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**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Brent Spagnol, Director of Planning Services

**Date:** August 2, 2023

**Subject:** ERO #019-6813- Proposed Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2023) Natural Heritage-Township of Springwater Comments

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### Report Highlights

- On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Province of Ontario released Bill 97 known as the *'Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act'*.
- As a result of the legislative changes, the Province initiated a process to revise the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) to facilitate a more streamlined approach by consolidating the 2020 PPS and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe resulting in a proposed Provincial Planning Statement.
- Environmental Registry Ontario (ERO # 019-6813) posted an extension to the original commenting period, which now closes on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Revisions to the PPS incorporating Natural Heritage policies were posted on the ERO on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the changes are generally as follows:
  - Inclusion of a variety of definitions and revisions intended to clarify natural features.
- Staff are generally satisfied with the proposed revisions as they appear to transfer existing policies and clarify definitions associated with various natural heritage features.
- Subject to any comments received from Council, staff do not have any additional comments to provide as a result of the proposed changes to the PPS.

### Recommendation

That the report from the Director of Planning Services, regarding ERO #019-6813- Proposed Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2023) Natural Heritage-Township of Springwater Comments, dated August 2, 2023, be received.

That subject to any comments received from Council, staff be authorized to submit Township comments as generally outlined in this report and the May 31, 2023 staff report to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) prior to the August 4, 2023 deadline.

## Background

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Province of Ontario released Bill 97 known as the *'Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act'*.

As a result of the legislative changes, the Province initiated a process to revise the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) to facilitate a more streamlined approach by consolidating the 2020 PPS and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The Environmental Registry Ontario (ERO # 019-6813) posted an extension to the original commenting period, which now closes on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Natural Heritage policy additions to the proposed Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) were posted on the ERO on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the purpose of this report is to generally summarize the changes.

### Proposed Legislative Consultation and Deadline for Comment

ERO #	Legislation	Last Day for Comment Submission
019-6318	Review of Provincial Planning Statement	August 4th, 2023

## Natural Heritage Policies

Proposed additions to the PPS essentially transfer the policies from the 2020 PPS into the proposed Provincial Planning Statement along with the inclusion of definition revisions intended to clarify aspects associated with natural heritage features.

- Adjacent lands b)
- Areas of natural and scientific interest
- Coastal wetland
- Development c)
- Ecological function
- Endangered species
- Fish
- Fish habitat
- Habitat of endangered species and threatened species
- Natural heritage features and areas
- Natural heritage system
- Negative impacts b), c)
- Provincial and federal requirements
- Significant a), b), c)
- Site alteration
- Threatened species
- Valleylands

- Wetlands
- Wildlife habitat
- Woodland

### **Staff Comments/Impacts**

Staff are generally satisfied with the proposed revisions as they appear to transfer existing Natural Heritage policies into the PPS and clarify definitions associated with various natural heritage features.

### **Conclusion**

Based on a review of the materials provided through Environmental Registry of Ontario, staff recommend the following:

That the report from the Director of Planning Services, regarding ERO #019-6813-Proposed Provincial Planning Statement (PPS 2023) Natural Heritage-Township of Springwater Comments, dated August 2, 2023, be received.

That subject to any comments received from Council, staff be authorized to submit Township comments as generally outlined in this report and the May 31, 2023 staff report to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) prior to August 4, 2023 deadline.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report.

### **Pillars of Commitment**

The above initiative supports the following Strategic Pillars of Commitment:

**Goal 1** –Leveraging Growth to Improve Springwater as a Community

**Goal 4** - Supporting climate change while embracing environmental sustainability.

## Approvals

**Submitted by:** Brent Spagnol, Director of Planning Services

**Financial Implications Reviewed by:** Jas Rattigan, CPA, CGA, Director of Finance

**Approved by:** Jeff Schmidt, CPA, CGA, Chief Administrative Officer

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## Applicable Municipal Policy or Legislation

- Ontario Planning Act

## Background or Relevant Reports

- [ERO #019-6813-Proposed Provincial Policy Statement \(PPS 2023\)-Township of Springwater Comments](#)
- [2022-11-23-Bill 23-Township Staff Comments](#)