



AGENDA ITEM

Volunteer Recognition

March 26, 2020

BACKGROUND

At the August 7, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council was presented with an overview of volunteer recognition events, policies or formal recognition programs in place at other rural municipalities. It was noted that most counties that are similar in size to Lacombe County do not have any formal volunteer recognition.

After some discussion a recommendation was put forth that in recognition of volunteers, a pancake breakfast be held on a Saturday in April 2019 at the west, central and east shops.

As undertaking three pancake breakfasts on the same day turned out to be an onerous task with regard to timelines, staff time and coordination of three events at one time it was later agreed that a Volunteer Breakfast would be held April 13 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Hall. In subsequent years a breakfast would be held at the east shop and then the west shop. Ads were placed on social media, on the County website and in the County News. Sign boards were also put up around the County.

ANALYSIS

Even with extensive advertising the Volunteer Breakfast had a very poor turnout. In discussions following there was no clear reason why people did not attend the event.

The Public Relations Committee met on March 12, 2020 following the Council meeting. It was agreed that in light of the Coronavirus situation, no formal volunteer recognition event will take place in 2020.

An article recognizing our County volunteers will be printed in the County News and it will be stated that no event is being held this year due to Coronavirus.

The Committee agreed that in 2021 either a pancake breakfast or a BBQ lunch will be held at the east and west remote shops on different days. The Committee will meet in January or early February to finalize dates and details if it is agreed to move forward. A report will be presented to Council following that meeting.

ALTERNATIVES

That the report on Volunteer Recognition be received for information.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Provisions have been made in the budget for volunteer recognition events.



LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are: 1) to provide good government, 2) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and 3) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of the County’s Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision: “An attractive, balanced and progressive community”.

Our Mission: “To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and healthy relationships”.

Key Principles: “Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork”.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform*: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on volunteer recognition be received for information.

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