A. Recommendations

THAT Agricultural Advisory Committee receive Staff Report CSOPS.20.047, entitled “2020 Wild Chervil Control Program Overview” for their information.

B. Overview

This Staff Report is in response to a request from the Agricultural Advisory Committee for an overview of the activities related to the control of Wild Chervil in 2020 including public notification, pesticide opt-out option, summary of pesticide usage and proactive compliance and monitoring. The purpose of this report is to stimulate discussion about control methods and management of Wild Chervil for 2021.

C. Background

What is Wild Chervil?

Wild Chervil is a herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial from the parsley family, introduced to North America from Europe. It was first brought to North America as part of European wildflower seed mix used for plantings along hedgerows and meadows.

Wild Chervil is an invasive species and has few checks on its population in North America. As a heavy seed producer, it is easily spread to new locations and can quickly take over an area, displacing native species, negatively impacting agriculture and horticulture lands, and forming dense stands that are difficult to control.

In 2015, Wild Chervil was added to the Provincial Schedule of Noxious Weeds under the Weed Control Act.

Why does Ontario have the Weed Control Act?

The intent of the Weed Control Act is to reduce:
• the infestation of noxious weeds that negatively impact on agriculture and horticulture lands;
• plant diseases by eliminating plant disease hosts such as common barberry and European buckthorn; and,
• health hazards to livestock and agricultural workers caused by poisonous plants.

What is a “Noxious Weed”? 

A noxious weed includes a plant that has been listed in the Schedule of Noxious Weeds found in Regulation 1096 of the *Weed Control Act*. This list is commonly referred to as the “Noxious Weed List”. The council of a municipality may, subject to the approval of the Minister, designate additional plants as local weeds through a by-law made in accordance with Section 10 of the Act. These local weeds are deemed to be noxious weeds in the area where the by-law applies.

In general, a species designated as a noxious weed under the Act is one that:

• is difficult to manage on agricultural land once established and will reduce the yield and quality of the crop being grown;
• negatively affects the health and well-being of livestock; or,
• poses a risk to the health and well-being of agricultural workers.

In Ontario, 25 weeds are designated as noxious under the Act.

Impacts of Wild Chervil

Wild Chervil is an aggressive competitor with broad leaves that shade out surrounding vegetation and limit water and nutrients for other plants. When mature, it forms tall, dense vegetation stands that are unpalatable to livestock and produces large amounts of seed that are easily spread by people, animals and the wind. Wild Chervil is extremely difficult to control as it is resistant to several herbicides and has a deep root system.

In 2012, the Town of the Blue Mountains’ Agricultural Advisory Committee initiated a request for Wild Chervil control because it was spreading along roads, to the road allowance and then onto private lands causing impacts to agricultural lands and crops. At this time, the Town began trying to control Wild Chervil through an aggressive cutting program but was not able to effectively control the plant solely by cutting. It was found that the key to effective control is the killing or removal of the roots which was not feasible given the extent of Wild Chervil along Town right of ways. The Town and Grey County worked with the University of Guelph and the Ontario Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs Provincial Weed Inspector using the pesticide Truvist on a number of test plots. These test areas were used to determine the effectiveness of the product and in 2015, Wild Chervil was added to the Provincial Schedule of Noxious Weeds under the *Weed Control Act* and was added to the Town’s Noxious Weed By-Law. In 2015, the County and the Town began using Truvist to control Wild Chervil specifically on municipal right of ways.
The Town has been utilizing Truvist through a 3rd party licensed applicator using a broadcast sprayer along Town right of ways. Town staff ensures the applicators are properly licensed under the provincial *Pesticides Act*.

**How are Pesticides Regulated?**

Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is responsible for pesticide regulation and registration (i.e. if it can be used) in Canada under the *Pest Control Act*. In order for pesticide to be registered for use in Canada, the PMRA undertakes a stringent, science-based evaluation that examines the potential risks posed to human health and the environment and the product’s value. If registered, the pesticide’s label outlines how it is to be used and applied to avoid human and environmental impacts. The Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks holds the regulatory authority under the *Pesticide Act* which regulates the sale, use, storage, transportation and disposal of pesticides in Ontario. This also includes ensuring compliance with the pesticide label.

In 2015, the use of Truvist in Ontario was approved under the *Pesticide Act*. At this time and according to the product label, Truvist cannot be applied to crop or pasture lands. According to both the PMRA and the provincial *Pesticide Act*, impacts to the human health and the environment are mitigated by following the requirement of the product label (i.e. how it is applied, transported, disposed, etc.).

