SUBJECT: Volunteer Committee Budget - Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee (City Wide) (PED06012)

RECOMMENDATION:

a) That the 2006 Budget submission for the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee be received.

b) That the Budget submission and requested funding for the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee be referred to the 2006 Budget process.

Lee Ann Coveyduck
General Manager
Planning and Economic Development Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to request continued funding of $600 for the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, a sub-Committee of Planning and Economic Development Committee.

This Committee provides expertise and input to staff and politicians on many rural matters including land use matters, building issues, environmental matters, to name a few.
BACKGROUND:

On September 14, 2005 Council approved new procedures for the consideration of volunteer committee budgets. The revised procedure requires relevant Standing Committees to review the activities, performance and future objectives of each volunteer committee as well as opportunities for alternate funding sources.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

The Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee was created by Council in 2001. It has operated since with the oversight and assistance of staff from the Planning and Economic Development Department. The form and functions of this committee are similar to rural advisory committees operated by regions, counties and single tiers elsewhere in Ontario.

This is a volunteer committee composed of rural ward councillors, individuals from various farm and rural organizations and the ex-officio participation of staff from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The committee meets monthly to consider a wide range of issues, draft policies and by-laws affecting rural communities which are referred to it by Council or the General Managers of various departments. The committee also receives applications and makes recommendations to Council on the distribution of annual grants to rural organizations.

The Committee receives administrative support from staff of the Planning and Economic Development Department. Susan Coverdale, Economic Development Officer presently serves as the committee’s secretary.

During 2005 the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee completed the annual review of rural organization grant applications. Their funding recommendations were accepted by Council. Council and the General Managers referred a variety of matters for the committee’s consideration and advice during 2005 including:

- draft Firearms Discharge By-law;
- administrative issues concerning the Outdoor Burning By-law;
- draft Woodland Conservation (tree cutting) By-law;
- draft Pesticide Control By-law;
- Greenbelt Plan Policies;
- Agricultural Economic Strategy Implementation;
- LEAR Study of prime and non-prime farm land; and,

The committee’s expertise in offering diligent review of all agenda items, serving as a forum for rural community input and debate on a variety of civic initiatives, offering balanced advice or technical direction to studies and draft policies concerning agricultural and rural affairs has proven to be a great asset to Council and many City programs. City staff appreciates the balanced interests and commitment given to
committee operations by its members, most of whom have long standing experience in farm and rural organizations.

The committee’s draft 2006 Budget remains unchanged from last year and is fully devoted to the consumables supporting the committee’s operations. The budget is attached as Appendix A to Report PED06012. Appointed and ex-officio members receive no per diem compensation from the City. The Committee receives extensive in kind support from Planning and Economic Development program staff.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Central funding of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee is recommended to continue. The committee’s work supports a variety of departments and programs, including Council itself.

An alternative to centralized funding would be to apportion its nominal operating costs to those departments and programs using its services annually. The wide variety in the committee’s business activities would demand complicated accounting practices to sustain this option. The costs of supporting those practices would easily exceed those of central funding administration.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial - The committee’s draft 2006 Budget total is $600 to cover operating expenses for its monthly meeting schedule.

Staffing - Susan Coverdale, Economic Development Officer, acts as secretary to the committee and will continue to do so for 2006. The committee’s activities rely on technical input from a variety of staff of the Planning and Economic Development Department and other departments, depending on the agenda.

Legal - None.

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

The Committee’s operations support a variety of Corporate goals as noted in the draft 2006 Budget submission. The committee plays a valuable role in offering community opinion and technical expertise associated with City policy and by-law initiatives undertaken by various departments.

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**

N/A.
CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
This Committee’s input and support on a number of different community based issues that affect the rural community.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
This Committee provides input and support on a number of different environmental issues, both City and privately generated ones, that affect the rural community.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No
The agricultural sector is a multi-million dollar industry that is critical to not only the local economy but provincially and nationally. The agricultural sector is one of the City's economic clusters.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☑ Yes ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? N/A ☐ Yes ☐ No

PM/dkm
Attach. (1)
PART A: General Information

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roy Shuker - Chair</th>
<th>Dale Smith</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carol Loewith – Vice Chair</td>
<td>Mel Swizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Kikkert</td>
<td>Doug Cranston</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philip Krakar</td>
<td>Robert Pasuta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Mills</td>
<td>Henry Swierenga – OFA (ex-officio)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Murphy</td>
<td>Carol Pupo – OMAFRA (ex-officio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy McMaster</td>
<td>Paul Mason – City of Hamilton (ex-officio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Regan</td>
<td>Sue Coverdale – City of Hamilton (ex-officio)</td>
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MANDATE:
To provide input on agricultural and rural issues on items of importance directed from various Provincial Policies and vetted through City of Hamilton Council

PART B: Strategic Planning

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

- Advise Council of the committee’s recommended actions and direction with regard to rural and agricultural issues
- Administer the annual grant program/funds to non-profit rural organizations and report back to committee and Council
- Work with Planning and Development staff on key issues and projects such as: GRIDS, Greenbelt, Official Plan Development, City of Hamilton By-laws
- Receive delegations from the Agriculture and Rural community, City Departments and various organizations with regards to issues arising in the City requiring input from the committee

ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE GOALS:

Please check off which Council approved Strategic Commitments your Volunteer Committee supports

| 1) A City of Growth and Opportunity | X |
| 2) A Great City in Which to Live   | X |
| 4) A City Where People Come First  | X |
| 5) A City that Spends Wisely and   |   |
### PART C: Budget Request

**INCIDENTAL COSTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting cost and expenses, mailings/postage and stationary supplies (operational cost)</td>
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**TOTAL**

$600.00

**SPECIAL EVENT/PROJECT COSTS:**

<table>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$0</td>
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**TOTAL 2006 BUDGET REQUEST (SUM OF THE ABOVE)**

$600.00

**PREVIOUS YEAR BUDGET REQUEST**

$600.00

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**CERTIFICATION:**

Please note that this document is a request for a Budget from the City of Hamilton Operating budget. The submission of this document does not guarantee the requested budget amount. Please have a representative sign and date the document below.

**Representative’s Name:** Roy J. Shuler - Chair

**Signature:**

Roy J. Shuler

**Date:** 9/14/05

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2006 VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE BUDGET SUBMISSION