



Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Minutes

Meeting #: 25
Date: June 5, 2025
Time: 10 am
Location: Ben Franklin Place, The Chamber, Main Floor, 101 Centrepointe Drive, and by electronic participation

Present: Chair: David Brown
 Vice-Chair: Clarke Kelly
 Members: Councillor Catherine Kitts, Councillor Matt Luloff

- Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public
 Notices and meeting information are attached to the agenda and minutes, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; *in camera* meeting procedures; information items not subject to discussion; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and remote participation details.
 Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request.
 Except where otherwise indicated, reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 in Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Report 25.
 The deadline to register by phone to speak, or submit written comments or visual presentations was 4 pm on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, and the deadline to register by email to speak was 9:00 am on Thursday, June 5, 2025.
These “Summary Minutes” indicate the disposition of items and actions taken at the meeting. This document does not include all of the text that will be included in the full Minutes, such as the record of written and oral submissions. Recorded votes and dissents contained in the Summary Minutes are draft until the full Minutes of the meeting are confirmed by the

Committee. The draft of the full Minutes (for confirmation) will be published with the agenda for the next regular Committee meeting and, once confirmed, will replace this document.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 ARAC Minutes 24 - Thursday, May 1, 2025

Carried

3.2 ARAC-ECCC Joint Minutes 2 – Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Planning, Building and Development Services Department -
Transportation Master Plan – Rural Lens – Verbal Update

At the outset, Vice-Chair C. Kelly introduced the following Motion to allow for the Committee's receipt of this item at the meeting:

Motion No. ARAC 2025 25-01

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approve that the Rules of Procedure be waived subject to Subsection 83(4) of the Procedure By-Law (being By-Law No. 2025-100) to receive a staff presentation / update on the Transportation Master Plan – Rural Lens.

Carried

The Committee then received a verbal update from Mr. Max Walker, Senior Project Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning, Development and Building Services Department (PDBS), Ms Deborah Lightman, Program Manager, Transportation Policy and Networks, PDBS and Ms Jennifer Armstrong, Director, Transportation Planning, PDBS. A copy of

the slide presentation they spoke to is held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

The Committee heard from Ms LEEANNE Van der Burgt, President, Manotick Village and Community Association, who shared a brief video with the Committee, a copy of which is held on file with the City Clerk.

Following questions to the presenter and to staff, and at the conclusion of Committee discussions, the Chair introduced the following Direction to Staff:

Direction to staff (Chair D. Brown)

Transportation Master Plan (TMP)

Active Transportation Project - Feasibility study

The 2023 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Active Transportation Project list includes a feasibility study to provide active transportation facilities on Manotick Main Street between Eastman Avenue and Century Road East. As part of the recently released draft 2025 TMP Capital Infrastructure Plan, this feasibility study is identified as a first phase priority. In the next few years, there is also an upcoming resurfacing project for Manotick Main Street which offers potential coordination opportunities.

Given the above considerations, staff are directed to initiate work on the feasibility study for Manotick Main Street as soon as possible after Council's approval of the Capital Infrastructure Plan and project priorities in July 2025, and as part of the study, staff consult with community stakeholders and residents, and identify opportunities to coordinate with the planned resurfacing project.

Staff indicated that they would accept the above as Direction. The Committee then 'Received' the presentation for information.

Received

5. Infrastructure and Water Services Department

5.1 Engineer's Report Wilson-Cowan Municipal Drain Amendment

File No. ACS2025-IWS-WL-0011 – Rideau-Jock (21)

Report Recommendation(s)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend that Council adopt the engineer's report prepared by Robinson

Consultants Inc., entitled Engineer's report Wilson-Cowan Municipal Drain Amendments, and give first and second readings to the By-law attached as Document 3 in accordance with Sections 42 and 45 of the Drainage Act of Ontario.

Correspondence was received from Messrs. Steve Ducat, General Manager, Rideau View Golf Club and Lorne Franklin, Robinson Consultants. A copy of their correspondence is held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

There being no discussion, the report recommendations were put before Committee and were 'Carried', as presented

Carried

6. Planning, Development and Building Services Department

6.1 Rural Community-Building Grant Program – Grant Application Review

File No. ACS2025-PDB-PS-0044 – Orléans East-Cumberland (1) West Carleton-March (5) Orléans South-Navan (19) Osgoode (20) Rideau-Jock (21)

Report Recommendation(s)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approve the recommendations on the Rural Community-Building Grants Program applications as detailed in Document 1.

