

Official Plan Review



Section 26 - Special Meeting of Council

October 13, 2021

Purpose of the Special Meeting

- Formally initiate the current review of the County Official Plan (OP)
- Fulfill requirements of the Planning Act
- Create public awareness of the OP review process and how to get involved
- Provide an opportunity for initial input and feedback



What is the OP Review

- The OP is the principal legal document for implementing Provincial land use planning direction at municipal level
 - Establishes the overall vision and land use strategy for growth and development in the County and Area Municipalities.
- Planning Act requires that municipalities review and revise their OPs as necessary to ensure consistency with applicable Provincial legislation, policies and guidelines.
- A number of these documents will need to be considered as part of the current OP review process, including:
 - Updates to the Planning Act and Provincial Policy Statement; and
 - New and/or updated Provincial guidelines related to PPS implementation

Scope of Current OP Review

- The process to develop a new County OP is expected to begin in a few years time (i.e. following MPs, updated forecasts etc.) and involve comprehensive review and update of the entire OP
- Therefore, the current OP Review is intended to focus primarily on addressing:
 - legislative and policy changes that are relatively scoped in nature; and
 - policy areas for which substantial background studies/work has already been completed

OP Review Process

- Staff are proposing a phased approach to the current OP review, meaning there will be several amendments (OPAs) that will comprise the overall OP update.
- Each phase will include:
 - An OPA to update various policies
 - It's own community engagement plan
 - Supporting planning rationale, background and related technical information
- Unlike other OPAs, all phases of the OP review are subject to Provincial approval.

Conclusions and Next Steps

- Staff are seeking Council direction to formally initiate the OP review process
- The first phase is proposed to focus on updates to agricultural policies – Report to Oct. 27th CC
- Report on future phases will be presented to Council in early 2022 to:
 - Provide further details on the proposed scope, content and implementation for each phase
 - Provide an overview of any initial input received