

Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Ashmont Legion

### **LARA Minutes of October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Present:**

|                |                  |                |              |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Wanda Austin   | Dan Gawalko      | Amanda Fischer | Murray Scott |
| Nick Kunec     | Laurier Bourassa | Don Slipchuk   | Kevin Wirsta |
| Louis Dechaine | Sterling Johnson | Jay Cory       |              |

**Recording Secretary:** Alyssa Krawchuk

#### **1.0 Opening**

Wanda called the meeting to order 9:03 AM.

##### **A. Adoption of Agenda**

Alyssa added to new business:

E. 2024 Budget  
F. LARA Business Plan

**Motion 23-56:** Don **moved** to approve the agenda as amended. Kevin seconded. **Carried.**

##### **B. Adoption of Minutes**

**Motion 23-57:** Murray **moved** to adopt the minutes of August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 as presented. Dan seconded. **Carried.**

#### **2.0 Business Arising and Action Items**

##### **A. Small Plot Sprayer**

- a. Has been delivered. Planning on putting it in the shop for the winter to go over the manual and operations in preparation for spring.

##### **B. Staff Overtime**

- a. Acceptance and Release letters have been received from both Amanda Mathiot and Kellie Nichiporik concerning overtime.

##### **C. LICA**

- a. Alyssa Krawchuk has been elected as the Agriculture Director on the LICA board for a two-year term.

#### **D. Truck Purchase**

- a. Unfortunately, the potential truck purchase discussed at the August board meeting fell through.
- b. Discussion on potential options:
  - i. Alyssa will look into leasing options for a 1 tonne truck (gas vs. diesel).
  - ii. Alyssa will talk with Matt Janz concerning opportunities to purchase a truck.
- c. Discussion on selling options for 2006 ¾ tonne chev hauling truck.

**Motion 23-58:** Kevin **moved** to sell 2006 2500 Chev truck for fair market value. Don seconded. **Carried.**

#### **E. Municipal Funding**

- a. Update and discussion on funding letters sent to partnering municipalities.

#### **F. Policy Review**

- a. Working with Collaborative Strategies to update the policy manual, which should be ready in November for review.
- b. Alyssa presented an example of the new policy format.

### **3.0 Standing Business**

#### **A. Chair Report**

- i. None

#### **B. FarmRITE Report**

- i. None

#### **C. Executive Director's Report**

- a. Invited MLA Scott Cyr for a meeting at LARA on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.
  - i. Very positive meeting, he is a large supporter of agriculture and agriculture research in the Lakeland and wants to see the Northeast Region be #1.
  - ii. Would like to see a collaborative approach from the Northeast Region as a whole including Lakeland College, GRO and others.
    - 1. Suggestion to include Connect for Food.
- b. Alyssa and Momna met with the Research Director of Lakeland College on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to discuss research and potential collaboration opportunities.
  - i. Will meet again in January.
- c. Dustin Roth is now a certified EFP technician and has been assisting local producers with their EFPs.
  - i. Decision made by the board to forward all EFP inquiries from Smoky Lake County to Amanda Kihn.
- d. Attended a meeting in Westlock concerning the Regenerative Agriculture Living Lab (RALL) to discuss future events and planning.
  - i. Will be hosting a workshop in January or February 2024.
- e. Advertised LARA in the Redwater Review during their agriculture week special.

- f. Attended the following ASB meetings
  - i. Lac La Biche September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - ii. MD of Bonnyville on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023
  - iii. Smoky Lake on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- g. Have received funding from the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) for a Livestock Water Management Series to be completed by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- h. Attended LICA AGM on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- i. Presenting at the North East Regional ASB Conference in Smoky Lake on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- j. Momna Farzand will be attending the AIC Conference in Ottawa on November 7-8, 2023.
- k. Moving forward, LARA needs to decide what the future of the Garden and Greenhouse will be as current staff are retiring.
  - i. Suggestion to discuss with MLA Scott Cyr.
  - ii. Suggestion to work with Matt Janz and the MD of Bonnyville.

#### **D. Research Program Report**

- a. Momna Farzand provided a written report.

#### **E. Financial Report**

- a. Alyssa presented the financial statements updated to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

#### **F. LFA Report**

- a. Take out day was on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
  - i. Missing 2 heifers, but the rest looked fantastic thanks to the late season rains.
  - ii. Received 15 inches of rain.
- b. Alyssa met with Jaime Robinson (Rangeland Agrologist with Alberta Government) concerning potential funding and pasture improvement opportunities.

**Motion 23-59:** Amanda **moved** to accept the reports as presented. Murray seconded. **Carried.**

### **4.0 New Business**

#### **A. Producer Feed Tests**

**Motion 23-60:** Jay **moved** to provide 2 free feed tests to local producers per PID # to a max of \$8000.00 in the program for 2024. Nick seconded **Carried.**

#### **B. Clubroot Policy**

- a. Alyssa presented the current clubroot policy for the association.
- b. Discussion on potential changes and updates.

#### **C. 2024 AGM**

**Motion 23-61:** Sterling **moved** to host the 2024 AGM on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at either Glendon RCMP Hall or Goodridge Hall depending on costs and availability. Jay seconded. **Carried.**

**Motion 23-62:** Sterling **moved** that Alyssa look into entertainment, speakers and catering and bring back to the next meeting. Amanda seconded. **Carried.**

**D. Upcoming Events**

- a. Drone Spraying Clinic in Ashmont on November 13-14, 2023.
- b. Working Well Workshop (virtual) on November 16, 2023.
- c. Weed Management Webinar (virtual) on November 28, 2023.
- d. Young Farmers Social at Eastbourne Hall on November 30, 2023.
- e. Farm Transition with Elaine Froese in Smoky Lake on December 1, 2023.
  - i. Currently working on sponsorship for the event.

**E. 2024 Budget**

- a. Discussion on initial draft 2024 budget.

**F. LARA Business Plan**

- a. Alyssa presented the draft business plan to the board for review.

**5.0 Closure**

**Motion 23-63:** Don **moved** to go into closed session. Murray seconded. **Carried.**

**Motion 23-64:** Don **moved** to go out of closed session. Amanda seconded. **Carried.**

**Motion 23-65:** Jay **moved** that Alyssa Krawchuk work four days per week at the same pay and benefits with job description and duties remaining the same. Nick seconded.

Kevin amended the motion to include a start date of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. **Carried.**

**6.0 Closure**

**A. Meeting Feedback**

Reach out to Keegan Miller (Covers + Co.)

**B. Next Board Meeting:** November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Ashmont Legion starting at 10:00 am.

**Motion 23-66:** Wanda **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 AM.

---

LARA Director

---

LARA Director