

**MINUTES OF THE COUNTY OF STETTLER NO. 6 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021 COMMENCING AT 10:07 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  
                          Cheri Neitz  
                          James Nibourg  
                          Wayne Nixon  
                          Les Stulberg (Vice Chairperson)

Other                Quinton Beaumont, Manager of Agricultural Services  
                          Rick Green, Director of Operations (joined at 10:59 a.m.)  
                          Andrew Brysiuk, Director of Municipal Services  
                          Niki Thorsteinsson, Director of Communications  
                          Marlene Hanson, Executive Assistant

**ABSENT:**

Dave Grover (Chairperson)  
Yvette Cassidy, Chief Administrative Officer

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 by Vice Chairperson Les Stulberg.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**49.08.25.21    Moved by James Nibourg**

“that the August 25, 2021 agenda for the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be approved as presented.”        Carried Unanimously

Introductions were completed.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**50.08.25.21    Moved by Larry Clarke**

“that the June 23, 2021 County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting minutes be approved as presented.”        Carried Unanimously

**DELEGATIONS**

Jason Turner Agriculture Financial Services Corporation RE: AgriStability and AgriRecovery:

Jason Turner, Lending Manager introduced Holly McClellan (Team Leader in Insurance) and Marilyn Smith (AFSC, Ag Stability Coach) joining the meeting by teleconference.

Jason Turner reported on the August 6, 2021 Provincial Government of Alberta’s announcements of an AgriRecovery response, the Canada-Alberta Livestock Feed Assistance Initiative, to support livestock producers due to reduced grazing capacity caused by prolonged dry weather and extreme high temperatures noting that:

- full program details to be finalized.
- will provide an initial payment of \$94 per head for eligible feed and water access costs for breeding females (on hand as of August 6) to producers and second payment to be determined up to a maximum of \$106 per head based on extraordinary costs.
- animals other than beef cows will have different payment levels.

Application process:

- Applications will be online through AFSC Connect in early September.
- Producers who are current AFSC clients should ensure they have an AFSC Connect account and are signed-up for direct deposit to receive program payments. If not an AFSC client, an account needs to be set-up for an AFSC Connect account in order to receive direct deposit of program payments.
- Check AFSC for updates.

Producers can take steps now to ensure a smooth process when the application is available by:

- Preparing an inventory of breeding females on hand as of August 6, 2021.
- Keep records for any expenses incurred for drought-related costs.
- Checking AFSC.ca regularly for updates and following AFSC on social media.

Lending – Are responding proactively to those existing clients with loans and if difficulties are experienced contact the Relations Manager of Lending as there are options available. In order to access funding, reach out to the AFSC Office to discuss working capital loans.

Marilyn Smith reported on the AgriStability program that provides protection against large declines (30% or more) that threaten the viability of their farm and are beyond their capacity to manage. Under the program, allowable income includes the proceeds from agricultural commodity sales and the proceeds from production insurance. Allowable expenses include commodity purchases, along with direct input costs incurred in the farming operation. In March, 2021 an agreement was reached to remove the reference margin retroactive to the AgriStability for 2021 and 2022 years. This change will have a significant impact for many producers and is retroactive to the 2020 program year. The deadline for 2021 program enrolment has also been extended to June 30 to give producers more time to enroll in the program. The removal of the reference margin is intended to make AgriStability simpler, more predictable and more equitable across all agricultural sectors. On July 22 the Governments of Canada and Alberta announced that producers enrolled in AgriStability could trigger an interim benefit to receive 75% of the estimated benefit, to assist producers with cash flow. Information is available under the 2021 AgriStability Participant Link on AFSC.ca. It was also noted that, as of the beginning of 2021, producers are no longer penalized for proactively managing their risks by using private insurance.

Holly McClennan reported on insurance noting that dry and hot temperatures throughout the province are being monitored, have adjustors available, and rank and resolve claims based on priority of need. MDI Western Efficiency Moisture Program is insurance for pastures and MDE is an endorsement on hay to provide more coverage for the lack of moisture. These programs are flagged as to how hay and pasture programs are harvested (MDI is determined after harvested and MDE with a split season option as it may be harvested throughout the growing season). Payment is based on accumulated precipitation as per the weather stations. Coverage does not consider soil moisture, reserves that were available, winds that dry out soil and plants, pest invasion or hail events. AFSC recognizes when there is a large amount of participation by applying caps (100% of the monthly normal with a max of 150% of the normal). Program payments are typically made one month within the end of the insurance period.

Information that was shared, along with link identification, to be forwarded to Quinton Beaumont.

