

A Public Open House was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Dawson Council Chambers 211 4th St Rainy River for the purpose of reviewing the proposed updates to the Township's Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning By-law and seek input from members of the public.

PRESENT Mayor D Hartnell Councillors C Larocque & L Kempf, Clerk-Treasurer P. W. Giles, Consultants Evan Saunders and Nico Church. Member of the public CBO S Books.

Mayor Hartnell welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to our consultants

Mr. Saunders and Mr. Church provided those in attendance with an update on the process undertaken to prepare the Township's new Official Plan and Comprehensive Zoning By-law. The presentation basically followed the same outline as presented at the special Council meeting due to those in attendance. An overview of the project timeline and work completed to date was presented, including:

- Preparation of the background report;
- Consultation with Provincial ministries and related agencies;
- A second draft of the documents has been presented to Council and now public input is being sought;
- After these meetings preparation of a final version of the documents incorporating revisions and public input will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption; and
- Then the Official Plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for their approval.

The consultant discussed Council concerns, including the rationale for increasing the setback from natural hazards, including Lake of the Woods and the Rainy River, from 15 metres to 30 metres. Council also again discussed measures to protect drainage and road ditches from impact from tiled fields, a grass buffer again being suggested as a solution, the consultants will explore that inclusion. As well we discussed potential measures to regulate short-term rental accommodations.

The consultants explained the province's position regarding increased shoreline setbacks due to concerns related to erosion, algae blooms, and the introduction of contaminants into the water system. A compromise approach for waterfront development has been incorporated into the draft documents; however, it was noted that there is no assurance that the province will not require the full 30-metre setback.

The CBO has a few questions on the documents and had previously provided input on the draft documents.

Mayor Hartnell thanked Evan Saunders & Nico Church for the presentation.

The meeting be closed at 7:45 p.m.

_____Mayor

_____Clerk