

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

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
 Jarrett Kushner, Manager of Information Systems
 Marlene Hanson, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

19.03.24.21

Moved by Les Stulberg

“that the March 24, 2021 agenda for the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be approved with the following additions:

1. Agricultural Awareness
 2. Cleanfarms Report (Wayne Nixon).”
- Carried Unanimously

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

20.03.24.21

Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the February 24, 2021 County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting minutes be approved as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

DELEGATIONS

Farm Safety Centre Representative:

Laura Nelson and Jordan Jensen joined by teleconference at 10:03 a.m.

Laura Nelson made a presentation on the School ‘Safety Smarts’ Program:

- County of Stettler has supported the program.
- Invitation has been extended to all schools.
- Program runs from mid September to mid June.
- In 2020 visited 5 schools in the County (Erskine Colony, Byemoor Colony, White Sands Colony, Lone Pine Colony and the Christ King Catholic School).
- Due to COVID-19:
 - during the 2020-21 school year, the ‘Safety Smarts’ Program was not delivered.
 - ‘Safety Smarts’ Program was created in the form of a virtual delivery.
 - As of February 1st began virtual ‘Safety Smarts’ presentation delivery.
- Intention, after COVID-19 has ended, is to return to face to face presentations. They may continue to reach remote locations through virtual presentations.
- Stettler Elementary has booked for this year.

- The program is not a curriculum item for the schools.
- 2016-17 did an evaluation which identified that a large percentage of students take information home to their parents.
- Funding:
 - End of 2020 the Provincial Government will no longer be funding the Safety Smarts program.
 - Is 60-70% funded by Counties. Expenses are less with virtual presentations.

Jordan Jensen made a presentation on the ‘Sustainable Farm Families’:

- Sustainable Farm Families has existed since 2014 and is a highly successful health and wellness initiative.
- The program was developed in Australia by the National Centre for Farmer Health.
- 3 consecutive workshops to uncover health problems are offered:
 - A team of registered nurses are present, offering ‘state of rural health’ assessments (blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, nutrition and diet), in order to assess current health and discuss measures to take better care of your health to improve the quality of life.
 - Workshop information is confidential
- Due to COVID-19, previous group setting workshops will now be offered as one on one workshops to rural populations (to assist with knowledge and preventative approaches) to uncover health problems.
- Are contacting to offer the programs in the County.

Funding from County:

- There was a carry over from last year – did a number of video productions and worksheets for the teachers (funds not spent on deliver were spent on preparing for a new delivery style).
- County of Stettler supported ‘Safety Smarts’:
 - 2010, 2011 and 2012 funded in the amount of \$3,300.00
 - 2018 funded in the amount of \$3,489.00
 - The funding formula is \$3.50 per child in the County of Stettler boundaries
 - missed years from 2013 to 2018 were due to the request missing the budget process (their requests go out early in January – Agricultural Services Board requested that the request be based on the school year.)

James Nibourg left the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Chairperson Dave Grover thanked Laura Nelson and Jordan Jensen for their excellent presentations.

Laura Nelson and Jordan Jensen left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Farm Safety Centre Funding Request:

21.03.24.21

Moved by Wayne Nixon

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board fund Farm Safety Centre's Safety Smarts program for rural children in the amount of \$3,400.00 and re-evaluate during Budget Deliberations.” Carried Unanimously

REPORTS

Agricultural Services Board Administration Report:

Administration presented their report. In addition, it was noted that there is a sand pit that is being reclaimed and it appears that the grass (hay land mixture) seed will take well.

22.03.24.21

Moved by Les Stulberg

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

Carried Unanimously

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Hold Harmless Agreement – Brush Site Spraying:

- The ratepayer will be invoiced (based on the number of hours and chemical(s) used) following completion of spraying.
- Ratepayers will receive notification through County Connections.
- Suggested to offer services when crews are in that area then the Administration/service fee may not be required.
- Can consider setting up a 3rd pod (for spray) on one spray truck (as other truck may be replaced next year). This is an excellent option as it would allow for 3 different spays to be available.

James Nibourg rejoined the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

23.03.24.21

Moved by Ernie Gendre

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board direct Administration to research brushing site herbicide application service fees (additional fee coverage, expenses for installing a 3rd pod, etc.) and present proposal(s) for the Hold Harmless Agreement – Brush Site Spraying item at a future Agricultural Services Board Meeting.”

Carried Unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

County of Stettler Clubroot Update:

Dave Grover released the Chair to Vice Chair Les Stulberg and left the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

- It was noted that Clubroot is up 10% over last year. (In 2018 there were 9-10 fields identified. In the last few years there have only be a couple of fields identified.)
- Clubroot resistant varieties are not as expensive as they were a few years ago and do not decrease production.
- Ryan Hallett noted that there are plenty of companies that will advise to plant a Clubroot resistant variety. Will take time for farmers to change their habits.

