

Agricultural Service Board and ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee Annual Update

Committee of the Whole

November 12, 2024



Sturgeon
C O U N T Y



Presentation Overview

1. Membership
2. Agricultural Service Board (ASB)
 - Mandate
 - 2024 Achievements
 - 2025 Work Plan
3. ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee (ALUS PAC)
 - Mandate
 - 2024 Achievements
 - Project Examples
 - 2025 Work Plan

2024 ASB and ALUS PAC Members

Council Representation

Mayor Hnatiw (ex officio)

Councillor Berry

Councillor McLennan

Public Members:

Colten Brenneis (Chair)

Conor Speers (Vice Chair)

Dave Kluthe

Rachelle Farrell

Shelby Sheehan

Colten Brenneis

Cody Johnston (July – Dec 2024)

Jacob Middelkamp (Jan - June 2024)

Hunter Anderson (Junior Member)

Technical Advisors (ALUS PAC only):

Kerri O'Shaughnessy (Cows and Fish)

Sonja Shank (Agricultural Research and Extension Council of Alberta)

Tomas Sokolon (Agroforestry and Woodlot Extension Society)

Farmer Liaison (ALUS PAC only): Mike Hittinger

ASB Mandate

Purpose:

- The Board serves as an advisory body to Council on agriculture-related matters with a goal to promote, enhance, and protect the viability of the agricultural industry in Sturgeon County

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Act as an advisory body and to assist Council and the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation in matters of mutual concern;
- Advise on and to help organize and direct weed and pest control and soil and water conservation programs;
- Assist in the control of animal disease under the Animal Health Act;
- Promote, enhance, and protect viable and sustainable agriculture with a view to improving the economic viability of the agricultural producer, and
- Promote and develop agricultural policies to meet the needs of the County.

2024 Achievements

Type of Activity	Activity	Status
Mandate from Council	Support Regional Agriculture Master Plan Implementation	In progress; Board was available as required to support
Mandate from Council	Provide input into the development of a local Agriculture Master Plan/ Support Strategy	In progress; members individually promoted and participated in engagement opportunities, board will review and provide input on engagement report and draft actions at November 13 meeting
Mandate from Council	Support ongoing mechanisms to review conditions and opportunities related to diversified agriculture in Sturgeon County and make recommendations to Council that support the sector's continued success.	Ongoing; Board was available as required to support

2024 Achievements

Type of Activity	Activity	Status
Mandate from Council	Engage with organizations such as the Sturgeon Rural Crime Watch Association to discuss and recommend collaboration opportunities, addressing rural crime affecting rural property owners and agricultural producers in Sturgeon County.	Not yet started; recommended to remain mandate for 2025
Mandate from Council	Support the communication of timely and relevant information to the Sturgeon County agricultural community, including input into the Agriculture Corner	Ongoing; website metrics reviewed and discussed by the board in January; the board reviews and identifies useful website information
Mandate from Council	Provide opportunities for increased engagement with youth, which may include attendance of Sturgeon County Youth Advisory Committee representatives at Board meetings to understand the mandate of the Board and how youth can be involved in their community, now and into the future.	Ongoing; ASB Junior member actively involved in all ASB and ALUS PAC activities. A Youth Advisory Committee Member attended our March ASB Meeting
Mandate from Council	Provide input on Sturgeon County's digital customer service priorities and roadmap	Complete; ASB members provided input at the October meeting

2024 Achievements

Type of Activity	Activity	Status
Regular Business	Regular Meetings to Discuss Agricultural Matters relevant to Sturgeon County	Jan, Feb, Mar, June, Oct, Nov Meetings Held
Regular Business	Review and approval of Annual Farm Safety Centre Contribution	\$4K contribution made, as per Operating Budget
Regular Business	Provincial ASB Conference	Members attended conference in Jan 2024 (Lethbridge)
Regular Business	NW Region ASB Conference	Members attended conference in Oct 2024 (Parkland County)
Regular Business	Weeds on Wellsites Provincial Working Group	ASB Member attended two working group meetings

2024 Achievements

Type of Activity	Activity	Status
Regular Business	ASB Tour Planning	Board assisted with Tour Planning; Successful tour held on July 11, 2024; 3 board members hosted stops on the tour
Regular Business	Excellence in Agriculture Awards	2024 Nominee/ 2025 Recipient: Rosy Farms
Regular Business	100 Year Farm Family Award	2024 Recipients: Bokenfohr (Fritz) and Scragg-Berg Families



2025 ASB Work Plan

The recommended items for consideration on the 2025 Work Plan are the following:

- Continued involvement and support in the Sturgeon County Agriculture Master Plan development and implementation.
- Continued review of emergent issues affecting the Ag Sector

ALUS PAC Mandate

Purpose:

- To assist the Conservation Program Coordinator and the Manager of Agricultural Services in the management and administration of the ALUS program in Sturgeon County
- The Partnership Advisory Committee diligently reviews project proposals on marginally productive or environmentally sensitive agricultural land with the intent of improving ecosystem services and environmental stewardship in Sturgeon County

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Review and approve ALUS projects for agriculture producers based on ALUS principles
- Advise and guide the general direction of the ALUS Sturgeon program
- Establish payment structure and amounts for each selected project
- Appoint technical advisors from external organizations to attend meetings
- Communicate with external organizations and agricultural producers regarding ALUS
- Act as a liaison between Administration, Council, and the agricultural community
- Promote ALUS and environmental conservation in the County
- Hear, collect, record, and act on public feedback where appropriate
- Recommend and participate in the development of projects that align with Sturgeon County strategic outcomes

2024 Achievements

2024 Enrolled Acre Summary

2024 Target Acres	2024 Enrolled Acres
93	153

2024 Project Summary

Reviewed in Total	Not Approved	Approved
28	4	24

This year's projects included:

- Tree plantings
- Pollinator forb plantings
- Crop exclusion and naturalization
- Adaptive multi-paddock grazing management

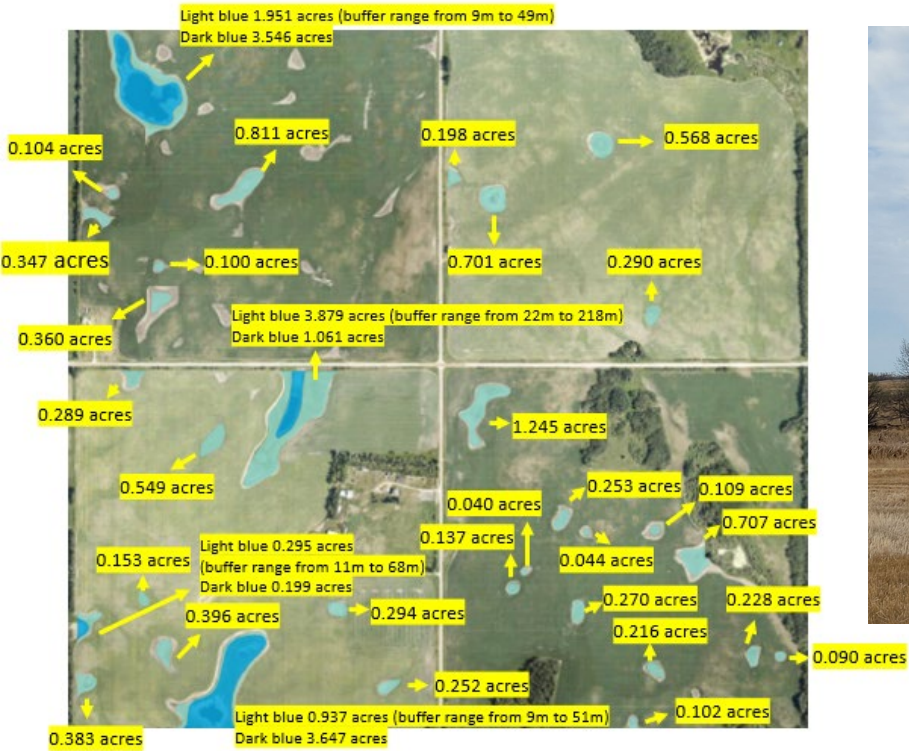


Cumulative Program Summary

Total Acres Enrolled in ALUS Sturgeon

2022 Acres	2023 Acres	2024 Acres	Total Program Acres
185	137	153	475

Project Examples



Project Examples



Project Examples



100m

Project Examples



Monitoring



Advertisements



Open for 2025 Applications!

**Are you a farmer or rancher?
Funding is available for nature based projects.**

ALUS helps you establish projects like eco-buffers and shelter-belts, adaptive multi-paddock grazing systems, watering systems for livestock, naturalizing flooded cropland, pollinator and wildlife habitat, and many more!

Over 1,400 farmers and ranchers across Canada receive annual management and maintenance payments for their stewardship of these projects.

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ALUS.ca

For more information, contact Agriculture Services:
agriculture@sturgeoncounty.ca
780-939-8349





2025 Work Plan

The 2025 Work Plan will include the following:

- Continued support in the management and administration of the ALUS program
- Continued development of the ALUS program within the County
- Workshops and networking events to promote environmental stewardship and the ALUS program

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Questions?
