

June 27, 2016

AMO Report to Member Municipalities Highlights of the June 2016 Board Meeting

To keep members informed, AMO provides updates on important issues considered at regular AMO Board of Directors' meetings. Highlights of the June 24, 2016 meeting include:

Provincial Review of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB)

The provincial government has announced that it is proceeding with the anticipated OMB Review this fall. The AMO Board has started its analysis and supports among other matters, scoping the jurisdiction of the OMB in a way that doesn't create new risk of court actions, improving processes through rigorous pre-screening and vetting of appeals, and ensuring OMB members are focussed first and foremost on good planning.

Contact: Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, Email: cathiebrown@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 Ext. 342.

Great Lakes Water Diversions

After review of the recent Waukesha diversion decision, the AMO Board directed a letter be written to the Premier expressing severe concern over the recently approved diversion from Lake Michigan. AMO's letter will urge the provincial government to intervene to ensure the principles of the Great Lakes Compact are upheld.

Contact: Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, Email: creid@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 Ext. 334.

AMO Response to Bill 204, the Promoting *Affordable Housing Act*, and Inclusionary Zoning

Bill 204 has carried in First Reading. The Bill, if passed, would further the provincial Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy by amending the *Housing Services Act*, the *Planning Act*, the *Development Charges Act*, the *Residential Tenancies Act*, and repealing the *Elderly Persons Housing Aid Act*. Generally, the Board is supportive of measures that will promote affordable housing in a manner that is effective, cost efficient, and does not transfer additional responsibilities and costs to municipal governments. The Board also approved a consultation response on new inclusionary zoning regulations that will promote flexibility for municipal governments to make effective decisions based on local need and circumstances. AMO is seeking a meeting with the new Minister to discuss the Bill.

Contact: Michael Jacek, Senior Advisor, Email: mjacek@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 Ext. 329.

Marijuana Legalization and Municipal Interests

The federal government is looking to introduce legislation that would legalize recreational marijuana use in Spring 2017. Staff presented early research on potential models of marijuana legalization and sales/distribution to understand potential municipal impacts. The Board has now directed that a task force be formed to further investigate

marijuana legalization and to engage immediately with federal and provincial governments about roles and responsibilities and implementation questions around the pending new marijuana legalized regime.

Contact: Craig Reid, Senior Advisor, Email: creid@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 Ext. 334.

Blue Box Steward Obligation Decision

Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) released the 2016 Blue Box Steward Obligation on June 22nd. The 2016 Steward Obligation determines the funding municipalities receive for providing 2014 Blue Box services on behalf of brand owners and producers of designated printed paper and packaging. The Board expressed concerns with how the 2016 Steward Obligation was determined (which does not reflect the method that the arbitrator used in the previous year) and directed staff to continue the current advocacy work for a more reasonable approach.

Contact: Dave Gordon, Senior Advisor, Email: dgordon@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 Ext. 371.

Municipal Infrastructure Investment and Financial Sustainability Research

Critical to the implementation of an asset management plan is a long-term financial plan. The federal Gas Tax plays one part in financing municipal asset requirements. York Region, along with input from the Municipal Finance Officers' Association, have been developing an evidence-based financial framework that looks at municipal financial sustainability for infrastructure. It is anticipated that the framework, once created, will serve as a guide to municipal governments while research will also be integrated into the AMO Board's work on "What's Next Ontario?". A presentation on this research will be made at the AMO Conference in August in Windsor.

Contact: Chris VanDooren, Gas Tax Manager, Email: cvandooren@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 Ext. 410.

Conservation Authority Act Review

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has consulted on the directions proposed for improving conservation authority (CA) functioning. The Board supported recommendations regarding the use of memorandum of understandings between municipalities and CAs to harmonize delivery where multiple CAs cross municipal boundaries, agreeing to roles to minimize/reduce overlap occurring, and setting best management practices for service standards. The proposed alteration of representation on the CA boards is not seen as necessary. The need for provincial assistance to bolster CAs where meeting the mandated services is recommended. Comments to EBR 012-7583 posting closes on September 9.

Contact: Cathie Brown, Senior Advisor, Email: cathiebrown@amo.on.ca, (416) 971-9856 Ext. 342.

LAS Update

LAS presented its 2015 Performance Report and Financial Statements to the Board. 2015 was a successful year for LAS with 375 municipalities having either saved or made money in 2015 through LAS programs and services.

Link to report: www.las.on.ca/PDFs/About/Annual-Report/LASAR15A4Web.aspx.

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