

Agricultural and Agri-Business Advisory Committee Meeting

Date: November 20, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: North Perth Municipal Building Council Chambers

Pages

1. Call to Order

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Anishnaabe people. We wish to recognize the long history of Indigenous People of Canada and show our respect to them today. We recognize their stewardship of the land, may we all live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

4. Approve Agenda/Additions to the Agenda

5. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

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6. Discussion Items

6.1 Fall Farm Tour

6.2 Grant Writing Clinic

6.3 Ontario Agrifood Discovery Centre Presentation

7. Agricultural Specialist Staff Report

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8. Correspondence

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8.2 OSCIA Environmental Farm Plan Workshops

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8.3 Perth County Forest Conservation Bylaw Open House

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**8.4 North Perth Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes Sept 16, 2025**

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9. Committee Roundtable

9.1 Farm/Business Tour Location Ideas

10. New Business

11. 2026 Meeting Dates

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12. Adjournment

Agricultural and Agri-Business Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 18, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm

Members Present

Chelsea Steenbergen
Christa Royce
Erin Doan
Hernando Restrepo
Keith Stoltz
Tina Beirnes

Members Absent

Ralph Coneybeare
Cameron Lago
Marc Noordam

Others Present

Matt Cardiff, Agricultural Specialist
Mackenzie Smith, Communications Coordinator
Lindsay Cline, Acting Manager of Strategic Initiatives

1. Call to Order

Chair Tina Beirnes called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

"We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Anishinaabe people. We wish to recognize the long history of Indigenous People of Canada and show our respect to them today. We recognize their stewardship of the land, may we all live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship."

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were none.

4. Approve Agenda/Additions to the Agenda

It was moved by Keith Stoltz and seconded by Christa Royce THAT the agenda for tonight's meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

5. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

It was moved by Christa Royce and seconded by Hernando Restrepo THAT the March 20, 2025, Agricultural & Agri-Business Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Discussion Items

6.1 Agricultural Impact Assessment Terms of Reference – Draft

Matt Cardiff provided a brief overview of the previous discussion at the last committee meeting. He noted that Agricultural Impact Assessments (AIAs) have been a relatively new tool used over the past several years, and as North Perth continues to grow, it is important to have clear parameters in place. The new Official Plan includes references to the use of these assessments.

Matt reviewed the key points from the draft document that had been circulated to committee members.

The committee discussed the proposed study area and scope, including the distance required for assessments beyond the immediate project area. It was agreed that Matt will speak with Nathan regarding the proposed 1 km review boundary.

The committee also emphasized the importance of using qualified professionals for AIAs, including Registered Professional Planners and consultants with agricultural experience.

6. Discussion Items

6.2 Fall Farm Tour

The committee discussed the upcoming farm tour.

6.3 Broader Agrifood Community Forum

The committee provided feedback on the proposed event ideas. Matt presented several concepts from a grant-writing perspective, and the committee responded positively.

Event Details (Proposed):

- Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Format: 2-hour presentation followed by 1 hour of networking
- Potential Recording: To be considered
- Timing: Mid to late November

7. Agricultural Specialist Staff Report

Agrifood Discovery Centre Update:

The Agrifood Discovery Centre team may attend the November meeting to provide an update to the committee. A designer tour is scheduled for this week.

North Perth Tree Sale update provided.

Due to Committee quorum, the meeting was adjourned.

8. Correspondence

8.1 Agricultural Adaptation Council – Feedback Form

9. Committee Roundtable

9.1 Sector Trends and Challenges

12. Adjournment

It was moved by Christa Royce and seconded by Erin Doan that the Committee meeting adjourn at 2:13 p.m.

CARRIED

Agricultural Staff Report

September-November 20, 2025

Farm Tour Recap

The First Fall Farm, Foliage & Flavour Tour was a success overall (and yes- I somehow managed to add another F in there!). We had great weather, and for the most part, both attendees and host partners made it a very easy event to run. Post-attendance survey results and further details can be found in the separate PowerPoint slide deck attached.

