

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Tuesday, January 23, 2018				Report Date	Thursday, January 18, 2018			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE - Amendments to Environmental Assessment Process									
Report #23/01/18 - 1205									

Subject: OGRA Request to Amend the Environmental Assessment Process

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the following recommendation.

WHEREAS a coalition of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) and the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario have successfully applied to have a review of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process conducted under Part IV (Section 61) of the *Environmental Bill of Rights Act, 1993* (EBR Act);

AND WHEREAS impact studies and public meetings required by the MCEA process often take two years or more to complete before construction can commence;

AND WHEREAS the MCEA requirements to evaluate alternatives are often not well aligned with prior or municipal land use planning decisions;

AND WHEREAS analysis by the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) has demonstrated that the time to complete an EA rose from 19 months to 26.7 months and costs went from an average of \$113,300 to \$386,500;

AND WHEREAS the Auditor General of Ontario has tabled recommendations for modernizing the MCEA process;

AND WHEREAS in spite of written commitments made by the Ministry of the Environment between 2013-2015, no action has been taken;

AND WHEREAS local projects that do not have the necessary approvals could lose out on the next intake of Build Canada funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria requests that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change take immediate steps to expedite the response process for Part II Orders or Bump-Up requests, as part of the s.61 review to improve MCEA process times and reduce study costs;

AND FURTHER that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change support changes to better integrate and harmonize the MCEA process with processes defined under the *Planning Act*;

AND FURTHER that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change amend the scope of MCEA reports and studies to reduce duplication with existing public processes and decisions made under municipal Official Plans and provincial legislation.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The following links provide a comprehensive background of the work that the Municipal Engineers Association and the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario have done to advance this issue of MCEA reform.

- [October 2017 Correspondence from the Municipal Engineers Association and the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario to the Hon. Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.](#)
- [ReNew Magazine editorial examining the need to review the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process](#)
- [The Development Approval Roundtable Action Plan, November 2017](#)
- [Meeting Notes from the November 29, 2017 Evolution of the MCEA Workshop.](#)
- [The MEA Companion Guide for the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Manual](#)
- [Are Ontario's Municipal Class Environmental Assessments Worth the Added Time and Costs? The 2014 Edition](#)

Links to copies of the above will be posted on-line if you would like to view them there. For cost purposes, they have not been printed as some are large documents.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: - none

Policy Impact:

Others Consulted:

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith