



COUNTY OF SIMCOE



To: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Section: Consent – Corporate Services - Planning

Item Number: CCW 15-324

Meeting Date: September 22, 2015

Subject: Update on County Official Plan Ontario
Municipal Board Hearing Process

Recommendation:

THAT Item CCW 15-324, regarding updates on the County Official Plan Ontario Municipal Board Hearing Process, be received for information.

Executive Summary:

The County Official Plan has been under appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board for lack of decision since December 2009. The formal hearing process began with a first Pre-hearing Conference in March 2013. To date there have been 13 Pre-hearing Conferences.

The County was successful in receiving partial approval of the Plan in April 2013. Since then various topics have been pursued either through experts' meetings and/or Board-assisted mediation and has resulted in several additional parts of the Plan being approved without the need for contested hearing time. Further work on the remaining parts of the Plan has taken place throughout 2015 and continues. This report provides Council with an update on the parts of the Plan recently approved and what remains outstanding.

Background/Analysis/Options:

Since the last update to Council portions of the sections of the Plan that have been resolved and approved by the Board include:

- Infrastructure, General Development, Settlement, Healthy Communities
- Definitions (4)
- Agricultural
- Rural
- Waste Disposal (Mapping) sites - County and private

Some of the above noted sections were originally scheduled for extensive periods of OMB hearing time this year. Most of the issues were able to be resolved through several days of experts' meetings amongst the parties who declared an interest in the topics, and/or through Board-assisted mediation.

Agreement was also reached on the policies and modifications to bring the Plan into conformity with the Growth Plan and be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014. These sections of the Plan were presented to the Board by way of motions and supported by the parties. There were a few items being held by certain parties on a site/area-specific basis to their interests which are being further discussed, but these do not impact the policies coming into effect across the County.

Several site-specific and mapping matters have also been resolved by way of Motions. As these matters are being resolved they are being addressed by way of motions that are being dealt with at the Pre-hearings by the Ontario Municipal Board.

Policies approved since last update in February 2015

Total Policies Approved = 40

Total Definitions Approved = 4

Total Schedules Approved = 2

Total Policies, Definitions and Schedules Approved During Period = 46

Approximately 397 of the 504 policies in the Official Plan are approved. The County Plan is now 80% approved which is up +8% since February 2015. Twelve (12) of fourteen (14) Schedules are approved. The August 31, 2015 OMB order is attached as schedule 1 herein.

In the fall of 2015 the County Planning staff will be working on the Agriculture, Greenland, and Resource Conservation policies of the Official Plan. These sections are some of the most contentious sections that will be discussed. Some 35 appellant Planners' will be involved in the discussions to resolve these sections of the Plan. Other topics to be pursued this fall include Aggregate Development, Culture Heritage, Definitions and some site specific mapping issues.

The approach taken to date is time consuming but has been very successful in reaching agreement and resolving issues without the need for lengthy contested hearing time. Any time you go into a hearing the outcomes may not necessarily be favourable therefore it is in everybody's interest to discuss and resolve the issues. The Ontario Municipal Board strongly supports the approach being taken and continues to provide assistance as needed through a Board-appointed mediator.

The next scheduled Pre-hearings:

- Teleconference Pre- hearing Update: October 29, 2015
- OMB Pre-Hearing: December 3, 2015

Financial and Resource Implications:

Funds for this project have been allocated in the Operating Budget each year for the on-going OMB hearing. The approvals of the motions and successful experts' discussions have resulted in fewer actual hearing dates being required.

Relationship to Corporate Strategies:

No relationship to corporate strategies.

Reference Documents:

The County Official Plan is posted on the County website and is being kept updated as each OMB Order is issued.

Attachments:

Schedule 1 – August 31, 2015 - County Of Simcoe Official Plan OMB Order



for CCW 15-324
Schedule 1.pdf

Prepared By: David Parks, Director of Planning, Development and Tourism

Approvals:

Date:

Debbie Korolnek, General Manager, Engineering, Planning
and Environment
Lealand Sibbick, Treasurer
Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer

September 10, 2015
September 15, 2015
September 15, 2015