



Minutes of Smoky Lake County’s **Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting** held on Tuesday, **April 8, 2025**, at 9:05 A.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:

		ATTENDANCE
		Tues. April 8, 2025
<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	
Committee Member	Dan Gawalko	Present in Chambers
Committee Member	Jered Serben	Present in Chambers
Alt. Committee Member	Dominique Cere	Present Virtually
Alt. Committee Member	Lorne Halisky	Absent
Producer-at-Large Member	Tori Ponich	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Curtis Boychuk	Present in Chambers
Producer-at-Large Member	Tamara Flondra	Present in Chambers
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Kurt Melnyk	Absent
Alt. Producer-at-Large Member	Brett Rurka	Present in Chambers
County CAO	Kevin Lucas	Present in Chambers
Acting Ag. Fieldman	Kierstin Dubitz	Present in Chambers
County Executive Services/R.S.	Chyenne Shaw	Present in Chambers
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Absent

No Members of the Media were Present.
No Members of the Public were Present.

Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), Brett Matthiessen, Vice Chairman, and Ryan Kroeger and Ben Evans, Biologist and volunteer, Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter Alberta Grazing Lease Holders Association, present in Chambers.

2. Agenda:

ASB119-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

3. Minutes:

ASB120-25: Boychuk That the Minutes of Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board Meeting held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

4. Delegation:

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Virtually present before the Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board from 9:05 a.m. to 9:19 a.m., was Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), who read from her following report:

Past Events:

Four (4) extension events hosted in Smoky Lake County (January - March 2025)

1. Grow Your Own Microgreens - Vilna Senior Centre
 2. Seed Starting Workshop - Ukrainian National Hall
 3. Securing Success: Programs, Services and Funding Opportunities for Your Farm or Ranch - Ukrainian National Hall
 4. Environmental Farm Plan Workshop - Smoky Lake Agriplex
- One (1) cancelled event due to weather, low registration

1. Lakeland Agronomy Update

Upcoming Events:

- 1. Garden Forum - April 10th, 2025 - Ukrainian National Hall
- 2. Remote Drug Delivery in Cattle - June 3rd, 2025
 - a. Location to be determined
- 3. Riparian Areas and Agriculture with Cows & Fish - July 9th, 2025
 - a. Location to be determined
- 4. Summer Field School- July 24th, 2025
 - a. Topics: Insect
 - i. Management with Boyd Mori (University of Alberta)
 - ii. Cover Crops and Polycultures with Covers & Co.
 - iii. Biologicals with Eco-Tea
 - b. Possible bus tour included with the field day.
- S. Smoky Lake Grazing Club

Youth Education Programming

- 1. Walking With Moose: grade five (5) students to be further educated about ecosystems, supplementing the curriculum, learning about biodiversity, healthy shorelines and forest ecology. This is a full day program where the first half-day is spent where students have the opportunity to collect aquatic animals and organisms for identification. The students learn about water quality, wetlands and larger animals that live along water shores such as birds and fish. The second half of the day is a nature walk learning about wildlife, signs, tracks, vegetation and the forest ecosystem including potential threats such as pine beetle, fire and Human Impacts.
- 2. The Secret World of Soils: this is a **NEW** program currently being developed and is scheduled for release in the fall of 2025. This program aims to ignite curiosity, provide engaging hands-on learning opportunities, and empower students to develop a deep appreciation for the critical role soils play in both the ecosystem and our food systems. Soil is a foundational resource for life on Earth, yet its importance is often overlooked. Soil is often thought of simply as dirt, but through this education program, we aim to change that mindset. Students will learn that soil is not just an inert substance under our feet but a vibrant, complex ecosystem teeming with life. Healthy soils are essential for sustaining ecosystems by supporting plant growth, storing carbon, filtering water, and regulating nutrients. At the same time, they form the bedrock of agriculture, producing the food, fiber, and fuel we rely on every day. However, soil health faces significant challenges, including erosion, contamination, and the impacts of unsustainable agricultural practices. Through this program, students will gain insights into the interconnected nature of soils and the environment.

