

December 8, 2020

Via email: stclair@scrca.on.ca

Brian McDougall, General Manger
St Clair Region Conservation Authority
205 Mill Pond Cres.
Strathroy ON N7G 3P9

Re: Resolution Bill 229 and the Conservation Authorities

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its regular meeting held on December 7, 2020 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Moved by Councillor Faas, Seconded by Councillor Thompson

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.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Smith at judys@chatham-kent.ca

Sincerely,



Judy Smith, CMO
Director Municipal Governance
Clerk /Freedom of Information Coordinator

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Honourable Premier of Ontario

Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance (rod.phillips@pc.ola.org)

Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks
(jeff.yurek@pc.ola.org)

Hon. John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
(john.yakabuski@pc.ols.org)

Local Members of Provincial Parliament

All Ontario Municipalities