

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jan29_2019

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

2018 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.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

- Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents
- Goal 4 - Ensure effective stewardship of water, land, air and energy resources
- Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Report

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 consisted 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

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Keith Hull
Greg Knott

Activities of the Agricultural Service Board in 2018:

- Continued the implementation of recommendations from the Urban Agriculture Strategy:
 - Implementation of seven new community gardens
 - Children and Youth Community Centre
 - Summerton Park
 - Gilmore Park
 - Carson Park
 - Ottewell House
 - Ardrossan
 - Half Moon Lake
- Supported the completion of Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility site determination and conceptual design.
- Assisted with the planning and hosting of the 2018 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Summer Tour.
 - 381 participants attended from various municipalities throughout the province.
- Provided feedback on the Proposed Land Use Bylaw Amendment: Cannabis Production Facilities.

Activities that the Agricultural Service Board will be focusing on in 2019:

- Provide direction on the design and programming of the Multi-Purpose Agricultural Facility.
- Provide direction and oversight to the review of the Bremner Heritage Site Master Plan.
- Oversee the development of the Food and Agriculture Sector Development Strategy.
- 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.

Council and Committee History

January 30, 2018	Council received the 2017 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report as information.
March 14, 2017	Council received the 2016 Agricultural Service Board Annual Report as 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.

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

Master Plan/Framework: n/a