

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

AGENDA

Meeting: Friday, March 12, 2010

Committee Members

Rick Archdekin	Town of Wasaga Beach
Percy Way	Township of Amaranth
Sonny Foley	Town of Collingwood
Harry Hughes	Township of Oro Medonte
Garry Matthews	Township of Melancthon
Rick Milne	Town of New Tecumseth
Tom Elliott	Township of Springwater
Barry Ward	City of Barrie
Bill Van Berkel	Town of Innisfil
Ron Simpson	Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

Staff Members

Chris Hibberd Director of Planning

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Adoption of Agenda.
2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.
3. Program overview including: Planning and Regulations Mandate, Business Plan Targets, 2009 Program Highlights and 2010 Program Direction/Expectations. (See MNR draft CALC report)
4. Review and Discussion of Proposed Business 2010 - 2012.
 - a. Review and discussion of proposed business plan – program priorities, staffing and actions contained in draft Appendix D Planning Services (Attachment A).

Recommendation

That Planning staff develop a final version of the Planning Services component of the 2010-2012 Business Plan based on recommendations of the Planning Advisory Committee, and the April 9, 2010 NVCA program review Board member workshop, for consideration of the Board of Directors at their May 14, 2010 meeting.

5. Other Business.
6. Adjournment.

Draft Appendix “D”

Planning Services

This Appendix Includes:

- **IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES**
- **COMMUNICATIONS PRIORITIES**
- **STAFF RESOURCES**
- **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES, ACTIONS, AND RELATED TARGETS**

IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES

To assist in achieving NVCA's goal, objectives and targets, the following summarizes the Planning Services implementation priorities:

- Assist the approval authorities and member municipalities by providing timely, plan input and pre-development consultation and plan review responses to circulated applications.
- Provide technical support for our member municipalities at Ontario Municipal Board hearings.
- Assist the Counties, the City of Barrie and local municipalities with implementation of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe through inputs to their official plans including considerations for natural hazard and natural heritage systems and considering the recommendations from the Assimilation Capacity Study.
- ~~(Delete - Complete the Implementation Guidelines for the Plan Input/Review and Regulations Programs (2009).)~~
- Establish a comprehensive compliance monitoring program for ~~(delete – the Generic Regulations) Ontario Regulation 172/06~~
- Assist in the development of source water protection plans for the watershed, focusing on their integration into municipal official plans.
- Examine the potential for new or revised partnership agreements with watershed municipalities, approval authorities and other agencies with regard to streamlining plan review.
- Develop and implement a revenue and workload tracking management database, to provide recommendations for future workload, budget and fee schedule development.

COMMUNICATION PRIORITIES

The following communications initiatives have been identified as a priority for the Planning Services Program:

- Communicate NVCA Core Message directly to all program clients.
- Implement the Communications Strategy for the Generic Regulation as described in the Planning Advisory Committee Meeting 1/06 dated February 10, 2006.
- Communicate the outcome of the Provincially initiated, Roles and Responsibilities for Conservation Authority Planning and Regulations review, to all watershed Municipalities.
- Communicate the new, 2009, Implementation Guidelines for the Plan Input/Review and Regulations Program to our member municipalities including placement on our website.

These initiatives will be communicated in the most effective way possible to the Planning Program's key audiences according to the NVCA Communications Strategy. Methods of communication will include presentations to municipal staff, committees and councils; open houses; and presentations to public interest groups, brochures, publications, and placing appropriate information on NVCA's website.

STAFFING RESOURCES

The following table identifies Planning Services staff and summarizes their status and duties

Position	Employment Status	Chief Duties
Director	Full time Permanent	Responsible for the administration and management of the NVCA Planning Department.
Senior Planner	Full time Permanent Second senior planner position vacant	-Responsible for the coordination of the NVCA's review of development and land use planning applications and environmental assessments -Contributes to the development of policy including subwatershed plans, source water protection, natural hazards and natural heritage planning Assists Director of Planning where necessary
Watershed Planner	Part Time Contract	-Responsible for Strategic Planning ;watershed, and subwatershed planning, input into the business planning process, and development of Implementation Guidelines for Plan Input/Review and the Regulations Programs -Other major initiatives such as Low Water Response Pilot for Innisfil Creek - Assist the Director of Planning where necessary
Resource Planner	Full time Permanent	Responsible for the review and comments on: - consent, minor variance, site plan and zoning by-law applications under the Planning Act - applications under the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act
Senior Environmental Officer	Full time Permanent	Supervise Environmental Officer Review and issue approvals for applications received under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act - Enforcement of Regulation 164 R.R.O 1990, under Section 28 - Implement Level II Fish Habitat Agreement, under the federal Fisheries Act - legal inquiries and real estate inquiries Assists Director of Planning where necessary
Environmental Officer	Full time Permanent	- Review and issue approvals for applications received under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act - Enforcement of Regulation 164 R.R.O 1990, under Section 28 - Implement Level II Fish Habitat Agreement, under the federal Fisheries Act - legal inquiries and real estate inquiries
Planning Technician	Part time Contract	-Responsible for providing technical review and response to applications -Assists the planning services staff in data and file management

