

Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority
Annual Performance Report 2020-21



Chairperson's Message

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

Dear Minister Bragg:

In accordance with the provisions of the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for category 3 public bodies, I am pleased to submit the 2020-21 Annual Performance Report for the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority for the period April 1, 2020, to March 31, 2021.

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority was successful in achieving all indicators of its objective for the reporting period. Progress towards the achievement of the commitments of government related to the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture have been described in this report. More specifically, the work undertaken will assist in reaching the target to increase Newfoundland and Labrador's food self-sufficiency.

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 for 2020-21.

Respectfully submitted,



David Jennings, P.Ag
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 3 of the **Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations** (the Regulations) under the **Lands Act** provides for the appointment of a Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority (the Authority). The Authority reviews applications for development in the Wooddale Agricultural 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 Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (FFA). The Authority must have at least five members, including a Chairperson and a Secretary. As of March 31, 2021, the Authority had six members from FFA, representing different areas of interest and one vacancy.

The members of the Authority as of March 31, 2021, included the following:

Name	Position	Representing
David Jennings	Chair	Director, Agriculture Marketing and Research, FFA
William Snow	Secretary	Land Management Officer, FFA
Erica Cole	Member	Industry Development Officer, FFA
Rodger Primmer	Member	Regional Lands Manager, Crown Lands, FFA
Brian Carter	Member	Forest Ecosystem Manager, Forest Services, 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 further information, contact: William Snow, Land Management Officer, Pynns Brook (T) 709-686-2702 or billsnow@gov.nl.ca.

Mandate

The Authority was established to consider applications for land development activities in the Wooddale Agriculture Development Area as defined by the **Lands Act**, and as further described in subsection 3(3) and subsection 3(4) of the **Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations**. A map of the Wooddale Agriculture Development Area 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 web site at: <http://www.assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc961080.htm>

The Authority has not identified lines of business, as this would be repetitive of its mandate.

Through assessment of applications for development activities in the Wooddale ADA, the Authority contributes to the vision of the Department. 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 2020-21 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 of FFA 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 government's commitment to increase food self-sufficiency in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The same objective and indicators outlined in the 2020-23 Activity Plan will be used for all three years of the plan.

Applications to the authority are normally for additional parcels of land or capital developments on existing holdings. During the reporting period, one application was received.

Issue

Development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area

Objective 2020-21

By March 31, 2021, 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:
 - The Authority received, reviewed, and rendered a decision on three applications during the 2020-21 fiscal year.
- Updated applications registry to reflect decisions:
 - The applications registry is updated with all decisions that were made during the 2020-21 fiscal year.
- Communicated decisions to applicants in a timely manner:
 - For all decisions made during the 2020-21 fiscal year, the applicant(s) were notified in writing within a week of the decision being rendered.
- Monitored development activities for compliance with regulations:
 - During the 2020-21 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:
 - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no mass mailing of the Wooddale Regulations during this fiscal year.

Opportunities and Challenges

While the Wooddale ADA is rather large, the amount of arable land, particularly for vegetable crop production, has been significantly utilized to a point where FFA has had 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. Fortunately, the majority of the lands identified adjacent to the Wooddale ADA fall within an Agricultural Area of Interest (AOI). This particular AOI, along with many others throughout the province, were adopted as agricultural reserves during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 fiscal years. Agriculture will be the primary use within these AOI's.

All meetings are held by teleconference as members of the Authority are located province wide. The COVID-19 pandemic does not affect the day-to-day work of the Authority.

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.

APPENDIX A – WOODDALE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT AREA

