



**City of Hamilton**  
**Agriculture and Rural Affairs**  
**Sub-Committee ADDENDUM**

**Meeting #:** 24-001  
**Date:** April 25, 2024  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Room 264, 2nd Floor, City Hall (hybrid) (RM)  
71 Main Street West

Carrie McIntosh, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 2729

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	<b>Pages</b>
<b>*1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR</b>	
<b>4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
4.1 November 30, 2023	
*4.1.a November 30, 2023 - REVISED	2
<b>5. COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
*5.2 Correspondence from the Christian Famers Federation of Ontario respecting Item 8.1, Phase 2 - Stormwater Fee Implementation	6
Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 8.1	
*5.3 Correspondence from the Ministry of Food and Rural Affairs respecting Stormwater Fee Structures	8



## Hamilton

**Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee**  
**MINUTES 23-003**  
**Thursday, November 30, 2023**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Room 264, 2nd Floor Hamilton City Hall**  
**71 Main Street West**

**Present:** Councillors J. Beattie, C. Cassar, T. McMeekin, M. Tadeson, A. Wilson, A. Spoelstra (Chair), D. Smith (Vice-Chair), C. McMaster, N. Mills, A. Payne, C. Roberts, R. Shuker, G. Smuk, and M. Switzer

**Absent with Regrets:** Councillor B. Clark - Personal  
 J. Mantel and R. Pearce

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REFERRED TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**1. Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation (Item 8.1)**

**(Switzer/Payne)**

That staff be directed to look at alternative options to the proposed stormwater fee for agricultural properties and report back to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee with alternatives that are fair, affordable, justifiable, reasonable, and simple.

**CARRIED**

**2. Rural Zones (Farm Labour Residences and Additional Dwelling Units – Detached) (Item 8.3)**

**(Smith/Switzer)**

That staff be directed to include additional flexibility for Farm Labour Residences on size and permanence on justified farm situations.

**CARRIED**

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**(a) APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

**8. PRESENTATIONS**

8.3(a) Farm Labour Residence & Additional Dwelling Unit – Detach - Rural Area Zoning Changes

**(Switzer/Smuk)**

That the agenda for the November 30, 2023 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee, be approved, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

**(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

**(i) June 29, 2023 (Item 4.1)**

**(Tadeson/Cassar)**

That the Minutes of the June 29, 2023 meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**(d) COMMUNICATIONS (Item 5)**

**(i) (Cassar/Switzer)**

That the following Communication Item, be received:

- (a) Correspondence from the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Item 5.1)

**CARRIED**

**(e) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 6)**

**(i) (Smuk/Switzer)**

That the rules of procedure be waived to allow the following Delegations to delegate at today's meeting:

- (a) Jan Vander Hout respecting Item 8.1, Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation and Item 8.3, Rural Zones (Farm Labour Residences and Additional Dwelling Units – Detached) (Added Item 6.1)
- (b) Clint Burrows respecting Item 8.1, Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation (Added Item 6.2)

**CARRIED**

**(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 7)**

(i) The Delegates addressed the Committee, as follows:

- (a) Jan Vander Hout respecting Item 8.1, Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation and Item 8.3, Rural Zones (Farm Labour Residences and Additional Dwelling Units – Detached) (Added Item 7.1)
- (b) Clint Burrows respecting Item 8.1, Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation (Added Item 7.2)

**(ii) (Smuk/McMeekin)**

That the following Delegations be received:

- (a) Jan Vander Hout respecting Item 8.1, Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation and Item 8.3, Rural Zones (Farm Labour Residences and Additional Dwelling Units – Detached) (Added Item 7.1)
- (b) Clint Burrows respecting Item 8.1, Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation (Added Item 7.2)

**CARRIED**

**(g) PRESENTATIONS (Item 8)****(i) Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation (Item 8.1)**

Nancy Hill, AECOM, addressed the Committee respecting the Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

**(Switzer/Cassar)**

That the presentation from Nancy Hill, AECOM, respecting the Stormwater Fee Information & Incentive Program Consultation, be received.

**CARRIED**

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 1.

**(ii) Farm 911 Program Update (Item 8.2)**

Heather Travis, Manager, Staging of Development and Legislative Approvals, addressed the Committee respecting the Farm 911 Program Update, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

**(Cassar/Mills)**

That the presentation from Heather Travis, Manager, Staging of Development and Legislative Approvals, respecting the Farm 911 Program Update, be received.

**CARRIED**

**(iii) Rural Zones (Farm Labour Residences and Additional Dwelling Units – Detached) (Item 8.3)**

**(a) Farm Labour Residences and Additional Dwelling Units – Detached – Rural Area Zoning Changes**

Lucas Mascotto-Carbone, Planner II, and Shannon McKie, Director - Planning/Chief Planner, addressed the Committee respecting the Farm Labour Residences and Additional Dwelling Units – Detached Rural Area Zoning Changes with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation.

**(Smith/Cassar)**

That the presentation from Lucas Mascotto-Carbone, Planner II and Shannon McKie, Director - Planning/Chief Planner, respecting the Farm Labour Residences and Additional Dwelling Units – Detached Rural Area Zoning Changes, be received.

**CARRIED**

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 2.

