

**FULL AUTHORITY MEETING
Wednesday, July 17, 2019
9:30 a.m.
Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation
Glen Elgin Room
3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON**

A G E N D A

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a) Addition of items
- b) Change in order of items
- c) Adoption of Agenda

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3. PRESENTATIONS and DELEGATIONS

- a) Staff member Natalie Green, Project Manager Remedial Action Plan will present an overview of the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan.
- b) Ms. Emily Spanton will appear as a delegation to address the Notice of Motion regarding Climate Change.
- c) Mr. Ryan Forster will appear as a delegation to address the Notice of Motion regarding Climate Change.
- d) Ms. Jackie Oblak will appear as a delegation to address the Notice of Motion regarding Climate Change.
- fe Mr. Ian Smith will appear as a delegation to address the Notice of Motion regarding Climate Change.

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Page 2

4. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- a) Approval of Draft Minutes Full Authority Meeting June 19, 2019
- b) Approval of Draft Minutes Full Authority Closed Session Meeting June 19, 2019
(Circulated under separate cover to remain Private and Confidential)
- c) Approval of Draft Minutes Full Authority Special Meeting June 28, 2019
- d) Approval of Draft Minutes Full Authority Special Meeting Closed Session June 28, 2019
(Circulated under separate cover to remain Private and Confidential)
- e) Business Arising from Minutes

Page 28

Page 37

- f) Correspondence – Letter from Minister John Yakabuski, MNRF dated June 28, 2019
Page 39
- g) Chairman's Remarks
- h) Chief Administrative Officer Comments

5. BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Report No. FA-56-19 RE: GR Paradise (Thundering Waters) Update
Page 40
- b) Report No. FA-75-19 RE: Watershed Management Status Q2 Report
Page 67
- c) Report No. FA-77-19 RE: Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding Request Update
Page 75
- d) Report No. FA-78-19 RE: Niagara River RAP Update
Page 103
- e) Report No. FA-80-19 RE: Media Coverage and Communications Update Report
Page 128
- f) Report No. FA-81-19 RE: Communications, Community Engagement, Outreach and Volunteers Q2 Report
Page 137
- g) Report No. FA-84-19 RE: Update - Auditor General Report Recommendations
Page 150
- h) Report No. FA-86-19 RE: Q2 Strategic Initiatives, Operations, Ecology Report
Page 169
- i) Report No. FA-87-19 RE: Q2 Capital Projects Q2 Report
Page 197

6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a) Standing Committee Report - Minutes of Audit & Budget Committee Meeting dated June 26, 2019
Page 200
- b) Standing Committee Report - Minutes of Public Advisory Committee Meeting dated June 27, 2019
Page 203
- c) Ad Hoc Committee Report - Minutes of CAO Selection Committee Meeting dated June 28, 2019
Page 206
- d) Approval of Draft Minutes of CAO Selection Committee Meeting dated June 28, 2019 (Circulated under separate cover to remain Private and Confidential)
- e) Report No. FA-61-19 RE: NPCA Section 28 Permit Signatory Delegation
Page 209
- f) Report No. FA-76-19 RE: Welland River Floodplain Mapping Peer Review Request
Page 212
- g) Report No. FA-79-19 RE: Restoration Project Approvals to Date
Page 228

- h) Report No. FA-82-19 RE: NPCA Signing Authority Page 275
- i) Report No. FA-83-19 RE: Board Training and Development Page 276
- j) Report No. FA-85-19 RE: Notice of Motion Climate Change Page 292
- k) Report No. FA-90-19 RE: Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Memorandum of Agreement Page 307

7. BUSINESS – In Camera

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

- a) Notice of Motion – Member Wright – RE: Revising the Flood Plain Mapping development and consultation process, including the floodplain mapping committee

9. NEW BUSINESS –

- a) Requirement for Meeting - August 21, 2019
- b) Request to serve on the Governance Committee – Member Ingrao

10. ADJOURNMENT

July 17, 2019

TO: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board of Directors

COMMENT RE: CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND THE NPCA

I wholeheartedly support the motion to have NPCA declare a climate emergency, put forward by member Smith.

Declaring a climate emergency clearly states the NPCA's intention to address this urgent issue. Following this declaration with immediate actions such as forming a climate change advisory committee, tasked with clearly identified responsibilities and timelines, will provide assurances that the issue will be addressed in an effective, timely manner and provides substance to the declaration.

I have been involved in climate change adaptation research efforts for almost two decades and I am well aware of the potential risks and challenges we face. The time for deferring decisions and actions is past. We must move forward in effectively addressing climate change issues immediately.

Jacqueline Oblak

The Upper Twelve Mile Creek

Evidence of Climate Change – the Need to Act



In association with:



July 17th, 2019

Credentials for Input on the Issue of Climate Change

Ian D. Smith, B.Math., M.Sc., OLS/OLIP, EP, CERP

- Degree in Applied Math (Statistics) – U. of Waterloo
- Graduate Degree in Earth Sciences (Fluvial Geomorphology) – Brock
- 15 Years in Government; Environmental Science
- 20 Years as Private Consultant; across Canada & International
- 25 Years teaching at the graduate level (Niagara College)
- International Certification as an Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP)
- 2017 Eco Professional National Innovator's Award (Eco Canada)
- Chair of TUC Niagara's Projects Group – 20 years watching 12MC!



003

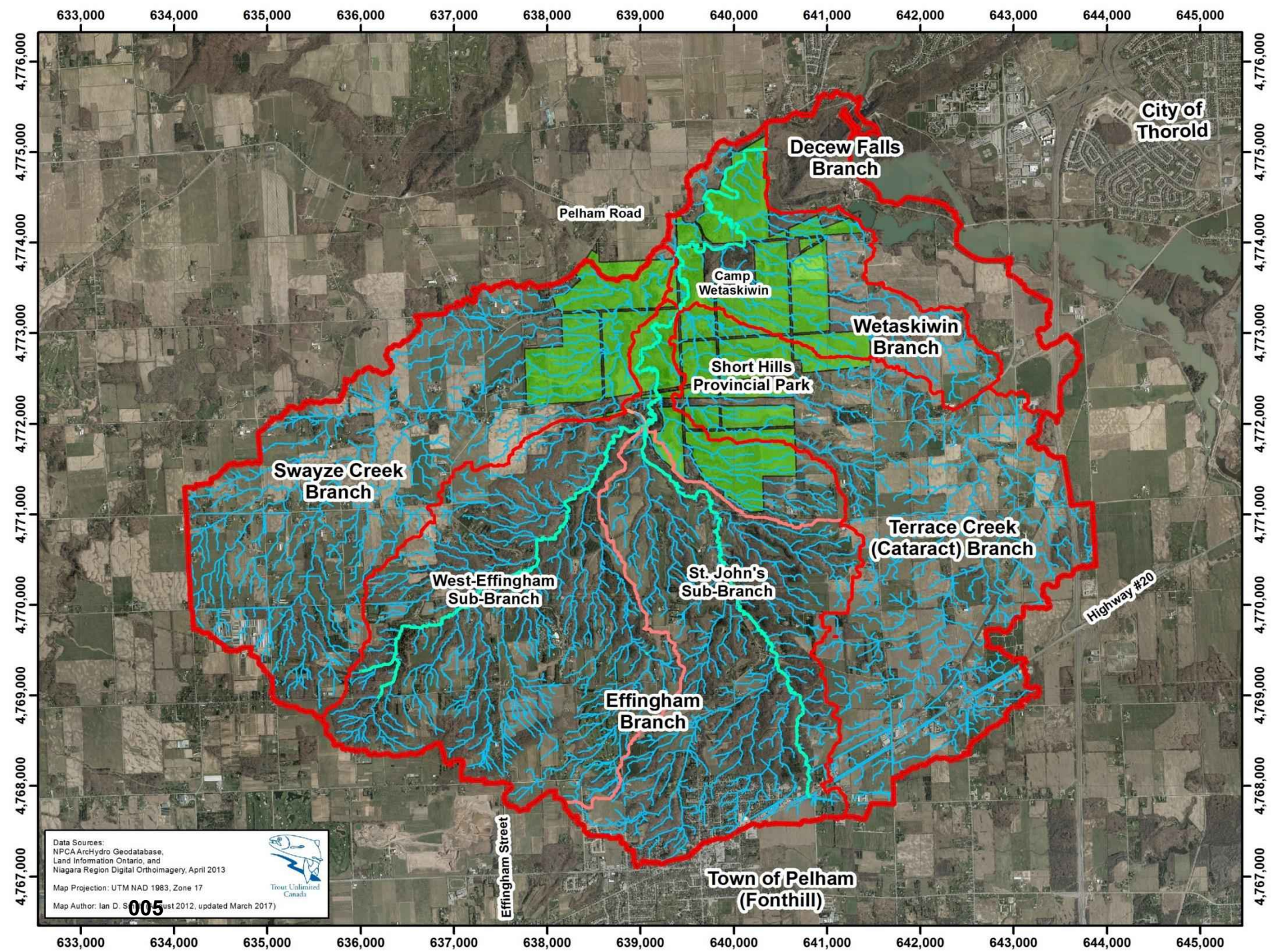


The “Canary in the Coal Mine”!

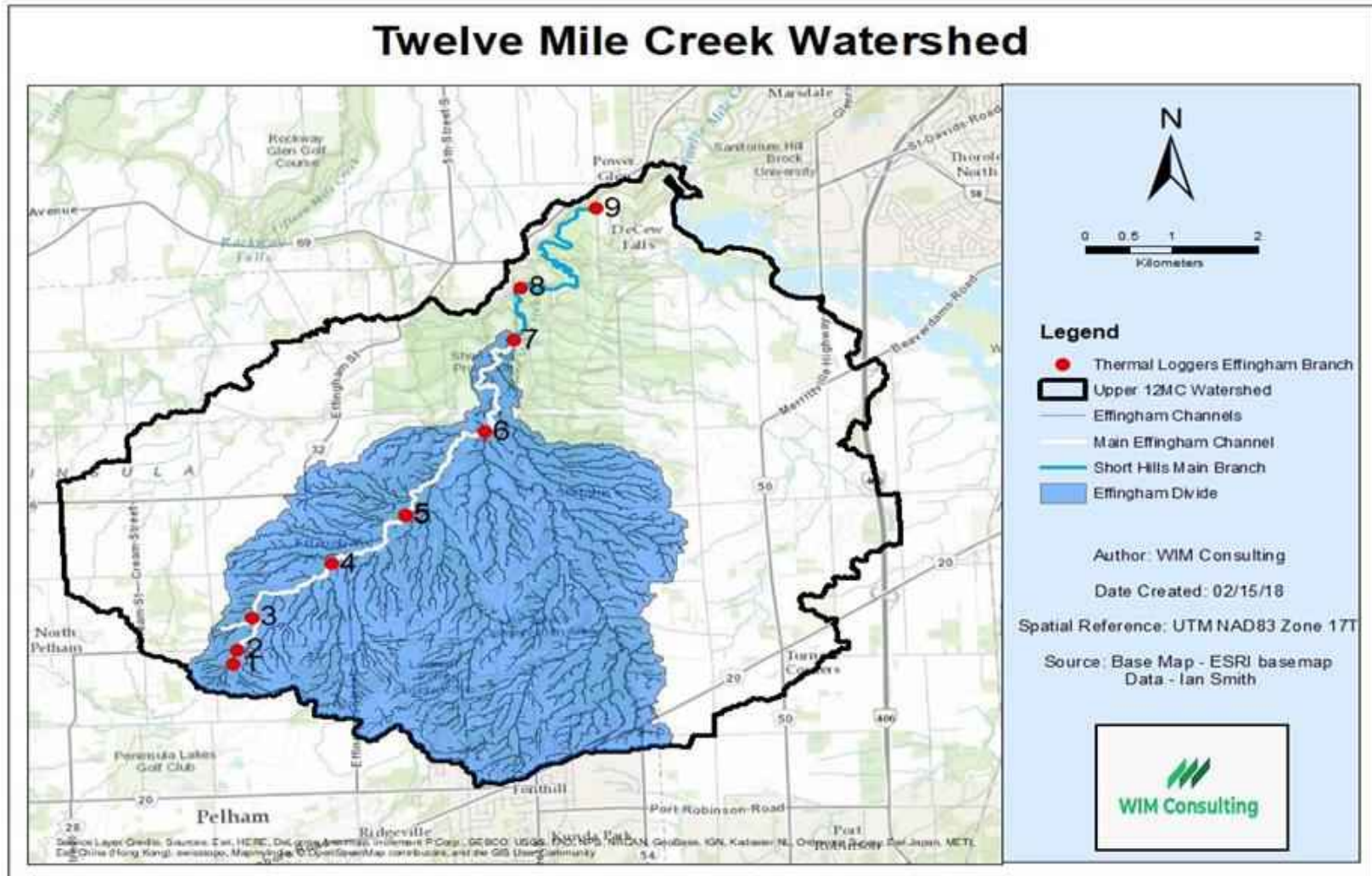


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Source: I.D. Smith, August 2017



Thermal Sampling Locations - Effingham



Thermal Sampling Locations – St. John's



**Maximum Summer Temperatures
Recorded by Thermal Sensors in 2017:
St. John's Branch of Twelve Mile Creek**



Maximum Summer Temperature (°C)

- No Data
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24

- Main St. John's Channel
- St. John's Sub Channel
- Short Hills Main Branch
- Main Effingham Channel



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Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

E.C. AES 30-Year Climate Normals

climate.weather.gc.ca/climate_normals/

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Past weather and climate

Canadian Climate Normals

1981-2010

1971-2000

1961-1990

1981-2010 Climate Normals & Averages

Climate Normals and Averages are used to summarize or describe the average climatic conditions of a particular location.

At the completion of each decade, Environment and Climate Change Canada updates its Climate Normals for as many locations and as many climatic characteristics as possible. The Climate Normals, Averages and Extremes offered here are based on Canadian climate stations with at least 15 years of data between 1981 to 2010.

For more information, please see the [1981-2010 Calculation Information](#) document.

To view a list of locations for which Climate Normals have been calculated, please select and submit one of the following searches:

Search by Station Name

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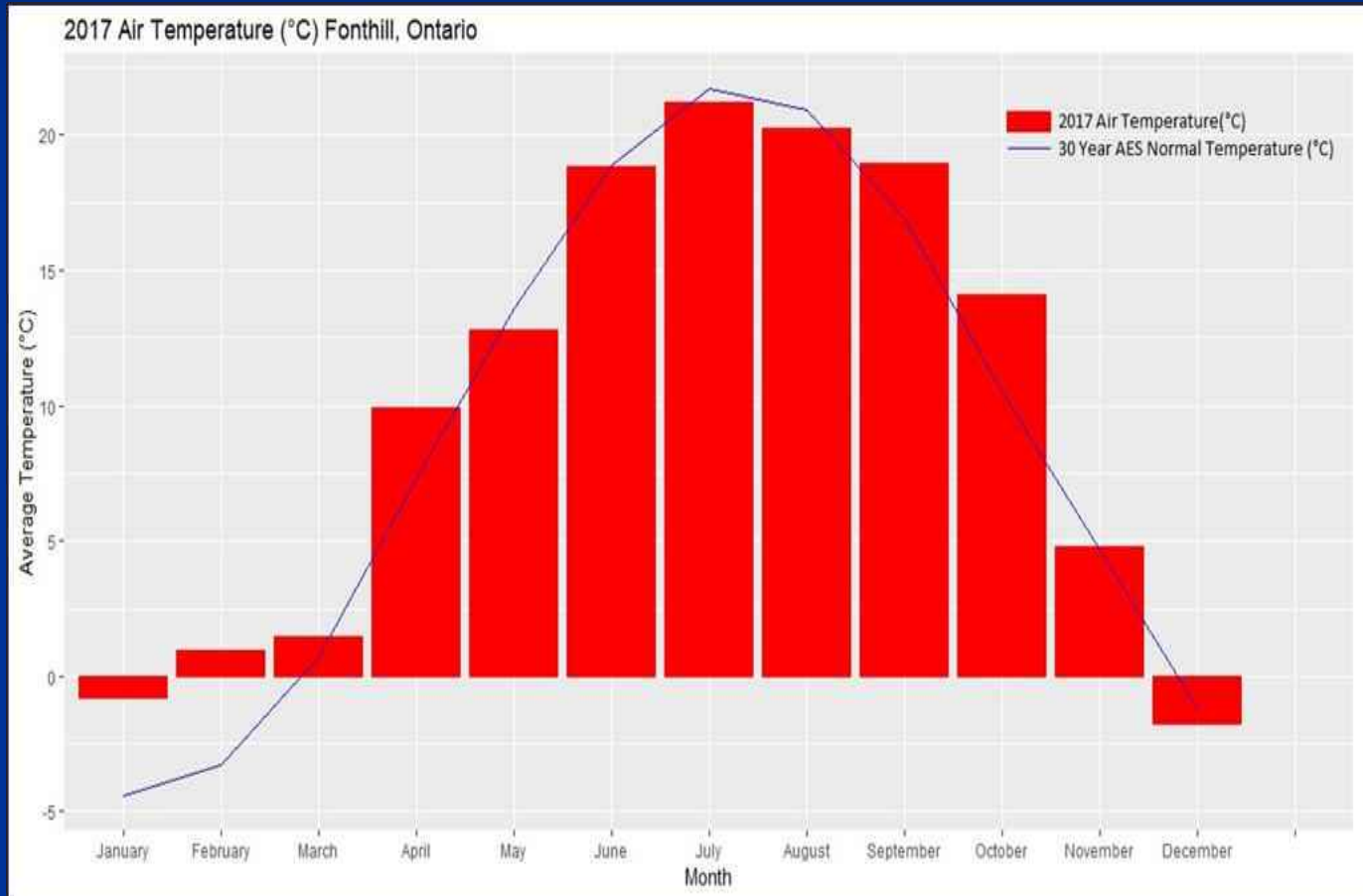
Departments and agencies

Treaties, laws and regulations

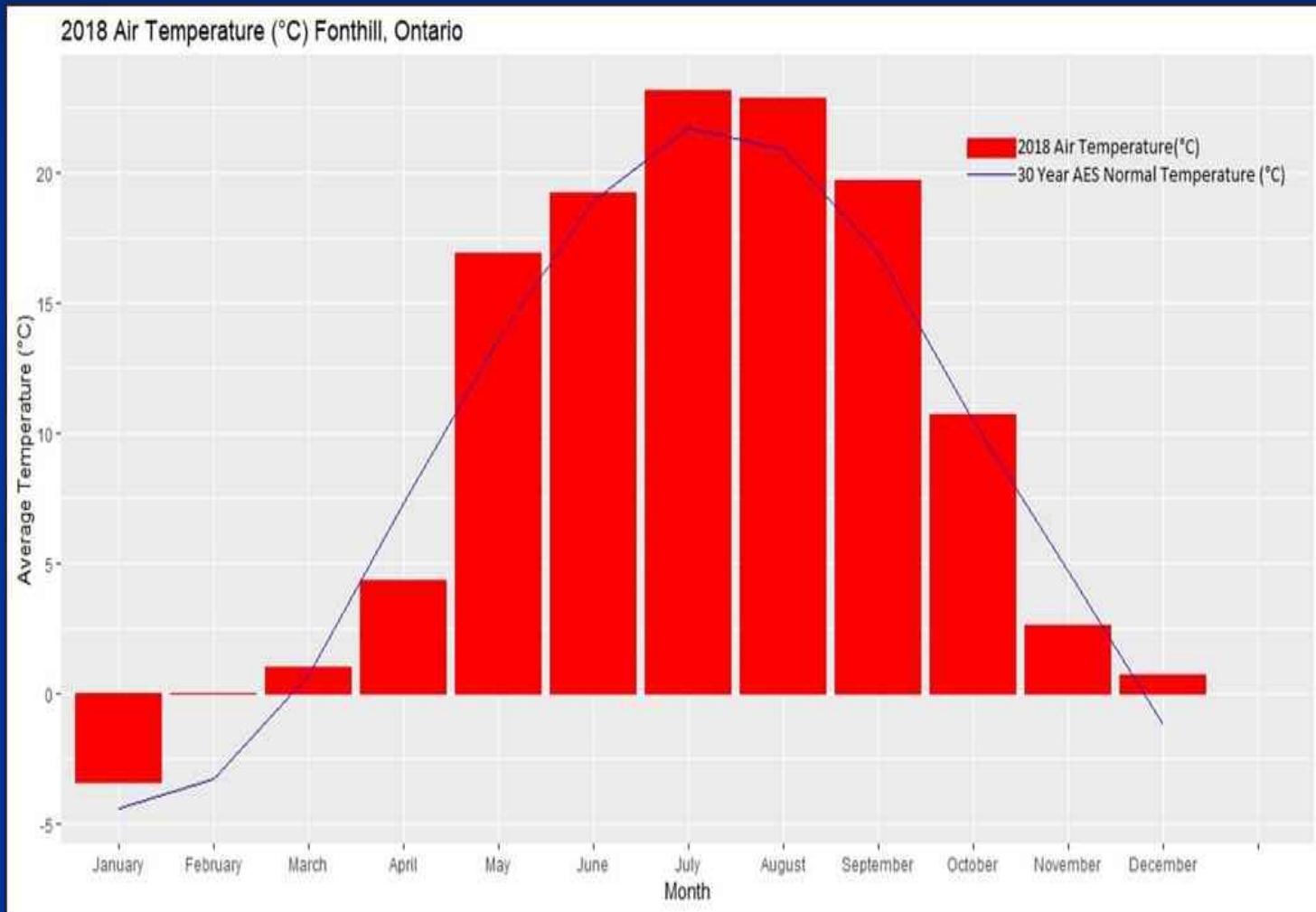
How government works

008

E.C. AES 30-Year Climate Normals vs. Fonthill Upper 12 MC Watershed (2017)

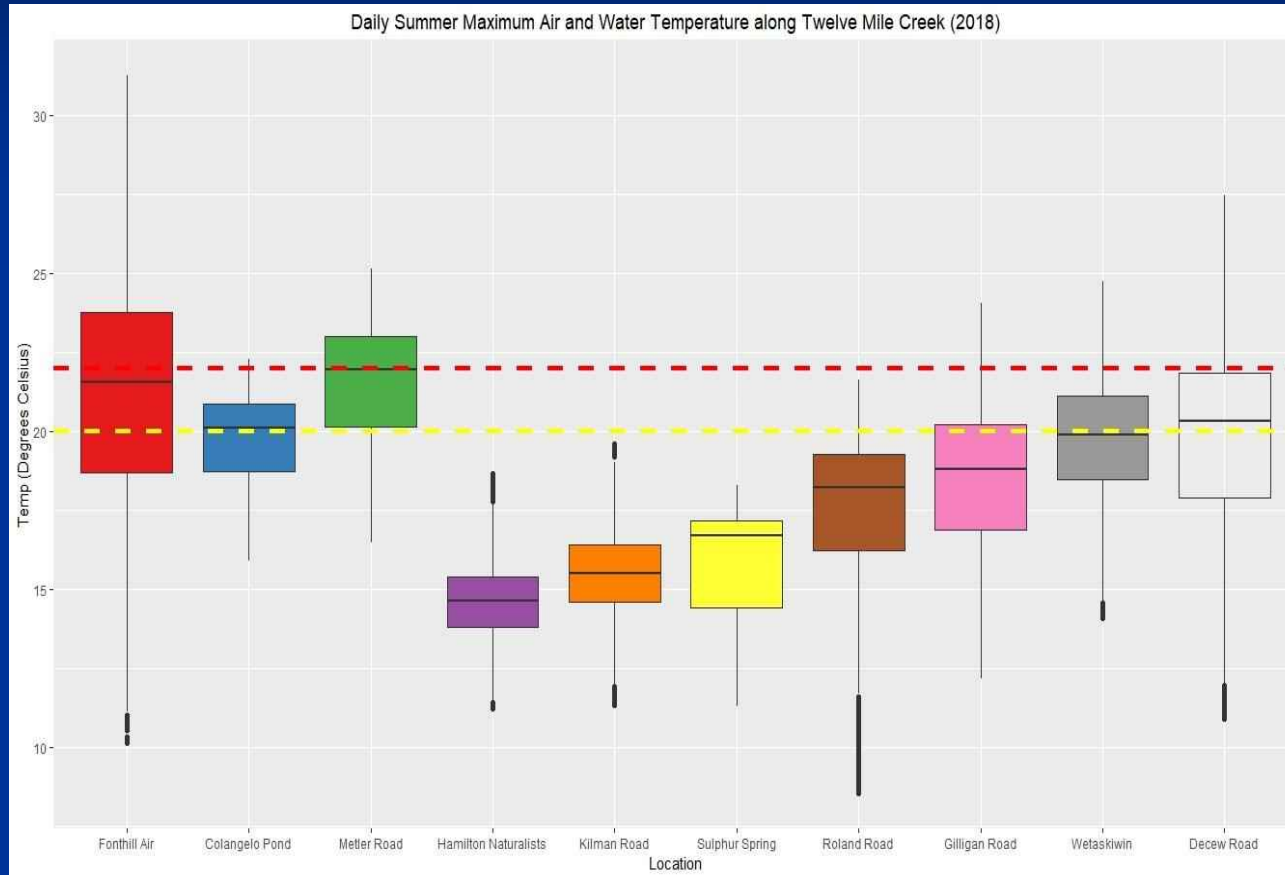


E.C. AES 30-Year Climate Normals vs. Fonthill Upper 12 MC Watershed (2018)



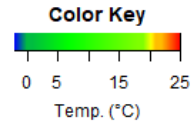
12 MC Effingham Branch

Summer Water Temperatures 2018

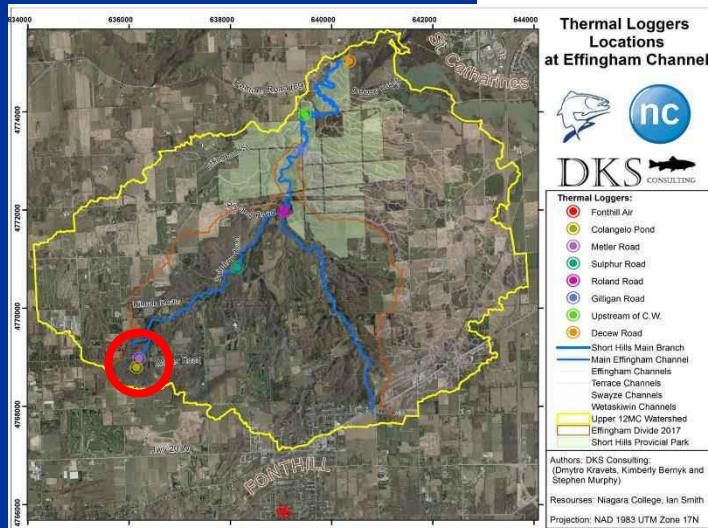
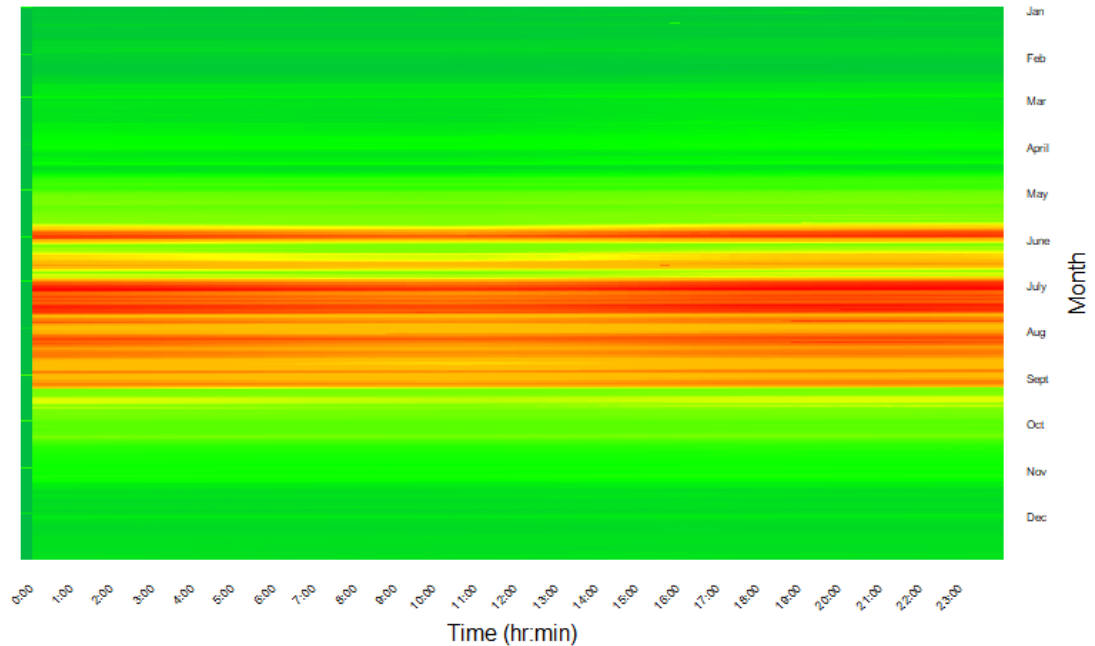


- Yellow dotted line set at 20° C.
- Red Dotted Line set at 22° C.
- There is moderate cooling occurring between Metler Road and Roland Road; likely due to ground water inputs.

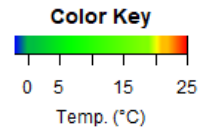
Effingham - Detailed Thermal Data 2018



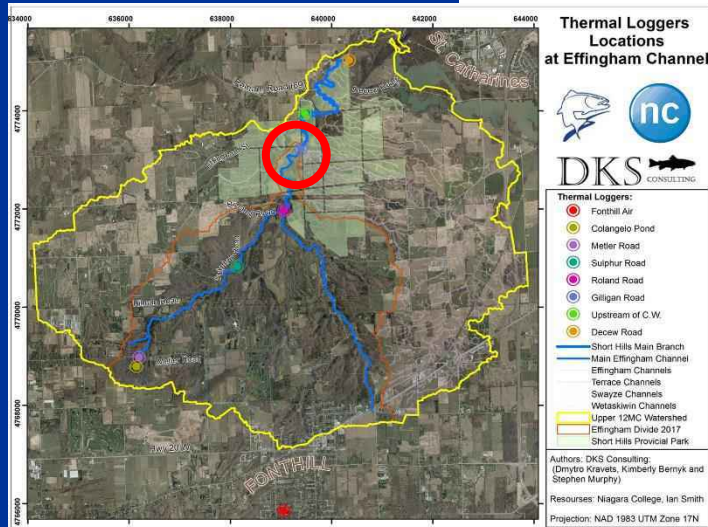
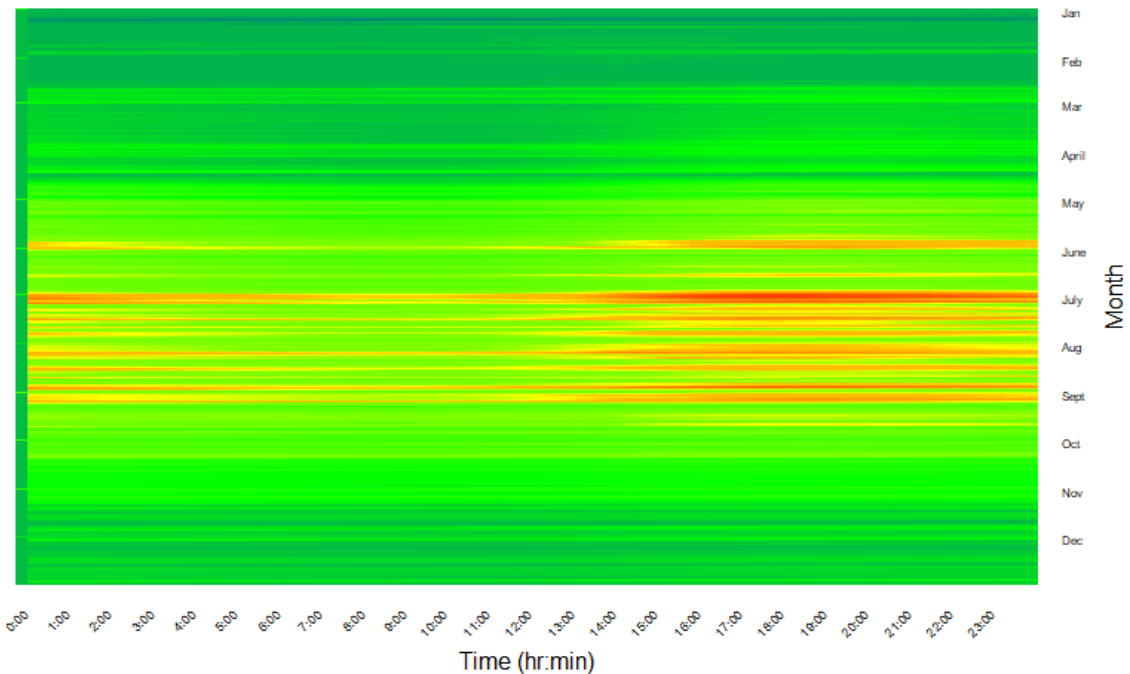
12MC, Effingham Branch at Metler Road - 2018



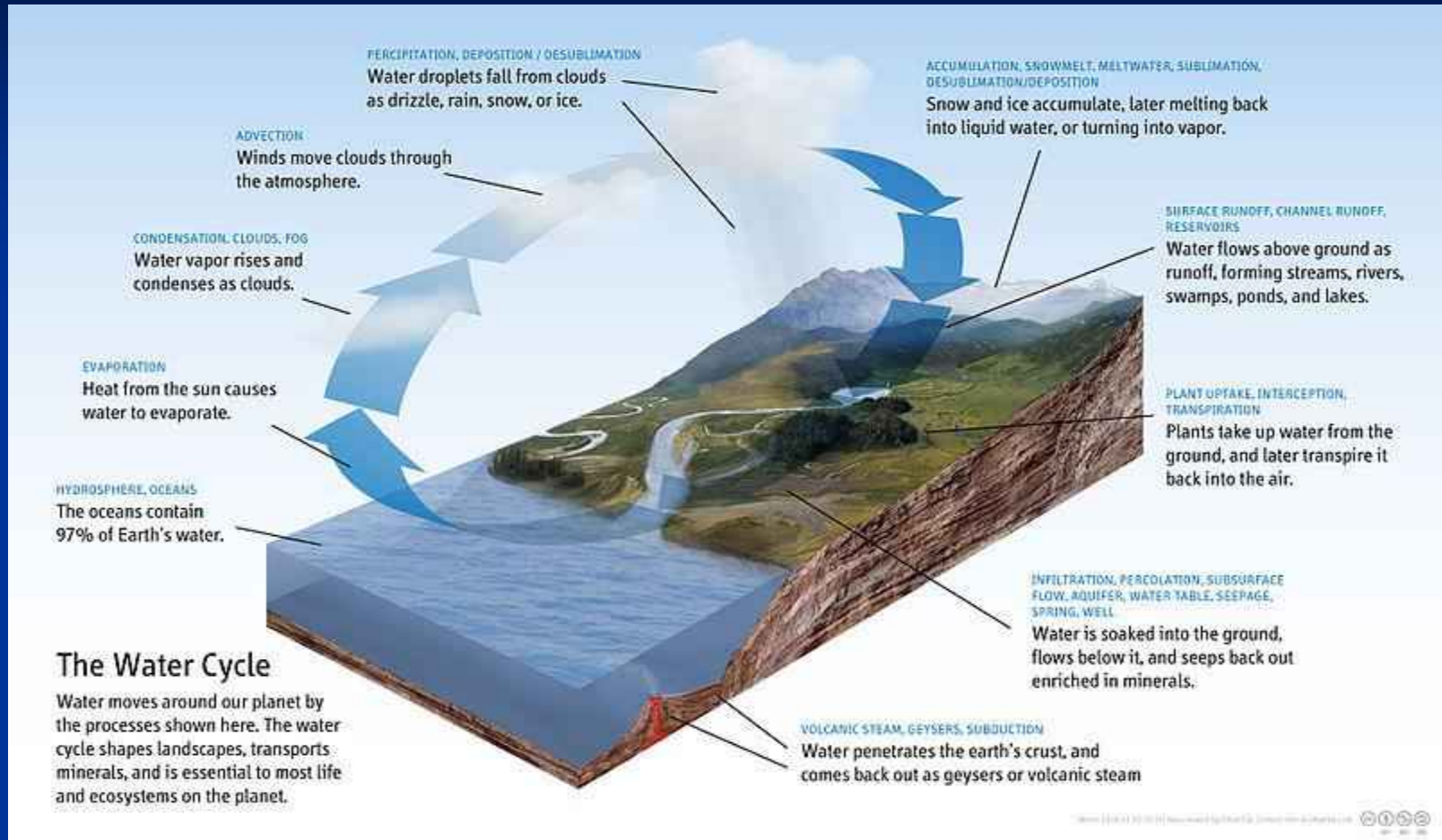
Effingham - Detailed Thermal Data 2018



12MC, Lower Effingham Branch at Gilligan Road - 2018



The Hydrologic Cycle (aka Water Balance)



Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Water_Cycle_%28v1.10%29.jpg

- Closed System,
- Balanced (Inputs = Outputs)!!

The Hydrologic Cycle (aka Water Balance)

$$P = ET + i + R + \Delta S$$

Rewrite:

$$R = P - (ET + i), \text{ where } \Delta S = 0$$

- Pre-settlement Balance

$$P = ET + i + R + \Delta S$$

Rewrite:

$$R = P - (ET + i), \text{ where } \Delta S = 0$$

- Urbanization Imbalance

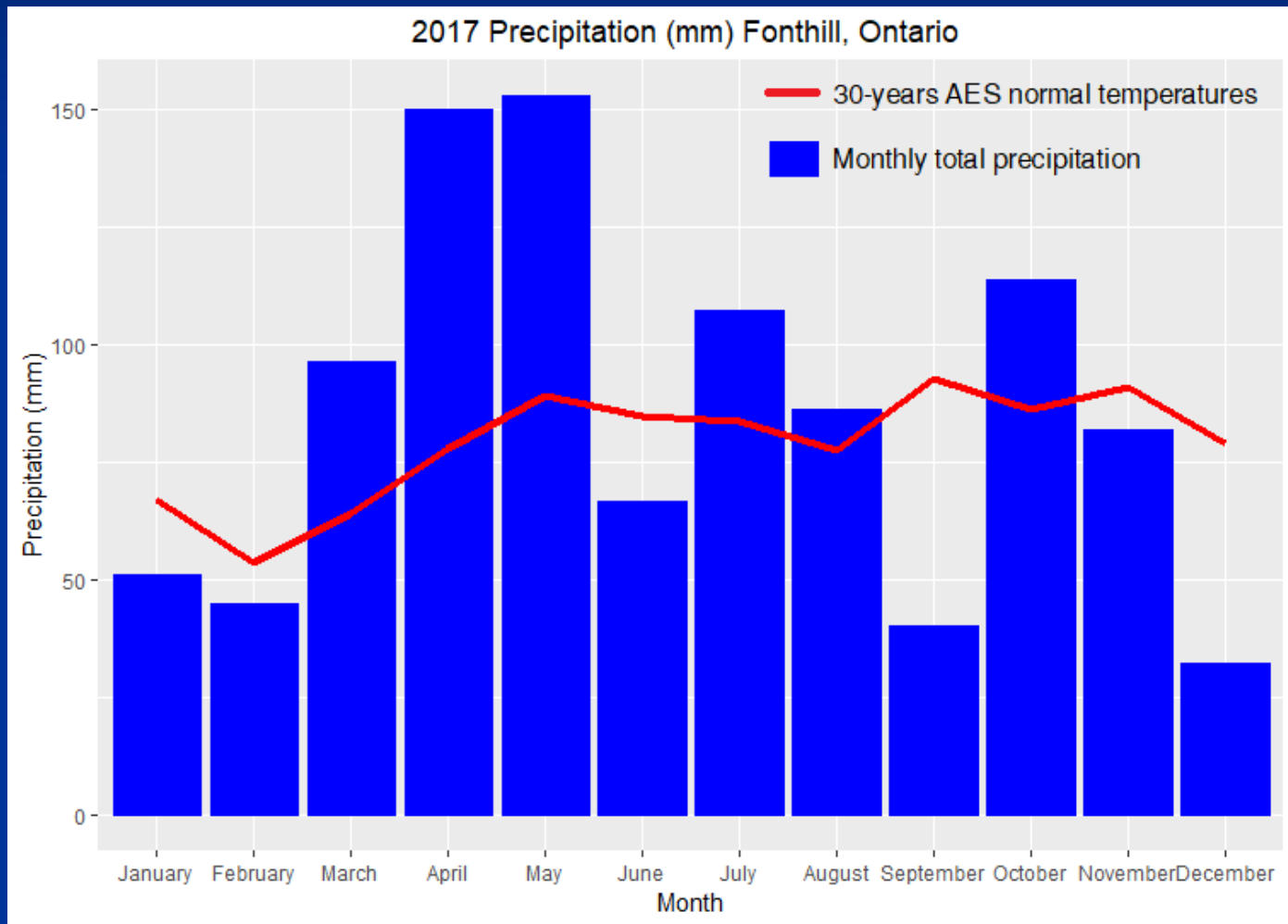
$$P = ET + i + R + \Delta S$$

Rewrite:

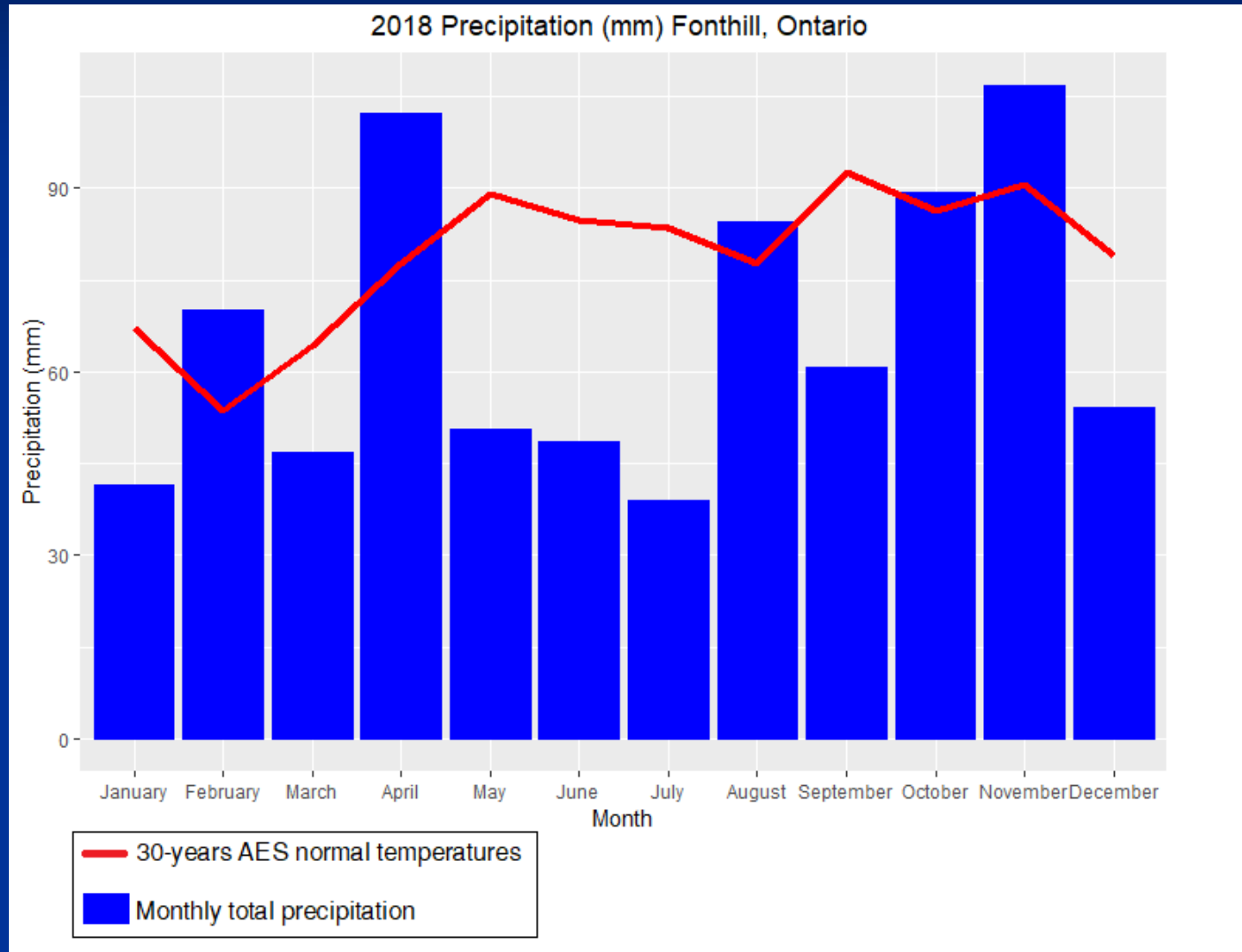
$$R_{015} = P - (ET + i), \text{ where } \Delta S = 0$$

