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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**March 18, 2025**

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 in Meeting Room 1-B, 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, attended the meeting at 7:33 PM  
N. Guthrie, Ajax  
G. O'Connor, Member at Large  
D. Risebrough, Member at Large  
H. Schillings, Member at Large  
M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture  
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair  
M. Somerville, Member at Large  
D. Stevenson, Oshawa  
N. Swain, Scugog, Vice-Chair  
G. Taylor, Pickering  
T. Watpool, Brock  
W. Woo, Regional Councillor Alternate  
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor  
**\* denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: B. Hulshof, Uxbridge  
J. McKay, Durham Farm Fresh

#### **Staff**

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
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 H. Schillings, Seconded by B. Smith,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting  
held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved by G.L. O'Connor, Seconded by D. Risebrough,  
That Presentation Item 4.A) Robert Rappolt, WSP Canada Inc., regarding  
Enabling Agricultural Related Uses & On Farm Diversified Uses Project,  
be granted additional time to provide the entire presentation.

CARRIED

## **4. Presentations**

### **A) Robert Rappolt, WSP Canada Inc. – Enabling Agricultural Related Uses & On Farm Diversified Uses Project**

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Robert Rappolt, WSP Canada Inc., provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Enabling Agricultural Related Uses & On Farm Diversified Uses Project.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Today's Objective
- Project Workplan
- What are Agriculture-Related Uses and On-Farm Diversified Uses?
- Who We've Heard From
- What We've Heard
- Resources and Inputs
- Overview of Draft Land Use Framework
- Recommended Policy Implementation
- Recommended Pre-Application Process
- Recommended Site Plan Control Framework
- Example: Sheldon Creek Dairy
- Discussion: Maximum Area for Agriculture-Related Uses (ARUs)
- Example: Wallenstein Feed and Supply Ltd.
- Example: Nith River Milling
- Discussion:
  - Area Calculations
  - Large-Scale Recurring Event Spaces
  - On-Farm Accommodations as an Agri-Tourism Use
  - Parking Requirements
- Example Application Process
- Application Toolkit

- 4 Steps to an Application
- Next Steps
- Township Adoption

R. Rappolt responded to questions with regards to whether there are limits on the number of people visiting the farm for agri-tourism use; whether there will be a guideline available for planners to use; whether an application can be remediated once a decision has been made; and how the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee can help promote the program.

Discussion ensued with regards to potential barrier differences between the municipalities; whether the Northern municipalities are all agreeable to the toolkit; and the application process and steps associated with it.

## **5. Discussion Items**

### **A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update**

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A. De Vos provided the following update:

- Over the next two weeks, the Enabling Agricultural Related Uses & On Farm Diversified Uses Project will be incorporating feedback from the presentation and survey and will be meeting with the northern Townships to go through all the feedback received.
- The Agriculture Equipment Technician and Mechanic Tour took place with Brock High School only as the other two schools were not able to participate due to snow days. There were 32 students in attendance.
- The third module of the Durham Agriculture Leadership Program: Leading a Resilient Agri-Business, is taking place on March 25, 2025.
- Planning is underway for the Precision Ag Field Day in May.

### **B) Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington Update**

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T. Barrie provided an update regarding bunk houses and noted that a planner at the Municipality of Clarington obtained information stating that bunk houses were exempt from regulations as they were deemed agricultural buildings and building permits can be obtained for them.

Discussion ensued with regards to the requirements for building farm bunk houses for migrant workers.

### **C) Durham Farm Fresh Update**

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J. McKay was not in attendance to provide the Durham Farm Fresh Update.

D) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update

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M. Scott advised there is no Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update at this time.

E) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

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M. Shiers advised that the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture outing at the Oshawa Generals game was a big success and that the next meeting is being held on March 20, 2025 at Greenbank United Church.

F) 2025 DAAC Area Municipality Outreach - Presentation

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M. Scott advised that the Area Municipality Outreach presentation has been finalized and will be provided to Committee members soon along with speaking notes and the annual report.

Discussion ensued with regards to who will be providing the presentation at each of the eight lower tier municipalities.

G) 2024 Farm Tour Discussion

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D. Risebrough advised that B. Smith and Z. Cohoon attended a site visit on February 18, 2025 to do a run through of the property and determine operations for the day of the farm tour.

B. Smith further advised that it has been determined that a tent is needed for the venue to host the lunch; and that Kabota is celebrating 50 years in Canada and will be providing a tour of the warehouse, office and engineering area.

Discussion ensued with regards to the logistics of how the day of the farm tour will run; and the maximum number of guests allowed for the event.

Z. Cohoon advised that the catering company has been confirmed and that a tent and washroom will need to be rented for the farm tour.

M. Scott advised that the “save the dates” have been sent out and the invitation list needs to be reviewed.

**6. Information Items**

A) Growing North Durham Plan Annual Activity Report

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A copy of Commissioner’s Report #2025-EDT-6 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda and received.

**7. Other Business**

A) Community Agriculture Wellness

M. Scott advised Community Agriculture Wellness training will be available to Committee members on April 24, 2025 and he will provide additional information once a venue has been booked.

B) Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association Meeting

T. Barrie advised that the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association meeting is taking place on April 3, 2025.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025 starting at 7:30 PM.

Z. Cohoon advised he will not be in attendance at the April 8, 2025 meeting and will need one of the Vice-Chairs to chair the meeting.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by N. Swain, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Z. Cohoon, Chair

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk