



To: **Committee of the Whole**

Agenda Corporate Services
Division: Engineering, Planning and Environment
Department: Planning

Item Number: **CCW - 2021-154**

Meeting Date: April 27, 2021

Subject: Municipal Comprehensive Review - Update

Recommendation

That Item CCW 2021-154 dated April 27, 2021 regarding an update on the County's Municipal Comprehensive Review process, be received.

Executive Summary

This Item provides an update on the work completed to date on the County's Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR). The MCR is a planning project required to be completed as directed by the Province, so that the County's Official Plan is brought into full conformity with the provincial Growth Plan (*A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2020*) relating to several key matters. The MCR project is being completed by all upper-tier and single-tier municipalities that are subject to the Growth Plan.

This information report is intended to offer Council with an interim update on the tasks underway for this project. The MCR has a required target completion date of July 2022. This update will be one of a series of updates provided to County Council and Committee of the Whole, as well as the Planning Advisory Committee at various intervals throughout the project. This report serves as an opportunity to "touch base", however, more formal updates such as public meetings as legislated by the *Planning Act* will also occur throughout the project timeline.

Background/Analysis/Options

A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2020 (Growth Plan) that took effect on August 28, 2020 continues to require that the County undertake a Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR). It is the responsibility for upper-tier and single-tier

municipalities that are within the Growth Plan policy area to complete the MCR. An MCR is a planning exercise which results in a process to comprehensively bring Official Plans into conformity with the Growth Plan. Various policy matters are impacted and require updating in both the County and lower-tier official plans because of the MCR. One key component of the MCR relates to the population and employment forecasts contained in Schedule 3 to the Growth Plan which will be used in the planning and management of growth in the County to the 2051 planning horizon.

A summary of the key components of the MCR and the associated consultant retained by the County to complete the work is as follows:

1. Provincial Natural Heritage System Review and Refinement – North South Environmental Inc.
2. Provincial Agricultural System Review and Refinement – DBH Soil Services Inc.
3. Employment Strategy – Hemson Consulting and Cushman Wakefield
4. Climate Change Strategy – Hemson Consulting and Laura Taylor Designs
5. Watershed Management Strategy – Wood Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions Inc.
6. Growth Management – Hemson Consulting
7. County Official Plan Amendment(s) - Meridian Planning
8. Water and Wastewater - R V Anderson and Associates

In addition to the core requirements relating to the MCR, it is critical for effective long-term planning and approvals that decisions relating to growth are compatible with major infrastructure capacity. Connecting land-use planning with water and wastewater plans is an important part of the MCR. As such, the County has retained the consulting firm RV Anderson and Associates who is also undertaking a service delivery review and connecting their work and findings to the MCR requirements. County staff included any additional required components to the project to also satisfy the requirements of the MCR. This approach will consolidate the data and ultimately reduce the work required from the member municipalities by requesting all the information through one consolidated process. The consulting team is reviewing, analyzing, and interpreting Master servicing plans and other documentation related to the provision, viability and capacity of water and wastewater systems. RV Anderson has provided local municipal staff with a requested list of information required and is in the process of establishing meetings to review the material and ask specific questions. County Staff will work with municipalities as required and requested to assist them in these important processes.

The culmination of all the MCR work will result in amendments to the County Official Plan, and the timeline for completion of this is targeted for July 2022. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is the approval authority for the County's Official Plan Amendments.

Several important MCR tasks have occurred since February of this year. A summary of these tasks are as follows:

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- Planning Advisory Committee Meeting February 25, 2021 and Staff Report PAC 2021-076.
 - The purpose was to provide an update on the retention of the project team, outline tasks completed to date, and highlight priorities moving forward.
 - MCR webpage <https://simcoe.ca/mcr> was created and content uploaded.
 - The webpage will be a key ongoing communication forum and place to store updated information and background material for Council, stakeholders and the public to review.
 - An MCR Project Notification List has been created and regular email updates on the project are being provided to interested individuals.
 - Visitors to the MCR webpage may add their name and contact information to the notification list.
 - Kick-off meetings held with the various MCR consultants.
 - All necessary initial meetings have been completed with the project consultants, enabling all aspects of the MCR background work to proceed.
 - Data and information sharing with the MCR consulting team has occurred.
 - All administrative and technical matters relating to the ability to freely share numerous background resources has occurred.
 - The Land Needs Assessment Methodology work is underway.
 - This entails the in-depth analysis necessary to rationalize the allocation of population and employment targets for each local municipality to the year 2051. This exercise will occur in strict adherence to the provincial land needs assessment methodology, which is a technical implementation tool released with the latest version of the Growth Plan.
 - The review and refinement to the mapping of the Provincial Natural Heritage System and Agricultural System is underway.
 - The first phase of Indigenous communities' pre-engagement has commenced with follow-up Zoom meetings occurring in the month of April to provide a more formal introduction to the MCR project.
 - A meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Ontario Growth Secretariat has taken place.
 - Priorities and approaches to implementing the MCR for Simcoe County were discussed to ensure the approval authority (Province) is fully aware of progress and techniques to complete the MCR.
 - A meeting with the Public, Catholic and French School Boards occurred.

- Planning for Public Service Facilities such as schools must take place for the MCR to be successful. Discussions with the various Boards to review how to have them fully engaged in the process occurred.
- Connected with Conservation Authorities with regards to their involvement in the natural heritage system review, watershed planning and climate change.
 - Collaboration with the CA's will be important to ensure that best available information is used regarding natural heritage and watershed management.
- Planning underway for a MCR *Planning Act* Section 26 Special Meeting of Council (Public Meeting), on June 8, 2021.
 - This is a legislated requirement to ensure that the County is prepared for when the first OPA will need to be considered by the Province and is a pre-requisite of this process.
 - This meeting will also formally establish the matters to be completed through the MCR, and what will be considered by the Province for approval.

Financial and Resource Implications

Funds for this project have been allocated in the 2021 Operating Budget.

Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan

This Item may support the following strategic initiatives from the County of Simcoe's 2015-2025 Strategic Plan: A) Growth Related Service Delivery, B) Strengthened Social, Health and Educational Opportunities, D) Environmental Sustainability and F) Responsive and Effective Governance.

Reference Documents

- **PAC 2021-076** (February 25, 2021) Update on the County's Municipal Comprehensive Review
- **PAC 2020-127** (April 14, 2020) Update on the County's Municipal Comprehensive Review
- **CCW 17-269** (September 12, 2017) Overview of Growth Plan, 2017 and the Potential Impacts on County and Local Municipal Planning Matters

Attachments

There are no attachments to this Item.

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Approvals

Date

David Parks, Director of Planning, Economic Development,
Transit and Airport Services

April 8, 2021

Rob Elliott, General Manager, Engineering, Planning and
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April 13, 2021

Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance

April 18, 2021

Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer

April 21, 2021