



AGENDA ITEM
Agricultural Fieldman Appointment
March 11, 2021

BACKGROUND

Lacombe County is recognized as a local authority and as such has been delegated by the Minister of Agriculture & Forestry to carry out the required duties of the Agricultural Service Board (ASB) Act, within the geographical boundaries of Lacombe County.

Through the 2020 auditing process completed by representatives of Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, there was a discrepancy realized.

ANALYSIS

The ASB Act requires that once a Council has established an Agricultural Service Board, that the Council, in consultation with the board, must appoint a qualified person as Agricultural Fieldman to implement agricultural policies and programs and to manage the agricultural resources of the municipality.

Lacombe County hired Dion Burlock to hold the position of Agricultural Fieldman in January 2008. At that time Mr. Burlock was not appointed by Council as Agricultural Fieldman for Lacombe County.

Action required of Council at this time is the appointment of Mr. Burlock as Agricultural Fieldman for Lacombe County.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with the Lacombe County Agricultural Fieldman have been budgeted in the 2021 Agricultural Services Operating Budget.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section eight of the Agricultural Service Board Act states;

- (1) If a Council has established a board, the Council, in consultation with the board, must appoint a qualified person as agricultural fieldman to implement agricultural policies and programs and to manage the agricultural resources of the municipality.
- (2) The agricultural fieldman shall act as a designated officer of the municipality

- a) in carrying out the functions, duties and powers of the municipality under any Act relating to agriculture, and
- b) in implementing projects respecting agriculture agreed on between the Council and the Minister.

(3) An agricultural Fieldman is, in the municipality employing that fieldman,

- a) a municipal inspector under the Weed Control Act,
- b) an inspector of the municipality under the Agricultural Pests Act, and
- c) a soil conservation officer of the municipality under the Soil Conservation Act.

STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Strategy 4, Resource and Asset Management Strategy that we are to *manage the natural, financial, and physical assets of the County in order to obtain maximum value from all of these resources.*

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 approves the following resolution:

That County Council appoints Dion Burlock to the position of Agricultural Fieldman as per the Alberta Agricultural Service Board Act.

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



