

Request for Decision

Title	Appointment of Agricultural Inspectors
Proposed Motion	That Council appoint Justin Stevens, Nakysta Van Hecke, Cassidy Kozak, and Valerie Bilodeau as municipal inspectors under the <i>Alberta Agricultural Pests Act</i> and the <i>Alberta Weed Control Act</i> .
Administrative Recommendation	Administration recommends that Council approve the proposed motion to appoint municipal inspectors under the <i>Alberta Agricultural Pests Act</i> and the <i>Alberta Weed Control Act</i> .
Previous Council / Committee Direction	<u>April 27, 2021 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 253/21: That Council appoint Shayne Steffen, Cathryn Thompson, Justin Stevens, Devin Zenchyson-Smith and Kurstyn Cappis as municipal inspectors under the <i>Alberta Agricultural Pests Act</i> and the <i>Alberta Weed Control Act</i> .
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed and Pest Inspectors are responsible for monitoring compliance and enforcing the <i>Weed Control Act</i>, <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> and section 2(17) of the Sturgeon County Community Standards Bylaw 1433/19 pertaining to vegetation control. Municipalities are responsible for ensuring that a sufficient number of inspectors are appointed to conduct inspection duties. Sturgeon County receives Agricultural Service Board Grant funds from the Government of Alberta to contribute to eligible Agricultural Service Board Programs, which includes the costs associated with employing Weed and Pest Inspectors. Failure to appoint a sufficient number of municipal inspectors may result in appointment of inspectors by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. All expenses incurred when the Minister appoints inspectors are recovered from the municipality. <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Services programs, including weed and pest inspection and surveillance programs, are outlined on the County website. <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuant to section 10(1) of the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i>, a municipality shall appoint a sufficient number of inspectors to carry out the Act and the regulations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pursuant to section 7(1) of the <i>Weed Control Act</i>, a municipality shall appoint a sufficient number of inspectors to enforce and monitor compliance within the municipality.
Implication of Administrative Recommendation	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u> This recommendation supports multiple goals under the Focus Areas of Thriving Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Collaborative Governance, and Operational Excellence within the Sturgeon County Strategic Plan.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u> Vegetation Management and Pest Control are programs facilitated by the Agriculture Services department for the benefit of county residents and agricultural producers. Proactive and reactive Weed and Pest Inspections are key service levels within these programs.</p> <p>The appointment of inspectors who are cross-trained in the administration of both the <i>Weed Control Act</i> and the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> allows the municipality to efficiently deliver service during the agricultural growing season, while maximizing physical coverage of the municipality.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u> The funds necessary for the hiring of these inspectors were included in the 2022 Operating Budget. No additional resources are required.</p>
Alternatives Considered	Council could decide to appoint a fewer number of municipal inspectors to administer the <i>Weed Control Act</i> and <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> .
Implications of Alternatives	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u> This recommendation is inconsistent with the Sturgeon County Strategic Plan Focus Areas, specifically Thriving Communities, Environmental Stewardship, Collaborative Governance, and Operational Excellence.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u> If a municipality fails to appoint a sufficient number of municipal inspectors, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry may designate inspectors to carry out these Acts within the municipality.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u> Should the Minister appoint inspectors, all expenses incurred shall be recovered from the municipality.</p>
Follow up Action	1. Issue Inspector Identification, as specified by the <i>Weed Control Act</i> and <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> (Agriculture Services, May 2022).
Attachment(s)	None.
Report Reviewed by:	<p>Tara McGinn, Acting Manager, Agriculture Services</p> <p>Scott MacDougall, Chief Operations Officer – COO</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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliable and effective infrastructure planning; comprehensive land use and infrastructure planning 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respectful and informed debate; clear and supportive governance processes 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>