

## Merrickville-Wolford Agricultural Advisory Committee

### Minutes of Meeting Thursday, April 12, 2012, 7pm

**Present:** Don Halpenny, Tom Beach, Alec MacGregor, Kim, Weedmark, Cesar Farhat

Guests: John Woodfine, Dan Robitaille (resigned as a member)

1. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests none
2. Approval of Agenda: Addition – replacement of Dan Robitaille; update on the township's election of an evaluator

Moved/seconded by Tom Beach/Alec MacGregor to approve the agenda with additions, carried.

3. Approval of Minutes (February 9, 2012): Moved/seconded Alec MacGregor/Cesar Farhat to approve the minutes of February 9, 2012, carried

#### Old Business

4. How to identify agricultural issues that the AAC should be aware of.

Discussion about how currently AAC members bring them when they are made aware of them by others.

Most associations are county wide and would present issues to the county agricultural advisory committee. Discussion about the value of being informed about the county wide issues and determining how the township can address them.

**ACTION: Don Halpenny will get a notice put in the monthly Council Notes to let people know the purpose for the AAC and how to contact members.**

Let Farmers Market know about the committee and their interest in being aware of agricultural events, interests and issues.

**ACTION: Don Halpenny will contact previous vendors to let them know.**

5. Update on Drain Wolford

The presentation to North Grenville municipality which was planned this week will be rescheduled.

The shared partnership of Drain Wolford, land owners, the municipalities and RVCA to trap beavers on the creek between Pioneer Road and Hwy 18 and 20 intersection in North Grenville has been working well.

RVCA has been managing the budget. There were 54 beavers trapped and dams breached and there is \$1,400 left in the budget of \$5,000.

Breaching for trapping is minimal (to get the beavers coming to the area to rebuild so they can be trapped) and different from breaching for agricultural purposes which is larger and is done to reduce the water levels.

The next step is the larger breaching and removal of the obstructions to increase the water flow and drainage while maintaining the trapping. Drain Wolford is asking the municipalities for funding assistance for the ongoing management of the water system.

Drain Wolford is not registered so cannot be a recipient of funds. Drain Wolford asked the Municipality of M-W to receive any funds which Drain Wolford was able to get from different levels of government or the private sector to assist with the work.

It was clarified that RVCA can receive such funds and manage them when the funds are kept specifically for the purpose intended.

Drain Wolford's mandate from day one was to get municipalities and RVCA to take the responsibility for maintenance of the waterway.

The landholders are aware of their responsibility and agree they have an obligation to fund the maintenance. The question is why is RVCA not using funds from the municipalities which comes from taxpayers to maintain the waterway.

Question – can the AAC support Drain Wolford's suggestion to have the municipalities and RVCA take the responsibility to maintain the waterways.

Moved/seconded by Alec MacGregor/Cesar Farhat, that the Agricultural Advisory Committee recommends to Council to send a letter to the Federal and Provincial Governments copied to the RVCA and neighbouring municipalities to express the concern about the serious amount of infrastructure damage (roads and bridges) and land loss by the water obstructions (beaver dams). The AAC further recommends to Council that they request financial support from Federal and Provincial governments to coordinate a waterway management plan for the north and south branches of the Kemptville Creek to alleviate the problem. CARRIED

## 6. Village Garden

There will be a meeting this coming week and good support for the garden. The group is explaining options for using school property for the garden next year.

New Business to Bring Forward to the next meeting :

1. Selection of a new member for the AAC as a replacement of Dan Robitaille who has resigned
2. Update from council on the township's election of a livestock evaluator
3. Information on new legislation to separate requirements for Farm Animals from Pets under SPCA regulations.

Next meeting will be in Thursday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Moved by Alec MacGregor to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourned at 8:25pm

Respectfully submitted by Tom Beach