Research and Demonstration

Four (4) small plot research trials planned so far in 2025:

- 1. Eco-Tea on canola stubble x 2
- 2. Alpine products
- 3. Oat variety trial

Six (5) demonstrations under consideration so far for 2025:

- 1. Polycultures for livestock feed and soil management
- 2. Lupin (emerging pulse crop) variety demonstration
- 3. Cereal demonstration with under seeded perennial clovers
- 4. Camelina (emerging oilseed crop) variety demonstration
- 5. Industrial hemp variety demonstration

Two (2) field scale trials under consideration so far for 2025:

- 1. Biological amendments
- 2. Use of drones in Clubroot mapping and management

Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) - Delegation

ASB121-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the April 8, 2025, Delegation: Alyssa Krawchuk, Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA), as information.

Carried.

Change in Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) Directors

ASB122-25: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board acknowledge that Landon Hominiuk has been appointed, by Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) as Directors to the LARA Board:

Carried.

Alberta Grazing Lease Holders Association

Virtually before the Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board from 9:20 a.m. to 9:32 a.m., was Brett Matthiessen, Vice Chairman, Alberta Grazing Lease Holders Association, to provide an introduction of the organization and available resources.

ASB123-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the April 8, 2025, Delegation: Brett Matthiessen, Vice Chairman, Alberta Grazing Lease Holders Association, as information.

Carried

ASB124-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board direct the Ags Services Fieldman to advertise for Alberta Grazing Lease Holders Association members on social media and websites.

Carried

Biologist and Volunteer, Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter

Virtually/present before the Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board from 9:34 a.m. to 9:56 a.m., was Ryan Kroeger and Ben Evans, Biologist and volunteer, Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter, to provide information on previous work and future work in Smoky Lake County.

ASB125-25: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board accept the report provided by the April 8, 2025, Delegation: Ryan Kroeger and Ben Evans, Biologist and volunteer, Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter, as information.

Carried

ASB126-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board direct the Agricultural Services Fieldman to promote the Parkland Pintails Delta Waterfowl Chapter's request for locations to install hen houses in Smoky Lake County via social media and websites.

Carried

5. Business - Requests for Decision:

5.1 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association 2025 Contract

ASB127-25: Flondra That the 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-2025 Operating Budget, and enters into an agreement to allow Smoky Lake County producers access to LARA's Year-2025 environmental and extension programming.

Carried.

ASB128-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board direct the Agricultural Services Fieldman place the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association Contract on the Agenda for the next Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board Meeting for discussion.

Carried

5.2 Firearms Authorization RFD

ASB129-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board recommend that Smoky Lake County Council approve Schedule "A" Firearms Authorization for Trevor Cameron, Animal Control Technician for the purpose of problem wildlife and pest control until their firearms expiration date of November 25th, 2030.

Carried.

5.3 2024 Leafy Spurge Biocontrol Update.

ASB130-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board accept the following 2024 Leafy Spurge Biocontrol acknowledge and file the correspondence.

Carried.

5.4 Wild Boar Program Update.

ASB131-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board accept the verbal update for information.

Carried.

5.5 Smoky Creek Discussion.

ASB132-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board direct Agricultural Services Fieldman and Administration Staff to collect information regarding permits for improving water flow or eliminating the dredge of Smoky Creek. Furthermore, they are to draft a letter to the Province requesting guidance on mitigation strategies to address the overgrowth of the creeks.

Carried.

