

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 13, 2018

A regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 in Boardroom 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:31 PM

Present: E. Bowman, Clarington
Z. Cohoon, Federation of Agriculture, Chair
J. Henderson, Oshawa
B. Howsam, Member at Large, attended the meeting at 7:39 PM
K. Kemp, Scugog
F. Puterbough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair, attended the meeting at 7:44 PM
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Whitby
B. Smith, Uxbridge
G. Taylor, Pickering
T. Watpool, Brock, Vice-Chair
B. Winter, Ajax

Absent: I. Bacon, Member at Large
K. Kennedy, Member at Large
G. O'Connor, Regional Chair

Staff

Present: K. Kilbourne, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development
L. MacKenzie, Agriculture Program Coordinator, Department of Planning and Economic Development
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by K. Kemp, Seconded by B. Winter,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting held on October 9, 2018 be adopted.
CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Presentations

A) Heather Brooks and Angela Porteous, CLOCA, Watershed Plan Updates

H. Brooks and A. Porteous, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA), provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Watershed Plan Review.

H. Brooks stated that a watershed is an area that is drained by a river or creek and its tributaries. The purpose of a Watershed Plan is to guide decisions regarding the effective management of watershed resources. She advised that the goal of a Plan is to achieve healthy, sustained ecological and hydrological systems which can positively respond to changes in landscape and watershed conditions. She further advised that a Plan is a living document that provides the framework to protect, restore and enhance watersheds.

A. Porteous stated that there are four current watershed plans as follows:

- Lynde Creek
- Oshawa Creek
- Black/Harmony/Farewell Creeks
- Bowmanville/Soper Creeks

She advised that the existing Watershed Plans were completed 5 years ago and since then there have been many changes in the CLOCA jurisdiction resulting in the need to review and update the Plans.

H. Brooks stated that over the last 5 years, the Watershed Plans have been implemented by:

- Working with municipal partners, including the Region of Durham and lower-tier municipalities to have the Plans implemented through Official Plan updates;
- Current Plans include policy recommendations broken into 15 fundamental policies, 16 key policies and an additional 40 voluntary policies;
- All municipalities in CLOCA's jurisdiction have been working to incorporate the recommended policies into their Official Plans; and
- Action plans have been undertaken by CLOCA to better understand the natural environment, identify gaps in information, and identify areas that are priorities for future restoration efforts as follows:
 - 9 action plans that focus on the local heritage system;
 - 6 actions plans that focus on improving local water; and
 - 9 action plans that focus on the impacts of human influences in the area.

H. Brooks stated that once the consultation phase has been completed, the draft updates to Watershed Plans will be completed in 2019 with the implementation of the final plans in 2020. She requested that committee members support the 2019 “Where in the Watershed” education campaign as well as provide feedback, comments and suggestions to the Watershed Plans Review by using the link provided on their website.

H. Brooks and A. Porteous responded to questions regarding tile drainage and discussion ensued with regards to the importance of working and communicating with agricultural groups to encourage better partnerships and in recognition that farmers are stewards of the land.

4. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update – L. MacKenzie

L. MacKenzie, Agriculture Program Coordinator, provided the following update on behalf of N. Rutherford, Manager, Agriculture and Rural Affairs:

- The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) is hosting a Growing Your Farm Profits workshop on November 23, November 30, and December 8, 2018 at Regional Headquarters. The workshop will allow registrants to assess business management practices, determine priorities and key goals, develop realistic action plans, and learn about cost sharing opportunities.
- With regards to the Local Food Business Retention and Expansion project, staff is working with the consultant to assist with the data analysis phase and to identify trends, outcomes and themes.
- The current Agricultural Strategy has reached the end of its term and will be revised for another 5 years. Staff is in the process of sourcing a consultant to meet with key stakeholders to review the plan and focus efforts on current issues in the agriculture and agri-food sector. Staff is looking for interested DAAC members and other stakeholders to provide feedback or suggestions on how to enhance implementation of the strategy. Consultation is planned to take place in conjunction with the Region’s Municipal Comprehensive Review.
- DAAC members are invited to provide feedback on a feasibility study with regards to the concept of an agri-food education and event centre with various options for indoor and outdoor facilities. The study will determine the degree of interest and potential use of space and will be forwarded to all committee members by the end of the week.

B) Consultation #1 for Agricultural Sector Climate Change Strategy

A copy of the correspondence from the Agricultural Sector Expert Task Force on Climate Change Adaptation was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda.

K. Kilbourne stated that the Agricultural Sector Expert Task Force on Climate Change Adaptation is leading the development of a Regional Agricultural Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. She stated that the Task Force is reaching out to the agricultural community for feedback on identified risks, opportunities, preliminary program option, as well as to obtain feedback on local individual and organizational priorities around climate adaptation and agriculture. She advised that feedback is requested by November 16, 2018.

Discussion ensued with regards to the well written and effective use of terminology in the documents attached to the correspondence entitled "Durham Region Agricultural Sector Anticipated Climate Change Risk and Opportunities" and "Preliminary Potential Program Options for Durham Agricultural Sector Climate Adaptation"; and the importance of providing incentives to farmers with regards to their contributions to climate change.

5. Information Items

A) Report #2018-INFO-140 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2018 Farm Tour

A copy of Report #2018-INFO-140 regarding the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2018 Farm Tour was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

B) Notice of Adoption for Amendment #172 to the Durham Regional Official Plan

A copy of the Notice of Adoption with Respect to Amendment #172 to the Durham Regional Official Plan Section 17(23) of the Planning Act was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

C) Notice of Study Commencement: Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, Zone 4 Water Storage and Pumping Facilities to Service North Whitby and North Oshawa

A copy of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Notice of Study Commencement for Zone 4 Water Storage and Pumping Facilities to service north Whitby and north Oshawa was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

D) Advertisement for Citizen Volunteer Appointments to DAAC and DEAC

A copy of the Advertisement for the Member Application to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was provided as Attachment #6 to the Agenda and received. K. Kilbourne requested that Committee Members provide confirmation in writing to her with regards to whether or not they wish to serve another term on the Committee.

6. Other Business

A) Letter of thanks from Regional Chair O'Connor

Z. Cohoon recited a letter from Regional Chair O'Connor to the Committee thanking the members for their hard work and dedication in serving the farming community as well as their support on the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee.

B) Durham Community Energy Plan

D. Risebrough advised that there will be a final meeting with regards to the Durham Community Energy Plan on November 22, 2018 which he will attend and report back to the Committee on.

C) T.H.E.E. Farmers Parade of Lights

E. Bowman advised Committee members that the T.H.E.E. Farmers Parade of Lights will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 6 PM.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 starting at 7:30 PM in Boardroom 1-B, Level 1, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

8. Adjournment

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by B. Smith,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Z. Cohoon, Chair, Durham
Agricultural Advisory Committee

N. Prasad, Committee Clerk