

AAMDC/ASB Provincial Committee Joint meeting
Shaw Conference Centre
November 14, 2016 – 4:00 pm

In attendance:

Al Kemmere, President, AAMDC
Carolyn Kolebaba, Vice-President, AAMDC
Bob Jones, Director, AAMDC
John Whaley, Director, AAMDC
Earl Graham, Director, AAMDC
Tom Burton, Director, AAMDC
Soren Odegard, Director, AAMDC
Gerald Rhodes, Executive Director, AAMDC
Tasha Blumenthal, Policy Analyst, AAMDC
Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Representative
Trent Keller, President, AAAF
Elden Kozak, Secretary and AAAF 1st Vice President
Corey Beck, Peace Representative
Jim Duncan, Central Representative
Lloyd Giebelhaus, Northwest Representative
Steve Wikkerink, South Representative
Doug Dallyn, Alternate Peace Representative
Maureen Vadnais, Executive Assistant, ASB Provincial Committee
Murray Greer, Director, AF Representative
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, AF
Tasha Blumenthal, Policy Analyst, AAMDC

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm
Introductions were made around the table

Old Business

The AAMDC/ASB Provincial Committee Terms of Reference have been finalized.

New Business

1. Weed Control along transportation right of ways

Al Kemmere updated the Committee on his meeting with Transportation Minister Brian Mason. Mason recognized that it was a poor decision to now mow the roadsides and AAMDC encouraged Transportation to start mowing sooner for proper weed control. Mason also discussed the amount of notices that they had received on their right of ways over the previous year

Pat Gordeyko said that mowing was not the answer and that an integrated program that included spraying needed to be part of the program. Trent Keller updated the Committee on his discussion with Alberta Transportation and said that they hope to meet with them at In Service Training in December.

Discussion continued about the recommendation that has gone forward to the Minister to develop a three year integrated weed management plan for the roadsides and the lack of commitment to putting together such a plan. Maureen has been doing research and has found information from the States that could help influence the government's decision and will work on summarizing the information to share with AAMDC, AAAF and ASB to help everyone present a united front when meeting with the Transportation Minister.

It was agreed that AAMDC, AAAF and the ASB Provincial Committee should lobby as a joint effort and try to set up a joint meeting with Alberta Transportation during the ASB Provincial Conference.

ACTION ITEM: Tasha, Trent and Maureen to work together to set up a meeting with the Minister of Transportation at the January ASB Provincial Conference.

2. Species at Risk Act

The group discussed the impact of SARA on different areas within the province. Al Kemmere advised that AAMDC has a resolution coming forward at their convention on this issue. This is becoming a bigger issue across the province and more resolutions are coming forward because of it. The Provincial Committee said they are willing to sit on the Committee if needed.

3. Government review of Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Pat Gordeyko asked how this would affect agriculture and what had AAMDC heard since this didn't come forward as a resolution. Al Kemmere advised that they are taking some Boards and linking them to government rather than being at arms length from government. It was agreed that they would have to wait to see what comes out of it. Tasha will monitor and forward any relevant information to Maureen as needed.

4. Municipal Agriculture Disaster Declaration

Al Kemmere advised that the AAMDC had created some draft guidelines last year. He asked that the AAAF talk to the Fieldmen to see if anything needed to be added to them and to refer producers to the document.

ACTION ITEM: AAAF to circulate draft guidelines to membership and report changes back to AAMDC.

5. Agriculture in Alberta Education Curriculum

Pat Gordeyko advised that there is a survey regarding this. It was stated that there is lots of misinformation being sent to the classrooms. It was suggested that this profile come to the Provincial Committee to take the lead and that AAMDC would support this.

6. Bill 6: Enhanced Protection of Farm and Ranch Workers

Al Kemmere filled the group in on the progress of the Technical Working Group that he sits on. He said that there needs to be a section in the Occupational Health and Safety code book specifically focused on agriculture. The process is taking longer than anticipated and the groups will take the amount of time required to make sure the regulations are done right. Al said they would have to wait and see what recommendations are put forward from the six Technical Working Groups. The Working Groups have asked to review the regulations before they go public to ensure that their recommendations have been included in the regulations. There will be additional consultation before regulations are implemented.

7. Agricultural Plastics Recycling

Al Kemmere advised that he is meeting with the Agricultural Plastics Committee on December 8, 2016 and was meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry on November 17, 2016 to discuss the programs occurring in Mountain View County and how they could apply those program principles on a province wide scale. There was discussion about the legislation that recently passed in Saskatchewan regarding grain bag recycling and that the Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) had been removed from the Agricultural Plastics Committee. It was felt that not having ARMA on the Committee may be an advantage as they could now refer to some of ARMA's current programs to base a grain bag recycling program on.

Next meeting will be held in January at the ASB Provincial Conference

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm