



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013
4:10 p.m.
Waterloo County Room
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, ON

Present were: Chair T. Galloway, L. Armstrong, D. Craig, K. Seiling, S. Strickland and J. Wideman

Also Present: G. Lorentz*

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

None declared.

REPORTS - Finance

a) F-13-009, Economic Development and Promotion (EDP) Grants – Policy Review

T. Galloway provided opening comments, stating that this report was requested by the Committee to review the policy when not dealing with grant requests. If direction is given for a new policy, the effective date will need to be considered.

Craig Dyer, Chief Financial Officer advised staff are looking for direction if the Committee would like to maintain the status quo or if they are seeking changes, then the parameters and scope will need to be provided.

A question was raised for clarification on the current policy. Angela Hinchberger, Director Financial Services, Treasury/Tax Policy advised the current policy is specific to events that bring identifiable economic development to the Region. Over time the Committee has funded groups that foster economic development and there is nothing in the policy to guide those types of decisions.

Committee members supported a greater emphasis on economic development rather than promotion. It was noted the CAOs from the Region and area municipalities are working together on land development and economic policy as better coordination is needed throughout the Region.

*G. Lorentz and M. Murray entered the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

There was concern that the grants being provided should not be considered base funding.

Mike Murray, Chief Administrative Officer, advised two studies are underway with the CAO group, one being a range of economic development services and the other being the role of municipalities in land development. He provided a status update on the meetings, noting a gap has been identified that there is no regional economic development strategy and they are reviewing a range of options to address these gaps. With respect to timing for the release of the

CAO report, an All Council meeting is being considered in the Spring with a presentation followed by individual reports to each municipal Council.

There was further discussion regarding employment lands and the support for a region wide economic development corporation. It was agreed that the EDP Committee will remain status quo for 2013.

ADJOURN

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by S. Strickland

THAT the meeting adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE CHAIR, *T. Galloway*

COMMITTEE CLERK, *L. Wetzel*