**Minutes**

**REGIONAL MEETING**

**Wed. October 5, 2016**



**Dundas Federation of Agriculture**

**Location:** Agricultural Hall, Nelson LaPrade Centre – Chesterville

**Time:** 8:00 p.m.

**Present:** Deborah Patenaude, Bernard VanderZweep, Jim Shaw, Bonna Oosterhof,

Arden Schneckenburger, Eleanor Renaud, William Martens, Gerry Boyce, Tom MacGregor,

Roger Heard, Randy McDonald, Kevin Kulmatycki, Ruth Vogel, Ron Wilson, Dave Pemberton,

Archie Mellan, Jon Roosendaal, Ben Lefort, Stephen Mellon, Braden Verhey, Ryan DeVries,

Jacqueline Kelly-Pemberton, Mary Dillabough

**1. Welcome & Introductions:** Jacqueline Kelly-Pemberton – Chair

Jackie welcomed those present and thanked those who left the harvesting of their crops to attend.

Next she introduced our first guest speaker for the evening:

Susan Moore, CPA, CA, Wealth Specialist, Menard Kinkaid Wealth Management

RBC Dominion Securities Inc.

Susan has over 20 years of diverse tax consulting experience in many areas such as structuring private company reorganizations, family business tax and succession planning. Her topic was the new class of assets called the Class 14.1 pool and how it can affect dairy operations. After questions from the floor, Jackie thanked Susan and presented her with a small gift.

Jackie introduced our second speaker of the evening:

Randy McDonald, M.I.M.A. Manager, Value & Customer Relations

Municipal Property Assessment Corporation MPAC

Randy’s topic for the meeting is how tax assessments are calculated. He was joined by his co-worker from MPAC, Kevin Kulmatycki, Property Valuation Analyst, and Value & Customer Relations. Randy explained that MPAC assesses and classifies over 5 million properties and provides these assessment roles to municipalities. With this information the municipality determines the tax rate for each property. MPAC collects information from building permits, sales transactions, Request for Reconsideration Applications, Appeals, Tax Applications, Land Severances and On-Site Inspections to determine property values. He explained how to read your tax assessment to ensure you are being taxed at the correct rate, and that an individual can obtain information regarding their properties on “AboutMyProperty” on the MPAC website. Jackie thanked Randy and Kevin for their presentation and presented a small gift.

**2. Agenda Approval**:

M/S – Arden Schneckenburger, Ron Wilson (Carried).

**3. Approval of September 7, 2016 Minutes**:

M/S – Jon Roosendaal, Jim Shaw (Carried).

**4. Business from Minutes:**

**a) Banners**

The 2 pull-up banners will cost about $395 each and can be used for any event that we want to attend.

**b) OFA’s 80th Anniversary Farm Gate Challenge**

Jackie has set up DFA’s display outside the hall door and took pictures to submit to the challenge. The display must be removed at the end of the day due to the risk of vandalism. The sign will be available to anyone who would like to enter the contest with a display at their own farm gate. Entries must be submitted by Nov. 4.

**5. New Business:**

**a) AGM Elections**

Ruth Vogel opened nominations for all positions. Successful candidates are as follows:

PAC Representative – Bernard VanderZweep

Convention Delegates – Jacqueline Kelly-Pemberton, Marty Derks, Stephen Mellon

Alternate Delegates – Deborah Patenaude, Ryan DeVries, William Martens

The convention is being held Nov. 21-22 and the awards for the 80th anniversary contests will be distributed at that time. We are still looking for YFF delegates. A suggestion to have Tyler Brooks from the OFA send out an email to all DFA was made looking for candidates was made. Jackie/ Mary will handle this.

**b) Private Members Bill – Certified Crop Advisors**

An electronic vote was held due to the time frame, and directors voted in support of drafting a letter to Lisa Thompson in favor of the bill. Jackie has forwarded the letter to Lisa Thompson.

**6. Correspondence**

**a) ND Economic Development Strategic Plan Survey**

Survey input from DFA members has been requested by the township. Mary will forward the survey details to board members.

**b) Advancing Women Conference East**

A written request for funding for Jackie’s attendance on Oct 3-4 has been submitted to the board. Jackie will give a short presentation on the conference at the December meeting. Due to a scheduling problem, she will be unable to attend the November meeting.

**7. President’s Report**

Nothing further to report.

**8. PAC Report**

Bernie attended the Eastern Summit earlier in the day. He gave the group an update of issues discussed, including changes to how the President and VP should be elected and that “County Concerns” should be moved earlier in the day to ensure time for the federations to discuss all their concerns, instead of limiting the time at the end of the day. Eleanor reported that the next PAC meeting agenda had just come out today and the concerns were still at the end of the agenda. She encouraged members to go after OFA to ensure this is done.

- Also discussed were Western Feedlots. Arden reported that in Canada we have 30% less livestock than we had 3 years ago and that 1 of the 3 large packaging plants is closing and that this processing will be done in the States. This is another case of where Canada is becoming a supplier of raw materials and losing all the processing of these goods.

**9. Director’s Report**

Eleanor discussed the Climate Change Plan and reported that in January 2017 gas will rise by 4.3 cents/litre and natural gas and propane by 3.3 cents/cu. metre. Also, Premier Wynne is saying some people will see a 20% reduction in their hydro bill, we need to know when and how, the HST off the hydro bill is not enough.

- Eleanor attended the OFA Lobby Day at Queen’s Park yesterday. The day’s topic was Natural Gas, Energy and Electricity. A major concern to farmers in rural Ontario. Eastern and Western Wardens are working with OFA on this issue.

- Eleanor also reported that an EBR Posting is expected to come out tomorrow regarding Winter Spreading. Members queried what is considered Winter Spreading but were told that we would not know until the actual posting comes out. Mary will forward to members when received.

**10. MSR Report –** Nothing further to report

A concern was raised from the floor regarding the recently announced school closures in Dundas County. For South Dundas, youth south of the 401 will be bussed to South Glengarry High in Prescott or north of the 401 will be sent to North Dundas High in Chesterville. Elementary students currently enrolled at Morrisburg Public will be sent to Iroquois Public. This means that all urban students will be separated from rural students. This concern will be brought up at the next Summit. Eleanor and Ruth reported that the entire Glengarry County has only one public school and no high school.

Another concern is the new regulation to reduce Red Tape. This used to require an Order in Council, but the minister can now do this himself. Everyone should send in their comments now. Ben Lefort will forward the website to the secretary for forwarding to the members.

**11. Motion to adjourn** – William Martens