

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - APRIL 3, 2012**

### **ONTARIO GEOSPATIAL DATA EXCHANGE (OGDE) AND LAND INFORMATION ONTARIO (LIO) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Planning in consultation with the Chief Information Officer recommends:

1. That the City apply to the Ministry of Natural Resources for membership in the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) to provide access to provincial data in the Land Information Ontario (LIO) warehouse;
2. That the City Clerk be authorized to sign the OGDE Membership Application Form on behalf of the City of Vaughan; and,
3. That the City Clerk be authorized to execute any further, specific agreements for data sharing through this membership.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions, Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Plan, Goal 2, Objective 2.2:

- To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum greenspace and an urban form that supports our expected population growth.

#### **Economic Impact**

There are no costs or charges associated with membership in the OGDE.

#### **Communications Plan**

There is no communication plan associated with this report.

#### **Purpose**

To obtain direction to apply to the Ministry of Natural Resources for membership in the OGDE to provide access to provincial data in the LIO warehouse to ensure the development of a comprehensive GIS database as part of the Natural Heritage Network Study; and execute any required agreements.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

##### **Land Information Ontario**

Land Information Ontario (LIO), which is administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources, manages key provincial data sets through partnerships and collaboration. LIO makes these and hundreds of other data sets available to registered users at no charge. LIO's Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) allows more than 450 public sector organizations, including 185 municipal governments, to easily share and use digital geographic information under a single legal agreement. The vast majority of the data is created and made available by the Provincial government. Data of interest for the Natural Heritage Network Study includes, but is not limited

to: wetland units, forest cover, hydrology and wildlife occurrences such as nesting and spawning sites.

Membership is available to eligible public organizations at no cost. The following organizations are eligible for membership in the OGDE:

- Ministries and agencies of the Ontario Government;
- Federal Government departments;
- Municipalities;
- Conservation Authorities;
- Post-secondary educational institutions and school boards;
- First Nations communities; and
- Non-governmental organizations.

Eligible organizations are required to sign a legal agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources that outlines the terms and conditions of membership. The Legal Agreement is made up of the following documents, although the City is only required to sign the application form.

- Membership Application Form: Two (2) copies of the Membership Application Form with the original signature of the City of Vaughan's designated signing authority.
- Data Licence Agreement (Appendix A): This appendix is for members that want to share data with, or receive data from, other members. This appendix does not need to be completed or signed when a member completes the application form. Appendix A is signed by the two OGDE members that wish to share data.
- Licensor Agency Agreement (Appendix B): This appendix only applies to members who would like to use the LIO Warehouse and Infrastructure to distribute data indirectly to other members.

#### Benefits of Membership

Membership in the OGDE providing access to provincial data stored in the LIO data warehouse is required to complete the Natural Heritage Network Study. This will ensure that the City has the most up-to-date digital data and appropriate metadata describing the information sources. This allows the City to track the source, accuracy and vintage of digital data. Hence, a key benefit of membership in the OGDE is the ability to obtain data from the LIO warehouse at any point in time under the single data sharing agreement without the need to sign the agreement for every data exchange.

#### Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the report will fulfill the following criteria:

- STRATEGIC GOAL:  
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:  
Lead and promote environmental sustainability.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

**Regional Implications**

N/A

**Conclusion**

Access to the OGDE data will allow the City to develop a comprehensive GIS database of the Natural Heritage Network. The City will also have the ability to check for data updates and, hence, will allow City staff to make more informed recommendations regarding planning applications that have the potential to have an impact on the Natural Heritage Network.

**Attachments**

N/A

**Report Prepared By**

Tony Iacobelli, Senior Environmental Planner, Policy Planning, ext. 8630  
Alison Munro, Project Manager, GIS ext. 8689  
Roy McQuillin, Manager, Policy Planning, ext. 8211

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MACKENZIE  
Commissioner of Planning

DIANA BIRCHALL  
Director of Policy Planning