



Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting

Haldimand County Administration Building
Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:00 pm

Present: Councillor Trainer, Dan Court, Neil Hedley, Stuart Heeg, Henk Lise, and Cody Snyder.

Guests: Sue Brocklebank (Grand River Conservation Authority), William Turman (WSP – North Caledonia Employment Lands consultant), Robert Rappolt (WSP – North Caledonia Employment Lands consultant)

Staff: Lidy Romanuk, Manager, Economic Development and Tourism, Jessica Easson, Senior Economic Development Officer and Hannah Brown, Research and Marketing Technician.

Regrets: Richard Blyleven, Kevin VanderSpek, Christine Wilkinson

1. Welcome and Introduction

Meeting called to order by Chair N. Hedley at 6:01 p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Business arising from the minutes included weeds on development lands and road concerns.

Moved by H. Lise and seconded D. Court that minutes of Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting dated September 20th, 2023, be approved as presented at 7:38 PM.

APPROVED

3. Rural Water Quality Projects

S. Brocklebank from the Grand River Conservation Authority presented four Rural Water Quality Projects for the committee's approval.

File # Haldimand 94 – Cover Crop
Proposal for 2 fields of cover crops, 7 acres and 30 acres.

Moved by D. Court, and seconded by H. Lise that the project be approved totaling \$520.00 at 6:03 pm. Carried.

APPROVED

File # Haldimand 124 – Tree Planting
Proposal to plant a mix of 1300 native deciduous and coniferous trees.

Moved by C. Snyder, and seconded by D. Court that the project be approved totaling \$1,401.00 at 6:06 pm. Carried.

APPROVED

File # Haldimand 127 – Cover Crop

Proposal to plant 80 acres of cover crops of oats, radish and peas following wheat.

Moved by H. Lise, and seconded by S. Heeg that the project be approved totaling \$1500 at 6:07 pm. Carried.

APPROVED

File # Haldimand 128 – Well Decommissioning

Proposal to decommission a 6" diameter, 25-30' deep well.

Moved by D. Court, and seconded by H. Lise that the project be approved totaling \$1000 at 6:08 pm. Carried.

APPROVED

4. North Caledonia Employment Lands Update

L. Romanuk introduced the consultants from WSP, R. Rappolt and W. Turman, who then presented a North Caledonia Employment Lands Phase One update.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Study Background and purpose
- Phase One outcomes
- Target Sector Analysis
- Feasibility and Servicing Study
- Concept Plan – Wastewater, Stormwater and Road Infrastructure
- Next Steps

C. Snyder then asked if there was consideration for the farm lands. A response was given that this was evaluated during the official plan review and lands were determined based on provincial requirement on municipalities.

L. Romanuk thanked the consultants for their time and presentation.

5. Agri Food Forum Summary

L. Romanuk provided a summary from the Agri-Food Forum conference.

A discussion then ensued regarding agricultural plastic recycling techniques and Council agriculture 101 training.

6. Council Update

Councillor Trainer provided a council update:

- Council has approved to levy the maintenance cost of multiple municipal drains on the assessed.
- There are currently seven proposed battery storage projects seeking municipal support as part of the IESO's long term procurement process.

7. EDT Update

L. Romanuk then delivered an EDT update, key highlights included:

- Emily project
- Spark program update
- Haldimand Wishbook update
- Holiday Market and craft show November 23rd
- Solar eclipse update

8. New Business

- The HFA has a new president for the 2023-2024 term
 - C. Snyder suggested that a Council member be invited to the meetings
- Valley Heights Secondary School has a new educational program for an agriculture high skills major

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM, moved by H. Lise seconded by S. Heeg.

10. Next Meeting and Action Items

January 17th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Haldimand County Administrative Building

Action Items:

- Share North Caledonia Employment Lands presentation with committee
- Send Agri-Food Forum presentation to committee
- Send agriculture plastic recycling YouTube video to committee