

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jan30_2018

REPORT FOR INFORMATION**2017 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

March 14, 2017 - Council received the 2016 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report for information.

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 2018 Agricultural Service Board consists of three Councillors and five public members.

Members of Council

Councillor Linton Delainey
Councillor Glen Lawrence
Councillor Paul Smith
Councillor Robert Parks (Alternate)

Public Members

Carol Maier - Chair
Laura Hammer – Vice-Chair
Aubrie Henry
Keith Hull
Greg Knott

Activities of the Agricultural Service Board in 2017:

- Started the implementation of recommendations from the Urban Agriculture Strategy:
 - Community Garden Policy developed
 - Exploration of a Chicken Pilot Program
 - Administered and operated the School Garden Program.
- Supported completion of Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility site determination and design.
- Assisted with the planning of the 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour.
- Supported the completion of the Rural Community Hall Sustainability Plan.
- Facilitated changes to the Municipal Development Plan through the review process and recommendations from the Agriculture Master Plan.
- Hosted the 2017 Horse Industry Association of Alberta Conference.

Activities that the Agricultural Service Board will be focusing on in 2018:

- Provide direction on the design and programming of the Multi-Purpose Agriculture Facility.
- Continue with finalizing the Governance and Land Use Planning Strategies from the Agriculture Master Plan.
- Oversee the development of the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Strategy.
- Provide direction and assist with hosting the 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour on July 10 - 13, 2018.
- Increase awareness and monitoring of invasive species (plants and vertebrates).
- Assist with continued implementation of the Urban Agriculture Strategy:
 - Begin edible landscape policy and programming
 - Programming of community gardens
 - Extension of urban agriculture.