



**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL WORKING GROUP
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Name of Working Group:

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL WORKING GROUP

Drinking Water Source Protection Issue(s) or Topic(s) to be addressed:

- best management practices for agricultural and rural land uses near drinking water sources
- land use activities in agricultural and rural settings that have the potential to impact drinking water sources

Mandate:

The Agriculture and Rural Working Group will operate as an ad hoc committee and in an advisory capacity for the purpose of providing advice on rural and agricultural matters to the Source Protection Committee (SPC) of the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region.

Specific areas to be discussed will be:

- Relationship between source protection measures and agricultural or rural land use activities
- Potential threats, issues, risks and concerns to drinking water sources from agricultural and rural activities
- Best management practices for agricultural and rural land uses near drinking water sources
- Information and advice on how to develop Source Protection policy recommendations with regard to agricultural and rural activities that will be accepted by the public while meeting the legislated requirements for Source Protection Plans
- Fair compensation for those affected by Drinking Water Source Protection policies

Size of Working Group:

The number of members in the Agriculture and Rural Working Group shall be a maximum of fifteen plus the Working Group Chair.

Composition of the Working Group:

- 1 from Bruce County Federation of Agriculture
- 1 from Grey County Federation of Agriculture
- 1 from Grey-Bruce Christian Farmers Association
- 1 from National Farmers Union
- 1 from Cattlemen's Association
- 1 from Dairy Farmers
- 3 from other commodity groups
- 2 from rural ratepayer groups
- 3 rural general interest
- 2 SPC members (1 serves as Chair)
 - one SPC member selected from the three agricultural representatives
 - one SPC member selected from the twelve non-agricultural representatives

SPC representation on Working Group:

The Chair of the Working group will be an SPC member appointed by the SPC. One additional SPC member will be appointed to the Agriculture and Rural Working Group. The SPC Chair is an ex officio member of all working groups.

Timeline of Working Group:

The terms of reference for the Agriculture and Rural Working Group will expire on September 30, 2010. Extension of this time frame will be at the discretion of the SPC.

Working Group reports to SPC:

The Working Group shall hold meetings a minimum of four times per year. Minutes of meetings will be recorded. Meeting minutes, as well as a Progress Report from the Working Group Chair, will be provided to the SPC at the next SPC meeting following the Working Group meeting.

A preliminary report on potential threats, issues, risks and concerns to drinking water sources from agricultural and rural activities will be due May 31, 2009.

A preliminary report on best management practices for agricultural and rural land use activities near drinking water sources will be due December 31, 2009.

A preliminary report on policy recommendations with regard to agricultural and rural matters will be due April 30, 2010.

A summary report that outlines the findings and recommendations of the Working Group will be due on May 31, 2010.

Staff resources required:

A recording secretary will be provided to record the minutes of meetings. One staff person will be assigned to attend meetings and serve as liaison with the DWSP program. DWSP staff will be responsible for the preparation of agendas and other support functions. The Working Group Chair may request, through the Project Manager, for additional staff to attend a particular meeting in order to provide information to the Working Group.

Additional notes:

Advertisements will be published to solicit Working Group members from the categories of 'general interest' and 'rural ratepayers group'. The two SPC members on the Working Group shall be tasked with making the selection of these Working Group members from among the expressions of interest that are received by the published deadline.