- Extreme Imbalance due to Urbanization + Climate Change

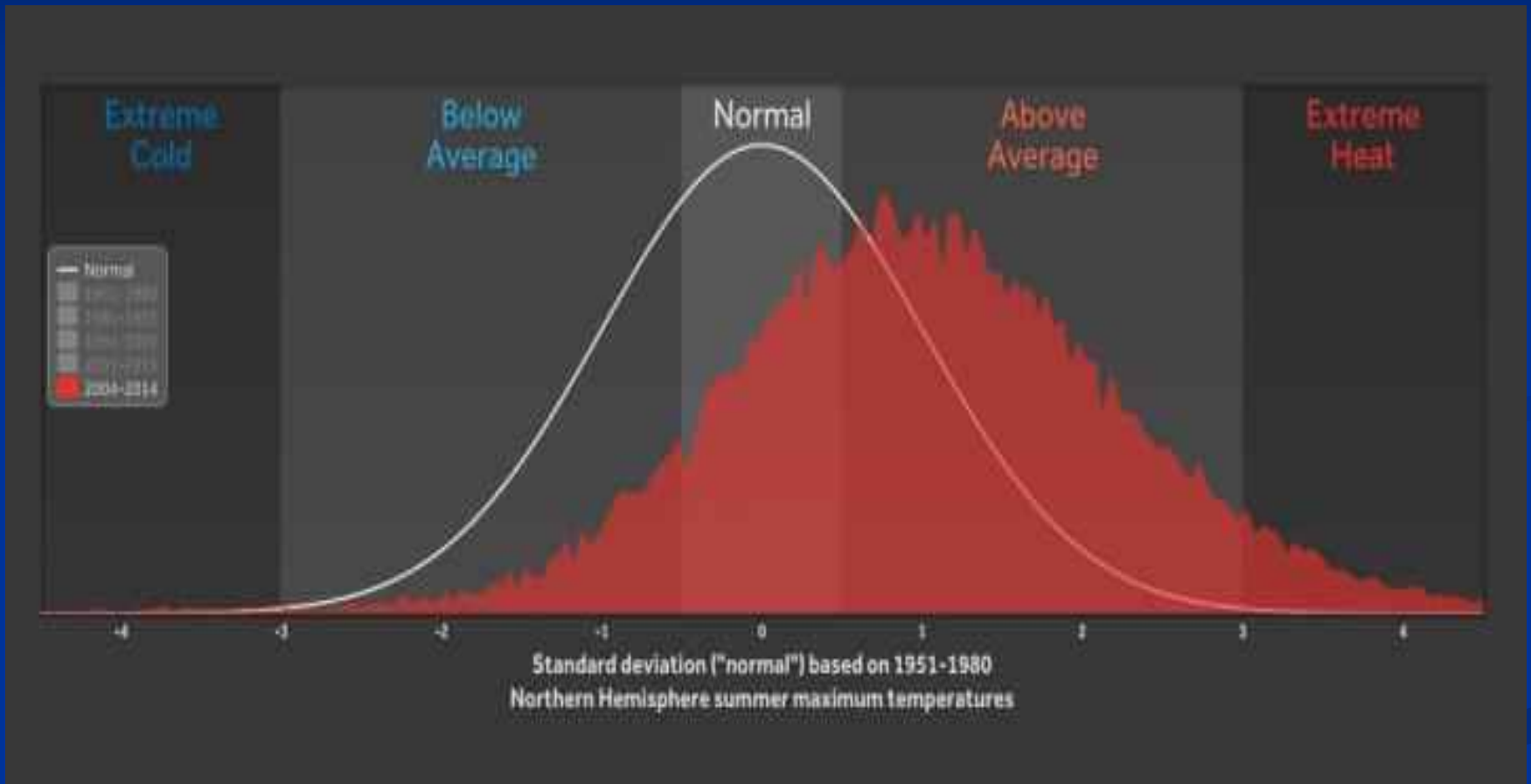
E.C. AES 30-Year Climate Normals vs. Fonthill Upper 12 MC Watershed (2017)



E.C. AES 30-Year Climate Normals vs. Fonthill Upper 12 MC Watershed (2018)



Climate Change Appears to Drive Increased Variability



Source: <https://wxshift.com/climate-change/climate-indicators/extreme-heat>

Stability (Erosion) Analysis

- Why does even the Upper 12MC look like 'Chocolate Milk' after a good rain!? (It's Sedimentary, Watson!):





020



021





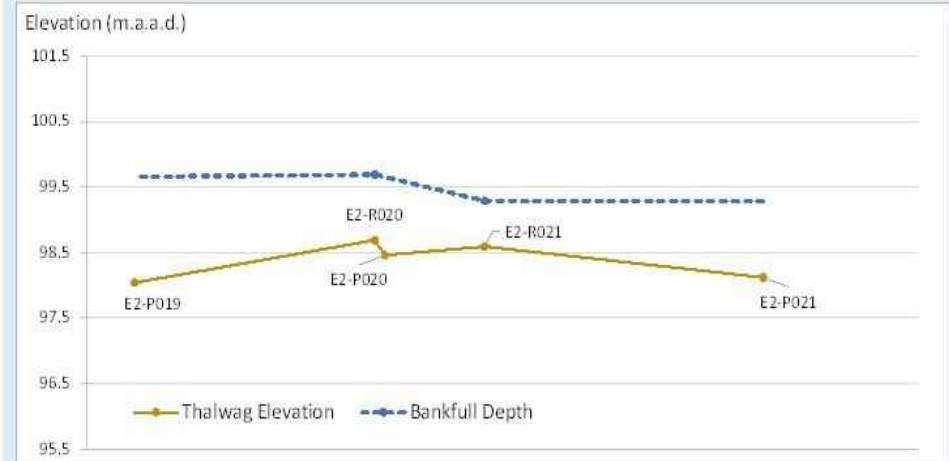
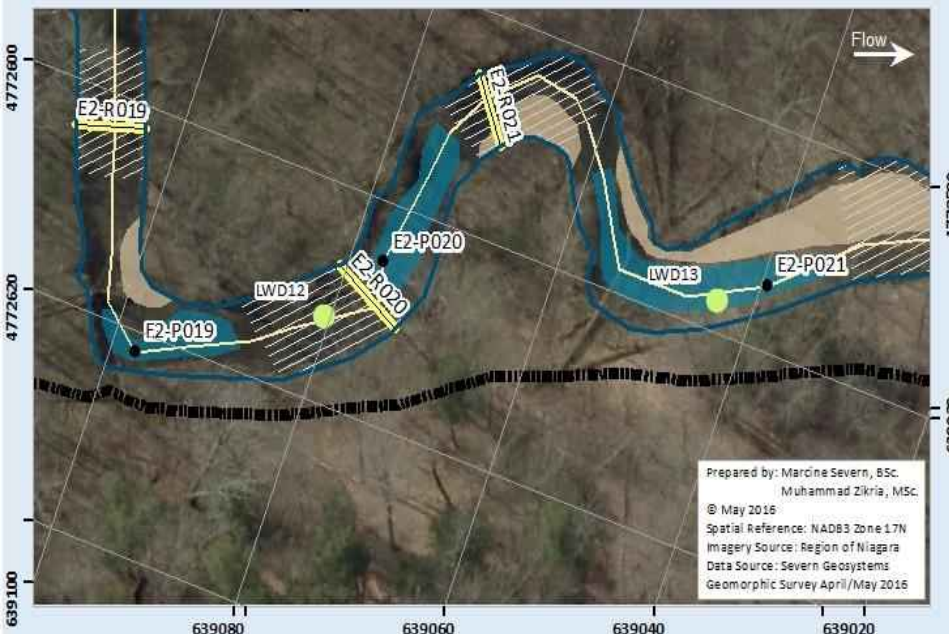
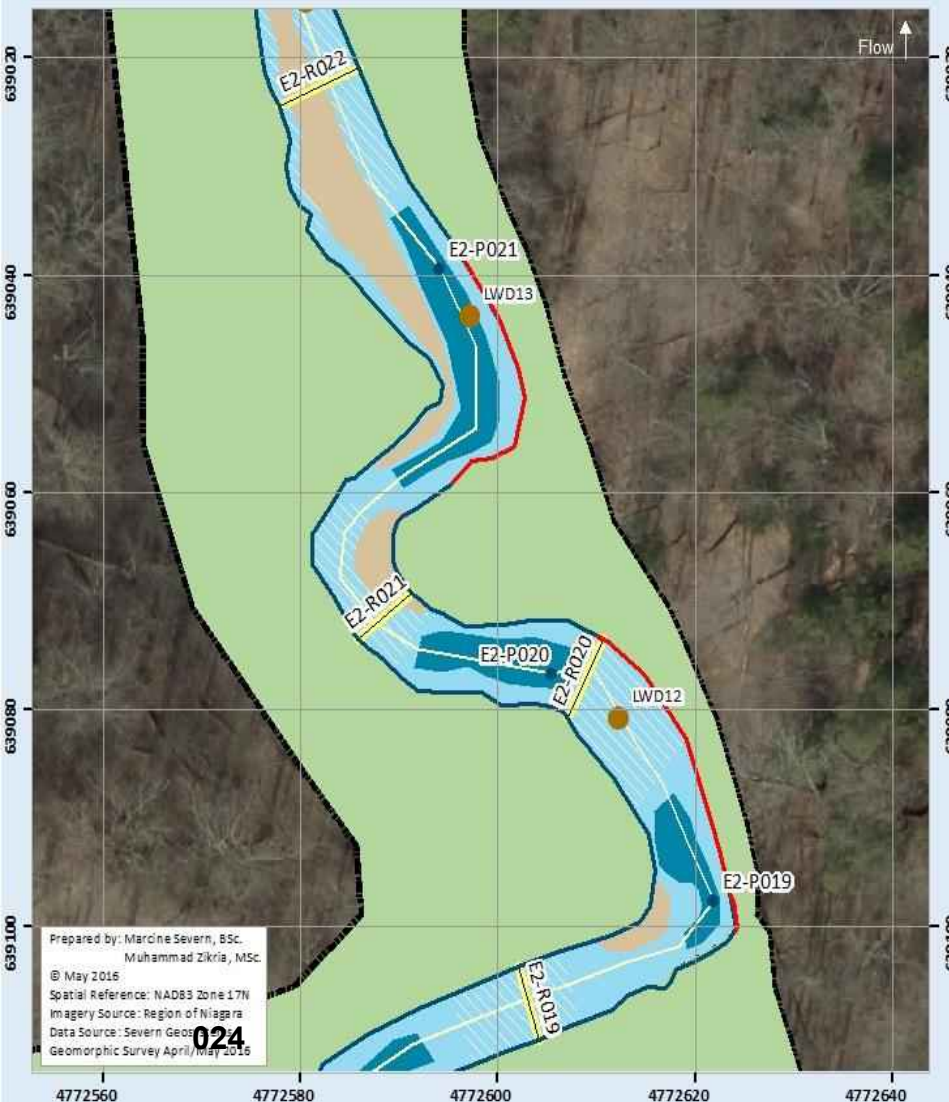
Geomorphology: Chainage 666 - 776m

Twelve Mile Creek - Effingham Branch



Plan & Profile: Chainage 666 - 755m

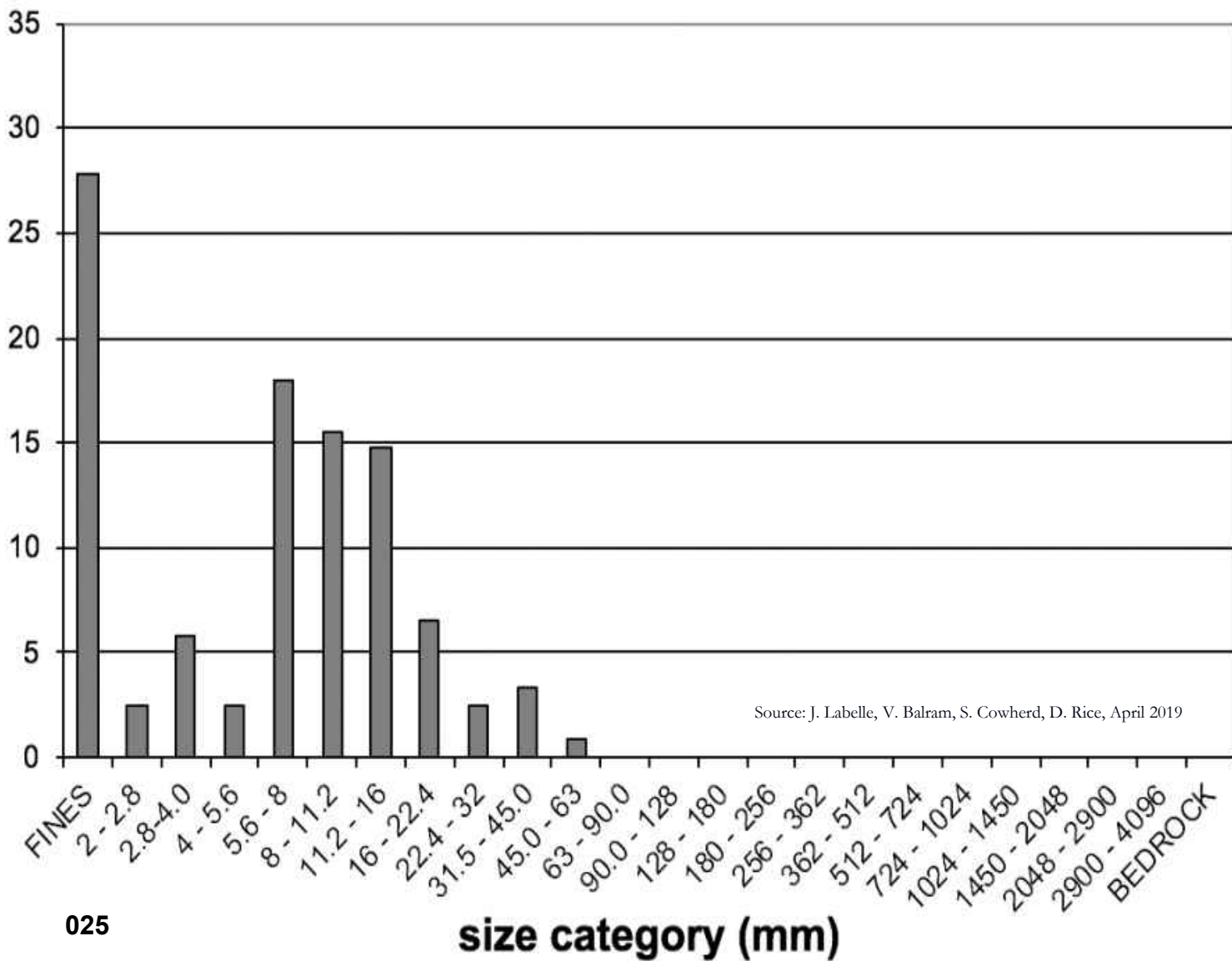
Twelve Mile Creek - Effingham Branch



Tweleve Mile Creek Pebble Count Size Frequency

Sand Gravel Cobble Boulder

percent of count



Where Next?

- Keep watching (collecting data), regardless of funding starvation!
- Formally recognize the threat to Niagara's Natural Heritage Systems.
- Start to derive resilience strategies:
 - Assess future development for its impact on the water balance (put excess water back into the soil and trees),
 - Enact policies that seek resilience (design to the new water balance)!

Questions



17 July 2019

Please feel free to contact TUC Niagara at:

Ian D. Smith, M.Sc., OLS/OLIP, EP, CERP
TUC Niagara - Projects Committee Chair,
NC - Professor, Fluvial Geomorphologist

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**FULL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Ball's Falls

Centre for Conservation – Glen Elgin Room

3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON

NOTE: The archived recorded meeting is available on the NPCA website. The recorded video of the Full Authority meeting is not considered the official record of that meeting. The official record of the Full Authority meeting shall consist solely of the Minutes approved by the Full Authority Board. *NPCA Administrative By-law Section 14.5*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- D. Bylsma (Chair)
- S. Beattie
- L. Feor (not in attendance after reconvening at 12:31 p.m.)
- R. Foster (not in attendance after reconvening at 12:31 p.m.)
- K. Gibson
- B. Greenwood
- D. Huson (not in attendance after reconvening at 12:31 p.m.)
- J. Ingrao
- B. Mackenzie
- J. Metcalfe
- E. Smith
- B. Steele (left at 1:20 p.m.)
- R. Shirton
- T. Whalen
- B. Wright
- G. Zalepa (not in attendance after reconvening at 12:31 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

- B. Clark
- B. Johnson

STAFF PRESENT:

- G. Wood, CAO / Secretary – Treasurer
- G. Bivol, Interim Clerk
- R. Bisson, Community Engagement Manager
- A. Christie, Acting Senior Manager, Operations and Special Projects
- D. Deluce, Senior Manager, Planning and Regulations
- J. Diamond, Water Quality Specialist
- M. Ferrusi, Human Resources Consultant
- L. Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services
- D. MacKenzie, Director, Watershed Management
- S. Miller, Senior Manager, Water Resources and Restoration
- E. Navarro, Communications Specialist
- G. Verkade, Manager, Information Management and Technology Systems

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and introduced the new Members of the Board.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a) Change in Order of Items – Members spoke to the issue of better informing the public if convening a closed session at the beginning of the meeting. Staff was directed to bring the matter to the upcoming Governance Committee meeting for discussion.

Resolution No. FA-126-19

Moved by Board Member Beattie

Seconded by Board Member Shirton

THAT the agenda for the Full Authority Meeting of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority dated June 19, 2019 **BE AMENDED** to allow for Item 7. Closed Session to occur immediately preceding Item 3. Presentations.

AND THAT the agenda **BE ADOPTED** as amended.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chair Bylsma and Member Smith declared conflicts of interest with respect to item 7.d) of the closed session portion of the agenda. Neither individual voted or was in attendance for deliberation on item 7. d).

7. BUSINESS – IN CAMERA

Motion to convene in Closed session

Resolution No. FA-127-19

Moved by Board Member Feor

Seconded by Board Member Foster

THAT the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **CONVENES** in closed session at 9:42 a.m. in accordance Section 11.1 of the NPCA Administrative By-law for the discussion of matters relating to:

- a) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- b) Litigation or potential litigation;
- c) Labour relations, Human Resources or employee negotiations;
- d) Personal matters and an identifiable individual(s), including NPCA employees;
- e) Land Acquisition - Report No. FA-66-19 (Property in the vicinity of the Binbrook Conservation Area).

CARRIED

Motion to reconvene in to Open Session – Vice Chair Huson presided over the following vote before calling for a recess.

Resolution No. FA-128-19

Moved by Board Member Foster

Seconded by Board Member Feor

THAT the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **RECONVENES** in open session at 11:40 a.m.

CARRIED

The Board of Directors meeting recessed from 11:41 to 11:45 a.m. after which time Chair Bylsma assumed the chair calling for the following votes:

Business Arising from Closed Session

Resolution No. FA-129-19

Moved by Board Member Gibson

Seconded by Board Member Greenwood

THAT Report No. FA-66-19 RE: Land Acquisition **BE RECEIVED** to remain private and confidential.

THAT staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to negotiate a land purchase in the vicinity of Binbrook Conservation Area at an upset limit discussed within the closed session.

THAT staff **REPORT** to the Board regarding the ongoing negotiation.

CARRIED

Resolution No. FA-130-19

Moved by Board Member Foster

Seconded by Board Member Feor

THAT staff **BE DIRECTED** to proceed as instructed in closed session with regards to items 7. a) b) and d).

CARRIED

3. PRESENTATIONS (and/or Delegations)

- a) Presentation by Joshua Diamond, NPCA Water Quality Specialist on Report No. FA-57-19 RE: NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2018 – Mr. Diamond provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. Members offered questions to Mr. Diamond. Discussion ensued with respect to the quarry issue in Port Colborne, the restoration program and partnering organizations, levies and funding mechanisms, Bill 108 and watershed report cards. With the adoption of the following resolution, the Board recessed from 12:16 p.m.

Resolution No. FA-131-19

Moved by Board Member Greenwood

Seconded by Board Member Gibson

THAT Report No. FA-57-19 RE: NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2018 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

CARRIED

The meeting reconvened at 12:31 a.m. with Members Feor, Huson, Zalepa and Foster no longer in attendance.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- a) Approval of the Minutes - Full Authority Meeting dated May 3, 2019 – In response to a question by Member Mackenzie, CAO Gayle Wood indicated that a report would be coming forward to a subsequent closed session with respect to a request for an apology to a former Board Member Bill Hodgson.

Resolution No. FA-132-19

Moved by Board Member Ingrao

Seconded by Board Member Greenwood

THAT the minutes of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (Full Authority) meeting dated May 3, 2019 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

CARRIED

- b) Business Arising from Minutes - None
- c) Correspondence - From Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Bill 108 More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019

Resolution No. FA-133-19

Moved by Board Member Mackenzie

Seconded by Board Member Ingrao

THAT the correspondence from Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Bill 108 More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

CARRIED

- d) Chair's Comments

The Chair spoke to his attendance at the Treetop Trekking ribbon cutting, the Ohni:kara Geopark stakeholder meeting, Pathstone Mental Health healing garden ribbon-cutting, new Board Member orientation and the recent meeting with the Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

- e) Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

Ms. Wood opted to forego comments in light of the time constraints on the meeting.

5. BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Minutes of the Council meeting #1/19 of Conservation Ontario dated April 1, 2019
- b) Report No. FA-59-19 RE: Risk Based Plan Permit Compliance
- c) Report No. FA-63-19 RE: 2019 Restoration Program Workplan – Member Mackenzie posed questions to staff regarding past relationships between the NPCA and other partnering organizations. Ms. Wood addressed the revitalization of NPCA programs and partnerships. Member Beatty raised concerns with respect to the consistency and clarity in agreements between the NPCA and its partners involved in various restoration initiatives.