5.6 Additional Annual Funding to Agricultural Societies Discussion.

ASB132-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board recommend increase funding of \$6,000 to Vilna Agricultural Society, \$6,000.00 to Waskatenau Agricultural Society and \$12,000.00 to Smoky Lake Agricultural Society

Carried

6. Issues for Information:

Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report

Dan Gawalko ASB chair report April 2025
- February 11/25, Smoky Lake County Ag Service Board Meeting with vice chair Jared Serben and several board members in attendance, Alyssa Krawchuk gave an update on LARA, updated policy statement 62-10-09 ASB business plan for 2025, drafts of the 2025 ASB resolution results, 1.7 million from the province to AgKnow & producer mental health program, discussed the June 13 Farmer & Rancher appreciation BBQ, next meeting April 8, 9am.
- February 24/25, attended the LARA meeting, discussed LARA logo redesign, weather stations, and capital funding from ROAR, Alyssa gave her executive directors report, working on the audit, hired 4 summer students, extension and upcoming events, on the research side they are writing their annual reports, helping producers with grants, financials were presented.
- March 6/25 attended the LARA AGM in Mallaig with councillor Lorne Halisky & producer reps Amanda Fischer & Charlie Leskiw, a new producer rep for Smoky Lake County was elected Landon Hominiuk and Teegan Miller for the MD. Of Bonnyville for 3 years terms, Barb McCarthy gave a presentation on the audited financials, the staff at LARA gave presentations of the work that was done in 2024 including the trials the chair & executive director gave their reports which can be viewed in the 2024 annual report, next came the organizational meeting Jay Cory was elected as chair, Amanda Fischer was elected as vice chair & Nick Kunec was elected as secretary/treasurer, March 31, strategic planning and directors meeting in Ashmont @ 10:00 am.

ASB133-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board Chairperson’s report prepared for April 8, 2025, 2025, be accepted for information.

Carried.

7. Correspondence:

7.1 Letters of Concern Regarding Bill C-293

ASB134-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to concerns with Bill C-293, which will enact the Pandemic Prevention and Preparedness Act which includes clauses for providing measures to "promote commercial activities that can help reduce pandemic risk, including the production of alternative proteins" and "to regulate or phase out live animal markets", from:

- Lacombe County, received February 13, 2025,
- Parkland County, received March 19th, 2025,

Carried.

7.2 Letters of Regarding Provincial Conference Procedure Conduct, and Preparation

ASB135-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to letter of regarding Provincial Conference Procedure Conduct, and Preparation, from:

- Big Lakes County, received March 4th, 2025,

Carried.

7.3 Letters of Regarding Provincial Conference Procedure Conduct, and Preparation

ASB136-25: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to letter of regarding Provincial Conference Procedure Conduct, and Preparation, from:

- MD of Spirit River No. 133, received February 25th, 2025,

Carried.

7.4 Letter Regarding Farmer Pesticide Program and Updated Registration of Sodium Monofluoroacetate

ASB137-25: Ponich That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received in respect to Letter Regarding Farmer Pesticide Program and Updated Registration of Sodium Monofluoroacetate, from:

- MD of Greenview, received March 17th, 2025,

Carried

7.5 Moisture Situation Update from Alberta's Natural Resources Management Branch

ASB138-25: Flondra That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received from Alberta Climate Information Service Manager at the Natural Resources Management Branch Government of Alberta, in respect to the moisture situation data as of February 26th, 2025, received as of March 5th, 2025.

Carried.

7.6 Moisture Situation Update from Alberta's Natural Resources Management Branch

ASB139-25: Boychuk That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board acknowledge and file the correspondence received from Alberta Climate Information Service Manager at the Natural Resources Management Branch Government of Alberta, in respect to the moisture situation data as of March 20, 2025, received as of March 24th, 2025.

Carried.

8. Executive Session:

No Executive Session.

9. Date and time of Next Meeting:

Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting

ASB140-25: Ponich That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting

be scheduled for **Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**, to be held to
be held in County Council Chambers as well as virtually online.
Carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

ASB141-25: Serben That Smoky Lake County’s Agricultural Service Board Meeting of April
8, 2025, be adjourned, time 11:19 a.m.
Carried.

Signature Apon Request
CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER