Sturgeon County
Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force
Minutes

December 16, 2021 6:00 p.m.
At Morinville Leisure Center

Attendees: (P = Present, R= Regrets)

Task Force		Consultants		Administration	
Cathy Gilbert – Chair	P	Shawn Bravender	P	Travis Peter	P
Councillor Deanna Stang	P			Jonathan Heemskerk	P
Councillor Matthew McLennan (phone in)	P			Bonnie McInnis	P
Mayor Alanna Hnatiw (ex-officio)	P			Leanne McBean	P
Tam Andersen	P			Jackie Sargent (phone in)	P
David Benjestorf	P				
Richard Boissonnault	P			**Members of Public**	
Mark Chuiko	R				
Deb Foisy	P				
Andrew Rosychuk	P				

1. **Call to Order**

   - Chair called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

2. **Meeting Minutes and Agenda Approvals/Corrections**

   - Adoption of the Agenda – Chair
     - A. Rosychuk moved the agenda, T. Anderson seconded the motion.
   - Adoption of Minutes from September 14, November 2, December 14 – Chair
     - Deanna Stang moved the minutes, Andrew Rosychuk seconded the motion.

3. **Facilitated Workshop**

   - Workshop conducted by Shawn Bravender
     - Agribusiness Discussion
       - Primary focus on agricultural production and the processing that follows.
       - Comments regarding the progression from small to large scale production and need for regulations to match this progression.
       - Can be thought of "secondary agriculture" that follows the point of harvesting.
       - The name *Diversified Agribusiness* ensures that a clear understanding is in place, as all farmers can be considered as an Agribusiness.
       - More business-to-business commercial production.

- Agritoursim Discussion
  - Business to consumer/public. Focus for this area would be on providing a service or use.
  - Conservation of agricultural land will be important as it relates to the principals of the Regional Agricultural Master Plan (RAMP). Definition should reflect this.
  - Still require some relation to farming, even if the tourism use/experience is considered more primary.
  - Discussion of a specific event venue use that falls under the category of Agritourism, that is limited to a specific number per year (ex. 10).

- Event Venue
  - Consideration of an *Agritourism Event* that is separate from the standard Event Venue definition. Would be limited in number of events.
  - *Agritourism Event* would only be considered on AG parcels.
  - Different thresholds can be put in place for different sizes of parcels (AG Residential, AG Minor, AG Major).
  - Caution the approval of large agricultural events on smaller parcels given factors such as traffic, parking, ect.

4. Confirm Letters to Stakeholders

- Bonnie McInnis provided an overview of planning considerations including guiding principles, "the problem", and current situations in Sturgeon County.

- The Task Force discussed the status of LUB definitions prepared, and next steps. It was noted that definitions are ready to go, but Task Force expressed support for Planning and Development to clean up and clarify language (initially, prior to legal review) based on the group's intent. Definitions and other information would be placed into a survey document for stakeholder input. Chair noted that she was supportive of having her name on the letter, in a similar form as it was in the agenda package (it was offered that others could sign it as well). Administration was asked to ensure the survey materials were sent to the operators and area residents shortly after Christmas, to ensure good amount of time for people to respond prior to the next January meeting. At next meeting, survey results and resident presentations will be discussed with the Taskforce and then there will be consideration of any adjustments desired. No objections raised for these next steps.

5. Session Evaluation / Pulse Check

- Shawn Bravender provided an evaluation form to task force members for review of the workshop. Discussion to be provided at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

- Motion to Adjourn – Chair (9:44) Richard first and David Second
  - Richard Boissonnault moved for adjournment, David Benjestorf seconded the

motion.

- The next Task Force meeting will take place Tuesday January 18, 2022 from 6:00pm – 9:00pm (location TBD).