MINUTES: Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
January 27th, 2005
Ancaster Marritt Hall

Present: Chair: Roy Shuker
Members: Nancy Mills, Cathy McMaster, Frank Regan, Murray Ferguson, Susan Coverdale, David Mitchell, Henry Swierenga, Dale Smith, Carol Pupo, Carl Loewith, Robert Pasuta,

Absent: Members: Ralph Kikkert, Doug Cranston, Phil Krakar, Robert Murphy, Mel Switzer

Chair Roy Shuker welcomed the members and called the meeting to order.

1.  CHANGES TO AGENDA

Delete Item 4.1 Pan American Nursery Products Inc. – withdrew request for delegation. This group has requested that their delegation be given the opportunity to possibly appear at the February meeting. Committee feels that this delegation should first present to the City of Hamilton Planning and Economic Development Committee and would only receive this delegation if referred to the ARAAC by that committee of Council. Carl Loewith put forth a motion of deny delegation accordingly, seconded by Dale Smith. CARRIED

Insert Item 7.1 Staff Presentation City of Hamilton – Waste Management Plan – Beth Goodger

3.  APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 October 28, 2004

Carl Loewith moved that the minutes of November 25th, 2005 be adopted as presented; seconded by Cathy McMaster. CARRIED
7. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

7.1 City of Hamilton Current Waste Management System – Beth Goodger made a presentation to committee giving an overview as follows:

- Who we are
- What we do
- Where we are at – 2004 numbers
- Where we are going – moving towards 65% diversion
- Unique opportunities that directly could affect the rural agriculture community

Some excellent questions and discussion followed the presentation regarding various procedures that concern committee members i.e. what is an allowable item for recycling (i.e. feed bags), farm plates charged at transfer station, tire pick-up, conduct of garbage trucks and staff. Beth certainly opened the door to all citizens to call the Waste Management Division with any suggestions or items that could be added to regular garbage and recycling pick-up. Committee members were encouraged to forward materials for review (feed bags etc.) so that they can be tested and possibly added to recycling agenda. These items can be forwarded to Councillor Ferguson or Mitchell or brought to the ARAAC meetings and Sue Coverdale will forward to the Waste Management Division.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Open Air Burning By-law – Several staff members from the HES – Fire Prevention Division attended the meeting to discuss concerns regarding the Open Air Burning By-law as it pertains to the rural agriculture community. Several incidents of concern had been raised with regards to the lack of clear information when applying for a burning permit and/or variance for burning larger piles of brush on an agriculture operation. Staff confirmed that better information needed to be shared with the City Service Centres and Fire Stations issuing burning permits and the following steps were implemented:

- A memorandum has been distributed to all Fire Prevention Division and all Municipal Service Centre staff outlining proper procedures to be followed pertaining to farmers including waiving of the $126 inspection fee for farms as permitted in By-law 02-283
- Fire Prevention staff reviewed all aspects of the by-law and associated procedures in a monthly training session.

Regular $10 permits will continue to be issued at municipal service centres and local fire stations as outlined in the by-law. Request for open air burning that exceeds the standard piles must proceed directly to the Mountain District Office, East District Office and West District Office.

Further discussion on how to best inform the agriculture community led to a commitment from Fire Prevention Staff to produce a pamphlet directly pertaining to specific policy and procedures for farming operations. This pamphlet will be produced and forwarded to the ARAAC committee for review and mailed to all 650 members of the HWFA in the late March or early April.
newsletter mailing. It was also suggested that contact information possibly be added to the annual Solid Waste Calendar that is mailed to all homeowners in the City of Hamilton and/or included in upcoming tax bills.

8.2 Final Change to “draft” Discharge of Firearms By-law – Staff presented final changes resulting from stakeholders meeting. Committee was pleased with final document and received a positive response from the OFA members. Dale Smith moved that we accept and endorse this final version of the Discharge Firearms By-law, seconded by Robert Pasuta. CARRIED

Tom Redmond briefly discussed the proposed Vital Services By-law seeking the ARAAC committees input. A draft copy will be send to this committee for their review and comments.

8.3 LEAR Study – Joanne Hickey-Evans gave a brief update on the status of the LEAR Study and OMAF’s comments and report back to the City. Planning Department has responded to several areas of concern and provided clarification to the Province. Staff will be meeting with senior staff in London Ontario

8.4 2004 Grant Process Update – Sue Coverdale advised committee that all applications had been mailed to agriculture and rural non-profit organizations and were due February 14th. Evaluation committee would be meeting early March to evaluate the grant and bring recommendation to the ARAAC committee at their March meeting.

Robert Pasuta – advised that at the January HWFA meeting ARAAC member Philip Krakar continues to express his concern with regard to the established criteria for disbursing grant funds and voiced concern that Sue Coverdale has a potential conflict as a member of the evaluation committee. Both issues were discussed and established that the criteria and evaluation team had been discussed at the November 25th meeting and a unanimous motion was put forth to continue with the same youth focused criteria and ex-officio committee members as the evaluation team. Sue Coverdale assured the group that she has no conflict of interest regarding any applications as she does not administer the grants budget or have any authority. Sue also reminded the committee members that the final disbursement of funds is entirely up to the ARAAC members and recommendations from the evaluation team can be changed or adopted at their discretion. In addition, evaluation members do excuse themselves when evaluating applications that they do have a potential conflict – Sue Coverdale Rockton Agriculture Society and Henry Swierenga HWFA. In those cases only two members evaluate the application.

8.5 Think Plastics Inc. – This item was discussed as part of Beth Goodger’s Waste Management Presentation. Members discussed the merit of this program and certain limitation on scope of allowable plastics. Beth and staff will be looking into this program and the establishing of depots in rural areas for this type of program.
13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Nancy Mills moved this meeting be adjourned, seconded by Robert Pasuta.

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, February 24, 2005
Ancaster Fairgrounds,
Marritt Hall Boardroom
Garner Road, Ancaster