



Minutes of Smoky Lake County's **Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting** held on Monday, **February 12, 2024**, at 1:02 P.M. held in Smoky Lake County Council Chambers and virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology.

The meeting was called to Order by the Chairperson, Dan Gawalko, in the presence of the following persons:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>Mon. Feb. 12, 2024</u>
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Alt. Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Absent
Alt. Committee Member	Lorne Halisky	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Kurt Melnyk	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Absent
County Interim CAO	Lydia Cielin	Present in Chambers
Ag. Fieldman	Carleigh Danyluk	Present in Chambers
Assistant Ag. Fieldman	Amanda Khin	Absent
County Executive Services/R.S.	Patti Priest	Present in Chambers

No Members of the Media were Present.

5 Members of the Public were Present in Council Chambers.

6 Members of the Public were Present virtually, online.

Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), was present in Chambers.

2. Agenda:

ASB22-24: Flondra

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Monday, February 12, 2024, be adopted as amended:

Addition to the Agenda:

1. Email from Plot2Farm program, dated February 9, 2024 – Re: Field Scale Trials with Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) and Alberta Grains.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

ASB23-24: Ponich

That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

7. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Present before the Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board from 1:03 p.m. to 1:58 p.m., was Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), to provide the following slide presentation:



WHO IS LARA?

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY METRICS
(CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2021)

FUNDING

NINE YEARS OF RESEARCH AND
EXTENSION

ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT
(2015-2023)



OUTLINE

Vision: to be a leader in applied research and extension in Alberta

Mission: to conduct innovative, unbiased applied research and extension, supporting sustainable agriculture.

Unbiased = showing no prejudice for or against something; impartial.

Applied = practical solutions

- non-profit agricultural research and extension organization incorporated in 1991.
 - producer driven
- MD of Bonnyville, County of St. Paul, Lac La Biche County and Smoky Lake County
- Make Alberta's agricultural producers profitable and sustainable through applied research, demonstration and extension in the areas of forages, livestock, annual crops, specialty crops, environmental conservation and regenerative agriculture.



WHO IS LARA?



KEY PROGRAMS

 FORAGE AND LIVESTOCK Decrease producers cost of production while increasing their value of production.	 CROP AND PEST MANAGEMENT Assist producers in making the best agronomic decisions on their operations through variety selection, input management and beneficial management practices.	 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION Combine sustainable farming practices with profitability to ensure your family farm will be there for generations to come.
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WELL SITUATED, HIGHLY TRAINED STAFF

36 combined years of experience in agricultural research and extension



SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

- 398 farms
- 1000 acre average farm size
- Over 400,000 acres of land in agricultural use

SOURCE: CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE 2021

- Executive Director**
Alyssa Krawchuk, B.Sc. Agriculture, P.Ag., 10+ years of experience
- Research Scientist**
Dr. Angelica Ouellette, PhD Agriculture, M.Sc. Environmental Science, 8+ years of experience
- Research Agrologist**
Lance Ouellette, M.Sc. Environmental Science, EFP Technician, 8+ years of experience
- Cropping Agrologist**
Momna Farzand, M.Sc. Plant Science, 2+ years of experience
- Research Technician**
Dustin Roth, Dipl. Ag Business, EFP Technician, 8+ years of experience



19.6% decline in number of farms 2006-2021

THE FUNDS RECEIVED FROM SMOKY LAKE COUNTY ARE USED TO LEVERAGE DOLLARS RECEIVED FROM PROVINCIAL, FEDERAL AND INDUSTRY GRANTS.

2024 BUDGET = \$918,250.00
COUNTY FUNDS: \$55,000.00

- LEVERAGED GRANTS**
- 80% GRANT
 - 20% MATCHING

FUNDS ALLOW FOR ALL COUNTY AGRICULTURE PRODUCERS TO BE MEMBERS OF LARA AT NO CHARGE TO THE PRODUCER



NINE YEARS OF RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

- 3,085 SMALL PLOTS (AVERAGE OF 342 PER YEAR)
- 34 EVENTS HOSTED (AVERAGE 5 PER YEAR OVER 7 YEARS)
- 34 WEBINARS HOSTED (AVERAGE OF 11 PER YEAR OVER 3 YEARS)
- ASSISTED 405 PRODUCERS ONE-ON-ONE
- 47 ENVIRONMENTAL FARMS PLANS COMPLETED
- AVERAGE 40 FEED TESTS SUBMITTED/YEAR



LOCAL RESEARCH, PROVINCIAL IMPACT

Regional Variety Trials and Regional Silage Trials (RVT)

Producers can experience a 15% increase in production, which can be an increase in \$25/acre by selecting the variety best suited to their environment.

Alberta Regional Variety Advisory Committee (ARVAC)



Regenerative Alberta Living Labs (RALL)

The Regenerative Alberta Living Lab is an ongoing collaboration between farmers, ranchers, and soil scientists throughout the province of Alberta. We use on-farm and soil mapping technology to accurately assess soil health created by producer innovations. This information will allow farmers and ranchers to build resilience and productivity thereby enhancing their bottom line.



Alberta Pasture Grass Sampling Project

Mineral content of pasture can change dramatically throughout the grazing season leading to mineral deficiencies that may result in reduced production for producers.

This research aims to provide recommendations for supplementation of each mineral for different regions across the province, for early, mid, and late grazing seasons.

