

Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority

Annual Performance Report

April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014





Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority

Chairperson's Message

Honourable Derrick Dalley
Minister of Natural Resources and Minister Responsible
for the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Natural Resources Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

In accordance with the provisions of the *Transparency and Accountability Act* for category 3 public bodies, I am pleased to submit the Annual Performance Report for the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority.

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority was successful in achieving all indicators of its objective for the reporting period. The Authority was also successful in furthering the Strategic Directions of the Provincial Government to ensure the sustainability of the agriculture and agrifoods industry.

My signature below is on behalf of the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority and is indicative of the Authority's accountability for the results reported on its activities for 2013-2014.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. MacDonald".

Cynthia MacDonald, P.Ag
Chairperson

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Overview..... | 1 |
| Contact Information:..... | 1 |
| Values: | 2 |
| Clients: | 2 |
| Vision:..... | 2 |
| Mission:..... | 2 |
| Activities..... | 3 |
| Objective:..... | 4 |
| Measure:..... | 4 |
| Indicators: | 4 |
| Opportunities and Challenges | 5 |
| Financial Statements | 5 |
| Conclusions..... | 5 |

Overview

Section 3 of the *Wooddale (Agriculture) Development Area Regulations* under the *Lands Act* provides for the appointment of a Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority. The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority reviews applications for development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area to ensure that development within the area is planned and carried out in such a way that the full potential of the areas resources is reached. The Authority is to be appointed by the Minister. The Authority must have at least five people which will include a Chairperson and a Secretary. In keeping with the regulations, the Authority is made of members from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, as well as other resource departments.

The current membership of the Wooddale Land Development Authority was in place during the whole of the 2013-2014 reporting year with the exception of Ms. Jennifer Eustace who was appointed by the Minister on September 25, 2013.

Membership during 2013-2014 included:

Ms. Cynthia MacDonald, Chairperson, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Mr. William Snow, Secretary, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Ms. Jennifer Eustace, Agrifoods Development Branch, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Mr. Bill Rowsell, Agrifoods Development Branch, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency
Mr. Roger Primmer, Lands Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation
Mr. Jason Pond, Forestry Services Branch, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority receives extensive operational support from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. Employees of the Agrifoods Development Branch who are 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. Budgetary support for operations is provided through the Agency as well.

Contact Information:

Mr. William Snow, Land Management Officer, Pynns Brook (T) 686-2702

Mandate:

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority was established to consider applications for land development in the Wooddale (Agriculture) Development Area, located near Bishops Falls. 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 further details, please refer to the *Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Order* and/or the *Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations*, both established under the *Lands Act*.

Values:

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority performs its duties within the following core values: integrity, respect and professionalism, collaboration, innovation, safety, productivity and timeliness.

Clients:

The clients of the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority are members of the general public who apply to develop land in the Wooddale (Agriculture) Development Area.

Vision:

Through assessment of applications for opportunities to develop land in the Wooddale (Agriculture) Development Area, the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to the vision of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. The vision of the Agency, which is part of the Department of Natural Resources, is stated as follows:

“The vision of the Department of Natural Resources is a province that realizes the full benefit from the sustainable development of its natural resources.”

Mission:

Planning guidelines associated with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* encourage small public bodies like the Authority, to consider the development of mission statements. A mission statement should represent the priority focus area of a public body over two planning cycles (six years) and should be accompanied by measures and indicators that will help evaluate success at the end of the six-year period. The planning guidelines provide the flexibility, however, for small public bodies to determine for themselves whether the development of mission statements adds value to planning efforts.

During the development of its 2011-14 Activity Plan, the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority determined that its mandate accurately represents its priority focus and, therefore, a mission statement would be unduly repetitive. As a result, the Authority opted to forgo the development of its own mission statement and, instead, to illustrate its role in supporting the mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.

The Agency's mission, along with associated measures and indicators, was developed as part of its 2011-14 strategic planning exercise. The mission statement is as follows:

“By March 31, 2017, the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency will have supported programs and services to strengthen and sustain forestry, agriculture and agrifoods industry development in an innovative and economically beneficial manner.”

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority helps strengthen and sustain the province's agriculture industry by regulating development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area to ensure development is consistent with agricultural purposes. In this manner it provides general support to the Agency's mission. The Authority has no material impact on achievement of specific measures and indicators associated with the Agency's mission and, as such, no specific results are included in this report.

To view the complete mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, refer to its 2011-14 Strategic Plan which can be found on the Department of Natural Resources' website at www.gov.nl.ca/nr.

Activities

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority reviews applications for all proposed developments within the boundaries of the Development Area in accordance to the regulations. Applications are submitted on the appropriate forms. Applications are reviewed by the Authority provided there is a quorum of three members including the Chairperson and Secretary. All applications are given due consideration under the regulations and are either approved or refused according to same. The applicant(s) are notified of the decision of the Authority in a timely manner. In the case of a refusal, the applicant may appeal in writing to the Minister within thirty (30) days after the applicant is notified of the decision by the Authority.

By regulating development in the Wooddale (Agriculture) Development Area to ensure consistency with agricultural purposes, the activities of the Authority support government's strategic directions, as stated in the Forestry and Agrifoods 2011-2014 Strategic Plan, toward agriculture and agrifoods resource sustainability as well as agriculture and agrifoods innovation, promotion and development.

Objective:

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.

Measure:

Development activities are compliant with the Act and Regulations

Indicators:

- Reviewed all applications and rendered decisions
- Updated applications registry to reflect decisions
- Communicated decisions to applicants in a timely manner
- Monitored development activities for compliance with regulations

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority met seven times during the 2013-14 year and received and reviewed nine applications for development. All of the applications were for farm related developments within the Wooddale (Agriculture) Development Area. All applications were approved. Of the applications reviewed and approved, five were for farm related structures and four were for conveyances of Agricultural Leases from the Crown to the applicant. The Secretary of the Authority maintained and updated the registry of the applications. Members of the Authority visit Wooddale several times a year to monitor development activity and ensure compliance with respect to the regulations.

The 2011-2014 Activity Plan of the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority is available from Mr. William Snow (686-2702), Secretary of the Authority. The Activity Plan is available on the Department of Natural Resources' website at: www.gov.nl.ca/nr.

Opportunities and Challenges

All development within the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area requires application to the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority, including land development on both Crown and private titles. The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority expects a similar number of applications as in previous years. It is anticipated the approval of new Crown land applications will result in the review and anticipated approval of a number of conveyances by the Authority. This provides an opportunity for the Authority to facilitate the continued growth of the agriculture industry in the Wooddale (Agriculture) Development Area.

Section 30 of the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area Regulations requires that conveyances of land within the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area in the form of a grant, lease, license or assurance must be registered at the Registry of Deeds with proof of the Minister's permission within 30 days of the actual exchange of the parcel of land. Having the land registered in a timely manner is a challenge and non-compliance within the time frame places the applicant in contravention of the Regulations. Reasons for delays have been identified and the Authority is working with applicants and other Departments to resolve this challenge.

Financial Statements

Audited statements are not required as the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority is budgeted through the Department of Natural Resources. There are no per diems, travel or other costs associated with the administration of the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority.

Conclusions

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority is committed to fulfilling its mandate and will continue to do its part to further the vision and mission of the Department of Natural Resources, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency.