

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Apr08\_2025**

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### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**

#### **Agricultural Framework update**

##### **Report Purpose**

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update regarding the Agricultural Framework.

##### **Our Strategic Goals**

Goal 1 - Economic Prosperity

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 3 - Responsible Development

Goal 1 Priority - Promotion of a diverse agricultural market that supports the local economy

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

Goal 3 Priority - Environmental stewardship that addresses climate change and demonstrates responsible use of land and natural resources

##### **Report**

Through 2024, we have reflected upon and refreshed our agricultural priorities. With the various strategies and programs developed and implemented via the Agriculture Master Plan, reflecting on relevant current issues and trends, our legislated duties, our corporate strategic priorities and plans, several new priorities have come to light.

The Agricultural Framework supports a coordinated approach between administrative departments and external stakeholders, by enabling them to work together, leveraging people and financial resources, and responding to community needs in context of our strategic priorities and legislated duties. Refreshed themes have clear outcomes and specific objectives identified that prioritize

1. Governance and Agriculture
2. People Engaged in Agriculture
3. Agriculture Business Retention and Expansion
4. Agriculture Production

In order to tell our story, outcomes and objectives were quantified for each theme by documenting:

- **Innovative practices** – current procedures, processes and programs
- **Supportive tools** – current plans, policies, directives, bylaws, and standards
- **Strategic initiatives** – new plans, procedures, processes, programs, policies, directives, bylaws, or standards that focus on change

##### **Agricultural Framework Collaboration Team (ACT)**

To assist Planning and Development Services in the development and ultimate implementation of the Framework, the ACT consists of those department representatives that have already identified strategic initiatives documented within the Framework and those that are actively working within the themes. This cross-departmental group has worked together across professions, departments and disciplines to support agriculture – ensuring programs, activities and collaborative initiatives are documented to contribute

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to a more holistic picture of our agricultural support as an organization.

The purpose of ACT is to facilitate implementation of the Framework. The Terms of Reference defines roles and responsibilities of the department representatives including:

- ensure up-to-date documentation of programs, plans, policies, and strategic initiatives
- ensure coordination of programs, plans, policies, and strategic initiatives between departments and external stakeholders
- assist with research and identification of grants and funding opportunities
- support the annual Agricultural Framework reporting
- provide strategic initiative recommendations to Executive Team and Council

It has become apparent during our reflection that we have been actively, but not collectively, supporting our agricultural community. In order to tell our story accurately and robustly, it is important to document and recognize the work to date and realize new initiatives to continue to support agriculture at all levels. This proposed Framework will change our language to better align with the documents purpose and contribute to the strategic goals in a more direct way.

### **Council and Committee History**

November 26, 2024, Priorities Committee was provided with an update regarding the review and closure of the Agriculture Master Plan and the proposal for a collaborative Agricultural Framework

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Financial/Budget:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw, Agricultural Service Board Act, Agricultural Pest Act, Animal Health Act, Weed Control Act, Soil Conservation Act

**Interdepartmental:** Multiple departments across the organization will contribute to the Agricultural Framework

**Master Plan/Framework:** Environmental Framework

### **Communication Plan**

The Agricultural Service Board was engaged, to confirm outcomes and objectives.

A StoryMap is a tool being used to reinforce the story telling within the Agricultural Framework. ArcGIS StoryMaps allow us to use custom maps and project-specific photos that inform, provide a sense of place and be dynamic.

### **Enclosure**

1 Agricultural Framework update presentation