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES, ACTIONS, AND RELATED TARGETS

Planning Services plays a major role in implementing numerous pieces of legislation. In some cases it coordinates all of NVCA program input and comments, for example coordination engineering and natural heritage comments for planning applications; in other cases (authority regulations), Planning Services acts as the approval agency.

A chart listing the legislation and indicating the Authority's role is shown below:

Legislation:	NVCA Role:
<u>Conservation Authorities Act</u>	approval
<u>Planning Act</u>	commenting
<u>Municipal Act</u>	commenting
<u>Fisheries Act</u>	commenting
<u>Environmental Assessment Act</u>	commenting
<u>Aggregate Resources Act</u>	commenting
<u>Niagara Escarpment Planning & Development Act</u>	commenting
<u>Conservation Land Act</u>	approval
<u>Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act</u>	commenting
<u>Greenbelt Act</u>	commenting
<u>Places to Grow Act (2005)</u>	commenting
<u>Ontario Water Resources Act</u>	commenting
<u>Clean Water Act</u>	commenting/coordinating

In addition to the legislation listed above, Planning Services provides input and assists with the implementation of the following Provincial Plans, Policies and other initiatives that affect the NVCA's watersheds.

Provincial Plans and Policies:

- Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (2002)
- 2005 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)
- Greenbelt Protection Plan (2005)
- Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Management Plan (June, 2006)
- Source Water Protection Plans (2007- 2011).

Other Provincial and Local Initiatives:

- County and municipal groundwater studies (2001 to 2003)
- Assimilative Capacity Study and Intergovernmental Action Plan for Simcoe County, Barrie and Orillia (2006)
- An Area Wide Growth Management Plan including Simcoe County, and the Cities of Barrie and Orillia (currently under Provincial review))
- Official Plan Updates for all municipalities to conform to the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe by June 2009
- The NVCA has an advisory role in MOE's permit to take water process
- The NVCA has a level 2 agreement with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans for the review of applications that may impact fish habitat.

To help summarize Planning Services implementation strategies, the following chart identifies the implementing programs, the actions to assist in the implementation, and the specific targets that these actions help to achieve.

It is expected that the numbers of planning applications in ~~(delete 2009)~~ 2010 will likely match or slightly exceed the 2009 numbers as the economy starts to improve. It is anticipated that new development activity will surpass past levels once the economy rebounds, due to development pressures moving north of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt in to Simcoe County/Barrie.

Provincial and County growth plans should ensure that most development will be located in urban centres identified as *complete communities* with full services, employment opportunities and transit etc. The number of development applications may fluctuate depending on the economic growth of a particular year, but the longer term trend is expected to be upwards as predicted by the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the Simcoe County/Barrie/Orillia Intergovernmental Action Plan (IGAP).

These studies have suggested that the population of this area will increase by approximately 230,000 residents, for a population of 667,000 by 2031. They further suggest that 100% of this projected population could be accommodated through existing planning commitments without considering intensification requirements.¹ However, when considering all aspects of servicing and transportation, the IGAP study suggests that about 80% of the new residents coming to the Simcoe area over the next 25 years will locate within lands already considered to be urban through a mix of intensification and appropriate approved development.²

It is also expected that the number of applications for permits issued under Conservation Authority Regulations will generally increase as a result of the increase in the regulated areas and the increase in the number of residential lots.

2009-2011 Implementation Strategies	2010 Actions	2011 Actions	2012 Actions	<u>Related Targets</u>
(1) Plan Review Implements Provincial Plans and Policies & the Authority's own Implementation Guidelines and Policies: -Protecting Public Health and Safety (Natural hazards) -Wise Use & Management of Resources - Natural Heritage and Water	On-going Process >700 applications and legal inquiries Implement File Data Base Implement workload tracking system Review/ update current Planning agreements with watershed Municipalities.	On-going Process >700 applications and legal inquiries Maintain data base and tracking systems	On-going Process >700 applications and legal inquiries Maintain data base and tracking systems	- The primary target is zero lives lost and minimal property damage -The secondary targets are all those relating to both objectives of the protecting, enhancing, and restoring water and land

