MINUTES: Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
February 24th, 2005
Ancaster Marriott Hall

Present: Vice - Chair: Carl Loewith
Members: Nancy Mills, Cathy McMaster, Frank Regan, Susan
Coverdale, Henry Swierenga, Dale Smith, Carol Pupo, Robert Pasuta, Mel Switzer, Phil Krakar, Robert Murphy

Absent: Members: Ralph Kikkert, Doug Cranston, David Mitchell, Murray
Ferguson, Roy Shuker

Vice - Chair Carl Loewith welcomed the members, made introductions and called the meeting to order.

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA – none

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes from January 27th, 2005

Mel Switzer moved that the minutes of January 27th, 2005 be adopted as presented; seconded by Frank Regan. CARRIED

4. DELEGATION REQUESTS – none

5. CONSENT ITEMS – none

6. PUBLIC DELEGATIONS - none

7. STAFF PRESENTATIONS

7. 1 City of Hamilton “myhamilton.ca” – Shannon McKay, Paul Takala and Ken Roberts made a presentation to committee giving an overview as follows:
   • Project Background
   • Project Overview
   • Rural Community Opportunities
Some excellent questions and discussion followed the presentation regarding various procedures that concerned committee members i.e. sustainability, funding, future staffing and updating of information. Committee members questioned what this project was looking for from the rural community. Paul indicated that they would like this committee to act in an advisory capacity assisting with the content development and regular updates on the project as it proceeds, specifically drawing from the overall expertise of the committee. The critical next step was to organize a half day session with committee participation and a broad cross-section of the rural community to brainstorm on the features and content to be included in the rural community sub-site. A tentative date had been set for March 22\textsuperscript{nd} but has now been changed to April 6\textsuperscript{th} – specific details attached. In the long term this project will be looking for a Channel Manager from the rural community to sit on a committee that meets on a regular basis as an expert contributor regarding the rural portal.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Open Air Burning By-law – HES – Fire Prevention Division staff have prepared a brochure outlining the rules, regulations and exemptions for agricultural/farm properties with regards to the Open Air Burning By-law. Committee members reviewed the brochure and unanimously approved the content. This brochure will be mailed to all 650 members of the HWFA.

8.2 One Voice Rally – Queen’s Park Update – Robert Pasuta gave the committee an overview of the event taking place on March 2\textsuperscript{nd} detailing local arrangements and plans that have been set in motion. Henry Swierenga gave an overview of the entire event from start to finish that includes entertainment, speeches from all commodities and reminded the committee the intended message of this rally was to address farm issues in Ontario with regards to record low incomes, increased regulatory demands and inadequate Provincial and Federal subsidies. Anticipated attendance will be between 6,000 to 10,000 farmers and individuals that support the rural agriculture community. Dale Smith addressed his valid concerns with regards to this rally from a dairy producer standpoint and that not every sector of farming necessarily has and/or agrees with all of these issues. Carol Pupo addressed these concerns by stating that the overall message was for farmers to stand together as one entity in support of each other.

8.3 ARAAC Resolutions to City Council- This item was tabled until next meeting, neither Councillor Ferguson nor Chair Roy Shuker were present to address this item. Members were very concerned that a resolution had been taken to Council on behalf of the ARAAC committee without a formal motion. This item will be discussed and addressed at the March meeting.

2004 Grant Process – Sue Coverdale gave the committee an overview of the approval of the grant criteria and evaluation team as discussed and approved at the November meeting. ARAAC member Philip Krakar has had
some concerns since that meeting with the criteria and evaluation team member conflicts specifically Sue Coverdale and Henry Swierenga. Sue reminded the committee that it was too late to change their motion with regards to the criteria as all applications had been mailed and received based on the criteria approved in November. However, the committee could still change the evaluation team at this time. Philip clarified his concerns with the criteria and evaluation team and any perceived conflict on the part of Sue or Henry were addressed to the satisfaction of the committee. Mel Switzer moved that the criteria and evaluation team as approved at the November meeting be upheld. Seconded by Nancy Mills. CARRIED.

8.4 – 8.7 New Provincial Policy Statement, Greenbelt Legislation and Places To Grow Version 2 – Sue Coverdale distributed documentation from the Provincial Government on these three pieces of proposed legislation. Paul Mason and staff will make a staff presentation at the March meeting giving the committee an overview on all three issues and how it affects rural Hamilton.

9. MOTIONS – none

10. NOTICES OF MOTIONS - none

11. GENERAL INFORMATION

11.1 HWFA “Farm Family of the Year Banquet Update. This event appears to be very well organized with attendance anticipated between 210 and 220. Eleanor Woods will be the guest speaker and Mark and Kari Comley will be the honoured guest.

11.2 ARAAC Committee Member Update

- Robert Pasuta announced at their March 8th meeting – Lorna Wilson from the Ontario Agri-Food Education program will be the guest speaker.
- Carl Loewith is the ARAAC member sitting on the Bio-Solids Masterplan committee. Carl gave a brief overview of the initial meetings, committee members and that this process will likely take 1.5 years. The mandate of the committee is specifically to address how to handle the distribution/disposal of biosolids. There will be three public meetings in early March and future stakeholder meetings.

12. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL – none

13. ADJOURNMENT – Vice-Chair Carl Loewith declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:
Thursday, March 24th, 2005
Ancaster Fairgrounds, Garner Road - Ancaster
Marriott Hall Boardroom, 7:30 p.m.