



Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

Minutes

Meeting #: 34
Date: April 2, 2026
Time: 10 am
Location: Ben Franklin Place, The Chamber, Main Floor, 101 Centrepointe Drive, and by electronic participation

Present: Chair: Councillor David Brown
 Vice-Chair: Clarke Kelly
 Members: Councillor Matt Luloff, Councillor Isabelle Skalski

Absent: Councillor Catherine Kitts (as advised)

- 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, 8 April 2026 in Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Report 34.
 The deadline to register by phone to speak, or submit written comments or visual presentations was 4 pm on Wednesday, 1 April 2026, and the deadline to register by email to speak was 9:00 am on Thursday, 2 April 2026.
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 33 - Thursday, 5 March 2026

Carried

4. Responses to Inquiries

4.1 OCC-2025-16 - Low Water Advisory for Private Wells - I. Skalski

5. Strategic Initiatives Department

5.1 Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program 2021-2025 Review and Renewal

File No. ACS2026-SI-CCR-0004 - City-wide

The Committee received a detailed slide presentation overview of the report from Tara Redpath, Planner III, Strategic Initiatives (SI) Department. Dr. Nick Stow, Program Manager, Natural Systems, SI, was also present to respond to questions.

The Committee then heard from Mr. James Scott MacKillop, who spoke to a slide presentation to illustrate his speaking points. Copies of his presentation, and a written submission, are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

Following questions to staff, and at the conclusion of discussions, the report recommendations were put before Committee and were 'Carried', as presented.

Report Recommendation(s):

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend that Council:

1. **Receive the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program 2021-2025 Review and Renewal (Document 1);**
2. **Approve the 2026-2030 Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program as outlined in this report and as described in Document 1;**
3. **Direct staff to undertake further study and consultation on expanding the scope of the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program, as outlined in this report and as described in Document 1, and to report back to Council in 2027.**

Received

6. Planning, Development and Building Services Department

6.1 Rural Community-Building Grant Program – Grant Application Review

File No. ACS2026-PDB-PS-0030 - 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.

Carried

6.2 Urban Design Review Panel Procedural and Reporting Updates

File No. ACS2026-PDB-RHU-0032 - City-wide

This Item was considered by Planning and Housing Committee on April 1, 2026. At that time, Mark Young, Program Manager, Public Realm and Urban Design, Planning, Development and Building Services Department (PDBS) was present and answered questions from the Committee.

The following PDBS staff were also present and responded to questions:

- Marcia Wallace, General Manager
- Derrick Moodie, Director, Planning Services

Following discussions and questions of staff, the Committee carried the report recommendations as presented.

At the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meeting of Thursday, 2 April 2026, the report recommendations were put before Committee and were 'Carried', on consent, as presented.

Report Recommendation(s)

That the Planning and Housing Committee and Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council direct staff to:

- 1. Request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to amend Official Plan Amendment 47 to remove the Urban Design Review Panel Report from the list of possible requirements for an application to be deemed complete; and**
- 2. Exclude the Urban Design Review Panel Report from the Development Application Studies and Plans By-law.**

Carried

7. Infrastructure and Water Services Department

7.1 Municipal Responsibility Agreement (MRA) for 1491 Manotick Station Road

File No. ACS2026-IWS-AM-0001 - Osgoode (20)

Report Recommendation(s)

That the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee and the Environment and Climate Change Committee recommend Council:

- 1. Authorize the City to enter into a Municipal Responsibility Agreement for 1491 Manotick Station Road.**
- 2. Delegate authority to the General Manager of Infrastructure and Water Services Department, in consultation with the City's Finance and Legal Services, to execute Municipal Responsibility Agreements outside of the Development Review process, including the establishment of any required financial assurances in accordance with provincial requirements.**

Carried

This item will also be considered by the Environment and Climate Change Committee at its meeting of Tuesday, 21 April 2026.

8. Office of the City Clerk

8.1 Status Update – Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
Inquiries and Motions - For the Period Ending 24 March 2026

File No. ACS2026-OCC-CCS-0034 - City-wide

Report Recommendation(s)

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee receive this report for information.

Received

9. In Camera Items

There were no In Camera Items.

