

**April 3, 2023**

**RATEPAYER REPORT**

Council Members present: Morgan Leigh, Mark Govan, Jennifer Bushby, Doug Hardy, Helen Meekins, Robert Hutchison

Staff present: Acting Administrator, Diane Gilbertson & Lead—hand, Randy Mitchell

Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introduction of Council, Staff - Reeve Morgan Leigh

Introduction of Speakers for presentations:

1. WSA Senior Technologist, Laura Uhryn {& Karla Hayworth} 7:06pm – 7:35 pm
  - Drainage – new approach to responsible drainage, all works need approval, be proactive instead of reactive, WSA promotes working together, network approach looking at the big picture to consider where the water is coming from, risk analysis, suggest 1 application that includes all involved parties
  - QP's prepares project plan & application, QP's are experts who may include engineers or an individual who is accredited by WSA. Drainage application quite cumbersome so a QP can complete to make process easier & convenient at a cost to the applicant. The QP becomes the liaison between the applicant and WSA. There is a QP list available on the WSA website.
2. RCMP Corporal, Jeff Applegate 7:37pm – 7:58pm
  - Rural Crime & drug related crime
  - Encourage to sign up for Everbridge program, report crime, & use Crime Stoppers
  - Traffic Unit at RCMP station in Naicam
  - Crystal meth is the lead drug
  - RCMP challenges are retention of members
  - Rural Crime Watch pamphlets available
3. SARM Plant Health Technician 8:03pm – 8:23pm
  - Abides by the Weed Control Act (all weeds) & Pest Control Act (clubroot)
  - Clubroot is manageable. It is soil borne and is always brought in from somewhere and there is a lot of ways for it to spread (machines/equipment). It is recommended that equipment is cleaned and sanitized prior to moving from one area to another. Free test kits are available from Katey, SARM and/or at the RM offices during the summer season. It is important to monitor, detect and report. It can be managed by crop rotation (2yr). 10% of spores can last up to 20 years. Clubroot resistant varieties create resistance. One farmer who found clubroot turned it in to a "field day at the farm" to educate other farmers and industry reps which will increase awareness in the area. Just because clubroot is not found in the area does not mean it is not in the area.

Closing comment from Reeve Leigh:

- Budget approval will happen in April
- Apply for RIRG grant for Wensley Bridge 2024
- Lake Charron grid erosion
- Sale of NW-06-42-18-W2 – reserves to be determined
- Gravel – Savage Pit has gravel & RM will crush 10,000yds of gravel in May 2023. Looking at how to be more efficient. Trucking costs are high. Expand Savage Pit
- RM is interested in obtaining gravel and forms can be completed through the RM office.

Ratepayer thanked Council & grader operators for a good job this season!

Feedback for attendees – response was good and encouraged for ratepayers to let the RM office know if there is a presentation they would like to see at an annual meeting to let the RM office know.

Adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

