



MINUTES
Agricultural Advisory Committee
AAC-02-20
Thursday, October 15, 2020
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting Via WebEx

Present:

Chair, Colin Elliott, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Assoc. *Arrived 10:38 a.m.*
Vice-Chair, Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA
Cllr. Gail Little, NVCA Member (Dufferin County FA representative)
Cllr. Dane Nielsen, NVCA Member
Cllr. Donna Jebb, NVCA Member
John Morrison, Simcoe County FA
Ted Woods, President Christian Farmers Association

Regrets:

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

Guests:

Dave Ritchie, Resident

Staff Attendance:

Doug Hevenor, Chief Administrative Officer
Byron Wesson, Director, Conservation Services
Chris Hibberd, Director, Watershed Management Services
Haleigh Ferguson, Executive Administrator/Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Hugh Simpson, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

2. MOTION TO ADOPT AGENDA

RES: 08-20

Moved by: Ted Woods

Seconded by: Donna Jebb

RESOLVED THAT: the Agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-02-20 dated October 15, 2020 be approved.

Carried;

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

RES: 18-20-BOD

Moved by: Cllr. Gail Little

Seconded by: Cllr. Gary Harvey

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting 01-20-AAC dated January 30, 2020 be approved.

Carried;

5. PRESENTATIONS

Chris Hibberd, Director Watershed Management Services will conduct a brief overview on the NVCA's Integrated Watershed Management Plan and the 2021-2025 NVCA Strategic Plan.

Discussion:

Colin – Will future changes to regulations from the MOE effect the NVCA's strategic plan?

Chris – We will have to wait and find out what the province's direction is.

Doug – I have recently listened to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks speak at the Conservation Ontario council meeting, and changes are likely to occur before December, 31 2020. We have the ability to put forth any new regulations provided by the province in our strategic plan when that time occurs. Our strategic plan before this year was outdated and we had to move forward with approving a new plan for the coming years.

6. CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES CORE MANDATES

Doug Hevenor, CAO will go over recent changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Discussion:

Doug – the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks has suggested the new regulation changes will take place by the end of this year. However, in the meantime the NVCA and all other CA's are operating under the existing regulations for the time being.

Colin – When the new regulations are put forth do conservation authorities have to adhere to the regulations immediately or will there be certain steps that need to take place beforehand?

Doug – These regulations will have to go through royal assent at which time the NVCA will have to adhere to them. We have heard that there will be an 18-24 month transition period as many larger conservation authorities plan their budget a year or so in advance.

Ted Woods – Will we have advance notification of the new regulations provided by the province?

Doug – When the province releases any new regulations for conservation authorities it will be public knowledge.

7. MOU'S

Doug Hevenor, CAO will discuss the importance of MOU's between conservation authorities and municipalities.

Discussion:

Doug – The NVCA currently has 13 MOU's between our municipal partners, 5 municipalities currently choose not to.

For example, if the province issues four core mandates for conservation authorities municipal funding will cover these program areas. However, should the NVCA wish to have a forestry program with an individual municipality, a MOU will reflect this and will establish where the funding, etc. will come from.

Chris – MOU's streamline the permitting and screening process with individual municipalities.

Colin – Are there MOU's with municipalities or counties not in our watershed?

Doug – No there is not.

Colin – There is confusion among residents and the agricultural community in what entity has the authority over tree removal, fines, etc. Why do farmers have more restrictions than everyone else in the community?

Doug – The NVCA is involved as a commenting agency in regulated areas under our jurisdiction. Conservation authorities do not have the authority to issue stop work orders, we work with our municipal partners on this matter.

Colin – It has been brought to my attention that a resident was fined a reasonable amount by the NVCA for works done on his property.

Chris – In our approved fee schedule, if a resident requires a permit from the NVCA for works done on their property, and does not apply for a permit, the permit fee is doubled.

Donna – A resident has brought to my attention that he requires more information on the permit process on to how to update a drainage ditch. Can this be a topic of discussion for a future meeting?

Colin – Why does the NVCA comment on municipal drains?

Chris – The NVCA is mandated to comment on municipal drains through the *Municipal Drainage Act*. We play a small role in commenting on these applications.

Ted – Where can you find resources on railway lines through agricultural lands?

Hugh – You can find more information on the OFA website.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

RES: 09-20

Moved by: Colin Elliot

Seconded by: John Morrison

RESOLVED THAT: the AAC meeting will meet quarterly in 2021 for the months of February, April, August, and November:

1st Quarter Date: February, 2021

2nd Quarter Date: April, 2021

3rd Quarter Date: August, 2021

4th Quarter Date: November, 2021 and;

FURTHAT THAT: NVCA staff will provide the dates and times to all members by majority vote.

Carried;

9. ADJOURN

RES: 10-20

Moved by: Donna Jebb

Seconded by: John Morrison

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-02-20 adjourn at 11:41 a.m. to meet again in February 2021 or at the call of the Chair.

Carried;