



**Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting AAC-01-16
February 12, 2016
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
John Hix Building – Boardroom**

Attendance:

Chair, Jim Partridge Simcoe County FA
Vice Chair, Ted Van den Hurk, Christian Farmers Association
Danny deBoer, Simcoe County FA
Colin Elliott, Simcoe County FA
Heather Foster Dufferin County FA
Bernard Pope, Ontario Farmland Preservation
Ed Pritham, North Simcoe Soil and Crop Association
Deputy Mayor Gail Ardiel, NVCA Board Member
Councillor Ron Orr, NVCA Member

Regrets:

Councillor Donna Jebb, NVCA Member
Hugh Simpson, Grey County FA

Guest

Wayne Brohman, Chief Administrative Officer, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Staff Attendance:

D. Gayle Wood, Chief Administrative Officer,
Byron Wesson, Director, Land, Education and Stewardship Services
Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services

Chair Partridge will welcome the new members to the Committee – Bernard Pope and Ed Pritham as well as our guest Wayne Brohman.

1. Approval of Agenda

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-01-16 dated February 12, 2016 be approved.

2. Declarations of conflict and pecuniary interest

3. Receipt of Meeting Notes

The Agricultural Advisory Committee met on December 10, 2015. As there was no quorum, only Meeting Notes were taken.

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the Meeting Notes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-04-15 dated December 10, 2015 be received for information.

4. Review of the New Agricultural Award for 2016

The Agricultural Advisory Committee endorsed the concept of introducing a new Agricultural Award at the NVCA's annual *Evening of Thanks* which recognizes community stakeholders and partners for their conservation efforts. Information on the new Agricultural Award is attached to the agenda for the member's information.

5. Agricultural Award - List of Projects

NVCA staff will circulate a list of agricultural projects which were completed in 2015 by the agricultural community and NVCA that may be eligible to receive this award. This list will be circulated via separate email prior to the meeting. The Committee will be asked to short list 3 to 5 projects for further consideration.

6. Other Business

7. Next Meetings



Meeting Notes
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting AAC-04-15
December 10, 2015
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
John Hix Building – Boardroom

Present:

Chair, Jim Partridge Simcoe County FA
Vice Chair, Ted Van den Hurk, Christian Farmers Association
Danny deBoer, Simcoe County FA

Regrets:

Elliott, Simcoe County FA
Roham Davoodian, Simcoe County Farm Fresh
Councillor Ron Orr, NVCA Member
Councillor Donna Jebb, NVCA Member
Deputy Mayor Gail Ardiel, NVCA Vice-Chair
Mayor Paul McQueen, Grey County FA
Heather Foster, Dufferin County FA

Guest

John Elder, Simcoe County FA on behalf of Colin Elliott

Staff Attendance:

D. Gayle Wood, Chief Administrative Officer,
Chris Hibberd, Director, Planning Services
Laurie Barron, Coordinator, CAO and Corporate Services

Quorum was not met.
The meeting was held with the members present

The meeting started at 10:20 a.m.

The following items were deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

- 1. Approval of Agenda**
Recommendation:
RESOLVED THAT: the agenda for the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-04-15 dated December 10, 2015 be approved.
- 2. Declarations of conflict and pecuniary interest**
- 3. Adoption of Minutes**
Minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-03-15 dated September 17, 2015.

Recommendation:

RESOLVED THAT: the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee AAC-02-15 dated June 12, 2015 be approved.

4. Review of potential new members for the Advisory Committee

Chair, Partridge, Vice Chair, Ted Van den Hurk and member Danny deBoer discussed the applicants who expressed interest in sitting on the AAC in the new year (2016). The 3 members present supported the inclusion of both applicants to the AAC, as follows

(a) Ontario Farmland Preservation

Bernard Pope, Ontario Farmland Trust Chair, Policy and Education Committee.

(b) North Simcoe Soil and Crop Association

Ed Pridham

As there was no quorum at the meeting, it was determined that Chair Partridge would circulate an email to the Committee members requesting their comments/approval for these individuals.

5. Review of the 2015 Highlights of the work of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority

At the request of the Chair, and with the approval of the Committee, the monthly meeting Highlights for the NVCA's Board of Directors' were attached to the agenda and reviewed by the Chief Administrative Officer. The CAO also advised that the full meeting minutes can be found on the NVCA website at <http://www.nvca.on.ca/Pages/AgendaMinutes.aspx>.

The CAO also reviewed the 2015 budget with the members. Further, the CAO indicated that she would be pleased to attend future SCFA meetings as well as other interested federations, to overview NVCA programs.

6. Review of the NVCA's Fees Review Committee, including a discussion on when NVCA is involved with agricultural permits.

Chris Hibberd, Director, Planning Services provided a review of NVCA's fees and where the Planning and Engineering Advisory Committee is in terms of revising the fee schedule.

