



FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE AGENDA

Tuesday, September 29, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room (2nd Floor)

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

DELEGATION

1. FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – September 29, 2015 – ITEM #1
Orland Conservation

Robert Orland, Orland Conservation regarding long term natural heritage land conservation and environmental project services.

REPORTS

2. FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – September 29, 2015 – ITEM #2
Purpose and Benefits of the County Forest

A report from the General Manager dated September 29, 2015 to provide information on the purpose and benefits of the Dufferin County Forest.

Recommendation:

THAT the report of the General Manager dated September 29, 2015 re: Purpose and Benefits of the Dufferin County Forest be received;

AND THAT the FORC confirms that the County Forest is a valuable municipal resource which should be actively managed;

AND THAT a process to develop a Draft Forest Management Plan be initiated;

AND THAT regular updates and reports be provided to the Community Services/Dufferin Oaks/Museum Committee and Council.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

3. FOREST OPERATION REVIEW COMMITTEE – September 29, 2015 – ITEM #3 Items for Discussion

1. Questions & Comments from each member's review of the background material that was made available online. Discussion of additional information that is required.
2. Discussion on the process moving forward.

Next Meeting: To be determined
55 Zina Street, Orangeville – Sutton Room

From: [Kate Potter](#)
To: [Pam Hillock](#)
Cc: [Linda Knight](#); [Michelle Dunne](#)
Subject: RE: Robert Orland's presentation tomorrow night
Date: Monday, September 21, 2015 8:55:22 AM

Yes he is. Thank you for the confirmation.

Kate

Kate Potter
905.926.2431
kate.potter@orlandconservation.ca

From: Pam Hillock [mailto:phillock@dufferincounty.ca]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 8:39 AM
To: Kate Potter
Cc: Linda Knight; Michelle Dunne
Subject: RE: Robert Orland's presentation tomorrow night

Hi Kate:

We have Robert slated in the Forest Operation Review Committee on Tuesday, [September 29, 2015](#) at 7:00 p.m., 55 Zina Street, 2nd Floor, Sutton Room.

Please confirm if he is attending. Thanks.

Regards,

Pam Hillock | County Clerk/Director of Corporate Services
County of Dufferin | Phone: 519-941-2816 Ext. 2503 |
phillock@dufferincounty.ca | 55 Zina Street, Orangeville, ON L9W 1E5

From: Kate Potter [mailto:kate.potter@orlandconservation.ca]
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2015 8:32 AM
To: Pam Hillock <phillock@dufferincounty.ca>
Subject: Robert Orland's presentation tomorrow night
Importance: High

Hi Pam

I am following up for Robert Orland. Please confirm that he is on the agenda for tomorrow as well as the time and location.

Thanks,

Kate

Kate Potter

Landowner and Partner Liason

Phone: 905.926.2431

Email: kate.potter@orlandconservation.ca



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Look for Orland Conservation presenting at the [Ontario Association of Municipal Real Estate Administrators Conference](#) (September), the [Ontario Land Trust Alliance Gathering](#) (October) and the [AD Latornell Symposium](#) (November).

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REPORT TO Forest Operation Review Committee

To: Chair Laura Ryan and Members of the Committee
From: Darrell Keenie, General Manager - DCMA & County Forest
Meeting Date: September 29, 2015
Subject: **Purpose & Benefits of the Dufferin County Forest**

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives:

Communication and Connections: 2.1 Connect with Residents

Good Governance: 3.3 Improve policies, practices and procedures

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the purpose and benefits of the Dufferin County Forest.

Background & Discussion

The Forest Operation Review Committee (FORC) is being asked to consider higher level questions relating to the Dufferin County Forest operation, as initially discussed at the inaugural FORC meeting in June, 2015. These questions are:

- Why have a County Forest?
- Do we have to have a County Forest?
- Do we have to manage it?
- Do we have to manage it this way?

In support of FORC's consideration of the questions above, the following paragraphs discuss the purpose and benefits of the County Forest, and include excerpts from the draft Dufferin County Forest Management Plan (*shown in italics*):

The goal/purpose of the County Forest, as stated in the draft Dufferin County Forest Management Plan, is:

To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

County Forest - ecological benefits:

The first part of the County's goal for the management of the County Forest is "to protect the quality and integrity of the ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest." This means that economic and social benefits are considered, but in situations where they may come into

conflict, ecological benefits will take precedence over the others. This is not always the case in private forests, where economic considerations may take precedence, resulting in long-term harm to ecological benefits such as biodiversity, soil protection, and species at risk habitat through poor forest management practices or forest clearing.

