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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 10, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: T. Barrie, Clarington  
Z. Cohoon, Member at Large, Chair  
R. Death, Whitby  
N. Guthrie, Ajax  
G. O'Connor, Member at Large  
D. Risebrough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair  
H. Schillings, Member at Large  
M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture  
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair  
D. Stevenson, Oshawa  
T. Watpool, Brock  
**\* denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: B. Hulshof, Uxbridge  
M. Somerville, Member at Large  
N. Swain, Scugog  
G. Taylor, Pickering  
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor

#### Staff

Present: A. Chung, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
S. Jibb, Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

## 2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by G.L. O'Connor, Seconded by H. Schillings,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting  
held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

## 4. **Presentations**

### A) Stacey Jibb & Allison De Vos, Durham Region Economic Development – Growing Agri-Food Durham Annual Report (2023-EDT-13) [Item 6. A)]

Stacey Jibb, Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Growing Agri-Food Durham Annual Report.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Purpose
- Goal Areas
- Goal 1 – Retain and expand local food businesses
- Goal 2 – Streamline the regulation and approval process for agri-food businesses
- Goal 3 – Enable and encourage agriculture related and on-farm diversified uses related to agriculture
- Goal 4 – Recognize infrastructure is a key component of the agri-food system
- Goal 5 – Support businesses to increase agri-food processing capacity
- Goal 6 – Identify opportunities and solutions for the workforce and labour shortages in the agri-food sector
- Goal 7 – Provide resources for aging and young farmers
- Goal 8 – Partner with agricultural organizations to deliver and expand agricultural literacy in the Region
- Goal 9 – Enable a culture of innovation in agriculture food
- Goal 10 – Enhance Urban Agriculture
- Annual Reporting and Next Steps

S. Jibb responded to questions with regards to the progress of on-farm diversification opportunities in collaboration with Scugog, Uxbridge and Brock; how the plan will come together throughout the municipalities; why there is more focus on the northern municipalities; and whether the Clarington by-law can be used as a starting point for the northern municipalities.

## 5. Discussion Items

### A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

S. Jibb advised that in follow up to the last Committee meeting, the Township of Brock's survey regarding a backyard chicken by-law has been completed and that a report will be brought forward to their Council for consideration. The Township advised that they would be open to receiving comments/delegation on this topic but Committee members decided not to provide any at this time and instead reach out to a local poultry farmer.

S. Jibb responded to a question with regards whether Township of Brock staff has reached out to poultry farmers regarding the backyard chicken by-law.

### B) Agriculture 101 Training

S. Jibb advised that the Agriculture 101 Training presentation at the Township of Scugog has been scheduled for December 4, 2023 at 1:30 PM and will be done by Z. Cohoon and N. Swain.

Discussion ensued with regards to which Committee members will be providing the Agriculture 101 Training presentation to each municipality; the potential dates available at each municipality; and the timeframe for getting the presentations completed.

S. Jibb advised the presentation would be tailored to each community and that the presentations will be provided to Committee members. Staff will provide further information regarding dates at the next meeting.

### C) Farm Tour Recap and Discussion

Z. Cohoon and D. Risebrough thanked Committee members and staff for their support and help with the tour.

D. Risebrough advised that 32 people responded to the farm tour survey and that the feedback received was positive.

Discussion ensued with regards to changing the timing of events; reducing the speaking times for the guest speaker and staff; the location for next year's farm tour; reviewing the invitation list; inviting high school and post-secondary students in agriculture majors; and having more Regional staff attend the farm tour.

### D) Greenbelt Plan Update

M. Scott provided the following update:

- The review of the Greenbelt policy will no longer be happening.

- There will be legislation coming out on October 16, 2023 that will solidify the Greenbelt boundaries, making it more difficult to change boundaries, which will have to be done through policy.
- There is a RCMP investigation regarding the Ontario government's plan to open Greenbelt land for development.
- Staff will be watching for the legislation that will return land to the Greenbelt and will provide an update on this matter at the appropriate time.
- The new Regional Official Plan – Envision Durham has not yet been reviewed by the Province.

E) Development Charges Discussion

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M. Scott advised that Finance will be providing two presentations to the Committee at the next meeting on Development Charges and Tax Classes.

M. Scott asked Committee members to forward any questions they may have to him prior to the next meeting so that they can be provided to Finance staff.

Discussion ensued with regards to development charges for on-farm diversification; migrant worker housing; providing more consistency in development charges throughout the Province; property tax on residential housing increases compared to development charges increases; and sport complexes planned for Whitby, Oshawa and Clarington.

F) Durham Climate Roundtable (DCR) Leadership Committee Member Request

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M. Scott advised that the Durham Climate Roundtable Leadership Committee is requesting a representative from the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee to sit on the Committee. He stated that there are two meetings per year.

M. Scott noted that N. Swain is interested in sitting on the Committee and asked if anyone else was interested to contact him directly.

**6. Information Items**

A) Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan Annual Update

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Report #2023-EDT-13 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan Annual Update was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

B) 2023 Farm Tour Durham This Week News Article

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2023 Farm Tour Durham This Week News Article was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

C) 2023 Farm Tour Press Release

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2023 Farm Tour Press Release was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 starting at 7:30 PM.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by B. Smith,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Z. Cohoon, Chair

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk