

County Official Plan Project

Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2020 Technical Advisory Committee Meeting No. 18



Location: Virtual Meeting, Zoom

Attendees: Rob Lamarre (SEL), Christina Coulter (CM), Karen Ellis (CM), John Connolly (CM), Eric Rempel (NK), Jamie Hoefling (OSM), Tom Cowie (Hiawatha FN), Brian Fawcett (DD), Laura Stone (HBM), Jennifer Clinesmith (ORCA), Bryan Weir (County), Iain Mudd (County), Keziah Holden (County)

Absent: Anna Currier (SEL), Sonia Aaltonen (HBM), Crystal McMillan (DD), Tiffany Ly (TL), Barb Waldron (OSM), Ed Whitmore (AN), Jeannette Thompson (SEL), Kaitlin Hill (Curve Lake FN), Julie Kapyrka (Curve Lake FN)

Meeting started at 1:34pm

Items and issues discussed at the meeting were as follows:

Business Arising from Minutes/New Business

- No change to minutes as distributed
- County staff briefly discussed Amendment No. 1 to the Provincial Growth Plan
 - A cursory review of the Amendment shows that the policy changes largely provide an update to reflect wording of the new 2020 Provincial Policy Statement. It does not appear to contain major policy shifts.
 - Related to this, the Province is also revising the Land Needs Methodology. The revisions are intended to provide a simplified approach to land needs assessment and provide more flexibility for Municipalities.
 - Both proposals have been posted on the Environmental Registry for review and comment, with comments due July 31, 2020:
[Proposed Land Needs Assessment Methodology, ERO Number 019-1679](#)
[Growth Plan Amendment No. 1, ERO Number 019-1680](#)
- County has received the Growth Management Strategy 2020 from the Township of Cavan Monaghan. The County has not yet undertaken a Growth Management Strategy for the purposes of implementing the Growth Plan, but the intent is that the Cavan Monaghan Strategy will feed into the County process.

Official Plan Policy Review

- Reviewed Section 4 (Natural Heritage Features and Natural Hazards) through to end of Section 4.2.3.2

- TAC discussed title of section and possibility of reorganizing the section to put more emphasis on the Natural Heritage System.
- Recognized that several definitions need to be added and suggested that some of the definitions include a second part which would address differences in the Oak Ridges Moraine. This is intended to capture the differing definitions in the Growth Plan and PPS vs. the ORMCP.
- TAC agreed that the Natural Core designation should capture vegetation protection zones, but that a reference to the 30m VPZ be removed to allow for varying sizes in VPZ's for different features. The features and VPZ will be picked up in mapping, which should be carefully reviewed to ensure correct VPZ is being used. In addition, an appendix is to be added which will outline the types of features and the size of their associated VPZ.
- Permitted uses in the Natural Core designation to be updated to recognize existing dwellings and compared to the policies of the ORMCP.
- TAC discussed the issue of new lot lines going through wetlands; the approach under the 2019 Growth Plan is that no new lot lines can go through a wetland feature. This approach is widely contested within the County since the wetland can be protected through designation and zoning; the survey line has no impact on the feature. The Province has previously provided direction that no lot lines are to go through wetland features, and ORCA staff have additional guidance material from the Province that further reiterates no new lot lines are to go through key hydrologic features.
- TAC discussed the types of features and the size of the VPZ within settlement areas that would be captured by the Natural Core designation. A different approach in settlement areas reflects the policies of the Growth Plan and PPS. The TAC requested that an example schedule be drafted to better visualize how the Natural Core designation may impact settlement areas.
- TAC identified need to have some flexibility in the scope of a Natural Heritage Evaluation in situations where it is appropriate to do so, and to include an assessment value of Natural Linkage Areas if the property is within this designation.
- Natural Linkage Area designation wording to be revised, removing reference to a VPZ or buffer area. The permitted uses also need to be compared to the ORMCP and possibly a separate line added to permit additional uses in accordance with the ORMCP.
- Minor changes to be made to the Parks and Conservation designation at the request of TAC.

Next Steps & Action Items

- County staff to make changes to draft policies based on review by TAC

- County GIS to prepare an example schedule to illustrate what the Natural Core designation within a settlement area would look like, with parameters agreed upon by TAC
- ORCA to provide TAC with a copy of the Provincial guidance document containing direction re: lot lines in wetlands

Meeting adjourned at 4:08pm