



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:05 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>Tues. Feb. 11, 2025</u>
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Absent
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
Acting 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.
No Members of the Public were Present.

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

2. Agenda:

ASB096-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

ASB097-25: Ponich That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, December 10, 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 9:06 a.m. to 9:18 a.m., was Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), who read from her following report:

Good morning and thank you for the invitation to attend the meeting today. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss LARA's tentative plans for the year in the areas of extension and research. As always, if you have a suggestions of a particular extension activity/topic or area you would like to see a research project, please let us know.

Extension

I met with Carleigh and Kierstin in December of 2024 to go over topics requested for extension efforts in 2025. This included:

- Soil health: cover crops, manure management, soil sampling & utilizing soil sample results.
- Water: a lot of this focused around land-owner disputes regarding draining lands, managing flowing water, use of pond levelers.
- Shelterbelt & tree management: long-term impacts of tree and shelterbelt removal on water and soil.
- Weeds: management of weeds on pasture, grazing for weed management, poisonous plants.
- Livestock Emergency Management planning and livestock health

Smoky Lake		
Grow Your Own Microgreens	09-Jan	Vilna Seniors Hall
Securing Success: Programs, Services and Funding Opportunities for Your Farm or Ranch	30-Jan	Ukrainian National Hall
Poisonous Pasture Plants: Don't Panic	04-Feb	Online
Lakeland Agronomy Update	20-Feb	Vilna Seniors Hall
Remote Drug Delivery in Cattle	03-Jun	Bellis
Ag Technology	Summer	TBD
Gardening Forum	April	TBD
Summer Field Day/Tour	Summer	TBD
The Power of Polycultures	April	TBD

Research

Soil sampled two fields in the fall of 2024 to help expedite finding a field that is free of clubroot for our research site in 2025.

Smoky Lake		
Project	Description	Funder
Eco-Tea Crop Fertility Trials	EcoTea™ is a biological product with biodiversity like no other, built on the vision of soil biodiversity enhancing professional success. EcoTea™ combines a wide array of plant-supporting microorganisms fortified with added bio stimulants to enhance soil quality and nutrient function.	Eco-Tea
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.	This project aims to (a) study different relay crop systems by sowing either the feed barley or oat into a living clover mulch of either subterranean or white clover and (b) the impact of clover cover and fertilizer into the production of silage from either feed barley or oat.	Project has been submitted to Results Driven Agriculture Research (ROAR) for potential funding. Would be 80% grant, 20% matching.
New and Alternative Crop Demonstrations	Camelina, Quinoa, Industrial Hemp, Lupins, Flax	In-kind seed, County funds
Cereal Crop Emergence Demonstrations	Various seed treatments, bio stimulants, Humalite and fertility products	In-kind seed, County funds
Regional Variety Trial - oats	Alberta Regional Variety Trial Committee (ARVAC) oat variety trial	Alberta Grains
Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to Identify Management Zones for Clubroot Control.	This study aims to study the effectiveness of multi-spectral imaging (NDVI) in mapping infested areas and using those images to target lime rates in site where clubroot is more prevalent. In this way, liming input costs associated with clubroot control are reduced while maintaining effective product application.	Project has been submitted to Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) for potential funding. Would be 80% grant, 20% matching.

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Delegation

ASB098-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the February 11, 2025, Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), as information.

Carried.

5. Business - Requests for Decision:

5.1 Policy Statement No. 62-10-10: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2025

ASB099-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommends Smoky Lake County's Policy Statement No. 62-10-10: Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2025, be amended by Council to align with the changes made to Policy Statement No. 62-28-06 Mowing Program, 1080 Toxicant recall, Canola Flower Midge monitoring, and Animal Control Technician position, and align with the new Policy Statement No. 62-30-01 Animal Health & Emergency Preparedness.

Carried.

5.2 ASB Position Statement Farm-Saved Seed

ASB100-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board file the information received from the Provincial ASB, dated January 2025, stating their position on Farm-Saved Seeds, standing firmly in support of Alberta farmers' rights to save, store, and replant seed.

Carried.

5.3 Informal Draft of Provincial 2025 ASB Conference Resolution Results

ASB101-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the following update to the Provincial Agricultural Service Board Committee's Year-2025 Resolutions results as follows:

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

Carried.

