

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 16, 2021
TO: Committee of the Whole
FROM: Cynthia Moyle, Acting Clerk
SUBJECT: Drainage Act Discussion Paper (ERO #019-1187)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends endorsing the Agriculture Committee's response to the Drainage Act Discussion Paper.

BACKGROUND:

The Agriculture Committee conducted a virtual meeting on January 28, 2021 to discuss Minister Ernie Hardeman, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs letter dated December 16, 2020 regarding proposed amendments to the Drainage Act. The deadline for submission of comments is February 7, 2021, however, the Ministry has confirmed they would be happy to receive and consider any comments that come in after the Environmental Registry period closes.

The Ministry is proposing three (3) changes to the Drainage Act which include:

- a streamlined Drainage Act process for minor improvements;
- a simplified process to update the engineer's report to document changes to the design made during construction; and
- ministerial authority to adopt technical protocols related to pre-approved engineered designs for minor improvements.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee reviewed the consultation questions from the Drainage Act Discussion Paper as follows:

1) Do you agree with the proposed minor improvement criteria?

Yes, the Municipality of Mississippi Mills is in agreement with the parameters for minor improvements.

2) What types of improvements do you foresee fitting under the minor improvement process?

If the improvements are deemed minor in nature, Council may delegate the authority to the Drainage Superintendent to fast track the approval process.

3) What potential pre-approved designs do you foresee for being possible under a protocol for minor improvements?

Mississippi Mills supports streamlining the process for minor drainage improvements and a standard protocol.

4) Are there other opportunities to further reduce burden for minor improvements?

Mississippi Mills advocates for a review of the Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act (DART) protocol with consultation from the agriculture community.

5) Are the proposed criteria for updating an Engineer's Report appropriate?

Yes, Mississippi Mills supports the proposed criteria for updating an Engineer's Report.

6) What new protocols would you prioritize?

Mississippi Mills does not have any further recommendations.

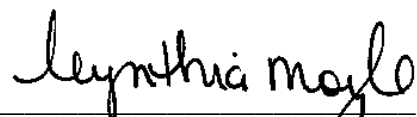
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N.A.


SUMMARY:

Staff are seeking Committee of the Whole's approval to forward the response to the Ministry as this amendment enables a simplified process (through regulation) for minor improvements to municipal drains.

Respectfully submitted by,


Cynthia Moyle, Acting Clerk

Reviewed by:


Ken Kelly, Chief Administrative Officer