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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 13, 2025

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 13, 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
N. Guthrie, Ajax
B. Hulshof*, Uxbridge
J. McKay*, Durham Farm Fresh, attended the meeting at 7:33 PM
G. O'Connor, Member at Large
D. Risebrough, Member at Large
H. Schillings, Member at Large
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
D. Stevenson, Oshawa
N. Swain, Scugog, Vice-Chair
G. Taylor, Pickering
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor
*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture
M. Somerville, Member at Large
T. Watpool, Brock

Staff

Present: A. De Vos, Program Specialist, Department of Community Growth and Economic Development
A. Evans, Director, Waste Management, Works Department
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Community Growth and Economic Development
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Community Growth and Economic Development

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Smith, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Andrew Evans, Director – Waste Management, Region of Durham – Durham York
Energy Centre Update

Andrew Evans, Director, Waste Management, Region of Durham, provided a
PowerPoint presentation with regards to Waste Management Services.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Who Does What
- Who Received Waste Management Services
- Integrated Waste Management System
- Waste Disposal with Energy Recovery
- Waste Management Hierarchy
- Long-term Waste Management Plan 2022-2040
- Waste Plan Objectives
- Source Separated Organics Management
- Source Separated Organics Generation Trend
- Garbage Generation Trend
- Blue Box Recycling
- Automated Cart Collection
- Automated Cart Collection Pilot
- Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC)
- DYEC Quick Facts
- The Energy from Waste (EFW) Process
- DYEC Waste Receiving
- DYEC Waste Processing
- DYEC Environmental Monitoring Program
- Emissions Performance
- Capacity Increase
- Conclusion

A. Evans responded to questions with regards to where the Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility is located; various questions on how and when the materials are moved to the AD facility; how much organic waste is collected from multi-

residential buildings; if the automated cart collection pilot changed the frequency of pick-up; expansion of the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC); the current and future capacity limits for the DYEC; input received from the public when the DYEC first opened; possibility of spontaneous combustion in the facility; various questions regarding the renewable energy generated by the DYEC facility; the DYEC energy from waste process; and the future of standardization of recyclable materials across the Province.

5. Discussion Items

A) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

L. Talling provided the following update:

- The Enabling Agricultural Related Uses & On Farm Diversified Uses in North Durham project recommendations have been presented to the Townships of Scugog, Uxbridge and Brock Councils. Scugog and Brock Townships have endorsed the recommendations and Uxbridge Township Council directed staff to prepare a report. Staff in Brock and Scugog will proceed with implementing the updated land use policies and processes and hope to have changes implemented by year end.

A. De Vos provided the following update:

- The Agricultural Butcher and Culinary Tour was held on April 28 and was well received by the students.
- The Precision Agricultural Field Day is taking place at the Barrie Farm on May 27, 2025
- Local Food Week is taking place the week of June 2nd and will emphasize food and farming in Durham Region and shopping local.

B) Agricultural Advisory Committee Clarington Update

T. Barrie provided the following update:

- Clarington's Mayor Foster is being invited to the next meeting to answer questions prepared by the Committee.
- The Stevens property, also known as Wilmot Orchards, has put 160 acres into the Ontario Farmland Trust and is hosting an event on May 31st to celebrate the milestone.
- There has been discussions about holding a smaller farm tour hosted by the Clarington Agricultural Advisory Committee.

C) Durham Farm Fresh Update

J. McKay advised there were technical issues with the meeting invites and was not able to attend the meeting.

D) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update

M. Scott advised there is no Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance update at this time. The Annual General Meeting is taking place on May 20, 2025.

E) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

M. Shiers was not in attendance to provide the Durham Region Federation of Agriculture update.

F) "In the Know" Mental Health Training Recap

D. Risebrough advised that the "In the Know" Mental Health Training was a good day with discussions around indicators of mental health issues to watch for in yourself and others, however, there was a low turnout.

Discussion ensued with regards to the number of farmers that attended the training; integrating the presentation into existing events such as Annual General Meetings for overarching organizations; the need for better marketing and promotion of the event; providing the training at a more suitable time of year for farmers to be able to attend; and initiatives being done in other countries to raise awareness for suicide prevention.

M. Scott advised that the "In the Know" Mental Health Training will be added to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Workplan and will be conducted annually.

G) 2025 DAAC Area Municipality Outreach Update

M. Scott advised that the Area Municipality Outreach presentations have all been completed and thanked Committee members who assisted in providing the presentation to the area municipalities. He also advised that next year, staff will plan for them to be done earlier in the year to avoid scheduling conflict for Committee members.

H) 2025 DAAC Farm Tour Discussion

D. Risebrough advised that the farm touring planning is going well for the event taking place at the Kubota warehouse in Pickering on September 4, 2025. M. Scott advised that the invitations will be sent out in the near future.

6. Information Items

A) Clarington This Week – Newcastle’s Wilmot Orchards moves to protect farmland

A link to the Clarington This Week – Newcastle’s Wilmot Orchards moves to protect farmland was provided as Attachment #2 to the agenda and received.

B) #2025-INFO-34 – Agriculture Wellness Ontario’s “In the Know” Mental Health Training Sessions Hosted by the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

A copy of Information Report #2025-INFO-34 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development was provided as Attachment #3 to the agenda and received.

C) Municipality of Clarington Communications – Delegation by Tom Barrie, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC)

Correspondence from John Paul Newman, Deputy Clerk, Municipality of Clarington, regarding Delegation by Tom Barrie, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) regarding a 2024 DAAC Update, was provided as Attachment #4 to the agenda and received.

7. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 starting at 7:30 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by B. Smith, Seconded by H. Schillings,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Z. Cohoon, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk