

Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority

Activity Plan

Fiscal Years 2014-17



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
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Dear Minister:

In accordance with the *Transparency and Accountability Act*, I am pleased to submit the Performance-Based Activity Plan for the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority, as a category 3 public body. This Plan covers the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017.

The Authority has a mandate to ensure that plans for development within the Wooddale Agriculture Development Area conform with the provisions of the *Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations* under the *Lands Act*.

The Authority has reviewed the relevant strategic directions of the Provincial Government and has prepared this plan to support the direction of enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the agriculture and agrifoods sectors.

My signature below is on behalf of the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority and is indicative of the Authority's accountability for the preparation of this plan and the achievement of its annual objective.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia MacDonald, P. Ag.
Chairperson

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1. Overview

Section 3 (3) and Section 3 (4) of the *Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations* under the *Lands Act* provides for the appointment of a Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority. 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. The Authority may include a representative of the Agrifoods Development Branch as Chairperson; a representative from the Forestry Services Branch, Department of Natural Resources; representatives from the Agrifoods Development Branch, Department of Natural Resources; and officers or staff from other resource Departments.

The Authority presently consists of the following members:

Cynthia MacDonald – Chairperson, Director of Agriculture Business Development Division, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

William Snow – Secretary, Land Management Officer, Land Resource Stewardship Division, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Jennifer Eustace – Land Management Specialist, Land Resource Stewardship Division, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Bill Rowsell – Agricultural Representative, Agriculture Business Development Division, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Jason Pond – District Ecosystem Manager, Regional Services Division, Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, Department of Natural Resources.

Rodger Primmer – Regional Lands Manager, Lands Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation.

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority receives extensive operational support from the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency. Employees of the Agency perform many day to day administrative functions. Budgetary support for operations is provided through the Agency, as well.

2. Mandate

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority was established to consider applications for development activities in the Wooddale Agriculture Development Area as defined by the *Lands Act* and as further described in Section 3 (3) and Section 3 (4) of the *Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Regulations*. A map of the Wooddale Agriculture Development Area is included in Appendix B. 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://assembly.nl.ca/Legislation/sr/regulations/rc961079.htm>.

3. Core Values and Guiding Principles

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority performs its duties within the core values and guiding principles established by the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency:

Integrity - Each individual will be honest, dependable, fair, credible and trustworthy. They will openly acknowledge mistakes, seek to correct them and learn from them.

Respect and Professionalism - Each individual will apply legislation and policies equitably and will serve the Department's client groups to the fullest extent possible.

Collaboration - Each individual will seek the opinions and ideas of others in the application of legislation and policies.

Innovation - Each individual will demonstrate initiative and flexibility in responding to challenges and change.

Safety - Each individual views the personal safety of themselves and co-workers in the highest regard and will promote workplace safety at all times.

Productive – Each individual will maximize their productivity and efficiency in carrying out their duties.

Timely – Each individual will conduct their duties in a timely manner and meet all established deadlines.

4. Primary Clients

The clients of the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority are agricultural landowners in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area and members of the general public who apply to undertake development activities in the Wooddale Agriculture Development Area.

5. Vision

Through assessment of applications for development activities in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area, the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority contributes to the vision of the Department of Natural Resources, 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.”

6. Mission

Planning guidelines associated with the *Transparency and Accountability Act* encourage all public bodies to consider the development of mission statements. The guidelines provide the flexibility, however, for small public bodies like the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority to determine for themselves whether the development of a mission statement will add value to planning efforts. A mission statement, if developed, should represent the priority focus area of a public body and should be accompanied by measures and indicators that will help evaluate success at the end of the planning period.

During the development of its 2014-17 Activity Plan, the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority determined that its mandate, as stated above, 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, part of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Forestry and Agrifoods Agency's 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 Authority has a role in strengthening and sustaining the agriculture industry by making recommendations on applications for development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area to ensure development is consistent with agricultural purposes, as required under the regulations. No specific mission-related results have been targeted in this plan as the Authority has no material impact on achievement of specific measures and indicators associated with the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency's mission.

To view the complete mission of the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency, refer to its 2014-17 Strategic Plan which can be found on the Department of Natural Resources' website at www.gov.nl.ca/nr.

8. Objective

The *Wooddale Agricultural Development Area Regulations* were established to support ongoing sustainable agricultural development in the area. The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority reviews applications for all proposed developments within the boundaries of the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area in accordance with 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.

The following “issue” has been identified as the key priority of the Authority for the three year period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017. In selecting this priority, the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority considered the relevant strategic directions of the Provincial Government. In particular, the Authority considered the strategic direction, as communicated by the Minister of Natural Resources, towards enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the agriculture and agrifoods sectors. The priority area is in line with this direction.

The objective below applies to each year covered by this plan and will be reported on in relevant annual reports.

Issue: Development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area

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
- Communicated requirements for development in the Wooddale Agricultural Development Area, as per the regulations, to all landowners in the development area

9. Appendix A: Strategic Directions

Strategic directions are the articulation of desired physical, social or economic outcomes and normally require action by more than one government entity. These directions are generally communicated by government through platform documents, Throne and Budget Speeches, policy documents and other communiqués. The *Transparency and Accountability Act* requires departments and public bodies to take into account these strategic directions in the preparation of their performance-based plans. This action will facilitate the integration of planning practices across government and will ensure that all entities are moving forward on key commitments.

The Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority needs to consider Strategic Directions as communicated to the Forestry and Agrifoods Agency by the Minister of Natural Resources. For the 2014-17 planning period, this direction is outlined in the table below.

Title	Natural Resource Development (Forestry, Agriculture and Agrifoods)
Outcome Statement	Enhanced utilization, sustainability and public awareness of the forestry, agriculture and agrifoods sectors.
Focus Areas	Industry Development Research and development Awareness and Education Resource Sustainability

The priority and activities outlined in the Wooddale Land Development Advisory Authority's 2014-17 Activity Plan are supportive of this Strategic Direction. The table below clearly identifies which of the strategic direction focus areas are addressed in the activity plan and which, if any, do not apply to the Authority.

Strategic Direction Component (Focus Area)	This direction is ...	
	addressed in the entity's Activity Plan	not applicable
Industry Development	X	
Research and Development		X
Awareness and Education	X	
Resource Sustainability	X	

10. Appendix B: Wooddale Agriculture Development Area Map

