



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Warden Milne and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	April 13, 2023
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	EDTC-CW-09-23
<b>Title:</b>	Agricultural Advisory Committee Public Member Appointments
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Philly Markowitz
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Savanna Myers & Scott Taylor
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	All
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW62-23; Endorsed by County Council on April 27, 2023, per Resolution CC35-23.

## Recommendation

1. That report **EDTC-CW-09-23 Agricultural Advisory Committee Public Member Appointments** be received; and
2. That the following ten (10) candidates be confirmed for membership in the **Agricultural Advisory Committee for the 2022-2026 term of Council: Gail Ardiel, Dianne Booker, Carrie Davenport, Simon DeBoer, Blair Freeman, Brenda Hsueh, Keith Reid, Rob Lipsett, Hugh Simpson and Lorie Smith.**

## Background and Discussion

Following report CCR-CW-04-23, the Terms of Reference for the Agricultural Advisory Committee was updated. The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AgAC) acts as the voice of the agricultural community at Grey County Council and coordinates and communicates between agricultural organizations within Grey County.

Members of the AgAC are appointed by Council. The Committee includes four members of Council and the Warden along with 10 members of the agricultural community, including:

Five members representing major agricultural groups, which may include:

- Grey County Federation of Agriculture
- Ontario Federation of Agriculture
- Christian Farmers
- National Farmers Union
- Grey County Agricultural Services

Five members at large representing various sectors which may include:

- Commercial livestock operator
- Commercial grain or fruit/vegetable producer
- Agriculture business supplier
- Direct-to-consumer producer/retailer
- Agri-tourism operator or owner
- Agricultural specialist (agronomist etc.)

On February 16, 2023, Grey County solicited applications for the 10 community positions, inviting candidates to apply through an online survey. Staff promoted the AgAC application process on grey.ca, on social media, through newsletters, and with emails and phone calls to specific organizations and community leaders. The survey closed on March 16, 2023. A total of 16 applications were received.

**Staff from Economic Development and Planning reviewed the candidates and are presenting the following slate of 10 community members for consideration:**

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>Type of agricultural business</b>	<b>Organization(s) represented (bold = spokesperson)</b>
Gail Ardiel	Apple producer	Appointed in connection to role as Councillor to Town of the Blue Mountains Ag Advisory Committee; Georgian Bay Fruit Growers; others
Dianne Booker	Beef cattle	<b>Grey County Federation of Agriculture</b>
Carrie Davenport	Georgian View Ag Services; cash crops	GC Soil & Crop Improvement Assoc.
Simon de Boer	Dairy operation	<b>Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario</b> ; others
Blair Freeman	Dairy, cash crops	Trillium Mutual Insurance
Brenda Hsueh	Black Sheep Farm; sheep; specialty produce	<b>National Farmers Union</b> ; others
Keith Reid	Cattle, sheep, cash crops	<b>Sydenham Ag Society; ALUS</b> ; GCFA; GSCA; others
Rob Lipsett	Beef cattle	<b>Grey County Beef Farmers Association</b> ; others
Hugh Simpson	Osprey Bluffs Honey; maple syrup production	Nottawasaga CA Ag committee; Grey Sauble CA; GCFA, others
Lorie Smith	Manager Grey Ag Services; farmer	<b>Grey Agricultural Services</b>

As indicated above, several of the applicants have experience and expertise in more than one area, and many have additional affiliations with agriculture-related organizations. Staff is confident this will make for a strong, diverse, and well-rounded committee.

## Legal and Legislated Requirements

None

## Financial and Resource Implications

There are no additional financial or resource implications related to this report. Staff from Economic Development and Planning will attend quarterly AgAC meetings.

Initial meetings will be conducted electronically. There are minimal costs related to mileage for members of this committee if, and when, the group is wanting to meet in person.

## Relevant Consultation

- Internal: Director of Planning, Director Economic Development, Tourism & Culture, Deputy CAO.
- External (list)

## Appendices and Attachments

None