

Agriculture Wildlife Issues Committee

Terms of Reference

OBJECTIVE

To create a forum that will enable timely communications and discussion of major agricultural issues which interact with wildlife. This will be achieved through a committee which will be known as the Agriculture Wildlife Issues Committee.

COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

Representation on the Committee will consist of:

- NSFA registered farms representing farms most commonly affected by wildlife and trails issues:
 - 3 NSFA Members at Large
 - 1 representative from NSFA Executive
- 4 representatives from NS Department of Natural resources
- 2 representatives from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
- 1 representative from the Nova Scotia Crop & Livestock Insurance Commission
- 1 representative from Perennia
- 1 representative from NS Federation of Anglers and Hunters
- NSFA Executive Director (ex officio)

Planning and secretarial support will be provided by the NSFA.

Meeting participation will be expanded on an 'as needed' basis. Industry members and other government officials 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:

When the committee meetings are held in Truro/Bible Hill, NSFA staff will chair and when meetings are held in Kentville, DNR staff will chair.

Frequency and Scheduling:

Meetings will be held on an "as needed" basis with a minimum of once a year.

Location:

Meetings will alternate between Truro/Bible Hill and Kentville 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 broad agricultural issues which interact with wildlife that are of interest to the industry and Nova Scotia Dept. of Natural Resources.

Records of Discussions:

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

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

1. Discussions are open and frank and committee members exercise discretion with information that is confidential in nature and that is shared in confidence.
2. Committee members recognize the individualized mandates of the respective parties and the situational contexts within which they operate.
3. Committee members participate in good faith respecting the fact that there may be differences of opinions based on their respective mandates and corporate interests.
4. 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.

ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES

NS Federation of Agriculture will:

- Provide dates for the meetings;
- Participate in agenda preparation;
- Determine and coordinate required meeting participation;
- Ensure meetings are conducted in accordance with operating principles;
- Provide required support materials;
- Provide information to the Council of Leaders and membership by Newsletter, website, and E-News letter; and
- Provide coverage for expenses for NSFA representatives attending meetings of this group.

All Members will:

- Provide subject matter expertise in their respective areas of responsibility and experience.
- Provide leadership in implementing requests pertaining to their respective areas of responsibility that are contained within resolutions or requests addressed to the committee.
- Arrange for the presentation of the documented requests to the appropriate parties and departments for their careful consideration in a timely manner.
Each party charged with addressing a particular issue is requested to make a serious attempt to resolve the issue brought forward, offer/negotiate an alternate solution to the issue at hand, or adequately explain why the request cannot be accomplished.
- Attend Committee meetings and participate in Committee activities whenever possible; three consecutive missed meetings without cause triggers automatic dismissal from the committee.

Approved by NSFA Council of Leaders, September, 2014