



Smoky Lake County Meeting Minutes

Agricultural Service Board Meeting June 17, 2025 - 09:00 AM

1 Meeting Called To Order

Minutes of Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Regular Meeting held on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, at 9:01 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
Title	Name	Tues. April 8, 2025
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	Absent
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
Recording Secretary	Meaghan Andreychuk	Present in Chambers
Comm. Officer	Evonne Zukiwski	Virtually Present

Adoption of Agenda

2 That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, June 17th, 2025, be adopted as presented.

ASB142-25: Flondra

Carried.

3 Adoption of Minutes

3.1 3.1 Minutes of The Agricultural Service Board Meeting

That the minutes of the **Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting**, held on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025, be adopted as presented.

ASB143-25: Ponich

Carried.

4 Delegation

4.1 Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA)

Physically 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:

It has been a very busy year so far in 2025 as our research team and four-summer staff have worked hard at implementing and maintaining this year's research and demonstration program and applying for project funding. LARA staff attended the Smoky Lake Farmer Appreciation Barbeque on June 13th, 2025 with an information table. We thank the County for the invitation to this great event. Our research site is located west of Smoky Lake. This year we had five research trials and demonstrations in Smoky Lake County, including: Regional Variety Trials oats featuring 10 oat varieties. New pulse crops: Lupins Alternative oilseed crops: Camelina Use of UAV for identification of clubroot management zones (field scale) Seeding went smoothly and staff have just finished up in-crop spraying as well as hand pulling for weed management. We are excited to share the research site at our upcoming Ag in the Field Tour and Tradeshow scheduled for July 24th, 2025 at the Smoky Lake Agricultural Complex. In addition to our Ag in the Field Tour and Tradeshow, we have a number of other events scheduled in Smoky Lake County over the summer, including: Who Darted? A Seminar and Workshop on Remote Drug Delivery Best Practices happening in Vilna on July 29th, 2025. Riparian Area Field Day happening on July 9th, 2025. LARA staff assisted over 70 local producers in our operational area, at no cost, with filling out and submitting funding applications through the Resilient Agriculture Landscapes Program (RALP), the On Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF) and the LARA Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program (WRRP) so far this year. Our two Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) technicians have been busy with assisting local producers in completing and/or updating their EFP, which is now required for most of the funding opportunities available. So far this year, staff have assisted 40 local producers with starting and/or completing their EFP. We have had more requests to host EFP workshops in our operational area and are currently working on setting dates, times and locations for the early fall. We really appreciate the support we have received from Smoky Lake County over the years and are looking forward to continue working with you in the years ahead. We are always looking for feedback regarding extension and research programming. Please reach out to any LARA staff if there are specific trials or events you would like to see in the County.





4.2 Presentation

That Smoky Lake County accepted the presentation of Alyssa Krawchuk, of Executive Director, Lakeland Agricultural Research Association, as information

ASB144-25: Flondra

Carried.

5 Business- Request for Decisions

5.1 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2025.

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board recommend that Smoky Lake County Council amend Policy Statement No. 62-10-10 Agricultural Service Board Business Plan 2025 to include changes made to Policy Statement No. 62-28-07 Mowing Program and 1080 Toxicant recall.

ASB 145-25: Ponich

Carried.

5.2 Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee 2025 Resolution Response and Grading

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accept the recommended initial grades for the Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee (ASBPC) Year-2025 Resolutions, as listed below which were reviewed and assigned by ASBPC on **April 17, 2025** and on **May 30, 2025**; and notify the ASBPC of acceptance of same by the deadline of June 30, 2025, to assist the ASBPC, in assigning the final grades:

Municipality Name	Resolution Number	Resolution Name	Grade	Suggested Actions	Comments
Smoky Lake	1-25	DROUGHT AND LIVESTOCK AGRISTABILITY	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Smoky Lake	4-25	WEED CONTROL IN DRAINAGE CANALS (REGISTERED DRAINAGE DITCHES)	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Smoky Lake	5-25	CENTRAL CONTACT FOR THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PEST ACTS	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Smoky Lake	6-25	RURAL VETERINARY STUDENT SUPPORT	Responded in Part	Follow up and provide updates	
Smoky Lake	7-25	ROADKILL CARCASS DISPOSAL	Responded in Part	No opinion	
	9-25				Given the response provided by the ASBPC, Smoky Lake County agrees it is a full response on this resolution. However, there seems to be a disconnect of having agricultural/farmer specific mental health resources as compared to MHA resources for everyone. AgKnow is tailored for specific challenges our producers face year round that other agencies lack. We want to assist our provinces producers as best as we can. This best way is AgKnow.
Smoky Lake		NON-MATCHING FUNDING FOR AGKNOW	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	
Smoky Lake	11-25	AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FUNDING	Responded	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Smoky Lake	12-25	CHARITABLE GAMING POLICIES HANDBOOK	No Response	Issues Resolved, no actions	
Smoky Lake	PC1-25	INFLATIONARY INCREASE FOR ASB GRANTS	Responded	Follow up and provide updates	

ASB146-25: Ponich

Carried.

5.3 5.3 Smoky Lake County's Extension Program 2026

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board fill out the following 2026 Agricultural Service Board Extension Revamp Option questionnaire form at the June 17, 2025 Agricultural Service Board meeting and request the questionnaire survey to be brought back to next Agricultural Board meeting on October 7th, 2025 with costs associated with the survey.

ASB147-25: Ponich

Carried.

6 Issues for Information

None

6.1 Agricultural Service Board Chairperson Report Dated June 11th, 2025

Dan Gawalko ASB Chair report division one June 11/25

- April 28 attended the LARA board meeting in Ashmont, we reviewed the strategic plan for 2025 and also looked at a new logo for LARA with Dark Horse media, Alyssa gave an update on the capital funding we will be purchasing a new seeder, crimp roller, grain analyzer, & a new tractor a MF 1840. Will be looking into hosting a regenerative agriculture soil health event with Don Huber, Alyssa gave her executive director report received funding for 2 summer jobs hired 4, Charlene R. will be retiring this spring so will be looking for someone to fill her position and also to work in the garden plot, working with LHR on new job descriptions and ordered a new microscope to be used with the kids in school programs, discussed starting a research committee with staff and 3 producer reps, updating the policy manual, research staff are getting the field trials ready Smoky Lake county will be at the Michael Carson field it has been soil sampled for clubroot & fertility and has been GPS pinned, also the weather station has been put up there which producers will have access to the data, Lance has helped over 22 producers with the new grant programs that have opened up on April 1/25, Alyssa gave the financial report no issues, Jay gave the LFA report, 390 heifers accepted into the pasture this year at .90/head/day and they updated the bull policy. Smoky Lake county field day will be on July 24 this year and LARA will also have a booth at Smoky Lake County Farmer appreciation BBQ on June 13, next meeting June 23 @ 9am in Ashmont. - June 9, attended the Bellis 4H beef club show & sale in Waskatenau along with councillor Lorne Halisky, the members did a great job again this year with their beef projects and the younger one with chicken projects, Georgia Hartly took the Supreme Female in the Cow/Calf Pair and also Reserve Female for her Heifer, Elise Feniak received Grand Champion Steer, Austin Cherniwhan had Reserve Champion Steer all very good looking animals and all four of these members received trophy buckles sponsored by Smoky Lake County the day concluded with the sale of 17 steers and 8 chickens with the chickens going for 160 -170 dollars per bird.

6.2 6.1 ASB Chairman's Report

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Chairperson report prepared for June 11, 2025, be accepted for information.

ASB 148-25: Flondra

Carried.

6.3 6.2 2024 Smoky Lake County ASB Department Overview

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Accept the Agricultural Service Board Grant Reporting Overview for the year 2024 that was forwarded to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation outlining the results of the programs in 2024 as information.

ASB 149-25: Rurka

Carried.

