

The Corporation of Haldimand County Agricultural Advisory Committee Agenda

Date: January 28, 2026

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Location: Haldimand Room - Haldimand County Administration Building
53 Thorburn Street South, Cayuga

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Pages

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Land Acknowledgement**
- C. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest**
- D. Approval of Previous Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes**

- 1. Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes - November 19, 2025

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THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee dated November 19, 2025 be approved as presented.

- E. Items for Consideration**

- 1. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

THAT _____ be appointed as Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for to 2026 calendar year.

THAT _____ be appointed as Vice Chair of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for to 2026 calendar year.

- 2. Rural Water Quality Program Summary

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.

- 3. Rural Water Quality Program Proposals

1. Tree Planting - File #22

Proposal seeking \$1,264 in grant value for field windbreaks in the Grand River watershed.

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application Tree Planting File #22 totaling \$1264 be approved.

2. Living Snow Fence - File #22

Proposal seeking \$2,353 in grant value and \$580 in land retirement payment for a living snow fence in the Grand River watershed.

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application Living Snow Fence File #22 totaling \$2933 be approved.

3. Tree Planting - File #22

Proposal seeking \$5,000 in grant value for field windbreaks in the Grand River watershed.

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application Tree Planting File #22 totaling \$5000 be approved.

4. Cover Crop - File #44

Proposal seeking \$1,420 in grant value for cover crops in the Grand River watershed.

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application Cover Crop File #44 totaling \$1420 be approved.

5. Living Snow Fence - File #143

Proposal seeking \$4,108 in grant value and \$1015 in land retirement payment for a living snow fence in the Grand River watershed.

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application Living Snow Fence File #143 totaling \$5123 be approved.

6. Tree Planting - File #143

Proposal seeking \$2,838 in grant value for field windbreaks in the Grand River watershed.

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application Tree Planting File #143 totaling \$2838 be approved.

7. Cover Crop - File #145

Proposal seeking \$1,500 in grant value for cover crops in the Grand River watershed.

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application Cover Crop File #145 totaling \$1500 be approved.

8. Cover Crop - File #146

Proposal seeking \$1,500 in grant value for cover crops in the Grand River watershed.

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application Cover Crop File #146 totaling \$1500 be approved.

4. Agricultural Advisory Committee Council Presentation

5. Bill 21 Presentation

6. Council Update

7. Economic Development & Tourism Update

8. Agricultural Organizations Update

F. New Business

1. Upcoming Meeting

G. Adjournment

THAT this meeting is now adjourned at _____ p.m.



Haldimand
County

**THE CORPORATION OF
HALDIMAND COUNTY**

Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes

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

Members Present	N. Hedley, Chair R. Blyeven, Member D. Court, Member S. Heeg, Member H. Lise, Member C. Snyder, Member K. VanderSpek, Member B. Adams, Councillor
Regrets	C. Wilkinson, Member
Staff Present	J. Easson, Senior Economic Development Officer L. Romanuk, Economic Development & Tourism C. Donaldson, Administrative Assistant
Others Present	Cathy Blott, Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Sue Brocklebank, Grand River Conservation Authority Louise Heyming, Grand River Conservation Authority

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 - September 17, 2025

Moved By: R. Blyleven, Member
Seconded By: K. VanderSpek, Member

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Advisory Committee dated September 17, 2025 be approved as presented.

APPROVED

E. Items for Consideration

1. Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Haldimand

C. Blott provided an introduction to Haldimand Stewardship Council, noting it is a restoration, non-profit organization. C. Blott also introduced Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS), noting that it has been operating for over 20 years. The Haldimand Stewardship Council is looking to establish an ALUS presence in Haldimand. Norfolk ALUS has agreed to be the legal entity for Haldimand to begin (3 years to start) with the expectation that a permanent legal entity will be established for Haldimand. They are currently looking for Farmers that may be interested in joining a Partnership Advisory Committee.

Highlights included:

- Overview of the ALUS funding program looking at restoring low-production farm land;
- ALUS program partners well with all of the existing farmland restoration programs;
- Multiple successful species at risk projects in Haldimand;
- Haldimand Program Coordinator to assist with securing funding;
- The local legal entity organizes fundraising, in addition to the Canada wide company;
- Most of the funding is supplied by Federal, Provincial, Stewardship Councils, Private and Corporation donations; and
- Land owners receive compensation per acre.

Discussion ensued regarding uptake in Haldimand, success in Norfolk County, working with Conservation Authorities, and requirements of being a board member for the Haldimand Stewardship Council.

2. Rural Water Quality Program

L. Heyming provided an overview of the 2025 program financials, highlighting this year's partnership with Ducks Unlimited on wetland habitats.

S. Brocklebank presented File 142, a cover crop proposal consisting of a 30-acre field adjacent to a watercourse and wetland.

Discussion ensued regarding tilling and ground coverage.

Recommendation 2

Moved By: D. Court, Member

Seconded By: H. Lise, Member

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application File #142 totaling \$300 be approved.

APPROVED

S. Brocklebank also presented File 143, a special project with the purpose of clean water diversion.

Currently, the rain water is draining off the applicant's barn, through the manure pile and then draining into the water way. The proposal is to divert barn roof water away from outdoor yard and manure pile by installing 183' of eavestroughs to direct water away from pile and have water flow by tile underground to outlet on adjacent hay field. The farm has already completed an environmental farm plan.

The committee further discussed the farms operations, location of the manure pile, field erosion at the proposed output, location of water for animals, tiling, post-installation plan and environmental benefits.

Recommendation 3

Moved By: H. Lise, Member

Seconded By: Councillor Adams

THAT the Rural Water Quality Program grant application File #143 totaling \$1750 be approved.

