

Lac La Biche County

Report

to Council

SUBJECT: Letter of Support – Lakeland Agricultural Research Association

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: March 9, 2021

CONFIDENTIAL: This matter is not confidential.

Purpose: The letter of support is required to acknowledge the importance of funding that is necessary for the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA) to keep Alberta's agricultural producers competitive, relevant and resilient.

Proposed Motion:

That Council directs Administration to draft a letter of support to MLA, Laila Goodridge, that acknowledges the importance of Lakeland Agricultural Research Association for Mayor Moghrabi's signature.

Options:

- Council may direct Administration to draft a letter of support for the Mayor's signature.
- Council may provide alternate or additional direction.

Recommendation: That Council directs Administration to draft a letter of support to MLA, Laila Goodridge, that acknowledges the importance of Lakeland Agricultural Research Association for Mayor Moghrabi's signature.

Background: Mayor and Council are sitting members on LARA and play an active role in the Association.

LARA has operated in the Lakeland region since 1991 and is a producer led association that has grown to deliver applied agricultural research. The association serves producers in the MD of Bonnyville, County of St. Paul, Lac La Biche County, and Smoky Lake County.

The Environmental Program employs a fulltime staff position at LARA. The position assists in applications for producers to implement best management practices in their operations. The program is centered on education, conducts riparian health assessments, tree diagnosis for pests and diseases, bio-control

demonstrations, and supports watershed groups. LARA also offers a variety of webinars and educational sessions within his program.

With the stable funding, this program has benefited from having a long-term staff member that has developed producer trust, partnerships and networks to increase the extent of the scope, quality and delivery of the program. The funding is important, not only to our area producers, but to all residents within the municipalities that LARA serves.

Strategic Alignment: LARA would fall upon Strategic Goal 5 Environment of Council's Strategic Plan.

Financial Implications:

Costs: No costs to the organization for the letter of support.

Source of funding: No source of funding required for the letter of support.

Relevant Legislation, Policy or Practices: Mayor and Council are sitting members of the Lakeland Agricultural Research Association (LARA). Councillor L'Heureux is the appointed member to the external committee and Councillor Borgun being the alternate.

Internal Impacts: Administration to draft a letter of support for the Mayor's signature as directed by Council.

Communication: Administration to communicate with LARA on the letter of support.

Attachments: Template Letter of Support from LARA

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Presented By: Mackenzie Girard, CAO's Executive Assistant