- d) Report No. FA-65-19 RE: Niagara Region New Official Plan DRAFT Watershed Planning Discussion Paper
- e) Report No. FA-70-19 RE: NPCA 2018 FOI Annual Statistics
- f) Report No. FA-71-19 RE: Communications Update April-May, 2019
- g) Report No. FA-73-19 RE: Update - Auditor General Report Recommendations

Resolution No. FA-134-19

Moved by Board Member Metcalfe

Seconded by Board Member Shirton

THAT the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

- a) Minutes of the Council meeting #1/19 of Conservation Ontario dated April 1, 2019
- b) Report No. FA-59-19 RE: Risk Based Plan Permit Compliance
- c) Report No. FA-63-19 RE: 2019 Restoration Program Workplan
- d) Report No. FA-65-19 RE: Niagara Region New Official Plan DRAFT Watershed Planning Discussion Paper
- e) Report No. FA-70-19 RE: NPCA 2018 FOI Annual Statistics
- f) Report No. FA-71-19 RE: Communications Update April-May, 2019
- g) Report No. FA-73-19 RE: Update - Auditor General Report Recommendations.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a) Standing Committee Report - Minutes of the Watershed Floodplain Committee meeting dated June 13, 2019 (tabled) - Discussion ensued with respect to the need for a third party peer review of the Welland River Watershed report.

Resolution No. FA-135-19

Moved by Board Member Wright

Seconded by Board Member Mackenzie

THAT a consultant **BE RETAINED** to conduct a third party peer review of the Welland River Watershed Report.

DEFERRED BY RESOLUTION NO. FA-136-19

Resolution No. FA-136-19

Moved by Board Member Beatty

Seconded by Board Member Foster

THAT the motion to retain a third party consultant to conduct a peer review of the Welland River Watershed **BE DEFERRED** to the next meeting to allow a report back from staff on the matter.

CARRIED

Resolution No. FA-137-19

Moved by Board Member Shirton

Seconded by Board Member Metcalfe

THAT the Minutes of the Watershed Floodplain Committee meeting dated June 13, 2019 as tabled **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

b) Report No. FA-62-19 RE: NPCA Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Update

Resolution No. FA-138-19

Moved by Board Member Whalen

Seconded by Board Member Steele

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-62-2019 RE: NPCA Standing and Ad Hoc Committee / NPCF Update **BE RECEIVED** for information.
2. **THAT** the Water Quality Improvement Grant Review Committee and the NPCA Conservation Ontario Biennial Tour Planning Committee **BE DISSOLVED** with responsibilities for this initiative shifted to NPCA staff, with reporting as required to the Board of Directors.
3. **THAT** the following two Board Members **BE APPOINTED** to the C.A.O. Selection Committee: S. Beattie and R. Foster.
4. **THAT** Board Member J. Ingrao **BE APPOINTED** to the Watershed Floodplain Committee for a term consistent with the other Board Member appointees to the Committee.

CARRIED

c) Report No. FA-55-19 RE: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update

Resolution No. FA-139-19

Moved by Board Member Smith

Seconded by Board Member Shirton

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-55-19 RE: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update **BE RECEIVED**.
2. **THAT** the Board of Directors **AUTHORIZE** the Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer and Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, included as Appendix 1 to Report No. FA-55-19, with Ontario Power Generation (OPG).

CARRIED

d) Report No. FA-60-19 RE: NPCA Policy Housekeeping Amendments – D. Deluce addressed questions of the Board.

Resolution No. FA-140-19

Moved by Board Member Smith

Seconded by Board Member Steele

THAT Recommendation 2 within Report No. FA-60-19 RE: NPCA Policy Housekeeping Amendments **BE AMENDED** to denote that proposed changes under Section 1 of Appendix 1 within the report be subject to the public consultation process and a report to the Board.

DEFEATED

Resolution No. FA-141-19

Moved by Board Member Steele

Seconded by Board Member Wright

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-60-19 RE: NPCA Planning and Permitting Policy Housekeeping Amendment **BE RECEIVED**;
2. **THAT** the proposed changes under Section 1 of Appendix 1 of the Planning and Permitting Policy Housekeeping Amendment **BE APPROVED**;
3. **THAT** the manner of public consultation described in this report for the proposed changes under Section 2 of Appendix 1 **BE APPROVED**;
4. **THAT** subject to Recommendation 3 and having considered all public comments, NPCA staff **BE DIRECTED** to bring the proposed changes (as amended via consultation) under Section 2 of Appendix 1 to the Board for consideration.

CARRIED

- e) Report No. FA-62-19 RE: NPCA Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Update – This matter was moved to be addressed prior to item 6. b) on the agenda.
- f) Report No. FA-64-19 RE: NPCA Drone Policy – Member Beattie requested an analysis of other options for drone services.

Resolution No. FA-142-19

Moved by Board Member Wright

Seconded by Board Member Ingrao

1. **THAT** Report No. FA 64-19 RE: NPCA Drone Policy **BE APPROVED**; and
2. **THAT** the NPCA Board of Directors **AUTHORIZE** the NPCA to integrate the NPCA Drone Company Operations Manual (COM) into the NPCA's organizational policies.

CARRIED

- g) Report No. FA-67-19 RE: NPCA Harassment Policy

Resolution No. FA-143-19

Moved by Board Member Beattie

Seconded by Board Member Wright

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-67-19 RE: NPCA Workplace Harassment Policy **BE APPROVED**.
2. **THAT** the existing Workplace Harassment Policy dated September 16, 2016 be **REPEALED** and **REPLACED** with the NPCA Workplace Harassment Policy attached hereto as Appendix 1.

CARRIED

- h) Report No. FA-68-19 RE: NPCA Recruitment and Selection Policy

Resolution No. FA-144-19

Moved by Board Member Gibson

Seconded by Board Member Greenwood

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-68-19 RE: NPCA Recruitment and Selection Policy **BE APPROVED**.

2. **THAT** the Recruitment Policy dated May 16, 2016 **BE REPEALED AND REPLACED** with the NPCA Recruitment & Selection Policy attached hereto as Appendix 1.

CARRIED

- i) Report No. FA-72-19 RE: Annual Workplan – June – December, 2019 – Ms. Wood spoke to the report and addressed inquiries by Members with respect to future amendments of the plan.

Resolution No. FA-145-19

Moved by Board Member Beattie

Seconded by Board Member Greenwood

THAT Report No. FA-72-19 RE: Annual Work Plan – June-December, 2019 **BE RECEIVED** and **APPROVED**.

CARRIED

7. BUSINESS – IN CAMERA (CHANGED BY RESOLUTION FA-126-19 TO OCCUR BETWEEN ITEMS 2 AND 3 ON THE AGENDA)

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

- a) Notice of motion by Member Smith RE: Climate Emergency and the NPCA – Members requested additional information from staff.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Member Greenwood spoke to her pending replacement on the Board. Discussion ensued.
- b) Member Whalen requested that staff look into a means of providing D. DiFruscio an honorary Board Membership.

Resolution No. FA-146-19

Moved by Board Member Whalen

Seconded by Board Member Beattie

THAT staff investigate options for an honorary Board membership for D. DiFruscio and report back to the Board.

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. FA-147-19

Moved by Board Member Ingrao

Seconded by Board Member Greenwood

THAT this meeting of the NPCA Board of Directors be hereby adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

CARRIED

Dave Bylsma
Chair
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Grant Bivol
Interim Clerk
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

SPECIAL FULL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 28, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation

Glen Elgin Room

3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON

MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Bylsma (Chair)
R. Brady
S. Beattie
B. Clark
L. Feor
R. Foster
D. Huson
J. Ingrao
B. Johnson
J. Metcalfe
E. Smith
B. Steele
R. Shirton
T. Whalen
B. Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT:

D. Cridland
B. Mackenzie
G. Zalepa

OTHERS PRESENT:

C. Black, Rae, Christen, Jeffries LLP

STAFF PRESENT:

G. Wood, CAO / Secretary – Treasurer
G. Bivol, Interim Clerk

The Board Chair called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

a) Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. FA-148-19

Moved by Board Member Brady

Seconded by Board Member Foster

THAT the agenda for the Special Meeting of the NPCA Full Authority dated June 28, 2019 **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. BUSINESS – IN CAMERA

- a) Motion to move in to Closed Session for the consideration of personal matters about an identifiable individual including NPCA employees

Resolution No. FA-149-19

Moved by Board Member Foster

Seconded by Board Member Brady

THAT the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **CONVENE** in closed session at 9:33 a.m. in accordance with Section 11.1 b) of the NPCA Administrative By-law for the discussion of personal matters about (an) identifiable individual(s) including NPCA employees.

CARRIED

Resolution No. FA-150-19

Moved by Member Feor

Seconded by Member Foster

THAT this meeting of the Board of Directors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **RECONVENES** in open session at 11:30 a.m..

CARRIED

- b) Business Arising from the Closed Session

Resolution No. FA-151-19

Moved by Member Metcalfe

Seconded by Member Huson

THAT the Board **REAFFIRMS** direction issued to the C.A.O. in its closed session meeting of June 19, 2019 in respect of labour relations / employee negotiations within the closed agenda of June 19, 2019.

CARRIED

4. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. FA-152-19

Moved by Board Member Feor

Seconded by Board Member Foster

THAT the special meeting of the NPCA Board of Directors **BE** hereby **ADJOURNED** at 11:31 a.m.

CARRIED

Dave Bylsma
Board Chair
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Grant Bivol
Interim Clerk
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto ON M7A 1W3
Tel: 416-314-2301

**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts**

Bureau du ministre

Édifice Whitney, bureau 6630
99, rue Wellesley Ouest
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416-314-2301



354-2019-817

June 28, 2019

Ms. D. Gayle Wood
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
gwood@npca.ca

Dear Ms. Wood:

I appreciate you sharing your staff report (No. FA-50-19) outlining the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's (NPCA) response to the Auditor General's recommendations contained within the special audit report of the NPCA.

I am pleased to learn of the measures that the NPCA is taking to implement these recommendations.

Thank you again for sharing this report with me.

Sincerely,

John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Grant Bivol, Interim Clerk, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Thundering Waters Background Report

Report No: FA-56-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-56-19 RE: Thundering Waters Background Report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to provide background information on the Thundering Waters/Riverfront development in Niagara Falls, as requested by Board of Directors at their April 17, 2019 Board meeting.

Background:

Thundering Waters (now known as Riverfront Community) is the name of a large-scale development proposal consisting of a mix of residential, commercial and institutional uses in the area of Dorchester Road and Chippawa Parkway in Niagara Falls.

The project commenced in March 2015 following a meeting with the current owner/developer – GR (CAN) Investment Co. Ltd., then owner Mountainview Homes, and staff from the City of Niagara Falls, Region of Niagara, and NPCA. At that time, the project was to proceed through a Secondary Plan (a requirement of the City's Official Plan) that would have provided a comprehensive review of all land use issues and established a development plan for the area.

The City was amenable to the Developer undertaking the technical studies (transportation, servicing, natural heritage, etc.) to support the Secondary Plan as well as drafting the Secondary Plan policies. The Secondary Plan was to be overseen by a multi-disciplinary technical advisory committee (TAC) composed of staff from the City, Region and NPCA along with subject matter experts for the various disciplines from the Developer's consulting team. Approval of the Secondary Plan would have been by City Council (note that depending on the impact to Regional interests, the final approval of the Secondary Plan would have been by the Region of Niagara).

NPCA staff assigned to the TAC included the Supervisor, Development Reviews and the Supervisor, Biology Services. NPCA staff attended numerous meetings and participated in reviewing studies, reports and plans as requested by the City. NPCA staff provided feedback throughout the process

on the various reports and studies to assist with creating a Secondary Plan that was in conformity with all applicable Provincial, Regional, Municipal and NPCA policies.

The Secondary Plan process continued until approximately mid-2017 at which time the Developer applied for an individual Official Plan Amendment (OPA) and abandoned the Secondary Plan process. The OPA was for a portion of the original Secondary Plan area and was to serve as the first of multiple phases (all requiring OPAs) that would eventually achieve a similar development to the one in the Secondary Plan. NPCA staff continued to be involved throughout the OPA process in reviewing the application and supporting studies and working to resolve policy conformity issues with the Region, City and Developer. Following extensive liaison between all parties, NPCA staff provided formal written comments on April 5, 2018 regarding the OPA application, **subject to a number of changes to the draft OPA to address provincially significant wetlands, protection of natural heritage features and habitat**. The OPA was eventually adopted and approved by City Council in July 2018 and was subsequently appealed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). That appeal has not been resolved.

In March 2019, the Applicant submitted applications for a Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA) and Draft Plan of Subdivision (DPS) for the lands covered under the OPA (constituting the first phase of the development). These applications would facilitate dividing the phase 1 lands into various blocks of land for future development (commercial/residential), road, and other supporting infrastructure. The NPCA provided comments on the ZBA and DPS on May 8, 2019 advising that additional information and revisions were required before we would be in a position to support the applications. Currently, updated information has not yet been submitted by the Applicant in response to NPCA (and other agencies) comments.

Discussion:

The Thundering Waters development has been controversial, and members of the public have expressed concerns regarding the applications. A letter of concern was submitted to the NPCA in January, 2019 by Dr. John Bacher (PhD). The letter included three questions/points to staff, which are answered here. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the original questions.

1. NPCA staff did receive comments directed to the City from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) on April 30, 2018 (see Appendix 2). It is important to note that for an individual OPA, the municipality is the approval authority (not the Province). It is up to the municipal Council to consider all information, including comments from internal departments and external agencies, before making a decision. That decision may be appealed to the LPAT in accordance with the *Planning Act* (for example, where an agency feels the OPA is inconsistent with Provincial Policy, does not conform to a Provincial Plan or does not conform to an upper-tier Official Plan).

Provincial ministries such as the MNRF normally do not comment on an individual OPA. The City had involved MNRF throughout the OPA application process and asked MNRF to provide comments. When commenting on a *Planning Act* application, NPCA should not incorporate other agency's comments into our own comments – these need to be addressed directly by the commenting agency. In this instance, NPCA staff were asked to have comments to the City by the end of March, 2018 to allow the City to present the OPA at a public meeting in May, 2018. NPCA staff, therefore, endeavored to provide their comments as close as possible to that deadline, resulting in our comments being sent on April 5, 2018.

2. NPCA staff attended a meeting on June 22, 2018 with City, Regional, MNRF and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – MMAH staff (via teleconference). Staff did not take formal notes as they were not the agency that called the meeting and the discussion at the meeting pertained to policy wording concerns from MNRF/MMAH. Following the meeting, City staff had a further phone conversation with MMAH staff and came to a resolution on a specific policy issue regarding significant woodlands. The email regarding that resolution is included as Appendix 3.
3. NPCA staff were copied on comments from the MNRF to the City on the following dates: December 11, 2017 and April 30, 2018. NPCA staff were also copied on MNRF comments to the City during the Secondary Plan process on August 22, 2016. These letters are included as Appendix 2 and Appendix 4 respectfully.

Financial Implications:

Staff have spent extensive time focusing on this file.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Letter from Dr. John Bacher
Appendix 2: April 30, 2018 Letter from MNRF
Appendix 3: Email from City Staff RE MMAH Comments
Appendix 4: December 11, 2017 and August 22, 2016 MNRF Letters
Appendix 5: NPCA Comments, April 5, 2018

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

David Deluce, MCIP, RPP
Senior Manager, Planning & Regulations

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Darren MacKenzie, C.Tech., rcsi
Director, Watershed Management

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

January 19, 2018,

To the Clerk or Secretary:

Please add this to the Agenda and include in the minutes for the Board Meeting of Jan.23, 2019 and provide copies to the Members of the Board.

To the Members of the Board,

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority,
Re: Official Plan Amendment 128, Niagara Falls,
Riverfront Community at Thundering Waters.

For the past three years the issue of proposals for site alteration in and adjacent to the Niagara Falls Slough Forest Wetland Complex, (a protected provincially significant wetland) have been the basis of heated public discussion. Many in Niagara are under the mistaken assumption, that it is the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) rather than the Niagara Falls City Council, which has approval authority for this project. Its current version is termed Amendment 128 to the Niagara Falls Official Plan, although, according to the Attorney for the proposal, it is intended to be followed later by a "Phase Two" development application..

Given the NPCA history of protecting the natural areas of Niagara, I find it quite tragic that a letter from your agency dated April 05, 2018 played a major role in the approval of OP Amendment 128 by the Niagara Falls City Council. The Planning Director for the City of Niagara Falls, Alex Herlovitch, treated the NPCA' comments as a peer review endorsement of one of the most contentious aspects of the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) carried out by Savanta (Inc). Savanta's study, in Herlovitch's view, demonstrated that the forests there "will lose their significance within 2 to 5 years due to losses resulting from the Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm Disease".

At the Planning Act Meeting of May 08, 2018:

Mr. Herlovitch told the Niagara Falls City Council that, "The NPCA accepts the interpretation made in the EIS respecting loss of significance and the approach to resource management of the woodlands. Because of this, the NPCA has commented that the approach is consistent with both the PPS and the Region's Official Plan".

Because of the timing, the NPCA' endorsement (April 05, 2018) was made without knowledge of the comments, later written to the City of Niagara Falls, in a April 30, 2018 letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. (MNRF). The MNRF comments were to be taken "in consideration with" an earlier letter sent by MNRF on December 11, 2017. The Dec.11, 2017 letter was suppressed by the Niagara Falls Planning Department. In the letter, MNRF raises serious concerns about the scientific validity of Savanta's claims to shift from woodlands to thickets.

Earlier, MNRF had indicated that the supposed loss of forest canopy did not mean that ecological function had been diminished. It wrote that, despite the problems cited by Savanta,

dead trees would remain valuable for wildlife and the lands would continue to buffer and provide linkages to the adjacent wetlands.

On April 30th MNRF attempted to alert the Niagara Falls Planning Department of Savanta's efforts to use "Google 3D imagery ...to visualize canopy characteristics." finding that the failure to report the "precision and accuracy" associated with this data, made their conclusions questionable. These Down Rated about a third of what had been designated earlier in their EIS as "Woodland" to "Thicket" These findings were based on supposed canopy gaps seen from either Google satellite maps or air photography. 2018 satellite photos contradict this.

The Provincial Auditor was critical of the NPCA's past avoidance of necessary ground investigations on what have become the Amendment 128 lands. MNRF' April 30th, 2018 letter which stresses the need for "ground truthing" illustrates why such problems should not persist as Amendment 128 is being reviewed by the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. It is to be hoped that the NPCA will inform LPAT that the NPCA comments were written without the benefit of timely guidance which came weeks later from MNRF.

1/ In fairness to the NPCA planner that sent the April 05, 2018 comment letter to the Niagara Falls Planning department, I ask that the Board give direction that an explanatory email be sent to me confirming that the MNRF comment letter (April 25, 2018) to Niagara Falls did not come to the NPCA prior to the NPCA comment letter of April 05, 2018.

2/ There was a meeting on June 23, 2018 at Niagara Falls between the City, NPCA, MNRF and Savanta re:- OPA 128 and I request the NPCA correspondence related to that meeting.

3/ Also, ask your planner to list the dates of all the comment letters received from MNRF by the NPCA before and after the OPA 128 Planning Act meeting of May 08

There have been instances of NPCA comment letters to municipal planners being used to assure council approvals before NPCA screening has received all needed information. This is one such case and this board is here partly due to the controversy of Thundering Waters/ Riverfront Community development in Niagara Falls.

Deal with this letter openly and let's end the NPCA from being "gamed" and "blamed" unfairly.

In time, I hope to see the reputation of the NPCA restored and wish you success in doing so.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Bacher (PhD).

(email: pals@becon.org)
(cc: can2info@gmail.com).

Appendix 2: April 30, 2018 Letter from MNRF

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Guelph District
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 4Y2

**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts**

Telephone: (519) 826-4955
Facsimile: (519) 826-4929



April 30, 2018

John Barnsley, MSc, RPP, MCIP
Manager of Policy Planning
Planning, Building and Development
City of Niagara Falls
4310 Queen Street
Niagara Falls, ON
L2E 6X5

**Re: Riverfront Community Official Plan Amendment Application #117
City of Niagara Falls, Niagara Region
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Comments**

Dear Mr. Barnsley,

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Guelph District Office has received the Riverfront Community Private Official Plan Amendment (OPA) Application and supporting documents studies for technical review, including:

- An Information Gathering Form (IGF) submitted January 23, 2018
- Significant Wildlife Habitat Mapping submitted January 20, 2018
- Proposed Significant Deer Wintering Area mapping submitted March 7, 2018
- Riverfront Community OPA EIS Addendum, March 2018
- Draft Riverfront Community Private Official Plan Amendment March 26, 2018
- Schedule G – Riverfront Community OPA, March 2018

MNRF staff has reviewed these documents and we offer the following comments for your consideration. It is recommended that these comments be considered in combination with our previous correspondence:

- MNRF Comments to the Region of Niagara, August 19, 2016
- MNRF Comments to the City of Niagara Falls, December 11, 2017
- MNRF Comments on the draft EIS Addendum submitted in support of the OPA application, January 15, 2018

Deer wintering habitat mapping:

The MNRF has reviewed the mapping provided by Savanta on March 7, 2018, for the deer wintering habitat. The MNRF supports the approach taken of including all contiguous ELC

communities listed in the Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide for Ecoregion 7E south of the railway and Conrail drain as deer wintering habitat.

EIS Addendum:

Bats:

Page 11 of the EIS Addendum states: "The biology of tree-roosting bats is such that maternity roost sites are frequently changed from tree to tree over the duration of the maternity season, sometimes as frequently as every night."

Please provide the source for this information, as other published literature seems to suggest a high level of site fidelity to maternity roosts in *Myotis*, and stress related to exclusion or removal of preferred maternity roosts in Big Brown Bat and Little Brown *Myotis*. For example, Brittingham and Williams (2000, Wildlife Society Bulletin) report that when bats are excluded from attics and provided with bat boxes, that, "exclusion causes stress among displaced bats and there is some evidence of mortality and reduced reproductive success associated with this procedure."

Table 4, line 033 states that "Savanta will consult with MNRF on the acoustic monitoring methods planned for 2018." MNRF staff requests that the proposed methodology be provided to us well in advance of the anticipated field season to allow sufficient time to review the proposal.