APPROVED

3. Engineering Role with AAC

J. Easson shared that Report ENG-12-2025 Traffic Management Strategy Final Report included the following recommendation:

Recommendation #4; Strengthen Haldimand County's role in the Agricultural Advisory Committee: Establish a permanent engineering role in the Committee to ensure timely acknowledgment of issues and mitigative measures.

To summarize, J. Easson shared that the Manager of Engineering thought it would be beneficial to receive the committee's input on how they would like engineering staff to be involved.

The committee discussed different types of information session formats, timing of meetings relating to budget input, working with the Traffic Management Strategy Committee on farm routes for heavy traffic areas and signage concerns at intersections.

Recommendation 4

Moved By: H. Lise, Member

Seconded By: D. Court, Member

THAT a member of staff from the Engineering and Capital Works Department attend the Agricultural Advisory Committee bi-annually to discuss ongoing traffic concerns, and to provide suggestions and project awareness prior to budget submission;

AND THAT upcoming AAC meeting dates be communicated with Engineering and Capital Works to facilitate this attendance.

APPROVED

4. Workplan Discussion

Agricultural 101 Toolkit

J. Easson provided an overview of the "Durham Ad 101" training package that provides awareness on general agricultural impacts and challenges, that this committee could reference if creating a similar toolkit for Haldimand County.

L. Romanuk added that Durham uses this guide with Council especially after elections to familiarize new Council members.

Discussion ensued surrounding the establishment of a Haldimand Agricultural Toolkit, with highlights such as farm policies, RWQP stats, leveraging general Haldimand Agricultural statistics, biosecurity, and where the toolkit will be located (i.e. website, physical, etc.).

L. Romanuk added that Economic Development and Tourism can create content on social media, including spotlights on different farmers, successes and topics that can also be highlighted on the website. Additionally, campaigns can be run with ideas from the committee.

The committee confirmed their support on this work and the above noted ideas.

Workshop for the Agricultural Committee

J. Easson discussed additional workplan items including holding a workshop for the Agriculture community.

A committee member suggested that may be beneficial if a Haldimand County representative attended all of the different commodity AGMs.

The committee noted that HFA is planning to organize a similar event or workshop series and suggested that a partnership could be established.

Annual AAC Council Presentation

J. Easson shared the 2025 presentation format and asked the committee if there are any other stats and information that they would like shared in the 2026 presentation.

The committee discussed updates to the presentation including new workplan items, more specific stats, roadway concerns and tariff impacts on agriculture.

5. Council Update

Councillor Adams provided an update from Council. The following items were highlighted:

- North Caledonia Employment Lands;
- Bill 21;
- New CAO, Michael Di Lullo;
- The Caledonia Emergency Services Grand Opening;
- Old Caledonia Fire Station declared surplus;
- Budget preparations are underway a short survey is available online for the public;
- New insurance rates for Haldimand County increased by 11%; and
- Councillor Adams advised that he has directed the ward specific vibrancy funding to the restoration of the pumper truck in Hagersville.

6. Economic Development & Tourism Update

L. Romanuk provided highlights on the following EDT projects:

- Business Breakthrough Quiz and Local Meet-ups;
- Small Business Week Breakfast held on October 24th at the Jarvis Community Centre;
- Tourism FAM Tour on October 1st;
- Holiday Wish book;
- Renewable Energy Projects; and
- Three Haldimand County students were sponsored through the Brantford Resource Centre, Summer Company program.

7. Agricultural Organizations Update

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, R. Blyleven – Provincial meetings are going on until the end of March.

Haldimand Federation of Agriculture – C. Snyder shared that last month they had an AGM at Kohler, noting that Boralex was a guest speaker, providing information on their projects. Boralex offered a tour for HFA members.

Grain Farmers – K. VanderSpek noted that the next local meeting is scheduled at the beginning of December and that the AGM is at the beginning of January. The Grain Farmers Legacy scholarship program continues to reinvests into the education of the agri-food sector.

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association - D. Court noted that the Niagara and Hamilton OSCIA will be hosting a summit with guest speakers at Ancaster fair grounds.

Chicken Farmers - H. Lise shared the Chicken Farmers went to Queen's Park to raise awareness for hatching and turkey security. Tariffs are taking 10% of economic value on boilers which has a large negative impact across Ontario.

F. New Business

1. 2026 Proposed Meeting Dates

The committee reviewed the proposed 2026 meeting dates as attached and proposed an amendment to the first date, January 16th, to be changed to January 28th due to scheduling conflicts. The committee also proposed that the January 28th, 2026 meeting start at 5pm.

Recommendation 5

Moved By: K. VanderSpek, Member

Seconded By: S. Heeg, Member

THAT the meeting schedule for the Agricultural Advisory Committee, as attached to this item, be approved for the 2026 calendar year as amended.

APPROVED

Recommendation 6

Moved By: Councillor Adams

Seconded By: H. Lise, Member

THAT the January 28th, 2026 Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting start at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED

2. Foodbelt Bill 21

The committee discussed Bill 21 - to ensure the agricultural industry always has a role in the decisions related to farm land, and interest in hearing a presentation to learn more.

Recommendation 7

Moved By: D. Court, Member

Seconded By: R. Blyleven, Member

THAT the committee requests MPP Bobbi Ann Brady to make a presentation on Bill 21 at a future AAC meeting prior to sharing a recommendation for Council consideration.

APPROVED

G. Adjournment

Moved By: R. Blyleven, Member

Seconded By: H. Lise, Member

THAT this meeting is now adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

APPROVED