

MD of Bighorn
Agriculture Services and Environmental Advisory Board
September 16, 2022 – 9:00am
Held at the MD Administration Building, 2 Heart Mtn. Drive, Exshaw

In Attendance	Jackie Phillips	Public Member & Chair
	Pat Bedry	Public Member
	Erik Butters	Public Member
	Kellie Jackson	Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development Regional Liaison
	Alice James	Councillor
	Patricia MacMillan	Public Member
	Rick Tuza	Deputy Reeve

Staff	Kendra Tippe	Environmental Fieldman
	Lynda Gale	Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m.

A. Agenda

- a. Additions – G. New Business 6 - Thistles
- b. Deletions – there were no deletions

MOTION by MacMillan to approve the agenda as presented.

Second by Tuza
Carried

B. Adoption of Minutes

MOTION by Butters to approve the March 25, 2022, minutes, as amended.

Second by MacMillan
Carried

C. Environmental Fieldman's Reports

- In addition to the reports, Tippe told the Board the MD is processing a new Area Structure Plan proposal for east Exshaw and said information could be found on the Exshaw Mountain Gateway website.
- MacMillan asked how the weed-free forage program was being implemented
- Tippe said the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC) was overseeing the program and provides training for inspectors
- Tippe said municipalities can choose to join the program and said the MD is a member
- AISC is trying to grow the program

D. Business Arising from the Minutes

- There were no items

E. Delegations

- There were no delegations

F. General Business

1) Living in the Natural Environment

- Tippe said the Cochrane Rancho House has been booked for February 3, 2023
- One speaker who was booked for the 2022 event is still available, but the second speaker is no longer available
- Discussion regarding speakers and topics
- Tippe said ticket prices will remain at \$40
- Tippe said she is not expecting the same level of sponsorship as previous years

2) Jumpingpound Creek Watershed Partnership (JCWP)

- Tippe said JCWP has received approval for the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) grant and part of the project will be a riparian intactness assessment of the watershed and said the proposal is in the package
- Tippe said they will meet in the fall to discuss the report
- The Consultant is assessing the intactness of the riparian areas and will identify areas that need work and areas that can be improved
- Tippe said ongoing projects include solar watering systems, supplemental planting and fencing

3) Municipal Update – Deputy Reeve Tuza

- Deputy Reeve Tuza said several new administrative staff have been hired including a new Community Services Co-Ordinator, Doug Saul, and a new Director of Planning Services, Peter Scholz
- Deputy Reeve Tuza said a new position, Director of Protective Services, was created to oversee the three fire halls and bylaw services
- The new Director lives in Ward 4 and understands the area
- Deputy Reeve Tuza told attendees that a new service has been implemented for sending alerts to residents, called Voyent Alert!, and said the system does not require passwords and is easy to use and information can be found on the MD website
- Deputy Reeve Tuza said he spoke with a Conservation Officer regarding shooting in the forestry and was told they are actively working on the issue, but there is no short-term solution
- Council is working on a Strategic Plan and told members that the environment is important to all of council
- Deputy Reeve Tuza told ASEAB that there is a facilities and recreational programming assessment starting in the MD and the consultants will be asking for input from the public
- Councillor James said linear trails, such as hiking trails, will not be included in this report, but they will be addressed separately and more thoroughly

- MacMillan said she attended the AGM for the Benchlands Community Association and told councillors that trails are very important to that community
- Deputy Reeve Tuza said council passed a resolution regarding funding for emergency response to Crown lands and said the resolution will be presented to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) in November
- He said if the resolution is passed at RMA, pressure can be placed on the provincial government
- Butters said he is glad the resolution is moving forward as people are paying to use crownland and want to see their money coming back in services

4) Alberta Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Economic Development Update – K. Jackson

- K. Jackson gave an update and said surveillance and monitoring is winding down for the 2022 season and an update will be provided once the data has been assessed
- Update to the weed reporting tool (EDDMapS) <https://abinvasives.ca/take-action/#eddmaps-alberta>
- Weed Review survey for Ag Fieldmen was sent out this week – short webinar on Wednesday is scheduled to launch the survey (will be recorded)
- Preparing for the 2022 ASB Regional Conferences – K. Jackson will be attending Central Region on November 1
- Pilots for the draft seed cleaning form and guide will be scheduled between Oct – Dec 2022 – K. Jackson will be doing a short update at the Fieldmen’s annual In Service Training (IST) conference on December 8
- Setting up ADM/ASB Fall Town Hall – tentative date is November 24th, if you have any topics you would like ADM Conrad to cover, please let us know by the end of October
- Working on webinar topics for Ag Fieldmen for winter 2023 – if you have any topics you would like us to provide updates on, please let me know by the end of November
- Next Policy Framework for the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) is under development - will be known as Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) with emphasis on sustainability; initial results from Guelph statement survey are being analyzed and a “what we heard” will be released shortly; will likely have another opportunity this fall to provide input into specific programs. It is expected there will be environmental and water programs for producers with continuity of existing programs during the 1st year SCAP modified to align with Guelph statement <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/about-our-department/key-departmental-initiatives/meetings-federal-provincial-and-territorial-ministers-agriculture/guelph-statement>
- \$150M announced in federal 2022 budget for a resilient agricultural landscape program to support carbon sequestration, adaptation and address other environmental co-benefits (i.e., land management, Beneficial Management Practices (BMP’s))
 - o <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agri-info/budget-2022-and-canadas-agriculture-and-agri-food-sector>;
 - o https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/10/news/news_release.2022.07.0381.html;

