



Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Minutes

Meeting #: 31
Date: December 4, 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, Councillor
Catherine Kitts, Councillor Matt Luloff, Councillor Isabelle
Skalski

1. 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, December 10, 2025 in Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Report 31.
The deadline to register by phone to speak, or submit written comments or visual presentations was 4:00 pm on Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025, and the deadline to register by email to speak was 9:00 am on Thursday, December 4th, 2025.
2. Declarations of Interest
No Declarations of Interest were filed.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 ARAC Minutes 29 – 6 November 2025**Carried**

4. Finance and Corporate Services Department

4.1 2026 Draft Operating and Capital Budget –
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

2026 Draft Operating and Capital Budget –
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

File No. ACS2025-FCS-FSP-0013 – City-wide

Report recommendation(s)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee consider the relevant portions of the 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets and make recommendations to Council sitting in Committee of the Whole to be held December 10, 2025.

Carried as amended

At the outset, the Committee received a detailed slide presentation overview of its portion of the 2026 City of Ottawa Budget from Mr. Cyril Rogers, Chief Finance Office and City Treasurer. In addition to Mr. Rogers, each of the following also spoke, in turn, related to their departments' portion of the Committee's budget. A copy of this presentation is held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

- Ms Marcia Wallace, General Manager, Planning, Development and Building Services (PDBS) Department;
- Ms Tammy Rose, General Manager, Infrastructure and Water Services Department (IWSD);
- Mr. Alain Gonthier, General Manager, Public Works Department (PWD), and;
- Ms Debbie Stewart, General Manager, Strategic Initiatives (SI) Department.

Messrs. Dan Chenier, General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services Department (RCFS) and Derrick Moodie, Director, Planning

Services, PDBS, were also present to respond to questions.

Vice-Chair Kelly then introduced the following Technical Motion:

Motion N^o ARAC 2025-31-01

Moved by Vice-Chair C. Kelly:

WHEREAS the 2026 Draft Operating and Capital Budget documents for the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee were circulated and published with the Committee agenda on November 25, 2025;

WHEREAS after the agenda was published, a correction was required to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Draft 2026 Budget documents, specifically to the project description for capital project 911289-24-26 Rural Roads Upgrades; and

WHEREAS Finance and Corporate Services has issued a revised Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Draft 2026 Budget Book which includes the updated project description below on page 17 of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Full English Budget Book:

Project Information			Location/Description	\$000's
911289	24-26 Rural Road Upgrades	Class of Estimate: C) Planning		2,600
Category: Renewal of City Assets Ward: CW			Year of Completion: 2026	
The City's rural road network includes gravel surfaced, low volume surface treated, and paved roadways. Funding under this program provides for improvements of these roads for pavement and base repairs, reconstruction, strengthening, hard surfacing, resurfacing and drainage improvements.				
Completion Date Change 2030				

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approve the replacement of page 17 of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Full English Budget Book with the corrected project description for capital project 911289-24-26 Rural Roads Upgrades, as shown in the table contained in this motion, and on file with the City Clerk.

Carried

The Vice-Chair then introduced the Committee's Budget 'Roadmap' Motion:

Motion N^o ARAC 2025-31-02

Moved by Vice-Chair Kelly:

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend that Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, approve the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee 2026 Draft Operating and Capital Budget as follows:

- 1. Planning, Development and Building Services, Development Review Rural and Rural Affairs Operating Budget as follows:**
 - i) User Fees (page 4);**
 - ii) Operating Resource Requirement (page 3)**
- 2. The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Capital Program (page 5) [individual projects listed pages 10-18], including revised page 17.**

The Vice-Chair then introduced the following Motion on behalf of Chair Brown:

Motion N^o ARAC 2025-31-03

Moved by Vice-Chair Kelly (on behalf of Chair Brown):

WHEREAS oversight and direct service delivery in rural Ottawa, including increasing maintenance standards for rural drainage assets such as roadside ditches, is a priority for rural residents and for Council; and

WHEREAS rural roadside ditch maintenance has not been performed at an acceptable standard since amalgamation and responsibility for drainage assets is currently dispersed amongst several different groups within the City of Ottawa; and

WHEREAS the Roads, Rural Ditch Maintenance Program (911869) provides a dedicated capital envelope for rural drainage maintenance and, as part of Rural Summit 2024, the City committed to improving rural service levels, including rural drainage and roadside ditch maintenance; and

WHEREAS the Roads, Rural Ditch Maintenance Program budget is set at \$3.6 million, funded 50 percent by rate and 50 percent by tax-supported sources, and the Rural Stormwater fee capital budget is flexible enough

to cover all related capital costs, including ditching work, brushing, trucking, materials (culverts, asphalt, etc.), equipment (handheld tools, vehicles and attachments), the Project Coordinator position to facilitate the work, hiring contractors to carry out the work, and in-house budgetary allocations for City staff.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, as part of the implementation of the City's commitments from the 2024 Rural Summit and the substantive investments made in the Roads, Rural Ditch Maintenance Program (911869), staff be directed to ensure that the new Project Coordinator position has the capacity to action drainage projects in a timely and efficient manner, to support the effective delivery of service to rural taxpayers and landowners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to seek input from each rural Councillor on drainage priorities for each rural ward before January 15, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a workplan prioritizing the delivery of drainage projects and their operational requirements be developed by the General Manager of Public Works, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, and that this workplan be shared with the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Ditch Alteration and Maintenance Sponsors Group by way of a memo in Q1 2026.