Chair Brown suggested that the Committee consider Applications A (Cumberland Community Association - Purchase of mower and supplies to make trails in community more accessible), B (Cumberland Farmers' Market - Acquisition of tents, chairs, tables, and various equipment to modernize the Farmers' Market) and D (North Gower Recreation Association - Canada Flag Banners) as part of the consent agenda, but he expressed concern with the amount being asked for Application C (Just Food - Agrifood Self-guided tourism) and he asked for a recorded vote for Application C.

Applicant C – Just Food - Agrifood Self-guided tourism

For (0):

Against (3): Councillor C. Kitts, Vice-Chair C. Kelly and Chair D. Brown

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approve the recommendations on the Rural Community-Building Grants Program

applications as detailed in Document 1, with the exception of Application C – Just Food - Agrifood Self-guided tourism.

Carried as amended

6.2 Street Closure - Road Allowance between Lots 10 and 11, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Torbolton, former Township of West Carleton

File No. ACS2025-PDB-PS-0048 – West Carleton-March (5)

Report Recommendation(s)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approve a street closure application for the untravelled road allowance legally known as between Lots 10 and 11, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Torbolton, Former Township of West Carleton, as shown in Document 1, subject to the conditions in Document 3.

The Committee heard from the following delegations:

- Kathy Black*
- David Anderson (owner, Kanata BBQ)
- Gary Humphreys (Owner, Archie's)
- Addison Milne-Price

Written submissions were received from the following:

- Danielle Beauregard*
- Linda McLaughlin and Peter Harasym*
- Brian Traverse *
- Allan Braun*
- Gagan Panjhazari*, Budco Holdings (also submitting a 20-page, 272-signature petition requesting closure of the road)

[* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk (*) provided written submissions. All are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.]

At the conclusion of questions to the presenters and Committee discussions, the report recommendation was put to a vote and LOST as noted below:

Against (4): Councillors C. Kitts and M. Luloff, Vice-Chair C. Kelly and Chair D. Brown

For (0)

Lost

7. Referrals

7.1 Municipal Support Resolution (MSR) for the South March BESS Project

File No. ACS2025-OCC-CCS-0071 - West Carleton-March (5)

This item was referred from Council on May 28, 2025 as per CC Motion No. 21D.

Report recommendation(s)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee consider the matter for recommendation to Council.

At the outset, Ms Debbie Stewart, General Manager, Strategic Initiatives (SI) Department, spoke to provide context on this item.

In addition to the General Manager, the following members of staff were also present to respond to questions:

- Nichole Hoover-Bienasz, Director, Climate Change and Resiliency, SI
- Dr. Nick Stow, Program Manager, Natural Systems, SI
- Chief Paul Hutt, Ottawa Fire Service, Emergency and Protective Services Department
- Derrick Moodie, Director, Planning Services, Planning, Development and Building Services Department
- Tim Marc, Senior Legal Counsel
- Caitlin Salter MacDonald, City Clerk

Vice-Chair Kelly then read out the following Motion:

Motion No. ARAC 2025-25-XX

Introduced by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

WHEREAS as part of the proposed South March battery energy storage system (BESS) project at 2555 and 2625 Marchurst Road, the

proponent has publicly stated that it plans to establish a “Community Development Fund” of \$250,000 per year to support local projects; and

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa has previously entered into host municipality responsibility agreements with third-party project proponents who provide funds related to community initiatives in recognition of the project’s effects on the local community; and

WHEREAS host municipality responsibility agreements generally provide for the City to determine how to allocate and disburse funds provided by the third party in order to respond to community needs and ensure accountability and transparency, with eligible community initiatives often identified by City staff in consultation with the relevant Ward Councillor(s);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to request that the South March BESS project proponent fulfill its stated intent to establish a “Community Development Fund” by entering into a host municipality responsibility agreement with the City of Ottawa through which the proponent would provide Ward 5 with funding of at least \$250,000 per year for 20 years, to be allocated to community initiatives as determined by the City in consultation with the proponent and Ward Councillor;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff be directed to provide City Council with an update on the status of the request to the proponent by way of memorandum within three months of the approval of a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project, and to bring forward for committee and Council approval any draft host municipality responsibility agreement negotiated with the proponent.

