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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Planning and Economic Development Committee  
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2023-P-11  
Date: April 4, 2023

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**Subject:**

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Membership Appointments, File:C07-02

**Recommendations:**

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the following citizen volunteers be appointed as “area municipal representatives” to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee: Neil Guthrie (Ajax); Tom Watpool (Brock); Tom Barrie (Clarington); Derrik Stevenson (Oshawa); Gord Taylor (Pickering); Nicole Swain (Scugog); Brian Hulshof (Uxbridge) and Ronald Death (Whitby);
- B) That the following citizen volunteers be appointed as “at large” farmer members to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee: Zac Cohoon (Scugog); Bryan Smith (Uxbridge); and Hubert Shillings (Oshawa);
- C) That the following citizen volunteers be appointed as “at large” non-farmer members to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee: Dave Risebrough (Uxbridge); Gerri Lynn O’Connor (Uxbridge); Matthew Sommerville (Scugog);
- D) That the following citizen volunteer be appointed as the “Durham Region Federation of Agriculture representative” to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee: Mark Shiers;

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- E) That the above-named citizen volunteers be advised of their appointment to the 2023-2026 term of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee;
- F) That unsuccessful applicants to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee be notified; and
- G) That a copy of Commissioner's Report #2023-P-11 be forwarded to the area municipalities and the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture.
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**Report:****1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to appoint citizen volunteers to serve on the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) for the 2023-2026 term.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 DAAC was established in 2002 to provide advice to the Region on agricultural policy and planning matters, as expressed in the Durham Regional Official Plan.
- 2.2 DAAC's activities are guided by an approved [Terms of Reference](#) establishing the scope of activities, membership selection and composition, as well as meeting dates. The activities are further guided by an [annual workplan](#), approved by Regional Council. DAAC reports annually to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on their activities.
- 2.3 The DAAC [Terms of Reference](#) provides for the Planning and Economic Development Committee to recommend individuals for appointment by Regional Council. DAAC membership corresponds with the term of Regional Council.
- 2.4 DAAC is comprised of sixteen members, as follows:
- One Council representative from the Planning and Economic Development Committee (Councillor Wilma Wotten, and Councillor John Neal as the alternate member, appointed December 2022).
  - Eight citizen volunteers as "area municipal representatives", one from each area municipality, who are bona fide farmers directly involved in the agricultural industry;
  - Six "at large" members (three farmers and three non-farmers), nominated by the Planning and Economic Development Department; and
  - One representative of the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture (DRFA).

### **3. Membership Nominations/ Appointments**

- 3.1 In accordance with the DAAC [Terms of Reference](#), advertisements were placed online and in local newspapers throughout the Region throughout summer and fall 2022 seeking expressions of interest from individuals wishing to serve on DAAC. The names of all individuals who expressed interest, and a summary of their agricultural-related experience, are provided in Confidential Attachment 1.
- 3.2 Each area municipality was provided with a list of qualified candidates and requested to nominate one representative in accordance with the DAAC [Terms of Reference](#). Nominations have been received from all eight municipalities and are reflected in Recommendation A.
- 3.3 In accordance with the DAAC [Terms of Reference](#), the Planning and Economic Development Committee appoints six “at large” members (3 farmers and 3 non-farmers). Recommendations B and C reflect the candidates for the at-large positions.
- 3.4 The Durham Federation of Agriculture has nominated Mark Shiers as their representative on the Committee.
- 3.5 Confidential Attachment 1 identifies a list of other applicants who will be retained for consideration in the event of a future vacancy.

### **4. Reports and Decisions**

- 4.1 In March 2019, Council considered DAAC’s Membership Appointments for the 2019-2022 term through Commissioner’s Report [#2019-P-10](#).
- 4.2 [#2023-P-3](#) - 2022 Annual Reports of the Durham Active Transportation Committee, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee and Durham Environmental Advisory Committee.

### **5. Relationship to the Strategic Plan**

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
  - a. Under Goal 3; Economic Prosperity, Objective 3.5, Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food industries.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 DAAC had many notable accomplishments during the 2019-2022 term, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Planning and Economic Development Department thanks all outgoing members for their time and commitment invested into the activities of the committee.
- 6.2 The Planning and Economic Development Department thanks all applicants for their interest for the 2023-2026 term. Unsuccessful applications in this round of membership nominations will be retained for consideration in the event of a future vacancy.

## 7. Attachments

Attachment #1: Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Membership Nominations (under separate cover)

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

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Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer