

Request for Decision

Title	Appointment of Agricultural Inspectors
Proposed Motion	That Council appoint Cathryn Thompson, Tanysha Van Hecke, Justin Stevens and Hannah Smith as municipal inspectors under the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> and the <i>Weed Control Act</i> .
Administrative Recommendation	That Council approve the proposed motion.
Previous Council Direction	<u>April 24, 2018 – Motion 120/18:</u> That Council appoint Cathryn Thompson, Josh Pigeon, Marlise Kostiw and Tanysha Van Hecke as municipal inspectors under the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> and the <i>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 the Sturgeon County Grass Cutting Bylaw. • Municipalities are responsible for ensuring that sufficient inspectors are appointed to conduct inspection duties. • Sturgeon County receives Agricultural Service Board Grant funds from the Province to contribute to eligible Agricultural Service Board Programs, which includes the costs associated with employing weed and pest inspectors. • Failure to appoint sufficient 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"> • Under Section 10(1) of the <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i>, a municipality shall appoint sufficient number of inspectors to carry out the Act and the regulations. • Under Section 7(1) of the <i>Alberta Weed Control Act</i>, a municipality shall appoint a sufficient number of inspectors to enforce and monitor compliance within the municipality.
<p>Implication of Administrative Recommendation</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>This recommendation supports multiple goals under the Focus Areas of Environmental Stewardship, Planned Growth and Prosperity and Strong Local and Regional Governance within the Sturgeon County Strategic Plan.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>Vegetation Management and Pest Control are core programs facilitated 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 four inspectors cross-trained in the administration of both the <i>Weed Control Act</i> and <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> allows the municipality to efficiently deliver uninterrupted service during the agricultural growing season, while maximizing physical coverage of the municipality.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>The funds necessary for the hiring of these inspectors were included in the 2019 Operating Budget. No additional resources are required.</p>
<p>Alternatives Considered</p>	<p>Council could choose not to appoint the number of inspectors required to adequately administer the <i>Weed Control Act</i> and <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i>.</p>
<p>Implications of Alternatives</p>	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <p>This recommendation is not consistent with the Sturgeon County Strategic Plan Focus Areas, specifically Environmental Stewardship and Strong Local & Regional Governance.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>If a municipality fails to appoint sufficient municipal inspectors, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry may designate inspectors to carry out these Acts within the municipality.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>Should the Minister appoint inspectors, all expenses incurred shall be recovered from the municipality.</p>
<p>Follow up Action</p>	<p>1. Issuance of Inspector Identification, as specified by the <i>Weed Control Act</i> and <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> (Agriculture Services, May 2019).</p>

Attachment(s) | None.

**Report Reviewed
by:**



Angela Veenstra, Manager, Agriculture Services



Scott MacDougall, General Manager, Municipal Services



Collin Steffes, Acting County Commissioner – CAO

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: *Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.*

Mission: *Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.*

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 36)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supports a strong thriving business environment to strengthen our economic foundation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Plans for responsible growth through the MDP and regional growth plan.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Manages growth for current and future developments through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>transparent bylaws, policies and processes to enable responsible land development</i> ○ <i>targeting growth around existing and identified future growth areas</i> </i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe and viable community, where our residents are provided with access to opportunities and quality of life. (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides access to programs and services that have a positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides access to safe and reliable infrastructure assets</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supports the safety of people and property</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strong Local and Regional Governance			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides effective leadership and management consistent with Strategic Plan, MDP, master plans, bylaws, policies, community engagement</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fosters collaborative intergovernmental partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Identity & Spirit			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support and/or collaborate with voluntary organizations in the region</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Stewardship			
<i>We foster a healthy environment and minimize our impact on ecosystems. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Plans and partnerships that minimize environmental impact on natural areas</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides awareness of environmental issues impacting the County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>