



## **The Business Development and Planning Advisory Committee (BDAPAC) Meeting**

Haldimand County Administration Building  
Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> , 2023 9:00am

**Present:** Mayor Bentley, Councillor O'Neill, Chair Phil Hauser, Vice-Chair Mike Lessard, Paul Makey, Russell McTear, George Naylor, Adam Peet, Mark Reynolds

**Guest:** William Turman (WSP, North Caledonia Employment Lands Consultant), Robert Rappolt (WSP, North Caledonia Employment Lands Consultant)

**Staff:** Mike Evers, General Manager of Community & Development Services, Lidy Romanuk, Manager of Economic Development & Tourism, Hannah Brown, Research & Marketing Technician

**Regrets:** Tauri Caputo

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Meeting is called to order by Chair Hauser at 9:00 a.m.

### **2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No declaration of conflict of interest

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by G. Naylor and seconded by R. McTear that the minutes of the Business Development and Planning Advisory Committee dated September 11<sup>th</sup> , 2023 be approved as presented at 9:02 am.

**APPROVED**

### **4. North Caledonia Employment Lands Update**

L. Romanuk welcomed and introduced the consultants from WSP Canada Inc., W. Turman and R. Rappolt.

W. Turman then shared a presentation on the North Caledonia Employment Lands Feasibility study. Highlights included:

- Study Background and Purpose
- Phase 1 Outcomes
- Target Sector Analysis
- Employment Area Designations
- Consultation with MTO Regarding Hwy 6
- Feasibility and Servicing Study
- Concept Plans
- Next Steps

P. Hauser asked if there was a current plan for the highway 6 intersection. R. Rappolt answered the question and confirmed that the plan is to construct the highway 6 bypass.

A discussion then ensued regarding MTO intention to complete the bypass.

## **5. Agri-food forum Summary**

L. Romanuk shared a presentation on the Agri-Food Forum conference.

Following the presentation, Chair P. Hauser questioned what the main opportunities and threats were in the Timiskaming District that Haldimand County could leverage.

L. Romanuk mentioned the partnerships between the Timiskaming District and the First Nations. R. McTear mentioned Haldimand County's opportunity to work closer with the First Nations and foster a stronger relationship.

## **6. Past Homework – Workplan Discussion**

Past homework from the previous meeting included determining committee priorities and top 2024 BDAPAC workplan items of focus. Chair P. Hauser initiated the committee workplan discussion.

P. Makey rated business attraction and development and sector development (activating the river) as his top two topics for committee to focus on. G. Naylor agreed and mentioned the importance of promoting the County as a place to do business. R. McTear agreed with P. Makey about the importance of business attraction and development.

Chair P. Hauser rated data collection as the most important topic to focus on, as this is information that would be useful to share with businesses. A. Peet agreed with the importance of data collection as a workplan priority. L. Romanuk mentioned the need to determine what the desired data is, and what the data will be used for to ensure sufficient data collection.

Vice-Chair M. Lessard mentioned the need for vacancy data in each township and suggested connecting with BIAs and the importance of integrating community business resources and networks.

Chair P. Hauser then listed the top four workplan priorities for the 2024 committee workplan which included data collection, sector development and activating the river, business attraction and development, and integration of community business resources.

Homework prior to the next meeting is to build off these workplan items and determine KPIs.

## **7. Committee Discussion – Council Presentation**

Chair P. Hauser initiated discussion regarding the committee presentation to council in the new year and the need to collect information to include.

M. Reynolds suggested each member collect inventory for each town. He also suggested creating a chart to compile the data when collected. A. Peet agreed and mentioned the need to decide what the committee will use the data for.

Chair P. Hauser mentioned the homework going forward is to gather information for the report to council, which is tentatively scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Chair P. Hauser will collect and compile committee information for the council presentation and present in the January meeting.

## **8. Council Update**

Mayor Bentley and Councillor O'Neill provided a council update.

Key updates included:

- Norfolk disposal is the new curbside collector
- New Provincial Blue Box regulation
  - Industrial, Commercial and Institutional no longer eligible for recyclable collection
- Customer service strategy was approved by Council
- Hagersville Community Recreation Facility – preliminary planning
- Corporate website redesign
- Caledonia Fire and Ambulance station project underway
- Water plan update
- Christmas – parades and events in each town

A discussion than ensued.

## **9. EDT Updates**

L. Romanuk shared Economic Development and Tourism Divisional updates, highlights included:

- Tourism Development Fund application was submitted, a decision should be made by early December
- AODA and Integrity training reminder
- Spark Program update
- Holiday Wish book update
- Solar eclipse update

G. Naylor commented on the solar eclipse event and that it is a great idea to build off.

## **10. New Business**

No new business was brought forward.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am, moved by P. Makey seconded by R. McTear.

## **12. Action Items**

- Share North Caledonia Employment Lands presentation with committee

Next meeting: January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Location to be confirmed.