

**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ROUND TABLE
HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010 AT 11:00 AM
IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCUGOG
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

PRESENT:

Chairperson, Ward 4 Councillor	Mr. Donovan Smith
DAAC, Township Representative	Mr. Zac Cohoon
DAAC, Chair	Mr. Hubert Schillings
MPP	Mr. John O'Toole
Bev Oda's Office	Ms. Meg Goard
Region of Durham	Ms. Tracey Curtis
	Ms. Nancy Rutherford
	Mr. Brian Bridgeman
OMAFRA	Mr. Michael Payne
Local Agriculture	Mr. Brian Van Camp
	Mr. Harvey Graham
	Mr. Rod McKay
	Mr. Zac Grove
	Mr. Scott Swain
	Mr. Marvin Stevenson

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor	Mayor Marilyn Pearce
Regional Councillor	Mr. Jim McMillen
Ward 1 Councillor	Mr. Cecil Lamrock
Ward 2 Councillor	Ms. Bobbie Drew
CAO	Ms. Bev Hendry
Committee Coordinator	Ms. Sandra Frey

REGRETS:

Ward 5 Councillor	Ms. Georgia Brock
Ward 3 Councillor	Mr. Lynn Philip Hodgson
Local Agriculture	Ms. Melanie Wright
	Mr. Kelly O'Connor
	Mr. Dennis Yellowlees
	Mr. Dave Frew

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor D. Smith, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. The Chair thanked those in attendance and invited the group to participate in a round table introduction.

2. MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ROUND TABLE HELD JANUARY 15, 2009

The Minutes were provided to the attendees for their information.

3. PRESENTATIONS
2009 Year In Review

Mr. Zac Cohoon/Mr. Hubert Schillings
Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

Re: Review and Update of DAAC

Messrs. Cohoon and Schillings provided a review, including but not limited to:

- The role of the Committee within the Region in providing ongoing input and advice to the planning committee and Council on agricultural and rural related matters;
- Their activities and accomplishments, including but not limited to,
 - Hosting the Annual Farm Tour
 - Promoting the Regional Slow Moving Farm Vehicle Program, with emphasis on the areas of curbs at intersections and shoulder widths and the impact of Highway 407
 - Continued efforts towards agricultural recycling programs, including white bale wrap material
 - Regional tree by-law
 - Bill 143 (Clean Water Act)
- Their initiatives for 2010, which include but are not limited to,
 - Input into policy development
 - Communicate/outreach/educate
 - Continue to work with regional planning and public works
 - Economic development and other issues of interest
 - Continue to develop a relationship with area municipalities to provide updates and work closely with farm land owners

Ms. Tracey Curtis, Rural
The Regional Municipality of Durham

Re: Update of Regional Rural Economic Development

Ms. Curtis provided an update of rural economic development within Durham Region, including but not limited to:

- Investment attraction/business retention with food processing continuing to be a main focus
- Improved communications via new economic development and tourism website, e-newsletter and breeder directories
- Education/promotion through Farm Connections open house, Durham College culinary program, producer workshops and development of joint agriculture directory

- Research, including Biomass Strategy Session; Good Movement study to identify infrastructure requirements, assess economic impact and prepare for investment attraction; Red Meat Value Chain; GTA AAC Impact Study; interest shown in Short Sea Shipping

Mayor Marilyn Pearce
GTA Agricultural Action Committee

Re: GTA AAC Year in Review

Mayor Pearce shared the accomplishments of the GTA AAC for 2009, including but not limited to:

- Hiring of new coordinator
- Planners Working Group presentation of update on demographic profile of GTA
- Participation with Holland Marsh Growers at the Canadian Food and Restaurant show
- Annual meeting as well as attendance at GTA Mayors Group and GTA Planners, Niagara Agricultural Action Committee
- Creation of database to share information listings in cooperation with Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation and Ontario Culinary Tourism
- Urban Agriculture meeting held in Durham
- Providing financial support to Feast of the Palate in Peel
- Hosting bus tour for committee members and visiting delegation from Australia
- Meeting with Vineland Research and Innovation Centre to examine agricultural sustainability in the Greenbelt
- Advocating for agricultural lands in the Rouge Valley
- Updating of website
- Development of working relationship with Toronto Board of Health, re: upcoming food strategy release
- Participated at Royal Winter Fair in a joint venture with Ontario Fresh Farm Marketing Association
- Leading the development of an Agri-food strategy for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Works in progress include:

- The release of the 2006 census economic study with presentations to Regional councils and their advisory groups and the four region federations of agriculture
- Attending the Bring Food Home Conference, March 2010
- Hiring consultant to develop the Agrifood Strategy
- Promotion of the ethnocultural food study; working with OMAFRA to determine research needed
- Ongoing talks with Toronto marketing alliance to promote GTA agriculture

- Moving ahead with various action plan items with the assistance of the Regions, the Federations of Agriculture, Niagara, City of Toronto, City of Hamilton, OMAFRA and AAFC

