



**MINUTES**  
**Agricultural Advisory Committee**  
**AAC-01-19**  
**Wednesday March 27, 2019**  
**2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Jose Building, South Lab**

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**Present:**

Vice Chair, Ted Van den Hurk, Christian Farmers Association  
Jim Partridge, Simcoe County FA  
Chair Colin Elliott, Simcoe County FA  
Councillor Gail Little, NVCA Member (Dufferin County FA representative)  
Councillor Dane Neilsen, NVCA Member  
Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA  
John Morrison, Simcoe County FA

**Regrets:**

Bernard Pope, Ontario Farmland Preservation  
Danny deBoer, Simcoe County FA  
Councillor Donna Jebb, NVCA Member  
Andy van Niekerk, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Assoc.

**Staff Attendance:**

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer  
Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services  
Byron Wesson, Director, Land, Education and Stewardship Services  
Shannon Stephens, Healthy Waters Program Coordinator  
Naomi Saunders, Education Facilitator  
Haleigh Ferguson, Administrative Assistant

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Chair Elliot called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m.

**1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

RES: 01-19-ACC

Moved by: Hugh Simpson                      Seconded by: Jim Partridge

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-02-18 dated September 6, 2018 be approved.

**Carried;**

**3. DEPUTATION**

- a. Naomi Saunders, Education Facilitator, NVCA regarding Simcoe County Envirothon, with emphasis on Agroecology.
- b. Shannon Stephens, Healthy Waters Coordinator, NVCA regarding potential grant programs.

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Discuss Committee attendance**

RES: 02-19-ACC

Moved by: H. Simpson

Seconded by: G. Little

Colin brought forth a Motion to ask one member from the National Farmers Union, and one Member from the Dufferin OFA group to become members of the AAC.

**Carried;**

Hugh Simpson mentioned he would like to look into our neighbouring conservation authorities to see if a staff member from their organization will attend AAC meetings.

- **Discuss future concerns and topics for 2019**

Colin Eliot explained that Severn Sound is conducting a study on the Wye River with help from the Federation to test for phosphorus.

Jim Partridge mentioned having a presentation on the potential harmful effects with phragmites in our watershed.

- **Discuss the possibility of having the Agricultural Committee Chair sit as a non-voting member of the NVCA Board of Directors**

Gail Little raised concerns as this Committee is well represented on the NVCA Board, with three members of the AAC on the NVCA Board of Directors. Gail also stated that if there was a pressing issue they would bring it to the Board as well as a member of the AAC is welcome to request a deputation to speak in front of the Board.

Dane Neilsen mentioned that many members on the Board have agricultural backgrounds, including himself, and that gives the AAC a great advantage with representation on the Board.

Colin Elliot proclaimed that as we progress we have to know as farmers what the Board's base thinking is on projects before they begin.

Chris Hibberd explained that the Board and NVCA staff have reached out to the Agricultural Advisory Committee on the IWMP and many other plans and projects, and that we have done a good thorough reaching out to this Committee.

Hugh Simpson concluded that the Agricultural Advisory Committee needs to be present where decisions are being made and raise awareness to people on how political decisions affect farmers without their input.

**5. NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

**6. ADJOURN**

RES: 03-19-ACC

**RESOLVED THAT:** this meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-01-19 adjourn at 4:14 pm to meet again at the call of the Chair.

**Carried;**