

Request for Decision

Title	Appointment of Weed and Agricultural Pest Inspectors
Proposed Motion	That Council appoint Cathryn Thompson, Josh Pigeon, Marlise Kostiw and Tanysha Van Hecke 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 approves the proposed motion. In doing so, the municipality would adhere to provincial requirements set out in the <i>Alberta Agricultural Pests Act</i> and the <i>Alberta Weed Control Act</i> .
Previous Council Direction	April 25, 2017 – Motion 172/17: That Council appoint Cathryn Thompson, Kennedy Deregt-Taschuk, Josh Pigeon and Marlise Kostiw 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 Sturgeon County’s Grass Cuttings Bylaw, Bylaw 617/88. • Municipalities are responsible for ensuring that sufficient inspectors are appointed. • Sturgeon County receives Agricultural Service Board Grant funds from the province to contribute to eligible Agricultural Service Board Programs, including 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"> • All job advertisements for inspectors are posted on the Sturgeon County website, university/college job boards, and provided through other various outlets. • Information on our Vegetation Management and Pest Control programs are available on the Sturgeon County website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A “Weed of the Week” campaign is advertised each year from May to August on common weed species found within the region along with inspector contact information. <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>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 is consistent with multiple goals under each Focus area of the Sturgeon County Strategic Plan.</p> <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>Vegetation Management and Pest Control are programs that are facilitated for county residents. Proactive and reactive Weed and Pest Inspections are key service levels within these programs.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>The hiring of these inspectors has been included in the 2018 budget. No additional resources are required.</p>
<p>Alternatives Considered</p>	<p>That County Council refrains from appointing 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This recommendation is not consistent with the Sturgeon County Strategic Plan Focus Areas, specifically Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership. <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the Minister appoint inspectors, all expenses incurred shall be recovered from the municipality.
<p>Follow up Action</p>	<p>1. Issuance of Inspector Identification, as per the <i>Weed Control Act</i> and <i>Agricultural Pests Act</i> (Agriculture Services, May 2018).</p>

Attachment(s) | None.

**Report Reviewed
by:**



Alyssa Hutchings, Agriculture Services Acting Manager



Frank Besinger, Interim General Manager, Municipal Services



Bill Minnes, 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
Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans, policies</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>Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Respect the Natural Environment			
<i>We acknowledge the importance of a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ensure effective environmental risk management</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, (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Enhances service provision through community partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe, secure community, where our residents are respected and provided with access to opportunities. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>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>Supports and promotes volunteer efforts</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operational Excellence			
<i>We have the organizational capability to deliver consistent and defined levels of service to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient, and cost effective manner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Staff have the knowledge, skills and capability to perform their jobs</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Streamlines operational processes and policies</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>