**(h) ADJOURNMENT (Item 16)**

**(Tadeson/Mills)**

That the meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee be adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Spoelstra, Chair  
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Sub-Committee



# CHRISTIAN FARMERS FEDERATION OF ONTARIO

ACCREDITED FARM ORGANIZATION

April 19, 2024

Attention: Stormwater Funding Review  
City of Hamilton  
Hamilton City Hall  
71 Main St. W  
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5  
Delivered via email: [StormwaterFundingReview@hamilton.ca](mailto:StormwaterFundingReview@hamilton.ca)

## Re: Stormwater Funding Model

Dear City of Hamilton,

The Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (CFFO) is an Accredited Farm Organization representing the interests of over 4,000 farm families in Ontario who are called to the vocation of farming. CFFO policy promotes economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable farming, advocating that farmers receive fair return for their production and stewardship efforts.

The CFFO is concerned about the fair allocation of fees for stormwater management within the City of Hamilton. Unlike other municipalities that have implemented similar fee systems, the City of Hamilton encompasses significant rural area and many diverse farm businesses.

The change in fee structure is intended to more fairly attribute costs for stormwater management to beneficiaries, especially commercial and industrial buildings that benefit from the urban stormwater infrastructure, but do not currently use significant drinking water supplies.

The proposed new stormwater fee rate, as currently set, will unfairly burden farm businesses, especially those with significant hard surface area such as greenhouse operations. It also fails to recognize the different ways all types of farms are able to collect, redirect, infiltrate, or clean stormwater runoff.

### **The CFFO asks that farm businesses be exempt from stormwater fees within the City of Hamilton.**

The CFFO recognizes the proposal for a system of credits that would be available to farm property owners. However, this system would add significant administrative burden to farm businesses, even for those who may qualify for a more than 50% credit of stormwater fees. It is far more beneficial to exempt farmers from the stormwater fees, rather than to add a complicated system of refunds for fees that should not be charged in the first place. Incentives to support best practices or improvements on rural properties would be a more appropriate and efficient way forward.

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**REPRESENTING FARMERS SINCE 1954**

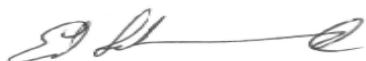
231 Shearson Crescent, Unit 101, Box 2, Cambridge, ON, N1T J5  
1-855-800-0306 or 519-837-1620      info@christianfarmers.org      www.christianfarmers.org

## Conclusion

The CFFO asks that farm businesses be exempt from stormwater fees within the City of Hamilton. The proposed new stormwater fees for farmers will unfairly burden farm businesses, especially those with significant hard surface area such as greenhouse operations. Farms are able to collect, redirect, infiltrate, and clean stormwater runoff. **These businesses do not benefit from urban stormwater infrastructure and should not be required to pay stormwater fees.**

We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations and concerns.

Sincerely,



Ed Scharringa, President  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario



Jon Bos, President  
Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario – Wentworth-Brant District

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**REPRESENTING FARMERS SINCE 1954**

231 Shearson Crescent, Unit 101, Box 2, Cambridge, ON, N1T J5  
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Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Rural Affairs

Ministère de l'Agriculture, de  
l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales

Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1B3  
Tel: 416-326-3074  
www.ontario.ca/OMAFRA

77, rue Grenville, 11<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1B3  
Tél. : 416 326-3074  
www.ontario.ca/MAAARO



April 16, 2024

Dear Mayor [REDACTED]

It has been brought to my attention that some municipalities in the province have implemented new stormwater fee structures, and others are exploring doing so.

As Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, I am writing to ask that your municipality considers the needs and potential impacts on agriculture in your community when evaluating proposed changes to stormwater or other fees and to offer any support that my ministry can provide as you fully consider the impacts.

As you know, Ontario farms contribute significantly to local economies while supporting access to high-quality food both domestically and globally. The agri-food sector employs over 836,000 people and contributed \$48.8 billion to our provincial economy. Our government is committed to supporting the growth of the agriculture and food industry, which is why we released [Grow Ontario: a provincial agri-food strategy](#) to strengthen the agri-food sector, support economic growth, and ensure an efficient, reliable and responsive food supply for Ontarians.

To ensure that our food supply system continues to be responsible, trusted, and competitive on the world stage as well as a driver for economic growth in Ontario, it is important that all levels of government work closely with the agricultural community when evaluating new policies.

There is a need for special consideration for agricultural properties to ensure there are no unintended consequences that disproportionately impact farmers or greenhouse operators, as demonstrated in several of the new stormwater utility programs, including Brant County's proposed Stormwater Utility Program, which will exempt agricultural properties from the new proposed fee.

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It is also worth noting that many farmers have already invested in water management measures and may not utilize municipal waterways in the same manner as other businesses.

Staff at my ministry are available to provide guidance on supporting the growth of the agricultural community while balancing broader municipal needs. Please feel free to contact Scott Duff with any questions you may have at (519) 820-3331 or by email at [scott.duff@ontario.ca](mailto:scott.duff@ontario.ca).

I hope that your municipality will consider engaging more directly with farmers and greenhouse operators to mitigate any unintended impacts new charges may have. It is imperative that municipalities and the agricultural industry work together to ensure the economic prosperity of our rural communities now and well into the future.

Sincerely,



Lisa M. Thompson  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

c: Scott Duff, Director, Policy Division

**Did you know about the Farmers' Wellness Initiative?**

- Your mental health is important! If you're a farmer or a member of a farm family and in need of mental health support, please call 1-866-267-6255 and arrange to speak with a professional today.
- For additional resources visit: <https://farmerwellnessinitiative.ca/>.