

Agenda**Township of Whitewater Region Official Plan Policy Review
Steering Committee Meeting #7****February 14, 2007**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.	Chairman calls the meeting to order.
2.	Review of Minutes of Meeting #6.
3.	Summary of Stage 1 Activities: Background Review/Analysis.
4.	Presentation from Joe Janota on Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant Phosphorous Study.
5.	Presentation of Action Plan.
6.	Next Steps? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Public Consultation- New Official Plan vs. Amendments to County Plan

**Township of Whitewater Region
Official Plan Policy Review Steering Committee Meeting #7**

TIME/DATE: February 14, 2007 at 7:00 pm

PLACE: Township of Whitewater Region Council Chambers

ATTENDEES:

Chairperson - Ron Lowe, Deputy Mayor, Whitewater Region
 Committee Members – Don Rathwell, Mayor, Whitewater Region
 Art Cobb, Councilor, Whitewater Region
 Joe Trimm, Councilor, Whitewater Region
 Jacob Rook, Councilor, Whitewater Region
 Izett McBride, Councilor, Whitewater Region
 Jack Ferguson, Councilor, Whitewater Region
 Daryl McLaughlin, Councilor, Whitewater Region
 Jim Labow, Councilor, Whitewater Region
 Joe Kowalski, Citizens Association for the Future of Whitewater Region
 Jim Munroe, Citizens Association for the Future of Whitewater Region

Staff Dean Sauriol, CAO – Administrator, Whitewater Region

Consultants Brian Whitehead, Jp2g Consultants Inc.
 Steve Webster, Jp2g Consultants Inc.
 Joe Janota, Jp2g Consultants Inc.

County of Renfrew Jim Hutton, Director of Development & Property

DISCUSSION:

1. Adoption of Previous Minutes

The meeting minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting #6 dated September 27th, 2006 were reviewed for errors and omissions. No errors or omissions were noted. A motion to adopt the minutes was put forward by Art Cobb and seconded by Joe Trimm. The motion carried.

2. Review of Steps completed to date

Brian Whitehead updated the committee on the steps completed to date through the process. He noted that this is a 3 stage process and presently, the committee is nearing the end of stage 1. To date the following works had been completed:

- completed collection background data
- the committee has completed a visioning exercise that notes that there is a constant theme of wanting growth in the community (waterfront, rural and urban areas), they would like to see a population of 10,000 people in the Township by 2026 and would like to have more control over planning matters at the local level
- public meetings were held in Cobden and Westmeath
- an Issues and Options report has been completed
- the County was brought in to the process to provide their input
- the committee is now at the point that they are close to having to make the decision on which way to go with the Official Plan issue, either being an amendment to the existing County Plan or undertaking their own Official Plan

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3. Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant Phosphorous Study

Joe Janota provided the committee with a briefing on the Phosphorous Study that Jp2g has completed on the Cobden Wastewater plant. It was noted that the study was completed as a result of funding and a terms of reference that was provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources to review the point source phosphorous loading that the plant produces and its impact on Muskrat Lake.

Joe noted that report contained the following sections:

- Background
- Existing Conditions
- Alternative Phosphorous Removal Solutions
- Evaluation of Alternative Solutions
- Summary and Recommendations

Joe noted that based on the MNR's terms of reference the study was to include the following:

- Engineering options available to meet a lower discharge effluent criteria for Total Phosphorous (TP) using two benchmarks (0.3 and 0.1 mg/l);
- Upgrade costs and any related maintenance costs resulting from the upgrades;
- Extra costs associated with treatment of drinking water attributed to the poor water quality at source (Muskrat Lake) (i.e. if water quality improvement is achieved, is there a cost benefit to the Municipality in drinking water treatment);
- Presentation to Council (and appropriate sub-committees) regarding findings.

In reviewing the Existing Conditions, Joe noted that the Cobden plant was operating under an old MOE Certificate of Approval which only had criteria that the plant was sized to accommodate a flow rate of 29 cubic meters per hour (696 cm/day). Joe noted that the plant is currently very effective in removing phosphorous, generally achieving a 0.6 mg/l in the discharge water. He noted that on average the treatment plants in the Ottawa Valley area have criteria to ensure their levels are below 1.0mg/l. Joe also noted that the lagoons are providing additional cleansing in the summer months with values being reduced to 0.3 mg/l. He indicated that through the study Jp2g had done water quality testing and it found that the amount of phosphorous in the Muskrat River was the same as water testing that was done downstream of the outlet from the treatment. As a result, it was concluded that the plant has no measurable impact on the phosphorous levels in the Lake. It was also noted that based on the flow data from 2005, the plant is at capacity, however it was confirmed that no by-passes had taken place at the plant for a few years.

Joe went on to mention the options available for treatment of the phosphorous, which included biological, chemical, tertiary treatment and wetlands.

Based on the Summary and Recommendation section of the report it was noted that the addition of Lanthanum chloride could potentially provide a final phosphorous level of 0.1 mg/l at a capital cost of about \$30,000 and the lowest annual cost of \$2,500. Joe noted that the projected final phosphorous levels and costing noted are preliminary and that further testing would have to be undertaken to confirm if the reduction levels are achievable. The testing, noted as jar testing, would cost in the order of \$15,000 to \$20,000 to complete. This testing would confirm if the estimated reduction levels could be achieved. The testing would also provide a better understanding of the installation and maintenance costs as well as if the existing feed pumps in the plants could be switched over, thus reducing the installation costs.

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Councilor McLaughlin questioned why money should be spent on the plant if upgrades will be required in a few years to increase capacity. Chairperson Lowe responded saying that this study was requested by the MNR and that there is a possibility that the upgrades could be undertaken as part of a pilot project with funding available.

A motion to have Jp2g submit the report in a "Final" format was carried. It was noted that the next steps, being the "jar testing" would be voted on at a future date.

4. Presentation of Draft Action Plan

Brian handed out a copy of a draft Action Plan that he prepared. This plan summarizes the issues the committee would like to have addressed in the Official Plan. This document also noted how these issues could be addressed either within an amendment to the County Official Plan or within a stand alone Township Plan. Brian noted that he had reviewed this draft Action Plan with both Jim Hutton and Charles Cheesman of the County. Based on this review, he noted that there appears to be four ways of dealing with issues. The first three deal with an amendment to the County's Official Plan;

- There could be a separate Whitewater section added to the County's Plan that would deal with all the special issues that the committee would like to have addressed. Brian noted that since there is already a separate map for Whitewater within the document, it would be fairly easy to implement many of these issues without affecting the other municipalities. He noted that this would apply to the agriculture designation and aggregate resources, if the committee wanted to refine those boundaries. A waterfront designation could also be added.
- The second option would be to change individual sections in the County Plan, however, under this scenario these changes may also apply to other municipalities.
- The third option would be a combination of the above two.
- The fourth option would be that the Township could prepare their own Official Plan.

Jim Hutton confirmed that he felt that the County could accommodate the Committee's issues within an amendment to the County's OP. It was noted that even if the Township did their own OP, that the province would be very much involved in the process, as they have in other areas of the County that are doing their own OP's.

Joe Trimm, noted that while he had not reviewed the draft document he wanted to make sure that it addressed the following issues:

- 20m water setback
- Archeological investigations
- Sensitive lake protocol – could residential applications be considered on their own merits?
- ANSI's – in particular Pretty Hill where the people want to be able to maintain their tradition land uses.
- Reasonable timelines for review by provincial agencies.

Jim Hutton noted that the provincial agencies are not circulated with any applications. Only on certain occasions are they consulted for technical input.

Joe Trimm asked Jim Hutton about the timelines to have an amendment to the OP completed as well as adoption of the new zoning by-law. Jim indicated that he felt that the OP amendment would take about 6 months and the zoning by-law would take be completed about a year later. He noted that there would be the need for further public consultations under both of those processes.

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Mayor Rathwell indicated that it would be his desire to have the same Committee deal with the implementation of the new zoning by-law.

Joe Kowalski indicated that he and Jim Munroe would like the opportunity to review the draft Action Plan with the other members of their citizens group. He also noted that he would like the other members of council to review the document and get any comments to Brian as soon as possible so that Brian could update the Action Plan and re-circulate it to the committee members in advance of the next meeting. Joe noted that he would like the following items added:

- Archeological – it should be fair across the board or don't penalize people who want to do development
- Floodplain – particular in areas of control elevations
- Boathouses
- 20m setback – it should be based on a measured length and not a horizontal distance.
- Definition of "Rural Subdivision" – he does not want to see urban subdivisions in a rural setting

Brian Whitehead raised the issue about the need to go back to the public before adopting what ~~option the Committee will undertake, since that was noted in the original work program.~~ Joe Kowalski indicated that since most of the people at the meeting to date had been from their citizen's group, he did not feel that another public meeting was required. The remainder of the Committee agreed with this.

5. Next Steps

It was agreed that the members of the Committee are to provide any feedback to Brian by the end of February, so that Brian can circulate the updated Action Plan at least three days in advance of the next meeting. The next meeting was set for March 14th at 7:00 pm at which time the Committee will review the Action Plan and vote on the course of action to take.

6. Adjournment of Meeting

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made Councilor Trimm and seconded by Councilor Rook. The motion carried.

THESE MINUTES WERE RECORDED AND DISTRIBUTED BY Jp2g CONSULTANTS INC. ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE UNDERSIGNED.



Steven Webster

Distribution:

- All in attendance