



Committee Report

To: Warden Janice Jackson
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Jill Roote, Manager of Economic Development and
Mark Paoli, Land Use Planning Manager

Date: December 17, 2020

Re: December 2020 Communications in the Field

Recommendation:

The December 2020 Communications in the Field Report is for information.

Background:

The December Communications in the Field Reports for Economic Development and Land Use Planning - reporting on November activities and updates - are included below.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

None

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

None

Report Author:

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Approved for Submission:

Sandra Datars Bere
Chief Administrative Officer

Communications in-the-Field Report

There are three objectives driving economic development communications in Bruce County: 1) Attract more young families and other residents over time; 2) Attract new and expanding businesses; 3) Encourage sustainable, longer stay and off-season tourism

Support the Bruce: Business Sustainability Fund

In response to the critical needs of Bruce County’s business community in the wake of COVID-19, the Bruce County Economic Task Force acted quickly after its inception on March 26, providing guidance on the components of the \$1.75M *Support the Bruce: Business Sustainability Fund*, endorsed by County Council on May 12.

Numbers as of November 30th include:

Component	Total Available	Launched	# of Applicants	Approximate Funds Remaining
Emergency Business Sustainability Loan	\$750,000	May 21	22	\$340,500
Spruce the Bruce Grants	\$125,000	June 1	103	\$0
Tourism Special Edition “Spark” Grants	\$100,000	June 4	11	\$0
Business Pivot / Adaptation Grant	\$400,000	June 18	68	\$81,634
Business Safety Supplies Grant	\$250,000	July 23	180	\$0

ACTIVITIES

- Business to Bruce had 82 inquiries and 37 consultations in November.
- A total of 367 people accessed Business to Bruce webinars as of November 30th.
- The *Economic Impact of COVID-19 in Bruce County Fall Survey* was completed by 107 respondents. The results will provide insight into the current economic landscape & business needs to determine how Bruce businesses can be continued to be supported.
- Annual Bridges to Better Business event with Terry O’Reilly, Host of CBC’s Under the Influence was a great success with just under 200 people in attendance.
- The Municipality of South Bruce is applying to the Southwestern Ontario Development Fund (SWODF) and sought Bruce County to write a letter of support. (attached)
- The Bruce County Federation of Agriculture and Canadian Tire Corporation are working together to advance a program to use electrolysis to produce Hydrogen and Oxygen - Ozone to support sustainable agriculture. (letters of partnership attached)

Communications in-the-Field Report

There are three general areas that will be reported monthly, including: 1) Legislative changes and other trends 2) Land Use Transformation project update 3) highlights or planning applications of interest.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- The Province introduced draft legislation (Bill 229) that would, among other matters, make Conservation Authorities part of the Province's 'one-window' approach which is a means of coordinating Provincial agency comments. This would mean that a Conservation Authority could no longer appeal a Planning Act decision to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) or become party to an appeal that is before LPAT. The changes to the legislation are not subject to a commenting process.

PROJECTS

- The Plan the Bruce: Agriculture, Natural Legacy, Good Growth, Homes and Communities Guiding Principle projects are underway and engagement activities are being planned for the new year.
- All of the Municipal Modernization Fund projects will be complete by year end:
 1. The consultants completed the system design and related Report for sharing development and building permit information between County and Local Municipalities and showing that information on the internet for public visibility.
 2. The Review of Planning Application Fees Final Report was approved at the Planning and Development Committee in November.
 3. The Update of the Memorandum of Agreement for County Planning Services and Final Report is being presented at the December Planning and Development Committee.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- New applications in November (42) were much higher than historical monthly averages (22). In fact, the application volume in November was the highest monthly total since the pandemic started. This suggests that developers and landowners who may have put their plans on hold during the pandemic are moving forward and that the building industry has more confidence in starting new projects.
- The Northern Bruce Peninsula Official Plan was amended to reduce servicing policy duplication and allow merged developed lots to be re-created in the settlement area using the criteria County Council adopted in January.