

August 6, 2013

CL 10-2013, August 1, 2013

ICPC 11-2013, July 24, 2013

Report ICP 82-2013

LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Project Initiation Report:

Updates to Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Regional Policy Plan

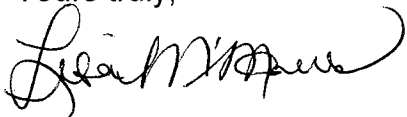
ICP 82-2013

Regional Council, at its meeting of August 1, 2013, approved the following recommendations of its Integrated Community Planning Committee:

That Report ICP 82-2013, July 24, 2013, respecting Project Initiation Report: Updates to Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Regional Policy Plan, **BE RECEIVED** and a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities.

A copy of Report ICP 82-2013 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,



for | Janet Pilon
Regional Clerk
:nld

cc: Clerks of the Local Area Municipalities of Niagara Region
P. Robson, Commissioner, Integrated Community Planning
C. Benson, Manager, Regional Policy Planning
B. Dick, Senior Planner
M. L. Tanner, Associate Director, Regional Policy Planning
S. McPetrie, Administrative Assistant, Integrated Community Planning
N. Smagata, Administrative Assistant



REPORT TO: Integrated Community Planning Committee

SUBJECT: Project Initiation Report:
Updates to Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Regional Policy Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.
2. That a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide information to Regional Council about the commencement of a project to review and update Section 1, *Physical and Economic Background*; Section 2, *Planning Background*; and Section 3, *Regional Strategy for Development and Conservation* of the Regional Policy Plan (RPP). This report supports Council's Business Plan Themes, Responsive Region and Public Engagement and Communications.

BUSINESS IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report, as the cost, including staff time to undertake the review and update of Sections 1, 2 and 3 is included in the Integrated Community Planning Department's budget for 2013. Any additional financial requirements resulting from the review and update would be brought forward for Council consideration as they are identified. As the amendment is prepared, any non-financial implications such as new and/or streamlined business practices will be identified.

REPORT

Regional Policy Planning staff are undertaking an Office Consolidation of the Regional Policy Plan to improve the alignment and readability of the Plan. This process is in part being driven by the requirement for a five year review of the Regional Policy Plan. In the Province's initial comments on the five year review, they noted that Section 3 of the Regional Policy Plan needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect provincial goals and objectives as well as those of the Region.

The focus of this project is to update Section 3 of the Regional Plan to implement the Provincial Settlement of Regional Policy Plan Amendment 2-2009 and to address the comments from the Province. There are other matters that are directly related to the Section 3 update that also need to be addressed as a part of this project. Both Sections

1 (Physical and Economic Background) and 2 (Planning Background) of the Regional Policy Plan contain outdated information similar to Section 3, and are neither consistent with the current planning context nor consistent with current community planning priorities or the priorities of Regional Council. In this regard, it is prudent to review and update Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Plan as a part of the scope of this project. Current content of Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the Regional Policy Plan can be found here: <http://www.niagararegion.ca/living/icp/policy-plan.aspx>

The following are key goals of this project:

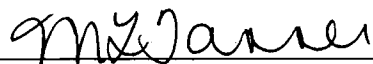
1. Reassess and modify the vision, goals and objectives of Section 3 to represent a consolidation of current/recent Council endorsed initiatives (Niagara 2031, Sustainable Niagara, Council Business Plan, Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, Lakefront Enhancement Strategy, Transportation Strategy Update, Niagara Economic Growth Strategy, Gateway Economic Zone and Centre, Human Services Plan, Niagara Prosperity Initiative, Niagara Climate Action Plan, etc.)
2. Establish and confirm the purpose and organization of the Plan – including confirmation of which sections form a “functional part of the Plan” (Sections 1 and 2 should not be considered a “functional part of the Plan”)
3. Replace dated content relating to:
 - Section 1: Physical and Economic Background
 - Section 2: Planning Background
4. Undertake limited technical corrections/deletions in other Sections of the Plan only as they relate to the above matters

The project goals will be confirmed through conversations with key stakeholders and users of the Plan. A draft amendment will be prepared and a statutory public meeting for the amendment under the *Planning Act* will be held in Q4 of 2013. A recommendation report will be brought to the Integrated Community Planning Committee in 2014.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

- ICP 45-2013 (May 22, 2013): Regional Policy Plan Five Year Review

Submitted by:



for
Patrick Robson
Commissioner
Integrated Community Planning

Approved by:



Patrick Robson
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared by Curt Benson, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Policy Planning and Brian Dick, MCIP, RPP, Senior Planner and reviewed by Mary Lou Tanner, MCIP, RPP, Associate Director, Regional Policy Planning.