April 16, 2020

Sent by Email

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier’s Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7Z 1A1

Honourable Premier Ford;

Re: Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation

At the regular meeting of Perth South Council held on March 17, 2020 correspondence was received from the Municipality of West Nipissing, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford and Norfolk County (attached hereto) regarding the above noted issue. As a rural municipality, we share the same concerns raised and thoroughly support the resolutions passed and information provided by these municipalities.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please contact our office if you require any further information.

Regards,

[Signature]

Lizet Scott
Clerk

Attachments
March 3, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier’s Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable Premier Ford:

SUBJECT: PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS DESIGNATION

At its regular meeting held on February 25, 2020, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing passed resolution 2020/080, attached hereto. The resolution supports a request circulated by the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, asking the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully review its practices and procedures to include a requirement to provide supporting evidence, to impacted municipalities, when designating Provincially Significant Wetlands within their boundaries.

We trust the enclosed is self-explanatory.

Respectfully,

Janice Dupuis
Deputy Clerk / Assistant to the
Chief Administrative Officer

\Encl.

c: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
    Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
    Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
    Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
    Ontario Municipalities
WHEREAS the Municipality of West Nipissing received resolution no. R-029-20 from the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, attached hereto; pertaining to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s practices and procedures when designating of Provincially Significant Wetlands;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing supports the Village of Merrickville-Wolford requesting that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully provide supporting evidence with respect to the expansion of wetlands designations within their boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing calls upon the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully review its practices and procedures to include a requirement to provide supporting evidence, to impacted municipalities, when designating Provincially Significant Wetlands within their boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and all Ontario municipalities.
February 5, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier’s Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation

Please find attached the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford’s Resolution No. R-029-20, with respect to the Village’s concerns surrounding the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s practices and procedures while implementing designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands.

While the attached resolution is tailored to a Village-specific issue, it is Council’s position that the concerns expressed therein are being experienced by municipalities Province-wide.

Thank you in advance for the consideration that you give this matter.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Doug Robertson
CAO/Clerk/Director, Economic Development

c. Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
   Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
   Andy Brown, CAO of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
   Association of Municipalities of Ontario
   Rural Ontario Municipal Association
   All Ontario municipalities
Resolution Number: R - 029 - 20

Date: January 27, 2020

Moved by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy
Seconded by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy

WHEREAS the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is endeavouring to adopt a new Official Plan as required per Section 17 of the Planning Act and the Village is required to incorporate the Provincial Policy Statements of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statements require the Village to provide in its Official Plan the updated provisions of new and expanded Provincially Significant Wetlands designations;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that the expansion of these wetlands is detrimentally affecting certain landowners and the Village’s assessment base;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands have occurred throughout the Province of Ontario without the provision of supporting evidence;
VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned about the expansion of the Provincially Significant Wetlands in the Northeast quadrant of the Village;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that these wetlands designations have been expanded without the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry having provided to the Village supporting evidence to justify said expansion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby respectfully request that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provide the Village with supporting evidence with respect to the expansion of these wetlands designations;

AND THAT the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re-evaluate the subject properties without delay;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried / Defeated

J. Douglas Struthers, Mayor
March 1, 2020

Ontario Municipalities

Dear Heads of Council and Councillors:

Re: Issues regarding the mapping of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs)

Norfolk County Council is working to address significant issues that have come to our attention regarding the mapping of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs).

Following the Ministry’s updated mapping related to PSWs, the County updated its Official Plan to bring its policies in line with the new mapping. Following that, the County planning staff introduced a Zoning By-Law amendment to update the zoning to reflect the new mapping and to provide consistency between the Zoning By-Law and the Official Plan. Though the mapping is wholly outside the County’s process and control, the zoning by-law amendment was not approved by Council, flowing from significant public concern about the updated mapping affecting people’s properties. In some cases, some of these changes were very significant.

The County submitted comments to the province as part of the review of the Provincial Policy statement requesting that the process for PSW mapping be significantly improved to allow for transparency and better land owner engagement, including, for example, a right of appeal or formal dispute resolution process. This will allow for land owners to be properly informed and engaged where land use designations that affect their property may result. The current process appears to be severely underfunded and without any meaningful way for affected residents to engage.

The County is seeking support from other rural municipalities who may be affected by this to address this issue with the province.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Kristal Chopp
Norfolk County

cc. The Honourable Steve Clark,
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing