

LAND USE COUNCIL

“advocating social, economic and environmental balance in government legislation affecting land”

October, 16, 2009, Brampton, Ontario

NEWS RELEASE

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL PRESSES FOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY REVIEW

Status quo monetary arrangements between municipalities and Ontario’s 36 Conservation Authorities were challenged October 7 when, on a recorded vote with one abstention, a township council in Simcoe County approved a Resolution to revise the process by which a district Conservation Authority levies, collects and disburses fees and permit income from local taxpayers.

With that approval, Essa Township officials will now seek support from all municipalities in the Nottawasga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) watershed for an independent third party to develop an Action Plan focused on land use issues. Such issues include, but are not limited to, duplication and required level of land planning, halting NVCA collection of permit fees and assigning that responsibility to municipal officials mandated to levy and collect reasonable charges to meet the objectives of the Conservation Act, remitting equally realistic payment to the NVCA for services rendered, streamlining NVCA objectives and designing a strategy for significant reduction of NVCA annul cost to host municipalities.

Spectators overflowed the council chambers to witness these proceedings. Quiet and attentive, the audience included farmers, private citizens, politicians, contractors and land developers as well as representatives from organized landowner groups such as Food Chain, Land Use Council, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Landowner Association and the Ontario Property And Environmental Rights Alliance. By their number, diversity and presence it appears the recent Essa Township initiative enjoys widespread public support. This, according to some observers, suggests the cost-benefit ratio and growing regulatory muscle of Conservation Authorities across Ontario are attracting not only increased taxpayer attention but considerable public resentment as well.

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268 words

Copy of Essa Township Resolution is attached

For additional information concerning this News Release, please contact:

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The Land Use Council is a public service coalition supported by the combined memberships of:

FoodChain / Halton Region Federation of Agriculture / Ontario Landowners Association
Ontario Property and Environmental Rights Alliance / Peel Federation of Agriculture

TRUE COPY OF AN ESSA TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION APPROVED OCTOBER 7, 2009

Resolution No: C222-2009 Moved by: Macdonald, Seconded by: Henderson

THAT the Council of the Township of Essa has identified the need for an independent review of the NVCA regarding how they collect and charge for permit fees, levy fees and the duplication of planning for residents, businesses and the municipalities in the NVCA catchment area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Council of the Township of Essa requests municipalities in the NVCA watershed to support an immediate review by an independent third party who will be asked to develop an action plan on matters such as but not limited to, the duplication and required level of planning in the NVCA catchment area; halting collection of permit fees by the NVCA, but instead with municipalities collecting reasonable fees to meet the objectives set out in the Conservation Act, and passing along appropriate fees to the NVCA for services performed; streamlining of services and a strategy for reduction of levy fees; and further

THAT Essa Council looks forward to working with the NVCA in order to provide a better service to all residents of the area.

It is requested that a copy of this Resolution be sent to all NVCA member municipalities for consideration and support.

A recorded vote was called:

Councillor Henderson	Yea
Councillor Macdonald	Yea
Deputy Mayor Dowdall	Yea
Mayor Guergis	Yea

Carried