5.4 AgKnow Program Update

ASB102-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the information provided by the Acting Agricultural Fieldman, on February 11, 2025, in respect to the AgKnow – Alberta Farm Mental Health Network, including but not limited to the following points:

- the program has not received 2025 provincial funding to date and is currently operating under other limited grant funding; and
- the County will continue to promote the AgKnow on social media and within the local schools.

Carried.

5.5 Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation BBQ

ASB103-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the information provided by the Acting Agricultural Fieldman, on February 11, 2025, in respect to the 2025 Annual Farmers and Ranchers Appreciation BBQ, including but not limited to the following points:

- it is scheduled for June 13, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.;
- there will be some trade show booths, AgKnow will be invited;
- this year the students will be required to pre-order their food to help minimize line ups.

Carried.

6. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report

Dan Gawalko ASB Chair Report
January 2025

- December 10, Smoky Lake County ASB meeting, Alyssa Krawchuk Executive director of LARA provided information on their year to date activities, the board recommended policy statement no. 62-30-01 Animal Health & Livestock Emergency Preparedness be adopted, that policy statement 62-08-01 Agricultural use of Municipal Right of Ways be adopted, that policy statement 62-17-02 License of Occupation of Road Allowance be rescinded, that policy 62-05-06 Grasshopper Bait Distributor be amended to update the name of the policy to Grasshopper Control Compensation & provide procedures for compensating landowners, the board also recommended appointing Kierstin Dubitz as acting Agricultural Fieldman for the duration of the positions vacancy, having a self-weigh scale in the county was discussed, several letters from other

- municipalities with concern over bill C-293 that is before the Senate were received, next ASB meeting February 11 @ 9am.
- December 16, attended LARA meeting RDAR base funding was discussed, the chair attended the Canadian Grazing conference along with all LARA staff, Alyssa gave the executive director report submitted for 5 Canada summer jobs & are advertising these positions, met with Smoky Lake County, Lakeland HR helped with the performance evaluations she also gave the finance review and 2025 draft budget, upcoming extension programs:
 - Seed starting workshop, Jan 21 Eastbourne community hall.
 - Securing success program, Jan, 28 Ashmont, Jan 30 Smoky Lake, Feb 5 Elk Point, Feb 10 Eastbourne Hall.
 - Poisonous pasture plants, online webinar Feb 4,
 - Farmer appreciation night, Feb 7 Glendon,
 - Working well workshop Feb 11 St. Paul,
 - LARA AGM, March 6 County St. Paul,
 - Composting workshop March 11 TBD,
 - Ranching for profit March 18 St. Paul.
 - Gardening forum, April 26 Ft. Kent Hall
 - January 20,21,22 attended the ASB Conference in Edmonton with board member Tori Ponich & Ag Fieldman Kierstin Dubitz, the first afternoon we went to the ASB chair and fieldman meeting with speaker John Conrad ADM he discussed the 5 year grant renewal program for ASB's for 2025 -2029, he gave an update on the weed review, wild boar, ground squirrel and the water review act, 1.7 million from the province to AgKnow and producer mental health, in the evening we were welcomed to the conference by Lacombe County, then Minister RJ Sigurdson gave a welcome address also, the next day we had an ASB update, they have been in Alberta for 80 years serving 41,000 farms, Dr. John Church gave a talk about precision ranching, drones with thermal imaging, virtual fencing, plants and animals together enabling a smart biome, Bill Kingston then gave an overview of the wetland policies the benefits of wetlands the wetland replacement program & funding available from different sources, Dave Johnson gave an update on ag waste recycling the EPR program for chemical jugs, grain bags & twine pilot projects & the option for large farms or groups of farmers to have 10 or more bags picked up on farm. Karen Wickerson gave an update on the Alberta rat program, no rats in Alberta which is great for trade, the province gave \$215,000 towards the rat program for 2025, the Alberta Sask. border is inspected twice yearly with 31 confirmed rats reported in 2024. Jane Tansey gave the Richardsons squirrel update on the reproduction cycle they have 1 litter per year with 5-8 in a litter, 60-80% of them can be removed by a single badger, also suggested making bird boxes for the barn owls and raptor stands and platforms as these also help to control this type of ground squirrel, Micheal Marlow gave an overview of the USDA national swine feral program how the swine are causing crop damage, infrastructure damage to grave yards golf courses & more, in excess of 6 million animals in the US in 30 of the 50 states he says to control before it gets out of hand using legislation also. Then we went in to the resolution session for the remainder of the day. The following morning started with Mikki Shatosky discussing the legal tools used to get easements for agricultural land into a Alberta Farmland trust or conservation formats used and the benefits of, Tanis Baker then gave a presentation of Ag tourism and the Alberta open farm days in August they partner with Travel Alberta & Ag society's, they anticipate 9.4 billion people in the world in the next 5 years, 84% of Alberta tourism are Albertans, John Knap they talked about the future of Ag in Alberta the fertility rates on the planet, the rising sea, taking out delta farmland in the world, we'll need 173 million more acres to produce 50% more food, John believes the ag industry will form a progressive larger part of Alberta's future economy, Megan Evans talked about the state of Alberta's native bee's, the threats to bee's, there are 375 bee species in Alberta, 40% of insect species at risk of extinction in Alberta from insecticides, pathogens & pests, these bees are important pollinators in our world. Dr. Alycia Chrenek then talked about connecting mental wellness to sustainable agriculture & the causes of veterinarian mental crisis & farmers needing help, talking is one of tools along with changing your prospective on things, AgKnow and in the Know are some of the groups available for Help.
 - January 27 attended the LARA board of Directors meeting, discussed capital funding, 12 associations submitted applications will know by end of January then sign contracts, Lara is working on a new logo, municipal funding was also discussed with St. Paul county providing 70,000 per year for 3 years & the MD. of Bonnyville giving 80,000 for 2025, on April 7th will be holding a strategic planning session with Lakeland Human Resources, Alyssa gave the financial report, OFCAF will schedule a meeting to give an update of what needs to be done & reported on for the grants, the AGM will be in Mallaig on March 6th with 2 positions on the board to be elected 1 in Smoky Lake County, 1 in MD of Bonnyville, Alyssa gave the Executive director report applied for 5 positions for Canada summer jobs, Making a plan for the garden & greenhouse, 98 feed samples in 2024 using ½ the sample budget, researchers are busy ordering seed, attended the soil conference & working on projects for RDAR check out the upcoming events on LARA website or Smoky Lake county website.
 - January 30 attended the Securing Success programs & funding opportunities for your farm or ranch in Smoky Lake with councillor Lorne Halisky & Ag Fieldman Kierstin Dubitz put on by LARA, Lance introduced the LARA staff in attendance & gave a presentation on what LARA has done in the last 33 years on unbiased research &