Agricultural Impact Assessment Terms of Reference

- In conversation with the Perth County Planning Department about potential work they are doing regarding AIAs.
- They are at the beginning of that process and will reach out with further information.
- For now, this committee's ToR and comments are held in reserve for future reference towards a future municipal and/or county-wide document.

Ag Grant Writing Clinic

- Originally planned for late November/early December. Late corn harvest, low volume of grants currently accepting applications, and speaker availability made this timeframe unfeasible.
- Indications are that late March works well for most parties- will keep the committee posted.

Ontario Agri-Food Discovery Centre Involvement

- I continue to be involved with the OAFDC, in particular the Business Development Committee.
- The Business Development Committee posted an RFP for Architectural Concept Drawings for the design of the center. An astounding 41 Firms submitted proposals
- The BDC & OAFDC Board of Directors confirmed the winning bid.
- Prior to the RFP Deadline, I co-planned an information day for interested firms to provide local context. We picked up attendees at St. Jacobs, toured around farmland on the way to the site, stopping in at Applebottom Orchards on the way. After the site tour, attendees came back to the Listowel Ag Hall for lunch and a presentation on the modern agriculture sector, local context, and a Q&A for the

OAFDC design process. The day was very well received by the firms attending, and we were able to share agricultural knowledge with a new audience.

- Progress is now at the Visioning/ Stakeholder Engagement phase with the Architectural Firm.
- I continue to act as the conduit between the Municipality and the OAFDC/Architects to ensure the plan for the centre are conducive with the Municipality's plan for that area.
- More details to come from Chair Steve Dolson in his presentation to the committee.



Tractors, Tailgates & Tough Talks

- Event partnership between the Listowel Specialist High Skills Major Ag Program & Listowel Agricultural Society Sept.24
- All Ag SHSM students in the school board attended.
- Focus was on ag career development and also mental health in the ag sector.
- I partnered with Set7 to host a scenario-based game where students had to use some conversation strategies to help advocate for their own further training & career advancement with agricultural employers, and what kind of training can be available through programs like Set7, that might not be available through a smaller agribusiness or farm.
- The Ag SHSM does a great job already of offering some pre-qualifying courses to students. Was a good day to interact with the kids and see what they're learning and interested in.



Cultivating Resilient Food Systems Summit Nov.6

I attended this event hosted by the London-Middlesex Food Policy Council- I even made the news (kind of)! Held at 'The Grove' Food Hub at the Western Fair District.

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/london/article/area-food-minds-come-together-to-ease-pressure-on-your-wallet-and-theirs/>

Notes & Takeaways

- There were a lot of attendees interested in the agrifood system with very different perspectives/backgrounds than those of our local area. An important part of local agricultural advocacy/ development will continue to involve engagement with urban stakeholders. This conference and the Food Policy Council in general provides a good forum for that type of conversation.
- Good opportunity to share the core contributions & connections of rural communities like North Perth to regional/urban food systems in Ontario, like London.

1st Panel: Growing Food in Our Region

- Focused on the various sizes & operational strategies of local farms, from urban agriculture to large conventional operations. Each panel member shared both unique & similar challenges they face.

2nd Panel: Strengthening Our Local Food Economy

- Institutional Collaboration (St. Joseph's Hospital & Parkwood Institute partnership with Urban Roots).
- Nutrition & 'good food' identified as a core aspect of the healing process.

- Leveraging Institutional Food Purchases to boost demand of healthy, local food options
- The informal but important role of suppliers as advisors and mentors in assisting new ag and food businesses.

3rd Panel: Accessing and Sharing Food More Equitably

- Explored access to food for disadvantaged groups
- Discussion around how to support expanding culturally important & appropriate food access.
- How area organizations can work and exchange with one another to avoid duplication of services while still being nimble enough to adapt to local needs (Food banks, shelters, 'food rescue', school programs).
- I will also be joining the Regional Food System Alliance, Agricultural Advisory Group, administered through the MLFPC. The first meeting will be held on Dec.1.

