

Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority

Annual Performance Report 2022-23



Chairperson's Message

The Honourable Elvis Loveless
Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture
Petten Building
30 Strawberry Marsh Road
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

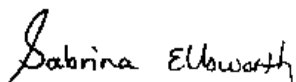
Dear Minister Loveless:

In accordance with the provisions of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for category three public bodies, I am pleased to submit the 2022-23 Annual Performance Report for the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority (the Authority) for the period April 1, 2022, to March 31, 2023.

The Authority was successful in working towards the indicators of its objective for the reporting period, which is the third and final year of its associated 2020-2023 Activity Plan. Progress towards the achievement of the commitments of Government related to the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA) have been described in this report. Specifically, the work undertaken will assist in reaching the commitment to increase Newfoundland and Labrador's food self-sufficiency.

My signature below is on behalf of the Authority and is indicative of the Authority's accountability for the results reported for 2022-23.

Respectfully submitted,



Sabrina Ellsworth, P.Ag
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 3 of the **Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations** (the Regulations) under the **Lands Act** (the Act) provides for the appointment of the Authority. The Authority reviews applications for development in the Wooddale Agriculture Development Area (Wooddale ADA), located near Bishop's Falls, to ensure that development within the area is planned and carried out in such a way that the full potential of the area's resources is reached.

Members of the Authority are appointed by the Minister of FFA (the Minister). In accordance with the Regulations, the Authority must have at least five members, including a Chairperson and a Secretary. As of March 31, 2023, the Authority had six members from FFA, representing different areas of expertise.

The members of the Authority as of March 31, 2023, included the following:

Name	Position	Representing
Sabrina Ellsworth	Chairperson	Director, Agriculture Marketing and Research, FFA
William Snow	Secretary	Land Management Officer, FFA
Vacant	Member	Forest Ecosystem Manager, Forest Services, FFA
Vacant	Member	Industry Development Officer, FFA
Rodger Primmer	Member	Regional Lands Manager, Crown Lands, FFA
Megan Nichols	Member	Land Management Officer, FFA

All members are appointed by virtue of their position. The Authority receives extensive operational support from FFA. Departmental employees appointed to the Authority perform many day-to-day administrative functions regarding administration of the Regulations and may consult other staff regarding individual applications where necessary. There are no operating expenses as all members are Government of Newfoundland and Labrador employees.

This report is available in alternate formats. For more information, please contact: Sabrina Ellsworth, Director of Agriculture Production and Research, Corner Brook, at 709-637-2047 or SabrinaEllsworth@gov.nl.ca.

Mandate

The Authority was established to consider applications for land development activities in the Wooddale ADA as defined by the Act, and as further described in subsection 3(3) and subsection 3(4) of the Regulations. A map of the Wooddale ADA is included below in Appendix A. The Authority may approve and issue permits or notices of approval, refuse

applications, cancel permits and exercise other powers necessary to assess land development applications under the Regulations.

For more detail on the Regulations, please refer to the House of Assembly website at: <http://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc961080.htm>

The Authority has no identified lines of business as it would be repetitive of its mandate to consider applications for land development activities in the Wooddale ADA.

Through assessment of applications for development activities in the Wooddale ADA, the Authority contributes to the vision of FFA. The vision of FFA is that of sustainable renewable resources that are responsibly developed for the social, cultural, ecological and economic well-being of the province.

Highlights and Partnerships

The Authority works in partnership with FFA and the farming community to support sustainable development within the Wooddale ADA. This partnership is of utmost importance in the protection of our agricultural land resources and to support agricultural development and food self-sufficiency in the province. The Authority continued to partner with FFA during fiscal 2022-23 to work towards its mandate as described above.

Report on Performance

The Authority reviews applications for all proposed developments within the boundaries of the Wooddale ADA in accordance with the Regulations. Applications are reviewed by the Authority requiring a quorum of three members, including the Chairperson and Secretary. All applications are considered under the Regulations and are either approved or refused according to same. The applicant(s) are notified of the decision of the Authority. In the case of a refusal, the applicant may appeal in writing to the Minister within 30 days after the applicant is notified of the decision.

Regulating development in the Wooddale ADA ensures consistency with agricultural purposes. The activities of the Authority support the Provincial Government's commitment to increase food self-sufficiency in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The following objective and indicators, as outlined in the 2020-23 Activity Plan, have guided the Authority in achieving its mandate during this reporting period. This is the third and final year of the 2020-23 planning period. For more information, please see the plan here: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/WLDAAActivityPlan2020-23.pdf>.

Applications to the Authority are normally for additional parcels of land or capital developments on existing holdings. During the reporting period, there were no applications submitted to the Authority.

Issue

Development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area

Objective 2022-23

By March 31, 2023, the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority will have worked to ensure development activities in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area are compliant with the Act and Regulations, thus supporting ongoing, sustainable agricultural development in the area.

Indicators

- Reviewed all applications and rendered decisions:
 - In fiscal 2022-23, there were no applications submitted to the Authority. Therefore, no applications were reviewed or decisions rendered.
- Updated applications registry to reflect decisions:
 - In fiscal 2022-23, there were no applications submitted to the Authority. Therefore, no updates to the applications registry were necessary.
- Communicated decisions to applicants in a timely manner:
 - In fiscal 2022-23, there were no applications submitted to the Authority. Therefore, there were no decisions to communicate to applicants.
- Monitored development activities for compliance with Regulations:
 - During the 2022-23 fiscal year, members of the Authority monitored development activities within the Wooddale ADA while carrying out their departmental duties.
- Communicated requirements for development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area, as per the Regulations, to all landowners in the development area:
 - These requirements were communicated to all landowners via a mail out of the Wooddale Regulations in March 2023.

- It was further communicated to managers of the various funding programs with FFA that certain developments within the ADA would require approval by the Authority before funding is approved.

Opportunities and Challenges

While the Wooddale ADA is rather large, the amount of arable land, particularly land that is suitable for vegetable crop production, has been significantly utilized to a point where there are few options for farm expansion. In an effort to address this challenge, FFA has worked to identify other lands adjacent to but outside of the Wooddale ADA. The acquisition and lot planning of these additional lands allowed existing farmers to expand and new entrants to enter the industry.

The majority of the lands identified adjacent to the Wooddale ADA fall within an Agricultural Area of Interest (AOI) and this presents an opportunity to help mitigate the decreasing supply of arable land. Going forward, agriculture will be the primary use within these AOI's.

Financial Statements

Audited statements are not required as the Authority is budgeted through FFA. There are no operating expenses as all members are Government of Newfoundland and Labrador employees.

Annex A – Wooddale Agriculture Development Area

