



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Roads Committee
From: Don Kudo, P. Eng., County Engineer
Date: Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Subject: **Pollinator Habitat on Right of Ways**

Background:

The Roads Division is proposing to undertake trial pollinator plantings on the County right of way at two locations adjacent to County owned property. The two locations as shown on the attached maps are:

- McNamara Tract – 8646 Wellington Road 16
- Cumnock Tract – 7749 Wellington Road 17

Should these trial plantings prove to be successful, there are potential benefits to do future plantings at locations throughout the County road network. The benefits would include lower long-term maintenance costs, water and snow capture, roadside aesthetics along with providing pollination services and climate change mitigation.

The County has joined a Southwestern Ontario working group that is being led by the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). Other counties such as Huron County and Renfrew County along with a number of other municipalities have implemented pollinator plantings on their road right of ways. The CWF led working group is a great resource for the County to use in determining appropriate seed mixes and methods.

The attached guide from the Canadian Wildlife Federation outlines best practices for improved management of right of ways to benefit pollinators. The guide provides details on the need for pollinator habitat, the opportunities for using public working spaces, the benefits of naturalized roadside areas, types of restoration areas, and restoration methods.

The County was successful in an application to the Canadian Wildlife Federation for Monarch Butterfly Habitat Restoration. The County will receive a contribution of the appropriate seed mix from CWF for the trial pollinator plantings locations along with receiving their consultation services. CWF will also possibly provide funding to help with invasive species control and equipment rental. Planting of these trial locations is scheduled for this Fall.

Strategic Action Plan:

This report relates to the following objectives and priorities in the County's Strategic Action Plan:

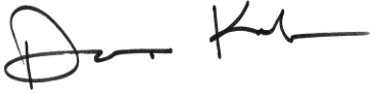
- Having the best infrastructure in place to meet the current and future needs of the community

Recommendation:

That the report "Pollinator Habitat on Right of Ways" be received for information;

And that, the County proceed with two trial pollinator planting locations as outlined in the report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Kudo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Don Kudo, P. Eng.
County Engineer

Attachment: Managing Rights of Way for Pollinators: A Practical Guide for Managers
Map – McNamara Tract – 8646 Wellington Road 16
Map – Cumnock Tract – 7749 Wellington Road 17