



WHEATLAND COUNTY

Reeve Monthly Report

Reeve: Amber Link

Division: 2

Reporting Period: January 2020

Report Date: January 27, 2020

January 2 Community Futures Wild Rose Management & Personnel Committee General Manager Performance Review.

January 2 Community Futures Wild Rose Board Meeting

Financial variance report approved, 2020-21 Budget and Operations Report, letter of support for Wheatland CARES grant application for the CrowdRiff subscription, striking governance committee to review Articles of Association, good news story about a new youth loan, monthly loan report, strategic plan update, Community Economic Development (CED) Committee Terms of Reference, and board training plan.

January 7 Planning and Priorities Meeting

Under the Transportation and Agriculture Department we discussed; \$4,000 Connection Fee, West Rockyford Access Road. Under the Community and Development Services Department we discussed Changing the LUB Amendment Process, Dwelling, Accessory (Permitted Use vs. Discretionary), Business Licencing - Introduction (Council will not be considering implementing a business licence), Nuisance & Unsightly Property Bylaw – Review, Community Funding Requests - Re: Process / Policy, Industrial Servicing Concept – Gleichen, Peer-Review Cost Recovery Model Update, Summary of Cannabis Retail Store Survey, Review of the Home Based Businesses (HBB) Section, Shipping Containers (Sea-Cans) on Industrial Parcels, Energy District, and RCMP Strategic Goals process. Council requested some of these items to come back to a regular Council meeting.

January 9 Broadband Pilot Project Meeting

We discussed a governance structure and there was consensus that a Municipally Controlled Corporation (MCC) would make the most sense. An action plan was established, including requirements gathering, drafting RFP, drafting documents we'll need, researching grants and funding opportunities.

January 9 Wheatland Housing Management Body Board (WHMB) Meeting

Social Housing and Lodge Financial Reports, Maintenance Supervisor Report, Social Housing, Resident Manager, and CAO Report, defer Town Hall meeting, defer decision regarding consultant services (awaiting financial information), Budget review – Social Housing budget approved, Lodge budget will be finalized once Hospice requisition is determined,

January 10 Wheatland Housing Management Body Board (WHMB) Meeting with AHS Executive Director of Seniors, Palliative, and Continuing Care

The board met with Amy Good, AHS Executive Director of Seniors, Palliative, and Continuing Care,

as well as Anne Heinemeyer, AHS Director, Integrated Supportive and Facility Living Calgary Zone, and Bev Berg, AHS Director, Palliative and End of Life Care Calgary Zone. Shared the Wheatland Housing Management Board Seniors' Housing Need Assessment and Business Case by Gordon and Associates - August 29, 2019 and some resident statistics. Highlighted Option 2 on page 33, discussed home care, hospice, opportunity to apply for RFP, and strategy for next steps.

January 13 Teleconference with rural growth management board Mayors and Reeves

Discussion around strategy for growth management boards.

January 13 Hussar Intermunicipal Development Plan Open House

Representatives from Wheatland County and the Village of Hussar answered questions and shared information on the purpose of an IDP, which is to minimize land use and development conflicts, provide opportunities for collaboration and communication, and allow for the resolution of any conflicts that may arise.

Recent changes to the Municipal Government Act have mandated that municipalities sharing a common boundary must develop an Intermunicipal Development Plan in order to foster a collaborative planning approach for these lands. These plans must be in place by April 1, 2020.

Intermunicipal Development Plans must promote consultation and cooperation between the participating municipalities regarding planning matters of joint interest within a defined planning area. They also provide a framework for processing development proposals, subdivision applications or concerns within this defined area.

January 14 Council Meeting

Public Hearing and 2nd and 3rd Readings for an amendment to DC-7 District (Lakes of Muirfield), and first readings with public hearings scheduled for 3 land redesignations, a road closure, and a new revised bylaw passed for a Historical Resource Designation.

FCM Conference attendance was decided.

Council supported my nomination to apply as Central District 2 FCM committee member, which will be decided at the upcoming District meeting and then following application be determined by the FCM President.

The new Executive Director of the Strathmore & District Chamber of Commerce presented to Council regarding sponsoring the upcoming Business Excellence Awards. Council approved sponsorship.

Stef Leblanc, Vice President, and Ryan Schmidt, General Manager, of Strathmore & District Agricultural Society presented their new 5 Year Strategic Plan. They will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary in 2023 and have many exciting initiatives planned.

From their plan...

By 2024 we will be recognized as the premier Agricultural Society in the Province, true to our mission, providing expanding, leading edge agricultural programming, events and recreation with a focus on the farming and ranching heritage of the area.

Vision

1. Providing excellence in community recreational facilities & services;
2. Known as the heart of rodeo & the development of its athletes in Alberta; and
3. A unique provider of practical ranching skills and education.

