

MD of Bighorn
Agriculture Services and Environmental Advisory Board
March 1, 2019 – 9:00am
MD Administration Building, Council Chambers

In Attendance	Jackie Gemmill	Public Member & Chair
	Erik Butters	Councillor, MD of Bighorn
	Penny MacMillan	Public Member
	Paul Clark	Deputy Reeve, MD of Bighorn
	Bryne Weerstra	Public Member
Regrets	Dwight Tannas	Public Member
	Sandy Stafford	Key Contact, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
Staff	Kendra Tippe	Environmental Fieldman
	Lynda Gale	Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. Agenda

- a. Additions – there were no additions
- b. Deletions – there were no deletions

MOTION by MacMillan to approve the agenda.

Carried

2. Adoption of Minutes

MOTION by Clark to approve the December 14, 2018 minutes with the following amendments:

- 3. Delegations, amend title to read "... Ghost Watershed Alliance Society (GWAS)
- 6. General Business, (c), eighth sentence to read "...said he has suggested to Council that the Fieldman would not normally be working on Parks and Recreation projects"
- 6. General Business, (e), third sentence to read "...will be to participate in the proposed linear footprint and recreation management plan"

Carried
Seconded by MacMillan

3. Delegations –

There were no delegations.

4. Environmental Fieldman's Report – Tippe

- Butters asked if Ladies Livestock Lessons were well attended. Tippe said approximately 50 ladies attend and approximately 150 people attend Ranching Opportunities.

- Weerstra asked about livestock premise identification (PID). Tippe said all livestock owners must register with the Province for biosecurity reasons as per the *Animal Health Act*. Butters said in some cases owners can be fined if animals do not have a Premise Identification (PID)
- Tippe said she would include information in The Dirt on an annual basis.

5. **Business Arising from Minutes – Tippe**

- Tippe contacted Rocky View County to inquire about soil erosion. She told the Board the County is aware of the issue and said the area is going to be seeded back to grass in 2019. She noted that landowners need to be aware of developers offering topsoil. Weerstra thanked Tippe for following up.

6. **General Business**

a) Living in the Natural Environment

- Tippe said the event had good reviews, good attendance and the final accounting is estimating less than a \$400 loss
- Butters told Tippe she did a great job at securing sponsorship
- Discussion regarding ticket sales for 2020
- Online ticket sale discussion, people prefer paper tickets and ASEAB doesn't want to have barriers for attendees
- Weerstra asked how to prevent turning away tradeshow booth vendors, Tippe said there is only space for 12 booths
- Discussion regarding speaker ideas for 2020, benefits of fire on the landscape, grazing and agriculture, insect and songbird populations, geomorphology, ecosystems, weather, diversity on the landscape and cougars
- Tippe will explore ideas, topics and speakers

b) Jumping pound Creek Watershed Partnership (JCWP)

- Tippe said JCWP had their Winter Workshop where approximately 40 people attended
- Tippe said JCWP has applied for what may be the final Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) grant, but will not hear results until June 2019
- JCWP has applied for another land stewardship grant and should hear back in spring 2019
- JCWP would like to continue working with landowners
- Weerstra and Clark said the Winter Workshop presentation was very good

c) Municipal Update

- Clark said MD Assessments have been mailed and some properties located near the Town of Canmore have seen increases
- Land swap with the Province is moving forward, but has not been signed by Provincial representatives yet, MD Council is hoping it is signed before the election
- Butters and Clark attended the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC) conference
- MD Council is having strategic planning sessions and are discussing infrastructure
- MC Council held a Public Hearing for technical amendments to the Land Use Bylaw and said no members of the public attended
- Clark gave an update on the Southern Alberta Energy from Waste Association (SAEWA) and said recycling facilities will not take plastics at this time, and SAEWA may be a good alternative

- Clark gave an update on the Bar C subdivision and said they were given a 1-year extension for their development permit

d) Alberta Agriculture & Forestry Update

- Tippe said she had no update and said S. Stafford should be at the next meeting

e) Ghost Watershed Alliance Society (GWAS)

