



## **Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting**

### **Minutes**

Date: March 18, 2026  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Location: Room 247, City Hall, second floor

**1. Members Present:**

Vincent Sowa (Chair), Maura Romanelli, Erin Fleming, Wilma Jacobs, Larry Campbell, Michiel Barnard, Mariam Abu-El-Magd and Peter Starcevic

**2. Regrets:**

Norm Richardson

**3. Others Present:**

Councillor Kelvin Galbraith, Paul Szachlewicz (Corporate Strategic Lead, Government Relations), Kelly Cook (Planner) and Jo-Anne Rudy (Clerk)

**4. Land Acknowledgement**

The Chair read the Land Acknowledgement.

**5. Declarations of Interest:**

None

**6. Approval of Minutes:**

6.1 Approve minutes from meeting held January 28, 2026

On motion, the minutes from the meeting held January 28, 2026 were approved as presented.

**7. Delegation(s):**

None

**8. Regular Items:**

8.1 2025 Annual Report

- Committee reviewed the 2025 annual report. **Motion** - Approve the 2025 annual report for the Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee. **CARRIED**

## 8.2 2026 Workplan and Budget

- Committee reviewed and discussed the 2026 workplan and budget. **Motion** - Approve the 2026 workplan and budget for the Burlington Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee. **CARRIED**

## 8.3 Update on hydro survey

- Wilma advised that the hydro survey was included in the March newsletters for the Councillors in Wards 1, 3, and 6, and was distributed to 84 residents in Ward 6. Maura noted that the survey was also shared with the Kilbride community group on Facebook. Wilma further advised that the survey data will be compiled and shared at a later date.
- Councillor Galbraith stated that he has tabled concerns with his contact at Burlington Hydro and indicated that he would be willing to share the survey results when appropriate.
- Kelly suggested that Burlington Hydro be invited to the next Rural Forum.

## 9. Other Business:

- Kelly advised that the Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendment 225-22 was approved with the suggested modifications proposed by the City of Burlington.
- Paul provided an overview of recently proposed amendments to Ontario's Conservation Authorities that would see the consolidation of 36 existing conservation authorities into nine regional conservation authorities. Should the proposed amendments be passed through the legislative process, the City of Burlington would fall under the jurisdiction of the newly created Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority. This new regional conservation authority would be comprised of the former Halton Regional Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Hamilton Regional Conservation Authority, and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.
- Paul stated that the Greenbelt Act requires a review every 10 years, ensuring the plan evolves to address population growth, climate change, and economic changes. In 2025, the provincial government was

scheduled to complete that mandatory 10-year review, however, this did not happen and now the work is technically behind schedule. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing assured the legislature in December 2025 that the Greenbelt protections remain enshrined in legislation, however, did not elaborate on when the government plans to execute consultations as part of the overdue review. It is important to note that the Greenbelt Council – the government-appointed body that led the previous review and is supposed to meet regularly and provide advice to the minister of land use planning related to the protected area – currently has no members, as the last government-appointee's term expired in late June 2025.

- Paul advised that the City is beginning to plan its 2026 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference delegation requests and will be canvassing BARAAC for contributions. An email will be circulated requesting feedback from committee members to inform the preparation of delegation requests and then will be presented at a future BARAAC meeting for approval.

**10. Adjournment:**

Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.