

**Agricultural Service Board Provincial Committee meeting with Minister Olson**  
**Legislature Building, Edmonton**  
**August 8, 2012**

In attendance:

Minister Verlyn Olson, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development  
Nick Harsulla, Special Assistant to the Minister  
Colin Jeffares, Assistant Deputy Minister, ARD  
Jo-Ann Hall, Director, Industry and Market Development Division, ARD  
Murray Greer, Branch Head, Agriculture Grants Program Branch, ARD  
Patrick Gordeyko, Chair and Northeast Regional Representative  
Jim Duncan, Central Region Representative  
Garry Lentz, South Region Representative  
Don Dumont, Peace Region Representative  
Geoff Thompson, Secretary and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, AAAF  
Soren Odegard, AAMD&C Representative  
Pam Retzloff, Recording Secretary, ASB Program, ARD

Minister Olson entered the meeting at 1:20 pm and introductions were made around the table. Pat gave the Minister a brief overview of what the Provincial Committee's role is and invited the Minister to use the Committee as an advisory resource. The Minister said he is in the process of getting educated on his responsibilities and appreciated the opportunity to sit down with the Committee to hear what the issues are. Pat said he would like to discuss the resolutions at a future meeting.

1. Pat thanked the Minister for the additional \$1 million dollars that was allocated for the Legislative funding stream.
2. Pat thanked the Minister for the reinstatement of the Rat and Pest specialist position and are pleased that Phil Merrill has been appointed. Pat briefed the Minister on a resolution that was tabled at the 2012 ASB Provincial Conference that called for banning the possession, sale and import of dead Norway rats for the purpose of food.
3. Pat thanked the Minister for his support in obtaining permanent registration for 2% liquid strychnine and said the Committee was very happy to have finally achieved this.
4. Don briefed the Minister on the removal of the ASB Act review from the review schedule and asked why it was removed and when it would be reinstated. Don also advised that it looked like there would be very little changes required to the Act.

Minister Olsen said that there doesn't seem to be any burning issues to address with the Act at this time and therefore wouldn't need to be on the to do list. He advised that all of the government Minister's are being asked to identify those Acts that do have immediate issues to address at this time and those Acts are being given priority.

5. Jim briefed the Minister on the upcoming ASB Program review and advised that there is a huge by in by ASBs as far as programming goes but costs far exceed the dollars received from the Government. Jo-Ann said the workshops hope to determine how to get a better bang for the buck and how the reporting process can be streamlined. Pat said the timing isn't perfect but will have something to take back to the fall regional meetings.

6. **2012 resolutions**

**Enforcement of provincial Acts delegated to ASBs:**

Garry address this issue and advised that enforcement is not easy to do. He said that garden centers are fairly good at not selling noxious or restricted species, but packaged seeds are a problem. He felt that more education is required through the media to make people aware of what they are buying. Jim stated there are laws in place for the Counties. Geoff said the Provincial inspectors need to enforce Acts on areas that fall under Provincial jurisdiction. Pat advised that Alberta Transportation has been meeting with the Agricultural fieldmen to discuss hot spots and that relationship has improved.

Minister Olson asked to be updated at the next meeting on the progress made with Transportation.

The issue of Fusarium Graminearum was discussed and Garry explained the effects of infected seed to the Minister. He advised that the majority of the ASBs would like zero tolerance enforcement under the Act. Pat said help is needed to maintain the clean acres that we have now so would like to see a Provincial policy or regulation put in place.

**Encourage interdepartmental cooperation for enforcement of the Agricultural Pests Act**

Don gave the Minister a quick update on what this was regarding and Jim informed the Minister that there is a resolution in place for this.

**PMRA Review of 1080**

Geoff explained the use of 1080 and advised that it is a very effective tool in the control of coyotes. He advised the Minister that the 1080 compound is up for review and would like the support of ARD when the review takes place. Jo-Ann said she would have Jamie Curran, Assistant Deputy Minister look at this.

7. Previous Year Resolutions

Tax Code Amendment: Response from Federal Finance Minister

Pat provided the Minister with an explanation of the background on this resolution. He advised that the Provincial Committee had sent a letter to the Federal Minister of Finance and that a copy of the Federal Minister's response was in the package Minister Olson had been given.

Minister Olsen said encouraging young farmers is part of his job and he applauds the ASBs on the issue of next generation farmers. He said he is very interested in carrying this forward and to keep pushing good ideas forward. He said he would like to review the letter from the Federal Minister and would like to see what the three options were that were presented to the Federal Minister.

8. Shelterbelt Program

Soren spoke to the importance of this program and of shelterbelt areas and asked the Minister to discuss this with Federal Minister Ritz.

Minister Olson advised that he has had a conversation with Minister Ritz and he doesn't think it will be reinstated based on his conversation with Minister Ritz.

Pat briefed the Minister on the 2007 Resolution regarding Wild game fencing and advised that the SRD Wildlife Compensation report has yet to be released for viewing. Jo-Ann said she will follow this up with Jamie Curran, Assistant Deputy Minister, ARD.

Pat thanked the Minister for his time and requested that the Minister meet with the Committee in a few months to discuss the 2012 resolutions.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.