- Weerstra said the State of the Watershed (SOW) report is posted on the website
- GWAS was hoping to host a series of workshops, but these have been put on hold due to pending elections, GWAS wants to ensure politicians and decision makers can attend
- GWAS is drafting two letters to inform the provincial government about the SOW document on the website and a second letter to educational institutions to request involvement with research
- GWAS would also like to involve Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) and are determining the best way to plan sessions for them
- GWAS has contacted the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) to help, but they are very busy during the summer months. GWAS is hoping SAIT can help in the fall season
- GWAS is unsure of work that can be done on Crown Land during the summer months
- GWAS is still having strategic planning sessions and are trying to prioritize work, funds are very limited
- Discussion regarding rural communities being the stewards of watersheds and urban municipalities receiving the benefits, no funding from urban to rural to help with stewardship
- Weerstra said GWAS has discussed this and think it might be best to work with BRBC and approach urban municipalities as a group
- Clark told Weerstra that he read the SOW report and said the group has set a very high standard and said the report was very comprehensive

f) Public Member Reports

- Weerstra said Volker Stevin has been doing a very good job plowing Jamieson Road
- Gemmill and MacMillan attended the Agriculture Services Board (ASB) Grant Review in Lacombe and learned valuable information about how it works and said it is very well run
- MacMillan said the theme at the ASB conference was positioning ASB's into the future with trends, projections and issues. She noted that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and ASB's need to be strong advocates to counter special interest groups evolving over time
- MacMillan said there was discussion and concerns expressed that certain items in the news will undermine confidence in agricultural products, for example, New Canada Food Guide, Beyond Meat Products, GMO concerns and trade issues with canola and pork
- MacMillan noted that many people do not know their Environmental/Agricultural Fieldmen
- Gemmill said the ASB Grant Review session was very productive and said there was discussion regarding resolutions that are outside of the ASB scope
- Gemmill will forward a summary of the conference and a link to a webinar regarding the water law/water act

- Gemmill said the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB) wetland workshop has been cancelled due to the pending election

7. New Business

a) 2020 Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Conference

- Tippe gave an update and said the emcee will be Dianne Finstad
- Tippe will book rooms for ASEAB Board
- Tippe said organizers are trying to have more political involvement from the province and planning to leave more time for networking and visiting tradeshow booths
- Tippe said the dates for the 2020 ASB Conference will be January 20 – 23, 2020

b) ASEAB Strategic Plan – 2018 Review

- Discussion regarding animal disposal
- Tippe will update the Strategic Plan and include information in The Dirt
- Assistant Fieldman is creating a pamphlet regarding deadstock disposal
- Tippe said the Strategic Plan is no longer required by the ASB but is helpful

MOTION by MacMillan to present the 2018 Strategic Plan Year-End Report to Council, as amended.

Carried

Seconded by Weerstra

c) ASEAB 2018 Year-End Report to Council

- ASB requires the Year-End report as part of the ASB grant reporting process
- Discussion regarding livestock emergency management plan for the MD and recommendations from the ASB report

MOTION by Weerstra to provide the Agriculture Service Board (ASB) 2018 Year-End Report to council, as amended.

Carried

Seconded by MacMillan

d) ASEAB Meeting Schedule

- Tippe told the Board having a meeting in December is beneficial prior to a new year starting and the ASB conference
- The Board agreed to schedule a December meeting and to decide at that meeting whether a January meeting would be necessary

8. Information

- Various publications were made available at the meeting.

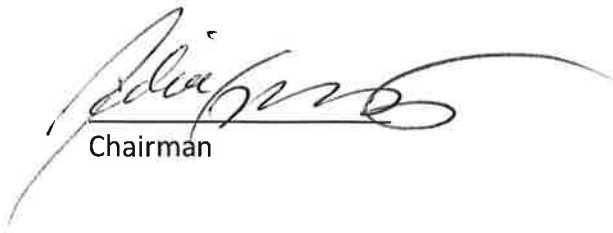
9. Next Meeting Date

- Friday, May 31, 2019

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Carried

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Adams', written over a horizontal line.

Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Hall', written over a horizontal line.

Recording Secretary