

Recommendation:

That the Planning-2023-25 report, dated August 1, 2023, regarding the County of Peterborough Official Plan ERO Posting be received and;

That, depending upon the outcome of the County Planning Staff Report to County Council on August 2nd, Council delegate authority to the Township Planner and CAO to provide the County with the requested support and to submit comment through the Environmental Registry of Ontario prior to the closing of the commenting period on August 20, 2023.

Overview:

The County of Peterborough has prepared a [new Official Plan](#) to set the vision and direction for growth and development to the year 2051. The Council of the County of Peterborough adopted the new Official Plan, with some amendments, at its meeting on June 29, 2022. This new Official Plan does not come into effect until it receives approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The Township of Douro-Dummer supported the adoption of the new Official Plan at the Regular Council Meeting of June 21, 2022 with the following Resolution:

Resolution Number 208-2022

Moved by: Councillor Landsmann

Seconded by: Councillor Watson

That the report, dated June 21, 2022, regarding the County Official Plan Project be received and that Council send a letter of support to the County of Peterborough in regards to the draft County Official Plan that was presented to County Council on June 1st, 2022, along with the amendments that County Council passed at the same meeting.
Carried

The new County Official Plan was formally submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) for approval on July 11, 2022. On June 21, 2023 the Official Plan was posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for a period of 60 days for review and comment. The commenting period closes at 11:59 p.m. on August 20, 2023. The ERO posting can be found on-line at: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-5908>

Notice of the ERO posting was added to the [Township website](#) on July 6th, provided to Council via e-mail on July 7th and posted to the [News and Notices](#) section of the website on July 12th.

The new Official Plan includes a set of schedules for each Township (with the exception of Cavan Monaghan) as well as a Natural Heritage System schedule, which is applicable to the entire County. The County is required by the Provincial Growth Plan to identify an agricultural system for the Townships and delineate the settlement area boundaries.

Throughout the development of the new Official Plan, information, reports and materials were made available to the Technical Advisory Committee, Council and the public. Public consultation resulted in a significant number of changes to the new Official Plan prior to its adoption by County Council. Background information and reports regarding the development of the new Official Plan can be found on the County of Peterborough website at: <https://www.ptbocounty.ca/en/growing/new-county-op.aspx>

The Official Plan that is posted on the ERO has not changed from what was adopted by the County of Peterborough on June 29, 2022. The Environmental Registry allows anyone to comment and share their thoughts on actions the Ministry takes that could affect the environment. Comments on the Official Plan can be made through the ERO posting online or by mail to:

Damien Schaefer
Municipal Services Office- Eastern Region
8 Estate Lane
Rockwood House
Kingston, ON K7M 9A8

County Planning Staff have advised lower-tier Municipal Staff that a Report will be provided to County Council on August 2nd. The Report will form the basis of the County's comments to the Ministry via the ERO and will be two-fold:

- (1) Request that Council ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to modify and approve the new Official Plan in accordance (consistent with) the new Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) when it comes into effect;
- (2) Request a number of modifications which address Official Plan Amendments that have been approved since adoption of the new Official Plan in June 2022, along with a few minor wording revisions to sections that need added/deleted/amended (County Planning Staff have met regularly with MMAH Staff over the past year developing the mod list at the Ministry's request).

With respect to item (1), County Planning Staff have advised they will be seeking Township support and to provide our comment through the ERO by the deadline of August 20th.

Conclusion:

The County Report is expected to be available for public viewing in the Council Agenda by noon on July 28th. As of the writing of this Report, a copy of the County Council Agenda was not available, however Staff anticipate being able to speak to the Report verbally.

As noted in the Township Staff Report Planning-2023-17 from the June 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting the proposed PPS has been developed prior to the Province rendering a decision on the new County (and Township) Official Plan. 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.

Given the foregoing and the time constraints for providing comment, Staff suggest that it is appropriate for Council to delegate authority to the Township Planner and CAO to provide the County with the requested support and to submit this comment through the ERO. This would be dependent upon the outcome of the Report at County Council on August 2nd.

Financial Impact: N/A

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

Sustainability Plan Applicability: N/A

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Staff Report Regarding County of Peterborough Official Plan ERO Posting.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 21, 2023

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

Martina Chait-Hartwig

Elana Arthurs