

Request for Decision

Title	9:05 a.m. Agribusiness and Agritourism Review – Task Force Final Recommendations
Proposed Motion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council accept the Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force Recommendations Report as information. 2. That Council direct Administration to bring forward an implementation strategy for Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force recommendations not related to the Land Use Bylaw to the May 3, 2022 Regular Council Meeting. 3. That Council direct Administration to bring forward amendments to the Land Use Bylaw that would enact associated Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force recommendations at the May 3, 2022, Council meeting, for consideration of first reading and scheduling of a Public Hearing.
Administrative Recommendation	That Council accept the Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force Recommendations Report as information and authorize implementation of the recommendations.
Previous Council / Committee Direction	<p><u>March 22, 2022 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 105/22: That Council accept the Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force final report status update as information.</p> <p><u>September 14, 2021 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 454/21: That Council approve the Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force Public Engagement and Communication Plan as presented.</p> <p><u>March 9, 2021 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 118/21: That Council initiate an agribusiness and agritourism review, supported by a community-based Task Force as defined in proposed Bylaw 1538/21.</p> <p>Motion 122/21: That Council give third reading of Bylaw 1538/21.</p> <p>Motion 123/21: That Council direct Administration to commence recruitment for public members for the Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force for Council's consideration at a future Council meeting.</p>

Report**Background Information**

- On March 9, 2021, Council passed Bylaw 1538/21, which supported an Agribusiness and Agritourism Review to be conducted through a community-based Task Force.
- This Task Force was designed to evaluate and bring forward recommendations to Council related to economic opportunities, regulatory requirements, landowner perspectives, and overall best practices.
- The scope of the Agribusiness and Agritourism Review, and the Task Force, has been to:
 1. Evaluate the current state of agribusiness and agritourism in Sturgeon County, including economic impact; any real or perceived barriers to agribusiness or agritourism growth and success; and identify the needs and expectations of Sturgeon County's businesses and landowners.
 2. Review local, provincial, and national agribusiness and agritourism regulatory best practices.
 3. Investigate and recommend appropriate licensing requirements or regulations related to hosting events on agricultural parcels.
 4. Evaluate the real or perceived impacts (positive and negative) that agribusiness and agritourism operations of different types and sizes have on surrounding landowners.
 5. Recommend and undertake an engagement and communication strategy with key stakeholders.
 6. Produce a "What We Heard" report summarizing the consultation feedback and comments.
 7. Present a Final Report containing the Task Force findings and recommendations on potential regulations and policy for Council consideration.
- As task forces are intended to be temporary, section 10.1. of Bylaw 1538/21 states, "the Task Force expires on Council's acceptance of the Task Force's Final Report." As such, following Council's acceptance of the Final Report the Task Force would be disbanded.
- Notwithstanding the disbanding of the Task Force, one of the recommendations is to continue discussions related to future agribusiness and agritourism opportunities, within municipal standing committees.

External Communication

- The Task Force conducted an extensive engagement of local agribusiness operators and area residents, in accordance with the defined communications and engagement plan.
- Land Use Bylaw amendments will require public hearing at which time members of the public will be able to make submissions regarding the proposed amendments.

	<u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sturgeon County Strategic Plan • Sturgeon County Land Use Bylaw • Sturgeon County Economic Development Strategy • Bylaw 1538/21 – Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force Bylaw
Implication of Administrative Recommendation	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Planned Growth – Task Force recommendations are meant to provide future focused planning and investment certainty for those in agribusiness and agritourism industries. Sturgeon County will continue to be a low cost, internationally competitive location to conduct business.</p> <p>Collaborative Governance – Having community members engaged in the Task Force also showcases a collaborative and transparent approach to governance while still providing for Council authority and decision-making. Resident engagement in policy formation was a key facet of the process.</p> <p>Organizational Excellence – The Task Force’s report is designed to position the municipality well into the future, to proactively respond to opportunities and challenges.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>Organizational impacts will include development of an implementation strategy (communication strategy, fee waivers, etc.) and amendments to the Land Use Bylaw. Administration has capacity to develop this strategy.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>None at this time. Implementation impacts will be further described in a subsequent implementation report.</p>
Alternatives Considered	<p>Council could direct the Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force to re-evaluate their recommendations contained in the report, deferring acceptance to a future date.</p>
Implications of Alternatives	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>Delays to accepting the recommendations may risk desired clarity and certainty for business owners or investors.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>Additional time and effort from Sturgeon County Administration and Task Force members would be required, which would require additional administrative resources.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>Potential increases to project budget and scope may be required if this alternative is chosen.</p>
Follow up Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare and present an implementation strategy at the Council meeting on May 3, 2022 that indicates how each of the non-Land Use Bylaw recommendations within the Report would be delivered (Corporate Communications, Planning & Development, Financial Services, May 2022).

	2. Prepare and present proposed Land Use Bylaw amendments in alignment with Report recommendations at the May 3, 2022 Council meeting (Planning & Development, May 2022).
Attachment(s)	1. Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force Recommendations Report
Report Reviewed by:	<p>Bonnie McInnis, Manager, Planning & Development Services</p> <p>Tyler Westover, Director, Economic Development & Ecosystem Services</p> <p>Travis Peter, General Manager, Development & Strategic Services</p> <p>Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner – CAO</p>

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: *Offering a rich tapestry of historical, cultural, and natural experiences, Sturgeon County is a municipality that honours its rural roots and cultivates desirable communities. Uniquely situated to provide world-class agricultural, energy, and business investment opportunities, the County prioritizes responsible stewardship and dreaming big.*

Guiding Principles: Collaboration | Accountability | Flexibility | Excellence | Safety | Future Readiness | Affordability | Innovation

Community Outcome	Not consistent	Consistent	N/A
Planned Growth			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internationally competitive to attract, grow and sustain diverse businesses; tenacious focus on new growth and innovation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern broadband and digital capabilities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low cost, minimal red-tape regulations 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable and effective infrastructure planning; comprehensive land use and infrastructure planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thriving Communities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beautiful, surprising places with high standards; integrated natural spaces & trail systems; healthy and resilient 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging cultural, historical, and civic amenities; strong community identity and pride 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe, welcoming, and diverse communities; small community feel and personal connection; commitment to high quality of life 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Stewardship			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean air, land, and water; Carbon neutral municipal practices; circular economy opportunities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of natural areas and agricultural lands; enhanced greening and biodiversity; safekeeping ecosystems 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable development; partnerships with industry and others to drive emission reductions 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Governance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable and stable external relationships; volunteer partnerships 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meaningful connections with Indigenous communities 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing community consultation and engagement; transparent and action-oriented decision making based on sound rationale 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged and effective people – Council, Admin and Volunteers; continuous learning and improvement mindset; nimble and bold, with strong leadership 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality cost-effective service delivery; robust procurement and operational practices and policies; asset management and performance measurement; careful debt and reserve stewardship; long-term financial planning and sustainability 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future focused thinking to proactively respond to emerging opportunities and challenges 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative revenue generation and service delivery models integrated strategic and business planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>