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To: Bill Pyatt, CAO  
From: Mia Frankl, Forest Information Officer  
Re: Recommendation on composition of Forest Advisory  
Committee  
Date: March 21<sup>st</sup> 2007

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# REPORT

**WHEREAS** County Council approved the establishment of a Forest Advisory Committee for the Northumberland County Forest;

**AND WHEREAS** invitations were issued to a broad range of stakeholder groups;

**AND WHEREAS** citizen representation for the Townships of Hamilton and Alnwick/Haldimand was advertised for in local papers and candidate applications were evaluated and qualifying candidates were interviewed;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the following representative groups and Township residents be accepted to sit on the Forest Advisory Committee as listed in **Appendix A** attached to this report.

## 1. Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to present Council with the results of the recruitment of members for the Northumberland County Forest Advisory Committee. County staff recommends that Council approve the named contacts and stakeholders to sit on this committee to provide advice to Council in regards to developing a management plan for the Northumberland County Forest.

## 2. Background

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007 County Council approved the staff recommendation to establish a Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) for the Northumberland County Forest. Staff has since sent letters of invitation to previously identified forest stakeholders and received acknowledgements of acceptance from the following groups listed in **Appendix A** attached to this report.

The role of the FAC will be to:

- To make recommendations to County Council
- To provide a forum for all sectors of the community to contribute to the discussions on the future of the County Forest.

Because of the number of stakeholders involved, the size of the Committee has the potential to grow to an unworkable number. Staff believe that the Committee needs to be kept at 20 members or less so as to be able to function effectively. The recommended seats provide for one person from each stakeholder group. Over the course of the past 2 months, staff have received requests from additional groups as follows:

- Northumberland Youth Advisory Council
- Town of Cobourg
- Friends of the Northumberland Forest
- Northumberland Metis Council.

### **3. Membership Recommendations**

#### **3.1 Previously Identified Stakeholder Groups**

On January 24<sup>th</sup> County Council authorized staff to contact the following stakeholder groups and request that they appoint a representative:-

- Northumberland & District ATV Riders
- Northumberland Trail Riders
- Great Pine Ridge Snowmobile Group
- Cobourg Cycling Club
- Northumberland Cross Country Skiers
- Ontario Comp. Trail Riding Association
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- Pine Ridge Orienteers
- Oak Ridges Trail Association
- Alderville First Nations
- Lower Trent Conservation Association
- Ganaraska Conservation Authority
- Willow Beach Field Naturalists
- Hamilton Township Council
- Alnwick/Haldimand Township Council.

All of the above agencies responded with their designated choices for the Committee and they are listed in **Appendix A** to this report.

#### **3.2 Citizen Representatives**

Council authorized staff to publicly advertise for 2 citizen representatives – one each for

Alnwick/Halldimand and Hamilton Townships. Six letters of interest were received – 2 from Alnwick/Halldimand and 4 from Hamilton. The applications were evaluated based upon the following criteria:-

- Resident of township
- Committee participation experience
- Forest user and/or knowledge of forests
- Professional or educational background related to forestry, recreation and community planning
- Communication skills

Two candidates (from Hamilton Township) were tied and interviews took place on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 with Councillor Delanty and two County staff. The following is the results of the citizens' recruitment:-

<b>Alnwick/Halldimand</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
1. Chris Drew	✓
2. Gary Settington	X

<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
1. Brian Tobin	X
2. Norm Richards	✓
3. Jay Sherwin	X
4. John Geale	X

### 3.3 Northumberland Youth Advisory Council

As noted earlier in this report, the January 24<sup>th</sup> report to Council generated interest from different areas of the County in serving on the FAC. The Northumberland Youth Advisory Council came forward asking to be represented. County staff believe that this segment of the population needs to be represented and recommend to Council that their request be granted.

### 3.4 Town of Cobourg

The Town of Cobourg has requested representation on the FAC. Please refer to the attached letter. Staff are recommending that this request not be granted as the Town is represented on County Council which will be ultimately making all final decisions on the future use of the Forest. This request does not provide a new stakeholder group which might not be otherwise represented on the FAC. Throughout the study process there will be opportunities for all Cobourg residents and residents from the other six municipalities to provide input through Open Houses and Public Meetings.

### 3.5 Friends of Northumberland Forest

Please refer to the attached letter from Gretchen Harris, Chairperson of Friends of the Northumberland Forest, requesting committee membership. County staff are not recommending that this request be accepted as there is already one environmental group on the Committee - The Willow Beach Field Naturalists. Willow Beach Field Naturalists has been in existence for many more years and has a proven track record of years of committee participation. As noted in Section 3.4, there will be ample opportunities for this group also to provide input into the study process.

### 3.6 Northumberland Métis Council

Staff received a request from the Northumberland Métis Council seeking representation of the FAC. Staff are not recommending that this request be granted as First Nations input will be provided by the Alderville First Nation. Again, the Northumberland Métis Council's input will be welcomed throughout the study at all of the public participation events.

## 4. Chairperson

The Forest programs fall under the responsibility of the Corporate Services Council Coordinators – Warden Hector Macmillan and Councillor Peter Delanty. Councillor Delanty graciously volunteered to serve as the first Chairperson of the Committee. It is important that the first Chairperson be a person with experience in chairing large committees.

## 5. Conclusion

These forest stakeholders have accepted to sit on the Forest Advisory Committee to work in cooperation to review and make recommendations to County Council for a balanced forest plan. The next step is the first Committee meeting, for which County staff will prepare an agenda covering a general overview of the Forest and its biology, a field tour, a presentation on the Oak Ridges Moraine legislation and a presentation on the process the Committee will be following. Subsequent meetings will result in asking for approval from Council for the Terms of Reference and a prioritized work plan.

## Appendix A

<b>Stakeholder Group</b>		<b>Contact</b>
1	Chair & Representative from Northumberland County Council	Delanty, Peter
2	Northumberland & District ATV Riders	Ainsworth, Mike
3	Lower Trent Conservation	Anderson, Anne
4	Northumberland Youth Advisory Council	Cleary, Peter
5	Resident Alnwick/Halldimand Township	Drew, Chris
6	Northumberland Cross County Skiers	Gillespie, Alasdair
7	Cobourg Cycling Club	Hennessy, Peter
8	Hamilton Township Council, Deputy Mayor	Hie, Isobel
9	Northumberland Trail Riders	Kennedy, Bob
10	Oak Ridges Trail Association	Lawley, Tim
11	Great Pine Ridge Snowmobile Association	Linton, Barb
12	Pine Ridge Orienteers	Malanczyj, Roman
13	Ontario Competitive Trail Riding Association	Mason, Helen
14	Alnwick/Halldimand Township, Deputy Mayor	McDonald, Dalton
15	Northumberland Stewardship Council	McLeod, Glenn
16	Alderville First Nation	McLeod, Janine
17	Ganaraska Conservation Authority	McMullen, Stephen
18	Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters	Monaghan, Norm
19	Resident Hamilton Township	Richards, Norm
20	Willow Beach Field Naturalists	Walter, Ben