Providing excellence in community recreational facilities

- Baseball Diamonds & Campground Upgrades & Beautification
- Completion of Remuda Link Project
- Commence Cowboy Town Concert Series

The heart of rodeo and the development of its athletes in Alberta

- Expansion of Rodeo School to two weeks and a full slate of events
- Rodeo Infield Expansion Project
- Construction of an Indoor Arena for year-round rodeo activities

A unique provider of practical ranching skills and education

- Establishment of Practical Ranching School
- Year-round agricultural programming in the indoor arena

Press Release:

WHEATLAND COUNTY, ALBERTA – Wheatland County Council has appointed Mr. Brian Henderson to the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) effective immediately.

"On behalf of Council, I am pleased to announce, the appointment of Brian Henderson as the Chief Administrative Officer for Wheatland County," said Reeve Amber Link. The unanimous support for the appointment is a result of his leadership style that aligns with Council's strategic priorities and commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Henderson has ten years of experience working with municipalities across Canada, including working at Wheatland County since June of 2016 as the General Manager of Corporate and Financial Services. In addition, he has been serving as the Interim Chief Administrative Officer since June 2019.

"I feel honoured to have this opportunity to make a positive difference for the community and the organization. I look forward to working with Council, staff, community members, and neighbouring municipalities to help take the organization to the next level," Mr. Henderson stated.

Mr. Henderson is Council's only employee and will lead the entire municipal organization. The CAO is responsible for adherence to the Municipal Government Act (MGA), County policies, and bylaws while managing the overall operations of Wheatland County. As a trusted advisor, the CAO is also accountable for strategic initiatives and priorities, as set out by Council. The CAO is a visionary leader for the County, elected officials, and residents, while serving as an inspirational ambassador for positive workplace culture.

January 15 Agricultural Service Board Meeting

Organizational meeting followed by board meeting. Most significant to me was a presentation by Stanley Carscallen regarding the urgent need for the formation and support of an Alberta Farmland Trust. I believe this could be part of the solution to the quandary that we face in municipal planning in balancing preservation of our ag lands with landowner rights. I'd love to hear what you think. For more information see this article:

<https://www.albertafarmexpress.ca/2019/11/20/new-farmland-trust-aims-to-preserve-good-soil-2/>

Consistent with the County's policy on Disposal of Fixed Assets the Board approved disposal of the Portable Livestock Scale, Rubber mats and RFID tag reader to local 4H clubs for \$1. As local 4-H Beef clubs are currently the only users of these items it made sense to transfer the assets to these clubs.

The Board approved the Agriculture Services Board Business Plan, which provides a vision and mission for the department with 9 established goals and strategies and actions to meet those goals.

Reviewed correspondence regarding children's book, "Dirt to Dinner". Board members will review book at upcoming ASB conference.

Reviewed 2020 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Resolutions that will come forward at the ASB conference.

We reviewed a response from Alberta Beef Producers regarding potential resolutions.

We approved a letter of support to Community Futures Wild Rose consideration of funding support for the WC Mercantile project through the Rural Opportunities Fund grant.

Our Manager of Agriculture and Environment's Report highlighted a very busy year for the department:

- ✓ 50 km of new road construction and 3 gravel pits mowed.
- ✓ 480 acres of spraying for weed control on 824 km of right of way.
- ✓ 7 waste transfer sites sprayed
- ✓ 193 weed inspections including 4 times each in the Villages of Standard, Rockyford and Hussar.
- ✓ 5470 km of roadside inspected
- ✓ 26 weed complaints and/or inquiries responded too.
- ✓ 22.5 km of roadside seeding
- ✓ 50 acres of borrow areas seeded
- ✓ 60 bales of eco-tack and 61 bales of straw applied for erosion control
- ✓ 103 Clubroot surveys
- ✓ 14 Canola stem samples sent to Alberta Agriculture for Blackleg and Sclerotinia testing
- ✓ 45 Grasshopper surveys completed for AB Agriculture.
- ✓ 2 Bertha Armyworm surveys completed for AB Agriculture.
- ✓ 4 cattle scale rentals – 4-H
- ✓ 12 Magpie, 6 skunk trap, 2 Pasture sprayer, 4 tree sprayer rental,
- ✓ 224 plastic grain bags recycled for a total of 51.7 tonne.
- ✓ Seed cleaning plant inspections complete with all 3 plants receiving scores of 99%

Operational Environmental Compliance

- ✓ Final Environmental Audit Report provided to Council on January 14, 2020. Achieved 90% success in correcting audit findings with remaining 10% committed to ongoing attention as part of regular programming
- ✓ Applied for and received four Temporary Diversion Licenses for road dust control activities
- ✓ Applied for water license for Dalum Fire Hall water well – expected in early 2020

- ✓ Response to inquiries from field staff and assistance with legislative requirements

Environmental Communications

- ✓ 2018 Environmental Update Publication was published in early 2019. Hardcopies were sent to stakeholders and provided to Council, and a digital version was added to our website
- ✓ Environmental Program was modified in early 2019 for clarity and to reflect changing internal process. Program document was published on County website and provided to Council as information, and promoted in County Connector

Environmental Education

- ✓ Coordinated the attendance of 8 staff members to erosion and sediment control training in April
- ✓ Created a booth for Canada Water Week to share information with residents about water in Wheatland County
- ✓ Shared information about water stewardship with staff at the annual Safety Day
- ✓ Environmental topics shared in County media include: species at risk information, runoff management and water legislation, and dugout regulations

Technical Support

- ✓ Assisted with RMA resolution submissions on the topics of compost regulation, waste transfer bin funding, and extended producer responsibility
- ✓ Development of project management tool pilot to incorporate environmental considerations into road projects while avoiding strained timelines – increased support for environmental requirements of road projects
- ✓ Support for erosion control activities at sites damaged by heavy flooding
- ✓ Support for shallow well-digging at Thurn Pit – obtained Class B Well License from Alberta Environment and submitted well report
- ✓ Assistance with the ALUS program and other Agricultural Services projects
- ✓ Ongoing technical support for infrastructure projects as requested (hydrogeological studies, water licensing and approvals, water and soil quality)
- ✓ Ongoing review of planning & development files for comments regarding agricultural and environmental impact, and response to questions from planning & development staff
- ✓ Response to ratepayer inquiries on wide range of topics including but not limited to shelterbelt development, wetland management, dugout development, contamination and pollution, and support/internal advocacy for areas of concern brought forward

Advancing Environmental Sustainability

- ✓ Two Environmental Stewardship Awards were handed out at the 2019 Annual General Meeting and Carseland School Park Partnership Announcement. The process was altered for 2019 for timing to align with the ASB Bursary program, and unfortunately no interest was received for the program this year. Advertisement will begin again early in 2020
- ✓ Development of a shelterbelt and ecobuffer funding program, set to kick off with a workshop that is planned for February of 2020.
- ✓ Policy research and internal advocacy towards development of policy solution for soil being brought in from outside the municipality. After obtaining ASB and Council support, work is now underway in the Planning & Development department towards Land Use Bylaw amendments.
- ✓ Attendance at external environmental-themed events hosted by stakeholders and collaboration

with external agencies on environmental topics, including: Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Wetland Education Network, ALUS Canada, Bow River Basin Council, Alberta Woodlot Extension Society, Miistakis Institute, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Alberta Environment & Parks

Agriculture Conservation Program

- ✓ Consultation with over 80 landowners

Crowfoot Creek Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program landowner grant

- ✓ Total grant funding received from AEP \$198,500.00
- ✓ 15 applications received
- ✓ 9 Projects completed
- ✓ 9 Offsite watering systems installed
- ✓ 1,895 m of riparian fence installed
- ✓ Protection of 21,266m riparian lands
- ✓ 2018 the WID fenced 7000m of canals
- ✓ 2019 the WID fenced over 1,250m of canals
- ✓ 8 riparian health assessments -2018
- ✓ 3 riparian health assessments -2019

Rosebud Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program

- ✓ Grant approved by Environment
- ✓ Contract waiting on AEP Signature

Alberta Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)

- ✓ 16 Plans Approved
- ✓ 6 workbooks in progress

Canada Agriculture Partnership

- ✓ Assisted 29 landowners with CAP programs

Safe Water Well Action Program (SWWAP)

- ✓ 15 applications received
- ✓ 2 well pits removed
- ✓ 7 wells abandoned
- ✓ \$8863.22 expended

Wheatland Agricultural Stewardship Program

- ✓ 2 applications received
- ✓ 1 project completed
- ✓ \$5000 expended

Wheatland ALUS

- ✓ 2 Partnership Advisory Committee Meetings
- ✓ 4 approved projects, 107.81 acres
- ✓ \$16,626.25
- ✓ Wheatland County project prioritization map (AB AG)
- ✓ 2 landowner workshops

- ✓ ALUS banner purchased
- ✓ Attended national conference

County Connector Newsletter

- ✓ 24 submissions

Alberta Invasive Species Guide

- ✓ Re-Print: 10,000 copies

Red-Bow Agricultural Partnership

- ✓ Chair of RAP Committee
- ✓ 2 events hosted
- ✓ 4 meetings

Ladies Livestock Lessons – 76 attended

Ranching Opportunities Conference – 160 attended

Wheatland Water Day – 33 attended

Solar and Agriculture Workshop – 18 attended

Get the Dirt on Soil Health Workshop – 20 attended

Winter Feed and Water Workshop – 26 attended

January 15 Wheatland Housing Management Board Meeting with MLAs

Members of the Housing Board met with MLAs Leela Aheer, Nathan Cooper, and Joseph Schow to share our Seniors' Housing Needs Assessment and ask them to join in advocating for the need for a new lodge to provide housing for our seniors in the region. Some excellent feedback was provided about integrating resident centred stories into our project, for example how our seniors feel about current situation. Integrate surveys into reports. Idea to reach out to Community and Social Services ministry for potential synergies or building repurposing. MLA Aheer expressed need to know value of land and how much municipalities are contributing and or donating.