7. Opportunity for an agricultural member to serve/liaise with the NVCA Board of Directors.

The Conservation Authority is aware of the request by agricultural representatives, during the review of *The Conservation Authorities Act*, for an agricultural appointee to be designated to all Conservation Authority Boards as a voting member.

The AAC Chair will continue to be invited to attend NVCA Board Meetings and present the minutes of the Committee for the Board's consideration. This proposal was thought to be a good step forward by those members of the committee present at the meeting.

8. Other Business

The AAC discussed the possibility of creating a new agricultural award for the NVCA's *Evening of Thanks*. NVCA staff are supportive of this idea. The AAC requested staff to bring forward the projects that NVCA had with the agricultural community in 2015 and the Committee would recommend which project would be worthy of the award.

9. Future Meetings

The Committee suggested the next meeting be held on Thursday April 7, 2016.

Jim Partridge, Chair

Gayle Wood, Chief Administrative Officer

New NVCA Conservation Champion, Agriculture, Award

January 28, 2016

Background

Each year, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) presents Conservation Champion Awards to individuals, community groups, municipalities, businesses, partners and agencies that have made a significant contribution to the health of our watershed. In 2016, the ***Evening of Thanks*** event will be held on ***April 28th at Tiffin Conservation Centre***. It is hoped that members of the NVCA Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) can attend this event.

A Conservation Champion is a person, group or organization that has been involved in projects and initiatives such as:

- Environmental restoration projects
- Tree planting and forest management
- Environmental publications
- Environmental education
- Donation of conservation land or easement
- Financial contribution towards the purchase of conservation lands or in support of an environmental project
- Implementation of environmental plans or policies
- Advocacy for natural heritage protection
- Promotion sustainable development and/or restoring watershed health
- Advocacy for the NVCA to stakeholders and decision makers
- And other conservation activities

Currently five Conservation Champion Awards are presented annually at the NVCA's ***Evening of Thanks***:

- **Conservation Champion, Individual** - Individuals who have worked on an environmental improvement project(s) within the NVCA jurisdiction.
- **Conservation Champion, Group** - Community groups, businesses, partners and agencies who have worked on an environmental improvement project(s) within the NVCA jurisdiction.
- **Conservation Champion, Municipal** – Municipalities or municipal committees who have worked on an environmental improvement project(s) within the NVCA jurisdiction
- **Young Conservation Champion Award** - Individuals 19 years of age or younger who have worked on an environmental improvement project(s) within the NVCA jurisdiction.

- **Conservation Partner Award**, given to an organization that has had a longstanding relationship with the NVCA, and without whom many of the Authority's programs and services would simply not be possible.

Proposed New Award

In 2015, the NVCA's Agricultural Advisory Committee supported the idea of creating a new Conservation Champion award specifically for farmers in the watershed.

The proposed award is the **Conservation Champion, Agriculture** (working title) and will be awarded to a farmer within the Nottawasaga Valley watershed who has worked with NVCA to make significant on-farm environmental improvements.

Award Name

There is an opportunity to create a "named" award to:

- recognize the relationship between NVCA, Federations of Agriculture, watershed Agricultural organizations (such as Christian Farmers, etc.) and the OFA;
- recognize a farmer that has been a long-standing supporter of NVCA's stewardship work; and/or
- recognize a local farm-related business.

Eligibility

Any NVCA related-project (stewardship, tree planting, etc.) conducted on farms in the watershed the previous year would be eligible for the award.

Award Selection Committee

The NVCA's Agricultural Advisory Committee will serve as the Award Selection Committee.

Nomination & Award Selection Process

- **February 5, 2016** – As requested by the AAC, NVCA staff will prepare list of all on-farm projects conducted with NVCA during the previous year. This list will contain details such as:
 - Municipality (location),
 - Watercourse or subwatershed,
 - Project type (fencing, tree planting, buffers, well decommissioning, etc.),

- Relevant project metrics (number of trees planted, area improved, kilometers of stream restored, etc.),
- Total project value (\$),
- Rating of environmental significance (determined by AAC with staff assistance),
- The list will form the basis on an AAC Meeting for the end of February.

Note: NVCA has assured our farming community confidentiality in relation to their projects, therefore the names and exact locations cannot be provided to the AAC at the beginning of the evaluation process.

February 10, 2016 – the agenda is circulated to the AAC for a February 12, 2016 meeting (if a quorum is met).

- **February 12, 2016 (proposed date)** – The AAC meets to narrow down the top 3 to 5 projects for consideration of the award. Staff will then contact these farmers to see if they would like to be considered for the award (and release their names, project details, etc. to the committee).
- **Mid-March** – Staff will meet with the AAC to provide any additional feedback on each of the projects. This meeting may be done in person or via conference call.
- **End of March** – Committee agrees to the award recipient, and forwards that name to the NVCA's Chief Administrative Officer so that the award can be prepared.
- **April 28, 2016** – Chair of the NVCA Agricultural Advisory Committee and Chair of NVCA present the award at the NVCA's annual Evening of Thanks.