



RM of Lac du Bonnet Agriculture Community Meeting Minutes July 23, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Location: R.M. of Lac du Bonnet Council Chambers

Attendance:

Reeve Schinkel(Chair)	Deanne Duke, DCAO
Deputy Reeve Mandzuk	Ron Buller, Operations Manager
Councillor Kellendonk	Declan Schroeder, Communications
Councillor Easton	Stefany Lowe, Project Manager
Councillor Enns-Preston	

Special Guests:

John Fleming, Emergency Management Coordinator
Danica Racicot, Northeast Red Watershed District
Starr Harder, Northeast Red Watershed District

Agricultural Community Attendees:

Orest Kaminski, Graham F. Walker, Jenneth Johnson, Tracy Neurenberg, Blake Neurenberg, Kelsey Ellis Rupert Therrien

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Reeve Schinkel called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Reeve Schinkel welcomed the attendees and gave brief opening remarks.

2. Northeast Red Watershed District presentation: Danica Racicot and Starr Harder

Danica and Starr of the NERWD gave a presentation about the watershed district and its programming. The NERWD offers cost-sharing agreements and/or funding to applicants for the following programs:

- Prairie Watershed Climate Program
 - Rotational Grazing Plan
 - Nitrogen Management
 - Cover Cropping
- Water retention: small dams
- Livestock stream crossings

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- Riparian area fencing
- Alternative watering systems
- Wetlands restoration
- Abandoned well sealing
- Shelterbelts
- Rain gardens
- The NERWD is working to hire a program coordinator to work with the ag community.
- Deputy Reeve Mandzuk noted that the partnership between the RM and the NERWD is in its infancy and that the RM is exploring ways to communicate with the ag community about NERWD programming.
 - Without the RM’s membership, there is no way for the community to access the NERWD programs or funding, he noted.
 - He noted that the RM pays a fee to be a member and encouraged attendees to apply for NERWD programs to make the RM’s membership worthwhile.
- Councillor Kellendonk asked the producers in attendance what the best ways for the RM to communicate about the NERWD would be.

3. “Share the road” billboard imagery:

Stefany Lowe distributed imagery of some proposed imagery/messaging regarding “share the roads/ag highway safety” billboards. She requested the producers to provide feedback on the imagery and requested anyone willing to have the RM take photos of their farm equipment to reach out.

Declan Schroeder provided a brief update on the RM’s social media/website communications regarding road safety around agricultural equipment.

Suggestion: Ask the *Clipper* to do an awareness piece since harvest time is coming up.

4. Land use/zoning:

Reeve Schinkel encouraged attendees to provide their thoughts at any time regarding the Land Use Policy/Zoning By-Law revamps underway.

5. Open discussion:

Reeve Schinkel opened the floor to the attendees to voice concerns about any topic and the following were discussed:

- Ditch grass mowing
- Grading schedule/road maintenance quality

Reeve Schinkel noted attendee concerns about road quality and highlighted the RM's efforts to address rough roads and educate operators.

Deputy Reeve Mandzuk noted the RM is working with operators to become more consistent with road maintenance procedures.

Reeve Schinkel noted that roads built a long time ago were not built to handle the amount of traffic they receive today, and that the province plays a role when it comes to road restrictions.

He noted that some roads were "destroyed" this year due to moisture and that moisture has delayed dust-control and road maintenance programs. He highlighted that he, Deputy Reeve Mandzuk, and Ron Buller recently attended a road reconstruction seminar on a new process having success in Europe.

Drainage:

Reeve Schinkel noted that there is still a moratorium on major drainage projects.

Deputy Reeve Mandzuk noted that maintenance on provincial drains is lacking/nonexistent and as a result, water backs up into fields.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.