



AGENDA ITEM

Agricultural Service Board Program Field Visit

May 28, 2020

BACKGROUND

Lacombe County receives an annual Agricultural Service Board Grant to deliver programs identified under the Legislative and Resource Management Funding Streams.

The Agricultural Service Board Program Team completes field visits to grant recipients once every five years to comply with recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General.

ANALYSIS

The Agricultural Service Board Program Team typical field visit is a full day process which includes:

1. Short meeting between ASB Program Team and Agricultural Service Board Members – approx. 1 hour
2. Office Tour – ASB Program Team and Agricultural Fieldman – approx. 1 hour
3. Field Tour – ASB Program Team and Agricultural Fieldman – approx. 1 – 3 hours

Draft Schedule

10:00 a.m. – Agricultural Service Board Team and Agricultural Service Board Meeting

11:00 a.m. – Office Tour - Agricultural Service Board Team and Agricultural Fieldman

12:00 to 1:00 p.m. – Lunch

1:00 to 3:00 p.m. – Field Tour - Agricultural Service Board Team and Agricultural Fieldman

(Refer to attached documentation)

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Lacombe County is projected to receive approximately \$125,000 from the Agricultural Service Board Program Grant in 2020.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the Agricultural Service Board Act: Section 2

The duties of an agricultural service board are:

- a) to act as an advisory body and to assist the council and the Minister, in matters of mutual concern,
- b) to advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs,
- c) to assist in the control of animal disease under the *Animal Health Act*,
- d) to promote, enhance and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer, and
- e) to promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the municipality.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Environment Strategic Priority:

- A. Protect the Environment.

Finance Strategic Priority:

- A. Manage the financial assets of the County to obtain maximum value.

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 approve the following resolution:

That Council direct the County Manager to arrange a field visit for the Agricultural Service Board Program Team at a future Council meeting date.

REVIEWED BY: Dion Burlock, Manager of Agriculture and Environmental Services
REVIEWED BY: Keith Boras, Director of Community Services
REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and strokes, is positioned to the right of the review text. It appears to be a signature of one of the reviewers mentioned in the text.