THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 11-002 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Wind Turbines (Item 6.3)

That Council put a moratorium on wind turbines in Ontario until a comprehensive study has been completed which studies the affects of wind turbines on humans and wildlife.

2. Committee of Adjustment Guidelines (Item 6.4)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee request that Council add two members with knowledge and experience in rural planning and
agricultural matters to the Committee of Adjustment for the 2011 to 2014 term of Council.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)**

6. **ADDED DISCUSSION ITEMS**

   6.4 Committee of Adjustment Guidelines (no copy)

   6.5 Presentation guidelines and time limits (no copy)

On a motion the agenda was approved, as amended.

(a) **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)**

With respect to item 3.3 in the minutes Mr. Shuker indicated that using identification such as the NFU card would exclude certain individuals, and should be refrained from being used.

With respect to item 3.1 the Committee noted the mover and seconder were incorrect. The motion should read (Smith/Mills).

(i) **April 28, 2011 (Item 3.1)**

   On a motion the minutes of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee of April 28, 2011 was approved, as amended.

(b) **PRESENTATIONS (Item 5)**

(i) **Grant Applications (Item 5.1)**

Ms. Coverdale indicated that grant applications have been sent out and are due back by July 6th. Due to the postal strike, there will be some lenience on the due date of applications. The Committee was required to assign a grant review and recommendation committee.

On a motion the Committee set the Grant Applications Committee to be comprised of Mr. H. Swierenga, Ms. K. Reep and Ms. S. Coverdale.

(ii) **Natural Heritage System Linkage Map (Item 5.2)**
Staff has developed a draft linkage map, that will be added into the City of Hamilton’s Rural Official Plan. Core areas of natural heritage have already been identified. The linkages are intended to link core areas that will allow wildlife to move from area to area. Linkages can be utility corridors, rail lines, creeks and bodies of water. Staff intends to complete the linkage map by the fall, and subsequently come forward with an amendment to the Rural Official Plan.

Committee had concern with respect to the costs associated with studies and the losses of crops due to rural wildlife. The Committee discussed various issues surrounding the core and linkage areas.

On a motion the Committee requested that a public meeting will be held in September at the Ancaster Fair Grounds to discuss the Natural Heritage System Linkage Map.

(c) DISCUSSION (Item 6)

(i) Rural Grass Cutting By-Law (Item 6.1)

Councillor Johnson indicated that the City is changing the rural grass cutting By-law and stated that members of the Committee may want to discuss it at the next meeting.

On a motion the Committee requested that By-law enforcement staff submit the Rural Grass Cutting B-law to members of the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, and that staff be in attendance for the next meeting to address Committee.

(ii) Animal Control, Rural Area (Item 6.2)

Councillor Johnson indicated that animal control throughout the City is divided. In some cases it is controlled completely by the City, while in others it is handled through a local organization. Glanbrook was to have its animal control brought in house to the City but have decided to leave it as it is. Councillor Johnson asked the Committee to think about the issue and come back to the next meeting with thoughts and feelings, with respect to animal control in their area of the City.

On a motion the Committee received the verbal update on rural animal control.

(iii) Wind Turbines (Item 6.3)
At the previous meeting the Committee requested that OMAFRA and Public Health Unit speak to the Committee with respect to wind turbines. Chair Cranston indicated that the OMAFRA was unable to present to the Committee as they are a resource and do not have a position on wind turbines. The Clerk indicated the Public Health Unit was unable to attend today’s meeting, but would be available for a future meeting.

Councillor Johnson indicated that Public Health holds the same opinion as the Ministry of Health, who states that there is nothing harmful associated with wind turbines. The Committee indicated that there are studies being done on wind turbines and issues surrounding them. The Committee discussed some of the health issues surrounding wind turbines especially as they relate to the rural area.

In light of the motion being passed, the Clerk asked if it was still necessary to have Public Health to present to Committee on the matter. The Chair and Committee indicated that they did not require a presentation from the Public Health Unit respecting wind turbines.

(iv) **Committee of Adjustment Guidelines (Item 6.4)**

The Committee indicated some concern with respect to the composition of the Committee of Adjustment. In By-law 07-300 it states that not less that 4 members of the Committee shall have knowledge and experience in rural planning and agricultural matters, as determined by Council. The Committee was concerned that the Committee does not have its full complement of individuals with experience in rural planning and agricultural matters.

(v) **Presentation guidelines and time limits (Item 6.5)**

The Chair felt that some of the presentations given by delegates have been too long and suggested that a time limit needed to be imposed. The Committee agreed that presentations need to be limited but did not want to have a hard time limit in place.

On a motion the Committee indicated that presentations to Committee are to be held to a 20-minute time limit or at the discretion of the Chair.

(d) **NEW BUSINESS (Item 7)**
Councillor Pasuta indicated he has some concern with the harmonization of the City’s Animal Control By-law with respect to urban chickens and cats in rural areas. There will be a public meeting on the issue in late September, and he indicated that he would like to see the issue on the next agenda.

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 8)

On a motion the Agriculture & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, be adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Doug Cranston, Chair
Agricultural and Rural Affairs
Advisory Committee

Christopher Newman
Legislative Assistant
June 23, 2011