

MINUTES OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 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 Ernie Gendre
Cheri Neitz (joined by Teleconference)
James Nibourg
Wayne Nixon
Les Stulberg (Vice Chairperson)

Other Quinton Beaumont, Manager of Agricultural Services
Yvette Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer (joined at 10:02 a.m.)
Rick Green, Director of Operations
Andrew Brysiuk, Director of Municipal Services
Marlene Hanson, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: Larry Clarke
Dave Grover (Chairperson)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 by Vice Chairperson Les Stulberg.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

41.06.23.21 Moved by James Nibourg

“that the June 23, 2021 agenda for the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be approved with the following additions:

1. Ag Plastics Recycling Group Report (Wayne Nixon)
2. Red Tape Reduction RE: Gravel Pit Reclamation.” Carried Unanimously

Yvette Cassidy joined at 10:02 a.m.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

42.06.23.21 Moved by Wayne Nixon

“that the April 28, 2021 County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting minutes be approved as presented.” Carried Unanimously

Micheal Harding joined the meeting by teleconference at 10:03 a.m.
Introductions were completed.

Yvette Cassidy and Rick Green left the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

DELEGATIONS

Michael Harding, Alberta Agriculture Pest Surveillance Branch:

Micheal Harding, Crop Insurance Lead with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry made a presentation identifying disease trends; things to watch for, and new and emerging trends:

- Canola Disease Trends – Clubroot and Canola
 - noted diseases and how weather impacts them
 - Clubroot – find 10% of fields positive which continues to increase and spread – need to try to prevent

- Blackleg survey in Canola is assisted by the Ag Fieldman – the County of Stettler is on the fringe of hot spots, therefore, could appear in Stettler.
- Wheat diseases – explained Fusarium Head Blight damage in Alberta which is driven by weather – grain commission divides data by the 7 crop zones, therefore, showed slides/information by zones – now becoming necessary for every cereal grower to watch for and be ready to manage. Fusarium was been removed from the *Pest Act* which is not an issue as long as all concerned are working together to avoid, contain and manage – fusarium is now in many areas making it impossible to avoid.
- Peas – root rot - 70-90%
- Showed examples of crops and what to watch for: Investigate, get help, keep records. Their group can assist.

Rick Green rejoined the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

- Fusarium – (retesting of fields – County of Stettler monitors and stops farmers from seeding canola for 4 years) – Alberta Agriculture and Forestry do not keep inspection records of Counties.

Yvette Cassidy rejoined the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

– Quinton Beaumont supplies the information – They only look at the number of fields – some Counties do and are seeing that that the incidents in fields is low. (James Nibourg identified that the cleaned-up fields need to be implemented into the graphs in order to show accurate numbers as the numbers appear as though County(s) are not doing anything.) – Mr. Harding totally agreed, noting that to get rid of fusarium is not an option, managing it is.

- Verticillium in Canola – has not been detected in Alberta, yet. Need to be on the lookout for it.
- Crop diseases were identified and samples of symptoms that can attack a plant were shown and explained.

Micheal Harding left the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

REPORTS

Agricultural Services Board Administration Report:
Administration presented their report.

43.06.23.21

Moved by James Nibourg

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Administration Report for the June 23, 2021 Meeting be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Red Tape Reduction RE: Gravel Pit Reclamation:

Ernie Gendre asked if there has been a response on the letter that was forwarded to the Red Tape Reduction regarding gravel pit reclamation. It was noted that the letter is being drafted.

NEW BUSINESS

Future ASB Growth:

Quinton Beaumont identified that when Council increased taxes, \$36,000+ has been earmarked for future agricultural use, therefore, asked for member input regarding direction for use of these funds. Quinton Beaumont listed some items: offering workshops, gravel pits, private land jobs, hamlets, and Clean

Farms becoming an ag plastics depo – getting bale bags. Asked for more ideas and suggested a Land Use Coordinator.

- James Nibourg identified that the 1st step should be to visit the STRAT Plan for the Agricultural Services department, then to make suggestions and/or introduce new ideas.
- Ernie Gendre questioned the \$37,000 placement. (Andrew Brysiuk noted that a few years ago there was a similar increase in taxes and at that time a portion was earmarked for roads and bridges, and this year it was earmarked directly to Agriculture.)
- CAO Cassidy noted that mill rate split between gravel and roads worked out very well and additional money in the Agricultural department can be placed on rental equipment and/or put away for drought years.

44.06.23.21

Moved by James Nibourg

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board direct Administration to bring the STRAT Plan to the July 28, 2021 Agricultural Services Board Meeting and that the Future ASB Growth item be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

None

FINANCE

Quinton Beaumont reported that financials will no longer be presented at Agricultural Service Board Meetings, as the committee does not approve budget and financials are available in the County of Stettler No. 6 Council Meeting Agenda package.

- CAO Cassidy noted that due to monetary items being a Council decision, the financials will not be included in the ASB package from this point on.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

None

COMMUNITY/MEETING/CONFERENCE REPORTS:

45.06.23.21

Moved by James Nibourg

“that the following Community/Meeting/Conference Reports presented for the June 23, 2021 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be received for information:

- Provincial ASB Report.”

Carried Unanimously

Ag Plastics Recycling Group Report (Wayne Nixon):

- A meeting was held with excellent presentations:
 - Bio Plastics (bio degradable – hemp, canola, sugar beets) – there is a research program at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, that has some potential
 - 19 billion has been set aside by the Federal Government
 - Clean Farm – was submitted during last month’s ASB Meeting – doing research on bale and silage wrap which is not a clean plastic. Have developed a press that creates a 560 pound bale from 4’x4’sheets, which, assists with trucking costs. Sent samples to Bashaw and the USA.
 - Twine (loose) – hay plants have bags that are collecting the twine.
 - Pesticide Container Program – some Municipalities have upgraded the sites at their own expense, however, this expense should be paid for by producers. There was a resolution implemented to put the responsibly on the ag producers – a letter has been sent. Clean Farms is investigating –

looking after collection funded by the producers. (Container program will be funded for only once.)

- Bashaw plant is producing furniture (planters) from the recycled material (write-up in Stettler Independent).

46.06.23.21

Moved by Cheri Neitz

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board receive for information the Ag Plastics Recycling Group Report.” Carried Unanimously

NEXT MEETING

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

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES/INVITATIONS

47.06.23.21

Moved by Wayne Nixon

“that the following Seminar/Workshop/Conferences/Invitations presented for the June 23, 2021 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be received for information:

- 10 Day Tree Webinar.” Carried Unanimously

IN CAMERA

None

ADJOURNMENT

48.06.23.21

Moved by James Nibourg

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting adjourn at 11:22 a.m.” Carried Unanimously

Chairperson

Manager of Agricultural Operations