**How is Wild Chervil Controlled within the Town?**

Wild Chervil generally grows in early spring and seeds around mid-May to early June. Starting in early spring, Town staff are actively looking for Wild Chervil while working in our rural areas and when found, the locations are recorded including locations provided by residents. This would include both Town and private property. The Town’s Weed Inspectors work with landowners where we have identified or have been made aware of Wild Chervil on private property.

Town staff determine and summarize the areas where Wild Chervil has been observed and this information is mapped and passed along to the Truvist applicator. As a provincially licensed vegetation management applicator, the Town’s contractor is required to apply the herbicide in compliance with the Truvist product label, the *Pesticides Act* and its regulations. As such, the contractor determines whether the areas identified by the Town are appropriate to spray and whether sections of the identified areas should not be sprayed due to regular maintenance (mowing) or other geological features such watercourses and topography. Additionally, the contractor determines the precise timing of the spraying to ensure appropriate weather conditions for the application. In order to be effective, herbicide application needs to occur before the plant goes to seed and can disperse and spread. Truvist is applied using a broadcast sprayer.

The Town, through the efforts of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, undertakes a shared stewardship approach where all property owners and residents are encouraged to actively identify and eliminate Wild Chervil on their own properties in fields, lawns and gardens to help
reduce the spread. The Town’s Weed Inspectors work with private landowners using an education and cooperative compliance approach.

Community Concern with Truvist

In addition to the concerns raised by the Agricultural Advisory Committee regarding the impact of Wild Chervil on agricultural lands there have been concerns expressed amongst community members about the use of Truvist as a control mechanism. In particular, some rural residents have raised issues with the environmental and human health concerns associated with herbicide use and have requested that either the Town cease using herbicides or that no spraying occur on the Town right of way fronting their private property.

D. Analysis

Throughout 2019 and early 2020, the Agricultural Advisory Committee discussed Wild Chervil management and control. This included researching education programs for landowners and review of the existing control and weed inspection program to facilitate stewardship of both municipal and private lands.

As a result of COVID-19, the Committee was unable to meet during the period of March to June 2020 and continue these discussions. Considering this, staff worked with Committee Chair Matrosovs to ensure that the control program continued in order to mitigate Wild Chervil spread.

The following outlines the actions taken and the results of the 2020 Wild Chervil control program.

Public Notification

The Pesticide Act governs the requirements for public notification. Notices must include the name and intended use of the herbicide being sprayed, the federal product registration number, the timing of the application, as well as the Contractor’s name and contact information.

On May 6, 2020, the Town issued a media release providing notice to residents of Wild Chervil pesticide spraying (Attachment 1). In addition, staff updated the website and posted notice on May 21st in the Collingwood Connection as required by the Pesticide Act. The notice also included the Anticipated 2020 Roadside Weed Spraying map (Attachment 2) which showed areas within the municipality where either Wild Chervil had been previously confirmed or where there were known locations as of early May 2020. The intent of the map was to inform residents of potential areas for herbicide application.

Opt-out of Pesticide Spraying and Do Not Spray Signs

In 2020 there were some changes to the Wild Chervil control program including an “opt-out arrangement”. If residents wanted to avoid spraying in the road allowance fronting their property they could elect to mow or regularly cut the road allowance. Although this method is
not as effective, the Town recognizes that some residents object to the use of pesticides. As provided in the notice (Attachment 1), residents were directed to contact town staff to request formal no spray signs to mark the limit of their property’s frontage along the road allowance indicating their opt-out to the pesticide applicator. The Town’s contractor was directed not to spray mowed or similarly maintained portions of the road allowance. If portions of the road allowance were not maintained and Wild Chervil was present, the contractor was instructed to spray to prevent spread. If a resident called to request signs, staff tracked the location and provided information about proper maintenance of the road allowance to avoid spraying.

In previous years, some residents who were concerned about pesticide spraying along the municipal road allowance, adjacent to their property, erected their own no spray signs. This approach was difficult to monitor and assess in an effective manner in terms of how many signs were posted and whether the road allowance was being actively managed. For this reason, the Town opted to provide consistent signage to track locations and provide details regarding maintenance.

Attachment 3 shows the general locations of the no spray signs that were provided by Town staff. In total, there were 28 properties that requested no spray signs.

**2020 Herbicide Spraying**

Broadcast spraying commenced on June 1st and ended on June 3rd. Attachment 4 shows the locations that were sprayed with Truvist. For 2020, the Town’s contractor used a GPS enabled spot spray system that tracked and mapped the exact spray application locations. This provided a higher level of accuracy particularly for smaller patches of Wild Chervil locations on the Town road allowance compared to previous years.

The table below provides a summary of the lane kilometers sprayed since 2016. A lane kilometer is the total amount of kilometers covered by lanes belonging to a specific road (i.e. measures both side of a 2-lane road). The significant difference in lane kilometers sprayed between 2020 and 2019 is likely, in part, due to the higher accuracy of the applicator’s GPS tracking system but also due to the success in eradicating Wild Chervil along the Town road allowances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Lane Kilometers Sprayed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attachment 5 includes the areas that posted Town No Spray Signs as it relates to where Truvist was applied. It is important to note that each GPS point associated with the Completed Roadside Weed Spraying is mapped as a 5m spray area so there may be some visual overlap with a noted No Spray Sign. In general, the map seems to indicate that residents who erected No Spray Signs were actively managing and maintaining the Town Right of Way.

**Proactive Compliance and Monitoring**

For 2020, Town staff remained committed to ensuring the spread of Wild Chervil was managed and controlled. To that end, the Town appointed an additional Weed Inspector who has been trained on Wild Chervil identification and was available to assist residents in this regard as well. Enforcement of the Town’s Noxious Weed Bylaw continues to place emphasis on education and cooperative compliance.

It appears over successive years that herbicide treatment has been effective at controlling the spread of Wild Chervil however, anecdotally its presence on private land appears to be increasing. As a result, private land may be the new source of spread. In September 2019, the Committee recommended to Council that additional resources be applied to implement the “Chervil” program portion of the Long Grass/Weed section of the pending Town-Wide Property Standards Bylaw with a focus on education and co-operative compliance. Council approved that recommendation in November 2019.

Use of the Long Grass and Weeds by-law is a more timely and efficient method of addressing known presence of Wild Chervil on private property as compared to the *Weed Control Act* which includes provisions (e.g. appeals, involvement of the Provincial Weed Inspector, etc.) that can prohibit a timely resolution and removal. As a result of shifting priorities related to COVID-19, the By-Law Department was not able to amend the existing Property Standards By-Law to include long grass and weeds and extend it to the entire municipality.

**E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan**

| Goal #1: Create Opportunities for Sustainability |
| Objective #4 Support Value-Added Agriculture and Culinary Tourism |

| Goal #2: Engage Our Communities & Partners |
| Objective #1 Improve External Communication with our Constituents |
| Objective #2 Use Technology to Advance Engagement |
| Objective #3 Strengthen Partnerships |

| Goal #3: Support Healthy Lifestyles |
| Objective #1 Promote the Town as a Healthy Community |
| Objective #4 Commit to Sustainability |

| Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational & Operational Excellence |
| Objective #4 To Be a Financially Responsible Organization |
| Objective #5 Constantly Identify Opportunities to Improve Efficiencies and Effectiveness |
F. Environmental Impacts

Wild Chervil is an aggressive competitor with broad leaves that shade out surrounding vegetation and limit water and nutrients for other plants. When mature, it forms tall, dense vegetation stands that are unpalatable to livestock and produces large amounts of seed that are easily spread by people, animals and the wind. Wild Chervil is extremely difficult to control as it is resistant to several herbicides and has a deep root system. The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks regulates the use of pesticides to manage the protection of human health and the environment.

G. Financial Impact

The Town carries $20,000 per year from the Roads and Drainage Division operating budget for Wild Chervil control.

H. In Consultation With

Wayne Dewitt, Supervisor By-Law Services

Jim McCannell, Manager of Roads and Drainage

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Shawn Carey, directorops@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

1. Attachment 1
2. Attachment 2
3. Attachment 3
4. Attachment 4
5. Attachment 5

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Carey
Director of Operations
For more information, please contact:
Shawn Carey, Director of Operations
directorops@thebluemountains.ca
519-599-3131 extension 260
Notice- Wild Chervil Pesticide Spraying Notification

The Town of The Blue Mountains is providing this advance notice to rural residents to advise that the annual noxious weed control program to manage Wild Chervil will be continuing for 2020.

The pesticide application will be conducted by a licensed technician and only applied to grass roadside areas that appear to be visually unkept and where there is evidence of noxious weeds. In addition, a map has been included in this notice to help identify the approximate areas where the pesticide will be sprayed.

The noxious weed control program is regulated under the Weed Control Act and is used to control and eradicate Wild Chervil, which is deemed as a noxious weed in the Province of Ontario. The spraying will occur over four consecutive days, between the middle of May to early June, depending upon the weather, and the Town will issue a formal notice on the newsroom of the Town website before the spraying starts.

Opt-out of Pesticide Spraying and Do Not Spray Signs

To opt-out of pesticide spraying on the road allowance fronting a property, residents should contact the Town to receive a ‘Do Not Spray’ sign that can be installed on the road allowance at the limits of the property’s frontage. In addition, the contractors have been advised to only apply the pesticide to grass roadside areas that appear to be visually unkept and where there is evidence of Wild Chervil.

It is important to note that Under the Provincial Weed Control Act, the Town is required to control Wild Chervil. Regardless of posted signs, unmaintained sections of the Town road allowance will still be sprayed if there is evidence of wild chervil.

If you have questions about this process or would like to request a sign, please call 519-599-3131 ext. 276. If you live along a County Road, please direct your inquires or questions to 519-376-7337 or via email at roads@grey.ca.

Proactive Monitoring & Cooperative Compliance

The Town remains committed to ensuring that the spread of Wild Chervil is managed and controlled. To that end, the Town recently appointed an additional Weed Inspector who will be trained on Wild Chervil identification and who will be available to assist residents. Enforcement of the Town’s Noxious Weed Bylaw continues to place emphasis on education and cooperative compliance. In addition, Town staff will be monitoring Wild Chervil throughout the season in an effort to assess effectiveness of control and reducing spread.
Shared Stewardship
Wild Chervil is detrimental to agricultural lands. The Town encourages all property owners and residents to actively identify and eliminate Wild Chervil on their own properties in fields, lawns and gardens to help reduce the spread of this noxious weed. To assist with identification and elimination options, please visit the following Wild Chervil FAQ page on the Town website:  
https://www.thebluemountains.ca/roads-drainage.cfm

Additional Information on Wild Chervil can be found by visiting the Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program website:  
http://www.invadingspecies.com/wild-chervil/

It is also important to understand that Wild chervil can be confused with Queen Anne’s lace (Daucus carota). However, the leaves of wild chervil are more distinctively fernlike in shape. The umbels of Queen Anne’s lace have bracts below them, while the umbels of wild chervil do not have bracts. Wild chervil usually flowers in mid- to late spring; Queen Anne’s lace flowers later in the season.  
https://cisma-suasco.org/invasive/wild-chervil/

Road Jurisdiction
It is also important to understand that the Town of The Blue Mountains will only be spraying rural roads that are within the jurisdiction of the Town of Blue Mountains.

All County roads are within the jurisdiction of County of Grey, which administers their own noxious weed control program. For information, please visit:  
www.grey.ca

What is Wild Chervil?
Wild chervil is a herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial from the parsley family, introduced to North America from Europe. It was first brought to North America as part of European wildflower seed mix used for plantings along hedgerows and meadows.

This species is short-lived, forming a rosette of only leaves in the first year, then flowering and producing seeds in the second year. As a heavy seed producer, it is easily spread to new locations. Wild chervil has few checks on its population in North America and can quickly take over an area, displacing native species and forming dense stands that are difficult to control.

Source: Ontario’s Invading Species Awareness Program

What Chemical is Being Sprayed?
The licensed contractor will be using Truvist Herbicide, which contains the active ingredients, Chlorsulfuron and Aminocyclopyrachlor. PCP Registration Number 30920 in combination with Hasten NT Spray Adjuvant, which contains active ingredients Methyl and ethyl oleate (esterified vegetable oil). PCP Registration Number 28277 under the Pest Control Products Act. Truvist is an approved herbicide shown to be effective in controlling Wild Chervil along the Town road allowance.

To learn more or to view a detailed FAQ regarding the noxious weed control program, please visit:  
www.thebluemountains.ca/roads-drainage.cfm
For more information, please contact:

**Operations Department**
519-599-3131 ext. 276

**Councillor Andrea Matrosov**
519-599-3131 ext. 406
Anticipated 2020 Roadside Weed Spraying
Town of The Blue Mountains

Information shown on these drawings is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. The Blue Mountains is not responsible for any errors, omissions or deficiencies in this drawing. This document is for reference purposes only. No part of this supplied data may be reproduced or transmitted to others in any way without the written permission of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains. (2020)

Road Length
83 Centerline km
166 Lane km
Information shown on these drawings is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. The Blue Mountains is not responsible for any errors, omissions or deficiencies in this drawing. This document is for reference purposes only. No part of this supplied data may be reproduced or transmitted to others in any way without the written permission of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains. (2020)
Completed 2020 Roadside Weed Spraying  
Town of The Blue Mountains

Information shown on these drawings is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. The Blue Mountains is not responsible for any errors, omissions or deficiencies in this drawing. This document is for reference purposes only. No part of this supplied data may be reproduced or transmitted to others in any way without the written permission of The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains. (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Centerline (km)</th>
<th>Lane (km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed Roadside Weed Spraying</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Roadside Weed Spraying</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Legend: No Spray Sign, Completed Roadside Weed Spraying, Anticipated Roadside Weed Spraying]