Committee then heard from the following public delegations:

The following spoke in support of the MSR for the South March BESS Project:

1. Angela Keller-Herzog, Executive Director, Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES)⁺
2. Janice Ashworth*, Dunsky Energy and Climate Advisors
3. Dr. Judy Makin
4. Don Sproule⁺

5. Barrie and Laurie Ashworth*
6. Nicky Trudell+
7. Tim Guttormson, Blue Water
8. Kelly Daize, Executive Director, Kanata North Business Association
9. Taylor White
10. Lisa Kyte
11. Brian Scholl, Energy Safe Response Group
12. Dr. Storer J. Boone, Ground Rules Engineering Incorporated
13. Dr. Mark Kellenberger+, Senior Engineer, Energy Storage Engineering
DNV Canada Limited
14. Dr. Art Hunter+, Canadian Association for the Club of Rome
15. Korey Kauffeldt, AOP Limited Partnership
16. Dr. Stephen Ramsay+, Calvin Consulting Group Limited
17. Andrew Thiele, Energy Storage Canada
18. Trevor Freeman, Hydro Ottawa
19. Councillor Merv Sarazin, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan
20. Steve Willis+, Stantec (on behalf of Evolugen)
21. Brookfield Renewables / Evolugen Team:
 - Alexei Simakov, Director of Policy / Energy Storage (Canada), Evolugen,
 - Geoff Wright, Head of Development, Brookfield Renewables (Evolugen)
 - Carl Hausler, Project Director, Battery Projects (Ottawa)
 - Zac Benoit, Investment Lead and Project Originator (Ottawa) and
 - Adam Amara, Global Technical Advisor, Brookfield Renewables

The following spoke in opposition to the MSR for the South March BESS Project:

1. Cindy Berry+
2. David Carrol
3. Leigh Fenton+
4. Catherine Swift, Innovation Realty Limited
5. Tim Jodoin+ (supports BESS in principle, but not at this location)
6. Teresa De Marco
7. Kathy Black*
8. Michael D'Asti

9. Catherine Buck
10. Brenda Halabisky⁺
11. Clifford Wardle⁺
12. David Thomas
13. Sharon Podlesny⁺
14. Kerri Lynn Bulger⁺
15. Brian Martin
16. Monika Miller
17. Nadine Clarke and Sue Joshi
18. Marsha MacGowan⁺
19. Mark MacGowan⁺
20. Cori Ann Terai
21. Brian Parisien
22. Ed Hoskins
23. Alex Parisien
24. Mitchell Loeb
25. Lisa Smith
26. Richard Schreier
27. Leo Taylor
28. Nancy Todd-Giordano
29. Raff Giordano
30. Tonya Rivera
31. Glen Carroll⁺
32. Peter McGann
33. Mark Wight⁺
34. Courtney Argue^v
35. Sheilagh Hoskins⁺
36. Diana Meneses Iwai
37. Daniel Buck
38. Nicholas Giordano⁺
39. Ken Love⁺
40. Dr. Jenn Hubbard
41. Andy Thomas
42. Sally Robins

Correspondence was also received from the following, in opposition to the MSR for the South March BESS Project (unless noted otherwise):

1. Courtney and Nick Argue Giordano* (incl. 344-pg., 1,421-signature petition)

2. Marla Sullivan*
3. Habib Mankal*
4. Cari Rule*
5. Karin Dobson*
6. Kim Daley*
7. Stacey Ross*
8. Karen Devenish*
9. Anne Malcolm*
10. Stephanie Ward*
11. Ava Ward*
12. April Busa*
13. Sarah Bowen, on behalf of concerned residents of Marchurst
14. Serena Ramley*
15. Makoto Terai*
16. David McKeen*
17. Melanie Paquette*
18. Shirley Dolan*
19. Jane Wilson*, Chair, Ottawa Wind Concerns
20. Angele Taylor*
21. Ivy Liu* (position not identified; submission seeks answers to questions)
22. Carla Y. Nell*, Vice President, Corporate Relations, Engagement and Strategy, IESO (in support of the MSR)
23. Myriam Antoine Guirguis*
24. Stephen Lecce*, Minister of Energy and Mines (in support of the MSR)

[Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk (*) provided written submissions. Individuals marked with a cross (+) provided a slide presentation. Individuals marked with a 'vee' (v) provided a video presentation. ALL are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.]

