



**Northumberland County
Agriculture Advisory Group Meeting
Minutes**

July 27, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Zoom Conference Technology

Present: Chair M. Opsteen, Deputy Warden M. Martin, L. Meekes, P. Burnham, A. Carruthers, Bruce Butter,

Staff Present: M. Ellis, J. Moore, G. Dees, T. Mellor, D. Marshall

Guests Present: S. Tanner

Regrets: K. Stubbings, A. Cole, D. Grey, M. Dejong, P. Linton

1) Welcome

- Jennifer Moore Chaired meeting due to technical difficulties.
- Sarah Tanner, Community and Customer Service Manager.

2) Approval of the July 27, 2021 Agenda / Additional Items

- Additional item - sensible growth for Northumberland.
- Agenda accepted as amended.

3) Approval of the April 19, 2021 Minutes

- Minutes accepted as presented

4) Action Items and Follow Up from Previous Meetings

a) Municipal Drainage Act

- Local municipalities are able to hire a Drainage Superintendent and many of these people are also Building Inspectors.
- Drainage Superintendent help agriculture community and municipalities navigate drainage issues.
- **Action:** Jennifer indicated that she will discuss this topic at a future meeting of Northumberland County CAOs.

- Jennifer discussed municipal drains with Member Municipal CAOs.
 - Denise indicated that she also has had discussions with the Inter-Municipal Public Works Committee.
 - Member Municipalities expressed interest in the idea of establishing municipal drains if a request came forward and processes were established.
 - Staff are also reviewing the legislative changes to the Drainage Act, that aims to streamline processes.
 - Denise highlighted that staff are working to schedule a fall meeting with Conservation Authorities and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs.
- A question was raised about whether the County has had any correspondence with local vegetable farmers and discussed farming practices, water taking, etc.
 - Denise indicated that the County had been contacted with a request to install a pipe for irrigation.
 - The County referred requestor to the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Park to obtain approvals for water taking from the creek.
 - Discussion ensued regarding vegetable farming practices.
- Denise also provided a brief update on traffic safety, highlighting that the County and Member Municipalities are working collaboratively to address speeding concerns through education and awareness.
 - A speeding awareness campaign will soon be launched that includes media advertisements.

5) Correspondence

- a) Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs re: Modernizing the Drainage Act, dated July 8, 2021
 - No discussion.

6) New/Other Business

- a) **Northumberland Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (Sarah Tanner)**
 - Please see attached presentation.
 - Sarah Tanner provided an update on Northumberland's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan.
 - Municipalities were required to submit a CSWB Plan to the Province by July 1, 2021.
 - CSWB Plan requires developing and implementing evidence-based strategies and programs to address local priorities (i.e., risk factors, vulnerable groups, protective factors) related to crime, safety, and complex social issues on a sustainable basis.

- A range of consultations were completed over the fall and winter of 2020/21 in order to help inform the development of the plan.
- The top four priorities identified to enhance community safety and well-being in Northumberland include:
 - Homelessness/affordable housing;
 - Substance use/addictions;
 - Poverty, employment;
 - Income; and
 - Mental Health.
- Lisa highlighted that the Northumberland Federation of Agriculture is championing a mental health program for framers.
- The development and implementation of a Northumberland County CSWB Plan will further enhance communication and collaboration among sectors, agencies and organizations and encourage increased understanding of and focus on local risks and vulnerable groups.

b) 2022 Budget Update (Glenn Dees)

- Glenn provided an overview of the 2022 budget simulation tool.
- The County will soon launch public consultations on the development of the 2022 County budget.
- Glenn explained that the ‘Balancing Act’ budget simulation tool enables community members to try their hand at allocating the proposed 2022 County Budget; simulating changes to spending and revenue across County services.
- Each option includes details about potential related impacts to the overall budget and to the individual taxpayer.
- Participants can use the tool to emphasize their budget priorities while also learning more about the services provided by the upper-tier level of government in Northumberland.
- Glenn explained that the simulation tool will launch on August 3rd and feedback must be submitted by August 31st.
- Advertisements on County website, local papers, social media, etc.
- **Action:** Maddison will share information with Agriculture Advisory Group (completed).

c) Highlights from County 1st Half of 2021 (Jennifer Moore)

- Jennifer shared that the County recently released the 2020 Annual Report.
- Jennifer indicated that the County releases ‘Council News’, which is a bulletin packed with details about the decisions, activities and events of Northumberland County Council.
 - Members of the public can subscribe via the County’s website (<https://subscription.northumberland.ca/subscribe>).
- Jennifer also highlighted that the Quarter 2 Strategic Plan update will be brought forward to the August Corporate Support Committee Meeting.

d) Sensible Growth for Northumberland (Lisa Meeks)

- Agriculture Advisory Group members discussed the Landlab development proposal in Alnwick/Haldivand.
- Group members asked how this development proposal fits within the Northumberland County Official Plan.
- **Action:** Maddison will invite Dwayne Campbell to the next meeting.

[Due to technical difficulties, Glenn Dees took over as meeting Chair and adjourned the meeting.]

7) Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Northumberland County Growth and Development - Dwayne Campbell, Land Use Planning & Inspection Services Manager

8) Next Meeting

- September 28, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. (Zoom conference)