what they can do for producers feed tests, help with grant applications, Kierstin then gave an update on what the county is doing, ditch mowing, spraying ditches, 400 weed notices sent out in 2024, clubroot survey, EFP's, animal control for beaver & dogs, Sonia from the OFCAF program & CFGA gave an update on the program, online learning, events, workshops, fencing, pasture improvement, rotational grazing, need an EFP for these programs and Agri Invest for 2025, Chris from the RALP program talked about the program, inter cropping, pollinator strips, trees, wetland restoration, annual crops to forages, he also mentioned the Alberta Water Program for wells & dugouts, the RALP program opens February 3/25 closes November 30/25, call 1866-310 RALP for more info or Lance @ LARA or your ag fieldman. These are some good programs for our producers.

- February 7 attended the Farmer Appreciation Event in Glendon put on by LARA with the talents of Ben Crane entertaining the crowd.

ASB104-25: Céré That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson's report prepared for February 11, 2025, 2025, be accepted for information.

Carried.

7. Correspondence:

7.1 Letters of Concern Regarding Bill C-293

AS105-25: 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:

- Foothills County, received December 9, 2024,
- Municipal District of Willow Creek, received December 9, 2024,
- County of Minburn No. 27, received December 10, 2024,
- Rocky View County, received December 10, 2024,
- Leduc County, received December 10, 2024,
- Flagstaff County, received December 16, 2024,
- Municipal District of Greenview, received December 16, 2024,
- Athabasca County, received December 18, 2024,
- County of Vermillion River, received December 19, 2024,
- Foothills County, received January 2, 2025,
- Wheatland County, received January 2, 2025,
- Lamont County, received January 2, 2025, and
- Starland County, received January 13, 2025.

Carried.

