



**Draft Minutes**  
**Agricultural Advisory Committee**  
**AAC-02-19**  
**Thursday November 28, 2019**  
**10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Jose Building, Great Room**

---

**Present:**

Chair, Colin Elliott, Simcoe County FA  
Councillor Gail Little, NVCA Member (Dufferin County FA representative)  
Councillor Dane Nielsen, NVCA Member  
Jim Partridge, Simcoe County FA  
Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA  
John Morrison, Simcoe County FA  
Bernard Pope, Ontario Farmland Preservation  
Councillor Donna Jebb, NVCA Member  
Andy van Niekerk, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Assoc.  
Ted Woods, President Christian Farmers Association

**Regrets:**

Danny deBoer, Simcoe County FA  
Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services

**Staff Attendance:**

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer *Arrived at 11:20 a.m.*  
Byron Wesson, Director, Conservation Services  
Dave Featherstone, Senior Ecologist  
Haleigh Ferguson, Executive Administrator/Recorder

---

Chair Elliot called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m.

**1. MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA**

*RES: 04-19-AAC*

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-02-19 dated November 26, 2019 be approved.

**Carried;**

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

None declared.

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

*RES: 05-19-AAC*

**RESOLVED THAT:** the Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-01-19 dated March 27, 2019 be approved.

**Carried;**

**4. PRESENTATION**

Chris Hibberd, Director Watershed Management Services, NVCA will conduct a presentation on the NVCA Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

**Deferred;**

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Tree clearing/Planting Trees on Agricultural Land**

Discussion was had around agricultural farmers not being informed they need permission to clear acres of trees on their private land.

Our Senior Ecologist explained that Simcoe County along with the MNRF developed green space mapping as part of the latest Official Plan update. This is based on a model that the NVCA wasn't a big part of. An EP study is required to remove trees from any regulated space to see if it is designated for Greenland. The NVCA works closely with the County of Simcoe on tree cutting applications to see if there are any sensitivities to the land, such as wetlands etc., and we provide our comments to the County to assist with their planning. We give our best recommendations and advice with the County with the policies that exist and they move forward with how they see fit.

A small discussion was had on Managed Forest Tax Plan's. Our Senior Ecologist explained that private owners enter into this agreement for trees located on their private land. With plans that cross over regulated areas, this is where the NVCA really works closely with the County to minimize impacts to our environment.

- **Recent changes to the *Conversation Authority Act***

Director, Conservation Services lead the discussion on conservation authority core mandates and stated that our *Act* is very broad and we implement program(s) designed to further the conservation, restoration, development of and management of natural resources. In order for our core mandates to change the Ontario government has to change the *Conservation Authorities Act*. At this time, the Minister Environment, Conservation and Parks is meeting with all 36 conservation authorities in the province to better make decisions as part of the CA Act review. We are waiting for clear direction from the Province. At this point we move forward with business as usual.

NVCA Board member explained that we are waiting for clear direction from the Province and until we do, we cannot react until we are informed.

A Motion was put forward:

*RES: 06-19-AAC*

Moved by: Cllr. Donna Jebb      Seconded by: John Morrison

**RESOLVED THAT:** the NVCA send a letter to OFA to meet with representatives of our Agricultural Advisory Committee to take the concerns of the AAC affiliated through the NVCA to the meeting with the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

**Carried;**

- **Have a non-voting AAC member sit on the NVCA Board of Directors**

NVCA Board member explained that the AAC is well represented across the Board of Directors and the authority.

A Motion was put forth:

*RES: 07-19-AAC*

Moved by: Bernard Pope      Seconded by: Hugh Simpson

**RESOLVED THAT:** NVCA Board member representatives be appointed the voice to the NVCA Board of Directors and report back to the AAC, and advise of deputations on specific issues by a committee delegate to the Board.

**Carried;**

**6. NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.  
Located at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation – Jose Building – South Lab.

**7. ADJOURN**

*RES: 08-19-AAC*

Moved by: Hugh Simpson                      Seconded by: Dane Nielsen

**RESOLVED THAT:** this meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-02-19 adjourn at 12:34 p.m. to meet again on January 30, 2020.

**Carried;**