Dave Grover rejoined the meeting at 10:46 a.m. and resumed as Chairperson.

- It was noted that it is the farmer’s responsibility to use resistant varieties.
- Suggested to place a notification in the County Connections, identifying that the use of Clubroot resistant varieties is recommended and notifying that the County does Clubroot inspects.
- It was noted that there are Acts in place and Agricultural Services Board Weed Inspectors enforce accordingly.

- 24.03.24.21 Moved by Les Stulberg**
“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board receive for information the County of Stettler Clubroot Update.” Carried Unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

None

FINANCE

Year to Date Budget Reports:

- 25.03.24.21 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 February 28, 2021, attached and forming part of these minutes, be received for information.”
Carried Unanimously

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Aphanomyces Root Rot in Peas:

- It was noted that Aphanomyces Root Rot has been identified within the County of Stettler.
- Recommendation is that this is an item that we should be aware of, and to advise the landowner to discuss with an Agronomist.

- 26.03.24.21 Moved by James Nibourg**
“that the Aphanomyces Root Rot in Peas item presented for the March 24, 2021 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be received for information.”
Carried Unanimously

Sharps Disposal Guidelines:

Ryan Hallett verbally gave an overview of the information provided.

- James Nibourg noted that a veterinarian clinic has asked if there was a program. (Ryan Hallett noted that they will attend the site and do a sharps pick-up.)
- Sharps can be disposed of, free of charge, at the Stettler Regional Landfill being a Class II Landfill. The sharps do not require a specific container, they go in the pit and are buried.
- Suggested that the Agricultural Services Board look at ways (create a sharps container, supply container labels and inform to deliver to the landfill) for the County to assist with safe sharps disposal. Noted no need to invent a container, however, stickers may be a solution. Could put in County Connections.
- Suggested that this could be referred to the Stettler Waste Management Authority Committee.
- Ryan Hallett will investigate further (talk to Regional Landfill regarding how to handle).

- 27.03.24.21 Moved by Ernie Gendre**
“that the Sharps Disposal Guidelines item presented for the March 24, 2021 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be received for information and that a letter be send to the Stettler Waste Management Authority identifying the need for a safe Agricultural sharps disposal.” Carried Unanimously

Agricultural Awareness:

Les Stulberg noted that there was a news release stating that India farmers are behind on planting soy beans and corn. Comments that were made shows that there is a long way to go in educating the public.

28.03.24.21

Moved by Les Stulberg

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board receive for information the Agricultural Awareness item, as presented.”

Carried Unanimously

COMMUNITY/MEETING/CONFERENCE REPORTS:

Cleanfarms Report (Wayne Nixon):

Information on Cleanfarms was made available:

- Cleanfarms December 2020 Agricultural Plastics Pilot Program Report Grant Agreement: ESP-047715
 - The Alberta Ag-Plastic: Recycle It! program is a three-year (2019 - 2022), government funded pilot project that helps farmers recycle used grain bags and twine. In addition to on-the-ground pilots that divert used grain bags and twine out of landfills and into new products, the program delivers a number of research projects that will help the potential transition of the pilots into a long-term, sustainable and self-funded program.
 - The report summarized the key activities from the pilot that took place between July 1 to December 31, 2020, namely the operation of pilot collections.
 - Cleanfarms is the program operator, responsible for identifying and accessing end markets, handling program logistics including the collection and transportation to recycle the materials and leading the research projects.
- Briefing Note: Alberta Ag-Plastic: Recycle it! Summary and Program Recommendations:
 - The Alberta Ag-Plastic: Recycle It! program is a three-year (2019 - 2022) pilot project. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry provided \$1 million in funding to operate the pilot in early 2019. As of December 2020, there were 26 collection sites throughout Alberta and the program had collected plastic for 15 months.
 - The goal of the pilot is to test logistics and to assess costs and resources for the implementation of a permanent program. Multiple stakeholders have been engaged in the pilot who are also critical in the implementation and operation of a permanent program, including agricultural producers, collection sites, first importers and retailers of grain bags and twine, recyclers, and government officials.
- Agricultural Services Board to look into where bags can be purchased from and placed a notification in the County Connections.

29.03.24.21

Moved by James Nibourg

“that the Cleanfarms Community/Meeting/Conference Report presented for the March 24, 2021 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be received for information and that Administration follow-up on Cleanfarms and report at a future Agricultural Services Board Meeting.”

Carried Unanimously

NEXT MEETING

The next County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES/INVITATIONS

None

IN CAMERA

None

ADJOURNMENT

30.03.24.21

Moved by Larry Clarke

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting adjourn
at 12:22 p.m.”

Carried Unanimously

Chairperson

Manager of Agricultural Operations