March 3, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier’s Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable Premier Ford:

SUBJECT: PROVINCIALLY SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS DESIGNATION

At its regular meeting held on February 25, 2020, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing passed resolution 2020/080, attached hereto. The resolution supports a request circulated by the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, asking the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully review its practices and procedures to include a requirement to provide supporting evidence, to impacted municipalities, when designating Provincially Significant Wetlands within their boundaries.

We trust the enclosed is self-explanatory.

Respectfully,

Janice Dupuis
Deputy Clerk / Assistant to the
Chief Administrative Officer

\Encl.

cc: Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Ontario Municipalities
WHEREAS the Municipality of West Nipissing received resolution no. R-029-20 from the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, attached hereto; pertaining to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s practices and procedures when designating of Provincialy Significant Wetlands;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing supports the Village of Merrickville-Wolford requesting that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully provide supporting evidence with respect to the expansion of wetlands designations within their boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing calls upon the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully review its practices and procedures to include a requirement to provide supporting evidence, to impacted municipalities, when designating Provincialy Significant Wetlands within their boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and all Ontario municipalities.

YEAS | NAYS
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DUHAIME, Yvon |  |
FISHER, Christopher |  |
LARABIE, Roland |  |
MALETTE, Léo |  |
ROVEDA, Dan |  |
SÉGUIN, Jeremy |  |
SÉNÉCAL, Denis |  |
SÉNÉCAL, Lise |  |
SAVAGE, Joanne (MAYOR) |  |

CARRIED:  
DEFEATED:  
DEFERRED OR TABLED:  

Resolution No. 2020 / 0 8 0

FEBRUARY 25, 2020
February 5, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier’s Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation

Please find attached the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford’s Resolution No. R-029-20, with respect to the Village’s concerns surrounding the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s practices and procedures while implementing designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands.

While the attached resolution is tailored to a Village-specific issue, it is Council’s position that the concerns expressed therein are being experienced by municipalities Province-wide.

Thank you in advance for the consideration that you give this matter.

Yours truly,

Doug Robertson
CAO/Clerk/Director, Economic Development

c. Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Andy Brown, CAO of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
All Ontario municipalities
Resolution Number: R - 029 - 20

Date: January 27, 2020

Moved by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy
Seconded by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy

WHEREAS the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is endeavouring to adopt a new Official Plan as required per Section 17 of the Planning Act and the Village is required to incorporate the Provincial Policy Statements of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statements require the Village to provide in its Official Plan the updated provisions of new and expanded Provincially Significant Wetlands designations;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that the expansion of these wetlands is detrimentally affecting certain landowners and the Village's assessment base;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands have occurred throughout the Province of Ontario without the provision of supporting evidence;
VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned about the expansion of the Provincially Significant Wetlands in the Northeast quadrant of the Village;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that these wetlands designations have been expanded without the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry having provided to the Village supporting evidence to justify said expansion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby respectfully request that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provide the Village with supporting evidence with respect to the expansion of these wetlands designations;

AND THAT the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re-evaluate the subject properties without delay;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried / Defeated

J. Douglas Struthers, Mayor