Sturgeon County
Agribusiness and Agritourism Review Task Force
Minutes
July 27, 2021 6:00 p.m.
Through Electronic Communications

Task Force members in attendance:
Councillor Patrick D. Tighe Councillor Wayne Bokenfohr (V. Chair), Deb Foisy, Cathy Gilbert (Chair), Mark Chuiko, Richard Boissonneault David Benjestorf.

Unable to attend:
Mayor Alanna Hnatiw (ex-officio), Tam Andersen, Andrew Rosychuk.

Sturgeon County Administration in attendance:
Natasha De Sandi, Planning and Engagement Officer; Corporate Communications; Leanne McBean, Business Retention Expansion Lead.

Consultants in attendance:
Courtney Laurence, Community Planner / Engagement Strategist, ISL Engineering; Hawley Campbell, Senior Consultant, Nichols Applied Management Inc.;

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
   - Chair called meeting order at 6:04 pm.

2. **Meeting minutes and agenda approvals/corrections**
   - Chair placed a motion on the floor to adopt the agenda. Clr Tighe moved the agenda and D. Foisy seconded that motion.
   - Chair placed a motion on the floor to adopt the meeting minutes from July 7, 2021. Clr Tighe moved the motion and Clr Bokenfohr seconded that motion.

3. **AARTF Process Update**
   - H. Campbell provided an update on work completed thus far by the consultant.

4. **Defining Agribusiness and Agritourism/Group Discussion**
   - Task Force discussed draft definitions as presented by the consultants in preparation for today's meeting.
   - **Discussion topics raised during the meeting**
     - What would merit the transition from an Agribusiness to Agritourism operation based on definitions presented? What parameters would distinguish between categorizing an Agribusiness versus an Agritourism operation.
     - Definition of Agribusiness should be more inclusive. Definition of Agribusiness as presented where non-farming is referenced could read as a negative connotation. The definition should consider more inclusion of types of uses and not segregate farming and non-farming. Clarity would also be required for what defined a non-farming operation.
     - Agribusiness and Agritourism operations must consider engineering and safety regulations both within the County and as outlined through Alberta Transportation

standards. Concerns regarding small Agribusiness operations popping up along the highway raised safety and traffic issues. Although Alberta Transportation does provide guidelines on what can and cannot be done along highways, better direction and clarity is required for business operators to understand what can and cannot be done for their specific business.
    - Task Force discussed farm sizes and vocalized large scale farms should be included in the definition to allow for diversity of farming. The Task Force provided an example of large farms needing to diversity when/if an agricultural state of emergency occurred.
    - Task Force discussed the potential preferred size and scale of farms to determine business category. Option to place size parameters on use was not favoured by the group as it may place more red tape on an existing process.

5. **Engagement Plan (50 minutes) – ISL**

- C. Laurence provided an overview of the public engagement and communications plan.
- C. Laurence worked through the engagement plan and asked the task force for some direction on advertisement and identifying additional stakeholders.
    - Discussion included Utilizing - local Chamber of Commerce groups, Ag Societies, grain elevators, road signs, water fill stations, ag support businesses, CFCW grain report, e-newsletters, 4H Clubs, tourism organizations, equestrian facilities, Towns
- C. Laurence discussed hybrid survey approach, featuring online, hardcopy, in-person options to maximize engagement. Emphasized the importance of ensuring stakeholder feedback is heard and included.

6. **Next Steps**
    - Draft of survey will be circulated to the Task Force prior to the next meeting for review and discussion.

H. Campbell to confirm timeline for next meeting and survey preparation.
The Chair put forward a motion to adjourn 7:46. D. Benjestorf moved that motion and R. Boissonnault seconded the motion.