

Deliberations on Privately- Owned Woodlots



Overview

- Background
- Sequence of Decisions
- Deliberation Step 1
- Deliberation Step 2

Background

- Through presentations at prior meetings, it is expected that a decision-making process would be presented on February 14, 2022.
- The sequence of decisions described below was developed in support of this process.

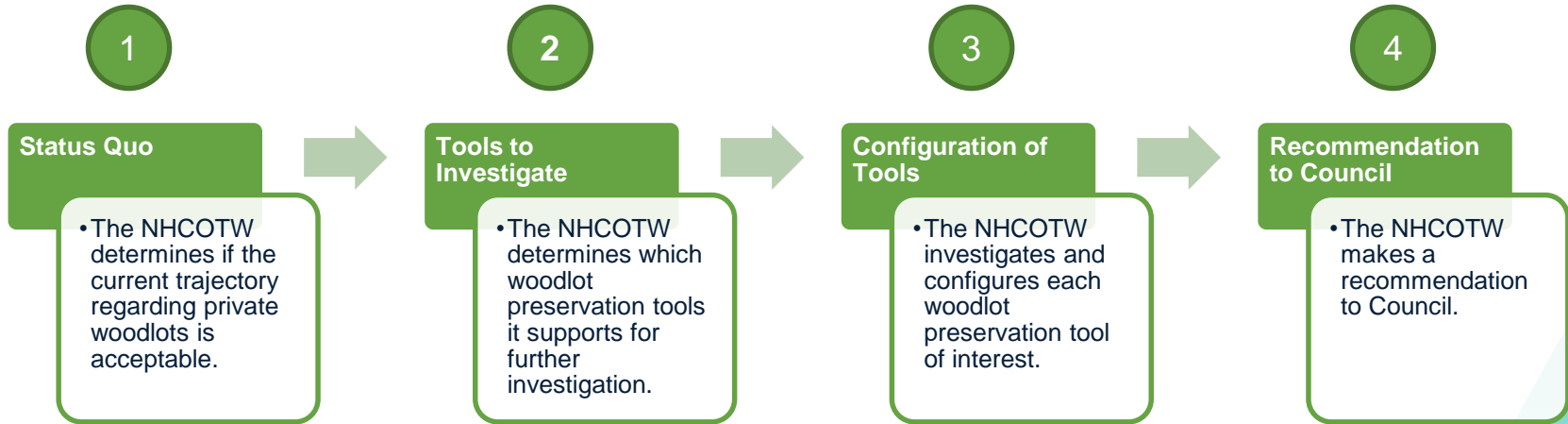
Pivot from Receiving Information to Deliberations

- Through various motions, Council has requested a variety of information on trees and woodlots in Chatham-Kent.
- All existing information gathering requests made to date have been fulfilled.
- Unless additional information needs are identified by the NHCOTW, the Committee might be considered as pivoting from a phase focused on receiving information to one focused on deliberating a way forward.