Wetlands:

There are a number of comments in Table 4 (responding to MNRF's December 11, 2017, and January 15, 2018 letters) of the EIS Addendum that note continued concerns with the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (OWES). This discussion is beyond the scope of this review, and as such, MNRF staff is providing comments under the current policy structure, which states that development and site alteration in Provincially Significant Wetlands is not permitted. Based on the proposed Schedule G, it appears that mixed use, low/medium density and high density residential uses are proposed within PSWs. MNRF reiterates the following comments from previous correspondence (dated December 12, 2017):

- Policy 2.1.4 of the 2014 PPS provides direction that there shall be no development or site alteration within PSWs in southern Ontario.
- We also note that in order to revise the boundaries of a PSW, all wetland evaluations must be reviewed and confirmed by MNRF staff before they are considered complete and 'official' (i.e. the wetland status may be used to make land use planning decisions). It is recommended that the proponent consult OWES and contact MNRF staff in order to move forward with any recommended changes to the Niagara Falls Slough Forest Wetland Complex PSW boundaries.

ELC Refinement:

Page 8 of the EIS addendum states that Google Earth 3D imagery was used to visualize canopy characteristics. MNRF staff has concerns with this approach, as no metadata have been provided to indicate the accuracy of the Z value in the dataset used to generate the imagery. Ground truthing to confirm boundary changes are recommended to validate these analyses.

We have a few questions of clarification regarding the methods and sources of elevation data:

- Was the elevation data satellite based, digital air photo based or LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) based?
- Is there a reported precision and accuracy associated with the data?
- Was the model used a representation of top of vegetation canopy or bare earth?

Response to Table 4 of the Appendix

In Table 4 of the Appendix, line 007 requests that MNRF provide location information for black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*). Locations are:

Biological Info	Location Accuracy	UTM zone	Easting	Northing
4 trees	Within 10 metres	17	654262	4768952
2 trees	Within 10 metres	17	654257	4768961
2 trees	Within 10 metres	17	654252	4768980
3 trees	Within 10 metres	17	654275	4768971
	Within 10 metres	17	654277	4768937
1 tree	Within 10 metres	17	654260	4768919

In the last column of Line 035 of Table 4, the text states, "Savanta requests any record of 'Northern Map Turtle or Snapping Turtle' that exists with the MNRF. The applicant's consulting team has no record of Northern Map Turtle from the study area." For clarification, the comment from the MNRF states that the criteria for significance are: one or more Northern Map Turtle **OR** Snapping Turtle nesting on site. Snapping turtles have been confirmed on site by Savanta, even if nesting has not been confirmed to date. In addition, at the interagency meeting on January 26, 2018, MNRF staff requested that data be provided on the locations where soil testing was conducted in order to conclude that soils were not suitable for nesting. To date MNRF has not received this information.

Information Gathering Form

MNRF identified at our meeting on January 26, 2018 that the Information Gathering Form (IGF) submitted did not include any information in Table 4, which outlines how proposed activities will affect species at risk and their habitat. The information normally contained in Table 4 is important to MNRF to determine whether a proposed activity is likely to contravene

subsections 9(1) or 10(1) of the *Endangered Species Act 2007* (ESA 2007). MNRF will need to receive a completed Table 4 of the IGF in order to assist MNRF in assessing the proposal.

Dense Blazingstar

Prior to being able to assess whether the proposed development is likely to result in a contravention of the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*, (ESA 2007) additional information will be required on the nature of the activities. From the figure provided, it appears as though the Land Use Concept is outside of the current occurrence of Dense Blazingstar. MNRF recommends mapping the area around the Dense Blazingstar where the grassland species occur. This information will determine the extent of habitat for Dense Blazingstar that would need to be considered under the ESA 2007.

In addition, information should be provided in Table 4 to indicate what activities could affect the population. Until land uses are clarified it is not possible to determine whether an authorization will be required under the ESA 2007.

Kentucky Coffee-tree

Table 2 in the IGF states that site visits were completed by Dougan and Associates in 2015, that Savanta staff also surveyed for this species in 2017, and surveys are complete. However, Table 3 of the IGF, which summarizes the species at risk and habitat on site identifies that the number of individuals and description of habitat features are “to be determined.” This would imply that surveys are incomplete at this time. Either Table 3 should be revised to include the data from the surveys in 2015 and 2017, or further surveys should be conducted to gather the information to complete Table 3.

The figure provided indicates that the Kentucky Coffee-tree occurrence is within the Land Use Concept. However, the Information Gathering Form submitted lacks sufficient detail on the activities that could have adverse effects on Kentucky Coffee-tree. As per our comments above for Dense Blazingstar, this information would be required prior to determining whether the proposal would contravene the ESA 2007.

Species at Risk Bats

As discussed above in the comments on the EIS Addendum, MNRF will continue to work with the proponent to determine what would be required to avoid adverse effects to bat species at risk and their habitat. We acknowledge that habitat mapping for bat species at risk will be provided upon completion and analysis of acoustic monitoring data that will be completed in June 2018.

Draft Riverfront Community Private Official Plan Amendment March 26, 2018

- A number of statements in the OPA refer to 'key wetland features.' It is unclear what 'key wetland features' are – are these different than Provincially Significant Wetlands as confirmed on site by MNRF? In addition, objective b) on page 6 states: "to maintain and improve the hydrologic function of protected wetlands;" but it is unclear what this means, as development and site alteration is not permitted in PSWs. It would be appreciated if these objectives could be clarified in the context of provincial policy.
- Principle 4, objective c) notes the integration of the Con Rail drain into the design of the community as a receiver of treated storm water drainage. MNRF would appreciate clarification if this approach will have any impacts on adjacent Provincially Significant Wetlands, and if any stormwater management is proposed in PSWs on site.

Closing

The MNRF appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Riverfront Community EIS, draft Official Plan Amendment and Schedule G. Based on our review, it appears that the EIS and IGF are still not in a position to fully inform the development of a land use plan and future development at this time.

We would be happy to provide further clarification if needed and participate in meetings as appropriate.

Regards,



Tara McKenna
District Planner

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Guelph District
1 Stone Road West
Guelph ON, N1G 4Y2
(P) 519-826-4912
(F) 519-826-4929
email: tara.mckenna@ontario.ca

cc: Joad Durst, MNRF
Ian Thornton, MNRF

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Elizabeth Reimer, MNRF
Darryl Lyons, MMA
Lee-Ann Hamilton, NPCA
Britney Williamson, Region of Niagara

Appendix 3: Email from City Staff RE MMAH Comments

Darren MacKenzie

From: John Barnsley <barnsley@niagarafalls.ca>
Sent: June 25, 2018 4:29 PM
To: David Deluce; Fricke, Britney (Britney.Fricke@niagararegion.ca); Heyworth, David (david.heyworth@niagararegion.ca)
Subject: MMA woodland policy

Hi everyone:

Below is the policy that Darryl Lyons verbally provided me Friday afternoon. He advised that MNRF is good with this as well:


Woodlands that are shown on Schedule A-6(a) as "potential woodland removal area" will be subject to a holding provision in the implementing zoning by-law. A condition to be met prior to the lifting of the H-provision will be the submission of an EIS to the satisfaction of the City, in consultation with Niagara Region, as part of a complete Planning Act application which demonstrates no negative impact on significant natural features or their ecological function.

I have not had the chance to show this to Alex and get his input. Also, I have not shared this with John Henricks, so I would ask that we keep this amongst ourselves for the moment.

I honestly have no real issues with it as the developer will have to do further natural heritage work as part of subsequent applications and the EA's and it will be part of this work.

Let me know what you think.

Cheers,


John Barnsley, MSc, RPP, MCIP
Manager of Policy Planning
Planning, Building and Development
City of Niagara Falls
4310 Queen Street
Niagara Falls, ON
L2E 6X5.

905-356-7521 ext. 4247
barnsley@niagarafalls.ca



www.niagarafalls.ca

Appendix 4: December 11, 2017 and August 22, 2016 MNRF Letters

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts**

Guelph District
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 4Y2

Telephone: (519) 826-4955
Facsimile: (519) 826-4929



December 11, 2017

John Barnsley, MSc, RPP, MCIP
Manager of Policy Planning
Planning, Building and Development
City of Niagara Falls
4310 Queen Street
Niagara Falls, ON
L2E 6X5.

**Re: Riverfront Community Official Plan Amendment Application #117
City of Niagara Falls, Niagara Region
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Comments**

Dear Mr. Barnsley,

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Guelph District Office has received the Riverfront Community Private Official Plan Amendment (OPA) Application and supporting studies for technical review. MNRF staff has reviewed the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) prepared by Savanta (September 2017), in conjunction with the previous EIS prepared by Dougan and Associates (June 2016), as well as the Planning Justification Report, prepared by Niagara Planning Group (September 29, 2017). We understand that the Savanta EIS was completed in accordance with the City's Official Plan policies, and is meant to build upon the Characterization and Environmental Impact Study Report by Dougan and Associates (dated June 2016). A draft addendum to the EIS was also received on December 4, 2017. With that in mind, we offer the following preliminary comments on the September 2017 EIS for your review. These comments should also be read in combination with our previous comments to the Region of Niagara (dated August 19, 2016).

Species At Risk and the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- **Acadian Flycatcher:** Page 35 of the EIS states that "Suitable breeding habitat was observed for this species within the areas surveyed in the Study Area." Given that there is suitable habitat present, and there is a record of a calling male from 2015, MNRF staff can confirm that Acadian Flycatcher habitat is on site.

Dougan and Associates identified a male Acadian Flycatcher calling 3 to 4 times, and was listed as a possible breeder in 2015. The area that was surveyed in 2017 did not include the original location where the male Acadian Flycatcher was identified in 2015. In addition, this

1 | Page

August 19, 2016

Marilyn Radman, RPP, MCIP
Associate Director, Development Planning and Urban Design
Planning and Development Services
Niagara Region
1818 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Re: Thundering Waters Secondary Plan – Characterization and Environmental Impact Study, June 2016 – City of Niagara Falls, Niagara Region – MNRF Comments

Dear Ms. Radman,

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Guelph District Office has reviewed the Thundering Waters Secondary Plan Characterization and Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Report (dated June 2016). We understand that the EIS was completed in accordance with Niagara Region's (the 'Region') Official Plan policies related to the Environmental Protection and Environmental Conservation designations on the subject lands. To provide context for MNRF's review, we have also reviewed materials available on the Region's website regarding the proposed Thundering Waters Secondary Plan. We offer the following comments for your consideration.

Species At Risk and the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Species at Risk (SAR) Bats

- We note that SAR bat species were considered by the project team as part of the EIS. SAR bats, including Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis and Tri-coloured Bat are listed as Endangered under the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA). These species receive individual and general habitat protection under the Act.

As noted in MNRF Guelph District's *Bat and Bat Habitat Surveys of Treed Habitats* (updated May 2016), mapping of Ecological Land Classification (ELC) communities is the first step to determine the presence/absence of candidate maternity roost habitat for SAR bats. If a suitable ELC community is identified, it is recommended that the ecosite is treated as confirmed SAR bat habitat and to move forward to the next step if impacts to the

community cannot be avoided. The following step is to map snags and conduct acoustic surveys. The purpose of mapping snags is to determine the number and location of monitoring stations appropriate for the size and quality of the habitat.

The EIS identified both deciduous forest and deciduous swamp communities on site, which are suitable ELC communities for candidate maternity roost habitat for SAR bats. However, the EIS reported that no acoustic monitoring was undertaken to confirm presence/absence of SAR bats. MNRF staff recommend that the project team follow the steps outlined in the MNRF Guelph District's *Bat and Bat Habitat Surveys of Treed Habitats* (updated May 2016), which includes acoustic monitoring suitable habitats to confirm presence/absence of SAR bats. This will be important to understand the potential implications of the ESA (e.g. Overall Benefit Permit). We note that the EIS recommends undertaking acoustic monitoring and we concur with this recommendation.

- MNRF staff note that Tri-colored Bat has been uplisted to Endangered under the ESA as of June 15, 2016. We recommend that the project team update their species lists to ensure any modifications made to species protected under the ESA are reflected in the reporting.

Barn Swallow

- Barn Swallow is listed as Threatened under the ESA and receives both individual and general habitat protection. Since no Barn Swallow nesting areas were identified on site, we agree that the nesting habitat may be restricted to drains and culverts in the area. We also agree that the project team should undertake surveys to document these locations in order to identify any foraging habitat that may be impacted by development. This will help to inform any potential implications of the ESA.

Acadian Flycatcher

- Acadian Flycatcher is listed as Endangered under the ESA, and receives both individual and general habitat protection. Acadian Flycatcher has been documented in the EIS as using the site. Since the ESA indicates that habitat includes any area on which a species depends, directly or indirectly, to carry on its life processes – including life processes such as reproduction, rearing, hibernation, migration or feeding – then habitat for this species appears to be present. We recommend that any impact of the development on Acadian Flycatcher and/or its habitat be considered in the EIS in the context of the ESA.

Chimney Swift

- Chimney Swift is listed as Threatened under the ESA, and receives both individual and general habitat protection. We agree that the potential for Chimney Swift habitat on site is low, although the species is known to use natural nest sites such as hollow trees. We recommend that the project team make a note in the EIS that there is potential for Chimney Swift to use natural sites as habitat.

Species at Risk Impacts and Mitigation

- We note that in Table 11, the Species at Risk section states the following under the mitigate/rehabilitate column: “Where servicing and transportation impacts are unavoidable, steps should be taken to rehabilitate impacted features.” We recommend that this statement also make reference to ESA requirements, where applicable.

Natural Heritage Features and Areas

Provincially Significant Wetlands

- The EIS identifies that the proposed development will result in the removal of approximately 1.3 ha, or 2% of the Niagara Falls Slough Forest Wetland Complex Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) on the subject property. This statement appears to contradict Table 13 in the EIS which notes that “All areas that have been identified as Provincially Significant Wetland EPA have been protected.” We recommend that the Region seek clarification on the proponent’s intention to remove or protect the Niagara Falls Slough Forest Wetland Complex PSW.
- We note that PSWs are protected by provincial policy as wetlands are an important component of Ontario’s landscapes and watersheds that provide a variety of economic, social and ecological benefits. Policy 2.1.4 of the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provides direction that there shall be no development or site alteration within PSWs in southern Ontario. Based on the review of the EIS, it appears that there is development proposed in the PSW.
- We recommend that the Region reviews the EIS for consistency with PPS policy regarding PSWs.
- We note that the EIS has identified a number of other wetland areas that have not been evaluated and are contiguous with the existing PSW. We question why the EIS does not make the recommendation to have these wetland areas evaluated, or why the consultant did not undertake an evaluation as part of the EIS, to determine whether they should be included within the existing PSW. We recommend that a revaluation of the Niagara Falls Slough Forest Wetland Complex PSW be undertaken according to the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System, and that all wetlands within the subject area be considered.
- Mapping provided in the EIS does not appear to include the Welland River East Wetland Complex PSW just outside, but adjacent to, the southern boundary of the study area. We recommend that the project team identify this PSW and include a discussion in the EIS to address the issue of adjacent lands noted below.

Significant Woodlands

- Given the significance of some of the characteristics of the woodland areas and their proximity to the swamp wetlands, it's unclear why the EIS does not attempt to make a determination of the significance of the woodlands on the subject property. The 2014 PPS states that woodlands are identified using criteria established by the MNRF. These criteria are found in the ministry's Natural Heritage Reference Manual, however the EIS does not reference this document or compare the values of the wooded areas to criteria that are comparable to those in the manual.

The wooded areas on the property are contiguous with the swamp wetlands and together create a large wooded area on the landscape that provides forest interior habitat and connectivity with neighbouring wooded areas. The EIS identifies old growth/ mature forest within some of these wooded areas, as well as habitat for Wood Thrush and Eastern Wood-Pewee, both species of Special Concern in Ontario which prefer intermediate to mature forests. We recommend that the Region ensure that the appropriate criteria for determining significance of the woodlands have been applied to the study area.

Significant Wildlife Habitat

- We note that a number of the natural areas identified on the subject lands have the strong potential to be identified as Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH). MNRF's Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (SWHTG), and the supporting SWH Criteria Schedule for Ecoregion 7E, provide technical recommendations to help planning approval authorities evaluate and identify SWH. This includes Special Concern and Provincially Rare (S1S3, SH) plant and animal species.
- Although the EIS documents a number of significant values that would be relevant to the determination of SWH, it does not take the step of making this assessment and recommendation. Examples of habitat that should be more comprehensively addressed in this context include (but not necessarily limited to):
 - Amphibian Breeding Habitat (Woodland)
 - Amphibian Movement Corridors
 - Animal Movement Corridors
 - Bat Maternity Colonies
 - Habitat for Provincially Rare Species and/or Species of Special Concern
 - Deer Winter Congregation Areas
- Planning authorities are responsible for identifying SWH, or approving the work of others using municipal criteria or provincial guidance, to ensure consistency with the 2014 PPS. We recommend that the Region ensure that the appropriate criteria for determining SWH have been applied to the study area.

Adjacent Lands

- The EIS does not specifically identify adjacent lands to provincially significant natural heritage features but does identify several potential impacts of development on lands adjacent to the PSW. We suggest that some of the impacts identified in the EIS, including edge effects such as loss of habitat, noise, light and chemical pollution, reduction of forest interior habitat, introduction of non-native species, and human intrusions, could similarly apply to other areas on the subject property that may be identified as provincially significant.
- The PPS does not permit development on adjacent lands to significant natural heritage features unless it satisfies the policy test that there will be no negative impacts on the natural features or their ecological functions.

Impacts and Mitigation

- The EIS documents several features and values on the subject lands that suggest the presence of provincially significant natural heritage features in addition to the existing provincially significant wetland. It also documents a relatively high degree of biodiversity and recognizes the linkages between and among the features on the subject land and with those on the broader landscape. The City of Niagara Falls recognizes in its Official Plan that the natural areas on the subject property serve as a major junction within a potential Natural Heritage Corridor.
- S. 2.1.2 of the PPS (2014) states:

“The diversity and connectivity of natural features in an area, and the long-term ecological function and biodiversity of natural heritage systems, should be maintained, restored or, where possible, improved, recognizing linkages between and among natural heritage features and areas, surface water features and ground water features”.
- The EIS acknowledges, and shows graphically on Map 3, that many of the areas having significant ecological features and values will be permanently removed by the proposed development. It also documents negative impacts that will result, and others that may potentially result, to the remaining PSW areas as a result of the development. It also discusses, and documents graphically in Map 4, a significant reduction in the size and functionality of natural connections between features on the subject lands and with those on neighbouring lands.
- Although the EIS outlines a number of possible mitigation measures, such as enhancements to degraded areas, it states that the fundamental principle guiding its environmental management of the negative impacts is ‘No Net Loss’ and ‘consolidating’ key areas. In response to several of the identified potential negative impacts, the EIS recommends the development of a compensation plan to be submitted with the plans of subdivision.

- We note that policy direction set out in the PPS and supporting documentation does not support consideration of compensation strategies to address the policy test of no negative impacts to features and functions of provincially significant natural heritage features and areas.
- We recommend that the discussion supporting the removal of these features in the report be reviewed for consistency with the PPS.

The MNRF appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Thundering Waters Secondary Plan EIS. Based on our review, it appears that the EIS, in its current form, would not be able to fully inform the development of a land use plan and future development at this time.

We would be happy to provide further clarification if needed and participate in meetings as appropriate.

Regards,



Ian Thornton
Resource Operations Supervisor

cc: Joad Durst, MNRF
Tara McKenna, MNRF
Michelle Karam, MNRF
Darryl Lyons, MMA

Appendix 5: NPCA Comments – April 5, 2018

April 5, 2018

Via Email Only

Mr. John Barnsley MCIP, RPP
Manager Policy Planning
City of Niagara Falls
4310 Queen Street, PO Box 1023
Niagara Falls, ON, L2E 6X5

Our File: PLOPA201701323

Dear Mr. Barnsley

**Re: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Comments
Application for Official Plan Amendment
Riverfront Community
City of Niagara Falls
File No.: AM-2017-015**

The NPCA has received an application for Official Plan Amendment (OPA) for the above noted development. In support of the OPA, the NPCA has received a servicing report (prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler, dated September 28, 2017), an environmental impact study – EIS (prepared by Savanta, dated September 2017), an addendum to the EIS - Addendum (prepared by Savanta, dated March 2018), and a planning justification report (prepared by Niagara Planning Group, dated September 29, 2017). The OPA seeks to establish the general land use designations and policies to direct and guide development on the subject lands in the future. This OPA application represents the first phase of a multi-phased development. It is anticipated that future OPA applications will be made for subsequent phases. NPCA staff have reviewed the above information and offer the following comments.

NPCA Policies

The NPCA regulates watercourses, flood plains (up to the 100 year flood level), Great Lakes shorelines, hazardous land, valleylands, and wetlands under *Ontario Regulation 155/06 of the Conservation Authorities Act*. The NPCA's *Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for the Administration of Ontario Regulation 155/06 and Land Use Planning Policy Document* (NPCA policies) provides direction for managing NPCA regulated areas. The subject lands contain portions of the Niagara Falls Slough Forest Wetland Complex, which is a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) as well as regulated land adjacent to this feature.

Section 3.6 of the NPCA policies pertains to fish habitat. The Welland River is considered Type 1 – Critical Fish Habitat. Section 3.6 of the NPCA policies specifies a minimum 30 metre setback from Type 1 fish habitat, which can be reduced where supported by an EIS. It should be noted that the bank of the Welland River is generally 30 metres or greater from the OPA boundary and separated from the subject lands by Chippawa Parkway. As such NPCA staff have no objections to the OPA as it pertains to Section 3.6 of the NPCA's Policies.

Sections 3.24 and 4.4 of the NPCA's policies pertains to development in wetlands and prohibits development within wetlands. This policy also prohibits development within 30 metres of a PSW unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impacts to the wetland and its ecological and hydrological function. There are PSWs within the OPA boundaries. The applicant is seeking to eventually develop these specific PSWs and is presently working to have the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) re-evaluate these wetland components. The OPA includes sections (13.56.8.2.11.4/10) that indicate any PSWs within the OPA boundary shall be protected as Environmental Protection Area (EPA) unless they are determined to be non-PSW. The intent of this approach is to allow for the opportunity to re-evaluate the PSWs within the OPA boundary and avoid having to do a future OPA. NPCA staff have no objection to this approach and note that a 30 metre buffer around the PSWs is required to ensure the hydrological function is maintained. The requirement for a 30 metre buffer is addressed through Section 13.56.8.2.11.8 of the OPA. NPCA staff also recommend that the wording in the last sentence of the first paragraph of Section 13.56.8.2.11.10 be reworded as follows: "...any subsequent re-evaluation or change in boundaries of these features by the MNRF shall be...". This more accurately reflects the approval authority for PSW boundary changes.

