April 8, 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

At the February 20th, 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority correspondence from the Village of Merrickville-Wolford addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario was received and discussed. It was noted that SVCA staff do not have the authority to remove a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) designation. After further discussion the following motion was passed:

MOTION #G20-22
Moved by Barbara Dobreen
Seconded by Steve McCabe
Be it resolved that Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) receive and support the correspondence from the Village of Merrickville-Wolford;

And whereas the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) agrees there is a lack of field-developed science to support the Provincially Significant Wetland areas designated across the province;

and whereas SVCA’s recent experience is evidence that a desktop examination of maps and aerial photography are inadequate science for this designation and greatly impacts municipalities and their ratepayers.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Saugeen Valley Consideration Authority hereby respectfully request that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provide supporting evidence-based data with respect to the wetland designations; and

That this letter, along with the Village of Merrickville-Wolford correspondence be forwarded to the Honorable Premier Doug Ford, Conservation Ontario, Bruce and Grey Counties and SVCA member municipalities.

CARRIED
We appreciate that this will require significant time and effort on the part of the Provincial Ministry and its staff, however, the lack of this type of data presents serious challenges and potential conflicts to property owners, municipalities, and Conservation Authorities in the exercising of their rights and duties.

Yours truly,

Dan Gieruszak
Chair, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Attachment: 3 page document from Merrickville-Wolford....

c. Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
   Kim Gavine, CAO, Conservation Ontario
   Bruce County
   Grey County
   SVCA Member Municipalities
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,

CAO/Clerk/Director, Economic Development

Doug Robertson

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 - 29 - 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 Providationally 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 Providationally 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