



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	August 13, 2020
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	CCR-CW-07-20
<b>Title:</b>	Terms of Reference-Agricultural Advisory Committee
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kim Wingrove and Heather Morrison
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	All
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as amended by appointing members to the Committee per Resolution CW149-20; Endorsed by County Council September 10, 2020;

## Recommendation

- 1. That Report CCR-CW-07-20 regarding the Terms of Reference for the Agricultural Advisory Committee be received; and**
- 2. That the Terms of Reference be endorsed as presented; and**
- 3. The following Members be appointed to the Agricultural Advisory Committee:**
  - Councillors**
  - Warden McQueen**

## Executive Summary

At the June 11, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, a notice of motion was passed to establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee to act as the voice of the agricultural community at Grey County Council and to coordinate and communicate between agricultural organizations in Grey County. It is anticipated the Committee will make recommendations for enhancements or improvements related to the health of the agriculture sector. The draft Terms of Reference are included in this report.

## Background and Discussion

At the June 11, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, a notice of motion was supported to establish an Agricultural Advisory Committee to coordinate and communicate between agricultural organizations including reviewing ideas on how to strengthen the agriculture sector, provide ongoing consultation and facilitating outlets for agriculture advocacy. The Committee will look at identifying issues and projects that will impact the agricultural community, discuss the pros and cons and work with staff to promote, attract and retain a wide range of agricultural businesses including traditional farming, field to table and on-farm diversified uses.

The draft Terms of Reference propose several agricultural sector representatives to sit on this Committee. These include:

- Representative from one of the three formal agricultural organizations-Grey County Federation of Agriculture, Christian Farmers Federation or National Farmers Union
- Representative from Grey County Agricultural Services
- Commercial livestock, grain or fruit/vegetable producer
- Agriculture business supplier
- Agri-tourism operator/owner
- Field to table representative.

These would be public appointments and a call for volunteers would go out following approval of the Terms of Reference. Staff would reach out to the various agricultural organizations, use social media and other local contacts to publicize the request for members widely.

It is also recommended that there be four members of Council plus the Warden on this Committee as political representation. Councillors Robinson, Woodbury and Soever have indicated their interest in sitting on this Committee.

## 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

This new committee will require funding for member mileage for in person meetings and per diems for council members. Staff will work with both the political and public

members to determine appropriate meeting times and a structure (online or in-person) that will work for the majority of the membership.

## Relevant Consultation

- Internal-CAO, Planning, Economic Development
- External

## Appendices and Attachments

Terms of Reference Agricultural Advisory Committee



# Terms of Reference

## Agricultural Advisory Committee

### Mission/ Purpose:

This Committee 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. The Committee will raise issues and opportunities related to the health of the agriculture sector and provide advice and recommendations to County Council based on those discussions.

### Objectives:

1. To provide comment and recommendations associated with strengthening the agricultural sector to County Council through information sharing, advocacy and education.
2. Through ongoing consultation with the agricultural sector, provide recommendations that facilitate outlets for agricultural advocacy.
3. To identify initiatives and projects that will impact the agricultural community and discuss pros and cons of these.

### Governance roles and responsibilities:

The Committee will work with various agricultural sectors along with all levels of government to seek out opportunities and solutions to assist in the attraction, retention and promotion of agriculture in Grey County and to raise awareness of benefits the agricultural sector brings to Grey County in communities.

### Membership

Members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee are appointed by Council and will include four members of Council and the Warden along with 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

Public Members will remain on the Committee for the term of Council. Grey County Council members will be elected to the Committee annually.

Each member of the Committee shall:

1. Exercise the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.
2. Become informed about the issues affecting agriculture, both in Grey County and beyond.
3. Be committed to achieving and maintaining the vision, mission and values of Grey County

## Advice to Council

The Committee will make recommendations to Committee of the Whole on the following matters, for which Council retains the decision-making role:

1. Suggestions, ideas and projects the County could undertake to promote the agricultural industry as a whole.
2. Considerations related to the development or implementation of policies, programs, regulations which would impact the agriculture sector.

## Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected by the Committee members at the first meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair will be elected annually.

## Meetings

The Committee will meet at the call of the Chair but meet up to four times annually.

## Quorum

A quorum is more than 50% of the membership of the Committee.

## Duration

Term of Council

## Statutory Authority

The Committee is guided by Grey County's Procedural By-law, Council's Code of Conduct, Provincial Acts and regulations, and other Grey County Policies as applicable.

## Reporting Relationship

The Committee reports to Grey County Committee of the Whole.