County Forest - economic benefits:

The secondary economic benefits derived from the recreational use of the County Forest occur precisely because it is County Forest. In general, private land would not provide the extent and diversity of recreational use that the County Forest does, and even if it did, the secondary economic benefits would likely accrue only to the private landowners that would have on-site food concessions etc. In the case of the County Forest, these benefits accrue to businesses in the community, primarily those providing food, fuel, and accommodations. The wood products harvested from the County Forest support the local forest industry and because they are harvested sustainably, will provide ongoing support, which private forests that are cleared or harvested unsustainably will not.

County Forest - social benefits:

Some of the social benefits of the County Forest occur only because it is public land. The key benefit is free or inexpensive access for a wide range of recreational activities. This includes hunting and trapping, for which areas in southern Ontario are dwindling. (Fishing is permitted, but there are limited fishing opportunities in the County Forest due to a lack of waterways/water bodies.) Horseback riders and mountain bikers make extensive use of the Main Tract, a rare large forested area (607 ha, 1,501 acres) in southern Ontario that enables them to go for a long and interesting ride without going over the same trail numerous times. In addition, users can hike, snowmobile, cross-country ski, pick mushrooms and other edibles for personal use, and enjoy a variety of other activities. The sustainable management of the County Forest ensures the ongoing provision of the social benefits, including those such as aesthetics and existence value which may be provided by other forested lands.

Do we have to have a County Forest?

No. It should be noted that to sell any properties to which grants were applied would require approval of the sale by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, any grants used to buy those properties may have to be paid back to the province, and the province could claim up to 50% of the proceeds of any sale of property. Any properties that were not bought with grants are unencumbered. The majority are in that position.

Do we have to manage it?

Active management of the forest is not required as long as the lands are used for "forestry purposes." "Forestry purposes" includes the production of wood and wood products, provision of proper environmental conditions for wild life, protection against floods and erosion, recreation, and protection and production of water supplies; ("fins forestières"). The main consequence of not doing any management would be lack of control over recreational use and abuse.

Do we have to manage it this way?

There are other models for managing the County Forest properties, in addition to the present structure of having a county staff member dedicated to, and experienced in, County Forest management. The two most common models involve (i) using consultants/contractors for all management tasks rather than just inventory and tree marking as is currently done, and (ii) entering into an agreement with a conservation authority for authority staff to perform forest management functions.

Next Steps

Based on agreement among FORC members as to the purpose and benefits of the County Forest, and the answers to the high level questions mentioned, next steps would involve making a recommendation to the County's Community Services Committee (CSC), followed by County Council, seeking endorsement. In so doing, approval would be sought to proceed with the consideration and development of a County Forest Management Plan, based on FORC's high level review.

Financial, Staffing, Legal and IT Considerations

None at this time.

Strategic Direction and County of Dufferin Principles

The completion of a high level review of the Dufferin County Forest by the Forest Operation Review Committee promotes communication and connections by encouraging direct public comment and input in a dedicated forum. Good governance is displayed in the improvement in policies, practices and procedures resulting from the development of a new Management Plan for the County Forest based on the high level review. The Dufferin County Principles are adhered to as follows:

1. *We Manage Change* - by proactively undertaking a high level review of the purpose and benefits of the County Forest operation;
2. *We Deliver Quality Service* – by working to ensure an appropriate balance and relationship among the ecological, economic and social benefits that the County Forest provides;
3. *We Communicate* – by ensuring that information about the County Forest properties, and review process, is readily available;
4. *We Make Good Decisions* – by working with public members of the Forest Operation Review Committee to make informed and thoughtful recommendations that are reflective of the needs of the County Forest and community.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report of the General Manager dated September 29, 2015 re: Purpose and Benefits of the Dufferin County Forest be received;

AND THAT, the FORC confirms that the County Forest is a valuable municipal resource which should be actively managed;

AND THAT, a process to develop a Draft Forest Management Plan be initiated;

AND THAT, regular updates and reports be provided to the Community Services/Dufferin Oaks/Museum Committee and Council.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Original signed by,

Darrell Keenie, General Manager
Dufferin County Museum & Archives and Dufferin County Forest