About the Alliance

Over the next year, the Regional Food System Alliance will launch five advisory groups focused on:

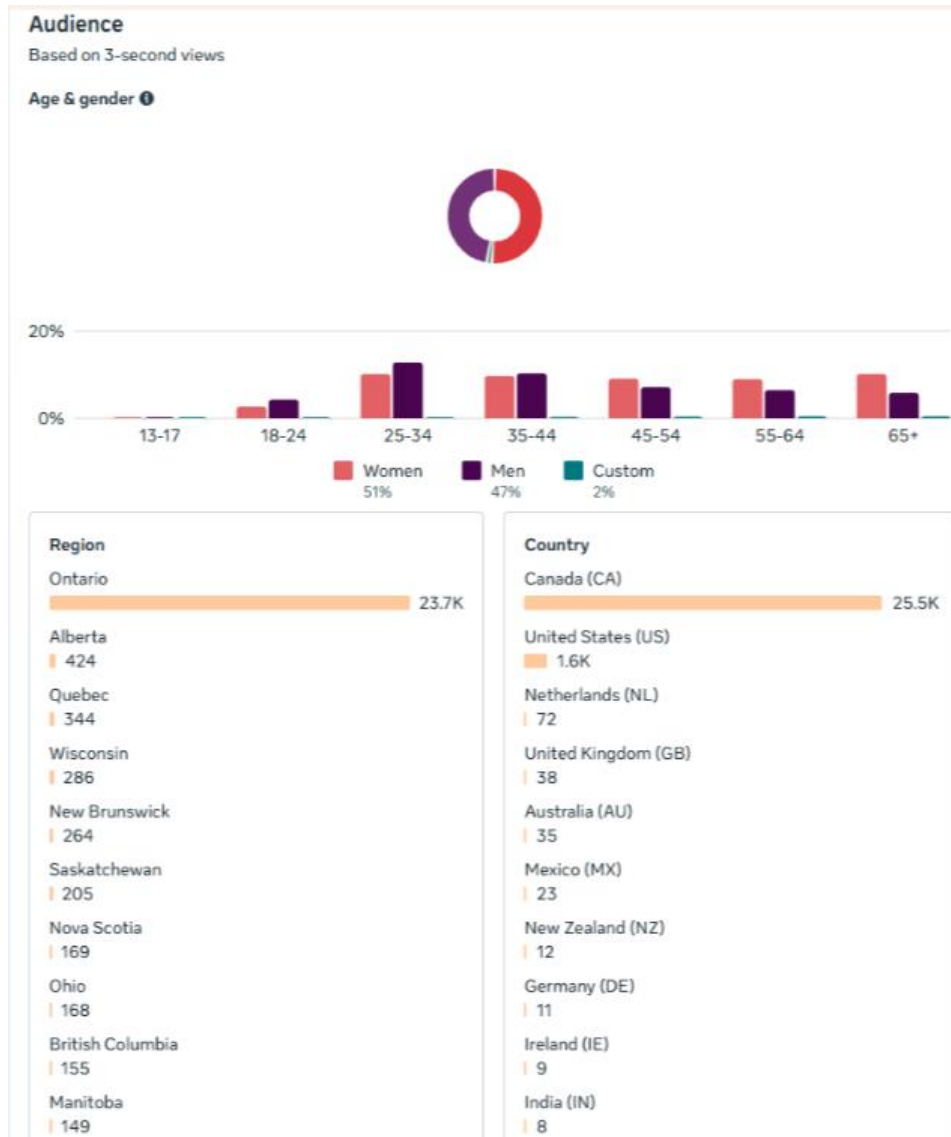
- Local Food Economy
- Agriculture
- Access and Distribution
- Food Policy and Advocacy
- Public Engagement

Each group will bring together community, sector, and municipal partners to guide regional action. Open to new membership- if NPAAAC members are interested in joining, please contact me for more information.

