



TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHWOLD

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November 24, 2020

Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Via email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Attention: Honourable Minister Jeff Yurek

Dear Minister Yurek:

RE: Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Southwold, at its regular meeting of Council on Monday, November 23, 2020, passed the following resolution:

2020-244 Bill 229 Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)

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

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;

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*;

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without CA watershed data and expertise;

WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs

WHEREAS municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on CA Boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the CA Board should be duly elected;

WHEREAS the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a CA board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed;

WHEREAS conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative;

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, and their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process;

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 Province of Ontario repeal Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229);

THAT the Province continue to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth;

THAT the Province respect the current conservation authority/municipal relationships;

AND THAT the Province embrace their long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

CARRIED

If you have any questions or require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Thank you.

Yours truly,



Ken Loveland
CAO/Clerk

Cc: Mark Peacock, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, LTVCA. Via Email: Mark.Peacock@ltvca.ca