



MUNICIPALITY OF BLUEWATER

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

Mandate

To ensure that Bluewater's agriculture and rural interests are taken into account in the decisions and actions of Council and staff. The Committee will not have decision-making authority, but will make recommendations to Council on issues pertaining to agriculture, agri-business, rural affairs, and rural economic development. The Committee will also adopt the "Rural Lens" framework to bring focus to the potential impacts of proposed policies, decisions, and actions.

Responsibilities

The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee will be responsible for the following:

- Support the appropriate and sustainable use of land for agriculture and actively encourage the establishment and prosperity of farms and related businesses;
- Identify ways to promote an understanding of rural and agricultural issues;
- Encourage the establishment of agricultural operations that are compatible with the quality of life in the rural areas and existing agricultural operations;
- Encourage strong linkages between Bluewater, other municipalities, the federal and provincial governments, and other agencies and key stakeholders on matters related to agriculture and rural affairs.

Make recommendations on the following:

- matters relating to and the promotion of agri-businesses;
- issues that have significant implications for the rural population;
- policies and programs which affect agriculture and associated industries;
- new forms of development and recreation that contribute to the rural economy;
- rural servicing including water and wastewater;
- economic development policies, strategies, and other initiatives that have an impact on the rural areas and interests, including tourism;
- agricultural and hamlet developments, and related policies for the rural areas;

- transportation matters as they relate to the rural areas;
- grant programs with a focus on rural economic development.

Membership

Membership of the Committee shall be comprised of:

Council (4) - Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor (Stanley East Ward), Councillor (Hay East Ward)

Community (4) – four community members

Staff (2) – CAO and/or Economic Development Coordinator

Other – OMAFRA representative

To fill vacancies on the Committee, it is recommended that advertisements be placed in local newspapers and on our municipal website seeking interested community members. This information will also be shared with key contacts and stakeholders in the agricultural and business community.

Meeting Schedule

It is recommended that the Committee meet quarterly and that the meeting schedule (dates/times) be based on consensus and the availability of the Committee members.

Open Meetings

It is expected that these meetings will be held in public, and other residents and stakeholders are welcome to attend these meetings.

COSTS

This is a volunteer committee and as such there will not be any remuneration provided to Committee members. Councillor representatives will be entitled to a meeting stipend. From time to time, it may be appropriate to provide coffee/refreshments and this will be at Bluewater's expense.

Prepared by: Gary Long, CAO
Date: March 9th, 2015