feet currently and there is a list of priority roads for Hydroaxing; and also noted that producers can let Public Works know about problem areas that need attention so they can address it as soon as possible.

ASB63-24: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the information received from the County Public Works Manager, in respect to the County's Brushing Program, for information.

Carried.

**6. Issues for Information:**

**Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report**

Dan Gawalko ASB Chair Report September 2024

- July 15, attended the LARA meeting, Alysa provided a brief update regarding municipal funding an invoice has been sent to Lac La Biche county, Kristy has been working on pamphlets to send out to producers highlighting LARA's programs and services, the Lakeland college plot was seeded end of May & Lance will be presenting the 3rd week of July, on the research side Lance & Angelica have submitted a proposal to the canola agronomic research proposal call also one with ROAR & the ultra early winter wheat cereals project has been approved through ROAR, Alyssa presented the finances the final report has been submitted to ROAR for 2023-2024 base funding & interim report for 2024-2025 base funding, next meeting August 19/24.
- July 30, attended the LARA field day in Smoky Lake councillors Cyr, Fenerty, Halisky myself ,the County CAD, and our ag fieldman were in attendance for a presentation on the introgression of clubroot from different sources, the breeding program, proper field rotation & development of clubroot resistance hybrid cultivar, Councillor Halisky, our ag fieldman and myself then boarded a bus to take us to the Smoky Lake Trial plot to see the different trials and listen to 2 more presentations on the Economics of cover crops & what is the value & timing of applying manure on crops.
- August 3 participated in the Smoky Lake Heritage Days parade on the county float with all council.
- August 17 participated in the Vilna Boom Town parade with all council in attendance, also auctioned off some hay bales donated by local producers raising over 4,000 dollars for the Vilna Ag Society to be used for building maintenance.
- August 19, Attended the LARA meeting we had a presentation from Grateful Greenhouse Structures on a Alberta sustainable food solution & a northern greenhouse design, Alyssa is getting quotes for a new pole building to be funded from the Capital
- funding, we purchased a used sea can, Alyssa also gave her Executive director report working with Lakeland HR increasing awareness of LARA attended the summer tours, the drone workshop in Smoky Lake County with 25 producers in attendance, St. Paul field day was cancelled due to lack of registrant's staff were on sight to give a tour of the plots, Kristy attended the field tours & the MD. Of Bonnyville beautification tour where LARA was a stop on, she is expanding social media and the mailing list so if you have producers in your division not receiving any LARA material have them reach out and enter the cultivating connection draw, Jay gave the LFA report vandals have been driving through fences & locked gates in over 20 spots on the pasture & private property the bulls were taken out Aug 7 to have a 60 day breeding, upcoming events include a COW Bytes workshop maybe one for our local 4H clubs Oct. 29, Nov. 14 tentative dates, a ladies ranching workshop in November & a micro green workshop, next meeting is October 21, 10:00 am in Ashmont.

Have a safe and bountiful harvest.

ASB64-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson report prepared for October 3, 2024, be accepted for information.

Carried.

Chris Minailo, Smoky Lake County Public Works Manager left chambers, time 9:34 a.m.

**7. Correspondence:**

**7.1 2024 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference**

ASB65-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board members who can attend – attend the Year-2024 Northeast Regional Agricultural Service Board Conference, scheduled for October 25, 2024, to be held in Czar Cultural and Rec Center, in Czar Alberta.

Carried.

**7.2 Ag-Know, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network – Funding Advocacy**

ASB66-24: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board write a letter to the Minister of Mental Health advocating for sustainable multi-year funding toward Ag-Know, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network, and copy the Minister of Agriculture & Irrigation, and Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock MLA, in response to the letter received from the Program Director of AgKnow, dated June 12, 2024, urgently requesting financial assistance.

Carried.

**Ag-Know, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network - Funding**

ASB67-24: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board approve to provide AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network, funding in the amount of \$2,000.00 in Year-2024 and in the amount of \$5,000.00 in Year-2025; and continue to promote AgKnow information and resources through the County's social media, grapevine, utility bill stuffers, and sharing with the local schools.

Carried.

**7.3 Municipal District of Ranchland No.66 - Weed Control Regulations**

ASB68-24: Ponich That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Jody Wilson, ASB Chairperson, Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66, dated June 18, 2024, in respect to proposed changes to the Weed Control Regulations, be filed for information.

Carried.

**7.4 County of Vermillion River - Sustainable Funding for AgKnow**

ASB69-24: Flondra That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Marty Baker, Reeve, County of Vermillion River, dated July 16, 2024, addressed to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, in respect to sustainable funding for AgKnow, Alberta Farm Mental Health Network Program, be filed for information.

Carried.

**7.5 M.D of Fairview No. 136 - Centralization of the Provincial ASB Conference**

ASB70-24: Serben That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Nolan Robertson, ASB Chair, M.D of Fairview No. 136, dated August 20, 2024, in respect to concerns with the centralization for hosting the Provincial ASB Conference, be filed for information.

Carried.

**7.6 ASB Provincial Committee - Report Card on the Resolutions 2024**

ASB71-24: Flondra That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee including the report titled: Report Card on the Resolutions 2024, be filed for information.

Carried.

**7.7 ASB, Crop Assurance & Rural Programming Branch – Grant Program Renewal**

ASB72-24: Boychuk That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Kerrienne Koehler-Munro, Manager Agricultural Service Boards, Crop Assurance and Rural Programming Branch, dated September 23 2024, stating the "Grant Program Renewal for all three streams (Legislative, Resource Management and Rat Control) has been approved for another 5-year cycle (2025-2029) with the funding anticipated to remain at current levels", be filed for information.

Carried.

**8. Executive Session:**

No Executive Session.

One Member of the Public virtually left the meeting, time 9:55 a.m.

**9. Date and time of Next Meeting:**

**Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting**

ASB73-24: Ponich That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for **Tuesday, December 10, 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:**

AS74-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of October 3, 2024, be adjourned, time 9:55 a.m.

Carried.

---

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

---

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER