



Brief of the March 28, 2023

Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Meeting

This document is provided for informational purposes only and is not the approved minutes of the Agricultural Service Board meeting.

REPORTS:

1) Supervisor of Agriculture Services Report

The Supervisor of Agricultural Services gave a report on the department's activities in 2022, including:

- All mowing targets met - approximately 5,050 miles of gravel and hardtop road slopes mowed, hamlets, subdivisions, and cemeteries mowed and weed whipped twice, mowing completed for weed control in hard to spray areas
- All weed control targets met, with road spraying coverage target exceeded by 33% (over 1,280 miles of right-of-way sprayed). Most spraying took place in Division 5, 6, and 7.
- Drain and shoulder pull seeding provided to Public Works department
- Pest surveys completed for grasshopper, Bertha Army Worm, Bacterial Ring Rot, Clubroot, Blackleg, rabies in various animals, and Dutch Elm Disease
- Public education on soil erosion and Leafy Spurge management
- Steady use of equipment rental program by producers
- Monthly playground inspections, and a new playground built in Monarch
- Participation by staff in various agricultural-related events, as well as hosting/organizing tours and presentations for schools and college/university students
- Ongoing work with producers on Environmental Farm Plans
- \$5,000 donation made to the Farm Safety Centre to educate students on farm safety.
- Ongoing public education on various agricultural and rural living topics including soil erosion, shelterbelts, pest and weed identification, etc.

2) Alan Efetha – Agricultural Service Board Member Training

The ASB approved that members receive training from Mr. Efetha on their roles and responsibilities.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) – On-Farm Climate Action Fund

The ASB received a presentation from RDAR on the On-Farm Climate Action Fund opportunities available to producers, specifically related to nitrogen management. More information is available at <https://rdar.ca/ofcaf/>.

2) Agricultural Service Board Terms of Reference – 2023 Update

The ASB approved that the Terms of Reference be recommended to Council for approval. The document defines the structure and roles of the ASB.

3) Agricultural Service Board Level of Service

The ASB approved that the Level of Service document be recommended to Council for approval. The document formalizes the activities performed by the Agricultural Services department, such as mowing, weed control, etc.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1) 2022 Insect Survey Results

Lethbridge County insect survey results from 2022:

- Six sites inspected for Bertha Army Worm with none above the first warning level of 300 moths
- Three of five locations surveyed for Wheat Stem Sawfly had cutting
- Cabbage Seedpod Weevil numbers lower compared to past years

2) Farm Safety Centre

A letter was received from the Farm Safety Centre, thanking Lethbridge County for a donation to provide education programs in schools.

3) 2023 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolution Session Minutes & Resolution

Draft minutes from the Provincial Agricultural Service Board meeting in January 2023 were reviewed by the ASB.