

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jan26_2021

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw Development Public Engagement Update****Report Purpose**

To provide an update to the Priorities Committee on the most recent public engagement for a new Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw.

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

Governance Requirement

Report

The creation of the new Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw is intended to consolidate and update the Animal Control Bylaw 18-2011 and the Apiculture Bylaw 43-2011. The proposed new bylaw will focus on responsible livestock ownership that minimizes disease risk, supports animal welfare, land stewardship and opportunities for agriculture on suitable land uses.

Public Engagement:

Two opportunities for engagement were made available:

Survey

Rural residents were asked to participate in a in an online survey which was available through both SCOOP and Survey Gizmo. It ran from July 23 to August 16, 2020 with 935 rural residents completing the survey on both survey platforms combined.

The survey included questions about the respondents' type of property and zoning, whether they owned livestock and what a *country lifestyle* means to them. They were also asked their opinions on the type of livestock most suitable for different property sizes; their experience with livestock in County subdivisions; and topics of interest for potential learning related to livestock.

Information regarding themes and responses gathered can be found in Enclosure 2, or on the County Public Engagement Reports webpage.

Of the 935 rural residents who participated in the survey, 148 expressed interest in participating in follow-up focus groups.

Focus Groups

To limit the spread of COVID-19, focus group sessions were held virtually using Zoom from October 20 to October 22, 2020. Two focus group sessions were held for each topic for a total of six sessions. Fifty-two residents participated in six lively discussions that centered around three distinct topics: large animals, poultry and fowl, and honeybees. Information regarding themes and responses gathered can be found in Enclosure 3, or on the County Public Engagement Reports webpage.

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Next Steps

Feedback received through public engagement will be balanced with legislation requirements, animal and public health, and land stewardship challenges to determine suitable allowances for various property sizes and land use districts. A bylaw will be drafted with these in mind. This draft bylaw is expected to be presented to Council in Q2 of 2021.

A program to support this bylaw will be developed after it has been approved by Council.

Council and Committee History

December 10, 2019	Council received a presentation on proposed amendments to the Animal Control Bylaw 18-2011.
November 18, 2018	Priority Committee provided input regarding revisions to Bylaw 18-2011 Animal Control Bylaw.
November 29, 2016	THAT the Urban Agriculture Strategy, as set out in Enclosure 1 to the November 29, 2016 Transportation and Agriculture Services report, be approved.
June 23, 2015	THAT Council approve the Agriculture Master Plan.
October 11, 2011	Bylaw 18-2011 Animal Control Bylaw received three readings.
October 11, 2011	Bylaw 43-2011 Apiculture Bylaw receives third and final reading.
September 13, 2011	Bylaw 43-2011 Apiculture Bylaw receives first and second readings.

Other Impacts

Policy: GOV-002-021 Mandatory Review of Bylaws and Policies, GOV-002-025 Public Engagement

Legislative/Legal: Bylaw 18-2011 Animal Control, Bylaw 43-2011 Apiculture, Bylaw 6-2015 Land Use, *Agricultural Pests Act, Public Health Act, Animal Protection Act, Livestock Industry Diversification Act*

Interdepartmental: Legislative and Legal Services, Planning and Development Services, Enforcement Services, Communications

Master Plan/Framework: Agriculture Master Plan, Urban Agriculture Strategy

Communication Plan

Summary reports for the [online survey](#) and the [focus groups](#) are available on the website. Focus group participants were sent a web link to the focus group final report. Engagement opportunities, feedback results and updates on the bylaw review have been communicated throughout the process. Once the bylaw and program components are developed, a communication plan will be developed and implemented to create awareness and understanding before the new bylaw goes into effect.

Enclosures

1	Responsible Livestock Ownership Presentation
2	2020 Responsible Livestock Survey
3	Responsible Livestock Ownership Bylaw Focus Group Feedback Summary