



## Agricultural Service Board

### Agenda

Council Chamber, County Centre, Nisku, AB

Monday, April 8, 2024

1. Order – 10:00 a.m.
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of previous minutes
  - March 11, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting ✓
4. Public presentations
  - Tom Leuthi – Warburg Seed Cleaning Plant
  - Tammy Shields – CleanFarms (*virtual presentation*)
5. Department reports and recommendations
  - a) Action items progress report ✓ A.Van Beers
  - b) Agricultural Services department activity report ✓ Ag Svs staff
  - c) Wild Boar Bylaw Development ✓ N.Berg
  - d) Alberta Weed Control Regulation survey ✓ N.Berg
6. Information items
  - a) Moisture Situation ✓ A.Van Beers
  - b) Family Farm Awards Program ✓ A.Van Beers
7. Next meeting date – Monday, June 10, 2024
8. Adjournment

✓ Attachment provided



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**Order and roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024 by Glenn Belozar as chair and board members Tanni Doblanko, Kelly-Lynn Lewis, Ray Scobie, Dal Viridi, and public members-at-large Debbie Hofstra and Russell Kushinski present.

Board members Larry Wanchuk and Rick Smith were absent with regrets

**Other attendees**

- Garrett Broadbent, Director – Road Operations and Agricultural Services
- Aaron Van Beers, Manager – Agricultural Services
- Nathanael Berg, Coordinator – Agricultural Services
- Kim Barkwell, Coordinator – Sustainable Agriculture
- Nicole Fuhsel, Administrative Assistant – Agricultural Services
- Tom Leuthi and Dale Scheetz – Warburg Seed Cleaning Plant
- Tammy Shields – CleanFarms (*virtual presentation*)

**Agenda adoption**

**012-2024** Board member Doblanko – that the agenda for the Monday, April 8, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**Previous minutes – March 11, 2024**

**0013-2024** Board member Scobie – that the minutes for the March 11, 2024 Agricultural Service Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

**Public Presentation – Tom Leuthi and Dale Scheetz, Warburg Seed Cleaning Plant**

**014-2024** Mr. Leuthi and Mr. Scheetz presented on the Warburg Seed Cleaning Plant

- Current improvements: added office, dust system, relining bins, rebuilt bucket elevator (ongoing), sorter training, colour sorter.
- Future improvements: dust system in warehouse for blender and bagging system, adding a precleaner, add some capacity (50-70 bushels/hour), replacing indent.
- Tom Leuthi Voted in as President of Manager’s Association.
- Showed video of current location and attributes, including bins purchased from grant from Leduc County.
- Presented “Fun Food Facts” data showing information on wheat, barley, and oats, and how this all fits in with farmers feeding the world.
- Their colour sorter machine has shown there has been more barley in wheat samples lately.
- Some sales go as far as Barrhead, Niton Junction, Airdrie, etc; cleaning done for surrounding municipalities (Leduc County, Brazeau, etc).

Board member Scobie – that the Warburg Seed Cleaning Plant presentation be accepted as information.

Carried Unanimously



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**Public Presentation – Tammy Shields, CleanFarms**

**015-2024** Ms. Shields virtually presented on CleanFarms

- Presentation on AB AG-Plastic Program Overview.
- Ms. Shields working on grain bag recycling programs since 2010.
- CleanFarms is a non-profit industry stewardship program.
- They started 1989 with pesticide container program, then expired livestock meds, fertilizer containers, and now grain bags.
- In Alberta, there are 6 collection programs (4 permanent, 2 pilot).
- The pilot programs are for grain bags and twine, and feed bags.
- “Alberta AG Plastic, Recycle it” program is funded by the Government of Alberta and administered by Alberta Beef Producers.
- Of Agricultural plastic recycled, grain bags are about 21% of what is recycled.
- In Alberta there are 48 collection partners; with 150 collection sites, 1 site accepts grain bags only, 104 site accepts twine only, and 45 sites accept grain and twine.
- Alberta recycles about a semi load of twine a month (Manitoba and Saskatchewan are about one semi load a year)
- To accept grain bags, they must be relatively clean machine rolled and prepared grain bags that are secured with twine. Result is 3’ x 4’ x 4’ size that can be removed in 1 hour and 17400kg load.
- Bags secured with lots of twine is key to get the bale where it needs to go, and the less moving them around the better.
- Woven material used for other purposes cannot be used. Recycling facilities cannot handle them.
- No loose grain bags or silage plastic are accepted; only rolled grain bags are accepted.
- Best to store rolled grain bags like hay bales (on their side) so they can shed water and snow.
- Grain bags can be accepted and stored as square bales as well.
- CleanFarms will provide signage for twine and grain bags.
- The goal of these programs is to have everything recycled, and only use the landfills as a last resort.
- An environmental fee added at point of sale is only able to be added when there is a formally regulated program management recycling plan. At this point, this is only in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, not Alberta.
- About half of collection off sites are manned, and other half are not manned sites. The preference is for sites to be manned to keep materials tidy and appropriate for shipping. These situations are generally “call ahead” if support is needed at collection off site.
- CleanFarms will pay \$55/mT to the operator of the collection site.

Board member Lewis entered Chambers at 10:32.

Attendees Leuthi and Scheetz left Chambers

Board member Kushinski – that the Clean Farms presentation be accepted as information.

Carried Unanimously

**Action items progress report**

**016-2024** Board member Viridi – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the action items progress report as information.

Carried Unanimously

**Agricultural Services department activity report**

**017-2024** Board member Hofstra – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the Agricultural Services department activity report for the March 2024 reporting period as information.

Carried Unanimously



**Wild Boar Bylaw Development**

**018-2024** Board member Kushinski – that the Agricultural Service Board refer the proposed Wild Boar Bylaw to Council for adoption with suggested changes to the presented draft bylaws.

Board Member Doblanko left Chambers at 11:25

Carried Unanimously

**Alberta Weed Control Regulation survey**

**019-2024** Board member Scobie – that the Agricultural Service Board direct administration to fill out the *Proposed changes to the Alberta Weed Control Regulation* survey on its behalf.

Carried Unanimously

**Information items**

**020-2024** Board member Viridi – that the Agricultural Service Board accept the following correspondence as information:

- a) Moisture Situation
- b) Family Farm Awards Program

Carried Unanimously

**Adjournment**

**021-2024** Board member Scobie – that the Agricultural Service Board meeting be adjourned.

Carried Unanimously

The Agricultural Service Board meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

  
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*Agricultural Service Board Chair*

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*Manager - Agricultural Services*