10. Information Previously Distributed

10.1 Urban Design Brief Terms of Reference and Urban Design Guidelines Updates

File No. ACS2026-PDB-RHU-0033 - City-wide

11. Open Mic Session

The Committee heard from the following individuals, as noted:

- 1 Bob Vasily, Founder and CEO of Canadian Wollastonite (Re: UNDO Climate Project and the use of Wollastonite, a calcium silicate mineral, in carbon sequestration)
- 2 Peggy Sue Deaven, Manager of Canadian operations for UNDO Carbon (Re: UNDO Climate Project and Wollastonite in carbon sequestration)
- 3 Shirley Dolan (Re: Alto High-Speed Rail Project and its impact on the City of Ottawa and its businesses and residents)

Correspondence was also received from Rebecca Aird in support of the views expressed by Mr. Vasily and Ms Deaven, above. Her comments, and slide presentations that were used to illustrate the first two speakers' points, are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.

12. Motions of Which Notice has been Previously Given

12.1 Motion - Councillor D. Brown - Review of Rural Transit Area A
Funding Model and Feasibility of Private Mass Transportation Partnerships

File No. ACS2026-OCC-CCS-0033 - Orleans East-Cumberland (01), West Carleton-March (05), Orleans South-Navan (19), Osgoode (20), Rideau-Jock (21)

Councillor Brown introduced a substitute Motion for the version he had submitted at the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meeting of Thursday, 5 March 2026 (below) and spoke to provide context.

The Committee then heard from the following delegations:

1. Jerry Pearson (Re: Private rural transit service to supplement public transit)
2. Noah Vineberg, President, ATU 279

Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, Transit Services Department, was present to respond to questions from the Committee.

Following questions to the delegations and to staff, the recommendations of the substitute Motion were put before Committee and were 'Carried', as presented.

Motion N^o ARAC 2026 34-01

Moved by Councillor D. Brown:

That the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council :

1. **Direct City staff to review the Rural Transit Area A funding model and report back to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, including:**
 - a. **a description of how the model allocates costs among rural areas/wards and the inputs driving those allocations;**
 - b. **an analysis of alignment between costs paid and transit benefit/service received (including service levels, frequency, span, coverage, ridership, and commuter demand);**

5. **Approve that staff report back no later than Q3 2026, subject to staff capacity and procurement requirements.**

Carried

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

Councillor I. Skalski introduced the following two Notices of Motion:

13.1 Motion – Councillor I. Skalski -
Rural Home Infrastructure Upgrade Financing Program

WHEREAS rural residents in the City of Ottawa rely on private infrastructure including drilled wells, septic systems, and permanent standby power systems to safely occupy their homes; and

WHEREAS having running water and functioning sanitary systems is an essential upgrade that can put unexpected pressure on family budgets; and

WHEREAS climate change is increasing pressure on private water and wastewater systems, including more frequent and severe drought conditions, extreme rainfall events, and power outages that directly affect rural households; and

WHEREAS this year’s exceptional drought conditions have highlighted the vulnerability of private wells and the growing need for resilient water infrastructure in rural communities; and

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa already operates the Better Homes Ottawa program, which provides financing to homeowners through a Local Improvement Charge model that allows upgrades to be repaid over time through the property tax bill; and

WHEREAS this financing structure has proven to be an effective tool for enabling homeowners to make major investments that improve environmental sustainability and climate resilience; and

WHEREAS the Better Homes Ottawa Loan Program is scheduled to undergo a comprehensive program review, including alignment with Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) partnership requirements; and

WHEREAS there is currently no comparable financing program available to rural residents to support essential infrastructure upgrades such as wells, septic systems, and permanently installed standby generators;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council direct staff to include, as part of the upcoming Better Homes Ottawa program review, an assessment of opportunities to expand or adapt the program to support rural infrastructure upgrades, including private wells, septic systems, and permanently installed standby generators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff be directed to evaluate the feasibility of delivering such a program through:

- an expansion of the existing Better Homes Ottawa financing program; or
- a new standalone program specifically designed for rural properties and private servicing infrastructure;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the staff report include:

options for financing using a Local Improvement Charge or similar property-based repayment model; potential funding sources, including federal and provincial climate-adaptation and resilience programs; eligibility criteria that prioritize climate resilience, water security, and protection of groundwater resources; and a proposed implementation timeline and estimated financial impact to the City;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff report back to the appropriate Standing Committee and Council as part of the Better Homes Ottawa Loan Program review, anticipated in Q3 2027.

