

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY LIAISON GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 6, 2004

Members Present: Dave Morrison, Gary Johnson, Jim Sellers, Harvey Brown, Hugh Mitchell

Others Present: Bill Moyer (representing Mayor Susan Sherban), Don Fieldhouse, Deb Lethbridge

Staff Present: Bryan Tuckey, Barbara Jeffrey, Ellen Ma

Regrets: Mayor James Young, Mayor Margaret Black, Allen Oldham, Eric Elmhirst, Judy Coward

The Eleventh Meeting of the York Region Agricultural Advisory Liaison Group commenced at 7:10 p.m.

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Dave Morrison was nominated as Chair of the York Region Agricultural Liaison Group, by Jim Sellers and seconded by Gary Johnson.
Carried.

Gary Johnson was nominated as Vice-Chair, by Dave Morrison, and seconded by Jim Sellers.
Carried.

2. Minutes

It was moved by Hugh Mitchell, and seconded by Jim Sellers that the Minutes of the Meeting held on January 20, 2004 be confirmed.

3. GTA Agricultural Action Plan

Bryan Tuckey made a brief presentation and distributed copies of the Draft GTA Agricultural Action Plan. The focus of the Action Plan was on jobs and the economy. The Plan proposed implementable actions involving different levels of government working in a different way. The Draft Plan was endorsed by the GTA Regions and the Federal Government, and the Working Group was waiting for comments from the Province before finalizing the Plan. The target date for completion of the Final Action Plan was the first week of June. Halton Region was putting together a communications plan to launch the Action Plan, and it was hoped that everyone could work together to get the message out.

Discussions followed on the implementation of the Action Plan. Since the budget for the implementation of the Action Plan had not been set, there was concern that momentum and energy would be lost with the long timeframe. It was noted that Durham Region had included funding for a Rural Economic Development Officer in the current year's budget.

4. Presentation on Contract with Consumers

Deb Lethbridge of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture presented an overview of the Contract with Consumers project. The objective of the project was to improve public knowledge and attitudes towards farmers, farming and the agricultural industry. Phase I of the project which included research on consumer attitudes and concerns had been completed. The Project was currently in Phase 2 which involved outreach to the community. The consensus was that there was an urgency to start building awareness of farming and offer support for farmers by recognizing their ongoing efforts.

5. Greenbelt Legislation

Barbara Jeffrey made a brief presentation on the Greenbelt Legislation. The members were advised that there were two upcoming stakeholder workshops on May 20 and 21 in King City and Caledon respectively. Don Fieldhouse confirmed that the York Federation of Agriculture would be making a presentation at one of the workshops. Ms. Jeffrey undertook to forward the Liaison Group's membership list to the Ministry to enquire if anyone from the Group could attend. It was agreed that timing was critical since the legislation would be in force on December 16.

6. Nutrient Management Act and Regulations

It was recommended that a Local Advisory Committee should be set up at the Regional level if necessary. Harvey Brown advised that the Federation of Agriculture was in favour of the Act and Regulations, however most farmers were

not in a position to pay for its implementation. Ellen Ma undertook to forward to the members information regarding funding support from OMAF.

7. Next Meeting

The date of the next Meeting would be at the call of the Chair.

There being no other business, the Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m., moved by Jim Sellers, and seconded by Hugh Mitchell.

Minutes confirmed and adopted.

Chair

Date