January 15 Council Meeting with MLA Aheer

We discussed current issues in Wheatland County where MLA Aheer can possibly advocate for us, with the top priority being issues with the CMRB, the effect it has on economic development on MLA Aheer's constituency, and the return on investment for Wheatland County ratepayers. We also discussed increased issues with shifting with Wheatland EMS, dispatch concerns, rural crime in Wheatland County, particularly in the Carseland area recently (MLA Aheer has been invited to a Town Hall meeting focused on the crime issue), and the Bow River Access Plan, document can be accessed here:

<https://talkaep.alberta.ca/3705/documents/13920>

January 15 Meeting with MLA Aheer, Alberta Environment, and compost company

Discussed issues with composting and potential solutions.

January 16 Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) Joint Committee Meeting

Regional Employment Analysis: Skewed numbers being projected for a number of municipalities and many expressed concerns. Approval deferred, will come back to Committee with more accurate employment numbers. Calgary indicated their numbers were out by approximately 50, 000. Page 16 showed our job numbers were 1594 in the CMR, we don't do analysis of this due to capacity, but this is surely a significant error.

Status of Growth and Servicing Plan (HDR Calthorpe): The plan is at a “number crunching stage” developing a base-line scenario to bring back to Committee and the Board a data set.

Public Engagement Plan Update was approved, some Open Houses will continue, however there will be “pop up style” interactive engagement sessions. This was a request from the Committee in late 2019. The intent is to make use of the Communications and Engagement TAG (next item). Concerns related to how the consultant will engage in rural areas were expressed.

Communications and Engagement Terms of Reference for TAG: Consultant is suggesting that municipal member staff (planning) participate in the TAG. There is an additional cost associated.

External TAG Membership – Composition of external partners for input into the Growth Plan. Recommended 10 are:

Government of Alberta (GOA) – Environment and Parks

GOA- Municipal Affairs

GOA- Alberta Transportation

Bow River Basin Control

Building Industry Land Development (BILD)

Calgary Real Estate Board

Calgary Regional Airshed Zone (this was an addition)

Miistakis Institute

National Association for Industrial and Office Parks, Calgary Chapter ** The Calgary Chapter of NAIOP is an association of professionals involved with industrial, office, retail and mixed-use commercial real estate in Calgary and the surrounding communities

Western Irrigation District (suggested to add).

The Committee was concerned about the wording and composition on the group.

CMRB Messaging Platform will come back to Committee for further consideration. Again.

January 18 WFCSS Year End Celebration

Lovely evening at our Wheatland FCSS Year End Celebration. It was inspiring to celebrate Marty Kooistra’s 30 years of dedicated service to our Home Support program.

January 20 Municipal Planning Commission

Two Development Permits were approved, including one for an Industrial, Medium, Hydro-Vac Transfer Pad.

January 20 Wheatland Regional Partnership Meeting

Our scheduled presenters were unavailable. Further discussion regarding Canadian Badlands Tourism. Community updates from each municipality, with one key message emerging regarding the importance of preserving our history. We don’t think about it, but we’re making history now too.

January 21 Potential Industrial Development Meeting

Meeting to discuss a potential development and what Wheatland has to offer.

January 21 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

Did you know Alberta is the only place to have Agricultural Service Boards? The Agricultural Service Board Grant (ASB) Program promotes long-term sustainability of the agriculture industry and rural communities and the development and delivery of environmental extension programming. ASBs are responsible for implementing and enforcing legislative requirements under the Agricultural Service Board Act, the Weed Control Act (WCA), the Agricultural Pests Act (APA), the Soil Conservation Act (SCA) and assist with the control of animal disease under the Animal Health Act (AHA). This year's ASB Conference Theme was Agriculture, Innovation, and Pioneers and was a celebration of the 75th Anniversary of ASBs, quite a milestone!

The Provincial ASB has a new website:

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/>

As well the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen have a great website at:

<https://aaaf.ab.ca/>

An informative fact sheet about ASBs:

<https://provincialagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/asb-factsheet-24sep18-1.pdf>

Welcoming remarks from Councillor Poole from the Town of Banff, who indicated he anticipates we'll likely be facing issues such as gene editing, automation, and climate change and encouraged us to bring the heart of the land to our deliberations.

Honourable John Barlow, MP for Foothills and Shadow Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, spoke of the dash in Agri-Food as a symbol of reconnecting Canadians to their food. He shared that 50% of our commodities are exported and are trusted globally, need to work on Canadian customers, room for everything (beef, peas, pulses, organics), need to champion ag industry here, also acknowledged mental health issues in agriculture. Reference the Barton Report.

Corey Beck, Provincial ASB Chair, brought greetings and recognized the work of ASBs across Alberta.

MLA for Banff-Kananaskis, Miranda Rosin, brought greetings from the province.

Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen President, Sebastien Dutrisac, spoke of the dash between 1945-2020 as the 75 years of hard work ASBs have been doing in Alberta, through adversities and challenges, the boards have discovered solutions together and accomplished the seemingly impossible.

RMA President, Al Kemmere, brought greetings and an update regarding ag plastic recycling. He also pointed out there is an ASB in every rural municipality in Alberta, with 85% of the Alberta land base or 50 million acres under ASB jurisdiction.

January 22 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

Presentation on the history of our Agricultural Service Boards (ASB) by Brent Hoyland.

As farming operations expanded in Alberta during the period from the 1920's to the 1940's, two significant production problems emerged. One was the introduction and spread of new weeds, and the other, wind drifting and water erosion of good agricultural land. Municipal governments became concerned; heavily infested or eroded land was unproductive and being abandoned, the taxes unpaid. Some municipalities met with the Department of Agriculture in a series of meetings in 1942, seeking ways and means of best coping with the situation. Both parties recognized and agreed that effective weed control and soil conservation measures could best be carried out by local governments because they were the closest to the problem. In 1943, through the efforts of Dr. O. S Longman, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Arthur M. Wilson, Field Crops Commissioner and President of the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts, two municipalities - the M. D. of Red Deer and the M. D. of Conrich at Calgary - volunteered to set up special agricultural committees in an effort to find more effective ways of coping with the weed and soil problems. The committee concept proved to be far superior to anything that had been tried before. It created genuine interest among all municipalities. In 1944, the idea of committees or boards at a municipal level to provide service in the area of weed control particularly, through preventive means, was initiated by a resolution at the Municipal District Convention. The concept became the forerunner of the present Agricultural Service Board Act. The Agricultural Service Board Act was formulated and passed by the Provincial Legislature to become law in February, 1945. It was meant "to provide for extension of agricultural services in association with municipal authorities. "It provided for a cooperative and coordinated effort between the Department of Agriculture and Municipal or Improvement Districts in developing agricultural policies and programs which were deemed to be of mutual interest and concern. This legislation is unique in Canada in that it provides for supervision and reclamation of debilitated land due to weed infestations, soil erosion (water and wind) or other causes.

Wheatland County's ASB was formed February 22, 1946.

It's not a coincidence Alberta is rat free. We're also the only place to have Agricultural Service Boards. We can't underestimate the significant work that has been done by these boards and our critical Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen.

Everything is About to Change by Doug Griffiths – he previously wrote Rural Development Strategy report, he believes building communities is single most important work, outlined history from hunter/gatherers for 30,000 years, to the invention of the steam engine and Industrial Revolution to our current technology age. He predicts in 8 years 35% of vehicles will be autonomous, in 15 years, 85%. Gave example of northern Alberta oil sands mine using 1 autonomous truck for hauling sand and results were accident free and less expensive, soon converted all trucks. Spoke of importance of housing, jobs, aesthetic downtowns, and even access to childcare to economic development. Diverse boards make better decisions, "smartest" people is based on limited definition of smart (50 year old white males with MBAs). Referenced Institute of Corporate Directors as a resource. Stated ag is changing, values change, ideas and solutions are more important than titles, pointed to brewhouses, coffee shops, yoga, and local food. Projects are more important to younger generations than organizations. He stated you won't change consumer mindset so places like A&W are matching it, you can be mad and have honour and dignity, but no farm. Communities of the future will be walkable and beautiful. People work more on screens in isolation so in downtime people want to leave work and engage with people, whereas previously more work was done around people and we wanted to cocoon in downtime. Neighbourhoods and educations are moving online. Need to be relevant. Instagram.

We heard from a couple of cutting edge innovators in agriculture.

Cory Beaujot, Manager of Business Development with Seedmaster Manufacturing Inc. and DOT Technology Corp. presented on their family's automation technology.

In 2014, Norbert Beaujot started thinking about building an autonomous seeder and realized that if a powered platform could be adapted to facilitate other implements, it would have more value for farmers. Skilled farm labour is becoming harder to find every year, the capital cost of new equipment is extremely high, and used equipment depreciates quickly. Standardized autonomous power units are the ideal solution—they reduce labour costs and are less costly to purchase.

Equipment design is simplified by using more of, but smaller implements without the limitation of skilled labour. This, combined with the standardization of power platforms, provides significant capital cost advantages per acre while lowering the risk of equipment depreciating.

Imagine spending more time out of the cab, knowing that tasks are still being accomplished with absolute precision.

Imagine...

- Saving more than 20% on farm fuel, labour and equipment capital costs.
- Reducing your CO2 emissions by 20%.
- Gaining more than 20% on your equipment's future trade-in value.
- Easily and economically rescaling your equipment to your future farm size. (Small and large farms becoming more efficient and profitable.)
- Reducing overlap while improving turning and filling efficiencies.
- Simplified secure, cloud-based data storage.
- Stocking only one type of oil filter for all your farms power units.

The Dot Power Platform is a mobile diesel-powered platform designed to handle a large variety of implements commonly used in agriculture, mining and construction. Its U-shaped frame facilitates the direct loading of implements, so that, once loaded, the implement “becomes one” with the mobile powered platform. Dot's short- and long-range sensors make the power platform more accurate and attentive than any human. Dot constantly updates itself with images of the physical world around itself and processes the data at lightning speed. Capable of making decisions, Dot will send alerts to the farmer if it is unsure how to proceed. The farmer begins by using a computer program to generate a path plan for each field. From the approach, around the headlands, avoiding sloughs, power poles and other obstacles, the path plan covers every foot of on-field movement to sub-inch accuracy. Once the boundary and obstacle information is loaded, the path plan only takes about 15 seconds to be developed on our software. There are several ways to download precise boundaries and obstructions. The path plan must be farmer approved and can be altered at any time to satisfy changing field conditions.

<http://seedotrun.com/>

We also heard from Jonathan Gill with Hands Free Farm who shared how they “ripped the brains out of a drone and put them in a tractor”. “We just flipping did it.” he shared. Gill is a qualified robotic engineer specializing in mechatronic systems. Now working at Harper Adams University as a

researcher his main focus is aerial drone systems and their role within agriculture. Operation, design, and programming, not limited to aerial inspection, his focus has been directed to precise spraying operations with large drone systems. The 'Hands Free Hectare' which has been the boldest attempted fusing automation, agronomy and agriculture together operating drones and drone technology to achieve a world's first in 2017, from the projects 3 year success the land to plant and tend has grown from 1 Ha to 35 Ha, the first 'Hands Free Farm' started in 2019 this 3 year project is at the heart of his research. He is also a 2018 Nuffield Scholar with his report focusing on 'How we embrace Automation in agriculture'.

Automated machines growing the first arable crop remotely, without operators in the driving seats or agronomists on the ground. The Hands Free Hectare team has successfully harvested their second crop using their autonomous combine harvester and achieved unloading on the move for the first time with their ISEKI tractor. The world-first project, run by Harper Adams University and Precision Decisions, returned in November of last year after receiving funding from the AHDB to grow a crop of winter wheat, with the aim to improve the machinery's accuracy and so improve field coverage, ultimately leading to a more competitive yield.

Alongside harvest, the team invited Caroline Dawson from local catering company Fodder in the Field to cook fresh pizzas at the side of the hectare, using 'hands free' wheat from the field itself. "It was brilliant to have Caroline with us, milling the flour on site and making fresh pizzas throughout the day. It really demonstrated the field-to-fork food chain in operation; you can't beat eating a fresh pizza, while watching our autonomous combine continuing to harvest the crop in the hectare." Gill also brought a bottle of the world's first Hands Free Gin to auction at the conference.

<https://www.handsfree.farm/>

Review of the Report Card on the ASB Resolutions 2019.

<https://provincialagriculturalserviceboardcommittee.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/2019-report-card-on-the-resolutions-final-2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1EkvNPiLDMHCDEuPXbd5bGy6VgVdOaKDsTOq7YefFYi1Mn95sOnjH8C4M>

Nick Saik, CEO of Know Ideas Media, presented Social Media for Farmers, which was so much more than I was expecting. He led with Farming Has A PR Problem. There are 2 approaches to communicating with public; Fight the battle or Engage. Can fight the battle with good tactics, but if all you do is react you won't deescalate the war. Engaging, in real life, is always better. In digital life we can support (retweeting, provide input to influencers). Farms have agronomy, marketing, and equipment strategies, they need engagement strategies too. It's not about converting your opponent, it's about the message you're sending. More emotional, fair minded, have a better argument. He emphasized analogies over analytics. Stories over facts. Because facts don't change minds. He also reminded us to practice charity every time. Always be more kind. Unflappably kind (which I love and aspire to). He taught about repositioning tactics, where marketers send messages about other products through statements like Maple Leaf's "We're for real" campaign, which implies everyone else is fake, A&W's marketing, and Organic Alberta. He spoke of Government of Alberta's issues with regulations, trade barriers, and public trust. He shared the following video to remind us of the importance of critical thinking:

<https://youtu.be/TijcoS8qHIE>

For a really great laugh and a brilliant way to draw attention to the importance of labelling and agriculture definitions, check out Nick's video Nut Milking Exposed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJCTIPWPntw>

January 23 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

Animals We Eat: Essential on the Farm and the Plate by Nicolette Hahn Niman, a writer, attorney, and livestock rancher. She authored the books *Defending Beef: The Case for Sustainable Meat Production* (2014) and *Righteous Porkchop: Finding a Life and Good Food Beyond Factory Farms* (2009), as well as numerous essays. Niman spoke of need for domestic grazers (cattle) to act as a proxy for the previous large herds of grazers that have existed from prehistoric times. Further that ranching is likely a net positive operation in terms of environmental impact by being carbon negative and holding more water while also improving water quality.

