

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Agricultural Service Board

July 8, 2020

Report prepared by: Alyssa Robb



Soil Movement Educational Campaign

Recommendation from Administration

That the Board accept the Soil Movement Educational Communication Strategy and “Accepting Soil onto Agricultural Land” fact sheet documents as information.

Chief Administrative Officer’s Comments

N/A

Report

At the October 2, 2019 ASB Meeting, the Board was presented with information about soil movement occurring in Wheatland County and the risks associated with accepting soil from outside the municipality. In addition to handling multiple inquiries about bulk soil transfer into Wheatland County, the Agriculture and Environment department had been in discussion with neighboring rural municipalities who warned of major land management issues that had arisen from instances of bulk soil acceptance onto private agricultural land. Through ASB and Council, the matter was passed to Community & Development Services to draft Land Use Bylaw amendments. Soil Import Bylaw Updates were then discussed with Council at a Planning & Priorities meeting held on March 23, 2020. Following that meeting, Agriculture and Environment was directed to develop a public education campaign on soil transfer risks and recommendations. The intent of this RFD is to inform ASB of the outcome of the soil movement initiative and to share the attached fact sheet and educational communication strategy documents.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

Agricultural Pests Act RSA 2000, c A-8 Weed Control Act SA 2008, c W-5.1 Soil Conservation Act RSA 2000, c S-15

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

This targeted educational campaign aligns with agricultural education already offered by our department. It supports our responsibility to uphold the *Agricultural Pests Act*, *Weed Control Act*, and *Soil Conservation Act*, and our intent to support the agricultural community in sustainable management of agricultural lands in Wheatland County.

Response Options

Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.

Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.

Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

N/A

Organizational

N/A

Financial

N/A

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

Agriculture and Environment will implement the educational communication strategy as described in the attached documents.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Soil Movement Educational Campaign.docx
Attachments:	- Soil Movement Fact Sheet FINAL.pdf - Soil Movement Educational Communication Strategy.docx
Final Approval Date:	Jun 25, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russel Muenchrath', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Russel Muenchrath

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Ziehr', with a long, horizontal, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Michael Ziehr