It should be noted if any of the PSWs are re-evaluated, they may still be subject to NPCA policies. Development in non-PSWs is generally prohibited, but may occur in non-PSWs less than two hectares in size subject to Section 3.24.1 (e) of the NPCA's policies, which pertains to wetland compensation and reconfiguration. The OPA contains policies (13.56.8.2.11.6/7) that pertain to restoration/enhancement for any environmental component. From an NPCA Policy standpoint, compensation of non-PSWs can be entertained where less than two hectares, subject to an NPCA Work Permit prior to wetland removal. Further comments about the restoration/enhancement strategy is included in the discussion of Provincial and Regional Policy.

Schedule G illustrates a collector road and future collector road that runs through a PSW. Section 3.24.1 (b) of the NPCA's policies allows for the consideration of public infrastructure in PSWs where supported by an approved Environmental Assessment (EA). NPCA staff recommend that a policy be added to the OPA to note that any road or public infrastructure proposed in a PSW are subject to an EA.

Section 3.25 of the NPCA's policies pertains to valleylands where the slope is 3:1 or steeper (horizontal to vertical) and greater than 3 metres in height. Development and site alteration are prohibited in valleylands and within 7.5 metres from the stable top of slope. There are no NPCA-regulated valleylands in the OPA boundary.

The NPCA is party to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), the MNRF and Conservation Ontario. Under this MOU, the NPCA reviews *Planning Act* applications for consistency with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) as they relate to Section 3.1 (Natural Hazards). There are no natural hazards identified on the subject lands. Therefore, NPCA staff are satisfied that the OPA is consistent with Section 3.1 of the PPS.

Other general comments relating to the NPCA's policies include:

1. Principle 2, Objective (A), makes reference to "protection of key wetland features". NPCA staff recommend that the term PSW be used instead of key wetland features.
2. Principle 2, Objective (b), makes reference to "protected wetlands". NPCA staff recommend that the term PSW be used instead.
3. Section 13.56.8.2.10.6 makes reference to trails within Environmental Protection Areas. A sentence should be added to state: "Any trail within areas regulated by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority may require a Work Permit."

Based on the above, NPCA staff consider the application to conform to NPCA policies subject to the changes noted in the foregoing section.

Provincial Policy/Regional Official Plan – Chapter 7 (Natural Environment)

Under the terms of the MOU between Niagara Region, the local municipalities and the NPCA, the NPCA reviews all planning applications for conformity with Chapter 7 (Natural Environment) of the Regional Official Plan (ROP) as well as Sections 2.1 (Natural Heritage) and 2.2 (Water) of the PPS for consistency. The subject lands contain EPA for the previously noted PSW and habitat of endangered/threatened species. The subject lands also contain Environmental Conservation Areas (ECA) due to the presence of significant woodland, significant wildlife habitat, significant habitat of species of concern and significant valleylands.

Sections 2.1.1 to 2.1.3 of the PPS speak to protecting natural features/areas; maintaining, restoring, and enhancing the diversity/connectivity of natural features; and identifying natural heritage systems (NHS). The ROP includes similar policies (Policies 7.A.2, 7.A.3, Objectives 7.A.1.A, 7.A.1.B, 7.B.1, 7.B.2, Policies 7.B.1.1, 7.B.1.8 and 7.B.1.9). The OPA provides several policies (Sections 13.56.8.2.11.1/2/3/4/5/12) that refer to a natural heritage system, however, Schedule G does not include the NHS that was identified in the EIS. Section 13.56.8.2.11.4 notes that the NHS is not included as there are no features within the OPA boundaries. Inclusion of policies for features outside of an OPA boundary is confusing. NPCA staff recommend changing the wording of Section 13.56.8.2.11.4 to reference the fact that the OPA is adjacent to a broader NHS and that the OPA boundaries have been adjusted to avoid the NHS.

Section 13.56.8.2.11.12 of the OPA pertains to linkages and natural corridors and provides guidance for the minimum width and timing for establishing linkages/corridors. NPCA staff are satisfied with the corridors and linkages included in the EIS and Addendum and note that Section 13.56.8.2.11.12 (linkages/corridors) of the OPA is consistent with Section 2.1.2 of the PPS and conforms to Objective 7.B.2 of the ROP.

Section 2.1.4 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.10 of the ROP prohibit development within certain features including PSWs. There are several individual wetlands within the subject lands that are classified as PSW. Schedule G has illustrated these PSWs. Sections 13.56.8.2.11.4/10 of the OPA acknowledge the PSWs and indicate that they will be protected until such time as they are removed, at which time the underlying designation would apply. This approach may be considered consistent with Section 2.1.4 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.10 of the ROP where there is adequate buffering and connectivity of these PSWs to ensure their ecological and hydrological function is maintained. The EIS and Addendum did not provide discussion as to suitable adjacent lands for these PSWs to maintain hydrological function. In the absence of this information and to ensure consistency with Section 2.1.8 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.11 of the ROP, NPCA recommend that a minimum 30 metre buffer be included on the PSWs within the OPA boundaries. This is addressed through Section 13.56.8.2.11.8 of the OPA. As noted previously, NPCA staff recommend that the wording in the last sentence of the first paragraph of Section 13.56.8.2.11.10 be reworded as follows: "...any subsequent re-evaluation or change in boundaries of these features by the MNRF shall be...". This more accurately reflects the approval authority for PSW boundary changes.

Schedule G illustrates a collector road and future collector road that runs through a PSW. The definition of "Development" in the PPS excludes infrastructure authorized under an EA. Similarly, Policy 7.B.1.14 of the ROP requires an EA for public uses proposed in a natural heritage feature. Therefore, NPCA staff recommend that a policy be added to the OPA to note that any road or public infrastructure proposed in a PSW are subject to an EA.

Section 2.1.5 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.11 of the ROP identify features where development and site alteration are generally not permitted unless it can be demonstrated that there will be no negative impact to the natural feature or its ecological function. This is generally demonstrated through completion of an EIS. The EIS and Addendum identify several such features including significant woodlands and significant wildlife habitat (SWH) and significant valleylands.

SWH consists of four general categories of habitat: habitat of seasonal concentrations of animals; rare vegetation communities or specialized habitat for wildlife; habitat of species of conservation concern; and animal movement corridors. The EIS and Addendum identify SWH throughout the subject lands and within the OPA boundaries. In most cases the SWH coincides with the PSWs located within the OPA. There is one area of candidate SWH (bat maternity colony/woodland amphibian breeding habitat) located in a small wooded area (FOD7-3 of Figure 9a of the Addendum) in the northwest corner of the OPA boundaries. Sufficient information is available for the NPCA to conclude there will be no negative impact to bat maternity habitat. Further fieldwork is planned for this Spring to confirm the absence or presence of SWH in this location for woodland amphibian breeding habitat. This fieldwork

will help determine how to achieve no negative impact to SWH. NPCA staff recommend that this area be designated ECA until such time that the absence/presence of SWH has been confirmed and that no negative impact has been demonstrated for removal of any confirmed habitat. Please note that NPCA staff are open to other approaches that will achieve the same goal. For the remainder of the SWH (bat maternity colony/woodland amphibian breeding habitat) within the PSWs, NPCA staff are satisfied that Section 13.56.8.2.11.10 contains the appropriate policy direction to ensure SWH is protected should the PSWs be re-evaluated as non-PSW.

MNRF mapping showed there to be Deer Winter Congregation Areas, which is SWH within the OPA boundaries. The Addendum reviewed the MNRF mapping in conjunction with updated fieldwork and SWH technical guidelines and revised the mapping (Figure 9d of the Addendum). The revised mapping confirms there are no Deer Wintering Congregation Areas within the OPA boundaries. NPCA staff are satisfied with this conclusion.

The EIS provided ecological land classification (ELC) mapping to identify the extent of significant woodland on the subject lands (Figure 10). The Addendum provided an updated Figure 10 that revisited the ELC mapping using the Region's criterium for significance of 35% canopy coverage. There are several ELC communities within the OPA boundaries that meet the Region's criteria for significance within the OPA boundaries. The Addendum provides a detailed assessment of the significant woodlands within the OPA Boundary, indicating that none of these will meet the criteria for significance within three years due to the composition of these woodlands and the expected mortality of ash trees from the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer. NPCA staff consider this rationale to be reasonable for the planning horizon of the OPA and, therefore, considers it to be consistent with Section 2.1.5 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.11 of the ROP.

The significant valleylands affecting this application is associated with the Welland River. The ECA associated with the Welland River significant valleylands is generally located on the south side of Chippawa Parkway. While Schedule C of the ROP shows there is a small portion that is located within the OPA boundaries, there are no valleyland characteristics north of Chippawa Parkway. As such, NPCA staff considers the OPA to be consistent with Section 2.1.5 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.11 of the ROP with respect to significant valleylands.

The OPA includes policies (Sections 13.56.8.2.11.6/7) that provide a framework for restoration/enhancement of natural heritage features. The restoration/enhancement work proposed will provide an ecological benefit to the adjacent NHS. NPCA staff generally support this framework and recommend the following additional comments regarding Section 13.56.8.2.11.7:

- a. Section 13.56.8.2.11.7 should be reworded to state "...component that is approved by the City and Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, where applicable, for removal..."
- b. A policy needs to be added to require restoration/enhancement is to be done in such a manner as to help restore degraded woodlands.

- c. A policy needs to be added requiring a detailed ecological restoration/enhancement plan.
- d. A policy needs to be added requiring that the restoration works be completed and established prior to removal of any existing natural heritage features.
- e. A policy needs to be added noting that restoration/enhancement of any feature regulated by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority will require a Work Permit.
- f. Section 13.56.8.2.11.7 (v) should be reworded to state: “A detailed, multi-year monitoring plan of the restoration/enhancement works is required”.
- g. A policy needs to be added indicating lands identified for restoration will be designated in an appropriate Environmental Protection category in the Official Plan and zoned to an appropriate Environmental Protection zone to ensure the long-term protection of the restoration/enhancement works.

Section 2.1.6 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.15 of the ROP pertain to Fish Habitat. The Welland River is considered Type 1 – Critical Fish Habitat. Policy 7.B.1.15 of the ROP specifies a minimum 30 metre setback from Type 1 fish habitat, which can be reduced where supported by an EIS. It should be noted that the bank of the Welland River is generally 30 metres or greater from the OPA boundary and separated from the subject lands by Chippawa Parkway. As such NPCA staff consider the application to conform to Section 2.1.6 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.15 of the ROP.

Section 2.1.7 of the PPS pertains to habitat of endangered/threatened species. Policy 7.B.1.3 of the ROP specifies that endangered/threatened species habitat is subject to the EPA policies. The OPA includes a policy (Section 13.56.8.2.11.16) that notes that endangered and threatened species will be addressed in accordance with Section 11.2.17 of the City’s Official Plan. NPCA staff recommend that this Section be reworded as follows: “... be addressed in accordance with provincial and federal requirements.”. NPCA staff also recommend that this section should stipulate that the policy applies at the time of subsequent Zoning By-law amendments Plans of Subdivision, Plans of Condominium, and Site Plan Control.

Section 2.1.8 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.11 of the ROP prohibit development and site alteration on lands adjacent to natural heritage features unless it has been demonstrated that there will be no negative impact to the natural feature or its ecological function. The OPA includes policies (Sections 13.56.8.2.11.8/9/17) that pertain to buffers from natural heritage features. Section 13.56.8.2.11.8 of the OPA provides a minimum buffer of 30 metres in the absence of any supporting study and further notes that the 30 metre buffer may be increased or decreased based on subsequent EISs. NPCA staff have no objections to this policy on the basis that all natural heritage features identified in this OPA are subject to 30 metre buffers. It is noted that the EIS proposed buffers less than 30 metres in specific locations. NPCA staff advise that there is insufficient information in the EIS to support any buffer reduction below 30 metres, at this time. The OPA provides sufficient policy direction to allow reductions in the 30 metre buffers where supported through an approved EIS. Section 13.56.8.2.11.9 of the OPA requires all subdivision and development plans to respect

the environmental components and associated buffers recommended in any relevant EIS. NPCA staff generally support this policy and recommend that the following wording be added after the term *relevant EIS*: “approved by the City and/or Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.”

Section 13.56.8.2.11.17 provides clarity that where a buffer is reduced, the adjacent designation applies and that development is not permitted within a naturally vegetated area. NPCA staff generally consider these policies to be consistent with the Section 2.1.8 of the PPS and conform to Policy 7.B.1.11 of the ROP. It is recommended, however, that the word *area* within this Section be changed to ‘buffer’ to provide consistency.

Section 13.56.8.2.11.19 of the OPA provide direction for the expansion/alteration/addition of accessory uses to an existing use within the buffers. As there are currently no existing uses within the OPA boundaries, there are no existing uses within the buffers. Therefore, this section should be removed.

The OPA includes a policy (Section 13.56.8.3) requiring tree saving plans at the time of subdivisions and site plan control. NPCA staff consider this to be consistent with Section 2.1.8 of the PPS and in conformity with Policy 7.B.1.19 of the ROP.

Other general comments include:

1. NPCA staff consider enhancing the Con-Rail Drain (Section 13.56.8.2.11.19) to be consistent with Section 2.1.2 of the PPS and in conformity with Policy 7.A.2 and Objective 7.B.1 of the ROP. Note that approval of any work within the Con-Rail Drain may require approval from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
2. NPCA staff have no objection in principle to Section 13.56.8.2.11.15 of the OPA and consider it to be consistent with Sections 2.1.5-8 of the PPS and Policy 7.B.1.11 of the ROP.

Based on the above, NPCA staff consider the application to be consistent with the PPS and conform to Chapter 7 of the ROP subject to the changes noted in the foregoing section.

Stormwater Management

Under the terms of the MOU between Niagara Region, the local municipalities and the NPCA, the NPCA provides technical clearance with respect to stormwater management submissions on behalf of the Region of Niagara.

1. The NPCA will not require that stormwater quantity controls be undertaken.
2. The NPCA will require that sufficient major overland flow routes be provided to safely convey stormwater runoff (from the 100 year storm event) to the receiving watercourse.
3. The NPCA will require that stormwater runoff be treated to an Enhanced standard prior to discharge from the site.

4. For any stormwater proposed to discharge into the Eastern Watercourse, the NPCA will require that stormwater erosion control measures be provided (i.e. capture and release of the 25mm design storm over a period of 24 hours).
5. The NPCA will not require that stormwater erosion control measures be undertaken for stormwater discharging into the Welland River, Chippewa Power Canal, or the Con Rail Drain.
6. The NPCA notes that oil/grit separators are proposed to be installed throughout the development north of the CNR tracks in order to provide for stormwater quality control for the proposed multiple outlets. The NPCA has no objection to this proposal.
7. The NPCA will require that means continually be sought throughout the design process to direct clean (or treated) stormwater runoff into the adjacent wetlands with the intent to sustain these features.
8. The NPCA notes that Low Impact Development (LID) methods are proposed to treat stormwater runoff at various locations. While the NPCA supports the use of LID methods in principle, the NPCA can only be able to provide meaningful comment on the scope, nature, and location of these LID controls as the plans for this development evolves and is better understood.
9. Section 13.56.8.4.1.4 of the OPA should be revised to remove the term "generally".

Conclusion

NPCA staff have no objections to the application subject to the changes noted herein. Please note that these comments pertain to the current phase of the overall development. While all supporting studies pertain to the subject lands (not just lands within the OPA boundaries), NPCA comments are not to be interpreted as approval of the studies for future applications.

I trust this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Regards,



David Deluce, MCIP, RPP
Acting Manager of Plan Review and Regulations (ext. 224)

cc: Ms. Britney Fricke, MCIP, RPP, Region of Niagara (email only)
Mr. Dave Heyworth, MCIP, RPP, Region of Niagara (email only)
Mr. Mark Brickell, NPCA (email only)
Mr. Gregg Furtney, NPCA (email only)
Ms. Lee Ann Hamilton, NPCA (email only)
Mr. Steve Miller, P. Eng., NPCA (email only)

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Watershed Management Status Q2 Report

Report No: FA-75-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-75-19 RE: Watershed Management Status Q2 Report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to update the Board of Directors on the Watershed Management Team's activities and achievements during Q2 2019.

Background:

A. Plan Review & Regulations

The Development Reviews Division is responsible for reviewing *Planning Act* applications and Building Permit applications where there is a feature regulated by the NPCA.

During the second quarter of 2019, the Watershed Management Department reviewed 33 *Planning Act* applications (various type and complexity)/Niagara Escarpment Commission Development Permit applications, 58 Building Permit applications, and 25 property information requests. Planning staff also provided comments on 22 pre-consultation proposals and processed 74 work permits under Section 28.

Staff also responded to various inquiries from the public and local municipalities, as well as attended weekly consultation meetings with the local municipalities and conducted various site inspections.

The Compliance and Enforcement staff received a total of 21 complaints during Q2 and issued 10 Notices of Violation. Of the 21 complaints, 8 have been resolved.

Figure 1: NPCA Watershed, No. of Applications by Type, April 2019 - June 2019

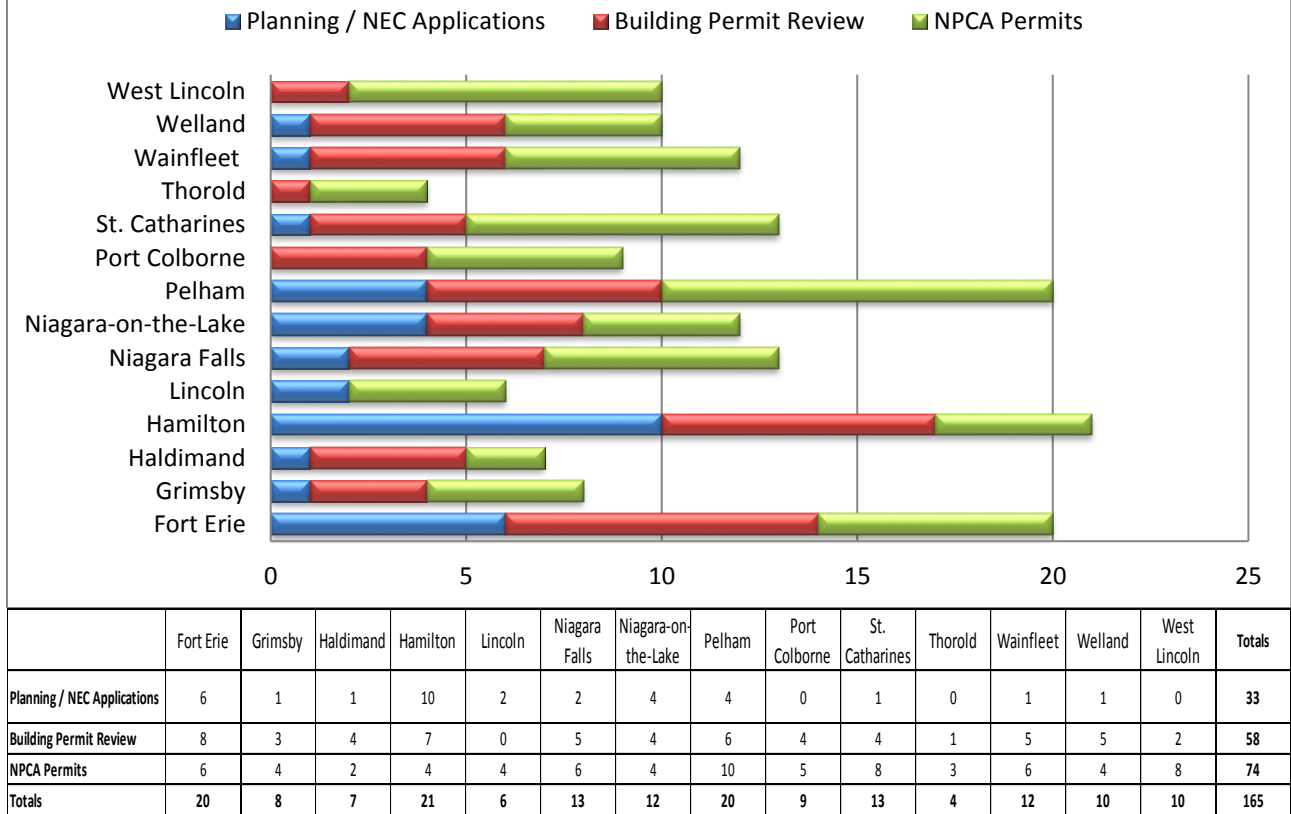
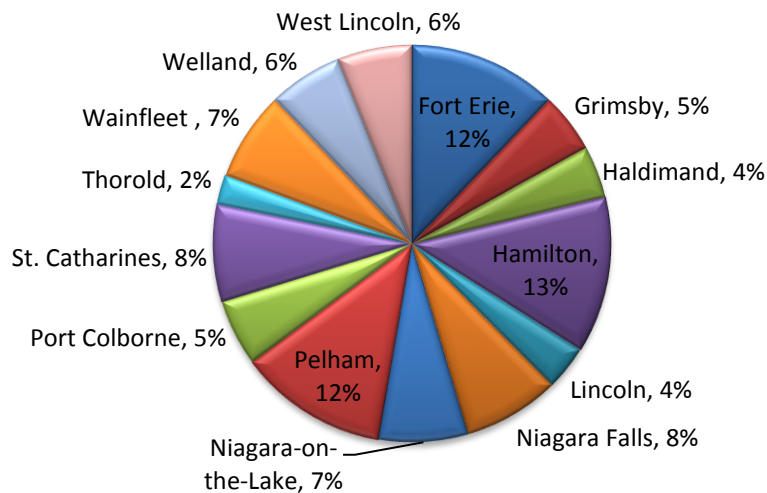


Table 1. Number of Regulation Permit application reviews completed

Figure 2: Total No. of Applications (%), April 2019 - June 2019



PERMIT PROCESSING TIME			
	Q2	Year to Date	2018 Year end
Total Reviews	74	127	315
Total Review Days	1341	2013	6710
Total Review Time (Days)	18	16	21

Table 2. NPCA Permit processing time

B. Water Resources Programs

During the 2nd quarter of 2019, key milestones of the Water Resources Programs activities included:

1. Source Water Protection Program

- Technical assistance was provided to Niagara Region staff and their consultants regarding the proposed relocations of the Welland and Niagara Falls Water Treatment Plant intakes.
- The 2018 Source Water Protection Annual Progress Report was submitted to Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.
- The NPCA received a draft Transfer Payment Agreement from Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the Source Water Protection 2019-2020 program funding, however receipt of the actual transfer payment from the Province is still presently outstanding.
- Staff participated in a public outreach presentation at the St. Catharines Library regarding Drinking Water Source Protection in Niagara.
- Five new 'Drinking Water Protection Zone' signs were installed around the vicinity of the DeCew Water Treatment Plant (St. Catharines), pictured below.



