



## **DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAAC) 2021 WORKPLAN**

### **1. Advice on Policy Development and Implementation**

#### **a. Provide advice on:**

- Proposed amendments to the Durham Region Official Plan.
- Agricultural and rural related planning matters, with a view to:
  - sustaining the viability of farming;
  - protecting and preserving agricultural land as a first priority; and
  - ensuring adequate separation between agricultural land uses and activities and urban residential areas.
- Envision Durham Regional Official Plan Update – Municipal Comprehensive Review.
- Implementation of the Regional Broadband Strategy.
- Durham Community Climate Adaptation Plan—ongoing implementation of the Agricultural Sector Climate Adaptation Strategy.
- Regional Cycling Plan Update.
- Durham Agricultural Strategy Update.
- Vibrant North Durham Plan Update.
- Local Food Business Retention & Expansion Action Plan.
- Long Term Waste Management Plan

### **2. Communicate/Outreach/Educate**

#### **a. Host the 2021 Virtual Farm Tour that will:**

- assist Local and Regional Councillors, Provincial and Federal government officials as well as Conservation Authorities (including staff), to understand the concerns, opportunities and challenges of the agricultural community;
- reach key industry stakeholders whose mandate may impact the agricultural community;
- assist the educational sector (institutions, boards/superintendents), to understand the opportunities and challenges of the agricultural industry and community;
- emphasize the benefits of the agricultural industry to the Regional economy and the need for succession farming in the industry.

#### **b. Continue to work with Regional Departments including Planning and**

Economic Development, Works, Finance and Police Services where necessary to ensure agricultural interests are considered.

- c. Encourage participation of the Durham agricultural youth organizations.
- d. Investigate other outreach opportunities as they arise.
- e. Municipal representatives on the Committee will continue to dialogue with their respective municipalities including presentations to area municipal Councils on matters of interest where appropriate.
- f. Continue to establish a working relationship with the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee and other Regional Committees.

### **3. Economic Development and Tourism**

- a. Continue to promote the agricultural sector and development of related industries in the Region.
- b. Assist in the update and implementation of the Region of Durham Agricultural Strategy Action Plan.
- c. Continue to promote the development of research and implementation strategies to assist Durham's agricultural/farming sector in achieving higher profitability, thereby ensuring its survival and long-term sustainability.
- d. Participate in the implementation of the Local Food Business Retention & Expansion project.

### **4. Issues of Interest**

- Federal Pickering airport lands.
- Federal Oshawa Port.
- Alternative energy (e.g. solar farms, biomass, wind).
- Farm safety.
- Provincial and federal legislation and policy affecting agriculture (e.g. species at risk, provincial land use plans).
- Commercial fill.
- Aggregate matters, including aggregate pit rehabilitation.
- Implementation of source water protections plans.
- Farmland assessment and taxation.
- Farm animal health and wellness (e.g. DRPS).
- Natural Heritage System protection and construction of new farm infrastructure.
- Minimum Distance Separation Formulae.

- Water and waste water master planning.
- Biosecurity, trespassing and vandalism.
- Municipal Class EA's.
- Regional road projects.
- Conservation Authority matters.
- Energy-from-Waste implementation and monitoring.
- Region's waste diversion programs.
- Highway 407 East construction.
- Local food strategy.
- Agricultural training and employment, through continued work with the Durham Workforce Authority (DWA), Durham College, and Ontario Tech University.
- Activities of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance.
- Land use planning matters.
- Other matters affecting the agricultural industry (e.g. Municipal Fire Regulations, By-laws and Permits).
- COVID-19 impacts and recovery.
- Rouge National Urban Park.
- Clean Fuel Standards

## **5. Meeting Schedule**

- a. DAAC has scheduled 10 regular meetings for 2021. An additional meeting may be held in August, at the call of the Chair. Resources (Planning and Clerks) will be provided to accommodate this schedule and workload.

- January 12, 2021
- February 9, 2021
- March 9, 2021
- April 13, 2021
- May 11, 2021
- June 8, 2021
- September 14, 2021
- October 12, 2021
- November 9, 2021
- December 7, 2021