



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, December 10, 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>ATTENDANCE</u>
		<u>Tues. Dec. 10, 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	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 in Chambers
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Present Virtually

No Members of the Media were Present.

1 Member of the Public was virtually Present.

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

2. Agenda:

ASB75-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, December 10, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

ASB76-24: Ponich That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

4. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from 9:05 a.m. to 9:12 a.m., was Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), who was experiencing virtual technical difficulties, to provide a verbal update of LARA activities.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Delegation

ASB77-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the verbal report provided by the December 10, 2024, Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), as information.

Carried.

5. Business - Requests for Decision:

5.1 Agricultural Fieldman Appointment

ASB78-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommends Smoky Lake County Council appoint Kierstin Dubitz as the Acting Agricultural Fieldman for the duration of the positions' vacancy commencing on the first day of the Agricultural Fieldman's extended leave of absence expected in December 2024, for up to one year.

Carried.

5.2 Policy Statement No. 62-05-07 Grasshopper Control Compensation

ASB79-24: Serben That the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommends Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-05-06: ECO Grasshopper Bait Distributer, be amended by Council to update the name of the Policy to "Grasshopper Control Compensation" and provide procedures for compensating landowners for grasshopper control, due to the County no longer offering grasshopper control services or products.

Carried.

5.3 Policy Statement No. 62-08-01 Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Way

ASB80-24: Ponich That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board recommends the draft Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-08-01: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways, be forwarded to Council for adoption.

Carried.

Policy Statement No. 62-17-02: License of Occupation of Road Allowance - Ranching & Farming

ASB81-24: Ponich That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board recommends Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-17-02 License of Occupation of Road Allowance for Ranching and Farming Purposes, be rescinded by Council, as it is made redundant by Policy Statement No. 62-08-01: Agricultural Use of Municipal Right-of-Ways.

Carried.

5.4 Policy Statement No. 62-30-01 Animal Health and Livestock Preparedness

ASB82-24: Flondra That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board recommends the draft Smoky Lake County Policy Statement No. 62-30-01: Animal Health & Livestock Emergency Preparedness, be forwarded to Council for adoption.

Carried.

5.5 Advocate for Vehicle Weigh Scale Station in Smoky Lake County

ASB83-24: Serben That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board recommends administration write a letter to Transportation and Economic Corridors Regional Director: Michael Botros, with copies to Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock MLA: Glenn van Dijken, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation: RJ Sigurdson, and Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors: Devin Dreesen, for the purpose of recommending the installation of a vehicle weigh scale station (similar to the one in Westlock) along Highway 28 within Smoky Lake County's boundaries, and suggest feasible locations where such a facility could be developed utilizing existing accesses.

Carried.

5.6 Coyote Bounty Discussion

ASB84-24: Ponich That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board take no action to the information received and discussion held in respect to the possibility of implementing Coyote Bounties.

Carried.

5.7 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee's Year-2025 Resolutions

ASB85-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommend the following support to the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee's Year-2025 Resolutions as follows:

#	Resolution	Recommend
1-25	DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRISTABILITY	In Favour
2-25	LANDOWNERS' RIGHTS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS	In Favour
3-25	PROTECTION OF CLASS 3 SOILS IN ALBERTA FROM RENEWABLE DEVELOPMENT	In Favour
4-25	WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)	In Favour
5-25	CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS	Opposed
6-25	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT	In Favour
7-25	ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL	In Favour
8-25	COYOTES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION	In Favour
9-25	NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW	In Favour
10-25	FARM FAMILY AWARDS	In Favour
11-25	AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING	In Favour
12-25	CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK	In Favour
13-25	RESOLUTION LOBBYING INCLUSION	In Favour

Carried.

Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

ASB86-24: Ponich That the Smoky Lake Agricultural Service Board approve a minimum of two members who can attend - to attend the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference, scheduled for January 20-22 in Edmonton at Delta Edmonton South, in Edmonton, Alberta.

Carried.

6. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report

Dan Gawalko ASB Chair Report
December 2024

- Oct 3, Ag Service Board meeting, updated grass hopper bait distributor policy, received an update from LARA, discussed the AgKnow Alberta mental health network and recommended the county provide funds for the program in 2024 and 2025, received the report card on the resolutions, next meeting December 10 @ 9 am.
- Oct 21, attended the LARA meeting, discussed capital funding 3.2 million finalized number for 12 associations ARECA will be in charge applications must be in by end of October all assoc. get together and see who gets what by end of November funds must be spent by December 31 2025, looking into grants and letter of support for new storage building, LARA will sponsor BJ Thomas cowboy poet for the Vilna Ag Society fall supper, Alyssa gave the executive director report, working with Lakeland HR on staff wages and grid, working on 2025 budget, looking at business & corporate sponsorship, Jay gave the LFA report all the heifers are out and the next LFA meeting is next month in Goodridge, the LARA AGM will be in St. Paul county on February 26 @ 10:00 am, other upcoming events were sent out by the Ag department.
- Oct 25, attended the NE Agricultural Service Board Conference in Czar AB. with our 2 ag fieldmen and producer rep Tamara Flondra. Had an update from Alberta Ag ensure your legislative requirements are being met, ASB grant cycle has been approved by the Ag minister for a 5 year agreement, update on the weed review that was started in 2021/2022, keep an eye on Bertha army worms for 2025, dutch elm disease 4 trees in Edmonton that have been dealt with, the road side weed survey 4,500 weed records, 46% Canada thistle then sow thistle, Tansy & oxeye daisy, next ASB townhall November 14 11-12pm, a presentation on the Alberta rat patrol program past & present, Jade Almberg from Prairie Shore Agronomy talked about running an agronomy business in cattle country they service over 80,000 acres and help farmers and ranchers access grants, the MD of Provost gave a talk about reclamation and the key to social license in municipal operations they rebuild approx.. 20 miles of road a year seeding grass on the shoulders with hydro seeders also reclaiming some of their gravel pits to beyond what's needed, went through the resolutions and had a provincial chair update, Natasha Warwaruk of Powerhouse Embryonics from Provost gave an introduction to assisted reproductive technologies in cattle talking about conventional flushes, embryo grading, frozen versus fresh, invitro fertilization, & cloning she is able to provide world class cutting edge technologies to cattle producers, the 2025 Regional conference will be in Minburn county.
- November 18 attended the LARA board meeting in Ashmont, discussed municipal funding and will be sending letters out to the municipalities looking for 2 year funding contracts for known budgeting, Capital funding from the government for equipment only no buildings December 15/24 application deadline Alyssa will be applying, did a recap of the Vilna Ag

Society event that LARA sponsored for 500 dollars (cowboy poet BJ Thomas) at their harvest dine & dance, we will be revitalizing the fish pond at the Ft. Kent site working with LICA and the MD of Bonnyville, looking at changing the LARA logo for marketing purposes & branding, finances were given & Alyssa gave the executive director report, will be receiving our payout from Canada summer jobs we had 4 positions this year, working with Lakeland HR went over 2 policies, will be selling the 2006 Chev 2500 pickup in the spring, Ford tractor tires have been replaced & the 20' sea container has been purchased, in the research report all are busy with data analysis finalizing reports and some project proposals, in communications Kristy is working on the logo design, the peavey Mart community spirit grant & organizing the women in ranching workshop, Next meeting December 16/24, @ noon upcoming events:

- Women in ranching Nov. 30/24, Mallaig
- Farmer Appreciation Event Feb. 7/25 County of St. Paul
- LARA AGM Feb. 26/25, county of St. Paul 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Ranching for Profit March 18/25.
- Anything that you as a board would like to see as an extension event or a trial, please contact Alyssa or your board member.

May you cherish the time with family and friends this holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

Dan Gawalko, ASB Chair.

ASB87-24: Serben

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's report prepared for December 10, 2024, be accepted for information.

Carried.

7. Correspondence:

7.1 **Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta – AgKnow Program**

ASB88-24: Flondra

That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from Alan Hall, Executive Director, Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta, dated October 18, 2024, in respect to temporarily scaling back AgKnow operations due to lack of funding, be filed for information.

Carried.

7.2 **Letters of Concern Regarding Bill C-293**

ASB89-24: Ponich

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to concerns with Bill C-293, which will enact the Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act which includes clauses for providing measures to "promote commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including the production of alternative proteins" and "to regulate or phase out live animal markets", from:

- Northern Sunrise County, received November 18, 2024;
- M. D. of Fairview No. 136, received November 18, 2024;
- County of Northern Lights, received November 18, 2024;
- M. D. of Bonnyville, received November 25, 2024;
- County of St. Paul, received November 25, 2024;
- Cypress County, received November 25, 2024;
- Lesser Slave River, received November 25, 2024; and
- County of Warner, received November 25, 2024.

Carried.

7.3 **Smoky Lake County's Letter of Concern Regarding Bill C-293**

ASB90-24: Boychuk

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge action taken by Smoky Lake County in writing a letter of concern, dated November 18, 2024, to the Senate of Canada, stating concerns with Bill C-293, which will enact the Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act which includes clauses for providing measures to "promote commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including the production of alternative proteins" and "to regulate or phase out live animal markets".

Carried.

7.4 MP Shannon Stubbs's Letter of Concern Regarding Bill C-293

ASB91-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received from MP Shannon Stubbs, dated November 20, 2024, in respect to concerns with Bill C-293, which will enact the Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act which includes clauses for providing measures to "promote commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including the production of alternative proteins" and "to regulate or phase out live animal markets".

Carried.

7.5 Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation - AgKnow

ASB92-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the email correspondence received from the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, in response to the letter received from Smoky Lake County, requesting financial support to Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta's AgKnow Program, which facilitates access to agriculture-specific mental health resources.

Carried.

7.6 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

ASB93-24: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received from Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), received November 29th, 2024, in respect to offering a 2-to-3-year funding agreement to provide LARA with reliable future funding.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

9. Date and time of Next Meeting:

Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting

ASB94-24: Ponich That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for **Tuesday, February 11, 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:

ASB95-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of December 10, 2024, be adjourned, time 10:40 a.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER