

**MINUTES OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLE NO. 6 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021 COMMENCING AT 10:00 A.M.  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLE NO. 6 ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING, STETTLE, ALBERTA AND VIA TELECONFERENCE**

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**PRESENT:**

Board Members    Larry Clarke  
                          Ernie Gendre  
                          Dave Grover (Chairperson)  
                          Cheri Neitz  
                          James Nibourg  
                          Wayne Nixon  
                          Les Stulberg (Vice Chairperson)

Other                Ryan Hallett, Manager of Agricultural Services  
                          Quinton Beaumont, Assistant Director of Operations  
                          Rick Green, Director of Operations  
                          Andrew Brysiuk, Director of Municipal Services  
                          Jarrett Kushner, Manager of Information Systems  
                          Khalil Ahmed, Battler River Research Group (via Teleconference)  
                          Barry Yaremco, Yaremco Ag Consulting Ltd. (via Teleconference)  
                          Marlene Hanson, Executive Assistant

**ABSENT:**            Yvette Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer  
                          Niki Thorsteinsson, Director of Communications

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 by Chairperson Dave Grover.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**07.02.24.21    Moved by Les Stulberg**  
“that the February 24, 2021 agenda for the County of Stettler No. 6  
Agricultural Services Board Meeting be approved as presented.”  
Carried Unanimously

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**08.02.24.21    Moved by Larry Clarke**  
“that the January 27, 2021 County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board  
Meeting minutes be approved as presented.”                    Carried Unanimously

Introductions were made of all present including Khalil Ahmed joining via  
Teleconference.

**DELEGATIONS**

Battle River Research Group (via Teleconference):  
Khalil Ahmed made a presentation on *Research and Extension Updates –  
Highlights of Battle River Research Group 2018-2020.*

Andrew Brysiuk left the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

The Battle River Research Group:

1. Identifies regional producer’s needs and challenges
2. Collaborates with specialists seeking answers
3. Translates unbiased knowledge through demonstrations and research projects

4. To improve the agriculture economy of East Central Alberta

Battle River Research Group's Goals:

1. Producer – To be recognized as an effective producer driven association (Improve research equipment and tools; hire qualified staff; organize webinars and on-call services; and improve online tools.)
2. Lead – To deliver relevant and applicable research to regional farmers to enhance Farmer – Lead Research with regional producers to evaluate technology, practices, and products.  
(In 2020 received funding for 11 CAP Projects and 2 Farm Scale Research Projects.)
3. Research – Transfer updated knowledge and technology information to regional producers on current ag related issues.  
(Used Social Media to communicate knowledge; collaborated with colleges; published 3 research updates, one newsletter and the Annual 2020 Report; shared videos by YouTube; organized 7 webinars; 1 virtual field day; one crop walk; and facilitates one on one session with producer and specialist on call.)

In 2020 Battle River Research Group's revenue included \$127,917 from Core Funding; \$83,931 from CAP Funding, \$60,500 from Industrial, \$42,000 from Municipalities and the remainder from commissions, projects and carry over for a total of \$387,139. Municipal support is very important due to 50% dollar matching for projects, making it possible to access more funding from the province, therefore, requested assistance with the funding.

Through questions from the Committee Members the following were identified:

- Funding has not been received from the Western Grains Research Foundation – are still trying.
- In 2019 a trial, which are moved around each year, was in the County of Stettler – 4 people in the area may be interested in hosting trials.
- Battle River Research Group has 700 members (will research and report how many of those are within the County of Stettler).
- Battle River Research Group have notified the government that they need more associations and funding. Provincial funding is guaranteed with the submission of a plan.

Barry Yaremicio identified that Alan Hall with Alberta Research and Extension Council of Alberta (ARECA) received funding to employ 4 forage specialists. To reach these services the producer would call Battle River Research Group, who would in turn notify ARECA's forage specialists to contact that producer. (ARECA's Specialists Funding is roughly \$200,000 for two years.) Needs our support to keep this group alive.

Khalil Ahmed left the Teleconference call at 10:35 a.m.

Introductions were made of all present including Barry Yaremicio joining via Teleconference.

Barry Yaremicio – Yaremicio Ag Consulting Ltd. (via Teleconference):

Barry Yaremicio reported on his presentation, "*Items Influencing Agriculture Today*".

Trade Issues:

- Malaysian Palm Oil – USA preventing imports due to use of child labor without proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and unsafe work

conditions. Increased demand for canola and soy oil has strengthened the prices.

- Brazil Food Export Tax - Brazil placed an export tax on ag products leaving the county, reducing the grains on the market being responsible in part of increased costs in grocery stores.
- Phosphate Fertilizer from Russia and Morocco - Biden applied a 20-73% tariff, citing unfair trade practices. Will limit the supply of fertilizer available to north America resulting in increased prices.
- Russia's Wheat Export Quota Tax could squeeze US Grain Stocks - imposed a \$30.32 (US dollar) on grain exported from Russia.

