



## AGENDA ITEM

### 2021 Environmental Stewardship Award

October 28, 2021

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#### **BACKGROUND**

Policy AD(33) Environmental Community Engagement is a commitment made by the County to support residents in the understanding of environmental sustainability and aid them in making decisions that consider their relationships to natural systems, communities, and future generations. This is a three-year program (2021-2023) with three components, one being the Environmental Stewardship Award.

This award is designed to highlight a Lacombe County resident who practices environmental conservation and sustainability on their property. Individuals must be nominated, and the successful recipient is selected by a committee made up of the Environmental Coordinator, one Councilor, and one member-at-large. The successful recipient receives a one-time cash prize of \$1,500.

#### **ANALYSIS**

There were three individual(s)/business(es) that were nominated this year. All three nominees were promoting sustainability within Lacombe County and were very deserving of the award. The committee selected Sharon Wiebe to be this year's winner. The following are some of the sustainability initiatives that Sharon Wiebe has introduced on her property:

- An organic community garden with 10-12 plots
- Rainwater collection for the community garden
- Vegetable waste from the garden is composted
- Developed an off-site watering system, to keep cattle away from artesian spring and the Blindman River
- This past spring, 150 trees were planted to replace fallen and windblown trees
- Fruit trees and berry bushes have been planted on the property
- The landscaping around the house is made up of perennials with an emphasis on species that are beneficial to pollinators
- The creation of bird and bat habitat
- Allows a beekeeper to keep beehives on the property



**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The award recipient will receive a \$1,500 cash prize, which was budgeted for in the 2021 Environmental Budget.

**LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:

- a) to provide good government,
- b) 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
- c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council receives this report for information.

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**PREPARED BY: Jennifer Berry, Environmental Coordinator**

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**REVIEWED BY: Keith Boras, Director of Community Services**

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**REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager**

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