

Request for Decision

Title	11:00 a.m. Agricultural Service Board Recommendations
Proposed Motion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council direct Administration to bring forward amendments to Bylaw 1515/20 - Agricultural Service Board Bylaw as recommended by the Agricultural Service Board. 2. That Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change outlining considerations identified by the Agricultural Service Board regarding the impacts of an absolute emission reduction target of 30% by 2030 for fertilizer use.
Administrative Recommendation	Administration recommends that Council consider the recommendations of the Agricultural Service Board.
Previous Council / Committee Direction	<u>November 24, 2020 Regular Council Meeting</u> Motion 513/20: That Council give third reading of Bylaw 1515/20.
Report	<u>Background Information</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agricultural Service Board (ASB) is a Council Committee that serves as an advisory body and assists Council in promoting, enhancing, and protecting viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of producers within the County. • On March 9, 2022, the ASB passed two recommendations for Council's consideration. <p>Recommendation #1 (Motion 028/22, March 9, 2022 ASB Meeting Minutes) Proposed Amendments to Bylaw 1515/20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASB recommends the following changes to Bylaw 1515/20 - Agricultural Service Board Bylaw for Council's consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Section 5.1: increase the public membership from four to six members; ▪ Section 5.5: increase the Junior member term from a 1-year term to a 2-year term; ▪ Section 5.6: remove the exception for the Junior member appointment term to align with the appointment term of all members from January 1 to December 31; ▪ Section 5.7: remove in its entirety;

- Section 9.4: change the word “hearing” to “meeting”; and
- Section 10.2: remove exception for Junior Member remuneration.
- The Agricultural Service Board recommends expansion of its public membership from four to six members to maximize representation of the diverse agricultural sector in Sturgeon County.
- The recommended adjustments pertaining to the Junior Member position are intended to streamline the recruitment process and allow for recruitment to coincide with that of other public members. These changes ensure appointment is effective January 1 of the calendar year and support consistent remuneration among all non-Council members. Additionally, the Board recommends that the Junior Member term be extended from 1 to 2 years, maximizing the ability of that member to learn the functions of the Agricultural Service Board and contribute to the Board’s activities within their appointment term.

Recommendation #2 (Motion 029/22, March 9, 2022 ASB Meeting Minutes): Fertilizer Emission Reduction Target Letter

- Earlier in 2022, the Agricultural Service Board was copied on letters from other municipalities addressed to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change expressing concerns with a proposed absolute emission reduction target of 30% for fertilizers by 2030.
- Under Canada’s [*A Healthy Environment and Healthy Economy*](#), a national emission reduction target of 30% below 2020 levels for fertilizers by 2030 is outlined.
- Meyers Norris Penney (MNP) released [*Implications of a Total Emissions Reduction Target on Fertilizer*](#) which summarizes the results an analysis it conducted on behalf of Fertilizers Canada to evaluate the potential financial impacts of such a policy in Canada. The report references a potential \$48 billion reduction in farm income if such fertilizer reductions are required by growers, primarily the result of reduced per acre yields due to reduced fertilizer usage.
- Global demand for food is anticipated to increase between [*59 to 98% by 2050 from 2005 levels*](#). Intensification of agricultural production per acre is one way in which Canadian agriculture can assist in meeting this demand without significantly expanding the physical footprint of agriculture, which contributes to climate change through the conversion of forests, rangelands, wetlands, and other sensitive ecosystems. Responsible fertilizer use is required to maximize per acre yield potential.
- The Agricultural Service Board recommends that Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change requesting that consideration be given to establishment of an emissions reduction target that is relative to units of crop production rather than an absolute emission reduction target. Additionally, the Board recommends that a request is made for further collaboration and engagement with all areas of the agricultural sector to ensure that any established emission target is attainable and does not

	<p>detrimentally impact the ability of the Canadian agricultural sector to meet the growing global requirements for food.</p> <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices</u></p> <p>Bylaw 1515/20 - Agricultural Service Board Bylaw</p>
Implication of Administrative Recommendation	<p><u>Strategic Alignment</u></p> <p>Acceptance of the Agricultural Service Board's recommendations is aligned with multiple Strategic Priorities, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collaborative Governance - demonstrates Council's commitment to ongoing community consultation and engagement through its appointed Committees. ➤ Planned Growth - ensures adequate supports and advocacy is in place to support a thriving agricultural sector. ➤ Environmental Stewardship - encourages discussion and collaboration with industry and others to set and achieve emission reduction targets. ➤ Operational Excellence - supports engaged Council Committee members and provides an opportunity for them to advise Council on matters within an area of their expertise. <p><u>Organizational</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>Increased membership of the Agricultural Service Board by two non-Council members would have a financial impact of approximately \$5,000 (primarily honorariums and mileage). New members would likely be appointed effective January 1, 2023. An adjustment would be made to the proposed 2022 Operating Budget to support this change.</p>
Alternatives Considered	<p>Council could decide to not accept the recommendations of the Agricultural Service Board.</p>
Implications of Alternatives	<p><u>Strategic Alignment</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Organizational</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>None.</p>
Follow up Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft Bylaw amendments and bring to Council for first reading (Agriculture Services/Legislative Services, August 2022) 2. Finalize letter for review and signature (Agriculture Services, July 2022)

Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attachment 1: Bylaw 1515/20 2. Attachment 2: Draft Letter to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Report Reviewed by:	<p>Angela Veenstra, Manager, Agriculture Services</p> <p>Scott MacDougall, Chief Operating 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 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 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 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"/>