Committee Report

Report PDR-PCD-05-14

To: Chair and Members of the Planning and Community Development Committee
From: Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: December 17, 2013
Subject: Source Protection Implementation Funding Agreement
Status: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution PCD09-14 December 17, 2013; Endorsed by County Council January 9, 2014 per Resolution CC14-14; See also Addendum to PDR-PCD-05-14 for further information;

Recommendation(s)

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has set up a Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund to provide one-time grant funding to offset a portion of the costs for small, rural municipalities in preparing to implement drinking water source protection plans;

AND WHEREAS the County of Grey is eligible to receive grant funding in the amount of $58,729 for eligible activities undertaken by the County, with the possibility of up to an additional $15,000 for collaborating with other municipalities, by signing and submitting a Grant Funding Agreement to the Province prior to December 13, 2013;

AND WHEREAS the Delegation of Duties By-law 4814-13 requires a recommendation to accept funding up to a value of $200,000 to be approved by Council;

AND WHEREAS due to the time constraints, the Grant Funding Agreement has been reviewed and initially signed pending the approval of Council to accept the grant funding;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Report PDR-PCD-05-14 be received;
AND THAT Council hereby accepts the grant funding allocated to the County by the Province under the Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund.

Background

The Province of Ontario has set up a Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund to provide one-time grants to small, rural municipalities in order to help offset some of the start-up costs they will incur as they prepare to implement drinking water source protection plans. Once the source protection plans have been approved by the Ministry of the Environment, municipalities will be required to implement some of the source protection plan policies into their planning documents, including official plans.

The Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund has been divided amongst 189 municipalities. Municipalities that are eligible for funding have received a proposed Grant Funding Agreement from the Province. The County of Grey has received a Grant Funding Agreement with an eligible amount of $58,729. Below is a link to the Grant Funding Agreement:

Source Protection Implementation Funding Agreement

Municipalities are also eligible to receive up to an additional $15,000 for collaborating with other municipalities in the implementation of the source protection plans. During the period between December 13, 2013 and December 7, 2015, municipalities can use the grant funds to offset the costs of the eligible activities identified in Schedule B of the Grant Funding Agreement. Upon execution of the agreement, the County will receive $29,365 to cover the initial costs of eligible activities. A progress report and final report is to be submitted to the Province as identified in Schedule D of the Grant Funding Agreement. Once a final report has been submitted, the Province will provide the remaining amount of the grant fund allocated to the County if the funds are required.

The County’s role in implementing the source protection plan policies will be minimal and will primarily include implementing the policies in the County of Grey Official Plan as well as approving local official plan amendments that implement source protection policies. Eligible activities include staff time and benefits associated with implementing the source protection plan policies. Therefore any staff time and other associated expenses with preparing and processing official plan amendments (e.g. advertising, circulation, public meeting costs, etc.) are eligible expenses. The County is only able to spend the funds on eligible activities undertaken by the County.

Some of the local municipalities within Grey County have also been allocated funds under the Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund to cover eligible expenses at the local level. The municipalities within Grey County that have been allocated funds
include: Town of The Blue Mountains ($30,000), Township of Chatsworth ($87,500), Township of Georgian Bluffs ($57,872), Municipality of Grey Highlands ($80,918), Township of Southgate ($75,000) and the Municipality of West Grey ($100,000). The above municipalities have wellhead protection areas that have been identified in the source protection plans and therefore will be required to implement source protection plan policies.

The Delegation of Duties By-law 4814-13 requires that Council approve a recommendation to accept funding up to a value of $200,000. The Province required the agreement to be signed and sent back prior to December 13, 2013. Given the time constraints, the agreement was reviewed and initially signed in order to meet the Province’s deadline. Should Council decide not to accept the Grant Funding Agreement, the Province will be notified and the Agreement will be cancelled.

Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology

Considerations

The County will be required to include source protection plan policies in the County of Grey Official Plan. There will be associated costs, including staff time, to implement the policies in the Official Plan. The Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund will offset the anticipated costs to implement the policies in the County Official Plan.

Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Action Item 2.10 of the County Strategic Plan indicates that the County should continue to manage and direct growth through the creation and application of sound land use planning principles. Implementing the source protection plan policies in the County Official Plan to protect drinking water sources represents sound land use planning principles.

Respectfully submitted by,

Randy Scherzer
Director of Planning