Prairie Proud – It's Time To Get Loud and Proud About Alberta's Best

Graham Sherman is a self-professed "high level geek" who has used his love of technology to help him master the craft of brewing artisan beer. Together with his partner, Graham launched the Tool Shed Brewery four years ago, and has never looked back. Speaking on what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur, Graham's passion comes through in every talk. Prior to starting Tool Shed, Graham and his Tool Shed partner worked on contracts for the Canadian and US governments and military forces, installing encrypted, tactical communication networks. By day, they rolled around Afghanistan in armoured vehicles, "geeking out" in the world of satellite communications. By night, they aimed their obsessive, high-level thinking at mastering everyday tasks such as coffee, learning to control their homes in Canada remotely with their iPhones, and finally, perfecting batches of beer. Now sold in over 1000 locations in Western Canada, Tool Shed has its 15,000 square foot headquarters in Calgary, and the team behind the brand has also been nominated as Canadian Entrepreneur of the year, the world's most prestigious business award for entrepreneurs, with programs in 145 cities in 60 countries. They were also named as two co-winners of the "40 Under 40" recognition from Avenue magazine. Graham spoke of bringing people together, his love of hosting and serving, the secret to life = spending your days making people happy. He stated 1/100 jobs are thanks to beer. It took a lot of advocacy, but AGLC finally, in 2013, removed minimum brew standards that stopped craft brewers from successfully starting. Number of breweries went from 12 to 150 in Alberta. He reiterated everything is about stories.

The beer economy in Canada contributed \$13.6 billion to Canada's GDP in 2016. Economic return on craft beer is significant and with Alberta barley being the best in the world it's been a booming business here. For craft beer in Wheatland County visit Origin Malting and Brewing Co. in Strathmore. For more information on craft beer visit:

<http://alberta.beer/>

David Farran's passion for Eau Claire Distillery began with a sincere belief that Alberta's world class agricultural bounty should be the home to a strong distilling industry. When we ship our grain worldwide for spirits production, it seemed extraordinary that Alberta didn't have a craft distillery producing local, handcrafted spirits. Combined with deep historical roots in Alberta farming and ranching, David's hobby of farming with draft horses seemed to be a perfect combination – thus Eau Claire was born with an immediate pedigree – a true farm-to-glass, certified farm distillery, where grain was produced using 100 year old horse farming methods – a first in North America.

A strong takeaway message was a plea from David for government to listen to businesspeople and to adapt to change, if we can't help at the very least get out of the way of economic diversification. Graham and David received a standing ovation for their talk. It was interesting that we went from the future of farming automation yesterday to horse drawn ploughing today, there's room for both and both are intriguing stories.

Farming for the Future by Emmett Sawyer. We need to listen to our youth, they're the future of Alberta ag. Emmett grew up on his family's grain and cattle farm west of Acme, Alta. Emmett is

currently in his second year at the University of Lethbridge taking Agricultural Enterprise Management. Emmett is extremely passionate about the agriculture industry and considers himself to be an “Advocate”. He loves to speak about agriculture and is a 4-H Alberta provincial public speaking champion as well as the Canadian Young Speakers for agriculture national public speaking champion. Emmett first got his start as an agriculture advocate by being apart of Ag More Than Evers media campaign titled “Be Somebody” where he was selected to be the face of youth in agriculture across Canada. Emmett is a proud 4-H Alumni as well as a L.E.A.D scholar. He is also a past delegate at the Youth Agriculture Summit that was held in Brazil this past November.

Emmett’s most recent adventure has been creating a podcast called “Ag Thoughts With Emmett” where he shares his thoughts and opinions on different agriculture issues. Emmett loves any opportunity to talk about all things related to agriculture from his personal perspective growing up on his family farm in the hopes he can be part of the conversation dispelling the myths running rampant through social media.

Kevin Hursh shared his predictions for the next decade of ag. From continued climate change panic (good reason to decrease emissions, but gotten to hysteria), increased value added, more black swan events and trade disruptions, increased interest rates, carbon tax keeping us from being competitive, to will glyphosate still be used? Escalating equipment and repair costs are a huge factor. Grain storage needs to be considered. Watch input costs through the year. Intercropping considerations. As an agrologist, journalist and farmer, Kevin Hursh is one of the best-known agricultural commentators in the country. Kevin and his wife Marlene run Hursh Consulting & Communications based in Saskatoon. Kevin writes a weekly newspaper column for The Western Producer and contributes to many other farm publications. He also serves as executive director of the Saskatchewan Mustard Development Commission, the Canary Seed Development Commission of Saskatchewan and the Inland Terminal Association of Canada. Kevin and Marlene own and operate Hursh Farms Inc. near Cabri in southwestern Saskatchewan growing a wide array of crops.