2. Water Quality Monitoring Program

- Staff continue to undertake the routine monitoring program (both chemical and biological) at the NPCA's water quality monitoring stations. Chemical monitoring will be performed monthly until November at all stations and samples will be analyzed for general chemistry, nutrients, metals and bacteria. Biological monitoring of benthic macroinvertebrates for the spring session concludes at the end of June.



Monitoring Site at Twelve Mile Creek in Pelham

- NPCA staff completed the 2018 Water Quality Biological assessment reports for the Hamilton International Airport and the Glanbrook Landfill (Hamilton) as per established monitoring agreements.
- Staff have updated databases, completed benthic identification of biological samples from 2018 and have completed the 'NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program: Summary Report of the Year 2018'. This was presented to the Board of Directors at the June 19, 2019 meeting.
- Staff have deployed data loggers into several watersheds to measure temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions throughout the summer.
- NPCA staff completed the spring 2019 biological monitoring programs for the Hamilton International Airport and the Mud Lake Conservation Area (Port Colborne) projects.



NPCA staff collecting samples at Mud Lake Conservation Area

- Staff continue to participate in the Queens Royal Beach (QRB) *E. coli* investigation with the Town of NOTL and the MECP pursuant to the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan. The NPCA also provided staff support to the Niagara Region Public Health Department in order to collect water samples at Queens Royal Beach.
- Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN): Staff continue to visit monitoring wells for manual downloads and perform QA/QC check on groundwater level data as part of their routine data maintenance protocol.
- Staff provided support to the Envirothon and the Niagara Children's Water Festival by providing leaders for several stations.
- To date, staff have processed 23 water quality data requests from other governmental agencies, consultants, and academic institutions.
- To date, The NPCA has received five (5) applications and completed 3 projects for the NPCA Well Water Decommissioning Program. Approximately 20% of the funding for this program has been allocated.

3. Flood Forecasting and Warning Program

- Throughout the second quarter of 2019, the NPCA had issued numerous Flood Watch bulletins warning residents of a potential for flooding from high water levels on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. While localized flooding and erosion was experienced, no major flooding or erosion damage due to wave action was reported during these events.
 - Lake Erie - As of June 23rd, Lake Erie's static water level was 175.18m. This water level is 83cm above average and 12cm above the record-high set back in June of 1986. Lake Erie's water levels are expected to remain near seasonal highs for at least the next several weeks, with the actual lake level largely dependent on the amount of rainfall received over this timeframe.
 - Lake Ontario - As of June 23rd, Lake Ontario's static water level was 75.91m which is 85cm above average for this time of year and 3cm above the peak level of 75.88m recorded in late May 2017. Lake Ontario's water levels are expected to remain near seasonal highs for at least the next several weeks.



Jordan Harbour CA (May 28, 2019)



Port Dalhousie Carousel (May 2019)

- Staff continued to monitor daily water levels at our 15 stream gauge stations, climatic data at our 15 climate stations, and undertake routine maintenance, calibration, and inspections at all 30 installations, as part of the NPCA's routine Flood Forecasting and Warning duties. The public can now easily access this real-time water level and rainfall information through the NPCA's updated website at <https://npca.ca/conservation#conservation-watershed>.

4. Water Resources Engineering

- Staff continue to provide daily support to the Planning and Regulations program with respect to the analysis of natural hazards and the review of storm water management engineering designs.
- NPCA staff are presently undertaking the coordination and review of the following floodplain mapping project:
 - Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update:
 - NPCA staff have completed a technical review of the final draft report and associated mapping and were satisfied with the product.
 - The final draft was presented by the consultant, WSP, to the NPCA Floodplain Advisory Committee on June 13. The Floodplain Advisory Committee was satisfied with the results and directed staff to schedule the final round of public consultation for the fall of 2019 prior to seeking formal adoption of the flood mapping by the NPCA Board.
 - Floodplain Mapping Update in the Towns of Grimsby and Lincoln – the consultant has presently completed approximately 50% of the project. The draft report is anticipated to be submitted to the NPCA by the end of July.
 - Floodplain Mapping Update in the City of St. Catharines (Walker's Creek and Beamer's Creek) – the consultant has presently completed approximately 85% of the project. The draft report was submitted and reviewed by the NPCA in June with the required revisions expected back mid-August.

C. Regional Tree and Forest Conservation By-law

The NPCA is responsible for administering and enforcing Niagara Regions Tree and Forest Conservation By-law (No. 30-2008) on behalf of the Region.

During the second quarter of 2019, the NPCA Forester reviewed 22 files: 19 were directly related to the by-law (1 of which was a Good Forestry Practice permit application), 2 involved NPCA owned lands and 1 was a property information request. The NPCA Forester also provided assistance to the Permits and Compliance Program under Section 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act, as they have also been appointed a Provincial Offences Officer by the Board of the NPCA

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications related to this report.

Authored by:**Original Signed by**

Darren MacKenzie, C.Tech., rcsi
Director, Watershed Management

Submitted by:**Original Signed by**

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Prepared with input from D. Deluce, Senior Manager, Planning & Regulations; S. Miller, Senior Manager Water Resources, D. Drennan, R.P.F.

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding Request Update

Report No: FA-77-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

1. That Report No. FA-77-19 RE: Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding Request Update **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to report back to the NPCA Board of Directors with respect to the Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding request to the guidelines and eligibility of the NPCA's revitalized Restoration Grant program.

Background:

At the March 2019 Full Authority meeting, the Board of Directors deferred the recommendations of Report FA-28-19 (Appendix 1.) to approve the 2018 Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding Request to contribute to the construction of approximately 2.0 kilometers of shore protection with the intent to safeguard 28 residences at an estimated design and construction cost of \$1,500,000 - \$2,000,000. The application did not meet the goals of the former Water Quality Improvement Grant Program, and several members expressed concerns with potentially setting a funding precedence. Staff were asked to reconsider the project application under what has become the revitalized Restoration Grant Program.

At the April 2019 Full Authority meeting the Board approved the implementation of a revitalized Restoration Grant Program better addressing the mandate of the Conservation Authorities Act, the NPCA Strategic Plan, and the recommendations in the Auditor General's Report.

At the June 2019 Full Authority meeting the Board received for information, the 2019 Workplan for the Restoration Grant Program, including Program Guidelines detailing project eligibility, funding rates and ceilings. Project Evaluation Criteria and Review/Selection Committee information was also circulated.

Discussion:

Lakefront erosion control projects did not meet the goals of the former Water Quality Improvement Grant program which was to improve the quality of water within watercourses.

Lakefront erosion control projects remain ineligible in the current Restoration Grant Program guideline (Appendix 2). Erosion and deposition of sediment are natural occurrences typical of Great Lake shoreline processes. Positive impacts to nutrient levels entering the lakes are better experienced by addressing point and non-point source issues in the contributing watersheds as opposed to addressing shoreline erosion which is very costly.

Normally, a project of this nature would be screened based on eligibility requirements before being reviewed and ranked by NPCA staff. However, staff has since re-evaluated the Haldimand Lakefront Landowners Funding Request application in response to Board direction at the March 2019 Full Authority meeting. It was categorized as a potential 'Riparian & In-Stream Habitat Restoration' project type (Appendix 3) under the new program as requested. Evaluation and scoring occurred prior to final consideration by the Restoration Program Review Committee as per the Auditor General's recommendations.

Staff noted the project does not meet the eligibility criteria on several fronts and the Review Committee has ultimately recommended to deny the funding request based on the following key points:

1. The NPCA's Restoration Grant program is designed to increase habitat, improve water quality and forest cover. The main goal of this project is to stop erosion that is endangering houses along this section of Lake Erie. Erosion issues are sometimes taken on by the Restoration Program for the purposes of increasing habitat and reducing sedimentation, but this is done through utilizing bioengineering rather than traditional and engineering approaches.
2. The NPCA Restoration Grant Program Guidelines for Riparian & In-stream Habitat Restoration state that "Projects where structures may be impacted by erosion will not be considered for funding" primarily to prevent exposure to liability issues.
3. This project scores below the NPCA Restoration Grant Program threshold for eligibility for funding of 60%.

As the County of Haldimand submitted written support of this shore protection application, both it and the applicants will receive written notification the project has been denied funding from the NPCA Restoration Grant program with rationale.

Financial Implications:

The application does not meet eligibility for funding under the guidelines of the current NPCA Restoration Grant program.

The Board of Directors may still choose to fund the project separately from the Restoration Grant Program funding out of the 2019 budget, or request it be included as a separate consideration in the 2020 capital budget.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1.- FA-28-29 RE Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding Request.
Appendix 2. - 2019 Restoration Grant Program Guidelines
Appendix 3. - Guideline Appendices – Project Category and Evaluation Criteria

Authored by:**Original Signed by**

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Reviewed by:**Original Signed by**

Lise Gagnon, CPA, CGA
Director, Corporate Services

Submitted by:**Original Signed by**

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding Request

Report No: FA-28-19

Date: March 8, 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Report No. FA-28-19 respecting the Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding Request pursuant to the NPCA's Water Quality Improvement Grant Program **BE RECEIVED** for consideration.
2. That the Board **AUTHORIZE** staff to fund this application up to the grant limit of \$50,000.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek board authorization to fund the Haldimand Lakefront project under the Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

BACKGROUND:

In May 2018, the NPCA Board approved the initiation of the 'Water Quality Improvement Grant Program' (Board Report 46-18, attached). The goal of this program was to reduce the amount of nutrients, phosphorus, and E.coli that enter our local rivers, creeks, and streams in order to improve the watershed's surface and groundwater quality. A budget of \$250,000 was allocated in 2018 and is now held in a reserve. An additional \$250,000 is in the 2019 operating budget.

Under this program, eligible applicants such as Non-Governmental Organizations, municipalities, and schools, etc., can submit a project to the NPCA for consideration and apply to receive matching 'dollar for dollar' funds up to a maximum funding limit. The project would then be evaluated by the NPCA to determine if the project served to ultimately improve the quality of water in our local watercourses.

DISCUSSION:

The shoreline of Lake Erie at the extreme western limit of the NPCA's jurisdiction is characterized by 15m high steep bluffs comprised of silty soils (refer to Villella Road and Derner Line, Haldimand location plan, attached). A mix of seasonal cottages and full season residences are located on the lake side of Villella Road and Derner Line adjacent to the bluffs (refer to the Villella Road and Derner Line Street View, attached).

The NPCA's 'Lake Erie Shoreline Management Plan' (2010) indicates that this area's shoreline has an annual average recession rate of 0.7m per year. A review of the Villella Road and Derner

Line air photos (attached) indicate that approximately one third of the landowners in this area have constructed shore protection. The shore protection that has been constructed range from “well designed and constructed to having failed due to poor design and implementation” (refer to Villella Road Sample Photos, attached).

The non-continuous, sporadic shore protection in this area has not served to halt the massive on-going erosion at the bottom of the bluff because of wave action in Lake Erie. As a result, some of these home owners have been forced to leave their residences due to concerns about the safety and stability of the adjacent bluff.

At the NPCA’s June 20, 2018 Board Meeting, a representative of this community petitioned the NPCA Board to investigate funding or grant options to help protect the affected landowners in this area. As per Resolution FA-134-18 (attached), the NPCA Board at the time resolved to:

- i) Urge the Provincial government to establish a program of financial assistance to help shoreline property owners construct erosion protection works;
- ii) Expedite the issuance of all applicable NPCA permits;
- iii) Urge the Federal, Provincial, and Regional governments to take all necessary steps to reduce the water levels of the Great Lakes.

The NPCA has since received a Water Quality Improvement Grant Program application (dated October 1, 2018) from the Rotary Club of Dunnville (in partnership with the Friends of Isle View Heights) to access program funds to contribute to the construction of approximately 2.0 kilometers of shore protection with the intent to safeguard 28 residences at an estimated design and construction cost of \$1,500,000 - \$2,000,000.

On February 12, 2019, the NPCA received correspondence from the County of Haldimand expressing support for this shore protection application (attached).

NPCA staff evaluated this application and understand that the main intent of the project is to construct a long rock shore wall to protect existing residences and mitigate the impact of erosion on the bluff. While NPCA staff are sympathetic to the plight of the homeowners, staff note that lakefront erosion control projects do not meet the goal of the Water Quality Improvement Grant Program which is to improve the quality of water within watercourses.

The NPCA staff would note that the water quality of Lake Erie is not necessarily degraded because of these eroding bluffs. The erosion and deposition of sediment are natural occurrences typical of Great Lakes shoreline processes. Unfortunately, no other program currently exists within the NPCA that serves to fund Great Lakes erosion control projects undertaken on private property, nor has the NPCA funded such projects for at least 18 years.

Based on the foregoing, NPCA staff recommend the following options for the Board to consider:

- 1) Deny this application as it does not technically meet the goal of the Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

- 2) Approve this application to protect people and private property from this Great Lake shoreline hazard. When considering this option, NPCA staff note:
- a. The Water Quality Grant Improvement Program has a total available funding of \$500,000 currently;
 - b. To date, no projects have been funded by the Water Quality Grant Improvement Program;
 - c. To date, the NPCA has received only 3 other applications under this program for a total funding request of \$30,000.
 - d. Over the last 3 years, the NPCA has received the following number of applications to permit the construction or repair of shore walls:
 - i. 2016 – 10 permit applications
 - ii. 2017 – 20 permit applications
 - iii. 2018 – 19 permit applications;
 - e. This is an opportunity to undertake a project to comprehensively mitigate shoreline erosion to protect 28 properties across a 2.0km stretch of Lake Erie shoreline.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Should the Board direct, a grant of up to \$50,000 of the \$500,000 Water Quality Improvement Grant Program fund be allocated to this application.

RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	NPCA Board Report 46-18: NPCA Water Quality Improvement Grant Program (May 2018)
Appendix 2	Villella Road and Derner Line, Haldimand location plan
Appendix 3	Villella Road and Derner Line Street View
Appendix 4	Villella Road and Derner Line Air Photos
Appendix 5	Villella Road Sample Photos
Appendix 6	NPCA Board Resolution FA-134-18
Appendix 7	Haldimand County 'Funding of Shoreline Rehabilitation' correspondence (dated February 12, 2019)

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Submitted by:

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority – 2019 Restoration Program Guidelines

Section 1- Program Description

The NPCA is taking action to restore and improve water quality, wildlife habitat and forest cover across the NPCA watershed. In 2019, the NPCA has launched a revitalized restoration program with the vision of:

‘Fostering collaboration among partners in the watershed to protect and restore water quality and diverse habitats by completing projects that meet the long-term mandate of the NPCA.’

The Restoration Program is shaped by the following **Guiding Principles**:

- a) Embracing partnerships and shared responsibility;
- b) Leveraging funding opportunities for an incentive-based cost sharing program;
- c) Promoting of adaptive management to meet the changing needs on the landscape;
- d) Conveying awareness of the benefits of environmental restoration and to celebrate success.

The top line **Goals** of the Restoration Program are to:

- 1) **Improve** water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest cover to the benefit of local ecosystems and the overall health of the watershed;
- 2) **Monitor, assess, and communicate the change** of these conditions in the watershed; and
- 3) **Enable innovative approaches, partnerships, and solutions** to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest cover.

This guide provides information on funding opportunities, eligibility requirements, the application and evaluation process. You're welcome to apply for 2019 funding, or, if you have questions contact the NPCA for further information at 905-788-3135.

Section 2- Who Can Apply?

1. Private and Public Landowners
2. Incorporated Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
3. Non-incorporated organizations (Nature Clubs, "Friends of" organizations)

Section 3- Project Process

- Step 1. Applicant expresses interest; site visit by NPCA staff; applicant completes application form
- Step 2. Project application evaluated by NPCA staff
- Step 3. Project approval by Restoration Program Review Committee
- Step 4. Detailed Project Plan completed with NPCA staff; Landowner/Partner Agreement signed
- Step 5. Project implementation
- Step 6. Project closing/reconciling accounts
- Step 7. On-going monitoring where applicable (1, 5 and 10 year)

Section 4- Restoration Project Categories

	Eligible Project Types	Funding Rate	Funding Ceiling	Application Date for 2019 projects
1	Livestock Restriction & Crossings	Up to 75%	\$10,000	N/A
2	Conservation Farm Practices	Up to 75%	\$5,000	N/A
3	Tree Planting/ Woodland Restoration	Up to 75%	\$10,000	N/A
4	Instream/Riparian Habitat Restoration	Up to 75%	\$10,000	N/A
5	Wetland Restoration	Up to 75%	Excavation \$15,000 Planting \$5,000	N/A
6	Upland Habitat Restoration	Up to 75%	\$5,000	N/A
7	Nutrient Management	Up to 75%	\$12,000	N/A
8	Water Conservation Practices	Up to 75%	\$5,000	N/A
9	Cover Crops	\$50/acre up to 50 acres	\$2,500	July 30*

*Applications will be accepted in July 2019 for 2020 projects.

** Funding rates and ceilings are program guidelines only; funding ceilings and rates may be changed at the discretion of the Restoration Program Review Committee.

Section 5- Application Evaluation

Application forms and their supporting materials will be screened for completion to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements before being reviewed and ranked by NPCA staff. The potential project will be evaluated based on specific evaluation criteria for each project category (see Appendix A).

Projects that meet a minimum score of 60% through the evaluation process will be considered by the Restoration Program Committee for funding. Funding is contingent on available budget and other eligible applications.

Projects must have a direct environmental benefit to water quality, diverse habitat and forest cover resulting in measurable results (see Appendix B). Project plans, developed with NPCA staff, will outline the performance measures meant to be achieved through the project. These may include; meters of fence installed, number of trees planted, acres of wetland created, etc.

Preference will be given to projects in Priority Areas for water quality improvement; forest cover and wetland habitat based on the following documents:

- Annual NPCA Water Quality Reports, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, 2007-2019.
- Nature for Niagara's Future Project; a Natural Heritage Systems Assessment; Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, 2011.
- How Much Habitat is Enough?, 3rd Edition; Environment Canada, 2013.
- Southern Ontario Wetland Conversion Analysis, Final Report; Ducks Unlimited Canada, March 2010.

Section 6 - Project Approval

Restoration staff will visit the project site with the applicant and the applicant will complete an application form. The potential project will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in Section 9 - Project Descriptions. The projects will be assessed, scored and ranked against other eligible projects. Projects that are not selected may be considered for the following year. For the 2019 program year, there will be no formal application deadline as projects will be evaluated and approved as submitted. Project approval letters will be sent once a project has been approved.

Section 7 – Funding

Approved projects will receive 75% funding, up to the program category cap limit. The landowner and/or partner organization is responsible for the remaining 25% or greater of the costs. NPCA grant dollars can be combined with other funding (i.e., Ducks Unlimited, SARFIP). In cases where applicant receives additional funding, the NPCA will cover 75% of the remaining costs up to the project cap limit (see Example 3). Where the NPCA and Partner Agencies have entered a Memorandum of Understanding alternative funding models may be used.

Example 1. A reforestation project costs \$11,050. The NPCA grant covers 75% of the costs - \$8,287.50. The applicant is responsible for the remaining \$2,762.50.

Example 2. A manure storage project costs \$18,000. The NPCA grant would reach its program category cap limit of \$12,000. The applicant organization is responsible for the remaining \$6,000.

Example 3. A wetland creation project costs \$23,800. The applicant organization receives grants for \$14,600 from another source. The NPCA Grant would then cover 75% of the remaining costs (\$6,900), the landowner is responsible for the remaining costs (\$2,300)

Payment of project expenditures (contractors, project materials) will be dependent on project specifics, in some cases the landowner will pay the project costs and be reimbursed for the NPCA's contribution when the project is complete; in other cases the NPCA will pay the project costs and the applicant will pay their contribution in two installments. In this case, a deposit at the beginning of the project and the remainder at project completion once all accounts are reconciled.

Section 8 - General Program Guidelines

To qualify for funding the following guidelines must be met:

- 1) Projects must be within the NPCA watershed (see Figure 1).
- 2) Projects must demonstrate improvement to local water quality, habitat and/or forest cover.

- 3) Projects that will result in the most significant benefits to water quality and habitat are prioritized for funding. Project approval will be based on an evaluation matrix with selection by members of an established technical advisory committee.
- 4) Landowners must contribute financially to the project.
- 5) Applicants must complete a Restoration Program application and sign a Project Agreement form before the project commences.
- 6) The NPCA must review and approve all projects before project commencement.
- 7) Projects are to take place within the calendar year.
- 8) Landowners may have up to two active projects in any one year.
- 9) Projects that are ordered or are for compensation are not eligible for funding.
- 10) Project plant material (trees, shrubs, wildflowers) shall be native to Southern Ontario; non-native or invasive species are not eligible for funding.

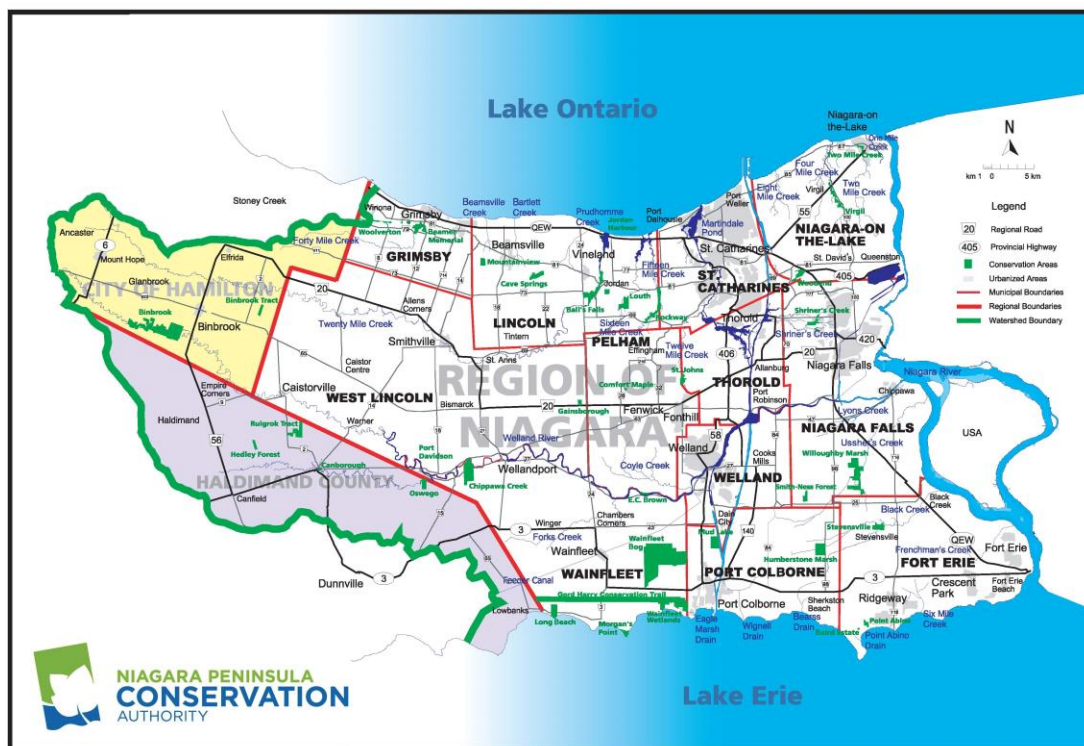


Figure 1

Section 9 - Project Descriptions

See appendices for project category descriptions, eligible projects, requirements and evaluation criteria.