Assessment of ESN on the Productivity and Grain Quality of Spring Wheat and Barley in Alberta

Does the inclusion of ESN in a spring wheat and spring barley fertility program pay?

Supported by research conducted at the University of Alberta indicating there is no significant economic benefit for this region.

NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION COUNCIL OF ALBERTA (ARECA)

LAKELAND COLLEGE

LIVESTOCK GENETIC (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA)

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS

ALBERTA GRAINS

ALBERTA PULSE GROWERS COMMISSION

RESULTS DRIVEN AGRICULTURE RESEARCH (RDAR)

BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH COUNCIL (BCRC)

APPLIED RESEARCH ASSOCIATIONS (ARAS)

FORAGE ASSOCIATIONS (FA)

LAKELAND INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MOOSE LAKE WATERSHED SOCIETY

LAC LA BICHE WATERSHED COMMITTEE



IN-PERSON EVENTS

Hands-on learning opportunities from local and international speakers:

- 5 per year
- Including:
 - Farm Transition with Elaine Froese
 - Stockmanship with Curt Pate
 - Grazing Management with Jim Gerrish

WEBINARS

Online seminar that allows participants from anywhere in the world to come together in a virtual classroom.

- 11 per year
- Including:
 - Gabe Brown from Understanding Ag
 - Dallas Mount with Ranching for Profit



ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PLANS

A whole-farm self-assessment tool to identify potential environmental risks on your farm

- 47 completed
- Average of 5 per year

Required for most producer funding opportunities.

LARA WATERSHED RESILIENCY AND RESTORATION PROGRAM (WRRP)

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association received a grant to improve watershed resiliency and restore priority areas within LARA's operational borders.

Stream crossings, riparian fencing, riparian health assessments, offsite watering systems.

- \$103,000.00 (2018-2022)



ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT



BCRC, ABP, Alberta Government, Canadian Census of Agriculture

ASSUMPTIONS

- Average pasture acreage/farm = 800 acres
- Average number of cattle = 150 head
- Practice change from participant at workshops = 30%
- Practice change from one-on-one consultations = 50%
- Practice change from newsletters = 1%
- Assume \$0.50/hd/d savings by grazing instead of feeding
- Assume 25 additional grazing days by producers practicing change on their operation



ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT ON CATTLE PRODUCERS

828 producers at workshops/webinars x 0.3 = 248 producers practicing change
270 producers one-on-one x 0.5 = 135 producers practicing change
21,600 newsletters x 0.01 = 216 producer practicing change

(25 days x 150 head x \$0.50/hd/d x 383 producers) + (25 days x 50 head x \$0.50/hd/d x 216 producers) = \$853,125.00

ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT



Alberta Government, Provincial Crop Commissions and the Canadian Census of Agriculture.

ASSUMPTIONS

- Average acres/farm = 800
- Practice change on 1/3 of acres = 267 acres
- Practice change from participant at workshop/webinar = 30%
- Practice change from one-on-one consultation = 50%
- Practice change from newsletter = 1%
- Assume that improved sustainable agronomic practices lead to savings of \$20/acre



ESTIMATED ECONOMIC IMPACT ON CROP PRODUCERS

626 producers at workshops/webinars x 0.3 = 188 producers practicing change
135 producers one-on-one x 0.5 = 68 producers practicing change
21,600 newsletters x 0.01 = 216 producers practicing change

472 producers x 267 acres x \$20/acre = \$2,520,480.00

THANK YOU. QUESTIONS?



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4. Request for Decision:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) – Producer Membership Funding

ASB24-24: Serben

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board **recommends:** that Smoky Lake County provides a municipal contribution in the amount of \$55,000.00 towards the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Year-2024 Operating Budget, and enters into an agreement to allow Smoky Lake County producers access to LARA's Year-2024 environmental and extension programming; **and** request all relevant detailed historical information from LARA in respect to the number of LARA events held in Smoky Lake County and the number of Smoky Lake County producers who were in attendance; **and** have the Smoky Lake County Agricultural Fieldman bring forward options for providing environmental and extension programming specific to Smoky Lake County Producers in Year-2025, for consideration in October 2024.

Carried.

5. Issues for Information:

Nil.

6. Correspondence:

Connect for Food Symposium “a thriving food industry local and beyond”

ASB25-24: Flondra That the save-the-date poster received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from Perry Phillips, Co-founder, Connect for Food, through an email dated January 26, 2024, to the Agricultural Fieldman, in respect to the Symposium: “a thriving food industry local and beyond”, held in partnership with Community Futures, scheduled for April 15, 2024, at a location to be announced, be filed for information.

Carried.

Addition to the Agenda:

Plot2Farm Program - Field Scale Trials with LARA and Alberta Grains

ASB26-24: Melnyk That the email correspondence received by Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board, from the Plot2Farm program, through an email dated February 9, 2024, to the Agricultural Fieldman, in respect to the Plot2Farm Program opportunity for Field Scale Trials with Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) and Alberta Grains, be filed for information.

Carried.

7. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Delegation

ASB27-24: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge receipt of the presentation provided by the February 12, 2024, Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA).

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

9. Date and time of Next Meeting:

Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting

The next Smoky Lake County **Agricultural Service Board Meeting** has been previously scheduled for **Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.**, to be held virtually, through Electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 **and/or** physically in County Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

ASB28-24: Gawalko That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of February 12, 2024, be adjourned, time 2:05 p.m.

Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER