



**Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee  
MINUTES**

**February 24, 2023, 1:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
450 Sunset Drive  
St. Thomas ON**

Members Present: Warden Ed Ketchabaw  
Councillor Mark Widner  
Councillor Grant Jones  
Donna Lunn, EFA Representative

Members Absent: Deputy Warden Duncan McPhail  
Paul Clarke, Planning Technician/Secretary-Treasurer of the  
Land Division Committee

Staff Present: Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
Brian Lima, General Manager of Engineering, Planning &  
Enterprise/Deputy CAO  
Jenna Fentie, Manager of Administrative Services/Deputy Clerk  
Stefanie Heide, Legislative Services Coordinator

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Moved by: Councillor Jones

Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed; and

THAT Warden Ed Ketchabaw be elected as Chair of the Rural Initiatives and  
Planning Advisory Committee for 2023.

Motion Carried.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by: Councillor Jones  
Seconded by: Donna Lunn

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for the February 24, 2023 meeting of the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Motion Carried.

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by: Donna Lunn  
Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on July 12, 2022 be adopted.

Motion Carried.

**5. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None.

**6. DELEGATIONS**

None.

**7. REPORTS/BRIEFINGS**

**7.1 Chief Administrative Officer - RIPA Committee Overview and Community Grant Program Overview**

The Chief Administrative Officer provided an overview of the role of the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee, and also provided detailed information regarding the County of Elgin's Community Grant Program.

Moved by: Councillor Widner  
Seconded by: Councillor Jones

RESOLVED THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received and filed.

Motion Carried.

**7.2 General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO and Acting Manager of Planning - Elgin County Official Plan Review, Draft Official Plan**

The General Manager of Engineering, Planning & Enterprise/Deputy CAO provided a presentation detailing background information on the County's

Official Plan Review currently underway, and outlined the Committee's role in the review process.

The Acting Manager of Planning presented the Draft Elgin County Official Plan for the Committee's review and endorsement.

Moved by: Councillor Jones  
Seconded by: Councillor Widner

RESOLVED THAT the Committee endorse the Draft Elgin County Official Plan; and

THAT staff be directed to begin the technical circulation and public posting of the draft official plan; and

THAT following the technical circulation and public posting of the Draft Official Plan, staff be directed to submit the Draft Elgin County Official Plan incorporating feedback received through technical circulation and public posting for County Council's review at a future meeting.

Motion Carried.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Rural Initiatives and Planning Advisory Committee will be held at the call of the Chair.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Councillor Widner  
Seconded by: Donna Lunn

RESOLVED THAT we do now adjourn at 2:54 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Motion Carried.

  
Jenna Fentie,

Manager of Administrative  
Services/Deputy Clerk.

  
Warden Ed Ketchabaw,

Chair.