- <https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/news/federal-provincial-governments-partner-on-ecological-goods-and-services-program/>
- Tippe asked if Environmental farm plans are required for programs under SCAP
- Jackson said she would investigate
- Butters asked for an update on small abattoirs
- Jackson said a pilot program will run in the City of Lloydminster to allow products to trade within the city and said there would be opportunities for small abattoirs to supply markets in both Alberta and Saskatchewan, but this would not deal with issues of capacity at small abattoirs
- Butters said he hopes that the province does what it can with foreign labour and said it is very expensive due to regulatory burden
- Jackson said it is a concern her department keeps hearing about

5) Ghost Watershed Alliance Society (GWAS) – MacMillan

- MacMillan gave an update and said there is a Stewardship Fair that is sponsored by Cows & Fish that will be held at the Waiparous Campground
- MacMillan said M. Krainer has been integral to this event and said other user-groups would be attending including GWAS, Cows & Fish, Calgary ATV Riders, and Rocky Mountain Dirt Riders, Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) and the Native Trout Collaborative, who will be on-site to help promote good stewardship
- This will be the third year of the Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) project and invertebrate sampling
- MacMillan said there were two cleanup days scheduled in the backcountry and the first event only had six adults and two children, but they collected 880kg of garbage
- October 1 is the target date for the Bio-engineering project at the Waiparous Valley Provincial Recreation Area
- M. Krainer and C. Fritz gave a lecture to students in the University of Calgary Environmental Science 502 course
- MacMillan said that unregulated trail use near the Richards Road bridge has been seen. This is toad breeding grounds and has reported to Public Lands
- GWAS would like to know the total costs associated with the Devil's Head fire; Tippe will investigate
- GWAS is working with the City of Calgary with source water protection
- GWAS AGM will be in November and the date will be announced, the location is generally at The Crossing at Ghost River
- Tippe asked if GWAS would like the MD to post the bio-engineering sessions on their website; MacMillan will speak to M. Krainer first
- Phillips asked who would be heading the bioengineering; MacMillan said it would not be D. Polster, but an update would be announced

6) Public Member Reports

- Butters said the drought is not over and producers are continually battling weeds
- Butters said industry can trigger weed-growth by disturbing the soil
- Bedry said thistles are spreading and asked if there was any enforcement available

- Tippe said the Weed Act provides enforcement, but it is resource intensive
- Tippe said the thistle propagation is in the roots and herbicide applied in the fall is a viable treatment
- MacMillan said she has noticed goldenrod this year and thistle and toadflax on First Nation lands adjacent to her property and asked if the MD had reached out to the province for support
- Tippe said she would keep trying to engage with neighbouring First Nations
- Phillips said the migratory bird regulation has been updated and enacted
- Phillips said some species that are not included on the schedule impact others that are included and changes with how these species are dealt with will affect development

G. New Business

1) Central Region ASB Conference – Tippe

- Tippe said the conference will be held in Lacombe on November 1 and resolutions will be voted on and any that are passed will go to the provincial ASB conference
- Discussion about the provincial ASB conference dates and location

2) ASEAB Member's Term Expiring – Tippe

- Tippe said the deadline for applications is October 7, 2022, and the board will be determined by council in October

3) Resolution Responses 2-22, 4-22, 5-22 & 6-22 – Tippe

- Tippe will email government responses to resolutions, the website has more information

4) Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae (M. ovi) in Domestic Sheep and Goats – Tippe

- Tippe has shared information included in the agenda package with other Ag Fieldmen along the eastern slopes

5) Recreational Stewardship Fair - Tippe

- Will be held on September 24, 2022, in the Ghost PLUZ

6) Thistle

- As previously discussed
- Discussion about foxtail barley

I. Next Meeting Date

- November 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. to be held in-person at the MD Administration Building.

Adjournment

Moved by Butters that the meeting be adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

CARRIED


Chair


Secretary