Jason Turner, Holly McClellan and Marilyn Smith left the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

## **REPORTS**

### Agricultural Services Board Administration Report:

Quinton Beaumont presented the Agricultural Services Board Administration Report and responded to Committee Members questions noting the following:

- Discussed advantages of the two seeders (Hydro seeder/Brilliant seeder) that are used.
- Spraying – in the bottom 3<sup>rd</sup> of the County. Spraying of right-of-ways in that south 3<sup>rd</sup> was divided in half, using Bayer products on one half and Corteva products on the other half. Spray equipment cannot reach to spray 99 foot road allowances.
- Richardson Ground Squirrel - It was requested that Quinton Beaumont look into price/bulk buying Rozol/RoCon (for gophers), due to strychnine no longer being available.
- Aphids– infestation should be 3 weeks in May, maybe June, however, is still occurring.

Rick Green joined the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

- Grasshoppers – pest grasshoppers are low in numbers and not a problem this year
- Clubroot – studies indicate that Clubroot reduces during dry weather
- Workshops – are zoom meetings, recorded and available on YouTube. It was suggested to try an evening meeting and to monitor the attendance.
- Workshops – suggested looking into a greenhouse and alternate water sources workshops
- Rochon Sands Heights spraying – noted that the County is trying to clean-up/open-up areas by removing old vegetation and to retain this appearance. Rick Green noted that the community was aware of the plan for the areas to become green areas in order to be able to mow.
- Gravel pathways and sewage storage compounds – control is not carcinogenic (not poisonous) and does advertise ahead of time of the project supplying contact information, should there be concerns.
- Hazard Assessments – Have a Tool Box Meeting with the crew and complete a Hazard Assessment noting hazards (dangers/items that can occur) – based on 1-3 rating, with 1 being rare, 2 a couple times a week and 3 often, and how to mitigate (Recommended Actions) for each task and/or when conditions change. Idea is to focus on the job by identifying the normal items.

**51.08.25.21**

### **Moved by Cheri Neitz**

“that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Administration Report presented for the August 25, 2021 Agricultural Services Board Meeting be received for information.”

Carried Unanimously

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Agricultural Services Strategic Plan Memo:

Administration requested direction from the Board for vision in future plans of Agricultural Services. Quinton Beaumont is allotting for capital equipment and requested suggestions. The following were identified through discussion:

- Additional or less seminars/webinars (12-14 is a yearly average) – Wasp control, removing shacks at Buffalo Lake program.
- Rick Green noted that the Assistant ASB position was not filled, therefore, need to discuss staffing, communications, meetings; and in regard to brushing and spraying – feels that we are losing ground and need more control to retain – comments have been received that new mowers are

- doing more – maybe need to do half of the county each year - crews doing items over and over - is this working? (Use of Larger equipment is requiring that the right-of-ways be clear.) Committee members noted that Administration needs to bring a report supporting recommendation(s).
- Roping the Web – suggested to facilitate – on Facebook page create a link for ‘hay’ (notify of the areas that have specific weeds for those that are purchasing hay from those areas) and selling animals.
  - Review PAWC (Priority Area Weed Control) Program

Board Members were requested to forward suggestions to Quinton Beaumont. Rick Green noted how the lateness of the Budget affects the choices – are we building or shrinking? (It was agreed to work toward building.)

Strategic Planning will be scheduled for the end of September.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **FINANCE**

None

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

Agricultural Services Strategic Plan 2018-2020:

It is time to renew the 2018-2020 Agricultural Services Strategic Plan. Addition of programs would be part of this document, identifying when it would happen.

52.08.25.21

#### **Moved by James Nibourg**

“that the Agricultural Services Strategic Plan and Agricultural Services Strategic Plan 2018-2020 items be received for information with the board to submit suggests to Quinton Beaumont and that Quinton Beaumont will (building vs shrinking) supply documentation items with information to support.”

Carried Unanimously

#### **COMMUNITY/MEETING/CONFERENCE REPORTS:**

None

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

#### **SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES/INVITATIONS**

A 10 day Tree Webinar focusing on Tree Planting, maintenance and care has been scheduled on the following Tuesdays: August 24 at 10:00 a.m.; August 31 at 1:00 p.m.; September 7 at 10:00 a.m.; September 14 at 1:00 p.m.; September 21 at 10:00 a.m. and September 28 at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Members suggested that the above Tree Webinar be advertised, on Facebook and the County Website, identifying how to find the YouTube version to view later.

Regional Conference is coming up and now is the time to discuss possible resolutions for the September Meeting. It was noted that when submitting resolutions, it’s important to review the report card and adhere all timelines.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**53.08.25.21**

**Moved by James Nibourg**

"that the County of Stettler No. 6 Agricultural Services Board Meeting adjourn at 12:04 p.m." Carried Unanimously

---

Chairperson

---

Manager of Agricultural Operations