NPFD Grain Bin Safety Video

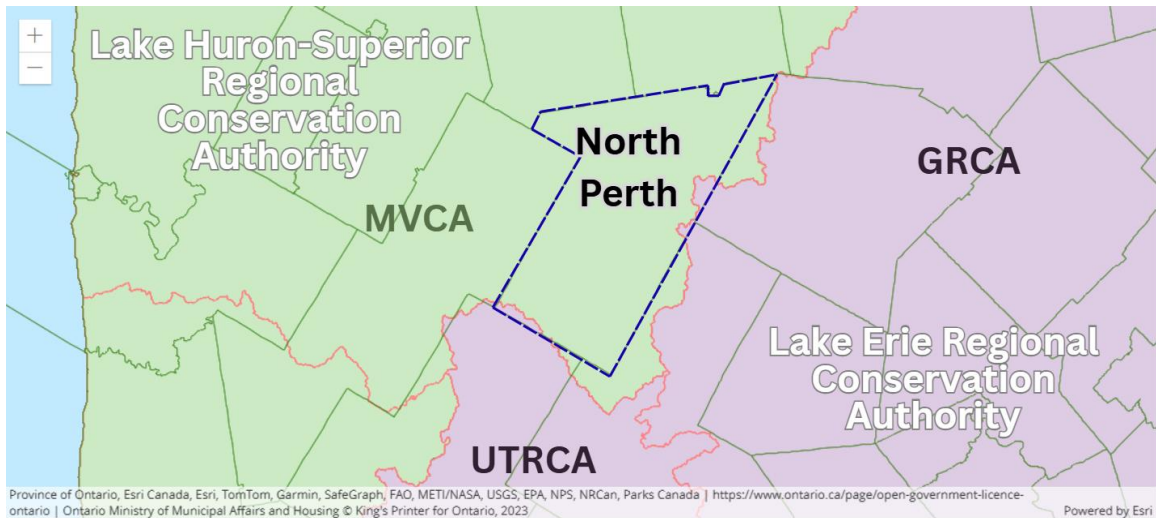
<https://youtu.be/qKfbBZgCm7c?si=gB3N5BsxxSFmSZL6>

- Launched during Ontario Agriculture Week in October
- 68,000 Facebook views & 1300 YouTube views
- Promoted on OFA Newswire
- Good initiative from the Fire Department, with input from conversations at the November, 2024 NPAAAC Meeting.



Proposed Provincial Conservation Area Merger

- Not a lot of changes for North Perth in terms of coverage.
- Small areas covered to the south and east of the municipality, currently under the Upper-Thames Regional Conservation Authority & Grand River Conservation Authority would both be covered by the single Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority. (Subject to consultation & changes).
- Perth County Stewardship Initiative not tied to conservation authority for funding or implementation, so should not be affected by any changes.



- Unclear on effect of agricultural focused stewardship programs & outreach by each respective CA.
- Consultations open until Dec.22 <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/025-1257>

Looking Ahead

- Perth County Federation Harvest Gala
- Regional Food Systems Alliance- Agriculture Advisory Group
- Perth County Forest Conservation Bylaw Open House
- January Environmental Farm Plan Workshop
- OAFDC Involvement
- Continue AIA Terms of Reference Discussion with Perth County
- Inquiry & Research into Institutional Food Purchases within North Perth.
- March Ag Grant Writing Clinic
- Farm & business outreach & AgriLink Concierge services
- Ag Excellence Project/ RED program funding reporting & planning for future initiatives.

North Perth Agriculture and Agri-Business Advisory Committee
Municipality of North Perth
220 Wallace Avenue North
Listowel ON, N4W 1L3

Subject: Stewardship Program Applications Now Open for Spring 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the North Perth Advisory Committee,

On behalf of the Perth County Stewardship Program, I am pleased to invite landowners within North Perth to apply for support toward forest management plans and tree planting projects scheduled for Spring 2026.

Over the past two years, North Perth's landowners and community groups have demonstrated **remarkable commitment to environmental stewardship**. Together, they have undertaken **14 impactful projects valued at \$75,279.22, replanting 6.29 acres of land and establishing 5.076 km of windbreaks**. Their efforts have included the completion of a comprehensive forest management plan and the successful **acquisition of \$30,279.14 in grant funding through our program**. These achievements reflect **a strong and growing local dedication to sustainable land management** and ecological renewal.

