
MEMORANDUM

APAC-C 7-2021

Subject: Draft Agricultural System Policies

Date: September 24, 2021

To: Agricultural Policy and Action Committee

From: Erik Acs, Manager of Community Planning

At the February 26th, 2021 meeting of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee (APAC), a presentation and memorandum (APAC-C 2-2021) was shared outlining the draft Agricultural System policies for the Region's new Official Plan.

Following APAC, the draft policies were shared with several stakeholder groups who had expressed interest in a presentation and discussion. On May 12th, 2021, the draft policies were shared more broadly at the Region's Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC 17-2021). The May 12th, 2021 meeting of PEDC bundled the agricultural policies with a larger draft policy package and requested feedback by July 2nd, 2021.

Feedback submissions were received from local municipalities, agricultural commodity groups, agricultural membership organizations and several other interest groups and parties. A summary of comments received was shared with the Region's Planning and Economic Committee on September 15th, 2021 (PEDC 36-2021). All written comments received are posted on the [Official Plan](https://www.niagararegion.ca/official-plan/) project website: (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/official-plan/>)

- The goals and objectives for the Region's Agricultural System remain consistent with those shared earlier this year to protect and promote agriculture in Niagara.

Appendix I to this memorandum is a revised draft of the Agricultural System policies. The revised draft addresses comments received, corrections of errors and clarification of policy. Examples of edits to the draft policy set include:

- Clarification that an Agricultural Impact Assessment is not required for new or expanding agricultural uses;
- Clarification of minimum lot sizes with respect to private servicing requirements;

- Correction of terminology to better reflect Provincial conformity requirements (such as MDS criteria, and permitted uses in a Specialty Crop area); and
- Simplification of policy wording throughout the section.

In addition to the attached appendix, an updated [glossary of defined terms](https://pub-niagararegion.escibemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=17775) is located on the Official Plan project website: (<https://pub-niagararegion.escibemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=17775>)

There will continue to be opportunities for consultation on the policies as development of the Region's Official Plan progresses into 2022. Staff are open to and appreciative of any comments, questions or feedback on the attached draft policy set.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Erik Acs, MCIP, RPP
Manager of Community Planning

Appendix I Draft Agricultural Policy Set