



Committee Report

To: Warden Mitch Twolan
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Kara Van Myall
Director of Planning and Development

Date: September 19, 2019

Re: Plan the Bruce: Agriculture Discussion Paper

Recommendation:

The Plan the Bruce: Agriculture Discussion Paper Report is for information.

Background:

As noted in the report “Phasing of Official Plan Review”, one of the discussion papers in the next phase of the Official Plan work will be Plan the Bruce: Agriculture. The paper will involve a discussion of agricultural trends and policy options and mapping to identify prime agricultural areas and rural areas.

Through comments, discussion and decisions on development applications in the countryside, staff are aware of certain agricultural planning considerations that Planning and Development Committee would like to see considered in the policy discussion. These are listed below for discussion:

1. Review the appropriate size for farms in the agricultural system considering farming trends and economics.
2. Review surplus farm severance policies.
3. Review industrial and commercial uses on farms.
4. Review lot creation and permitted uses on the edges of prime agricultural areas and on marginal lands.
5. Review policies related to woodlands in the agricultural system.

Prior to starting the work on the Plan the Bruce: Agriculture discussion paper, staff are providing the above list to ensure we have covered Committee’s areas of interest, and to determine whether there are other points that should be added.

Staff will be retaining the services of a consultant with expertise in agricultural land economics and policy to advance this discussion with input from an Advisory Committee. Both the results of the consultant’s work and the Draft policy recommendations will be brought back to Committee for further discussion.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

None.

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal # 1: Develop and implement tactics for improved communications

Element B - One county - with a unified voice

Element E - Clear and consistent messages across the organization

Goal # 3: Find creative new ways to engage our public

Goal # 7: Stimulate and reward innovation and economic development

Element A - Streamline and simplify our Planning Processes (Official Plan)

Written by: Mark Paoli, Senior Planner