4. REGIONAL ISSUES

Mr. Brian Bridgeman
Region of Durham

Re: Surplus Farm Dwelling Policy

Mr. Bridgeman provided a slide presentation to inform of the required severance process for surplus farm dwellings. The process includes severance (Land Division Committee), re-zoning (Township) and possibly, amendment through the Regional Official Plan (Durham Region). The context of the Provincial policy discourages lot creation in prime agricultural areas, permitting severance only for a residence surplus to a farm operation as a result of farm consolidation, provided a residential dwelling is not permitted in perpetuity on the retained lands. The Regional OPA requires severance where a dwelling is deemed as surplus by the consolidation of farm parcels that are non-abutting; there has been 11 amendments made in the past 10 years, with 8 of those in Scugog. Mr. Bridgeman concluded his presentation, stating that although the process can seem like a challenge, the creation of the official plan is meant to provide a balance between the needs of farms, farmers and rural areas. A question and answer period followed.

Mr. Michael Payne
Environmental Management Specialist
OMAFRA

Re: Biosolds and Hydra-Vac Material Water Quality

Mr. Payne provided an informative power point presentation on Hydra-Vac Material Water Quality and Non Agricultural Source Material Regulatory Framework, with attention to particulars of the new regulations now in place. The presentation included, but was not limited to:

- Background
 - Two types of Prescribed Materials
 - Agricultural Source Materials
 - Non Agricultural Source Materials
- Current Situation
 - Subject to *Environmental Protection Act* a Certificate of Approval must be obtained
 - New NASM regulation September 18, 2009

- Changes to Regulations
 - Requirement for NASM generators to have Nutrient Management Plan now removed
 - Broker certification not required to transport NASM
 - 3 specific categories of NASM defined to determine approvals, land application requirements and storage requirements
 - Requirement for NASM plan for application site
 - Odour classification
 - Director has authority to request further testing

- Stages
 - Stage 1 – effective September 18, 2009
 - Stage 2 – effective January 1, 2011
 - Transition Period – January 1, 2011 – January 1, 2016

- NASM Quality and Land Application Standards
 - Minimum beneficial use
 - NASM categories
 - NASM plans
 - NASM quality standards
 - Land application standards
 - NASM storage

- Requirements for Generators and Receivers

- Next Steps
 - NASM framework
 - Training

At 12:40 p.m., the group broke for a 30 minute lunch. The meeting reconvened at 1:10 p.m., with a question and answer period directed to Mr. Payne and his presentation.

4. 2009 TOWNSHIP INITIATIVES

Ms. Bev Hendry, CAO

Re: Township of Scugog Strategic Plan

Ms. Hendry distributed a copy of the new Strategic Plan to those in attendance, advising of added objectives to support the agricultural business in Scugog. Considered an important document, it will help our community move successfully into the future by identifying key areas of focus and outlining the activities that will help to build on each of the these areas.

The Township is focusing on four strategic themes:

1. Preserve, Protect and Enhance our Environment
2. Prosperous Greenbelt Economy
3. Safe, Healthy and Livable Community
4. Responsive, Effective Municipal Environment

Ms. Hendry asked that the document be reviewed and comments be provided as they pertain to agriculture and the protection of lands.

Ms. Hendry also highlighted an initiative that Scugog is working on in conjunction with the Greater Toronto Area Countryside Major Alliance municipalities and key provincial ministries, developing a terms of reference for a Greenbelt Economic Development Strategy.

5. LOCAL ISSUES AND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Councillor Smith called for round table discussions regarding agricultural strengths and opportunities, commencing conversation that included, but was not limited to:

- **Promoting Agriculture**
Councillor Smith prompted discussion, using Swain Farm Fresh Beef as an example of taking a step beyond to successfully market their product, of the opportunities available to assist in promoting agriculture. Mr. Swain commented on the fact that the Township of Scugog is the most easy municipality to work with in terms of development permits.
- **Road Safety**
Discussion then turned to road safety and motorist awareness of slow moving farm vehicles. Ms. Rutherford advised that the Region of Durham, in working with the Durham Regional Police and Ministry of Transportation, has taken steps to launch their road safety program, posting Share the Road signs in at least 50 locations. To further inform motorists, it was suggested that police might hand out pamphlets when issuing tickets, and/or the need for radio advertising.
- **Greenbelt Restrictions**
A brief discussion ensued regarding the viability of farms within the Greenbelt area. Mr. Graham felt that hog and beef farmers are suffering and Mr. Schillings stated that many chicken barns are sitting empty with costs to rebuild barns on the rise.
- **Trespassing**
Mr. Schillings noted that as fences are being removed from farm properties, trespassing and vandalism and the protection of livestock have become a concern. It was felt that the general public needs to be educated about farm property and owners rights.
- **Local Food Initiative**
Mayor Pearce stated that local food can be used to benefit both the agricultural industry and rural needs as the public has connected to the idea of knowing where their food comes from.

Discussion followed regarding the difficulty faced by local farmers in attempting to market product within grocery stores, with the exception of some larger establishments, such as Algoma.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m., thanking those in attendance for a productive meeting.