



Council report

Meeting date:	March 16, 2021
Title:	Roles and Responsibilities of West Grey Emergency Control Group
Prepared by:	G. Scharback, Director of Administration/Clerk
Reviewed by:	L. Johnston, CAO/Deputy Clerk

Recommendation

That council receives the report Roles and Responsibilities of West Grey Emergency Control Group for information.

Executive summary

The West Grey Emergency Control Group (ECG) has roles and responsibilities set out in the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and the Municipality of West Grey Emergency Management Plan.

Background and discussion

At the February 16, 2021 council meeting council directed that the West Grey ECG provides council with an overview of its roles and responsibilities, including the scope of decisions it makes and the role of council in decision making in a state of emergency. During the COVID-19 emergency the ECG has worked closely with Grey Bruce Public Health to implement provincial directives related to the pandemic.

Emergency Roles and Responsibilities - Council

The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act sets out the duties of council related to emergency management. The Act provides that every municipality shall develop and implement an emergency management program that includes an emergency management plan. West Grey council passed bylaw 101-2019 to adopt the emergency management plan; bylaw 85-2020 appoints the West Grey Emergency Control Group.

The Act also provides that the head of council of a municipality may declare that an emergency exists in the municipality or in any part thereof and may take such action and make such orders as he or she considers necessary and are not contrary to law to implement the emergency plan of the municipality and to protect property and the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the emergency area.



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The head of council or the council of a municipality may also at any time declare that an emergency has terminated. Mayor Robinson declared an emergency in West Grey due to COVID-19 on March 23, 2020.

Emergency Roles and Responsibilities – Emergency Control Group

The ECG roles are set out in section 12 of Ontario Regulation 380/04, copy attached. The regulation provides that the ECG shall direct the municipality's response in an emergency, including the implementation of the municipality's emergency response plan.

The West Grey Emergency Management Plan also sets out responsibilities for the ECG in section 4.5.4, copy attached, including the responsibility for ensuring that any actions necessary for the mitigation of the effects of the emergency are taken, provided they are not contrary to law.

Due to the medical expertise required, and the scope of the COVID-19 emergency, both the federal and provincial governments have lead the emergency response to the pandemic. Ontario Public Health has been instrumental in providing COVID-19 expertise and information province wide. In Grey Bruce the health unit is working closely with municipal emergency control groups, and is the lead on reporting out to the public with regards to implementing provincial directives, COVID-19 case numbers and vaccination information.

The ECG is required by legislation to provide a full report to the public following the termination of an emergency declaration; however, the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic has required the ECG to review how and when information is shared. The COVID-19 Municipal Operations Update reports to council as well as municipal information and links to Grey Bruce Health Unit information on the municipal website and social media are being utilized to provide on-going information to the public.

Legal and legislated requirements

Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act

O.R. 380/04

West Grey bylaws 101-2019 and 85-2020

Financial and resource implications

None.

Staffing implications

None.



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Consultation

Emergency Management Ontario
West Grey CEMC

Alignment to strategic vision plan

Pillar: Work together

Goal: Clear communication

Strategy: Develop corporate communication strategy

Attachments

Section of O.R. 380/04

Section of West Grey bylaw 101-2019

Next steps

The ECG continues to meet monthly or at the call of the chair throughout the duration of the pandemic, implementing actions deemed by the ECG to be necessary for the mitigation of the effects of the emergency.

Respectfully submitted:

Genevieve Scharback, CMO