The Spring 2026 intake for project applications is now open, until January 30, 2026. Should residual funds permit, a Fall 2026 intake will also be offered, with applications accepted from June 1 to September 1, 2026, supporting fall tree planting initiatives.

For the 2026 program year, **four distinct grant streams are available** to assist landowners in advancing goals towards agricultural resilience, restoration, and sustainable land maintenance. The accompanying chart provides a summary of the funding streams offered. Further guidance, eligibility criteria, and application materials can be found in the [2026 Perth County Stewardship Program Guide](#) available at www.perthcounty.ca/stewardship.

We sincerely appreciate the ongoing partnership and enthusiasm of the North Perth community in fostering a more resilient landscape and undertaking good stewardship practices. We look forward to continuing this important work together in the year ahead.

Warm regards,
Hannah Cann
Resiliency and Stewardship Coordinator
County of Perth
hcann@perthcounty.ca

Stream	Description	Max Grant	Eligible Expenses
Landowner	Private landowners planting 50+ trees for windbreaks, block plantings, or buffers. Funds can be stacked to cover 100% of project costs with other grants.	\$4,000.00, 60% of project costs.	Trees and shrubs, labour, protection, site preparation.
Woodland	Forest Management Plans completed by a Registered Professional Forester	\$1,000.00	Cost of professional services to complete an FMP. Tree marking is not eligible.
Community	Non-profit community groups, conservation authorities, or local municipalities doing restoration projects or tree distribution programs.	\$5,000.00, 100% of project costs.	Trees and shrubs, labour, protection, site preparation.
Living Snow Fences	Private landowners planting living snow fence 25-35m from road edge in a parallel windbreak fashion.	\$10,000.00, 100% of project costs.	Trees and shrubs, labour, protection, site preparation.



5th-Gen Environmental Farm Plan 2-day Workshop

January 14 & 21

Listowel Ag Hall

What is new in the EFP 5th edition? The EFP 5th edition workbook has been updated to strengthen the focus on maintaining soil cover, awareness of species at risk and biodiversity, reflect current legislative requirements, offer support for energy efficiency and address adaptations for farming in a changing climate.

If you have not previously participated in an EFP workshop, or it has been a long time, you should attend a two-day, in-person workshop, which offers the opportunity to learn from knowledgeable OSCIA staff to help assess your soils, walk you through the process, and learn about cost-share funding opportunities. This workshop also offers networking opportunities with fellow farmers.

Language: English

Workshop Leader: Lois Sinclair
lsinclair@ontariosoilcrop.org
(519)955-3139

Register

19 of 20 seats available

Listowel Ag Society
County: Perth

5699 Line 86, Listowel, Ontario

Day	Date	Start	Finish	Room	Status
Wednesday	January 14, 2026	10:00 AM	3:00 PM		Scheduled
Wednesday	January 21, 2026	10:00 AM	3:00 PM		Scheduled

Perth County Forest Conservation Bylaw Open House

Perth County is holding an open house for its [Forest Conservation By-law review](#) on **December 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** at the [Perth East Recreation Complex](#) (40 Temperance Street) in Milverton. The event will include a presentation on proposed changes and an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to staff. The deadline for submitting comments is December 17, 2025.

North Perth Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2025
Time: 3:30 pm
Location: North Perth Municipal Building
Committee Room

Members Present: Lee Anne Andriessen
Neil Anstett
Todd Kasenberg
Alicia McClure
Andrew Coghlin
David Meulenstein

Staff Present: Kim Kowch, North Perth Economic Development Officer
Grace Murakami, North Perth Economic Development
Coordinator (Recording Secretary)
Lindsay Cline, Interim Manager of Strategic Initiatives
Matt Cardiff, North Perth Agricultural Specialist
Justin Dias, Perth County Economic Development Officer

1. Call to Order

Chair Andriessen called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

The Chair informed the committee of a newly elected member, Sean Hudson.

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

"We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Anishnaabe people. We wish to recognize the long history of Indigenous People of Canada and show our respect to them today. We recognize their stewardship of the land; may we all live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship."

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were none.

Neil Anstett joined the meeting at 3:32pm.

