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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 11, 2024

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:31 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: T. Barrie, Clarington  
Z. Cohoon, Member at Large, Chair  
R. Death\*, Whitby  
N. Guthrie, Ajax  
B. Hulshof\*, Uxbridge, attended the meeting at 7:48 PM  
J. McKay\*, Durham Farm Fresh  
G. O'Connor, Member at Large  
D. Risebrough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair  
H. Schillings, Member at Large  
B. Smith\*, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair  
M. Somerville, Member at Large, attended the meeting at 7:37 PM  
D. Stevenson, Oshawa  
N. Swain, Scugog  
G. Taylor, Pickering  
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor  
**\* denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture  
T. Watpool, Brock

#### Staff

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
C. Goodchild\*, Director, Planning, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

## 2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by G.L. O'Connor, Seconded by H. Schillings,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting  
held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

## 4. **Presentations**

### A) William Turman and Robert Rappolt, WSP Canada Inc. – Enabling Agriculture-Related Uses and On-Farm Diversified Uses Project

William Turman and Robert Rappolt, WSP Canada Inc. provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to North Durham Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses Study.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Presentation Outline
- Introductions
- Project Purpose
- Project Workplan
- Land Use Planning Framework
- What are Agriculture-Related Uses and On-Farm Diversified Uses?
- Examples of an Agriculture-Related Use
- Examples of an On-Farm Diversified Use
- Land Use Planning Framework
- Preliminary Areas of Consideration and Discussion
  - Types of Uses, Size and Impacts
  - Preliminary Meeting with Township Staff
  - Land Use Planning
  - Other Municipal By-laws
  - Marketing and Education
- Discussion
- Stay in Touch

W. Turman and R. Rappolt responded to questions with regards to why flour mills are limited to only allow grain that is grown in the area; the land use planning framework being used; clarification on the size and scale of events and number of guests permitted; how much experience in event planning WSP Canada Inc. has; and whether they are consulting with Durham Tourism on the project.

Discussion ensued with regards to the land use planning framework for the project; the number of people at events to ensure profitability; size, location and road access of farms to host events; implementing a unified policy throughout the lower-tier municipalities in Durham Region; ensuring fairness for all business in the process; property standards by-laws being implemented for On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDUs); cost implications when applying for zoning by-law amendments and Official Plan amendments; and providing a training module for Township planners to understand how OFDUs work.

Z. Cohoon suggested having direct consultation with select Committee members that have lived experience with Agriculture-Related and OFDUs and hosting events at their farms, and that staff set up a day trip to attend Durham Region farms that could provide good examples of Agriculture-Related and OFDUs.

W. Turman and R. Rappolt advised that the feedback received will be taken into consideration during the development of the draft recommendations and an update and opportunity to provide feedback on draft recommendations will be provided in the Fall.

## **5. Discussion Items**

### **A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update**

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A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The Precision Ag Field Day held at the Barrie Farm on May 28, 2024 was a huge success with approximately 100 students, great weather and coverage from Global News Durham.
- There have been recent discussions with the Oshawa Port regarding fertilizer infrastructure. They currently only have a bin for potash and will be refurbishing existing buildings to start bringing in urea and phosphates. If the Committee would like to have an update from the Oshawa Port, arrangements can be made.

Discussion ensued with regards to the announcement of the Somerset Port in New York; moving large volumes of product between New York and Oshawa; energy costs for the new port; who the grain merchandiser will be; Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) focusing heavily on agriculture for future investment; and the current merchandiser at the Oshawa Port.

A. De Vos responded to a question with regards to how the agriculture-related and on-farm diversified uses in North Durham study survey is being shared with community groups.

B) Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington Update

T. Barrie advised that there is no Agriculture Advisory Committee Clarington Update at this time.

C) Durham Farm Fresh Update

J. McKay advised that there is no Durham Farm Fresh Update at this time and the next meeting is on Monday, June 17, 2024.

D) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update

M. Scott advised that there is no Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update at this time.

E) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

M. Shiers was not in attendance to provide the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update.

F) 2024 Farm Tour

D. Risebrough advised that the 2024 Farm Tour is taking place on September 26, 2024 at Twin Erin Farms and Two Blokes Cider.

Discussion ensued with regards to using the lunch as a time for networking; displays that will be set up for the farm tour; how many people movers will be required; and lunch being provided by the caterer.

M. Scott advised that the save the dates have already been sent out and the invitations will be sent out shortly.

**6. Information Items**

A) HOPA Ports Announces Partnership to Establish Lake Ontario Short Sea Shipping Corridor with United States

HOPA Ports Announces Partnership to Establish Lake Ontario Short Sea Shipping Corridor with United States was provided as a link to the agenda and received.

B) Correspondence dated May 6, 2024, to Brian Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the Review of the Adopted Durham Region Official Plan, and Draft Decision with Proposed Modifications

Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated May 6, 2024 to Brian Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding the review of the adopted Durham Regional Official Plan and draft

decision with proposed modifications was provided as Attachment #3 to the agenda and received.

C) #2024-COW-18 – The Region of Durham’s Comments on Bill 185, the New Provincial Planning Statement, and the Affordable Residential Units Bulletin

Report #2024-COW-18 of the Commissioner of Finance, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development and Commissioner of Works regarding The Region of Durham’s Comments on Bill 195, the new Provincial Planning Statement, and the Affordable Residential Units Bulletin was provided as Attachment #4 to the agenda and received.

**7. Other Business**

A) Follow-up to May Committee Meeting and Staff Presentation Related to Agriculture and Sustainability from Z. Cohoon, Chair

Z. Cohoon referred to the discussion at the May 14, 2024 Committee meeting and recognized that the manner in which he questioned staff on the presentation was inappropriate and offered his apology to Committee members and staff.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 starting at 7:30 PM.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by G.L. O’Connor, Seconded by D. Risebrough,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Z. Cohoon, Chair

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk