

**Corporation of the County of Perth**

**By-Law Number 3545-2016**

**BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE PERTH COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP**

**August 4, 2016**

**WHEREAS** the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, provides under Section 5(1) that the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its council, and under Section 5(3) provides that a municipal power, including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 8, shall be exercised by by-law unless the Municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise, and under Section 5(4) provides that Subsections (1) to (3) apply to all municipal powers, whether conferred by this Act or otherwise;

**AND WHEREAS** the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as amended, authorize the appointment of committees, boards and special bodies;

**AND WHEREAS** it is deemed expedient to establish a Perth County Agricultural Working Group to provide a forum for the exchange of information between Perth County farms and farming groups, the County of Perth and its member municipalities; and to discuss issues and concerns related to Perth County's farming industry, agricultural organizations, community groups and rural citizens to advise the councils for the county and the member municipalities;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the County of Perth hereby enacts as follows for the year 2016 or until their successors are appointed, be as follows:

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of The Corporation of the County of Perth enacts as follows:

That the following individuals be appointed to the Perth County Agricultural Working Group for a the year 2016, or until their successors are appointed,

Meredith Schneider, Warden, Perth County, 2015-2016

Rhonda Ehgoetz, Perth County Council and Perth East Council Representative

Doug Kellum, Perth County Council and North Perth Council Representative

Doug Eidt, Perth County Council and West Perth Council Representative

Robert Wilhelm, Perth County Council and Perth South Council Representative

One Representative, as appointed by the

One Representative, as appointed by the Perth Federation of Agriculture

One Representative, as appointed by the Perth County Christian Farmers

One Representative, as appointed by the National Farmers Union

That the members shall hold the office at the pleasure of Council;  
That any remuneration for the above shall be established by the Council of the Corporation of the County of Perth in accordance with Schedule "A" the Terms of Reference;

This by-law shall come into force and effect with final passing.

Read a first and second time this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

Read a third and finally passed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.

\_\_\_\_Original Signed by\_\_\_\_  
Meredith Schneider, Warden

Original Signed by\_\_\_\_  
Allan Rothwell, Acting Clerk

## **SCHEDULE “A” By-law 3545-2016**

### **PERTH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Perth County recognizes the need to protect agricultural lands for agricultural land uses, as well as the need to promote healthy rural communities. The Perth County Agricultural Working Group brings together elected representatives and farming groups as important contributors to the local economy and the community. The Perth County Agricultural Working Group is a voluntary working group established by County Council.

#### **MANDATE**

To build closer connections with the Perth County agricultural community and to serve as an advisory body to County Council and its member municipalities.

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the working group is to:

- Provide a forum for the exchange of information between Perth County farms and farming groups, the County of Perth and its member municipalities; and
- Discuss issues and concerns related to Perth County’s farming industry, agricultural organizations, community groups and rural citizens to advise the councils for the county and the member municipalities.

#### **MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION**

The membership of the Perth County Agricultural Working Group shall include:

- The Warden of the County of Perth;
- Four County Council representatives, one from each of the member municipalities;
- One representative as appointed by the Christian Farmers of Ontario (Perth County District);
- One representative as appointed by the National Farmers Union (Perth County District); and
- One representative as appointed by the Perth Federation of Agriculture.

Representatives appointed by the farming and agricultural organizations must:

- be a qualified elector in the County of Perth pursuant to the Municipal Elections Act (a Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older and a resident/tenant or owner of land in Perth County), or;
- be a qualified elector in Ontario representing a group or organization that acts on behalf of members of the agricultural sector that reside in the County of Perth, and;
- not be an elected official of the County of Perth nor of the council of a member municipality; and
- not be an employee of the County of Perth nor a member municipality.

At its first meeting, and prior to any other business being conducted, the working group shall nominate, and then vote to appoint a chair from among its members. The chair of the working group shall be elected at the first meeting annually and shall serve for the remainder of the calendar year. The chair may be re-appointed for subsequent years.

## **LOCATION, DATE, TIME AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

The location of meetings shall be in the boardroom at 1 Huron Street, Stratford ON, or at another location if the boardroom is unavailable. The alternative location shall be decided by the chair.

The first meeting of the working group shall be on **XXXX XX, 2016**.

The working group shall meet semiannually. At its first meeting the working group shall establish the schedule of meetings.

The chair may cancel a meeting if they determine that it is appropriate to do so.

## **WORKING GROUP MEMBER ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Individual members of the working group shall:

- Attend all scheduled working group meetings.
- Be aware of, and adhere to, the requirements of members under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, and declare and pecuniary interests as required.
- Fully engage in respectful, open, and thoughtful discussion, in order to ensure breadth of opinion and thought.
- Respect the process and maintain focus on the goals of the working group.
- Bring their wealth of career and personal experience to the working group.

## **STAFF SUPPORT & STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

- The Planning & Development Department for the County of Perth shall prepare meeting reports for the working group;
- The Planning & Development Department of the County of Perth will be available as a staff resource and shall prepare agendas and maintain minutes for the working group;
- The recording secretary for the working group will be the planning administration clerk for the County of Perth;
- The Director of Planning & Development for the County, and appointed staff from the member municipalities will assist the working group to ensure that that recommendations and advice of the working group be brought forward to county council in a timely fashion for its consideration;
- The minutes of the working group shall be circulated to each council via the regular council agenda, and each council shall receive the minutes of the working for information purposes only; and
- The minutes of the working group shall be circulated to the to farm organizations by the planning administration clerk.

## **COMMUNICATION WITH COUNCIL**

The chair of the working group shall ensure regular communication with county council with respect to the issues and matters of the working group.

The representative council member of the member municipalities shall communicate with their respective council on working group matters.

## **CONDUCT OF PROCEEDINGS**

The Perth County Procedure By-law provides for the calling, place and proceedings of working group meetings, and establishes that:

- the working group shall report directly to council;
- the format of the agenda will be similar to council;
- there shall be no weighted voting in the working group;
- the council shall adopt a terms of reference for every working group; and
- the head of council is an ex officio member of every working group of council, but shall not be considered in determining quorum, but shall be able to participate fully, without restriction, including voting

The rules of the County's Procedure By-law, with necessary modifications shall be observed for in all proceedings of the working group for the order and conduct of business therein.

The County's Council Code of Conduct shall apply to members of the working group.

## **DECISION MAKING PROCESS**

A majority vote will prevail for decisions on matters of the working group.

## **WORKING GROUP MEMBER REMUNERATION**

Non-elected members of the working group (those other than Perth County and member municipal council members) shall not be eligible for compensation from the County of Perth for per diems or mileage expenses incurred for full participation in the working group. Non-elected members may be eligible for per diems or other expenses through the respective agricultural and farming organizations.

Perth County elected officials shall be compensated based on the most current Perth County Council Remuneration By-law/Policy.