7.2 Letters of Support for Alberta Farm Mental Health Network AgKnow

ASB106-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to letter of support for the Alberta Farm Mental Health Network known as AgKnow, from:

- Flagstaff County, received December 16, 2024,
- Woodland County, received January 2, 2025, and
- MD of Peace No. 135, received January 9, 2025.

Carried.

7.3 Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network 2024 Insect Survey Results

ASB107-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence received, as information, from the Alberta Insect Pest Monitoring Network's email dated December 11, 2024, in respect the Insect Survey Results for 2024 in Smoky Lake County, including the following summary:

"There were three bertha armyworm sites in Smoky Lake in 2024, none even went over 25 moths. Bertha was not a concern in 2024. This monitoring system is very good at predicting when/if farmers need to be out scouting for bertha in their crops in the current growing season, but also, will indicate when the population is starting to build for a possible outbreak in the following growing season.

Pea leaf weevil has become established and is doing very well in the Edmonton north region, but in 2024, survey technicians didn't find much feeding damage. They might

have missed the fields with high feeding damage, due to the randomness of the survey, but it seems the weevil struggled to survive the winter of 23/24.

The after-harvest wheat midge survey found no midge in the samples. We know that the midge can spend years in the soil waiting for ideal conditions to complete their lifecycle. So should we get rain in May and June, farmers will want to be ready to scout their fields for midge while wheat is from boot crack to the end of anthesis.

No cabbage seedpod weevil turned up in the survey."

Carried.

7.4 Northern Sunrise County Positive Collaboration with Alberta Transportation

ASB108-25: Cere That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence received, as information, from Northern Sunrise County, dated January 9, 2025, acknowledging their positive collaboration efforts with Alberta Transportation, in respect to weed management.

Carried.

7.5 Support in Addressing Richardson Ground Squirrel Infestations Kneehill County

ASB109-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the letter from Kneehill County, to the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, dated January 15, 2025, calling for support in addressing the Richardson Ground Squirrel infestation in the agriculture industry; and promote ways of managing the Richardson Ground Squirrel through non-chemical controls as another option, on the County's social media.

Carried.

7.6 Farmer Pesticide Program Follow Up from Kneehill County

ASB110-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board accept the correspondence received, as information, from Kneehill County, to the Minister of Environment and Protected Areas, dated January 14, 2025, requesting follow-up for support of the Farmer Pesticide Program.

Carried.

7.7 Moisture Situation Update from Alberta's Natural Resources Management Branch

ASB111-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received from Alberta Climate Information Service Manager at the Natural Resources Management Branch Government of Alberta, in respect to the moisture situation data, received as of January 15, 2025.

Carried.

7.8 Letter Recommending the Installation of a Self-Weigh Axle Scale along Hwy 28

ASB112-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the letter to the Regional Director of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors from the County's ASB Chairperson, dated January 9, 2025, recommending the installation of a self-weigh axle scale along Highway 28 within Smoky Lake County.

Carried.

7.9 Minister of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors letter receipt

ASB113-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board file the email dated January 24, 2025, from the Minister of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors acknowledging receipt of the County's ASB Chairperson, emailed letter recommending the installation of a self-weigh axle scale along Highway 28 within Smoky Lake County.

Carried.

7.10 Regional Director of Alberta Transportation & Ec. Corridors letter receipt

ASB114-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board file the email dated January 24, 2025, from the Regional Director of Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors acknowledging receipt of the County's ASB Chairperson, emailed letter recommending the installation of a self-weight axle scale along Highway 28 within Smoky Lake County.

Carried.

7.11 Northern Sunrise County Concern from the 2025 ASB Conference

ASB115-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board file the information received from Northern Sunrise County, dated January 24, 2025, to the Agricultural Service Boards Provincial Committee, in respect to behavioral concerns with some attendees at the 2025 ASB Provincial Conference in Edmonton, and a request for them to follow the correct code of conduct.

Carried.

7.12 ASB Connector January 2025 Edition, received January 31st, 2025

ASB116-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board file the 23-page electronic newsletter, dated January 2025, titled: ASB Connector, produced by the Alberta Agricultural and Irrigation.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

9. Date and time of Next Meeting:

Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting

ASB117-25: Ponich That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for **Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**, to be held to be held in County Council Chambers as well as virtually online.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

ASB118-25: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of February 11, 2025, be adjourned, time 9:45 a.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER