



Notes from the Planning Advisory Committee Meeting No. 2/08
Held on February 8, 2008

Members Present:

Richard Lloyd	(Chair)	City of Barrie
Dennis Egan	(Vice Chair)	Town of New Tecumseth
Mary Brett		Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
Sonny Foley		Town of Collingwood
Garry Matthews		Township of Melancthon
Ron Simpson		Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbury
Brian Mullin		Municipality of Grey-Highlands
Peter Kmet		Town of Innisfil
Percy Way		Township of Amaranth
Gord Montgomery		Township of Mulmur

Staff Present:

Marilyn Eger	Director of Planning
Bob Law	Watershed Planner

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) for 2008

Richard Lloyd was acclaimed as Chair. Dennis Egan was acclaimed as Vice-Chair.

2. Adoption of Agenda:

Members of the Planning Advisory Committee adopted the Agenda for the February 8, 2008 meeting.

3. Review of October 12, 2007 PAC Notes:

The Planning Advisory Committee received the Notes from the meeting held on October 12, 2007.

Discussion

- R. Lloyd - Indicated that the issue of planning fees will become increasing critical in the future.
- R. Simpson - Advised that, with respect to the recent Township of Essa resolution regarding the duplication of planning and engineering services between the County of Simcoe and the Authority, Council of the Township of Bradford West Gwillimbury has deferred the issue to their Director of Planning to prepare a report back to Council.
- M. Eger - Indicated that Wayne Wilson was promoting the idea of a seminar hosted by the NVCA with its member municipalities and others to discuss the Authority's Mandate as it relates to planning. The spring board for such a seminar would be the release of a report from Conservation Ontario reiterating the role of conservation authorities in Ontario. This document is expected to be released this spring.
- S. Foley - Collingwood Council has also reviewed the correspondence from Essa and Mulmur. The question of duplication was addressed by the Town's Director of Planning who has concluded that there is no duplication, that he supported the Authority's current role. In addition, the Town relies on the Authority to protect wetlands.
- M. Brett - Requested clarification of how the current streamlining agreements between the Authority and the local Committees operate. M.Eger advised that the Authority has provided mapping to its member municipalities to assist in determining which consent and variance applications to circulate to the Authority for comment. The objective is to circulate only those applications where the Authority has a mandated interest.

4. Planning Staff report on Proposed Plan Input/Review and Regulations Implementation Guidelines

The Planning Advisory Committee received the staff report on the proposed Plan Input/Review and Regulations Implementation guidelines. In addition, staff was requested to circulate the entire draft document to PAC members in advance of the next meeting to allow members the opportunity to read/review the document prior to a direction being given regarding further circulation.

Bob Law provided an overview of the proposed guidelines starting with conservation authority and provincial planning initiatives in Ontario and the delay in drafting the proposed guidelines as a result of the Authority's efforts to implement the Generic Regulations. Bob also emphasized the importance of these guidelines in setting out clearly relevant legislation, Provincial policy and the Authority's mandate and practices in commenting on planning and regulation applications. These guidelines would also

benefit Board members, municipal staff, watershed property owners and the development community.

Discussion by the PAC included –

G. Matthews - raised the concerns that setbacks from wetlands appear to vary between the NVCA and the Grand River Authority.

R. Lloyd - highlighted the importance of accommodating local environmental in the watershed (i.e. one guideline may not be appropriate in all cases).

S. Foley - expressed concern that guidelines can be viewed as subject to interpretation where mandatory policy statements can be more effective.

M. Brett – supports the guideline approach as it allows for a knowledgeable discussion on a site by site basis. The guidelines would result in consistency which she supports.

D. Egan – the guideline document would clearly demonstrate that there is no duplication.

R. Lloyd – asked Gord Montgomery to elaborate at the next PAC meeting on the duplication of planning efforts raised by Mulmur in its support of Essa Council's resolution on duplicative planning concerns. Staff is to circulate to PAC members, the materials Mulmur has distributed for further discussion at the next PAC meeting.

5. Business Plan

The PAC will review the Planning components of the Authority's 2008 Business Plan at the next PAC. PAC members reiterated their preference to have the budget approved first then review the Business Plan in the context of the approved budget. Both R. Simpson and D. Egan recommend that in the future planning staff engage in discussions with the NVCA's member municipalities and the County to fully understand growth potential in the watershed as it relates to future NVCA development fee revenue projections and ultimately program delivery.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Prepared by: M.F.V. Eger