



Committee Report

To:	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	November 12, 2020
Subject / Report No:	EDTC-CW-17-20
Title:	Agricultural Advisory Committee Community Candidates
Prepared by:	Philly Markowitz, Economic Development Officer
Reviewed by:	
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW197-20; Endorsed by County Council November 26, 2020;

Recommendation

1. That Report EDTC-CW-17-20 be received and that the following six (6) candidates be confirmed for membership in the newly established Agricultural Advisory Committee:

- John DeJong
- Kathy Eckenswiller
- Brenda Hsueh
- Amy Kitchen
- Lorie Smith
- RJ Taylor

Background and Discussion

On August 13, 2020 County Council voted to create an Agricultural Advisory Committee (AgAC). The AgAC is responsible for acting as the voice of the agricultural community at Grey County Council and to coordinate and communicate between agricultural organizations within Grey County.

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

- Representative of the Grey County Federation of Agriculture, Christian Farmers or National Farmers Union
- Representative from Grey County Agricultural Services
- Commercial livestock, grain or fruit/vegetable producer
- Agriculture business supplier

- Agri-tourism operator or owner
- Representative of Field to Table operation

On September 18, 2020, Grey County solicited applications for the six community positions, inviting potential candidates to apply through an online survey. Staff promoted the AgAC application process on social media, through newsletters, and with emails and phone calls to specific organizations and community leaders. The survey closed October 9. A total of 12 applications were received.

Staff from Economic Development and Planning reviewed the candidates and are presenting the following slate of six community members to Council for consideration:

CANDIDATE	organization / business	ag org rep	Grey Ag Services	producer	ag supplier	agri-tourism	field to table
John DeJong	Manager, North Wellington Coop				yes		
Kathy Eckenswiller	Manager, New Life Poultry			yes			
Brenda Hsueh	Owner, Black Sheep Farm; National Farmers Union Exec	yes		yes			yes
Amy Kitchen	Owner, Side Road Farm; Eat Local Grey Bruce Exec			yes		yes	yes
Lorie Smith	VP and Manager, Grey Agricultural Services	yes	yes	yes			
RJ Taylor	Owner, Cedar Crest Trout Farm; Springhills Fish			yes			yes

As indicated above, several 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.

Bold typeface indicates the specific positions the members will represent on the committee for the duration of their membership.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

This Committee will be bound by the Municipal Act, 2001, Grey County Procedural By-law, Code of Conduct and any other relevant provincial or federal legislation or other County policies as applicable.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no additional staffing or Information Technology 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 when the group is able to meet in person.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal: Economic Development, Planning and Clerk's Departments
- External (list)

Appendices and Attachments

None