

Natural Resources Conservation Board

Sept 11, 2019

Attn: Mr. David Smejkal (david.smejkal@nrcb.ca)

RE: Response to the received letter:

“Notice of a Grandfathering Determination for Stant Enterprises Ltd. NW 18-40-4 w5m”

Mr. Smejkal,

Thank you for returning my phone call on Sept 05/19.

My response to this notice is in two parts: Affected Party and Directly Affected Party.

Effectuated Party. I cannot comment on the size, pens or number of livestock of the CFO in question back in 2002. I purchased the adjacent ¼ section (SW1/4 Sec 19-40-04w5m) in 2009. At that time, I was told that the feedlot was going to be shut down soon because of Mr. Taylors health and inability to manage it because of his health and manpower. It was a neighbor who told me this. A few years ago, he cleaned up a bunch of decayed pens and soils so at that point I thought it was done with. It appeared all the reclaimed soils/manure was processed and evenly windrowed as if it was going to be sold. It is currently grown over with grass and weeds.

Directly Affected Party. This so-called feedlot has never been managed properly, in my opinion, since I bought the adjacent ¼. Every year he puts his cattle to graze on the ¼ section directly west of mine. His normal practice for doing so is to open the gate on the hay field and then open the gates/pens at his property and just wait till all the cattle find their way there. The problem is though, the cattle like all the grass on my property better and its on the way for them. In the first few years they weren't on my property because the fence on my property kept them out. Once the cattle destroyed the fence, it has been a free for all every year. Needless to say, the cattle stay in there for periods of time until someone notices. I keep about 13 acres mowed and we enjoy it as a hobby ¼ at the moment where we camp and enjoy the outdoors. It is very disappointing when his cattle get in there and destroy everything, wreck structures, pound out all the ground and leave thousands of cow pies! They have even been in there through winter and spring. The spring is when they pound out all the ground as its soft then. We manually go around and pick up manure by shovel and wheelbarrow! Then harrow and harrow to try and reclaim it. Unfortunately, the manure has grain in it which results in it growing from the areas of droppings. We keep the grass as nice as our home so it's very discouraging. I know we spend more time managing our land than he does his so-called feedlot. As far as the animal count, I don't think I've ever seen more than a couple hundred head at best. I have a fishpond which they go to and drink. Another attraction for them. I hold a permit from fisheries for it because I do my due diligence and abide by the law!

I had a 10' x 20' car shelter on a wooden floor to store my mowing equipment in, until his cattle wrecked it by rubbing on it until it collapsed. My fifth wheel also had damage done, it was minimal but why should I have to pay for his bad management skills and practices? Every time his cattle are in there, I try to call but he won't answer and never offers to pay for damages. I had to deal through his wife because he wouldn't talk to me. Even then nothing was ever resolved. After my shelter was destroyed, I sent him copies of my legal right to pen his cattle on my property, get a permit from the Sherriff, truck them to market and sell them. Then from the money of the sale all parties paid, and he would receive what's left. Didn't even phase him. They were in there the next year. This year his wife said that if I'm calling about a cattle issue that I was to call Stan myself. Obviously, she is fed up with this whole thing and that's understandable. Stan never did answer or return my message.

I used to call when his cattle were wondering down the county road, but they said that was ok and that they would find their way? I called the one time when they were all over the road for a half mile and

were dragging electric fence wire that was wound around their legs and necks (hundreds of feet worth), she said thanks and they were left as they were??

I know he could never keep staff because he was so hard on everyone, unreasonable, bad decisions and they would quit. I am a personal friend with one such employee that worked there in his younger years.

I could go on and on, but I think that's sums up his management skills and responsibility.

So, I can assume what's going on here, in my opinion, and that's that he will sell the ¼ with a new CFO license and get good money at that. I know the ¼ North of me was his and is now sold. It finally has crops on it that look good and aren't 50% weeds. The problem with giving him a License and then he sells and retires is that he then gets rewarded for all his bad management and grief he's caused everyone! **That right there is not right!**


Upon granting this license, myself and all other residents would have to put up with the noise, smell, dust from cattle liners and silage trucks, damaged roads, etc.

It is my opinion for all of the above reasons that once he is done there with what he has going now, the operations should cease.

David, can you please answer the following:

1. Did Stant Ent Ltd./Hill Brook Feeders have a municipal Development permit originally? And if so, on what year was it issued?
2. CFO stands for Confined Feeding Operation as you know of course but does that not mean they have to stay confined?
3. Is conservation of land and water not taken into consideration when making a decision on something like this, as all his land drains into Berry Creek?
4. Whether the County permitted him or not, they have and still are allowing acreages to be built all around the ¼ in question. Are they to be involved in this also? The County told me I could build two houses on the property I bought, the year I bought it.
5. If a CFO license is granted, will the road be maintained, watered, Calcium Chloride sprayed etc. for damage and dust of these operations?
6. Will acreage owners be compensated for the devaluation of their properties when they sell, and they want to retire? Especially me who borders his property.

Disgruntled landowner,
Rob McPhee


SW ¼ Sec 19-40-04w5m

Mailing address:
37 Kee Close
Red Deer, AB
T4P 3M4