



Report

TITLE: 2024 APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE WEED CONTROL AND AGRICULTURAL PESTS ACT

Meeting: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: May 8, 2024

Background

The Agricultural Pests Act enables a municipality to deal with native and introduced pests which affect agricultural production. Under the Agricultural Pests Act, an animal, bird, insect, plant, or disease can be declared a pest or nuisance if the Minister considers that they are destroying or harming, or are likely to destroy or harm, any land, livestock, or property in all or part of Alberta. Additionally, a local authority of a municipality shall take active measures to prevent the establishment of, or to control or destroy pests in the municipality.

The Alberta Weed Control Act enables the Minister's authority to declare noxious or prohibited noxious weeds that present significant economic, social, or ecological risks. The Act states that prohibited noxious weeds must be destroyed and noxious weeds must be controlled. It describes the duties of individuals, local authorities, municipalities, and the Crown related to the prevention, control, and destruction of weeds.

The inspector has the power to invoke action to control and/or destroy weeds/pests on land and property, which includes being able to enter upon land without permission at any reasonable hour. The inspector also has the power to issue notices and take action to control or destroy weeds/pests.

Flagstaff County appointed weed/pest inspectors conduct field inspections and investigate weed/pest complaints. The main role for the inspectors is to assist with grasshopper, blackleg, clubroot, fusarium and weed inspections throughout the municipality.

Teris Wetter, Megan Pfeffer, Maegen Kuilboer, Ben Hoyland, and Allan McLeod have been hired for the 2024 season. These employees as well as Agricultural Foreman, Matthew Pfeffer, will be conducting weed and pest inspections.

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

STRONG COMMUNITIES: To provide community services that make Flagstaff County an attractive place to live for all generations. **GOAL:** Adaptive services and infrastructure to respond to environmental impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY: The County will consider environmental impacts on all planning and development decisions and in the operations of their programs and services.

Recommendation

THAT Teris Wetter, Megan Pfeffer, Maegen Kuilboer, Ben Hoyland, Allan McLeod, and Matthew Pfeffer be appointed as Flagstaff County's Weed and Pest Inspectors for 2024, under Section 9 (1) of the Agricultural Pests Act and under Section 7 (1) of the Weed Control Act.