



**Northumberland County  
Agriculture Advisory Group Meeting  
Minutes  
June 28, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Present:** P. Burnham, B. Butter, A. Carruthers, D. Gray, L. Meekes.

**Staff Present:** D. Campbell, M. Ellis, T. Farrell, D. Marshall, T. Mellor, C. Sanders

**Regrets:** Deputy Warden M. Martin, J. Moore, G. Dees.

**1) Welcome**

- Chair Allan Carruthers called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and welcomed Cheryl Sanders, Deputy Clerk, Dwayne Campbell, Land Use Planning & Inspection Services Manager and Todd Farrell, Natural Heritage Manager.

**2) Approval of the June 28, 2022 Agenda / Additional Items**

- Agenda accepted as presented.

**3) Approval of the April 26, 2022 Minutes**

- Minutes approved as presented.

**4) Action Items and Follow Up from Previous Meeting**

**a) Recycling Update**

- Adam discussed the challenge of accepting all white bail wrap.
  - **Action:** Adam will investigate whether the material may be sent to a plant in Pennsylvania. (Complete)
  - Adam indicated that material from the MRF is clean enough to be accepted.
    - Recycling white bail wrap continues to be a challenge.
    - Denise explained that quality is an issue since there are so many types of plastic mixed in.
    - There are currently no options for white bail wrap, however staff continue to explore options.
    - Denise also spoke to the Blue Box transition, indicating that effective January 1, 2024 producers are 100% responsible for recycling.
- **Action:** Lisa asked whether BBL Energy has been considered and will provide contact information to gauge their interest in being added to buyer

list. Bruce indicated he will also follow-up. (Complete)

- Bruce Butter confirmed that BBL Energy went out of business.

#### **b) Municipal Drainage**

- **Action:** Denise will work with member municipalities to draft a policy. (Complete)
  - Denise Marshall highlighted that a policy has been drafted and an internal review is being conducted.
  - **Action:** Once the draft Municipal Drainage policy is finalized, Denise will circulate to the Agriculture Advisory Group.
  - The policy objectives are to find a reasonable, appropriate, and consistent process in working with member municipalities.
  - Long-term concerns include the elevation in which outlets enter the ditch.
  - Erosion and sedimentation are two anticipated challenges.
  - There will be a procedure to request an outlet, in accordance with the Drainage Act.
  - Majority of municipal drains would go through the Mutual Agreement Drain Process.
  - This is simpler than applying for a Petition Drain.
  - A Mutual Agreement Drain Form has been created through the Drainage Act and will be a part of the policy.
  - If the location is a complex drainage area, staff would suggest the Municipal Drain Process, which will be administered by Member Municipalities.

#### **5) Communications**

N/A

#### **6) New/Other Business**

##### **a) Agricultural Mapping in the County's Official Plan**

- Dwayne Campbell provided an overview of the discussion that took place at the first open house session to review agriculture mapping updates to the Official Plan, held on June 27, 2022.
- Two additional sessions will be held on:
  - Wednesday, June 29, 2022  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
Cramahe Municipal Office Council Chambers  
1 Toronto Street, Colborne
  - Thursday, July 14, 2022  
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
The Port Hope Community Hub  
5325 County Road 10, Port Hope

- Discussion at the open house included an overview of current prime agricultural land areas and a summary of the process to review the Provincially identified agricultural lands.
- Over 31% of Northumberland County's land is classified as prime agriculture.
- Dwayne discussed the Province's vision for the future of agricultural land in Northumberland and the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- If the Province's vision is adopted, there would be an increase in the amount of prime agricultural land by 18,000 hectares.
- This would recognize Class 1, 2 and 3 soils and areas of Class 4, 5, 6, and 7 soils.
- If candidate areas are included, another 38,0000 hectares may be allowed.
- Discussion also took place regarding land designated as prime agricultural, which limits what residents can do (e. g. severance).
- This review process would allow landowners to make a request to change the designation of their property.
- Provincial interest is to protect as much agricultural land as possible.
- County will be coming up with a process / evaluation for landowners who have made formal submissions to no longer be considered as prime agriculture.

**b) OFA Advocacy re: Loss of Ontario Farmland**

- Media release: 'Ontario farmland under intense pressure'.
- Chair Allan Carruthers indicated that Ontario farmland owners are experiencing significant pressures across the province.
- Dwayne noted that Northumberland County is seeing less agricultural loss compared to other regions.

**c) Weed Control and Noxious Weeds**

- Todd Farrell discussed noxious weeds and answered questions regarding the process and impacts of Canada Fleabane being added to the Noxious Weed List.
- Todd explained that if a by-law is enacted, all landowners in possession of this weed would be required to destroy it.
- If the landowner does not have the means to do so and cannot comply, the municipality would be required to destroy the weed at the cost of the landowner.
- Paul Burnham commented that Canada Fleabane grows abundantly and suggested not adding it to the noxious weed list.

**d) Municipal Drainage Policy Update**

- Denise Marshall provided update under item 4b.

**e) Community Funding Opportunity**

- **Ice cream machine**

- Lisa Meekes shared information on the possibility of the Northumberland Federation of Agriculture purchasing an ice cream machine for the Golden Plough Lodge, utilizing Provincial funding.

**f) NFA Farm Tour Day Update (August 11, 2022)**

- Lisa Meekes indicated that local politicians and municipal staff will be invited to attend and that invitations will soon be circulated.

**7) Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Allan Carruthers asked for a definition of Affordable Housing, and Maddison Ellis indicated that she would follow up with the County's Housing Services Manager.

**8) Next Meeting – September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7:30pm (Zoom)**

- The Agriculture Advisory Group discussed returning to in-person meetings.
- Maddison Ellis indicated that the County is still in the process of installing technology to allow for hybrid meetings.