

4. RURAL AREA STUDIES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information.

DOCUMENTATION

1. Planning and Development Approvals Commissioner's report dated 9 Mar 2000 is immediately attached.
2. An Extract of Draft Minute, 28 Mar 2000, immediately follows the report and includes a record of the vote.

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 01-00-0047
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 9 March 2000

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator, Planning and Environment Committee

FROM/EXP. Planning and Development Approvals Commissioner

SUBJECT/OBJET **RURAL AREA STUDIES**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee and Council receive this report for information.

PURPOSE

This report is in response to Committee's inquiry at its meeting of 25 January 2000 for an update on the Department's studies with a rural component.

DISCUSSION

Rural Servicing and Aquifer Management Strategies

The Department has begun work on developing the Rural Servicing and Aquifer Management Strategies. Work will continue throughout 2000, and the overall strategies will take several years to complete. The Rural Servicing Strategy will address the following major issues: rural water and wastewater servicing technologies, priorities for and constraints to village servicing, and appropriate funding mechanisms. Considerable work will be required to develop each element. The Aquifer Management Strategy will focus on effective long-term protection and development of the region's groundwater resources by developing a thorough understanding of the groundwater flow systems, including the identification of potential contamination sources, followed by the development and implementation of appropriate policies and programs.

For 2000, the Department will focus its efforts on a regional scale water resources study (referred to as the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Management Study (EOWRMS)), a pilot study in the Village of

Metcalfe and the initial stages of the development of both the Rural Servicing Strategy and the Aquifer Management Strategy.

The EOWRMS study is currently being conducted in the South Nation Watershed area of Ottawa-Carleton. The six major objectives of this study include an assessment of the capability of key areas to potentially support development on private services and the identification of potential cost-effective servicing alternatives on a regional basis. The study will provide a methodology which can then be applied to other parts of Ottawa-Carleton and data which will be helpful in further developing the Rural Servicing Strategy.

A groundwater assessment and a review of rural (water and wastewater) servicing solutions for the Village of Metcalfe is currently being initiated and should be underway by June. This study will allow the delineation of all areas in Metcalfe that are experiencing poor water quality and will identify alternative solutions to address the water/wastewater servicing problems. This study may have some impact on future development in Metcalfe.

To assist the department with the development of the Rural Servicing Strategy and Aquifer Management Strategy, a Rural Servicing Advisory Group (staff from several Regional departments) has been established.

A preliminary list of the issues related to the two strategies is as follows:

- identification of suitable rural water/wastewater technologies
- identification of appropriate and adequate funding mechanisms
- understanding of the current groundwater quality concerns, as well as hydrogeologically sensitive areas
- identification of potential sources of groundwater contamination
- identification of priorities for village servicing
- incorporation of groundwater resources into the Region's planning framework for effective long-term protection and development of the region's groundwater resources
- identification of constraints to growth in the rural area from a servicing and/or groundwater protection perspective.

Corel Area Study Phase 2

Staff of the Planning and Development Approvals Department, along with Economic Affairs, are preparing the basis for an Official Plan Amendment on lands around the Corel Centre immediately west of the current urban boundary. Lands under consideration include those in rural Kanata, Goulbourn, and West Carleton.

The Phase 2 work is needed to determine more precisely:

- the amount of additional land needed to accommodate the growing high tech business sector
- the best location for these lands, considering areas both north and south of Highway 417 at the Palladium interchange

- the amount, cost, and phasing of new infrastructure
- ways to finance new infrastructure, including alternative funding options
- implications for growth and related infrastructure elsewhere in Ottawa-Carleton, as laid out in the Regional Development Strategy.

As directed by Council, the Amendment will be at Planning and Environment Committee in September 2000.

Other Studies

In addition, the following studies have a rural component:

- Rural Lot Creation: an annual monitoring report on lot creation in the rural area
- Vacant Industrial Land - this survey (done every 2-3 years) covers industrial land in both the urban and rural areas; it provides information on both the availability of vacant land and the development of industrial land since the previous survey
- Archaeological Resource Potential- this study created an archaeological potential mapping for all of Ottawa-Carleton and resulted in Amendment 6 to the Regional Official Plan
- Historic Land Use Survey - this study compiled information from existing public records on historic and current uses which may have the potential to create either soil or groundwater contamination; it covers all of Ottawa-Carleton (although fewer records were available for the rural area). A related amendment to the Regional Official Plan will be presented to Committee this spring.
- Land Use survey -This survey is done every five years and will be done in 2000. It surveys land use both in the urban area and in the villages of the rural area.
- Jock River Watershed Plan (RVCA is lead, but staff are spending a significant amount of time on it)
- Work will begin this year on a watershed and subwatershed plan for the Carp River.
- Trans Canada Trail- RMOC is working with the community to create a trail on the RMOC-owned former rail corridor from Stittsville to Carleton Place as a segment of the Trans Canada Trail.
- State of Environment reporting--This report will provide data on the health of the natural environment, such as vegetation along stream corridors and area of interior forest habitat, as well as measures of human impact on the environment, such as solid waste generation and diversion from landfill.

CONSULTATION

This report is a factual reporting of work recently completed, underway or to be initiated in 2000 which affects the rural area. No public consultation has been undertaken on this report, although some of the projects mentioned, (e.g. the Eastern Ontario Water Resources Management Study), will include major public consultation components.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report has no direct financial implications. The projects listed are all provided for in approved budgets.

CONCLUSION

This report is for the information of Committee and Council.

*Approved by
N. Tunnacliffe, MCIP, RPP*

RURAL AREA STUDIES

- Planning and Development Approvals Commissioner's report dated 9 Mar 2000
- Response to Inquiry No. P&E - 16 (99)

Councillor Legendre referenced page 34 of the agenda, which spoke to rural servicing and aquifer management strategies. He said he understood most of the preliminary issues listed on page 34, but questioned the issue of the *identification of appropriate and adequate funding mechanisms*, as he felt this was more of a political issue than a quantifiable variable.

Carol Christensen, Senior Project Manager, Land Use Planning Branch, Policy and Infrastructure Planning Division, Planning and Development Approvals Department, noted funding decisions were made by Council, but she explained that staff felt obligated, once the magnitude of the work had been defined, to present possible alternatives, although she acknowledged that at the moment, the alternatives were limited.

Pamela Sweet, Director, Policy and Infrastructure Planning Division, Planning and Development Approvals Department, felt this was particularly relevant now, as the Provincial Government was no longer helping to finance such rural infrastructure projects to the extent it once did. She explained that staff had to present all possible alternatives to Council at the time anything is being considered.

Councillor van den Ham noted the rural area studies entailed much work, however, he expressed disappointment that some of the studies noted in the report would take several years, as he had hoped for a faster outcome. He drew the Committee's attention to the *identification of priorities for village servicing*, and in particular the assessment of the search for potable water, and asked that staff suggest to the advisory group that this be given a high priority. He also noted that development had been arrested in his ward and in the western townships for a number of years, and that developers were wondering when it would be possible to proceed.

The Councillor also felt the identification of appropriate and adequate funding was an important issue. He noted one of the alternatives was a user-pay scenario, in light of a significant decrease in Provincial funding. Councillor van den Ham said he looked forward to receiving such information, as he felt it would be useful in letting the community know what options were available, and at what cost. In conclusion, the Councillor said he wished to know of the advisory group's makeup, so that he could be kept informed on the issues, receive the minutes, etc.

Acting Chair Stewart asked staff if they would take Councillor van den Ham's suggestions as a direction to give some priority to the water supply for villages in the rural area. Ms. Sweet

Extract of Draft Minute
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confirmed this would be done. She also noted one of the studies' outcomes would be to set a priority list of villages, with information outlining the specific needs unique to each village.

Councillor Hill also said she wished to be kept informed on issues dealing with servicing to villages or the rural areas, and that she wished to receive copies of local committee meeting minutes. She also expressed interest in attending such meetings when possible.

That the Planning and Environment Committee and Council receive this report for information.

RECEIVED