



## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF GREENVIEW No. 16

# Manager's Report

Department: Agricultural Services

Submitted by: Sheila Kaus

Date: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

---

### Environment- Goal 3; Create a balance between development and natural resources

Administration is happy to report on the successful recruitment of all seasonal staff positions, as well as the Agricultural Services Supervisor position. Preparations for the upcoming control season are nearing completion and early communications for active pest notices and weed infestations or elevated concern have been completed. All landowners and managers with land under pest notice have been contacted via phone call and then mailed letters as follow-up. Landowners with weed infestations approaching notice have been contacted ahead of field activities in hopes of control efforts being completed in tandem with spring field activities. In addition, documented weed infestations have been shared with industrial companies to be included in their vegetation control efforts through the summer.

The Provincial Weed Review Committee met three times in March and April, with the final meeting taking place with an invited stakeholder meeting to communicate the committee's recommendations to the Minister on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting included discussion on invasive plants submitted through the survey in 2024 within the open answer portion. Each open answer comment received from the survey, totaling 185 comments, was assessed to determine if all concerns had been addressed by the committee or if it was outside the intended mandate. Some of the comments related to the legislation itself with these being noted and recorded for administrative updates as well as for potential application should the Act be open for review in the future. The committee made firm recommendations to the minister that a review on the regulations regulated species should be done no more than once every five years, with the ministry staff committing that as a minimum with the potential for an annual check-in with municipal field staff. The recommendations will now be forwarded to the minister, and it is expected that the final decisions will be announced in 2026.

On Thursday, Alberta Agriculture updated all municipal Agricultural Services staff on the current status of 1080. The product will not be redispersed until late May for 2025. Additionally, in 2026, any producer wishing to access the product will have to complete a Farmers Pesticide Certificate that is to be facilitated by municipal staff that hold their "Train-the-Trainer" designation. Administration will bring this to the ASB on April 30th for discussion

Administration, working with the Town of Valleyview, has secured permission to apply herbicide on two lots adjacent to the Greenview Agricultural Services yard. These two lots have significant scentless chamomile

infestations and while the town has been picking, there is still the potential for spread. Administration will use the one site to train seasonal staff on applying bareground products while the other will be used to train staff on the use of residual herbicides. The town will not be charged for this service as it is a mutually beneficial arrangement.

To allow seasonal staff more experience with weeds common in Greenvew, Administration has begun a gardening project to have weed seedlings available to staff, in-house. Working with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, seeds were procured for Burdock, Tall Buttercup, Scentless Chamomile, Common Tansy, White Cockle, Toadflax, and Himalayan Balsam. The seed was tightly controlled, and the seedlings are currently growing in the staff room of the Agricultural Building, though Administration admits to being more talented at controlling weeds compared to growing them. This will be a valuable resource for the seasonal staff this year and in years to come. Wild Caraway seeds and other species will be collected in 2025 to allow the department to provide this training resource annually.

Administration is nearing completion of a public-facing weed complaint application. The application is built to collect the complaint, have the department investigate, and report back to the complainant through the application. Prior to launching publicly, Administration is testing to ensure that no private data can be accessed through the link. Providing the application passes all security tests, it is anticipated to be available to the public prior to the beginning of June.

In partnership with Fire and Rescue Services, an awareness campaign geared towards implementation of FireSmart principles in agricultural landscapes was launched. There will be new posts weekly and the Wildfire Workbook has been added to the website for residents to access.

The Shelterbelt Program has been enjoying another successful year, with almost 80% of seedlings having been sold at this time.

### **Problem Wildlife Work Orders**

File Status	Beaver- MD	Beaver- Ratepayer	Customer Service	Predation	Totals
In Queue	-	-	-	-	
Open	9	3	3	5	20
Closed	0	0	2	3	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>25</b>

The problem wildlife staff are well into beaver control season with 25 problem beaver having been removed already. Multiple requests for assistance with skunks have also kept the team busy.

### **VSI Quarterly Reports and Service Breakdown – 2023**

Veterinary Services Incorporated (VSI) encourages livestock producers to access veterinary care and maintain herd health, protecting the economic viability of their livestock operation. The totals for 2024 were received and saw a 2.3% increase over 2023. The requisition for 2025 totals \$138,000 has been paid for the year. First quarter totals are expected in late April.

The Agricultural Equipment Rental Program contributes to the economic viability of agricultural producers by providing equipment for rent that is cost-prohibitive to purchase when measured against the frequency of use. Rental Equipment stands at 109.5 rental days up to April 24<sup>th</sup>, without rental days from satellite locations.

The manure spreader required a new set of tires which presented a challenge for the rental coordinator as the tires that were on the implement could not be sourced. This was overcome with a different tire option which will ease replacement in the future.

The grain vac had been returned caked with rotten grain and mud, leading to the implement being down for several days. Administration informed the renter that the cleaning required would be costly, and as all costs would be his responsibility, he may want to return to clean the implement himself. The renter declined and said to bill him. The cleaning required 7 hours of the coordinators' time, as well as replacement of the drive belt. These costs will be invoiced to the renter.