



MINUTES
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Tuesday February 27, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Jose Building, South Lab

Present:

Vice Chair, Ted Van den Hurk, Christian Farmers Association
Colin Elliott, Simcoe County FA
Bernard Pope, Ontario Farmland Preservation
Councillor Gail Little, NVCA Member (Dufferin County FA representative)
Mayor Bill French, NVCA Member

Regrets:

Chair Jim Partridge, Simcoe County FA
Danny deBoer, Simcoe County FA
Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA
Deputy Mayor 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
Laurie Barron, Coordinator, CAO and Corporate Services

Call to Order

Vice Chair, Ted Van den Hurk called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Gail Little

Seconded by: Bernard Pope

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-01-18 dated February 27, 2018 be approved as printed.

Carried;

2. Declarations of conflict and pecuniary interest.

None declared.

3. Overview of changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Chris Hibberd, Director Watershed Management Services provided an update on the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* which included:

Strengthening oversight and accountability

- Members will sit on the board for a maximum of 4 years.
- Administrative by-laws will be required for all CA's.
- Meetings to be open to the public exceptions, outlined within an authority's by-laws.
- Enables MNRF to conduct program and operational reviews.
- Confirmed expectations for conservation authority, enlargements, amalgamations, and dissolution.

Increasing clarity and consistency in programs and services

- New Purpose Statement supports our broad mandate on a watershed basis.
- Required to provide programs and services mandated by regulations.
- Permitted to provide programs and services on behalf of participating municipalities.
- Permitted to provide additional programs services determined by the CA as being advisable to further their objects.
- Clarify expectations for provincially mandated programs and services, municipal MOU to be made publically available.
- The scope of activities clarified and subject to conservation authority approval.

Increasing consistency in regulatory requirements

- Clarifying the scope of a conservation authority's development permit review.
- Enables the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) to make regulations governing other activities which may impact the conservation, restoration, development or management of natural resources within the area of jurisdiction of an authority.
- Updating compliance mechanisms and enforcement tools
 - o Entry powers
 - o Stop work orders
 - o Increased fines

Colin Elliott, Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture advised the NVCA when developing enforcement tools for entry powers, they must take into consideration the Biosecurity Measures, Protocol to enter farms legislation.

Enhanced collaboration and engagement

- Increase indigenous, public and stakeholder outreach and engagement.

Modernized funding mechanisms

- Update how costs are apportioned among participating municipalities.
- Increase clarity and consistency in the development and use of fees.

Staff were asked to check with Conservation Ontario regarding a table outlining amendments and timing of regulations and proclamation effective upon Royal Assent.

More details on changes can be found in Conserving our Future document found at: <http://apps.mnr.gov.on.ca/public/files/er/mnrf-17-044-conserving-our-future-en.pdf>

4. Agricultural Awards – List of 2017 Projects

An Agricultural Award was introduced in 2016 as part of the NVCA's annual ***Evening of Thanks*** which recognizes community stakeholders and partners for their conservation efforts. This year, the event will take place on April 17th and members of the AAC will be invited to attend.

A list of 2017 projects was attached to the agenda.

Shannon Stephens, Healthy Waters Program Coordinator provided the AAC with further details on these projects at the meeting.

The members selected two community stakeholders to be recipients of the award this year.

5. Election of a Chair and Vice Chair for 2018

The election was deferred to the next meeting of the committee.

6. Next Meeting

Laurie will canvass the members to determine dates to meet in May, August and December, 2018.

7. Other Business

Shannon Stephens, Healthy Waters Coordinator advised the members of 2018 Landowner grants and programs coordinated by the NVCA.

The list includes Healthy Waters Program, Rural Water Quality Program (Dufferin County) and Tree Planting/Forestry grants.

The list of grant opportunities can be found on the NVCA website at:

<https://www.nvca.on.ca/Pages/GrantPrograms.aspx>

Adjourn

Moved by: Gail Little

Seconded by: Bernard Pope

RESOLVED THAT: this meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-01-18 adjourn at 11:30 a.m. to meet again in May, 2018 date to be determined.