

NSFA Agricultural Water Committee

Terms of Reference

Objective

To provide guidance for water related issues which are of strategic value to the NS farm community in the areas of stewardship and management.

Goals

- To build understanding and acceptance among Nova Scotia farmers of the importance of water and its efficient use.
- To increase support for the agricultural industry from the general public by demonstrating the strategic actions taken by farm business to protect and manage Nova Scotia's water resources.
- To identify partners and create opportunities for partnership in areas relating to water stewardship and sustainable use
- To provide for maintenance of a sustainable quantity and quality of water for agricultural operations
- To negotiate on behalf of farmers on water permit and water withdrawal issues.

These goals will be achieved through a committee which will be known as the NSFA Agricultural Water Committee.

Committee Representation

Representation on the Committee will consist of:

- 1 NSFA Executive Member
- 4 NSFA Members at Large
- 1 representative from NSDA
- 1 representative from NS Environment
- 1 representative from NS Fisheries and Aquaculture
- 1 NSFA Staff
- 1 EFP Staff
- 1 representative from the AAFC Science Branch

Planning and secretarial support will be provided by the NSFA.

Meeting participation will be expanded on an 'as needed' basis. Industry, Government and other individuals may be invited to attend meetings and share expertise when required.

Each new committee membership is a 3-year term, for a maximum of 2 terms. Existing members will be introduced to staggered terms, any current member will be eligible for a 1,2, or 3-year term renewal (selected by random draw).

Meeting Logistics

Chair:

Meetings will be chaired by the NSFA Executive Committee representative

Frequency and Scheduling:

Meetings will be held on an “as needed” basis.

Location:

Meetings will be held in Truro or in any other location as needed. Depending on the topic(s) some meetings may be facilitated through a conference call.

Agenda Setting:

Agenda items will deal with water issues.

Records of Discussions:

Attendance and outcomes of discussions (agreed upon decisions) with ‘move forward’ actions will be recorded.

Operating Principals:

1. Discussions are open and frank and committee members will be expected to exercise discretion with information that is confidential in nature and that is shared in confidence.
2. Committee members participate in good faith respecting the fact that there may be differences of opinions based on their respective mandates and corporate interests.
3. Committee members seek to find common ground on matters of shared/ common interests and are committed to moving forward decisions and actions that have been mutually agreed upon.
4. Points of view and understanding of this committee in its majority will be endorsed by the committee.

Roles and Responsibilities**NS Federation of Agriculture**

- Provide dates for the meetings;
- Participate in agenda preparation;
- Determine and coordinate required meeting participation;
- Ensure meetings are conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order operating principles;
- Provide required support materials;
- Provide information to the Council of Leaders and membership by Newsletter, website, and E-Newsletter;
- Be responsible for all written correspondence and be the signatory on behalf of the committee; and
- Provide coverage for expenses for NSFA representatives attending meetings of this group.

Committee Members

- Provide leadership in the area of implementation of the requests contained within resolutions or requests addressed to the committee.
- Attend Committee meetings and participate in Committee activities whenever possible; three consecutive missed meetings without cause triggers automatic dismissal from the committee.

Approved by the NSFA Council of Leaders, April 2018