



The Corporation of the County of Wellington
Planning Committee
Agenda

June 9, 2016

9:20 am

County Administration Centre

Keith Room

Members: Warden Bridge; Councillors Lennox (Chair), Alls, McKay, Watters

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest	
3. Financial Statements and Variance Projections as of May 31, 2016	2 - 9
4. Comments on Proposed Changes to Provincial Plans	10 - 18
5. Green Legacy Minutes - May 2016	19 - 23
6. Closed Session	
7. Rise and Report	
8. Adjournment	

Next meeting date September 8, 2016 or at the call of the Chair.



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Planning Committee
From: Ken DeHart, County Treasurer
Date: Thursday, June 9, 2016
Subject: **Planning Financial Statements and Variance Projections as of May 31, 2016**

Background:

This report is respectfully submitted in accordance with the County's Budget Variance Reporting policy, and provides a first projection to year-end based on expenditures and revenues to May 31, 2016 for the Planning Department.

Planning

- The provincial grant for source water protection is expected to be received later in the year
- Municipal recoveries are on budget at this time, projected to be close to targeted levels by year end.
- User fees and charges are close to budget, no variance is anticipated
- Salaries are under budget as a result of staffing vacancies, a positive variance of between \$30,000 and \$40,000 is expected
- Supplies, materials and equipment are close to budget, no significant variance is anticipated
- Purchased Services are well under budget as legal fees and expenditures related to County forests and rail-trails projects are expected later in the year - any variances related to forests or trails will be transferred to or from the reserves at the end of the year and no net variance is expected from these items
- Transfer payments are close to budget – additional payments to the Grand River Conservation Authority for the Rural Water Quality Programme and funding of the Risk Management Officer will be made later this year. The remaining amount pertains to the Local Trail funding (\$150,000). Any amounts not transferred to fund these projects will be transferred to a reserve at the end of the year to allow for funding in future years. No significant variance is expected.

The Planning budget is expected to have a surplus of \$30,000 to \$50,000 at year-end.

Green Legacy

- Sales revenues are above budgeted level a minor positive variance will occur
- Salaries, wages and benefits are ahead of budget at this time as seasonal staff are brought in the spring and summer months, this is just timing of expenditures and should be on budget at year-end
- Supplies, materials and equipment and purchased services are under budget at this time, the majority of spending will take place during the summer months.

The Green Legacy budget is expected to have a variance in the range of +/- \$10,000 at year end.

Emergency Management

- Salaries, wages and benefits are on budget, no variance is anticipated
- Supplies, materials and equipment are under budget as computer hardware purchases will take place later in the year, no variance is anticipated
- Purchased services are tracking ahead of budget at this time as the payment for the 911 contract has been made for the year and the emergency radio equipment rental costs have been incurred
- Transfer payments includes amounts paid to date for the Fire Training Officer, billings will catch up over the course of the year and no significant variance is expected

The CEM budget is on target at the end of May. No significant variance is anticipated.

Capital

- The work on the Trans Canada Trail is complete however the project remains open for a grand opening event. Staff anticipate overall project savings of \$175,000, the County's portion is approximately \$90,000
- The Official Plan update is complete; the project remains open for consulting work relating to growth forecasting.
- The Green Legacy pickup truck purchase is complete with minor savings.
- The foundation work scheduled for the southern tree nursery has been quoted under budget.
- Fire Paging System Upgrade project has been awarded to MRC Wireless and is within the approved budget.

The overall Planning budget appears to be on target at the end of May. Best case scenario would result in a surplus of \$40,000 to \$60,000 at year-end. Staff will report back to committee in the fall to update the year-end projections.

Recommendation:

That the Financial Statements and Variance Projections as of May 31, 2016 for the Planning Department be approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Ken DeHart, CPA, CGA
County Treasurer



County of Wellington
Planning
Statement of Operations as of
31 May 2016

	Annual Budget	May Actual \$	YTD Actual \$	YTD Actual %	Remaining Budget
Revenue					
Grants and Subsidies	\$13,000	\$11,832	\$0	0%	\$13,000
Municipal Recoveries	\$37,000	\$3,990	\$16,310	44%	\$20,690
User Fees & Charges	\$258,000	\$11,893	\$95,165	37%	\$162,835
Internal Recoveries	\$500	\$1	\$107	21%	\$393
Total Revenue	\$308,500	\$27,715	\$111,582	36%	\$196,918
Expenditures					
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	\$1,621,100	\$132,399	\$625,992	39%	\$995,108
Supplies, Material & Equipment	\$37,900	\$7,538	\$16,603	44%	\$21,297
Purchased Services	\$310,600	\$8,700	\$69,122	22%	\$241,478
Transfer Payments	\$745,000	\$297,920	\$305,092	41%	\$439,908
Internal Charges	\$6,100	\$0	\$1,895	31%	\$4,205
Total Expenditures	\$2,720,700	\$446,558	\$1,018,704	37%	\$1,701,996
NET OPERATING COST / (REVENUE)	\$2,412,200	\$418,843	\$907,122	38%	\$1,505,078
Transfers					
Transfers from Reserves	\$(170,000)	\$0	\$0	0%	\$(170,000)
Total Transfers	\$(170,000)	\$0	\$0	0%	\$(170,000)
NET COST (REVENUE)	\$2,242,200	\$418,843	\$907,122	40%	\$1,335,078



County of Wellington

30-May-2016

Planning

Capital Work-in-Progress Expenditures By Departments

All Open Projects For The Period Ending May 31, 2016

	Approved Budget	May Actual	Current Year	Previous Years	LIFE-TO-DATE ACTUALS		Remaining Budget
					Total	% of Budget	
Trans Canada Trail	\$395,300	\$0	\$0	\$193,950	\$193,950	49 %	\$201,350
Official Plan Update	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$27,368	\$27,368	68 %	\$12,632
Total Planning	\$435,300	\$0	\$0	\$221,318	\$221,318	51 %	\$213,982



County of Wellington
Green Legacy
Statement of Operations as of
31 May 2016

	Annual Budget	May Actual \$	YTD Actual \$	YTD Actual %	Remaining Budget
Revenue					
Sales Revenue	\$500	\$160	\$715	143%	\$(215)
Other Revenue	\$1,500	\$504	\$515	34%	\$985
Total Revenue	\$2,000	\$664	\$1,230	61%	\$770
Expenditures					
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	\$496,800	\$68,585	\$233,821	47%	\$262,979
Supplies, Material & Equipment	\$103,200	\$9,979	\$30,018	29%	\$73,182
Purchased Services	\$85,500	\$6,413	\$22,996	27%	\$62,504
Insurance & Financial	\$9,300	\$0	\$8,786	94%	\$514
Minor Capital Expenses	\$30,000	\$9,983	\$9,983	33%	\$20,017
Internal Charges	\$5,000	\$3,894	\$3,906	78%	\$1,094
Total Expenditures	\$729,800	\$98,854	\$309,510	42%	\$420,290
NET OPERATING COST / (REVENUE)	\$727,800	\$98,190	\$308,280	42%	\$419,520
Transfers					
Transfers from Reserves	\$(30,000)	\$(9,983)	\$(9,983)	33%	\$(20,017)
Transfer to Capital	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	100%	\$0
Total Transfers	\$20,000	\$(9,983)	\$40,017	200%	\$(20,017)
NET COST (REVENUE)	\$747,800	\$88,207	\$348,297	47%	\$399,503



County of Wellington

30-May-2016

Green Legacy

Capital Work-in-Progress Expenditures By Departments

All Open Projects For The Period Ending May 31, 2016

	LIFE-TO-DATE ACTUALS						
	Approved	May	Current	Previous	Total	% of	Remaining
	Budget	Actual	Year	Years		Budget	Budget
Pick up Truck Replacement	\$50,000	\$909	\$46,464	\$0	\$46,464	93 %	\$3,536
Sthrn Nursery Foundation Work	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0 %	\$50,000
Total Green Legacy	\$100,000	\$909	\$46,464	\$0	\$46,464	46 %	\$53,536



County of Wellington
Emergency Management
Statement of Operations as of
31 May 2016

	Annual Budget	May Actual \$	YTD Actual \$	YTD Actual %	Remaining Budget
Expenditures					
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	\$272,300	\$24,310	\$110,871	41%	\$161,429
Supplies, Material & Equipment	\$20,800	\$18	\$2,066	10%	\$18,734
Purchased Services	\$174,500	\$13,400	\$108,359	62%	\$66,141
Transfer Payments	\$146,000	\$34,930	\$34,930	24%	\$111,070
Insurance & Financial	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,896	95%	\$104
Total Expenditures	\$615,600	\$72,658	\$258,121	42%	\$357,479
NET OPERATING COST / (REVENUE)	\$615,600	\$72,658	\$258,121	42%	\$357,479
NET COST (REVENUE)	\$615,600	\$72,658	\$258,121	42%	\$357,479



County of Wellington

30-May-2016

Emergency Management Capital Work-in-Progress Expenditures By Departments All Open Projects For The Period Ending May 31, 2016

	LIFE-TO-DATE ACTUALS						
	Approved	May	Current	Previous	Total	% of	Remaining
	Budget	Actual	Year	Years		Budget	Budget
Upgrade County Fire Paging Sys	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0 %	\$400,000
Total Emergency Management	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0 %	\$400,000



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Planning Committee
From: Mark Paoli, Manager of Policy Planning
Date: June 9, 2016
Subject: **COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO PROVINCIAL PLANS**

1.0 Background:

The province started a Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (the Growth Plan); the Greenbelt Plan; the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan; and the Niagara Escarpment Plan, in 2015. The Growth Plan and Greenbelt apply within Wellington County.

The first phase of the review was focused on a discussion paper that was released for comment and concluded with a report prepared for the province by David Crombie with 87 recommendations. The County provided input to this part of the process through Planning Committee reports that were endorsed by Council, forwarded to the province and circulated to local municipalities.

A new phase of the review is underway as the province has released proposed changes to the Plans and is seeking input. While the deadline for comments is September 30th, County staff are bringing forward this report now so that local municipalities have time to use it as a base for their comments if they wish to do so.

2.0 Comments:

Overall Comment

The province is intruding too far into municipal planning, leaving little room for citizens to have meaningful input into the future of their own communities.

Also, the province's review is an opportunity for the Plans to reduce overlap with the PPS and focus more on growth management; instead, the scope of the Plans has broadened to include a number of topics that are already adequately addressed in the PPS, so should be added to the PPS. These include:

- Agriculture;
- Natural heritage;
- Cultural heritage; and
- Climate change.

A more detailed summary of comments is set out below:

Comments on Both Plans	Growth Plan Comments	Greenbelt Plan Comments
<p>The County of Wellington:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports Greenbelt policy changes that defer to the Growth Plan for certain growth management and infrastructure policies as this reduces overlap and improves coordination. 2. Views the establishment of Agricultural System mapping as being redundant given that the PPS already directs us to designate these lands. 3. Recommends that Agricultural Support Network policies be added to the PPS instead of these Plans. 4. Recommends that the requirement for an agricultural impact assessment for mineral aggregate applications be added to the PPS instead of these Plans. 5. Notes that the PPS was broadened to include climate change policies and recommends that, if the province feels that the PPS climate change policies are not sufficient, then it should address this through changes to the PPS instead of these Plans. 	<p>The County of Wellington:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the continued ability of the County to establish alternative targets; however, we are concerned about the upward pressure on targets as the main factors on which the targets were justified remain, and major density increases are not accepted by the public in small town Ontario. 2. Notes that some designated greenfield is made up of subdivision plans historically approved or supported by the province at lower densities. Making up for these lower densities in the remaining area is not realistic so the application of the target needs to exclude the build out of these plans. 3. Supports the change to the 2041 time horizon and a consistent methodology to assess land needs; however, we are concerned that the 5-Year Review requirement for a municipal comprehensive review may prevent important projects that cannot wait for the next 5-Year Review (example: to expand to accommodate a school). 4. Does not support the mandatory identification of, and prohibition of development on, excess lands. This should be optional. 5. Supports the ability to establish 'prime employment areas'; however, discussion with our local municipalities is required and we are concerned that the definition excludes unserviced lands outside of settlement areas which are some of our best employment lands. 6. Does not support the provincial imposition of a natural heritage system. Current PPS policies should govern the development of natural heritage systems in official plans. 	<p>The County of Wellington:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintains the position stated in previous reports that the Greenbelt Plan is doing its intended job reasonably well, and we see no rationale for expanding beyond its current boundary in Wellington County. 2. Does not support the proposed policy that would impose Greenbelt expansion on the County. Municipal support should be a requirement. 3. Supports natural heritage policy changes that provide less onerous requirements for agricultural development than in the current Greenbelt Plan. 4. Does not support the inclusion of buildings for agricultural, agriculture-related and on-farm diversified uses in the definition of 'major development'.

3.0 Changes in Both Plans:

3.1 Agricultural System and Agricultural Support Network

The province proposes to lead the establishment of an Agricultural System across the Greater Golden Horseshoe. It would consist of Specialty Crop areas, Prime Agricultural Areas and Rural Lands.

Given that the land base for the system is already designated in official plans, we see this as a redundant exercise.

Also added is a new policy for an “Agricultural Support Network”, defined below:

“a network that includes elements Important to the viability of the Agri-food sector such as: regional agricultural infrastructure and transportation networks, on-farm buildings and infrastructure, agricultural services, farm markets, distributors and first level processing and vibrant agricultural-supportive communities. “

New policies which have been introduced into the Plan include planning for the “Agricultural Support Network”. This would require planning decisions to consider the connections, both financial and physical of the Agricultural food Sector. It is unclear at this time what criteria would be applied to a land use decision in this regard.

We recommend that Agricultural Support Network policies be added to the PPS instead of these Plans.

3.2 Agricultural Impact Assessment for new mineral aggregate operations

Both Plans would require an Agricultural Impact Assessment to be completed for new mineral aggregate operations in the Prime Agricultural Area, which is not a requirement in the current Provincial Policy Statement.

We recommend that the requirement for an agricultural impact assessment for mineral aggregate applications be added to the PPS instead of these Plans.

3.3 Climate change

The scope of both Plans has widened to include climate change. The Growth Plan would require the County to “develop policies in the official plan to identify actions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change adaptation goals, aligned with the Ontario Climate Change Strategy, 2015 and Action Plan.”

We note that the PPS was broadened to include climate change policies and recommend that, if the province feels that the PPS climate change policies are not sufficient, then it should address this in the PPS instead of these Plans.

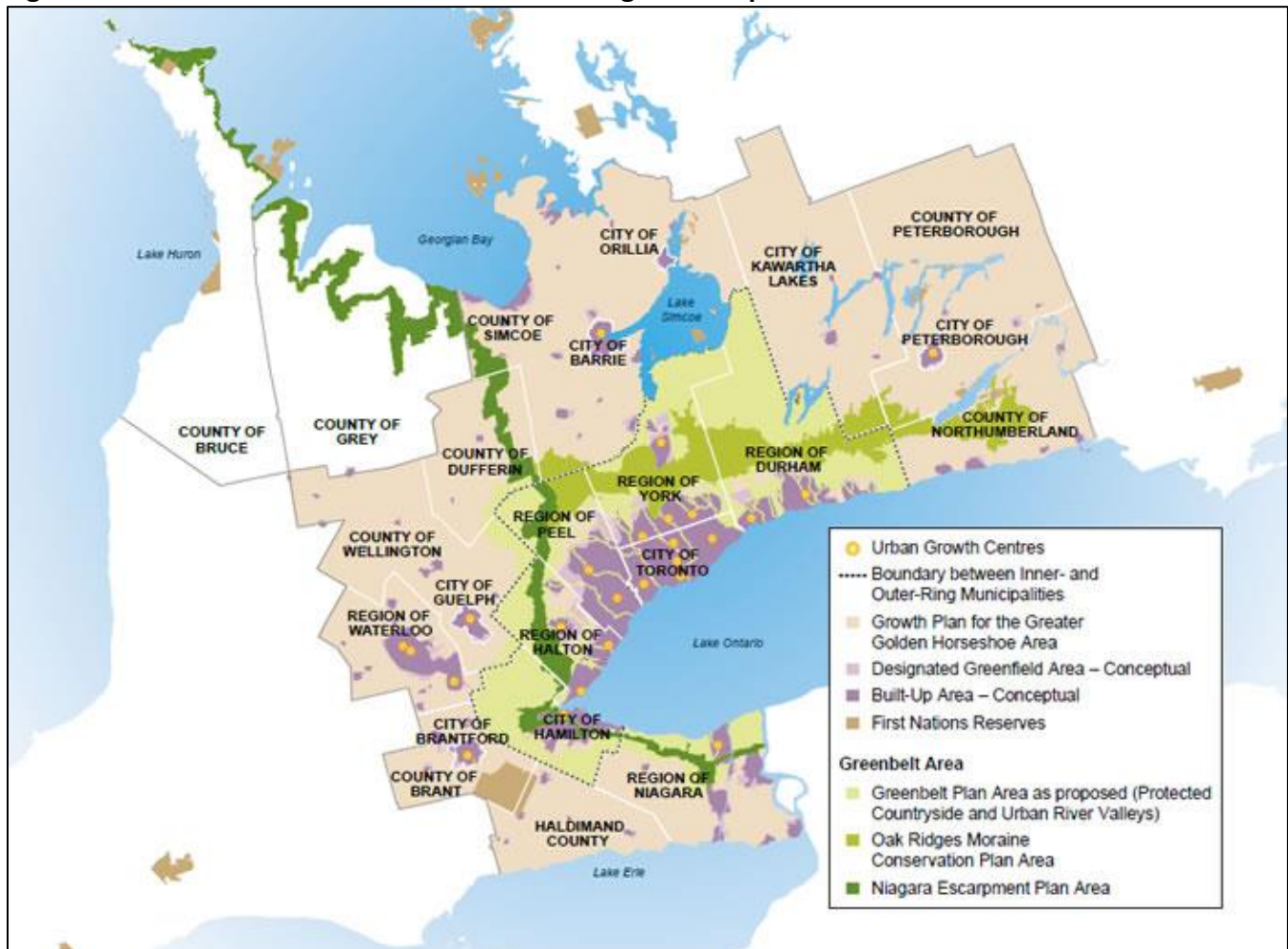
4.0 Main Growth Plan Changes:

4.1 Targets

Current Targets

The Growth Plan contains two areas that are referred to as the “inner ring” and “outer ring” and Wellington County is in the outer ring (see Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: The Greater Golden Horseshoe and Niagara Escarpment Area



Source: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The current minimum targets that apply to the inner ring municipalities, as well as those municipalities in the outer ring that have an urban growth centre such as Waterloo Region and the City of Guelph are:

- Intensification - 40 % of residential development within the built boundary; and
- Greenfield Density - 50 persons and jobs per hectare.

In the outer ring, the Growth Plan provided Counties with the ability to request an alternative target that would be appropriate given the size, location and capacity of the built up area, and the characteristics of the municipality and adjacent communities.

In 2009, County Council submitted a request for alternative targets that was based on a staff report that set out the planning analysis for the minimum targets for Wellington County:

- Intensification - 20 % of residential development within the built boundary; and
- Greenfield Density - 40 persons and jobs per hectare.

The province approved Council's request, and the alternative targets were included in the Official Plan Amendment to conform with Places to Grow (OPA 65) that was adopted in 2009.

Proposed Changes

The proposed minimum targets that apply to the inner ring municipalities, as well as those municipalities in the outer ring that have an urban growth centre such as Waterloo Region and the City of Guelph are:

- Intensification - 60 % of residential development within the built boundary; and
- Greenfield Density - 80 persons and jobs per hectare.

The proposed Intensification target is 50% higher than in the current Growth Plan and the proposed Greenfield Density target is 60% higher. Although the effect of the Greenfield Density increase will be offset somewhat by the fact that more land can be excluded from the calculation, it is also worth noting that these higher targets will need to be met on a smaller land area because the built boundary is to remain unchanged.

In the outer ring, Council may request alternative targets at the time of the next 5-Year Review of the Official Plan. At that point, we will be required to revisit the targets and resubmit justifications. There will be pressure to increase the targets based on the significant mandatory increases described above.

We support the continued ability of the County to establish alternative targets; however, we are concerned about the upward pressure on targets as the main factors on which the targets were justified remain, and major density increases are not accepted by the public in small town Ontario.

We note that some designated greenfield area is made up of subdivision plans historically approved or supported by the province at lower densities. Making up for these lower densities in the remaining area is not realistic so the application of the target needs to exclude the build out of these plans.

4.2 Land Needs Assessment

In the current Growth Plan, the assessment of land needs to justify a settlement expansion is: based on 20 years of growth as set out in the forecasts; carried out as part of a municipal comprehensive review that can be done as part of a 5-Year Review, or on an as needed basis; and is calculated using different methods.

In the proposed Growth Plan, the assessment of land needs to justify a settlement expansion is: based on the horizon of the Plan (2041); carried out as part of a municipal comprehensive review that can only be done as part of a 5-Year Review; and calculated using a standardized provincial methodology.

A related change is that, as an outer ring upper-tier, we would be required to identify any ‘excess lands’, (lands that exceed forecasted needs to 2041). If we have excess lands, we would be required to prohibit development on those lands. Although we would then be in a position to justify settlement expansions, notwithstanding the identified “excess”, the prohibition of development on designated land is likely to result in objections.

We support the change to the 2041 time horizon and a consistent methodology to assess land needs; however, we are concerned that the 5-Year Review requirement for a municipal comprehensive review may prevent important projects that cannot wait for the next 5-Year Review (example: to expand to accommodate a school).

We do not support the mandatory identification of, and prohibition of development on, excess lands. This should be optional.

4.3 Employment Lands

The proposed Growth Plan would establish a new category of employment lands referred to as “Prime Employment Areas” and defined as:

“Areas of employment within settlement areas that are designated in an official plan and protected over the long-term for uses that are land-extensive or have low employment densities and require these locations, including manufacturing, warehousing and logistics and appropriate associated uses and ancillary facilities.”

