

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, May 21, 2010				Report Date	Wednesday, May 19, 2010			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Mandatory Septic System Inspections Report 21/05/10/203									

Subject: Unfinished Business from March 19, 2010 - As requested - in response to a resolution and request for support from the County of Huron regarding mandatory septic system inspections and responsibility for payment.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council adopt the following requesting that the province focus on areas which obviously require attention and drop its consideration of the mandatory septic system inspection program.

WHEREAS provincial concern over groundwater and other environmental protection has resulted in the consideration of a Mandatory Septic System Inspection Program;

AND WHEREAS most rural municipalities, including Head, Clara & Maria, have 100% of their residences and businesses on private water systems consisting of dug and drilled wells and private, individual septic systems as has been for many decades;

AND WHEREAS there is little evidence of source water contamination due to malfunctioning septic systems across the province and there has never been such a case in our Municipality;

AND WHEREAS the home owner has the most vested interest in maintaining their septic system in proper working order to ensure continued use and in order to protect their private water supply;

AND WHEREAS the installation of septic systems in rural communities is becoming increasingly regulated now, more so than in the past with the use of licensed contractors, installation permits, installation inspections, etc. thus insuring properly functioning systems are built;

AND WHEREAS adequate legislation currently exists to deal with malfunctioning septic systems;

AND WHEREAS the Council of this municipality feels strongly that any mandatory inspection program is redundant;

AND WHEREAS it can be argued that the frequent cases of large Municipal sewage systems overflowing into lakes and rivers as a result of large rainwater events is a greater public health hazard to a much larger segment of the Provincial population than malfunctioning septic systems;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby request the province not institute any Mandatory Septic System Inspection Program;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province make better use of the funds that would be necessary to implement any Private Septic System Inspection Program by continuing to direct their efforts to

remedy the much more dangerous situation of malfunctioning Municipal sewage treatment facilities;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to MPP John Yakabuski, MP Cheryl Gallant, Premier McGuinty, the County of Renfrew, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, AMO and all neighbouring municipalities for support.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Currently the legislation did not pass or come into affect but because of the implications of the Walkerton Report and the Source Water Protection activities, there will likely be a renewed push in the future; perhaps not as publicly visible due to the reaction that occurred this time.

Options/Discussion: Resolution prepared as requested by Council at its meeting of March 19, 2010. Option to support or not.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Currently, no budget impact however; should these inspections become mandatory and a part of the building code, costs of training of inspectors and potential liability should systems fail and pollute water sources could be exceedingly expensive.

Policy Impact: None

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

Melinda Reith