

Recommendation:

That the Planning-2023-17 Report, dated June 6, 2023, regarding Proposed Provincial Planning Statement be received and that staff be directed to add a cover letter to the Minister and local MPPs indicating Township support of the Peterborough County formal response on the draft Provincial Policy Statement and that Council provide direction on Section 4.3.3 of the PPS as outlined in Appendix A.

Overview:

On April 6, 2023, the Province posted a draft Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for a 60-day commenting period. The initial 60 day commenting period was set to close at 11:59 p.m. on June 5, 2023. However, in correspondence dated May 30, 2023, the Province noted that a decision was made to extend the commenting period by an additional 60 days. The commenting period will now close at 11:59 p.m. on August 4, 2023.

The ERO posting is available on-line at: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6813> and a copy of the Provincial April 6, 2023 correspondence is attached to this Report.

At its meeting held on May 17, 2023, Peterborough County Council received Report PPW 2023-13 on the draft PPS and passed the following Resolution:

Moved by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Nelson

That Report PPW 2023-13, Report on the draft Provincial Planning Statement, be supported with the exception of 4.3.3 in Appendix A;

That staff be directed to add a cover letter to the Minister and local MPPs, which includes considerations for:

- Local autonomy regarding the number of severances in Agricultural Areas taking into account soil classifications and local mapping, and,
- Removes the broad-brush approach to Natural Heritage mapping that allows for more local autonomy.

That staff be directed to forward the cover letter and report to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and local MPPs as the formal response from Peterborough County on the draft Provincial Planning Statement; and

That a copy of the report and cover letter be forwarded to each local Township for their information.

Carried

A copy of Peterborough County Report PPW 2023-13, Appendix A and the cover letter to the Minister were received by the Township on May 24, 2023 and are attached to this Report.

The proposed PPS has been developed prior to the Province rendering a decision on the new County (and Township) Official Plan which was adopted on June 29, 2022. The proposed PPS, if approved in its current form, represents significant changes to a number of policies and possibly mapping in the newly adopted Official Plan, a process that began in 2017 and involved input from the Technical Advisory Committee, Council and the public.

It is unclear how the proposed PPS will impact the new Official Plan, not only with respect to the timing for a decision, but also by introducing uncertainty regarding whether the Province will modify the Official Plan to be consistent with the proposed PPS. The decision of the Province on the Official Plan will be final and cannot be appealed.

Conclusion:

Township Planning Staff have reviewed the proposed PPS and concur with Peterborough County Report PPW 2023-13, including the recommendation to not support Section 4.3.3 of the PPS as outlined in Appendix A.

Given that the time frame for commenting on the ERO has been extended, Staff recommend submitting comments to the Minister and local MPPs indicating Township support of the Peterborough County formal response on the draft Provincial Policy Statement.

Should Council support the motion of Peterborough County Council in its entirety, then it is recommended that Council clearly state their position on Section 4.3.3 by choosing one of the following options:

- Support – agree with the proposed PPS direction.
- Support with modification – agree with the proposed PPS direction but needs clarification/changes.
- Do not support – has the potential to significantly impact Peterborough County and/or conflicts with local plans such as the Climate Change Action Plan, Sustainability Plan etc.
- Concern – major concerns that could be resolved through modification or removal of other related policies.
- Unknown – insufficient information provided to form an opinion.

Financial Impact: N/A

Strategic Plan Applicability: To preserve and enhance the natural heritage features and resources of the Township.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Planning Department Report - Proposed PPS.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 234-2023-1754 Minister to Heads of Council and CAO SIGNED (April 6, 2023).pdf - May 24 2023 letter to Minister Steve Clark - Proposed PPS 2023 (County of Peterborough).pdf - Staff Report - Proposed PPS (County of Peterborough).pdf - Staff Report - Proposed PPS - Appendix 1 (County of Peterborough).pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 31, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Martina Chait-Hartwig

Elana Arthurs