4. Confirmation of Agenda

MOVED: Andrew Coghlin **SECOND:** Alicia McClure

THAT: The agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

5. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

MOVED: Neil Anstett **SECOND:** David Meulenstein

THAT: The minutes of the June 11th, 2025 North Perth Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED.

6. Correspondence

6.1 NPAAAC Meeting Minutes

MOVED: Andrew Coghlin **SECOND:** Todd Kasenberg

THAT: The minutes of the March 20th, 2025 NPAAAC meeting be accepted for information.

CARRIED.

7. Tourism / Destination Animation

The Committee reviewed the draft Public Art Plan, with discussion focusing on the proposed installation locations and the selection process. Members noted the importance of ensuring that all communities in North Perth are considered as potential locations for future art projects.

Members agreed that public engagement may be incorporated in ways that invite community feedback, while the Ad Hoc Public Art Panel and NPEDAC will oversee final selections. Considerations also included copyright protection for artists work, ensuring recognition for participating artists, remuneration for top submissions will be explored by project.

Members also discussed maintenance responsibilities, contractual obligations, and the potential for North Perth branding to be incorporated in projects. Staff will prepare initial project ideas for further Committee review.

MOVED: Alicia McClure **SECOND:** Andrew Coghlin

THAT: The Public Art Plan be endorsed by NPEDAC, with the incorporation of Committee feedback, and forwarded to North Perth Council for final approval.

CARRIED.

8. North Perth Economic Development Update (Kim Kowch)

The Economic Development Officer (EDO) for North Perth shared an update on the Character Square Art Project, noting the project will be integrated as part of Year 1 the Public Art Implementation Plan and align with the Plan direction.

Updates were provided regarding staff attendance at the Spinrite Job Fair that was held over the summer, as well as the Fall Farm, Flavour & Foliage Tour. The tour will take place on Saturday, September 27th, and will showcase a range of farms and agricultural businesses across North Perth. The Retail Market Demand Study is now underway and will include in-person research, surveys, and broad sector engagement to provide reliable data for future decision-making.

Staff shared plans to apply for Rural Ontario Development Program (ROD) funding, with an application focused on business Succession planning.

MOVED: David Meulenstein **SECOND:** Neil Anstett

THAT: The North Perth Economic Development Update be received for information

CARRIED.

9. Perth County Economic Development Update (Justin Dias)

The Economic Development Officer (EDO) for Perth County shared an update on the Immigration and Workforce Roundtable recently hosted, as well as the Discover More Adventures program. Committee members discussed the North Perth businesses who are participants in the program and the potential to integrate these experiences with Driftscape, as well as the process for attending these Signature Experiences. Staff will be hosting AI (Artificial Intelligence) Summit for businesses in partnership with investStratford, scheduled for September 29th. The Summit will include both an information session and a working session.

MOVED: Todd Kasenberg **SECOND:** Alicia McClure

THAT: The Perth County Economic Development Update be received for information.

CARRIED.

10. Round Table Discussion

The Committee discussed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in business locally. Members noted possible use in areas such as marketing, data projections, administrative tasks, and financial tools. While AI was recognized as a useful resource, limitations were also acknowledged.

It was agreed that AI in North Perth be added as an agenda item for further discussion at the next meeting

The committee discussed impacts of the closure of the Listowel Spinrite factory.

11. Adjournment

MOVED: Andrew Coghlin **SECOND:** David Meulenstein

THAT: The NPEDAC Meeting be adjourned at 5:08pm.

CARRIED.

CHAIR "Lee Anne Andriessen"

SECRETARY "Grace Murakami"

2026 Meeting Dates

Municipal Elections will be held on October 26, 2026. The term of the current Agricultural & Agribusiness Advisory Committee will expire on November 14, 2026. The new council will accept applications for new committee terms shortly after.

NPAAAC Terms of Reference Recap:

- At least 4 meetings held per year
- Executive election to be held annually, during the first meeting of the calendar year (next meeting)

Proposed Meeting Dates: (All Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.)

January 22, 2026

March 26, 2026

June 25, 2026

August 20, 2026

November 12, 2026