

Agricultural Service Board

Update to County Council- May 9, 2017
Presented by Jacob Middelkamp, ASB Chair

ASB Mandate (as per Terms of Reference approved by Council- February 28, 2017)

Purpose

- ▶ The Board serves as an advisory body to Council on agriculture-related matters with a goal to promote, enhance, and protect the viability of the agricultural industry in Sturgeon County.

Duties and Responsibilities

- ▶ Address and formulate a recommendation for Council on any items referred to the Committee in accordance with the Public Engagement Spectrum;
- ▶ Review and provide recommendations to council on county agriculture-related policies;
- ▶ Determine strategic outcomes of the Board, and set goals to achieve desired outcomes;
- ▶ Recommend and participate in the development of programs that align with the strategic outcomes and goals established by the Board;
- ▶ Review applications and approve recipients of the 100 Year Farm Family Award;
- ▶ Submit and evaluate nominations for the Excellence in Agriculture Award and select an annual award recipient;

ASB Mandate

Duties and Responsibilities continued..

- ▶ Review the Sturgeon County Strategic and Corporate Business Plans on an annual basis and recommend policies that support agricultural initiatives for Council's consideration;
- ▶ Review reports prepared by administration on the activities of the Agriculture Services department;
- ▶ Review and discuss Provincial Agricultural Service Board resolutions and their benefit or detriment to the county agricultural industry;
- ▶ Draft resolutions when policy or legislation changes are desired at the provincial and federal level;
- ▶ Attend Regional and Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conferences and vote on resolutions;
- ▶ Participate in the planning of the annual Sturgeon County Agricultural Service Board Tour;
- ▶ Hear notice appeals in accordance with the requirements outlined in the *Alberta Soil Conservation Act*, and the *Alberta Agricultural Pests Act*; and
- ▶ Hear notice appeals in accordance with the requirements outlined in the *Alberta Weed Control Act* (public members only).

Board Members

- ▶ Jacob Middelkamp - Farm Member (Chair)
- ▶ Taylor Bokenfohr - Farm Member (Vice Chair)

- ▶ David Kluthe - Farm Member
- ▶ Victor Majeau - Farm Member
- ▶ Jenay Visscher - Student Member

- ▶ Karen Shaw - Council Member
- ▶ Jerry Kaup - Council Member

Agricultural Service Board Meeting Highlights 2016-2017

Accomplishments	Date	Action
Appointment of ASB Student Member	January 2016	Taylor Bokenfohr appointed for 1-year term
Endorsement of Alberta Farm Safety Center financial support	March 2016	Funding approved by council in 2017 Operating Budget; Payment issued
Participation in ASB Tour Planning Committee	April 2016	ASB Tour agenda created
Approval of 100 Year Farm Family Award Recipient	June 2016	Award presented to Raymond and Corine Verbeek at the Sturgeon Proud Awards Ceremony in Fall 2016

Agricultural Service Board Meeting Highlights 2016-2017 Cont'd

Accomplishments	Date	Action
Discussion and input by the Board to create a new “Excellence in Agriculture” Award	November 2016	A description and list of qualifications developed
Endorsement of Alberta Farm Animal Care Membership	November 2016	Funding approved by council in 2017 Operating Budget
Attended the Northwest Regional ASB Conference	November 2016	No resolutions presented at the Conference
Appointment of Student Member	January 2017	Jenay Visscher appointed for 1-year term
Attended Provincial ASB Conference	January 2017	Voted on provincial resolutions

Agricultural Service Board Meeting Highlights 2016-2017 Cont'd

Accomplishments	Date	Action
Discussion and amendment to the ASB Terms of Reference to include the new “Excellence in Agriculture” Award	January 2017	Recommendation approved by Council
Approval of 100 Year Farm Family Award Recipient	February 2017	Presentation of the award to the Mills Family at the Sturgeon Proud Awards Ceremony in April
Recommendation for funding for the Farm Safety Center	February 2017	Funding approved by Council in 2017 Operating Budget; Payment issued.

Agricultural Service Board Meeting Highlights 2016-2017 Cont'd

Accomplishments	Date	Action
Recommendation to Council to approve resource restructuring of Environmental and Extension Programs	February 2017	Recommendation accepted by Council on February 28, 2017
Recommendation to provide a letter to Planning & Development outlining proposed changes to the Land-Use Bylaw	March 2017	Letter sent to Planning & Development outlining board recommendations

Agricultural Service Board Meeting Highlights 2016-2017 Cont'd

Accomplishment	Date	Action
Discussion and recommendation to Protective Services on process to allow for Crop Residue Burning	March 2017	New process adopted; Information compiled by Protective Services and distributed through various advertising outlets

2017 Provincial ASB Conference Highlights - Resolutions

► **Vegetation Management on Alberta Provincial Highways - Passed**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST: The Government of Alberta delivers a more effective maintenance program for vegetation management (weed control and mowing) along the primary and secondary highways of the province.

FURTHER THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST: The Government of Alberta deliver a more effective vegetation management plan on all primary and secondary highways to control noxious weeds, prohibited noxious weeds and any unsafe vegetation on the full right of way. This plan should include but not be limited to an appropriately timed herbicide application in order to control all legislated weeds and mowing of the right of way at a time that limits the spread of weed seeds.

2017 Provincial ASB Conference Highlights - Resolutions Cont'd

▶ **Ensuring Competition for Seed and Crop Protection Products - Passed**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST THAT: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Administrative Tribunals Support Service of Canada work cooperatively to ensure a merger between Bayer and Monsanto is prevented.

▶ **Incorporating Agriculture and Agri-Food Education in the Classroom - Passed**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST THAT: the Minister of Education, during the pending review of the Alberta School Curriculum, include agriculture and agri-food and its importance to Canadians as part of the new curriculum at elementary, junior high, and high school levels.

2017 Provincial ASB Conference Highlights - Emergent Resolutions

► **Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Prevalent in Bison within and Surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park - Passed**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta's Agricultural Services Boards request that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and Parks Canada; to support the depopulation of diseased wood bison as the only effective tool to successfully eradicate the threat of bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta's Agricultural Service Boards urge Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, and Parks Canada; to develop an effective measurable plan to successfully eradicate all diseased bison from within and surrounding Wood Buffalo National Park. In order to prevent further disease outbreaks Province-wide; that would inevitably have adverse effects for the National, Provincial, and local domestic cattle and beef industries.

2017 Provincial ASB Conference

Highlights - Emergent Resolutions Cont'd

▶ **Carbon Levy Exemption on Natural Gas and Propane for All Recognized Agricultural Production - Passed**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST: that the Government of Alberta provide farmers and grain elevators with a carbon levy exemption certification on natural gas and propane on all recognized agricultural production.

▶ **Agricultural Disaster Policy - Defeated**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT ALBERTA'S AGRICULTURAL SERVICE BOARDS REQUEST: that Alberta Agriculture and Forestry create an Agricultural Disaster Policy that will allocate funding from provincial and federal governments to be accessed in addition to the existing programs by producers in the event of an agricultural disaster.