#### International Issues:

- Banning use of Glyphosate - Public pressure on countries to limit or prevent use of Glyphosate or round up in the next 4 years. A lawyer is researching. May see lower projection rates when round-up is not available.
- China Genocide of Ethnic Muslims (Uighur) – Is this a preclusion of 1939 (stock pile food for upcoming years)? 24-30 million tonnes of corn expected to be imported to China this year.
- Keystone Excel Pipeline Shutdown - Require that all pipe be removed south of 49 parallel. Bill coming in next 6 months regarding farm policy and aide, north America free trade agreement.

#### Canadian Issues:

- Interest Rate Increase – Canada may be first to increase, resulting in stronger dollar affecting cost of machinery imported from USA and lower cattle prices if going to USA.
- \$170 per tonne Carbon tax by 2030 – currently is scheduled to increase regularly.
- Grain and Hay/Forage Prices were presented.
- Building Material Cost Increase - Wood and steel cost up 35% in the last 14 months.
- Drought and Livestock Import and Export information was made available.

#### Through questions the following was determined:

- Push for vegetable (plant based meat) protein (is catching on throughout north America and reducing the demand). A non meat diet can create low iron becoming anemic.
- May possibly see an increase in cow/calf prices with demand for hamburger in the summer. COVID shut down of plants, may interfered with pricing.
- Olymel (hog slaughtering, cutting and deboning) Plant's temporary closing will affect the price of pork on the shelf for a short time, and the back log of hogs will decrease the farmer's price.

Barry Yaremicio left the teleconference call at 11:19 a.m.

### **REPORTS**

#### Agricultural Services Board Administration Report:

Administration presented their report.

**09.02.24.21**

#### **Moved by Wayne Nixon**

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Administration Report for the period up to February 24, 2021 be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

Andrew Brysiuk joined the meeting at 11:26 a.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Farm Safety Centre Funding Request:

**10.02.24.21**

**Moved by Les Stulberg**

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board table the Farm Safety Centre Funding Request in order for Administration to receive more financial information;

and

to request that Farm Safety Centre representatives attend an Agricultural Services Board Meeting as a delegation via Teleconference Call.”

Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Services Board Agenda Preparation with the Chair:

Chairperson Grover has requested scheduling a preparation meeting before each Agricultural Services Board Meeting to provide input on the agenda package.

**11.02.24.21**

**Moved by James Nibourg**

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board not approve scheduling a preparation meeting, the second Thursday of each month, before each Agricultural Services Board Meeting to provide input on the agenda package.”

Carried Unanimously

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **FINANCE**

Year to Date Budget Reports:

**12.02.24.21**

**Moved by Wayne Nixon**

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board's Year to Date Monthly Budget Report for the month ended January 31, 2021, attached and forming part of these minutes, be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

ASB Work Schedule:

**13.02.24.21**

**Moved by James Nibourg**

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board receive for information the ASB Work Schedule with follow-up to be presented regarding additional gravel pit information. “

Carried Unanimously

ASB Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2021:

**14.02.24.21**

**Moved by James Nibourg**

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board receive for information the ASB Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2021 information, as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

Summary of Insect Pest 2021 Forecast:

**15.02.24.21**

**Moved by James Nibourg**

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board authorize Administration, in regard to the Hold Harmless Agreement, to research a service fee schedule identifying charges and service fees to spray on private land and report at a future Agricultural Services Board Meeting.”

Carried Unanimously

Provincial Soil Moisture Update:  
**16.02.24.21 Moved by James Nibourg**  
“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board receive for information the Provincial Soil Moisture Update.” Carried Unanimously

**17.02.24.21 Moved by James Nibourg**  
“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board authorize for Administration to arrange to have a speaker attend Agricultural Services Board Meetings, at a maximum expense of \$1,200.00 per yearly.”  
Carried Unanimously

James Nibourg expressed concern with the disposal of needles/syringes. It was noted that some individuals use sharpie/make-shift disposal containers and that some end up in the landfill. Alberta Government may look deeper into this item. (Ryan Hallett will research protocol for proper disposal of needles/syringes and report at the next Agricultural Services Board Meeting.)

Rolled grain bags – with COVID – none have been rolled. County is working on an agreement with Merlyn Plastics.

Cheri Neitz left the meeting at 12:18 p.m.

**COMMUNITY/MEETING/CONFERENCE REPORTS:**

(None)

**NEXT MEETING**

The next County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES/INVITATIONS**

(None)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**18.02.24.21 Moved by Les Stulberg**  
“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting adjourn at 12:20 a.m.” Carried Unanimously

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Chairperson

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Manager of Agricultural Operations