



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Keith Hamilton – Senior Planner, Policy

DATE: August 4, 2023

MEMO NO.: PD-2023-004

SUBJECT: Proposed Provincial Planning Statement – Natural Heritage System Policies

PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide Council with an update regarding staff level comments submitted to the Province in response to a posting on the Environmental Registry of Ontario regarding the proposed Provincial Planning Statement ([ERO #019-6813](#)). The comments discussed (see Appendix 1) in this memorandum focus on proposed changes to natural heritage system policies, as part of a wider Provincial review and proposal for a new Provincial Planning Statement.

BACKGROUND:

On April 6, 2023, the Province posted the proposed Provincial Planning Statement on the Environmental Registry of Ontario website for public review and comment. The general intent of this document is to combine the current Provincial Planning Statement and Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe into one consolidated policy document for all of Ontario. The initial comment deadline for the consultation on the proposed Provincial Planning Statement was June 5, 2023. Town staff prepared comments for endorsement ahead of this deadline and reported on them by way of staff report PD-2023-041, which included a presentation before Council on May 29, 2023.

On May 30, 2023, the Province announced the deadline for comments was extended for [ERO #019-6813](#) to August 4, 2023. Following this, on June 16, the ERO posting was updated to include proposed natural heritage system policy changes (including policy sections and related definitions). Due to time constraints, Town staff were not able to report back to Council for endorsement of comments prepared in regards to proposed changes to natural heritage system policies for the Provincial Planning Statement.

The comments Town staff prepared and submitted to the Province ahead of the August 4, 2023 deadline are attached as Appendix 1 to this memorandum. Staff from Planning Policy, Development Review, and Development Engineering worked together to prepare these comments ahead of the deadline.

COMMENTS:

Town staff submitted the comments attached to this memorandum ahead of the August 4, 2023 deadline. The majority of these comments were specific to subsections or definitions related to natural heritage within the proposed Provincial Planning Statement. Much of the policy language related to natural heritage in the proposed Provincial Planning Statement is unchanged from what is in the current Provincial Policy Statement ([PPS, 2020](#)). In other instances, content was removed for the purposes of avoiding duplication, or updated to reflect a consolidated Growth Plan and PPS into one document.

CONCLUSION:

The comment period for the proposed Provincial Planning Statement has now closed. Comments attached to this memorandum have been submitted by Town staff in addition to the comments endorsed by Council on May 29 through report PD-2023-041. Town staff are satisfied that these comments related to natural heritage policies in the proposed Provincial Planning Statement reflect a thorough review of the information provided by the Province, and align with past comments made on similar subject matter.

Reviewed and approved by,

Bronwyn Parker, Director of Planning Policy

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning & Development

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer