

Priorities Committee Meeting_Mar14_2017

REPORT FOR INFORMATION**2016 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report****Report Purpose**

To update the Priorities Committee on the activities of the Agricultural Service Board as required by the Boards and Committees Bylaw 46-2015.

Council History

July 19, 2016 – Council gave three readings to Bylaw 28-2016, to amend the Terms of Reference for the Agricultural Service Board contained in Bylaw 46-2015, the Strathcona County Boards and Committees Bylaw.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: n/a

Governance: Advisory Committee of Council

Social: n/a

Culture: n/a

Environment: n/a

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: *Agricultural Service Board Act*, Boards and Committee Bylaw, MGA sections 145 and 146

Interdepartmental: Legislative and Legal Services

Summary

The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is a Board of Council that considers all agricultural matters pertaining to Strathcona County, in accordance with the *Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act*, and makes recommendations to County Council. The specific mandate of the Board is as follows:

- To act as an advisory body and to assist the Council and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, in matters of mutual concern.
- To advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs.
- To assist in the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*, SA 2007, c A-40.2.
- To promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer.
- To promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.
- To promote the local food sector in Strathcona County.
- To be the appeal panel to determine appeals of inspectors' notices, local authority's notices and debt recovery notices, and perform the duties of an appeal panel set out in the *Weed Control Act*, SA 2008, c W-5.1.
- To be the committee to hear and determine appeals, and perform the duties of a committee set out in the *Agricultural Pests Act*, RSA 2000, c A-8.
- To be the appeal committee and to perform the duties of an appeal committee set out in the *Soil Conservation Act*, RSA 2000, c S-15. When the Agricultural Service Board is acting as an appeal committee pursuant to the *Soil Conservation Act*, RSA

2000, c S-15, the Councillors appointed to the Agricultural Service Board shall vote and shall have the same rights and entitlements as Members at Large.

Strathcona County's Agricultural Service Board consists of three Councillors and five public members.

Members of Council

Councillor Brian Botterill
Councillor Bonnie Riddell
Councillor Paul Smith

Public Members

Carol Maier - Chair
Paul Bodell – Vice Chair
Jacqueline Fenske
Laura Hammer – new member as of 2017
Arlen Smith

Ty Faechner – term expired December 2016

Activities of the Agricultural Service Board in 2016:

- Developed the Urban Agriculture Strategy.
- Supported completion of the Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility functional programming and conceptual design requirements for the functional plan.
- Worked with stakeholders to determine control measures of prohibited noxious weeds Japanese knotweed, and flowering rush.
- Worked with Alberta Environment and Parks to implement an Antlered Moose draw for the Strathcona County portion of the Wildlife Management Unit 248.
- Assisted with the Alberta Horse Conference planning.
- Facilitated changes to the Municipal Development Plan through the review process and recommendations from the Agriculture Master Plan.

Activities that the Agricultural Service Board will be focusing on in 2017:

- Determining Friends of Bremner House committee structure options and Terms of Reference.
- Continued implementation of Agriculture Master Plan in areas of Governance and Land Use Planning.
- Implementation of Urban Agriculture Strategy including:
 - Community Garden Policy and Programing
 - Exploration of a Chicken Pilot Program
 - Exploration of an Alternative Pet Bylaw
 - Continued support of School Garden Program
- Support completion of Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility site determination and design.
- Begin planning of 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour.
- Support Rural Community Hall Sustainability Plan.