



Committee Report

The Blue Mountains, Agricultural Advisory Committee

Date: November 9, 2023
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Virtual Meeting, Teams
Prepared By:
Carrie Fairley, Executive Assistant Committees of Council

D. Matters for Discussion

D.1 Traffic Educational Signage in Agricultural Areas

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the following recommendation from the Agricultural Advisory Committee dated November 9, 2023:

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee requests that Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains direct the CAO to bring forward a Staff Report regarding the launch of a pilot project regarding agricultural educational signs in the rural areas of the Town. CARRIED.

AND THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains requests Staff to bring forward a Staff Report regarding a pilot project for educational signage in the rural areas of the Town.

D.3 West Grey Tile Drainage Loan Program

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the following recommendation from the Agricultural Advisory Committee dated November 9, 2023

THAT the Agricultural Advisory Committee requests that Council supports the Resolution from the Corporation of the Municipality of West Grey regarding Tile Drainage Loan Program as noted below:

WHEREAS installing tile drainage is a very common land improvement practice among farmers in Ontario and provides many benefits that allow for increased yields, improved soil conditions and reduces the risk of crop losses; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie is proud of its strong agricultural heritage and continues to thrive as a growing agricultural leader; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) provides landowners in a municipality in Ontario that are planning to install a tile drainage system on their agricultural land with the option for a tile loan under the OMAFRA Tile Loan Program; and

WHEREAS the cost of installing a tile drainage system has increased exponentially over the years with the average cost per acre reaching \$2000 and beyond, coupled with the rising cost per acre of farmland further strengthening the need to invest in the lands to maximize profit realizations; and

WHEREAS the OMAFRA Tile Drainage Loan Program allows for a loan of up to seventy-five percent of eligible costs to install a tile drainage system to a maximum of fifty-thousand dollars in any fiscal year, to an individual, as an individual, or in their role in a partnership or corporation; and

WHEREAS the fifty-thousand dollar maximum has not been increased since 2004 at which time it was increased from twenty-thousand dollars to the current fifty-thousand dollar maximum; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture requested an increase to the maximum annual loan amount to \$100,000 in 2021 and no changes to the program have been realized from that request; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie urges the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to review the provisions of the Tile Loan Program to consider the economic changes that **have** occurred since the last review was undertaken nineteen years ago in 2004 and consider Increasing the maximum loan amount to \$125,000; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie further urges the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to commit to regular reviews of the program to ensure it remains in line with the current economic conditions.

NOWTHEREFORE, be it resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honorable Lisa M. Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Rick Byers, MPP Grey-Bruce- Owen Sound, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and all municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties. CARRIED.

AND THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains supports the Resolution from the

Corporation of the Municipality of West Grey Regarding the Tile Drainage Loan Program.

F. New and Unfinished Business

F.1 Additions to Agenda

[Letter from Joan and James McKinlay dated November 8, 2023](#)

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information following recommendations of the Agricultural Advisory Committee dated November 9, 2023:

THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Agricultural Advisory Committee request that Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains supports the letter from James and Joan McKinlay supporting on-going funding for the Grey Agricultural Services, located in Markdale. CARRIED.

AND THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains supports the letter from James and Joan McKinlay supporting the on-going funding for the Grey Agricultural Services, located in Markdale.