

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jan28_2020

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Conservation Policy and Directive update

Report Purpose

To provide the Priorities Committee with a summary of proposed directives, in lieu of policies proposed to be rescinded, and a new capstone policy.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 4 - Ensure effective stewardship of water, land, air and energy resources

Report

As per revised policy GOV-002-021 Mandatory Review of Bylaws and Policies and revised policy GOV-002-031 Municipal Policy Handbook Program, Legislative and Legal Services has been working with all Strathcona County departments to conduct a thorough policy review. The goals of the review include updating policies that are no longer current, identifying potential policy gaps, and eliminating or rescinding policies that are no longer required.

After a thorough review of the existing policies and procedures developed and implemented by Environmental Planning, it was determined that the processes directed by the existing policies are operational and can best be addressed through a directive and accompanying procedures. It was recommended by Legislative and Legal Services that an overarching policy be developed that ties the previous policies (proposed directives) together into a more holistic conservation outcome. The proposed policy and proposed directives support the Environmental Sustainability Framework and Strategic Plan.

The intent is to rescind six policies and approve as five directives with only administrative updates. There were no changes to, or loss of, intent or process.

- Policy SER-009-031 Dedication of Conservation Easements was reviewed and amended to include Environmental Reserve Easements and translated into a directive (SER-009-031D Conservation and Environmental Reserve Easements).
- The two tree policies (SER-009-034 Tree Conservation During Development and SER-009-035 Tree Management) were compiled and translated into one directive (SER-009-042D Tree Conservation) with associated procedures.
- The remaining three policies (SER-009-032 Biophysical Assessment, SER-009-036 Wetland Conservation, and SER-012-010 Legacy Lands) were simply translated into directives (SER-009-032D Biophysical Assessment, SER-009-036D Wetland Conservation, and SER-012-010D Legacy Lands) with associated procedures.

The result would be approval of one new policy that encompasses the range of directives. The purpose of the new policy SER-009-041 Conservation of Biological Diversity is to guide conservation decision-making and act as a foundation for municipal actions to protect the air, water, land and biodiversity within Strathcona County. The directives focus on planning, protecting, managing and restoring the natural environment.

Council and Committee History

January 29, 2019 Priorities Committee received a presentation on the Conservation Policy and Directive Updates

April 28, 2015 Revised policy GOV-002-021 Mandatory Review of Bylaws and Policies
Revised policy GOV-002-031 Municipal Policy Handbook Program

Author: Jocelyn Thrasher-Haug, Planning & Development Services

Acting Director: Ryan Hall, Planning & Development Services

Acting Associate Commissioner: Stacy Fedechko, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Lead Department: Planning and Development Services

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jan28_2020

Other Impacts

Policy: GOV-002-021 Mandatory Review of Bylaws and Policies require that policies are reviewed on a three-year-cycle.

Legislative/Legal: The *Municipal Government Act* s.5 sets out that a municipality has the duties that are imposed on it by enactments and those that the municipality imposes on itself as a matter of policy.

Interdepartmental: The policy review initiative involves all County departments.

Master Plan/Framework: n/a

Communication Plan

Legislative and Legal Services documents all rescinded policies and works with the various departments to ensure that the Municipal Policy Handbook is updated and that any webpage or external reference to the policy are updated appropriately.

Enclosures:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | SER-009-041 Conservation of Biological Diversity |
| 2 | Proposed Capstone Conservation Policy - Presentation |