As the hour was approaching 7:00 p.m., the following Motion was considered:

Motion No. ARAC 2025 25-02

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meeting time be extended past 7:00 p.m. pursuant to Subsection 8(1)(c) of *Procedure By-law* (By-law No. 2025-100).

Carried

Following the receipt of all public delegations, questions to the presenters and to staff, and at the conclusion of Committee deliberations, the following Motions were introduced and considered as noted:

Motion No. ARAC 2025 25-03

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

(as amended from the original, introduced earlier in the meeting)

WHEREAS as part of the proposed South March battery energy storage system (BESS) project at 2555 and 2625 Marchurst Road, the proponent has publicly stated that it plans to establish a “Community Development Fund” of \$250,000 per year to support local projects; and

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa has previously entered into host municipality responsibility agreements with third-party project proponents who provide funds related to community initiatives in recognition of the project’s effects on the local community; and

WHEREAS host municipality responsibility agreements generally provide for the City to determine how to allocate and disburse funds provided by the third party in order to respond to community needs and ensure accountability and transparency, with eligible community initiatives often identified by City staff in consultation with the relevant Ward Councillor(s);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff, in the event this project proceeds, be directed to request that the South March BESS project proponent fulfill its stated intent to establish a “Community Development Fund” by entering into a host municipality responsibility agreement with the City of Ottawa through which the proponent would provide an amount of at least \$250,000 per year with the goal to achieve a higher amount if possible, for a period of not less than 20 years. The finalization and execution of such agreement shall be approved by

Council, with recommendations to be provided as to the allocation and disbursements of such funds;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff be directed to provide City Council with an update on the status of the request to the proponent by way of memorandum within three months of the approval of a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project, and to bring forward for committee and Council approval any draft host municipality responsibility agreement negotiated with the proponent.

The above motion was put to a vote and was 'Carried' as noted below:

For (4): Councillor C. Kitts, Councillor M. Luloff, Vice-Chair C. Kelly and Chair D. Brown

Against (0):

Motion No. ARAC 2025 25-04

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

WHEREAS at its meeting of May 28, 2025 Council directed that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee provide a recommendation for the June 11, 2025 meeting of Council to either accept or deny a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project; and

WHEREAS the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee heard from a number of delegations at its meeting of June 5, 2025 and considered the request for a Municipal Support Resolution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council deny the request for a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project.

The above motion was put to a vote and was 'Carried' as noted below:

For (4): Councillor C. Kitts, Councillor M. Luloff, Vice-Chair C. Kelly and Chair D. Brown

Against (0):

The report recommendation was then put before Committee and was 'Carried', as amended by Motions Nos. ARAC 2025 25-03 and ARAC 2025 25-04:

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council:

1. Deny the request for a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project;
2. a) Approve that staff, in the event this project proceeds, be directed to request that the South March BESS project proponent fulfill its stated intent to establish a “Community Development Fund” by entering into a host municipality responsibility agreement with the City of Ottawa through which the proponent would provide an amount of at least \$250,000 per year with the goal to achieve a higher amount if possible, for a period of not less than 20 years. The finalization and execution of such agreement shall be approved by Council, with recommendations to be provided as to the allocation and disbursements of such funds; and,
 - b) Approve that staff be directed to provide City Council with an update on the status of the request to the proponent by way of memorandum within three months of the approval of a Municipal Support Resolution for the South March BESS project, and to bring forward for committee and Council approval any draft host municipality responsibility agreement negotiated with the proponent.

Carried as amended

8. In Camera Items

There were no *in camera* items.

9. Open Mic Session

There were no *Open Mic* speakers.

10. Notices of Motions (For Consideration at Subsequent Meeting)

There were no Notices of Motion.

11. Inquiries

There were no Inquiries.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Next Meeting(s):

- Wednesday, June 18, 2025
(Special Joint Meeting with Planning and Housing Committee)
- Thursday, July 3, 2025

Original signed by
C Zwierzchowski, Committee
Coordinator

Original signed by
Councillor D. Brown, Chair