

Meeting Minutes of the  
Agricultural Service Board – Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9  
March 4, 2026

Present: Vice Chair Mark Zoratti, Councillors Tony Bruder and Jim Welsch, and Martin Puch and Stuart Lewis.

Also Present: CAO Roland Milligan, Agricultural Fieldman Shane Poulsen, Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Absent: Chair Anna Welsch

Vice Chair Mark Zoratti opened the meeting at 1:30 pm.

A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Councillor Jim Welsch 26/009

Moved that the agenda for March 4, 2026, be amended to include:

- Introduction of new member at large - Stuart Lewis
- New Business: Support for Enhanced AIS Prevention Efforts

AND THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

C. MINUTES

Martin Puch 26/010

Moved that the minutes of January 14, 2026, be approved as presented.

Carried

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) New Regulations on CFIA
- Ag Fieldman reached out to a representative from the CFIA regarding potential changes. The board suggested that the representative attend a future ASB or Council meeting to update the community.

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Agricultural and Environmental Service Board Strategic and Operational Plan 2025-2029
- Still in draft
  - Ag Fieldman plans to have the document back for approval this Summer
- b) Wildlife Predation Identification Training
- ASB Member will bring information
- c) Policy C-AES-001 License of Occupation
- Being Moved into Traffic Bylaw

- Still in Review at Council Level
- d) MD Deadstock Bin Update
  - 3 bins being delivered this week to Divisions 1, 4 and 5 (Division 5- Wolbert/Division 1-Vance/Division 4 - Burles)
  - Division 3 still needs a location for a bin
  - Multiple other locations were discussed, including the airport, and gravel pits
  - Signage installed? Unclear
  - Social media request for hosts – continue to post for Division 3
- e) Dams Discussion
  - The board would like to see a meeting scheduled for all dam users downstream from the four dams, with an open discussion on how the water should be managed.
    - No meeting scheduled to date
    - Board requested to start with the Foothills dam users

F. 2026 AES DEPARTMENT REPORT

Councillor Jim Welsch 26/011

Moved to accept for information the departmental reports from the Agricultural Fieldman for February 2026.

Carried

G. WEED NOTICE

Councillor Tony Bruder attended the meeting at 2:18 pm.

AES Fieldman stated new AES Assistant Fieldman will be in charge of weed notices. None were issued for last season.

H. CORRESPONDENCE

1. For Action

2. For Information

Stuart Lewis 26/012

Moved that the following be received as information:

- a) The Do More Agricultural Foundation
  - February eNews
- b) AB Farm Fresh Producers Association
  - January eNews

Carried

- c) Concerns over the closure of the Lacombe Research and Development Centre
  - Letter from Lacombe County

Councillor Tony Bruder 26/013

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board send a letter to Alberta Ag, regarding concerns over the lack of funding and closures of research and development centres,

AND THAT the draft letter be sent to the board for review prior to the letter being sent,

AND FINALLY, copies of the letter be sent to Member of Parliament John Barlow and Member of the Legislative Assembly, Chelsae Petrovic.

Carried

I. NEW BUSINESS

a) Policy review

Councillor Tony Bruder 26/014

Moved to table policy review to next meeting, pending the Provincial Regulation changes:

- 1) C-AES-001 License of Occupation  
- In legal review at Council level
- 2) C-AES-002 Landowners to Assume Responsibility for Weed Control on Municipal Right-of-Ways Adjacent to their Property
- 3) C-AES-003 Weed Free Gravel/Aggregate
- 4) C-AES-004 Weed Control
- 5) C-AES-004B Eradicable Weed Control
- 6) C-AES-005 Weed Control Act and Agricultural Pest Act Appeal Committee
- 7) C-AES-006 Agricultural Pests
- 8) C-AES-007 Soil Conservation Act Appeal Committee
- 9) C-AES-605 Livestock Industry
- 10) C-FIN-529 Fees and Charges (Agriculture and Environmental Services Section)

Carried

b) Terms of Reference – last updated November 2024

Martin Puch 26/015

Moved to table the Terms of Reference to next meeting pending the Provincial Regulation changes.

Carried

c) AES Equipment Discussion

- 1) Loading Chute Disrepair

- Discussion on partnering with adjacent municipalities to purchase new equipment
  - Safety requirements were discussed, and lights, reflective strips and/or slow vehicle signs are a requirement as it is MD owned equipment
- 2) Potential Purchase of Waterline Pumping Equipment
- Cost of purchasing waterline equipment would be a minimum of \$30k
  - MD has pipe for rent, but not a pump
- 3) Possibility of adding a rock picker to the rental fleet

Stuart Lewis 26/016

Moved that the ASB request that Council add to the 2027 budget the cost of replacing the loading chute.

Carried

d) Support for Enhanced AIS Prevention Efforts

Martin Puch 26/017

Moved that the Agricultural Service Board send a letter to the Association of Alberta Agricultural Fieldmen in support of enhanced AIS prevention efforts for all ports of entry into Alberta,

AND THAT this letter be sent to Honourable Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta, Honourable R.J. Sigurdson, Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, John Barlow Member of Parliament and Chelsae Petrovic Member of the Legislative Assembly as well as the Alberta Irrigation Districts Association, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Carried

J. CLOSED SESSION


K. NEXT MEETING – May 6, 2026 at 1:30 pm


L. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Jim Welsch 26/018

Moved to adjourn the meeting, the time being 3:09 pm.

Carried

  
ASB Chairperson

  
ASB Secretary