



AGENDA ITEM

Central Alberta Agricultural Society

Community Engagement

June 25, 2020

BACKGROUND

At the March 12, 2020 Council directed the County Manager to contact Central Alberta Agricultural Society (CAAS) and arrange a tour of the facilities and grounds managed by the Society.

The Directors of CAAS had extended an invitation to Council and interested staff members to attend a tour of the facilities and grounds managed by CAAS. (Letter of invitation attached)

The Society's facilities are located on property at the Lacombe Research and Development Centre and consist of a sales pavilion, barns, and an outdoor area.

ANALYSIS

A date in June was tentatively set for the tour but ultimately cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Society has recently contacted the County and requested that Council set a date in September to undertake the tour. The Society has suggested that the tour commence at 3:00 p.m. As such, Council could plan the tour to coincide with the first or second meeting in September.

Through this tour the Society hopes to showcase their facilities, discuss their history, discuss their recent struggles, and strive to find potential synergies between the County and CAAS.

Representatives of the Society previously met with Reeve Law and subsequently met with the Manager of Agricultural Services, Dion Burlock. A number of topics were discussed, and Mr. Burlock recommended that the Society reach out to Council to familiarize them with the Society and have discussions regarding the Society's goal to become more proactive in the agricultural community.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications regarding this request.



LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 2 of the Agricultural Service Board Act states the duties of an Agricultural Service Board are:

- (a) to promote, enhance and protect viable, sustainable agriculture with a view to improving economic viability of the agricultural producer, and
- (b) to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of the County’s Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision: “An attractive, balanced and progressive community”.

Our Mission: “To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and healthy relationships”.

Key Principles: “Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork”.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform*: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council set September 10, 2020 or September 24, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. for a tour of the facilities and grounds managed by the Central Alberta Agricultural Society.

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REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager