

November 26, 2020

Hon. Jeff Yurek
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
777 Bay Street, Fifth Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Yurek,

RE: Bill 229 Impact on Conservation Authorities and Proposed Amendments

The Municipality has received communications from its Conservation Authorities in regards to Schedule 6 of Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act. Schedule 6 contains proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

The Municipality is in support of the position taken by the Conservation Authorities and requests that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks gives consideration to remove Schedule 6 from the omnibus bill which affords the time to properly review and address regulatory changes to improve efficiency and operation for the Conservation Authorities, while maintaining transparency and accountability.

In addition, at the meeting held on November 25, 2020, the Council of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre adopted the enclosed motion.

If you have any questions about the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael Di Lullo, MPA
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Hon. Monte McNaughton, Local MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
James Hutson, Municipal Clerk
Brian Horner, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Elizabeth VanHooren, Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
Mark Peacock, Lower Thames River Conservation Authority
Brian McDougall, St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
Ian Wilcox, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Encl.

**Changes to Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act
Resolution by the Council of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre
November 25, 2020**

Resolution: #220-305
Moved By: Councillor Brad Scott
Seconded By: Councillor Wayne Shipley

WHEREAS the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act;

AND WHEREAS the legislation introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the conservation authorities' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications;

AND WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act;

AND WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within our jurisdiction for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value the conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value the conservation authority's work to ensure safe drinking water;

THEREFORE be it resolved:

THAT the Council of the Municipality of Middlesex Centre is in support of the request from local Ontario Conservation Authorities that the Province of Ontario repeal Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229);

AND THAT the Municipal Clerk and Chief Administrative Officer be directed to submit correspondence to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding this request.

CARRIED