

**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ROUNDTABLE
HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2009 AT 11:00AM
AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCUGOG
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT:

Chair, Ward 4 Councillor

Donovan Smith

DAAC, Chair

Ivan Dejong

DAAC, Vice Chair

Hubert Schillings

MPP

John O'Toole

Bev Oda's Office

Mike Wilson

Rural ED Officer, Region of Durham

Marlene Werry

Planning, Region of Durham

Nancy Rutherford

Local Agriculture

Robert Ashton

Zac Cohoon

Harvey Graham

Kathy McKay

Brian Van Camp

John Wolters

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor

Marilyn Pearce

Regional Councillor

Jim McMillen

Ward 1 Councillor

Cecil Lamrock

Ward 2 Councillor

Bobbie Drew

C.A.O

Bev Hendry

Commissioner of Planning & Public Works

Gene Chartier

Committee Coordinator

Barbara Condie

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 11:00AM, thanked the attendees for their participation and invited the group to participate in a round table introduction.

Before passing the duties of Chairperson over to Councillor Smith, Mayor Pearce explained that this is the 6th Annual Agricultural Round Table at the Township of Scugog. The Mayor noted, providing examples, that much advancement has been gained by the Agricultural Industry throughout the Township and Durham Region due to the open dialogue and information that is shared during the round table events.

2. **GTA AGRICULTURAL ACTION COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mayor Pearce introduced the composition of the GTA Agricultural Action Committee and the status of the GTA Agricultural Action Plan to those in attendance. Mayor Pearce invited the group to attend the GTA AAC AGM on March 25, 2009 at Black Creek Village where, as part of the GTA Action Plan, the Profile of Agriculture Study, that is supported by the GTA International Marketing Alliance, will be presented and where comments will be received from the audience.

Note: Please visit the GTA Agricultural Action Committee web site at <http://www.gtalocalfood.ca/index.html> to view the Action Plan and to obtain for further updates and information on the initiatives of this Committee.

3. **MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ROUND TABLE HELD JANUARY 17, 2008**

The Minutes were provided to the attendees for their information.

4. **PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. Ivan DeJong, Chair
Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

Re: Review and Update of DAAC

Mr. DeJong provided a power point presentation that included but was not limited to:

- The context and role of the Committee within the Region;
- Their activities and accomplishments which included but was not limited to the participation in the Annual Farm Fall Tour, the work with various Regional Departments to promote: a Regional Reduction in the Regional Farm Tax Ratio, the slow moving farm vehicle program including signage and various agricultural recycling programs, providing input on the Regional Official Plan Review, the Provincial Growth Plan, the Tree By-Law, the Regional Rural Economic Development Staff and to the GTA Action Committee;
- The initiatives for 2009 which include but are not limited to input into policy development, communicate/outreach/educate, continue to work with regional planning and public works(curbs at intersections, shoulder widths, timing and coordination of Regional/local construction projects, impact of ½ load delivery, impact of Hwy. #407), Economic Development and other issues of Interest;
- And, the relationship that has been established with area Municipalities

Note: Ms. McKay advised that the Municipal Signage By-Laws may need to be reviewed in association with *Bill 98, Signage to Promote Ontario Produced Agricultural Products Act*, which allows farmers to post seasonal, directional signage on privately owned agricultural land adjacent to highways.

Mrs. Marlene Werry, Sr. Dev. Officer, Rural
The Regional Municipality of Durham

Re: Update on Regional Rural Economic Development

Mrs. Werry advised that Agriculture is considered one of the largest sectors in Durham Region, has a major economic impact on the regional economy and is growing strongly with more than 1670 Farms in Durham Region.

She advised that the Regional Rural Economic Development Team will continue to but not limited to the following;

- influence policy broader than our Region;
- encouraging investment in the Region of Durham; to work with the Board of Trade to encourage more local food processing;
- announced that the Grade 3 program is growing with 78 classes participating in 2009 (100 volunteers required for the 3 day event);
- raising the profile of Rural Economic Develop with the release of a new web site by month end;
- more research on local foods;
- will be hiring a part time Program Coordinator;
- greater visibility by providing booths at various venues;
- bringing broadband access to our rural communities;
- developing partnerships with UOIT and Durham College;
- seek support for problem predator removal with wildlife at all time high.

Mr. G. Chartier
Commissioner of Planning & Public Works

Re: Scugog Official Plan Status

Mr. G. Chartier, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works provided the Committee with an overview of information associated with the Township Official Plan particularly in association with the Agricultural Sector.

A question and answer period ensued.

Note: The group expressed a concern over the change in classification of agricultural lands and the grouping of the agricultural lands into one classification. It was expressed that there is a considerable difference between in Prime 1 Agricultural to Prime 4 Agricultural lands and that it leaves it wide open for generalization. The use of the descriptive word "countryside" was also expressed as a concern.

Mr. Jake Beitz,
Policy Advisor Farm Finance Branch
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

Re: Wildlife Damage Compensation Programs

Mr. Beitz provided the group with a presentation that included background information on the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program, the compensation available, program contacts and the statistics on the # of livestock injured and the compensation provided from 2005 to 2008.

A question and answer period ensued. Concerned was expressed that included but not limited to the equality in claims, training and certification of evaluators, the large number of wild turkeys and the bio-security associated with the numbers (apple orchards), consideration of an increase in hunting hours, consideration that a bounty on coyotes and wolves be reintroduced, consultation and communication with Police and the general public (education on farmers' property and rights to protect livestock/public perception).

In response to the group, Mr. Beitz advised that the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, along with the Ministry of Natural Resources will be reviewing their programs and policies in the near future. Ms. Hendry and Ms. Rutherford advised Mr. Beitz that they would be interested in knowing when the Public will be asked to review and make comment.

Ms. Bev Hendry, CAO

Re: 2008 Township Progress Report

Ms. Hendry provided those in attendance with a copy of the Agriculture-2008 Initiatives that included a summary of the Gates Open/Farmer's Market event held on October 4/5, the Durham Farm Tour, the Local Farm Tour, an outline of the concerns from local Farmers regarding livestock/crop loss, the local food strategy "buy local, buy fresh" and "pick your own" advertised in the weekly Township Bulletin Board, importance of farmer safety on Rural Roads by continuing the brushing, ditching and grading programs, the GTA Mayors Alliance to be held January 15, 2009, hosted by Scugog Township, will focuses on value-added agriculture and the economic development potential of the Greenbelt.

Councillor B. Drew

Re: Source Water Protection Committee Update

Councillor Drew advised that property located within a 100 metre circumference of a Municipal well head will be affected by the Clean Water Act and Source Protection Plan. This act was created to ensure farming activities do not impact municipal water supplies. Councillor Drew noted that funding may be available to compensate for changes that the farmer may need to make due to the impacted by the Clean Water Act.

Note: Councillor Drew agreed to forward further details on the Clean Water Act to those in attendance for their information.

5. LOCAL ISSUES ROUND TABLE

The Round Table discussion that ensued was brief as many of the questions and concerns were discussed under previous items on the Agenda.

Action Items:

- In response to Mr. VanCamp's request for clarification on tree cutting, Ms. Rutherford agreed to forward information on the Regional Tree By-Law;
- DRPS to be invited to the next Roundtable Meeting;
- Mr. Cohoon noted that the Region will be doing roadwork along Simcoe Street North this year and requested that consideration be given to doing the roadwork after planting season and before combining season. Nancy Rutherford committed to pass this on to Regional Staff.

6. ADJOURNMENT 2:00PM