



THE CORPORATION OF HALDIMAND COUNTY Agricultural Advisory Committee Agenda

Date: November 19, 2025
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Haldimand County Administration Building - Haldimand Room
53 Thorburn Street South, Cayuga

Pages

A. Call to Order

B. Land Acknowledgement

C. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

D. Approval of Previous Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes - September 17, 2025

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E. Items for Consideration

1. Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Haldimand

Haldimand Stewardship speaking to the committee on ALUS programs and recruiting local farmers to join the ALUS Partnership Advisory Committee.

2. Rural Water Quality Program

In conjunction with the Grand River Conservation Authority, evaluation of applications to grant funding to eligible landowners for voluntary projects to help improve water quality.

Cover Crop - File 142

Proposal seeking \$300 grant value for cover crop of hay-corn-wheat in 30-acre field adjacent to watercourse and wetland.

Clean Water Diversion (Special Project) – File 143

Proposal seeking \$1750 grant value for clean water diversion away from manure and yard.

3. Engineering Role with AAC

Report ENG-12-2025 Traffic Management Strategy Final Report included a recommendation to strengthen a role in the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Committee to discuss recommended engagement with Engineering.

4. Workplan Discussion

- AAC Toolkit
- Workshops for the Agricultural Community
- AAC Council Presentation

5. Council Update

6. Economic Development & Tourism Update

7. Agricultural Organizations Update

F. New Business

1. 2026 Proposed Meeting Dates

2. Foodbelt Bill

Bill 21

G. Adjournment



THE CORPORATION OF HALDIMAND COUNTY

Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: September 17, 2025
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Haldimand County Administration Building - Haldimand Room
 53 Thorburn Street South, Cayuga

Members Present

- N. Hedley, Chair
- R. Blyleven, Member
- D. Court, Member
- S. Heeg, Member
- H. Lise, Member
- K. VanderSpek, Member
- B. Adams, Councillor

Regrets

- C. Snyder, Member
- C. Wilkinson, Member

Staff Present

- J. Easson, Senior Economic Development Officer
- L. Romanuk, Manager, Economic Development & Tourism
- C. Donaldson, Administrative Assistant
- N. Stoop, Supervisor of Planning and Development

Others Present

- S. Brocklebank, Grand River Conservation Authority
- P. Gagnon, Long Point Region Conservation Authority
- T. Brook, Lead Engineer, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

B. Land Acknowledgement

Chair N. Hedley read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

C. Disclosures of Conflict of Interest

None disclosed.

D. Approval of Previous Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes - May 21, 2025

Moved By: R. Blyleven, Member

Seconded By: Councillor Adams

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee dated May 21, 2025 be approved as presented.

APPROVED

E. Items for Consideration

1. Drainage Legislation & Common Law

T. Brook provided an introduction and presentation on Drainage Legislation and Common Law.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Provincial perspective; complexity (contentious between neighbours, effect of changing weather patterns altering waterflow, etc.);
- Examples of private drainage systems that can be used to improve crop productivity;
- Common Law, Drainage and the Drainage Act:
 - 1. Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act;
 - 2. Tile Drainage Act;
 - 3. Drainage Act;
- Agricultural Drainage Infrastructure Program (ADIP);
- Natural watercourse (riparian rights) vs. Surface water (no right of drainage);
- How issues are resolved; Petition Drains, Award Drains, Mutual Agreement Drains and;
- Drainage Conflict.

The committee discussed further questions regarding surface water rights, culverts, tile installation, agreements, municipal obligation for drains and ditches and proper disposal of natural surface water.

T. Brook noted that the presentation will be provided to the committee.

2. Rural Water Quality Program Proposals

1. File #140

S. Brocklebank provided an overview of the previously deferred Rural Water Quality Program Project application; Wetland Creation, File #140. The proposal is to create a 0.25 acre wetland area conditional on the applicant obtaining an Environmental Farm Plan.

S. Brocklebank provided updates that noted a regulations officer visited the site to inspect the area. The officer did not find a defined bed and bank, natural water course and therefore it was determined a permit was not required from Grand River Conservation Authority to dig the wetland creation.

Additionally, it was confirmed that both adjacent landowners met and agreed to the location of the wetland creation.

Recommendation 2

Moved By: K. VanderSpek, Member

Seconded By: D. Court, Member

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application File #140 totaling \$5000 be approved.

APPROVED

2. File #141

P. Gagnon provided an overview on File #141. The proposal is to create a sediment basin/wetland between the creek and agricultural field to catch and store sediment nutrients prior to entering the watercourse.

It was noted that Ducks Unlimited is a funding partner on the project.

Discussion ensued seeking clarification on purpose and any potential issues.

Recommendation 3

Moved By: K. VanderSpek, Member

Seconded By: D. Court, Member

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application File #141 totaling \$5000 be approved.

APPROVED

3. Haldimand County Planning

N. Stoop provided an overview of the Haldimand County Planning Process, highlights included:

- The Planning Framework in Haldimand County;
- The Official Plan and Agriculture;
- The Zoning By-law and Agriculture;
- Ontario Provincial Policy examples related to lot creation;
- Lot Creation Outside of Settlement Boundaries;
- Severances for legal or technical reasons including minor boundary adjustments, easements or right-of-way and other purposes;
- Natural Environment and Cultural Resources Factors; and
- On Farm Diversified Uses.

Discussion ensued around examples of boundary adjustments.

L. Romanuk shared that planning application processes can be complex, so early discussions with staff are always recommended.

4. Council Update

B. Adams shared a council update, highlights included:

- Strong Mayor Powers;
- Integrity Commissioners Report;
- New Traffic Management Strategy Implementation (to help prioritize the strategies);
- Many complaints regarding traffic issues;
- Budget items that are Ward specific are due end of September, please send over any recommendations you may have; and
- The majority of Council voted to continue supporting the previous MZO. Staff were asked to explore a referendum vote for the next municipal election.

Discussion ensued around municipal ditch grass cutting, road way issues with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario and Council Delegations at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Annual Conference.

5. Economic Development & Tourism Update

J. Easson shared Economic Development and Tourism highlights including:

- AAC Toolkit proposal;
- Workshop for the Agricultural Community;
- Breakfast on the Farm;
- Farm Tours;
- Yearly Council Presentation in January 2026;
- Save the date for October 23rd "Small Business Week Breakfast" at the Jarvis Community Centre;
- Tourism Network FAM tour on October 1;
- Wish Book intake/submissions; and
- Happy Guides & Farmers Markets Brochures.

L. Romanuk shared that feedback on value added Agricultural Workshops would be appreciated from the committee.

She also shared her experience with the Norfolk Ag Tour, experiencing a number of different farm operations. It was noted that a tour following the 2026 election would be a good opportunity to familiarize new Council members.

H. Lise suggested staff explore and share information on the farmers mental health workshops online.

Discussion ensued.

6. Agricultural Organizations Update

Haldimand Federation of Agriculture, D. Court shared that the 2025 HFA Barbecue was a success.

H. Lise added that the annual meeting is the third week of October for the "Haldimand AGM". They are looking for youth interested in attending the Ontario Youth Farms Forum.

Grain Farmers Ontario, K. VanderSpek shared that just had their annual general meeting in September with major topics concerning navigating trade. The next meeting in March will be in Niagara. They are also working with the MTO regarding potential price adjustments to the classes (CVORs), safety certificates and licenses of grain vehicles.

R. Blyleven shared that the International Plowing Match in Niagara started at 10am on Tuesday, September 16th. Key messaging at the event from all political parties was around "Save farm land".

Chicken Farmers, H. Lise noted that there is an Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) outbreak on a local farm, and therefore encouraged public to avoid contact with

backyard flocks. He also noted that the "Meet your local farmer" booth at the Caledonia Fair will have a new location that needs to consider biosecurity.

Discussion ensued.

F. New Business

1. Next Meeting - November 19, 2025

None discussed.

G. Adjournment

Moved By: D. Court, Member

Seconded By: S. Heeg, Member

THAT this meeting is now adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

APPROVED