



TOWN OF MINTO

MEETING DATE:

August 13, 2024

REPORT TO:

Mayor and Council

SERVICE AREA:

Public Works (Water)

SUBJECT:

PW 2024-019, Minto Pines Wellhead Protection Area Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Town of Minto receives report PW 2024-019 Minto Pines Wellhead Protection Area Amendment, prepared by the Risk Management Official, for information purposes;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Town of Minto pass a resolution in support of the proposed wellhead protection area amendment for the Minto Pines municipal water system;

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Town of Minto directs staff to forward that resolution to the Saugeen Valley, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Minto is regulated by two Source Protection Plans (based on watershed or Conservation Authority boundaries): Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Plan and the Saugeen Valley, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Plan (Saugeen). Source Protection Plans are established under the Clean Water Act for the purposes of protecting current and future sources of drinking water. Source Protection Plans are routinely updated to ensure conformance with Provincial direction and to reflect changes in municipal well locations, risk mitigation practices and science. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on proposed changes to the Saugeen Source Protection Plan.

On May 31, 2024, the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region (Saugeen) initiated pre-consultation with affected municipalities, provincial ministries and other implementing bodies on proposed changes to the Saugeen Source Protection Plan and Saugeen Valley Assessment Report. Attachment 1 provides the pre-consultation notice dated May 31, 2024. The proposed changes are a Source Protection Region initiated amendment under Section 34 of the Clean Water Act and therefore, a resolution of support is required from the Town and County of Wellington Councils.

Two documents, relevant to the Town, are being updated as part of the proposed changes: the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan. For reference, an Assessment Report describes the municipal wellfields and water systems and the science related to delineating the wellhead protection areas while the Source Protection Plan outlines the legal requirements or policies that apply within the wellhead protection areas and other vulnerable areas.

The changes that affect the Town are related to the new Minto Pines well and a related minor change to the wellhead protection area. The new Minto Pines municipal well (Minto Pines Well 1A) is located six meters north of the previous Minto Pine Well 1 which results in a six-meter shift in one wellhead protection area (WHPA-A). The WHPA-A is a 100-meter radius circle surrounding a municipal well. Due to the new well and the resulting shift in the WHPA-A, mapping and text updates are required to the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report. These updates are bundled with a number of other updates that are either located outside of the Town or are administrative in nature. Following pre-consultation, the Saugeen Source Protection Region will initiate public consultation, review by the Source Protection Committee and then submission to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for approval.

COMMENTS:

Town Water Services staff, Source Protection staff and RJ Burnside were involved in the review of the new municipal well location and the proposed change to the wellhead protection areas. The six meter shift in WHPA-A does not incorporate any new significant drinking water threat activities or properties. Staff have no concerns with the proposed changes and recommend that Council endorse the changes.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Goal 1: Maintain, renew, and expand our municipally owned infrastructure to enhance healthy growth and our environment

PREPARED BY: Kyle Davis, Risk Management Official

RECOMMENDED BY: Gregg Furtney, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment 1: May 31, 2024 Pre-consultation Notice