

From the Municipality



In this issue, KEPAnews spoke with Gerry Wolting, Acting Chief Administrative Officer for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, with regard to a very important planning report submitted to Municipal Council for approval at a meeting that took place on October 16th, 2006.

KEPAnews learned that Mr. Wolting plays an important and active role in Council meeting proceedings. As Acting CAO, he was the ideal interviewee to explain the outcomes of this Planning Meeting as it pertained to the KEPA project.

Mr. Wolting summarized the Council proceedings for the benefit of our readers. A comprehensive report was prepared by Storey Samways Planning Ltd, which was presented to Council by Mr. Tom Storey. "Essentially, the report focused on the proposed land use in the KEPA project in terms of turbine sites, distribution lines, substation etc.," explained Mr. Wolting.

The planning report recommended that Council approve official plan amendments, which add special policies to permit wind energy systems at the sites proposed by KEPA.

Council was also asked to approve zoning amendment applications to adopt the by-laws to permit the erection of wind turbines on identified properties as well as the establishment of overhead and underground electrical distribution lines, poles and transformers.

Once the planning report had been presented, citizens were invited to address Council with any questions or concerns, followed by a presentation by Kruger Energy and a Council question and answer period.

"The one missing component was the environmental assessment, which was nearing completion, but has not yet been made public," noted Mr. Wolting. As a result, Council approved the project on

the condition that the Environment Assessment is acceptable and can be reviewed by Council during the 30 days following its publication. Other amendments included a wording change pertaining to turbine locations and a clause guaranteeing that Talbot Trail will have no above ground electrical distribution lines.

"I must say that we at the municipality are impressed with how Kruger Energy has engaged the community and all the stakeholders involved," said Mr. Wolting. "Kruger has done a fabulous job of informing the community about the project, its objectives, and how it will benefit the municipality and the landowners." Mr. Wolting added that, "In this process, involving 27 properties, only three individuals addressed Council with concerns. We usually have more than that on a major application involving only one property. This is a clear sign of Kruger's commitment to clear and concise communications."

Mr. Wolting ended our interview by the accolade, "Kruger is a very professional group and we understand that their interest in the community is not limited to this project; when Kruger would like to engage in other initiatives in Chatham-Kent, we certainly look forward to working with them."



On and on.

Powering your world
with renewable resources