Agricultural Services Board Awards

January 24 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference

David Burdek, Assistant Deputy Minister of Alberta Agriculture & Forestry brought an update from the ministry. He highlighted the significance of the ag industry, both in employment and as an economic driver. He pointed to how central the pest control work of our Ag field men is to successful market access. He took questions about water act license delays, carbon tax advocacy, protecting our products from mislabeling, ag layoffs and the resulting research void, importance of local food, inclusion of ag in Alberta curriculum, grazing lease red tape, and where is the Minister?

AFSC provided information on how the unprecedented unharvested acres will be assessed. \$150 million has been paid in crop losses, with an additional \$300 million from hail. Also spoke to AgriStability benefits.

Anne Wasko, analyst, brought a cattle market update and outlook.

Record value of beef exports, all time projected high of \$4.5 billion. Smallest beef cow herd in 30 years. Largest Alberta cattle slaughter (federally inspected) since 2004.

Touched on significance of African Swine Fever, estimate 1/3 of global swineherd lost.

Demand - Canadian GDP is up, even with larger production demand remained strong, demand for AAA or higher (Choice) was strong leading to record premiums, beef exports up 12% and value up

20% in 2019. Imports continue to drop.

Cattle Price Outlook - starting similar to last year, futures are solid, but market will show us, cattle feeders lost leverage in 2019, but already significant improvement in 2020, barley prices stabilizing, cow prices gained strength in December, expect that to continue.

Risks include disease, trade, economic, and weather.

Strategy - Use price volatility and seasonality to your advantage when planning risk management, maximize market value.

Cow calf margins may be thinner, calf prices flat, but inputs are higher, consider input management.

Resolutions

Agricultural Service Boards are advisors to the Minister of Agriculture, the main way they fulfill this mandate is through resolution.

<https://agriculturalserviceboards.com/2020-resolutions-unapproved/>

- 94% Alberta Agriculture Website – Ropin’ The Web
- 86% Weed and Pest Surveillance and Monitoring Technology Grant
- 90% Clubroot Pathotype Testing
- 65% Education Campaign for the Cleanliness of Equipment for Industry Sectors
- 61% AFSC Clubroot
- 72% Beehive Depredation
- 73% Agricultural Related Lease Dispositions
- 80% Emergency Livestock Removal
- 90% Mandatory Agriculture Education in the Classroom
- 82% Reinstate a Shelterbelt Program
- 26% Compensation to Producers on Denied Land Access to Hunters *DEFEATED
- 84% Proposed Amendments to Part IV of the Federal Health of Animals Regulations
- 89% Canadian Product and Canadian Made

Emergent Resolutions

- 80% Review of Business Risk Management Programs
- 80% Initiate Agri-recovery Framework
- 89% Agri-invest and Agri-stability Changes

Visited booths at the tradeshow and chatted with several exhibitors, including AgSafe, cleanfarms, Government of Alberta Working Well program, Cows and Fish, Ducks Unlimited, and Farm Safety Centre.

January 23 Conference Call with RMA to update on Growth Management Board Resolution

RMA updated on action to date, they have sent a letter to the Minister and requested a meeting, meeting scheduled in a couple weeks, will update after that meeting. Province typically responds to Resolutions shortly before next conference, which would be near beginning of March, but responses are always provided. It’s been acknowledged there are differences between the boards. A need was identified to articulate issues more clearly, with no ambiguity, and to be coordinated. Only Minister can fix the Regulation. Updates from both northern region and southern region. Next steps were discussed.

January 25 Marigold Library Board Meeting

Financial statements were approved. Operating and Capital Budgets were approved, there's been a focus on finding efficiencies. Service population increased by 1%. Headquarters build update. Staff and Board Trustee Satisfaction survey review, 2019 Achievements, and updates.

January 27 Meeting with Western Irrigation District

Discussion of mutual concerns, solutions, opportunities and potential synergies.

January 28 Wheatland Family and Community Support Services

Funding agreement, photocopier, Reports from FCSSAA conference and AGM, 2020 Budget, Policy Update, Financials, Caregivers and 5 For Life.

January 29 Standard Intermunicipal Development Plan Open House

Representatives from Wheatland and the Village of Standard answered questions and shared information on the purpose of an IDP, which is to minimize land use and development conflicts, provide opportunities for collaboration and communication, and allow for the resolution of any conflicts that may arise.

Recent changes to the Municipal Government Act have mandated that municipalities sharing a common boundary must develop an Intermunicipal Development Plan in order to foster a collaborative planning approach for these lands. These plans must be in place by April 1, 2020. Intermunicipal Development Plans must promote consultation and cooperation between the participating municipalities regarding planning matters of joint interest within a defined planning area. They also provide a framework for processing development proposals, subdivision applications or concerns within this defined area.

January 31 CMRB Workshop 2

The purpose of Workshop #2 is to begin the process of exploring alternative growth scenarios for the Calgary Metropolitan Region. The input received at the workshop will be used to help guide the HDR|Calthorpe team in establishing alternative scenarios that can be evaluated using our analytical tools and compared with the Business-as-Usual (BAU) scenario.

Signature: Amber Link