6.4 6.3 Mowing Map Updates as of June 6th, 2025

Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board accepts the Mowing Map Updates as of June 6th, 2025 as Information.

ASB150-25: Flondra

Carried.

6.5 6.4 Smoky Creek Discussion (NE-13-59-18-W4)

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledges the information provided on Brushing Creek on Land located WE-13-59-W4 and to be filed for information.

ASB151-25: Serben

Carried.

6.6 6.5 Wildlife Damage Compensation Program 2025 from Agriculture Financial Services Corporation

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Canada-Alberta Wildlife Damage Compensation Program Report for 2025 and to be filed for information.

ASB152-25: Flondra

Carried.

6.7 6.6 Farming in Municipal Right-of-Way

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board direct administration to raise awareness about the consequences of planting crops in municipal right-of-ways and the accompanying fines through social media and gas bill inserts for the spring of 2026.

ASB153-25: Rurka

Carried.

7 Correspondence

None

7.1 Weeds on Wellsites Update provided by Agricultural Service Boards, received April 15th, 2025. ©

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the email thread sent from Agricultural Service Boards subject: Weeds on Wellsite Update and to be filed for information.

ABS154-25: Flondra

Carried.

7.2 Letter of Support for AgKnow from Cypress County, received April 23rd, 2025. ©

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the Letter received from Shane Hok Cypress County regarding Cypress County Letter of Support for AgKnow dated April 22, 2025 and to be filed for information.

ASB155-25: Ponich

Carried.

7.3 ASB Connector April 2025 Edition, received April 25th, 2025. ©

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the email thread received from Agricultural Service Boards Program regarding ASB Connector dated April 2025 and to be filed for information.

ASB156-25: Flondra

Carried.

7.4 Wild Boar in Alberta: Understanding the Risks & Potential Changes article from Agricultural Service Boards, received April 16th, 2025. ©

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the "Wild Boar in Alberta: Understand the Risks and Potential Changes" article dated April 16, 2025 and to be filed for information.

ASB157-25: Rurka

Carried.

7.5 Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of April 30th, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received May 6th, 2025. ©

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the article regarding Agricultural Moisture Situation Update from The Government of Alberta dated April 30th 2025 and to be filed for information.

ASB158-25: Ponich

Carried.

7.6 Richardson Ground Squirrel Update from Agricultural Service Boards, received May 7th, 2025. ©

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the email thread received from Agricultural Service Boards Program regarding Richardson's Ground Squirrel Update dated May 7, 2025 and to be filed for information.

ASB159-25: Flondra

Carried.

7.7 Alberta Crop Report update provided by Trade, Economic & Data Analytics Branch of the Alberta Government, received May 9th, 2025. ©

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the article regarding Alberta Crop Report (Crop Conditions as of May 6th) from The Government of Alberta dated May 6, 2025 and to be filed for information.

ASB160-25: Serben

Carried.

7.8 Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of May 21 st, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received May 23rd, 2025. ©

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the article received May 23rd, 2025 regarding Agricultural Moisture Situation Update from The Government of Alberta dated May 21st 2025 and to be filed for information.

ASB161-25: Ponich

Carried.

7.9 Agricultural Moisture Situation Update as of June 3rd, 2025, provided by Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation, received June 5th , 2025. ©

That Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board acknowledge the article received June 5th, 2025 regarding Agricultural Moisture Situation Update from The Government of Alberta dated June 3rd, 2025 and to be filed for information.

ASB162-25: Serben

Carried.

8 Date and Time of Next Meeting

None

8.1 Next Agricultural Service Board Meeting Date

That the next Smoky Lake County Agricultural Service Board Meeting be scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th, at 9:00 a.m., to be held to be held virtually, through Electronic Communication Technology as per Bylaw 1376-20 and/or physically in County Council Chambers.

9 Adjournment

That Smoky Lake County's Agricultural Service Board Meeting of June 17, 2025, be adjourned, time 10:01 a.m.

ASB163-25: Serben

Carried.

Signature Apon Request

CHAIRPERSON

S E A L

Interim CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER