

Summary of Written and Oral Submissions

South Bear Brook Wetland Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment (ACS2025-SI-CCR-0001)

In addition to those outlined in the Consultation Details section of the report, the following outlines the written and oral submissions received between the publication of the report and prior to City Council's consideration:

Number of delegations/submissions

Number of delegations at Committee: 4

Number of written submissions received by Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee between March 25 (the date the report was published to the City's website with the agenda for this meeting) and April 2, 2025 (the deadline for written submissions, being 4 pm the business day before the committee meeting date): 9

Summary of written submissions

Written submissions are held on file with the City Clerk and available from the Committee Coordinator upon request:

- Emailed letter dated February 14, 2025 from Mr. Keith Vodden (sent to Planner in advance of agenda publication date)
- Emailed letter dated February 14, 2025 from Ms Janet Stavinga, Co-Founder and President, Friends of Stittsville Wetlands and Ms Sarah Hasenack, Conservation Planning Coordinator, Ontario Nature (sent to Planner in advance of agenda publication date)
- Emailed letter dated March 29, 2025 and written submission presented at meeting from Ms Danielle Beehler
- Emailed letter dated March 28, 2025 from Mr. John Francis Beehler
- Emailed letter (undated), sent 30 March 2025 from Mr. Robert James Beehler (to Planner)
- Emails dated/sent March 30 and March 31, 2025 from Mr. Robert Beehler
- Emailed letter dated April 2 from Mr. Richard R. Beehler

Summary of oral submissions

The Committee heard from the following delegations:

1. Mr. Keith Vodden** spoke to a slide presentation which could not be shared on the day of the meeting, but which was submitted afterward and is held on file with the Office of the City Clerk. He asserted that the City had falsely identified that the area subject to the proposed amendments held surface water and suggested that by incorrectly placing it in the same category as true wetlands (i.e., Mer Bleue and Leitrim Wetland), the City had created a false narrative and may have used this as justification for the study.
2. Mr. Robert and Ms Danielle Beehler* also contested the proposed zoning change and said it would significantly impact her family's long-term plans to sever and build upon their properties. She said she had concerns about the evaluation criteria used for the study. She said she did not believe that their land merited the proposed redesignation, as the dry, forested lands did not encompass any wetland areas, and she questioned the government's motivation in undertaking the redesignation. She urged the City to reconsider the proposed zoning change.
3. Ms Janet Stavinga*, Friends of the Stittsville Wetlands (FOSW) said the FOSW was working to safeguard the Goulbourn Wetland Complex for the present and for future generations and to raise awareness of the ecological importance of wetlands. She expressed support for the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, while acknowledging the concerns of the landowners impacted by these proposed changes.
4. Ms Sarah Hasenack*, Ontario Nature, also expressed support for the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments and provided background for her organization. She spoke to the importance of Conservation Authorities in protecting wetlands, which she said had been undermined in recent years due to provincial changes. She encouraged the City of Ottawa to ensure that local policies protected wetlands in line with local needs and interests.

Effect of Submissions on Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Decision:

Debate: The Committee spent approximately 45 minutes in consideration of the item.

Vote: Following discussion and questions of staff, the Committee carried the report recommendations as presented.

[* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions and presentations are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk.]

Report Recommendation(s)

1. **That Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend that Council approve the proposed amendments to the Official Plan as shown in Document 1 and detailed in Document 3;**
2. **That Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee recommend that Council approve the proposed amendments to Zoning By-law No. 2008-250 as shown in Document 1 and detailed in Document 4;**
3. **That Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee approve the Consultation Details Section of this report be included as part of the ‘brief explanation’ in the Summary of Written and Oral Public Submissions, to be prepared by the Office of the City Clerk and submitted to Council in the report titled, “Summary of Oral and Written Public Submissions for Items Subject to the Planning Act ‘Explanation Requirements’ at the City Council Meeting of April 9, 2025”, subject to submissions received between the publication of this report and the time of Council’s decision.**

Carried

Ottawa City Council

Pursuant to the *Procedure By-law*, members of the public may not make oral submissions to Council.

Number of additional written submissions received by Council between April 2nd after 4 pm (deadline for written submissions to Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee) and April 16, 2025 (Council consideration date): 2 (late submission of slide presentations)

Effect of Submissions on Council Decision:

Council considered all submissions in making its decision and carried the report recommendations as presented.