As an upper-tier municipality, the County may identify existing employment areas in settlement areas as prime employment areas, where appropriate. Implications of this would include:

- A requirement to prohibit residential and other sensitive land uses, institutional uses, and retail, commercial and office uses that are not ancillary to the primary employment use.
- Conversion of ‘prime employment areas’ to ‘employment areas’ to allow retail, commercial and office uses that are not ancillary to the primary employment use would be permitted only through a municipal comprehensive review (a 5-Year review under Section 26 of the Planning Act) to justify the need and location of the change.
- Conversion of ‘prime employment areas’ to non-employment uses would be prohibited.

- The foregoing would be more restrictive than current policy. This may be desirable in some locations where the priority is long term protection of the land base for industrial development, and not desirable in other locations where the strategy is to provide for transition to more retail or office commercial uses.
- Prime employment areas would be excluded from the designated greenfield area density calculation which would mitigate some of the effect that the lower industrial employment densities have on the greenfield density target.

We support the ability to establish ‘prime employment areas’; however, discussion with our local municipalities is required and we are concerned that the definition excludes unserviced lands outside of settlement areas which are some of our best employment lands.

4.4 Natural Heritage System

The province would establish a Natural Heritage System, similar to the current Greenbelt Plan, across the entire Greater Golden Horseshoe. The system in the Greenbelt Plan extends into working farm fields well beyond natural features and has been difficult to explain and justify to farmers, rural land owners and decision-making bodies. Although the 2014 PPS requires us to establish a Natural Heritage System in the County Official Plan, we intended to work with the language in the PPS to develop a system that would be appropriate for the agricultural area. Instead, with the changes proposed, we would be in the position of commenting on the province’s system before it is imposed.

We do not support the provincial imposition of a natural heritage system. Current PPS policies should govern the development of natural heritage systems in official plans.

5.0 Main Greenbelt Plan Changes:

5.1 Expansion

There is a new section called “Growing the Greenbelt” in which the Province shall lead a process to identify areas to be added to the Protected Countryside. A specific focus shall be on areas of ecological and hydrogeological significance where urbanization should not occur.

The policy direction calls for consultation with municipalities, among other stakeholders. Municipal support is not required.

We maintain the position stated in previous reports that the Greenbelt Plan is doing its intended job reasonably well, and we see no rationale for expanding beyond its current boundary in Wellington County.

We do not support the proposed policy that would impose Greenbelt expansion on the County. Municipal support should be a requirement.

5.2 Siting of Agricultural Buildings and Structures

The current Greenbelt Plan requires new development within 120 m of a Key Natural Heritage Feature in the Natural Heritage System or a Key Hydrologic Feature anywhere in the Protected Countryside to complete a natural heritage evaluation or a hydrologic evaluation to identify a vegetation protection zone.

In the Proposed Greenbelt Plan, development of Agricultural, Agricultural-related and On-farm diversified uses within 120 m of a Key Natural Heritage Feature or Key Hydrologic Feature will not be required to complete a natural heritage or hydrologic evaluation. Rather these types of developments will be sited in accordance with a number of criteria specified in the Plan which promote the enhancement and protection of the features.

We support natural heritage policy changes that provide less onerous requirements for agricultural development than in the current Greenbelt Plan.

5.3 Key Hydrologic Areas

A section has been added to provide policy direction in significant groundwater recharge areas, highly vulnerable aquifers, and significant surface water contribution areas. In these areas, major development is required to do water studies or submit designs that demonstrate that the hydrologic functions of these areas will be protected and, where possible, improved or restored.

The definition of major development includes buildings that are 500 m² or larger, which could include many agricultural buildings. Agricultural buildings are typically sited on large lots which, combined with the required setbacks from natural and hydrologic features, provide ample space for water to infiltrate. This requirement is not reasonable for agricultural development.

We do not support the inclusion of buildings for agricultural, agriculture-related and on-farm diversified uses in the definition of ‘major development’.

6.0 Summary:

The province has proposed extensive changes to the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan. While a number of the changes are supported, there are significant areas of concern.

This report summarized the main comments arising from our review to-date, and may provide a base for local municipality comments. Our review will continue over the summer as there are a number of areas, particularly related to infrastructure, where the changes will be felt more locally. Accordingly, we plan more analysis and discussions with local staff. This work may result in a Supplementary Report with additional comments in September.

Recommendation:

That the report “Comments on Proposed Changes to Provincial Plans” be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, and circulated to local municipalities.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Paoli'.

Mark Paoli
Manager of Policy Planning



THE GREEN LEGACY MINUTES



May 30, 2016 at 9:30 am
Keith Room, Administration Centre

Attendance: Steve McCabe, John Brennan, Matthew Bulmer, Paul Day, Joe Heeg, Rob Johnson, Walter Trachsel, Peter Williams, Mark Van Patter, Linda Redmond

1. Review of February 29, 2016 Minutes/Changes to Agenda:

The minutes were approved. Items 8 to 10 were added to the Agenda.

2. Per Diem/ Mileage for Local Councillors and Members of Public

Mr. Van Patter will assist in sorting out the proper process and paper work.

3. Spring Tree/Nursery Summary

Mr. Johnson provided a preliminary summary of nursery activities and tree orders this spring. For this spring, 292 tree orders were received, which includes private orders and those from the Conservation Authorities. Normally, the average is about 150 orders.

- 142,000 plugs went out but 20,000 were leftover. The greenhouse staff moved them into potted stock for next year.
- There was an increase in potted stock going out this spring - 9,300 this spring, mostly windbreaks and CA's.
- 20,000- 25,000 will be going to be given out at the plowing match – plugs with tags
- 38 schools participated planting seed in 162 classrooms – kindergarten to grade 3
- 3,000 grade 4 to 6 visited the nursery
- 1,300 grade 7 and 8 planted 10,000 trees on public and private land

A more detailed summary will be provided by Mr. Johnson later.

Mr. Van Patter asked Mr. Johnson to provide an overview of the cooler building. Trees go into the cooler later in the fall. The hardwoods go in after the leaves have dropped and the tree has gone dormant. The conifers go in after that in late fall. During February to March the trees are packaged and stay in the cooler until they are distributed in late April to mid May.

4. Meeting With Ted Arnott and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)

Gary Cousins, Rob Johnson and Mark Van Patter met with Mr. Arnott and MNRF reps (Deputy-Minister and policy advisers) on April 20. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss moving forward with the 150 million tree program, supported by the legislature last October. MNRF provided an overview of the 50 million tree programme being overseen by Forest Ontario. MNRF provides funds to Forest Ontario. Gary Cousins gave a

presentation on the success of the Green Legacy in Wellington and the amount of public support.

The general sense was that MNRF does not have the budget or resources. Mr. Arnott thought that the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change may be interested in providing more support.

The Green Legacy Committee discussed the history of the reduction of tree planting in private lands in Ontario. Two charts were distributed to the committee members showing a graph of the number of trees and land area plantings from 1905 to 2000

- Since 1925 over 5 million trees have been planted per year
- Between 1970 and 1995, about 25 million trees per year
- A large reduction in tree planting occurred in 1995 and has continued since – about 2 million trees
- Last year Forest Ontario planted 3 million trees

Government funding was largely cut around 1995. Public tree nurseries were privatised and the price of nursery increased greatly. Essentially, the tree growing and planting infrastructure was dismantled in Ontario.

5. University of Guelph - 150 Million Trees

The Green Legacy Committee met with the Masters students to provide a review of their term paper – “Examining the Potential of Expanding the Green Legacy Programme Throughout Southern Ontario”. Mr. Van Patter emailed out the final term paper to committee members. The students have also submitted a brief overview of the Green Legacy to the Ontario Planning Journal. They are hoping it will be published this summer in the student issue. Committee members asked that the paper be forwarded to the municipalities for distribution to Council.

6. International Plowing Match (IPM) Activities – September 20 to 24, 2016

Mr. Van Patter provided an overview of ideas showcasing the Green Legacy in the Planning Department space of the County tent. He distributed samples of the promotional and visual material that has been completed and provided the committee with an update of what the booth will house.

7. Nursery Visit

The next Green Legacy Committee meeting has been tentatively scheduled for September 26th at 10am at the Bradford Whitcombe Green Legacy Nursery (6714 Wellington Road 34, Puslinch). The meeting will be followed up by a bbq.

8. Bobolink

Mr. Bulmer described the nesting habits of the Bobolinks. He indicated that it has been his experience that the Bobolink tend not to nest in his smaller fields because of proximity to treed areas. He suggested that the planting of wind breaks could help to discourage nesting in hay fields. This might be of interest to farmers.

Mr. Day added that there is a grant program offered in Norfolk & Lambton area that pays farmers to not clear fields until Bobolink are done nesting. The Program is through ALUS.CA.

9. Township Tree Distribution

Mr. Brennan identified a problem with private orders, that some people don't pick up their trees. Mr. Bulmer noted that Puslinch calls people the night prior and if they don't show up, the trees are offered to others. Mr. Day noted that Mapleton delivers the trees that are not picked up. It was determined that Green Legacy staff will send an additional reminder to private orders during the week prior to the tree day events. .