Carried

Following questions to staff and Committee discussions, the Roadmap Motion was put before Committee and was considered as follows:

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend that Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, approve the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee 2026 Draft Operating and Capital Budget as follows:

- 1. Planning, Development and Building Services, Development Review Rural and Rural Affairs Operating Budget as follows:**
 - i) User Fees (page 4);**

ii) **Operating Resource Requirement (page 3)**

Carried

- 2. The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Capital Program (page 5) [individual projects listed pages 10-18], including revised page 17.**

Lost

Dissents were received from Councillors M. Luloff, C. Kitts and Vice-Chair C. Kelly, hence the second clause of the Roadmap Motion was 'Lost', and will rise to Council on 10 December 2025 with a recommendation that Council 'consider' the matter.

The recommendations were put before Committee and were 'Carried', as amended by Motions N^{OS} ARAC 2025-31-01, 2025-31-02 and 2025-31-03.

The Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend that Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole:

- 1. Approve the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee 2026 Draft Operating Budget as follows:**
 - a) Planning, Development and Building Services, Development Review Rural and Rural Affairs Operating Budget as follows:**
 - i. User Fees (page 4);**
 - ii. Operating Resource Requirement (page 3)**
- 2. Consider the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Capital Program (page 5) [individual projects listed pages 10-18, including revised page 17].**
- 3. Approve that, as part of the implementation of the City's commitments from the 2024 Rural Summit and the substantive investments made in the Roads, Rural Ditch Maintenance Program (911869), staff be directed to ensure that the new Project Coordinator position has the capacity to action drainage projects in a timely and efficient manner, to support the effective delivery of service to rural taxpayers and landowners; and**

- a) That staff be directed to seek input from each rural Councillor on drainage priorities for each rural ward before January 15, 2026; and
- b) That a workplan prioritizing the delivery of drainage projects and their operational requirements be developed by the General Manager of Public Works, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, and that this workplan be shared with the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee and the Ditch Alteration and Maintenance Sponsors Group by way of a memo in Q1 2026.

Carried, as amended

5. Infrastructure and Water Services Department

5.1 Third Concession Municipal Drain – Appointment of Engineer

File No. ACS2025-IWS-WL-0018 - Osgoode (20)

The Committee briefly heard from Mr. Dan Anderson, appearing on behalf of the applicant, who indicated he would not need to speak in the event that Committee were to 'Carry' the report recommendations. Mr. Dave Ryan, Drainage Superintendent, Infrastructure and Water Services Department, was present to respond to questions. At the conclusion of questions to staff, the report recommendation was put before Committee and was 'Carried', as presented.

Report Recommendation(s)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council appoint Mr. Andy Robinson, P. Eng of Robinson Consultants Inc. as the Engineer of record to prepare a report under Section 8(1) of the Drainage Act in response to a petition received under Section 4 of the Drainage Act, as described in this report.

6. In Camera Items

There were no *in camera* items.

7. Information Previously Distributed

7.1 Living Snow Fence Pilot Program

File No. ACS2025-SI-CCR-0012

8. Open Mic Session

There were Open Mic speakers.

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

9.1 Motion – Vice-Chair C. Kelly for Chair D. Brown
Rural Woodlands Ottawa – ARAC Partnership Tree Planting

WHEREAS Rural Woodlands Ottawa has established a productive working relationship with the City of Ottawa’s Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee (ARAC) through collaboration on initiatives such as the Living Snow Fence Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS Rural Woodlands Ottawa and ARAC continue to advocate for the retention and expansion of the rural tree canopy in support of climate resilience, road safety, and rural quality of life;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, in partnership with the Ward 21 Councillor, the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approve a small tree planting project at 2155 Roger Stevens Drive as a demonstration of the ongoing collaboration with Rural Woodlands Ottawa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to provide the necessary support and coordination to ensure that the planting proceeds in spring 2026, including engagement with Rural Woodlands Ottawa and any partners of the project.

9.2 Motion (Vice-Chair C. Kelly)
Agricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

WHEREAS the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 Section 4.3 on Agriculture states that Planning authorities are required to use an agricultural system approach, based on provincial guidance, to maintain and enhance a geographically continuous agricultural land base and

support and foster the long-term economic prosperity and productive capacity of the agri-food network; and

WHEREAS PPS, 2024 Section 4.3.5.2 states that impacts from any new or expanding non-agricultural uses on the agricultural system are to be avoided, or where avoidance is not possible, minimized and mitigated as determined through an agricultural impact assessment (AIA) or equivalent analysis, based on provincial guidance; and

WHEREAS the PPS defines an AIA as meaning “the evaluation of potential impacts of nonagricultural uses on the agricultural system” and that “An assessment recommends ways to avoid or if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts;” and

WHEREAS municipalities are encouraged to develop a Terms of Reference to establish consistent local expectations for the approach and scope of an AIA; and

WHEREAS additional guidance is required from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness to better understand the implications of and to assist in implementing these policy directions; and

WHEREAS there are rural municipalities facing growth pressures throughout Ontario which have already developed a Terms of Reference for an AIA in their jurisdiction, including Caledon, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Dufferin County.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend that Council approve that the Mayor of Ottawa write to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness to request an advancement of the Agricultural Impact Statement Terms of Reference to implement the applicable policies in the PPS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff from Planning, Development and Building Services review the Terms of Reference for AIAs in other agricultural-based municipalities in Ontario and determine if a terms of reference for an AIA in Ottawa is feasible on an interim basis until the Province updates their applicable guidance.

10. Inquiries

There were no Inquiries.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Next Meeting(s):

- Wednesday, December 17, 2025 (Joint Meeting with Planning and Housing Committee)
- Thursday, January 15, 2026 (Tentative)

C. Zwierzchowski Committee
Coordinator

Councillor D. Brown, Chair