

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Agricultural Service Board Modernization

Report Purpose

To provide the Priorities Committee with an overview of the proposed modernization of the Agricultural Service Board.

Our Strategic Goals

Governance Requirement

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 4 Priority - Optimal use of resources that meets the community's needs

Goal 4 Priority - Relationships with all levels of government and key stakeholders that are strategic, purposeful and productive

Report

Agricultural Service Boards have a long and rich history in Alberta. A municipal program that was established jointly with the province in 1945, our Agricultural Service Board (ASB) works to advocate for agriculture while examining policy and program details that support our agricultural community. Further, ASB's are part of a greater provincial organization that gather each year to discuss, debate, and pass resolutions.

As our organization grows, and as the legislative framework around agricultural service matures, the current Agricultural Service Board Bylaw 43-2021 and its associated procedures needs to be evaluated to support:

- the County's legislative commitments under the provincial *Agricultural Service Board Act* RSA 2000, c A-10
- our vision of agricultural leadership
- our participation in agricultural advocacy at the community and provincial level

Goal: Position an ASB that is informed by the agricultural community to participate as leaders through advocacy and a strong understanding of municipal responsibilities and programming.

Recommendation: That the ASB assemble as a governance committee, composed of members of Council who seek advice from subject matter experts within our agricultural community through issue-specific taskforce advisory committees of representative interested parties, and supported by:

- robust public engagement to provide valuable, targeted advice on agricultural issues
- presentations from community groups that represent the sector

Next steps: Create a proposed bylaw and supporting Administrative Procedures with approval being sought by Council in the fall of 2024.

Council and Committee History

- September 14, 2021 THAT Bylaw 43-2021, a bylaw that establishes the Agricultural Service Board, be given first reading. THAT Bylaw 43-2021 be given second reading. THAT Bylaw 43-2021 be considered for third reading. THAT Bylaw 43-2021 be given third reading.
- September 14, 2021 THAT the 2022-2023 Agricultural Service Board and the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee mandate letters, as set out in enclosure 1 of the September 14, 2021 Governance Advisory Committee report, be approved.

Other Impacts**Policy:** N/A**Financial/Budget:** N/A**Legislative/Legal:** Bylaw 43-2021 Agricultural Service Board Bylaw**Interdepartmental:** Intergovernmental Affairs, Legislative and Legal Services**Master Plan/Framework:** N/A