



MINUTES
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting AAC-03-16
June 28, 2016
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
John Hix Building – Boardroom

Attendance:

Chair, Jim Partridge, Simcoe County FA
Vice Chair, Ted Van den Hurk, Christian Farmers Association
Colin Elliott, Simcoe County FA
Deputy Mayor Gail Ardiel, NVCA Board Member
Councillor Ron Orr, NVCA Member
Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA

Regrets:

Danny deBoer, Simcoe County FA
Heather Foster Dufferin County FA
Councillor Donna Jebb, NVCA Member
Ed Pridham, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Association
Bernard Pope, Ontario Farmland Preservation

Guest

Charlie LaLonde, Holland Marsh Grower's Association

Staff Attendance:

D. Gayle Wood, Chief Administrative Officer
Ryan Post, Hydrogeologist/SWP Coordinator
Michael Saunders, Agricultural Water Technologist

Chair Partridge welcomed the members to the Committee meeting. It was asked if there was a quorum and Gayle Wood, CAO advised that a quorum was present.

1. Approval of Agenda

RES: #1 Moved by: Ted Van den Hurk Seconded by: Hugh Simpson

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-03-16 dated June 28, 2016 be approved, as amended to discuss [under Other Business]:

- the time of the meetings;
- comments on the Conservation Authorities Act Review; and
- NVCA comments regarding the property east of Bradford Greenhouses on Hwy 90.

2. **Declarations of conflict and pecuniary interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or conflict of interest.

3. **Receipt of Meeting Notes – March 9, 2016**

It was asked why Meeting #2 on March 9, 2016 was referenced in the agenda as "Meeting Notes." The CAO advised that there was no quorum at the meeting and as such "Notes" as opposed to "Minutes" were taken.

RES: #2 Moved by: Ted Van den Hurk Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

RESOLVED THAT: the Meeting Notes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-02-16 dated March 9, 2016 be received for information.

4. **Correspondence**

The AAC agreed to consider item #5 on the agenda – "Correspondence" prior to the arrival of the Guest Speaker.

Correspondence dated June 9, 2016 from Conservation Ontario regarding development of an "Agricultural Guide to Conservation Authority Permits" was discussed. Concern was expressed regarding two matters:

- the Guide's relation to municipal by-laws; and
- Comments being received from the Federation of Agriculture to Conservation Ontario regarding the Guide.

Colin Elliott and Hugh Simpson agreed to contact Peter Jeffrey at the FOA to discuss comments to Conservation Ontario. Gayle Wood agreed to contact Conservation Ontario to advise that members of the AAC will be contacting Mr. Jeffrey.

RES: #3 Moved by: Hugh Simpson Seconded by: Ted Van den Hurk

RESOLVED THAT: the NVCA Agricultural Advisory Committee receive the correspondence from Conservation Ontario dated June 9, 2016 regarding a special project to develop an "Agricultural Guide to Conservation Authority Permits in the Greenbelt and Beyond".

5. **Deputations: Holland Marsh Grower's Association Water Project**

Ryan Post introduced Mr. Charlie LaLonde, Project Manager, Holland Marsh Growers' Association Water Project. and Michael Saunders, NVCA Agricultural Water Technologist, who assisted with the project. Each member of the AAC introduced themselves.

Charlie reviewed a slide presentation, which was attached to the agenda, regarding the Holland Marsh Growers' Association Water Project which focused on vegetable washing. He overviewed the project goals, project sites, information events, vegetable washing processes and treatment. Charlie also reviewed the work done with a dairy operator and the amount of phosphorous resulting from dairy wash water.

He further outlined best management practices for phosphorus reduction, including:

- Crop rotation
- Reducing tillage
- Cover crops
- Nutrient application use
- 4 R nutrient stewardship
- Erosion control
- Water treatment.

In terms of "knowledge transfer" related to the project, the following information has been produced:

- 16 Fact Sheets
- 3 news releases
- A Blog – with articles on the project
- www.HMGAWater.ca site

Several questions were asked by the AAC members regarding:

- Sediment as a result of washing;
- Nutrients introduced to the water, both phosphorus and nitrogen;
- E.coli associated with the washing;
- Settling processes for root vegetable washing, leafy greens and potatoes.

There was considerable discussion on "no till" practices and whether they were beneficial. A question was asked regarding where the control is around no till practices. Further, it was asked how phosphorous loads and reductions were determined. It was acknowledged that this is an emerging area of study and models and measurements are imperfect.

Two other questions were asked by the AAC members:

Q. If water treatment results in a wetland, is it designated forever?

A. Any wetland determination must be designated by MNRF.

Q. How does this project fit into the larger picture, such as the Great Lakes Strategy?

A. Any removal of phosphorous discharges will assist in nutrient reduction. It is the cumulative impact of all reductions that will have a major impact.

RES:#4 Moved by: Ron Orr Seconded by: Gail Ardiel

RESOLVED THAT: the NVCA Agricultural Advisory Committee receive the deputation from Charlie LaLonde, Project Manager, Holland Marsh Grower's Association regarding the Holland Marsh Grower's Association Water Project.

6. Other Business

- (a) Colin Elliott requested that the AAC meetings be held between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. The Committee agreed with this.
- (b) Colin Elliott outlined the stakeholder consultation process for the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA) Review. Colin requested the AAC to respond to the CAA Review. Colin agreed to prepare a draft response for consideration by the committee members by mid-July. Comments will be required by the members by **July 30, 2016**. Final comments need to be forwarded to Gayle by August 2, 2016 in order that they are placed on the NVCA's August Board agenda for the Board's information.
- (c) It was requested that the AAC receive information regarding a wetland at the Bradford Greenhouses.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the call of the Chair in the fall of 2016.

8. Adjourn

RES: #5 Moved by: Ted Van den Hurk Seconded by: Hugh Simpson

RESOLVED That: this meeting AAC-03-16 adjourn at 11:30 p.m. to meet again at the call of the chair.

Jim Partridge, AAC Chair

D. Gayle Wood, NVCA, CAO