

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, January 15, 2010				Report Date	Tuesday, January 12, 2010			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Attendance at Ontario Forest Industries Association Report 15/01/10/206									

Subject: Consider approving paying for costs of one Council member to attend the OFIA annual meeting in Toronto in February.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council **not** adopt the following resolution approving costs according to our Business Expense policy and normal budget allowances.

**WHEREAS** the county and our municipality rely on logging and the forestry industry to provide jobs for local residents;

**AND WHEREAS** recent cuts to jobs in this industry have caused hardship for many area residents and businesses;

**AND WHEREAS** information is key to making any decisions;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Gibson be authorized to attend the annual meeting of the Ontario Forest Industries Association with a focus on obtaining information specific to an examination of potential opportunities for various wood products (including impacts on employment), an economic outlook presentation, and a panel discussion that will explore the economic and environmental benefits of using local wood products and how these issues might affect our county, municipality and residents.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Pretty self-explanatory. Obtaining information on proposed changes to the industry might put us in a better position to effectively lobby necessary organizations and help to affect positive change for our area. Information might put us in a proactive position as opposed to reactive one.

Additional information received from Reeve Stewart suggests that the County is being represented and is not sending anyone specifically from their forestry department. The OFIA has recently addressed County Council and will be coming back in the near future. Janice Visneskie is appointed to the Renfrew County Forestry and Wood Processing Committee and The Ministry of Natural Resources Forest Management Plan Committee for the County, she may be attending the OGRA Conference and will be bringing back any updates to the county. There may be more cost effective means of obtaining the information to be provided than sending a delegate.

Options/Discussion: To approve the costs of attendance or not.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: As we do not have a budget, specific permission is required prior to registration. Normally we have a budget to cover Council education, mileage and expenses. Again, our 2010 budget will require some cuts due to reduced provincial funding.

Policy Impact: A copy of the business expense policy which was recently adopted by Council has been included for your review.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,  
Municipal Clerk

*Melinda Reith*