



**MINUTES**  
**Agricultural Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting AAC-02-18**  
**September 6, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
**Jose Building, South Lab**

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Present:

Vice Chair, Ted Van den Hurk, Christian Farmers Association  
Colin Elliott, Simcoe County FA  
Councillor Gail Little, NVCA Member (Dufferin County FA representative)  
Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA  
Deputy Mayor Donna Jebb, NVCA Member  
Andy van Niekerk, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Association

Regrets:

Chair Jim Partridge, Simcoe County FA  
Danny deBoer, Simcoe County FA  
Bernard Pope, Ontario Farmland Preservation

Staff Attendance:

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services  
Byron Wesson, Director, Land, Education and Stewardship Services

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair, Ted Van den Hurk assumed the role of Acting Chair and called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

**1. MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA**

Moved by: Hugh Simpson                      Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Donna Jebb  
RESOLVED THAT: the Agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)  
Agenda dated February 27, 2018 be approved as printed.

Carried.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations declared.

### **3. OVERVIEW OF NVCA WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services provided a Power Point update on NVCA's Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

Director, Watershed Management Services, Chris Hibberd acknowledged that AAC members Hugh Simpson, Colin Elliot and Gail Little along with a total of 60 plus people participated as stakeholders at our first meeting held over in South Innisfil. He also noted that an online survey was sent out to stakeholders, NVCA Staff and NVCA Board.

#### **Questions & Answers**

Colin Elliot asked what defined Intensive Agriculture.

Director, Watershed Management Services, Chris Hibberd suggested for this purpose it was cropping to the stream edge. Both agreed that this has been greatly reduced in the watershed.

Collin Elliot suggested that farmers establishing new buildings or minor changes have issues with the NVCA. He also suggested culverts could become problematic for farmers.

Director, Watershed Management Services, Chris Hibberd commented that they try to provide like for like exchange to try to speed up the process. Things become challenging when the work is completed within the flood plain or hazard area.

CAO, Hevenor commented that NVCA staff work with Municipal staff to try to speed up the process on culverts referencing a meeting with New Tecumseth staff to develop a process and scheduling.

Ted Van den Hurk asked where Moraine features were located in the watershed.

Director, Watershed Management Services, Chris Hibberd identified the locations.

Colin Elliot asked about waste water and water running off farms.

Director, Watershed Management Services, Chris Hibberd suggested waste water was identified as grey water from domestic use.

Colin Elliot suggested a preference for the work done by the SSEA and said that members found the NVCA challenging.

Director, Lands, Education and Stewardship Services, Byron Wesson commented that many Agriculture members think the work the NVCA is doing is important for Agriculture

CAO Hevenor suggested that the SSEA has no regulatory authority and only completed land stewardship.

Collectively the Agricultural Committee thought some of the dollar values expressed in the presentation could be different if different sources were used.

Andy van Niekerk noted the value for water seemed undervalued to the value shown for pollinators.

Colin Elliot asked if the data collected included new information from recent work completed in the Holland Marsh.

Director, Watershed Management Services, Chris suggested the NVCA was aware of the work but it was not included.

Acting Chair, Ted Van den Hurk suggested that the planning process might want to consider reviewing costs of service delivery from the plan earlier in the process.

Hugh Simpson stated that Grey Sauble CA has a very outdated Watershed Plan and has no ability to update it at this time. He was glad to participate in the stakeholder process.

#### **4. DISCUSSION ON PURPOSE AND DIRECTION OF AAC**

Acting Chair, Ted Van Den Hurk asked that the group have a discussion.

Colin Elliot suggested that the AAC needs to do a better job telling their story to the Agriculture Community letting them know what the AAC does for farmers.

Director, Lands, Education and Stewardship Services, Byron Wesson said the NVCA has partnered with many farmers accessing thousands of dollars completing good story projects throughout the watershed. He would like those success stories mentioned.

CAO Hevenor asked if he could provide comments sent to him by Current Chair Jim Partridge.

Acting Chair Ted Van Den Hurk asked that comments read by NVCA Doug Hevenor, CAO from 2018 Chair Jim Partridge be entered in the minutes.

The comments included:

This opportunity of an agriculture advisory committee is very important to SCFA. We expect that we will be able to learn about your future ideas and programs. We expect that we will have the opportunity to comment on past, present, and future NVCA plans and actions. We know that we could act in an advisory manner, and that the board is challenged in knowing the agricultural landowner perspective.

Hugh Simpson wondered if this committee should have the ability to attend NVCA Board of Director (BOD) meetings as an advisor.

CAO, Doug Hevenor suggested that AAC members could see the NVCA BOD Agenda on our website one week prior to the meeting and attend the meeting as a silent observer. He commented that this is how all 36 Conservation Authorities operate in Ontario.

Deputy Mayor, Donna Jebb suggested that the committee could provide or issue a summary for consideration. This could then be brought to the BOD by the CAO if consensus from the committee felt it was needed.

CAO, Doug Hevenor and Director, Watershed Management Services, Chris Hibberd suggested that we have many different groups that the NVCA deals with and seeks opinion from that do not attend our BOD Meetings.

Colin Elliot suggested that the NVCA Chair should attend AAC meetings.

Hugh Simpson commented that three members of the committee are also NVCA BOD members and he did not see a need to have the NVCA Chair attend AAC Meetings.

Director, Lands, Education and Stewardship Services, Byron Wesson asked if members of the broader agriculture sector could bring issues to the AAC.

Several AAC members suggested that this would be a good opportunity to hear and discuss issues.

Director, Watershed Management Services, Chris Hibberd asked the committee what are the broader trends, concerns and issues facing the AAC at this time? Is it Permitting and, or Planning?

Councillor, Gail little commented that issues may be different in different parts of the watershed and that not everyone faces the same situation in the Agriculture sector because it is so diverse.

Andy van Niekerk suggested that a fellow farmer was having difficulties with the permitting process at the NVCA and did not know how to proceed.

Director, Watershed Management Services, Chris Hibberd suggested that they contact him directly with their concerns.

Ted confirmed that it sounds like AAC members can attend NVCA BOD meetings as observers.

## **5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

ELECTION CONDUCTED BY: Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer

Colin Elliot made a motion that CAO Doug Hevenor act as Chair for the election.

Moved by: Colin Elliot

Seconded by: Ted Van den Hurk

Carried.

### **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Ted Van den Hurk nominated Colin Elliot for Chair.

Colin Elliot nominated Ted Van den Hurk for Chair.

Discussion occurred between the two nominees after discussion of the group and everyone in attendance was in agreement.

Colin Elliot be acclaimed as Chair for the remainder of 2018 and the entire year of 2019.

### **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Acting Chair Ted Van den Hurk be acclaimed as Vice Chair for the remainder of 2018 and the entire year of 2019.

Ted Van den Hurk resumed his role as Acting Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Hugh Simpson made a motion that the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair carryout their respective duties for the remainder of 2018 and the entire year of 2019.

Moved by: Hugh Simpson

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor, Donna Jebb

Carried.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

NVCA will suggest dates for early December 2018 and early March 2019. A survey will be emailed to all Committee Members to assist in selecting the meeting date. Additional meetings will be at the discretion of the Chair and NVCA.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Director, Lands, Education and Stewardship Services, Byron Wesson shared two documents with the members identifying grant assistance for soil sampling. The goal of the project is to provide youth, farm enterprises, gardeners, and other landscape managers with knowledge and skills to make evidence based decisions on soil health.

**Adjourn**

Moved by: Andy van Niekerk

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor, Donna Jebb

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-02-18 adjourn at 11:30 a.m. to meet again in December, 2018 date to be determined.

Carried.