



Report PDR-CW-44-17

To: Warden Barfoot and Members of Grey County Council
From: Randy Scherzer, Director of Planning and Development
Meeting Date: October 26, 2017
Subject: **Recolour Grey Workshops - Comment Summary**
Status:

Recommendation

1. That Report PDR-CW-44-17 summarizing the comments received from the Recolour Grey Workshops held in each local municipality in August and September, 2017 be received.

Background

Planning Staff held a total of nine workshops with one being held in each local municipality as part of the 2nd round of consultation for Recolour Grey. The workshops were held in August and September of this year. The purpose of the workshops was to determine from the community whether we captured the comments correctly from the 1st round of consultation as identified in the 'What We've Heard Summary Report' and to determine if we were on the right track based on the policy considerations that have been highlighted in the five Discussion Papers being Move Grey, Cultivate Grey, Develop Grey, Live Grey and Natural Grey.

A Workshop Handout was provided to those attending the workshops which outlines a summary of all the policy considerations identified in each of the Discussion Papers. A presentation was provided at the beginning of the workshop which provided an overview of what an official plan is, how an official plan may impact and benefit someone, explaining what Recolour Grey is, the process taken to date, as well as providing a summary of the five Discussion Papers. Depending upon the size of the crowd or the layout of the meeting room, we either had a large group discussion about the policy considerations under each theme or we did break-out sessions for each theme.

We had approximately 200 people attend the workshops and the amount of comments we received from those in attendance was excellent. The following is a link to a summary of the comments received under each of the five themes which we have categorized into the various subthemes - [Recolour Grey Workshop Comment Summary](#)

In addition to the workshop comments, written comments were provided by Edith Galloway on behalf of some residents of the Big Bay settlement area. Written comments were also received from Merla and Vaughn Johnstone. The following are links to the written submissions:

- [Big Bay Settlement Area Comments](#)

- [Merla and Vaughn Johnstone Comments](#)

We couldn't have held these workshops without the help and support from the local municipalities, who helped to provide the meeting space for the workshop and in some cases provided light refreshments for those attending the workshops. We greatly appreciate the support we received from the local municipal staff and for those who took time out of their busy schedules to have a conversation with us about what they would like to see considered in the new County Official Plan.

There were comments on certain matters where we have heard a diversity of opinions. For example, we heard comments indicating that we should have more policies to protect the natural environment and we also heard that we need less policies/restrictions for the natural environment. For topics where we have heard a diverse range of opinions, it will be very difficult if not impossible to address everyone's comments and concerns. Staff will try to develop policies using a balanced approach.

Staff are currently working on preparing draft policies and draft mapping based on what we've heard from the community as part of the 1st and 2nd rounds of consultation. We anticipate presenting a draft of the new Official Plan in November 2017. A copy of the draft Official Plan will be made available on the County website. We will send an update to the Recolour Grey contact list letting people know that a draft of the Official Plan is ready for review. A draft will be sent to the Province, local municipalities and various agencies as well. Ninety days after sending a copy to the Province, a Notice of Public Meeting will then be issued. We anticipate having the Public Meeting either in late February/early March 2018. All comments and feedback received during the review period and from the Public Meeting will be considered and revisions to the draft Official Plan will be made at that time. The plan is to present a final draft of the Official Plan to Council in April 2018 for adoption.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/Information Technology Considerations

A significant amount of staff resources has gone into Recolour Grey and this will continue for the remainder of 2017 and into 2018. The work has been a true team effort with all planning staff being involved in the community engagement process including the recent workshops. Rob Hatten, Communications Manager has been invaluable in helping us with the communications aspect for Recolour Grey and helping to promote and advertise the workshops. The work has been truly rewarding and we have learned a lot from the many conversations we have had with community members. We look forward to further conversations with the community once a draft of the Official Plan has been released.

Link to Strategic Goals/Priorities

One of the Strategic Initiatives identified in the Corporate Strategic Plan is to update the County Official Plan and implement policies to meet needs over the next 20 years. This will be addressed through the development of a new Official Plan.

Attachments and Background Information

[Recolour Grey Workshop Comment Summary](#)

[Big Bay Settlement Area Comments](#)

[Merla and Vaughn Johnstone Comments](#)

[Recolour Grey Workshop Presentation](#)

[Recolour Grey Workshop Handout](#)

['What We've Heard Summary Report'](#)

[Move Grey Discussion Paper](#)

[Cultivate Grey Discussion Paper](#)

[Develop Grey Discussion Paper](#)

[Live Grey Discussion Paper](#)

[Natural Grey Discussion Paper](#)

Respectfully submitted by,

Randy Scherzer
Director of Planning