¹ IGAP presentation to Ministers and Mayors, August 14, 2006

² IGAP Newsletter No 3 June 2006

2009-2011 Implementation Strategies	2010 Actions	2011 Actions	2012 Actions	<u>Related Targets</u>
(2) Conservation Authority Permit applications and enforcement	Maintain regulations data base Monitor permit turnaround/staff workload Process >340 applications > 15 Notice of Violations	On-going Process >340 applications > 15 Notice of Violations	On-going Process >340 applications > 15 Notice of Violations	- The primary target is zero lives lost and minimal property damage
(3) Strategic Planning Policy Review/ Development Provincial & Authority Guidelines	-Develop/Review >4 Policies Local and Prov. Policies and Plans -Monitor new relevant provincial/local policy and/or mandate changes providing NVCA position responses as appropriate -new Prov. initiatives -County and City Growth Plans -County of Simcoe Official Plan and lower tier municipal Official Plan Updates. -(Delete Board of Directors endorsement of Authority Planning Implementation Guidelines) -Conservation Ontario documents including guidelines for development , Interference of Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses & Role and Mandate of Conservation Authorities Presentations to member municipalities on NVCA planning roles and responsibilities -Produce a brochure on our roles and responsibilities	Develop/ Review >4 Policies Local and Prov. Policies and Plans -new Provincial initiatives -Local growth and strategic Plans -Possible Subwatershed Plans (delete for Blue Mountain, or Bear or Baxter Creeks)	Develop/ Review > 4 Policies Local and Prov. Policies and Plans -new Provincial initiatives -Local growth and strategic Plans -Possible Subwatershed Plans (delete for Blue Mountain, or Bear or Baxter Creeks)	The primary target is zero lives lost and minimal property damage The secondary targets are all those relating to both objectives of the protecting, enhancing, and restoring water and land

Additional Program Activities:

- (1) Planning Services programs will focus on the “Implementation Priorities” previously listed in this section
- (2) Staff will continue to pursue ways to increase efficiencies, consistency and eliminate duplication in the provision of comments on planning applications and Authority permits (for example through the agreements with watershed municipalities)
- (3) Subwatershed Plan may be developed for one or more of our subwatersheds in the next two years, (for example, Bear Creek, Baxter and Egbert Creeks or the Blue Mountain Watersheds) as a result of discussions and consultation with our municipal and provincial partners. The Area Wide Growth Management Plan for Simcoe County and the Cities of Barrie and Orillia which is to implement the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe may provide the catalyst for subwatershed planning of these or other high priority subwatersheds.
- (4) Presentations to member municipalities on NVCA planning roles and responsibilities and produce a brochure on our roles and responsibilities.

A Summary of Application’s Reviewed

To provide an understanding of the types and numbers of application processed by Planning Services over the last decade, the following table has been developed. It is a summary of the applications reviewed under the Planning Act, Conservation Authorities Act, Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, Conservation Land Act, Environmental Assessment Act, and the Federal Fisheries Act.

It should also be noted that one planning application may require the review of numerous technical reports involving several services and programs. These reports may include planning justification, storm water management, flood plain, hydrogeology, fish habitat and environmental impact assessments reports, depending on the location and features of the site to be developed.

**A Ten Year Summary of Planning Statistics,
Including the *Planning Act, Conservation Authorities Act, Environmental Assessment Act,*
*Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act***

STATISTICS FROM 1999 TO 2008 (to be revised to include 2009 #'s)

ITEM / YEAR	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Official Plans & Amendments	40	16	24	19	23	20	25	31	34	54
Zoning By-Laws & Amendments	145	152	127	121	107	96	104	94	61	147
Plans of Subdivision	10	5	7	2	9	15	18	9	10	6
Consents	232	210	121	110	93	167	152	108	158	146
Minor Variances	90	42	41	40	37	34	45	49	105	65
Site Plans	12	10	21	17	18	56	59	80	42	41
NEC Permit Reviews	57	65	61	62	71	76	84	84	77	66
EA Reviews	7	10	9	11	10	9	10	10	9	14
CA Permit Applications	226	230	248	253	261	290	275	341	372	370
CA Permit Notices of Violations	11	12	59	41	34	39	20	24	18	12
Legal and General Inquiries	165	163	163	160	200	162	168	200	199	158
TOTALS	995	915	881	836	863	964	960	1030	1085	1079

NOTE: The significant reduction in consent and minor variance applications in 2000/2001 was in a large part due to the establishment of "Streamlining Agreements" which are in effect for 12 of our member municipalities.