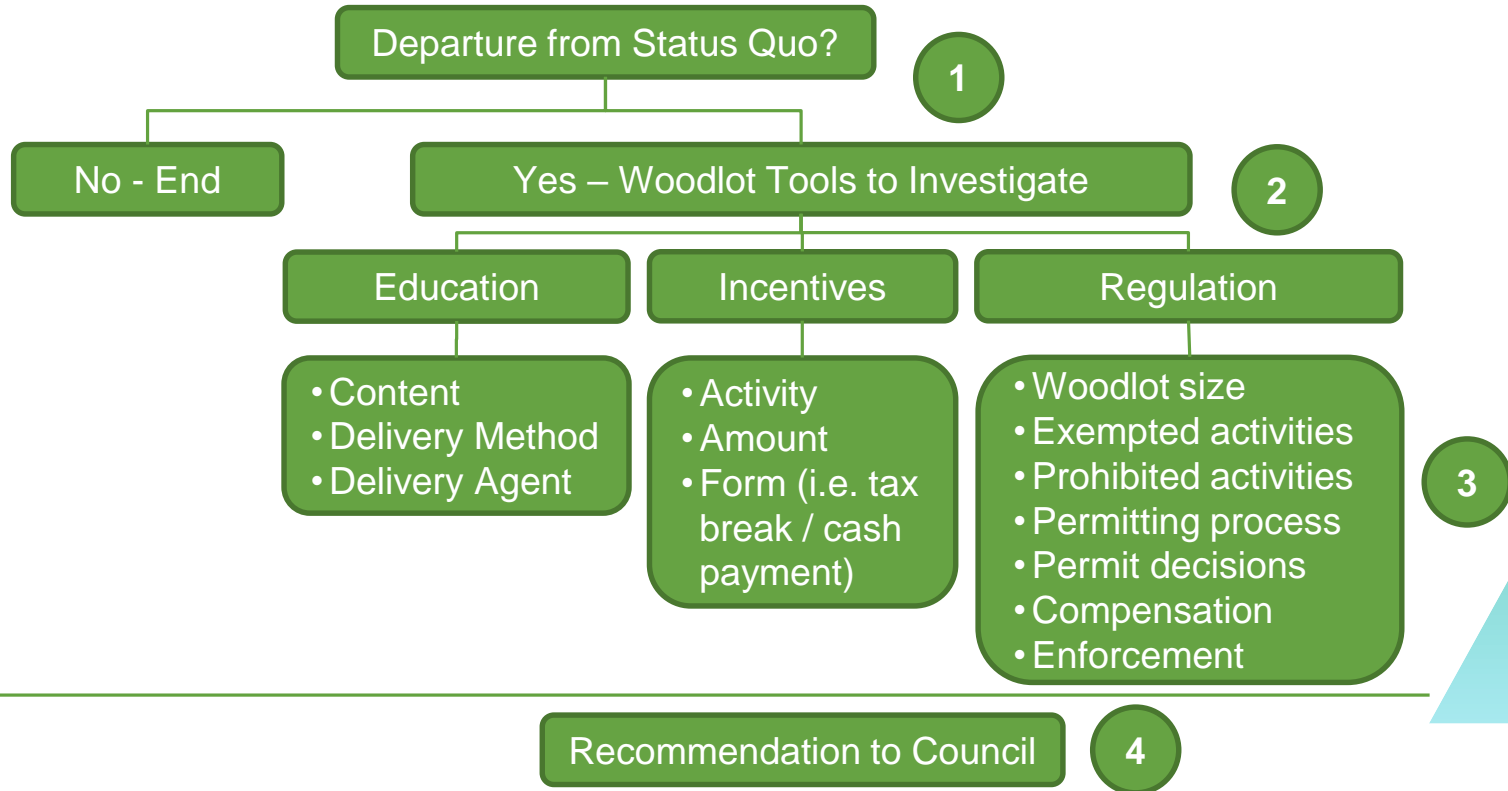
Structuring the Deliberative Process

- The matter before the NHCOTW is characterized by complexity.
- A structured process for decision-making provides a strategic sequence of decisions from general to specific.
- The results of the initial decisions shape subsequent questions.
- The sequence of decisions has 4 steps.

Sequence of Decisions for Privately-Owned Woodlots



The Private Woodlot Preservation Decision Tree



Overview – Step 1: Departure from the Status Quo?

- **Question:** Is a departure from the status quo regarding privately-owned woodlots desired by the NHCOTW?
 - **No:** The Committee does not support further action which concludes the NHCOTW's mandate on privately owned woodlots. The remaining decision steps are skipped.
 - **Yes:** The Committee supports some type of additional action to influence community's trajectory with regards to privately owned woodlots. The committee moves to Step 2.

Notes on Step 1

- Additional action might include anything from slightly tweaking existing programs to the introduction of new woodlot preservation tools.
- All decisions in this regard will be made by the NHCOTW as it proceeds through the sequence of decisions.

Overview – Step 2: Woodlot Preservation Tools to Investigate

- **Question:** Which woodlot preservation tools does the NHCOTW support for further investigation? (Education, Incentives, Regulation)
 - The Committee considers each woodlot preservation tool individually.
 - Tools supported by the committee are carried forward for further investigation, tools not supported are excluded from further consideration by the committee.

Notes on Step 2

- A wide spectrum of possible configurations exist for each tool (i.e. incentives can include non-monetary recognition, a partial or full property tax exemption, or cash payments of various sizes).
- At this point the NHCOTW is only selecting which tools to investigate in more detail, not making a definitive decision on what will be implemented in the future.

Overview – Step 3: Configuration of Woodlot Preservation Tools

- **Question:** How does the NHCOTW wish to configure the woodlot preservation tools of interest?
 - Each tool has a number of parameters that need to be configured (see slide 7).
 - The configuration of each woodlot preservation tool of interest is investigated and decided upon by the Committee.

Notes on Step 3

- Each tool might be structured in a wide variety of ways.
- During this step, the NHCOTW will explore the various ways each tool of interest might be configured and determine a preferred configuration for each tool that is reflective of the committee's collective intent.
- Administration will prepare a model/example for each tool of interest for the committee to employ as a starting point for deliberations.

Overview – Step 4: A Recommendation to Council

- The NHCOTW develops recommendations for Council on the matter of privately-owned woodlots.
- The recommendations are reflective of the results of the Committee's previous deliberations and include whichever woodlot preservation tools are supported by the Committee and configured in the manner the Committee deems to be appropriate.

The NHCOTW Drives the Deliberative Process

- The committee retains full control over the trajectory of the deliberative process on privately-owned woodlots and to proceed at its own pace.
- Course corrections are the prerogative of the NHCOTW. No decision is final without a recommendation from the NHCOTW and an approval by Council.
- Administration stands ready to support Committee deliberations with information, research, analysis, and anything else the committee might need to move the process forward.

Questions



Step 1

Is a departure from the status quo regarding privately-owned woodlots desired by the NHCOTW?

Step 2

**Which woodlot preservation tools does the NHCOTW support for further investigation?
(Education, Incentives, Regulation)**