13.2 Motion – Councillor I. Skalski (on behalf of Councillor C. Kitts - Improving Road Safety at Tenth Line Road and Wall Road)

WHEREAS the intersection of Tenth Line Road and Wall Road is a rural intersection experiencing increased traffic volumes due to ongoing growth and development in the area; and

WHEREAS recent collision data provided by the Ottawa Police Service indicates an emerging trend, with six reported collisions in 2024 and

2025 combined and highlights the importance of ongoing efforts to support driver awareness and road safety; and

WHEREAS the intersection meets the City's traffic signal warrant criteria and a permanent solution, such as traffic signals or a roundabout, is anticipated to be considered through the 2027 budget process and any interim measures would be subject to staff review, prioritization, and available funding; and

WHEREAS the City is implementing interim safety improvements at this location, including enhanced warning signage, larger stop signs, pavement marking changes, and lighting adjustments; and

WHEREAS the intersection does not currently meet City's requirements or provincial recommendations for the installation of flashing mounted beacons; and

WHEREAS flashing warning beacons mounted on signs are a relatively low-cost intervention that can improve driver awareness and reduce the risk of angle and high-speed collisions at rural intersections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff be directed to install mounted flashing warning beacons on signs at the intersection of Tenth Line Road and Wall Road as an interim safety measure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for this work be allocated from the existing general Traffic Services Operations budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff continue to monitor collision data at this intersection and report back as part of future budget considerations for a permanent intersection control solution, in consultation with the Ward Councillor.

14. Inquiries

There were no Inquiries.

15. Other Business

15.1 Motion – Councillor I. Skalski – Management of Excess Soils

Councillor I. Skalski introduced the following Motion, asked that Committee waive the Rules of Procedure to deal with it due to the time-sensitivity of the

matter, and spoke to the Motion to provide context. The Motion was then put before Committee, and its recommendations were 'Carried', as presented.

Motion NO ARAC 2026 34-02

Moved by Councillor I. Skalski:

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended to consider the following motion at today's meeting as the matter is time sensitive as excess soils will start being moved again shortly with the onset of construction season, especially once the spring load restrictions are lifted.

WHEREAS the management, transport, reuse, and disposal of excess soil (also known as fill) is governed by Ontario Regulation 406/19 – *On-Site and Excess Soil Management*;

AND WHEREAS under this regulation, sites receiving more than 10,000 m³ of excess soil must be registered in a public online registry administered by the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA);

AND WHEREAS the Province does not require municipalities to be notified when a large excess soil reuse site is registered within their boundaries;

AND WHEREAS the Province does not require that a fill management plan be prepared or made public for large reuse sites, but only recommends such plans as a best practice;

AND WHEREAS without mandatory municipal notification or required fill management plans, municipalities may be unaware of significant soil importation activities until impacts occur;

AND WHEREAS the uncontrolled importation of large volumes of excess soil can generate substantial truck traffic, road degradation, dust, odour, noise, erosion, stormwater impacts, invasive species spread, and potential groundwater concerns;

AND WHEREAS in the absence of advance notice and proactive planning requirements, municipalities are limited to reactive enforcement of existing by-laws after impacts to residents, infrastructure, and the natural environment have already occurred;

AND WHEREAS several Ontario municipalities have adopted by-laws or site plan control measures to address excess soil reuse activities in order to mitigate negative impacts and close regulatory gaps;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend Council direct:

- 1. Staff to report back by Q3 2027 with a review of how other Ontario municipalities regulate or oversee excess soil reuse sites, including mechanisms such as site plan control, haul route agreements, fill management plan requirements, road use agreements, and nuisance mitigation measures; and**
- 2. As part of this report and within the confines of applicable provincial statute and regulation, staff provide recommendations to Council on how to best strengthen the City's regulatory or oversight approach to excess soil reuse and disposal sites so as to close gaps that otherwise limit the City's ability to ensure that these properties are managed appropriately; and**
- 3. In the interim, by the end of Q2 2026, staff bring forward for Council's approval an amendment to the Site Alteration By-law 2024-448 requiring owners or operators of excess soil reuse sites, or of registered projects using such sites, within the City of Ottawa to notify the City and the local Ward Councillor within five (5) days of registering with the province.**

Carried

16. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Next Meeting – Thursday, 07 May 2026.

Original signed by
C. Zwierzchowski, Committee
Coordinator

Original signed by
Councillor C. Kelly, Acting Chair