

STAFF REPORT: Planning



REPORT TO: Mayor & Members of Council  
MEETING DATE: September 05, 2007  
REPORT NO.: PL.07.105  
SUBJECT: Permits-to-Take-Water for  
Commercial Water Bottling  
PREPARED BY: Peter Tollefsen  
Director of Planning

#### A. Recommendations

THAT Planning Staff support the following Resolution:

***“WHEREAS there is increasing public concern about the cumulative impacts of the large-scale water taking from Ontario’s aquifers, especially by commercial bottlers;***

***AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has mandated Conservation Authority experts and Municipalities to participate in developing source protection plan guidelines and a framework to manage water resources on a watershed basis taking into consideration everything that influences the sources of our drinking water whether it is surface or groundwater;***

***AND WHEREAS there is no fund or resources available to Municipalities to offset the associated costs for groundwater management studies, abate the negative impacts of large-scale commercial water taking operations or to be able to implement local initiatives to protect the water resource;***

***AND WHEREAS other water taking entities, such as golf courses, offset the amount of water taken by returning much of it as surface water and by paying local taxes;***

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains petitions the Honourable Laurel Broten, the Minister of the Environment, to place a moratorium on issuing any new permits-to-take-water for commercial water bottling companies. A meaningful levy royalty, payable to the local municipality, is required to be put into place that will allow for infrastructure development to safeguard involved source water areas”.***

## **B. Background**

On July 27, 2007 a Municipal Resolution was sent to the Town by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) from the Town of Erin (a copy of which is attached) regarding new Permits-to-Take-Water for commercial water bottling companies.

Currently there is no fund or resources available to Municipalities to offset the associated costs for groundwater management studies to address the negative impacts of large-scale commercial water taking operations.

The Town of Erin is requesting the Minister of the Environment, in the form of a resolution, to place a moratorium on issuing any new permits-to-take-water for commercial water bottling companies until such time as a meaningful levy royalty, payable to the local Municipality, is put into place to safeguard source water areas.

The resolution was circulated with a note requesting municipalities joining in a petition to the Ministry of the Environment for a levy royalty, which is the purpose of this report.

Staff would support the passing of such a resolution. There is increasing public concern about the cumulative impacts of the large-scale water taking from Ontario's aquifers, especially by commercial bottlers.

## **C. Strategic Plan**

By supporting such a resolution, the Town would be meeting Environmental Goal #3: *Preserving and enhancing natural and environmental features and cultural heritage of the community fiscal goal;* and  
#5: *Ensuring long-term financial sustainability.*

## **D. Budget Impact**

There are costs to municipalities for groundwater management studies to address the impact of large-scale water taking.

## **E. Attachment**

1. Resolution from Town of Erin dated July 24, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter Tollefsen, Director of Planning