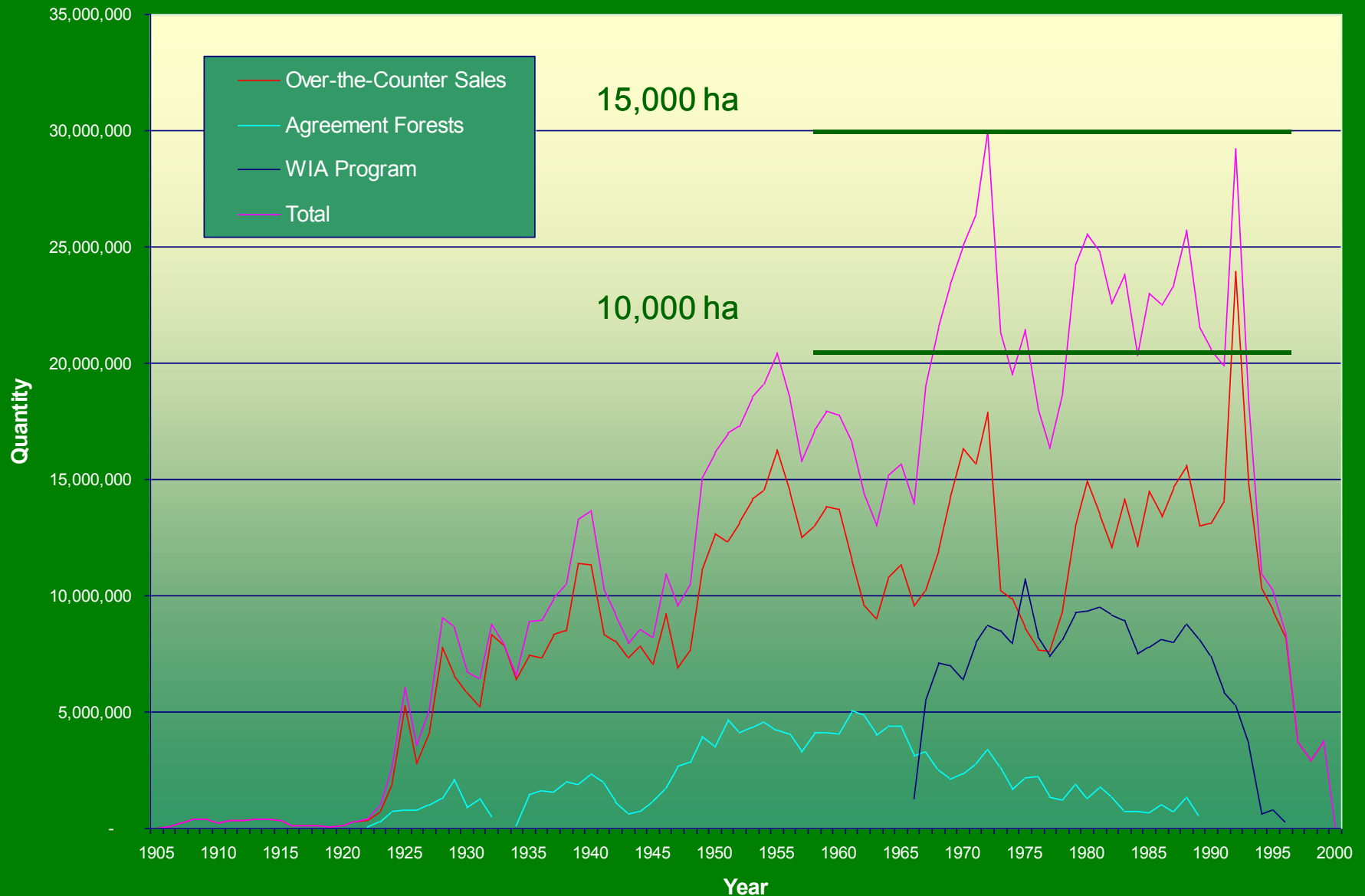
10. GRCA update

Mr. Heeg indicated that the GRCA oversaw the planting of 130,000 trees, which is about half of last year's plantings. Many of the trees were planted in Wellington County.

Next Meeting - 10 a.m. September 26th at the Bradford Whitcombe Green Legacy Nursery

HISTORY OF ONTARIO TREE PLANTING

Private Land Tree Planting in Ontario



CURRENT SITUATION

Private Land Tree Planting in Ontario

