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Town of Aurora

Memorandum

Planning and Development Services

Re: Natural Capital Asset Management Plan Draft Presentation

To: Environmental Advisory Committee

From: Natalie Kehle, Energy and Climate Change Analyst

Date: June 17, 2024

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Presentation of the Draft Natural Capital Asset Management Plan be received; and
2. That the Environmental Advisory Committee comments regarding Presentation of the Draft Natural Capital Asset Management Plan be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Background

The Town of Aurora secured the engineering consulting services of SLBC Inc. to assist in the development of the Town's first Natural Capital Asset Management Plan (NCAMP). The draft NCAMP is found in Attachment 1. The presentation of the draft plan is found in Attachment 2.

The inclusion of natural capital assets into municipal asset management planning is important to the protection and conservation of the properties in which they are found. Natural assets include forests, streams, wetlands, green infrastructure, and green spaces. These assets play a key role in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency, such as storing carbon, mitigating storm flows, absorbing flood waters, and providing protection from storm surges. However, historically natural assets have not typically been categorized or valued as municipal assets.

With the introduction of Ontario Regulation 588/17, Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure, Ontario became the first province in Canada to regulate asset management planning at the municipal level. In accordance with the regulation, municipalities are required to inventory, value, and integrate green infrastructure, including natural infrastructure and by extension natural assets, into their asset management planning when these assets are directly owned by the municipality.

This NCAMP identifies the current practices and strategies that are in place to manage natural assets and makes recommendations where they can be further refined and improved. The NCAMP includes the following Town-owned assets:

- Natural Area Assets: forest and open spaces, waterbodies, watercourses and wetlands.
- Natural Enhanced Assets: urban trees, urban parks, community gardens and pet cemetery.

Other Town assets such as stormwater and the trail system are excluded from this plan but included under the Town's corporate Asset Management Plan (AMP). The NCAMP aligns with the Town's corporate AMP and Policy, while in compliance with Ontario Regulation 588/17.

The NCAMP was developed in consultation with Town stakeholders. Its components include:

- State of Infrastructure
- Levels of Service Assessment
- Asset Management Strategy
- Financial Analysis and Strategy
- Continuous Improvement and Next Steps

The deadline for submitting the NCAMP, as required under the O. Reg. 588/17, is July 1st, 2024, in conjunction with the Town's corporate AMP. The final draft NCAMP is scheduled to be presented to Council on July 2nd, 2024, at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Draft Natural Capital Asset Management Plan (NCAMP)

Attachment 2 – Natural Capital Asset Management Plan Presentation