1. Livestock Restriction & Crossings	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due		
	75%	\$10,000	N/A		
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Projects designed to improve water quality by restricting livestock access to watercourses.					
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencementProjects must utilize appropriate sediment control and mitigation measures (i.e., silt fencing)					
Eligible Projects: <u>Fencing to restrict livestock access to a watercourse</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fencing parallel to watercourse/wetland to restrict livestock and maintain or improve riparian conditions and function (eligible permanent fencing costs shall not exceed \$11.50 per meter, including labour)Temporary fencing will be considered eligible but will require a signed agreement requiring the applicant to install the fence before the introduction of livestockRiparian buffer planting after fencing has been installed <u>Improved stream crossings for livestock or equipment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved crossingsBed-level, mid-level and bridge crossings eligible. All bridge crossing design must be stamped and approved by a Professional EngineerRemoval of harmful crossings/structures <u>Alternative watering systems to manage livestock:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gravity fed, solar, wind, grid line, alternative power, pump & waterline systems to provide livestock alternative water sources					
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment, design and construction costsContractor labour and planting servicesExcavation servicesProject material costs (fencing, crossing materials, trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers)					
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Repair and maintenance of existing fencing or crossingsPerimeter fencing around farm propertyWater source developmentStream crossing projects that are associated with a new or expanded pasture – where no crossing has existed previously will be low priority projectsEstablishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nurseries, etc.)Caliper-sized trees.Landowner labour costsAdministrative costs					
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <table><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Metres of fencingTrees plantedShrubs plantedHerbaceous plants planted</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Acres of buffer createdIn-stream crossings createdHarmful crossings removedLivestock restricted from streams.Alternate watering systems installed</td></tr></table>				<ul style="list-style-type: none">Metres of fencingTrees plantedShrubs plantedHerbaceous plants planted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acres of buffer createdIn-stream crossings createdHarmful crossings removedLivestock restricted from streams.Alternate watering systems installed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Metres of fencingTrees plantedShrubs plantedHerbaceous plants planted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acres of buffer createdIn-stream crossings createdHarmful crossings removedLivestock restricted from streams.Alternate watering systems installed				

Livestock Restrictions & Crossings Evaluation Matrix

Mailing Address:

Watershed:

Project Description:

Application

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Does the current system allow for livestock access to a watercourse? (10 points)

Is the watercourse currently being farmed through? (10 points)

Watercourse through the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (3 Points) Warm Water System (2 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Does the current system not allow for alternative crossings or watering sites? (3 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (1 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (3 Points)

Adjacent to a significant feature (PSW, etc.)? (1 points)

Identified fish habitat type?

Not identified (0 points) Type 3 (1 point) Type 2 (2 points) Type 1 (3 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (4 Points)

Staff Comments:

2. Conservation Farm Practices	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$5,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm soil stabilization projects designed to reduce erosion, compaction and sedimentation; and improve habitat connection through wildlife corridors. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must be designed to appropriate OMAFRA standards as per <i>Agricultural Erosion Control Structures; A Design and Construction Manual, Publication 832</i> All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement Projects must utilize appropriate sediment control and mitigation measures (i.e., silt fencing) 			
Eligible Projects: <p><u>Gully Stabilization and Erosion Control</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grassed waterways and buffer establishment Gully stabilization Contour terraces Water and Sediment Control Basins (WaSCoBs) <p><u>Agroforestry Practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows and windbreaks Alley Cropping <p><u>Soil Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotational grazing 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design costs, professional services Contractor labour and planting services Project material costs Site Preparation Plant material Temporary fencing to prevent livestock damage 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair and maintenance costs Construction of new drainage channels, repair of existing drainage systems (e.g., drainage ditch clean-outs) Converting open ditches to closed drainage systems New tile drainage installations Establishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nurseries, etc.) Caliper-sized trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metres of grassed waterways established Trees planted Shrubs planted Herbaceous plants planted WaSCoBs installed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of contour terraces Hectares converted to rotational grazing Metres of Hedgerows or Alley cropping Hectares of Alley cropping or Silvopasture established 	

Conservation Farm Practices Matrix*Mailing Address:**Watershed:**Project Description:***Application**

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Site Length Size or length (Select one)

<10m OR < 1 Acre (1 point) 11-50m OR 1 to 2.5 Acres (3 points) 50-100m OR 5-10 Acres (5 points)
 101- 500m OR 10-20 Acres (7 points) 500m + or 20 Acres+ (10 points)

Watercourse through or adjacent to the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (5 Points) Warm Water System (4 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (4 points)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation? (4 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Point)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (4 Points)

Staff Comments:

3. Tree Planting/ Woodland Restoration	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$10,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree planting to reduce forest fragmentation and increase forest cover by creating wildlife corridors. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plantings larger than 1 hectare or 1000 trees must be stamped by a Registered Professional Forester Plantings larger than 2.5 acres will meet a reforestation rate of 800 trees/acre Livestock must be restricted from the project area All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before planting 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upland woodland reforestation, wildlife corridor creation/restoration Slough forest restoration/pit and mound restoration Replanting previously NPCA planted sites that have failed to achieve a 70% survival rate. 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor labour and planting services Site preparation Plant material Habitat enhancement features (nesting structures) Temporary fencing to restrict livestock access 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Relocation of established trees Establishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nurseries, etc.) Caliper-sized trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees planted Shrubs planted Hectares of planting Hectares of forest restoration in degraded woodlands 			

Tree Planting Evaluation Matrix

Mailing Address:

Watershed:

Project Description:

Application

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Tree planting (1 point for each level, up to 5 points)

Less than 1 acre (1 point) 1 Acre to 2.5 acres (2 points) 2.5-5 acres (3 points)

5-10 acres (4 points) 10 acres+ (6 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream)? (2 points)

Watercourse through or adjacent to planting (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (4 Points) Warm Water System (3 points) Intermittent Watercourse/ Swale (1 point)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Points)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation (Select one)

Corridors <50m wide (1 point) Corridor 50-100m wide (2 points) Corridors >100m wide (3 Points)

Increase interior forest area as defined by *How Much Habitat is Enough?* (2 points)

Within 2km of another forest patch? (1 point)

Increase the size of the largest forest patch per watershed? (1 point)

Increase habitat to adjacent to or surrounding a significant feature, PSW (3 points)

Replanting in damaged or degraded habitat? (2 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (2 points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Forest Cover? (4 Points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality? (3 Points)

Staff Comments:

4. Riparian & In-stream Habitat Restoration	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$10,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects designed to improve habitat and water quality in watercourses. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock must be restricted from the project area All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement Projects must utilize appropriate sediment control and mitigation measures (i.e., silt fencing) Projects where structures may be impacted by erosion will not be considered for funding 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration or enhancement of riparian areas Sediment control measures including bioengineering, crib walls, fish lunkers, bend-way weirs, natural channel design. In-stream aquatic habitat creation/restoration Buffer strips and riparian habitat creation/restoration Removal of fish migration barriers. Converting online ponds to offline ponds 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design costs, professional services Contractor labour and planting services Site preparation Plant material Habitat enhancement features (nesting structures, fish lunkers, spawning beds) 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Hardscaping (i.e., Gabion baskets) Relocation of established trees Establishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nursery trees, etc.) Caliper-sized trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metres of riparian area/ shoreline restored Trees planted Shrubs planted Herbaceous plants planted Hectares of buffers created Fish migration barriers removed Ponds taken offline 			

Instream/ Riparian Habitat Evaluation Matrix*Mailing Address:**Watershed:**Project Description:***Application**

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Site Length Size (Select one)

<10m (1 point) 11-50m (2 points) 50-100m (3 points) 101- 500m (4 points) 500m + (5 points)

Watercourse through the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (2 Points)

Warm Water System (1 points)

Involves removing an existing wetland from a watercourse (Select one)

Within a Cold-Water System (2 Points)

Within a Warm Water System (1 Points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream)? (2 points)

Existing or proposed buffer on at >80% stream

< 1m (0 points) <5m (1 points) 5-10 (2 points) 10-15m (3 points) 15-30m (4 points) 30m+ (5 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Points)

Adjacent to a significant feature (PSW, etc.)? (2 points)

Will the project provide cover on the watercourse? (2 point)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation (3 points)

Removal of existing fish migration barrier? (3 points)

Will the project result in both sides being vegetated? (2 points)

Identified fish habitat type?

Not identified (0 points) Type 3 (1 point)

Type 2 (2 points)

Type 1 (3 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (2 points) Unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (3 Points)

Staff Comments:

5. Wetland Habitat Restoration	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$10,000 Excavation \$5,000 Planting	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland projects designed to improve local water quality, habitat, and floodplain capacity. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects will follow NPCA wetland design standards Livestock must be restricted from the project area All projects must have a minimum 5m vegetated buffer surrounding most (approximately 80%) of the wetland. Projects without a vegetated buffer will not be considered for funding. Projects must be proposed in areas with suitable soils and topography to be considered. All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement Projects must utilize appropriate sediment control and mitigation measures (i.e., silt fencing) 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation or enhancement of wetlands 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor labour and planting services Excavation costs Plant material Habitat enhancement features Tenant farmer crop loss reimbursement (case specific) 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ponds designed for irrigation/aquaculture Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Fish stock Aeration equipment Relocation of established trees Establishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nursery trees, etc.) Caliper-sized trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of wetland created Trees planted Shrubs planted Herbaceous plants planted 			

Wetland Habitat Restoration/Creation Evaluation Matrix*Mailing Address:**Watershed:**Project Description:***Application**

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Wetland Size (Select one)

Less than 1/4 acre (2 points)

1/4 Acre to 1/2 acres (3 points)

½ to 1 acres (4points)

1 acre + (6 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream)? (2 points)

The project increases floodplain storage (3 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Point)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation (2 points)

Increase habitat adjacent to or surrounding a significant feature - PSW (3 points)

Addition of or existing vegetated buffer on >80% of wetland.

Less than 5m (0 points)

5-10m (2 points)

10-15M (3 points)

15-30m (4 points)

30M+ (5 points)

Excavated fill stays on-site (3 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (2 points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (3 Points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Area for Wetland Habitat? (4 Points)

BONUS POINTS: Is the proposed site within 2km of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie or the Niagara River? (3 Points)**Staff Comments:**

6. Upland Habitat Restoration/Creation	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$5,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing/ creation of upland terrestrial habitat including meadows and pollinator habitat. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock must be restricted from the project area Projects must be proposed in areas with suitable soils and topography to be considered All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upland prairie/meadow/savannah/grassland creation/restoration Pollinator habitat creation/restoration Buffer strips on natural features Shrub thickets 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor labour and planting services Seeding equipment rental Site preparation Plant material Habitat enhancement features Fencing to restrict livestock access 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Relocation of established trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of Upland habitat restored/ created Trees planted Shrubs planted Herbaceous plants planted 			

Upland Habitat Restoration Evaluation Matrix

Mailing Address:

Watershed:

Project Description:

Application

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Upland Habitat Size (Select one)

> than 1/4 acre (1 point) 1/4 Acre to 1/2 acres (2 points) ½ to 1 Acres (3 points)

1-5 Acres (5 points) 5 Acres + (7 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream)? (3 points)

Watercourse through or adjacent to planting (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (4 Points) Warm Water System (3 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Points)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation (Select one)

Corridors <50m wide (2 point) Corridor 50-100m wide (4 points) Corridors >100m wide (5 Points)

Increase habitat to adjacent or surrounding a significant feature, PSW (3 points)

Does the surrounding landscape support a diversity of land uses (hedgerows, riparian, wetland, etc.)? (3 points)

Is the project adjacent to an existing upland habitat? (2 points)

Replanting in damaged or degraded habitat? (2 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (2 points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (2 Points)

Staff Comments:

7. Nutrient Management	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Date
	75%	\$12,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm projects that improve local water quality through the reduction and elimination of excess nutrients from animal waste contamination and elimination or recycling of wastewater streams to recover nutrients before discharging to watercourses. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority must review and approve all projects before construction Projects will have an approved Nutrient Management Strategy that demonstrates that upgraded storage needs meet the MSTOR sizing requirements of section 69 of <i>Nutrient Management Act</i> Existing manure storages for non-regulated farm operations (not phased into <i>Nutrient Management Act</i>) All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid & liquid manure storages (earthen, concrete, steel, roofed) tanks and in-barn (below barn) and improvements to prevent risks of contamination Runoff containment and storages Increased storage to meet winter spreading restrictions Clean water diversions Manure treatment technologies (i.e., dewatering, nutrient recovery systems, solid-liquid separation). Modifications to manure application equipment (i.e., high trajectory) for improved manure application. Manure volume-reducing in-barn modifications (i.e. liquid-solid separation technologies) Decommissioning of manure storage that is part of an improvement project Treatment trench systems, separate storage, transfer systems, vegetated filter strips that are designed to OMAFRA standards Transfer piping to suitable storages. Greenhouse recirculation equipment, collection, storage, transfer and treatment system Fruit and vegetable washing facilities Tile drainage control shutoff Other Innovative discharge treatment technologies Water meters to monitor the amount of wash water discharged and sumps when required Low-water use retrofits for sinks 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional services (e.g., engineering costs) Approved construction materials Contractor labour Excavation services 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or expanding operations Repair and maintenance of buildings Repair and maintenance of existing nutrient recovery equipment Equipment to move manure from storage to field (i.e., Pumping equipment) Transportation costs of exported manure or local haulage of manure Project permit fees Incineration units Manure storage additives & related technologies Decommissioning of manure storage that is not part of an improvement project Design, construction and installation costs of items not directly related to the recycling process Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			

Potential Key Performance Indicators:

- Kg of phosphorus reduced
- Manure storage projects completed
- Waste water projects completed

Total Score /35**Nutrient Management Matrix***Mailing Address:**Watershed:**Project Description:***Application**

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Watercourse through or adjacent to the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (5 Points) Warm Water System (4 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Is this project replacing a system that is currently failing or does not exist? (7 points)

Does the current system allow for nutrients to contaminate watercourses? (7 points)

Does the project eliminate nutrients from entering a watercourse? (4 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (1 point)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

-additional sources of funding secured (3 points)

-additional sources of funding unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (4 Points)

Staff Comments:

8. Water Conservation Practices	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Date
	75 %	\$5,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to irrigation practices to reduce excess agricultural nutrient loading. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority must review and approve all projects before construction All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation equipment modification/improvement to increase water efficiency or nutrient use efficiency including low-pressure sprinkler nozzles, pipe/hose extensions/carts, booms for low-pressure extensions/carts, a delivery hose and small diameter flexible pipe, filters and emitters for trickle or drip systems Modification of planters to handle trickle tape installation Equipment to prevent backflow of altered irrigation water into water sources, new or improved backflow prevention mechanism/ equipment for an existing irrigation system 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional services (e.g. project design costs) Contractor labour Approved construction materials Consultant fees to develop an irrigation management plan that results in a water conservation improvement project Pre/post project sampling and analysis 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair and maintenance of buildings Professional services not directly related to irrigation management planning that result in a water conservation improvement project Routine sampling and analysis Project permit fees Purchase and installation of irrigation monitoring equipment Water source development, drilling, and changes to water licensing agreements Upstream water distribution systems that are not part of a farmer's operation Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of drip or trickle irrigation completed 			

Water Conservation Practices Evaluation Matrix

Mailing Address:

Watershed:

Project Description:

Application

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Watercourse through or adjacent to the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (4 Points) Warm Water System (3 points) Drainage Ditch (2 Points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Is this project replacing a system that is currently failing or does not exist? (8 points)

Does the current system allow for nutrients to contaminate watercourses? (8 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (2 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

-additional sources of funding secured (3 points)

-additional sources of funding unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (6 Points)

Staff Comments:

9. Cover crops	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Date
	\$50/ acre up to 50 acres	\$2,500	July 1
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-time grant to promote the establishment and over-wintering of cover crops (living or dead), which help provide soil protection and reduce soil erosion, sedimentation and nutrient loading to watercourses. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-time grant per-property. Landowners with multiple properties can apply once per property. Properties where cover crops are currently used are not eligible. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority must review and approve all projects before commencing. Only cover crops used exclusively for cover such as rye, oats, clover, or multi-mixes are eligible. Cover crops tilled no sooner than the spring of the year following planting, and cover crops must be destroyed by June 1st. A spring residue of at least 50% cover is required to receive the incentive. All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash cropping fields up to 50 acres 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Planting costs Equipment rental/operation Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of cover crops planted 			

Cover Crops Evaluation Matrix*Mailing Address:**Watershed:**Project Description:***Application**

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Has this applicant previously received funding for cover crops at this project site? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Watercourse through or adjacent to the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (5 Points) Warm Water System (4 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Does the project site currently allow for bare soils in winter? (9 points)

Does this project site presently spread manure in winter? (9 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (1 point)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (2 points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (4 Points)

Staff Comments:

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Niagara River Remedial Action Plan Update

Report No: FA-78-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-78-19 RE: Niagara River Remedial Action Plan update **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to provide an overview of the recent progress and challenges for the Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan project.

Background:

In 1987, the Niagara River was identified as one of forty-three severely degraded Great Lakes locations (known as Areas of Concern or AOC) as part of the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). The GLWQA commits both countries to working cooperatively to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes". Canada fulfills its obligations under the GLWQA in partnership with Ontario through the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA). Canada and U.S. have made progress with improving and delisting several AOCs. Today, the Niagara River is one of thirty-six remaining AOCs in the Great Lakes basin.

In order to improve water quality and ecosystem health in AOCs, the GLWQA called for the development and implementation of local cleanup plans called Remedial Action Plans (RAPs). The RAPs are implemented by a multi-stakeholder, multi-jurisdictional partnership at each AOC involving efforts from many key partners (i.e., federal, provincial government, municipalities, watershed authorities, environmental organizations, industry, scientists, non-government organizations, First Nations and Métis communities, and the public) to help complete priority actions for the restoration, protection, and enhancement of an AOC. The RAPs follow guidance provided by the GLWQA and COA and lead the cleanup of the AOC from a local perspective.

The Niagara River RAP process was initiated in 1988 with a series of public meetings and the completion of a "Stage 1"- Environmental Conditions and Problem Definition RAP Report in 1993. The NPCA has been an active participant in the Niagara River RAP initiative since its inception in the late 1980s and has completed many activities in the watershed toward the improvement of the

Niagara River ecosystem. In April 1999, the NPCA took an active leadership role and became the host organization for administering and coordinating the activities of the Niagara River RAP initiative through a full-time staff person (Project Manager). The NPCA receives funding through formal agreements from the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario (as part of their commitments to the COA) to support the staff person and certain costs associated with implementing RAP activities. The RAP is often the impetus that supports specific projects in the Niagara area and participating organizations also receive project funding from both federal and provincial government agencies for RAP-related work (e.g., Niagara-on-the Lake received funding to support remediation efforts at Queen's Royal Beach and Niagara Parks Commission for coastal wetland restoration projects).

The geographic scope of the Niagara River AOC includes the river itself extending from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. The drainage area that flows into the river is referred to as the AOC watershed. Restoration efforts are focused on the Niagara River proper, but some projects are implemented in the AOC watershed, when deemed to have a direct impact on the waters of the Niagara River. Although the Niagara River is identified as a bi-national AOC, there are separate RAP processes on both sides of the border. Nonetheless, the RAP works closely with its U.S. partners and is the linkage to several mutually supportive initiatives for the Niagara River ecosystem. The RAPs are a key mechanism for collaboration with state and federal levels in the U.S. on issues impacting the river.

The Niagara River offers several ecological, recreational, and economic beneficial uses. Fourteen beneficial uses are identified in the GLWQA (common to all AOCs) that are related to the use and enjoyment of water such as having water safe for swimming or healthy fish for recreational fishing or consumption. These beneficial uses are used as indicators to understand the condition of the AOC, focus restoration needs, track progress, and report on successes and challenges. The designation as an AOC can be removed (i.e., delisted) when all actions are complete and environmental monitoring confirms beneficial uses have been restored in accordance with the locally established RAP delisting criteria.

From the list of a possible fourteen beneficial use impairments, eight impaired beneficial uses were identified in 1993 (when the very first RAP was completed), two beneficial uses were noted as requiring further assessment, and four were deemed 'not impaired'. After 26 years of efforts from many partners in the RAP (including the NPCA) significant progress on improving the Niagara River's ecosystem has been made. The Niagara River now has five impaired beneficial uses remaining and nine that are not impaired, which includes two that were officially changed in 2019. The Niagara River RAP initiative is presently identifying and completing actions for the following five remaining indicators: fish and wildlife populations, fish and wildlife habitat, fish consumption, benthos, and beach closings.

For more information about the Niagara River RAP, please visit www.ourniagarariver.ca.

Discussion:

Major Accomplishments

The last Niagara River RAP Update was given to the NPCA Board of Directors in July 2017 (FA-84-17). Since that report, the Niagara River RAP has made significant progress toward delisting the Niagara River AOC. In Fall 2017, the Niagara River RAP team undertook an extensive approach to community outreach and engagement to re-connect the public to the RAP process, invite stakeholder participation, update the community with current information on the status of RAP

activities, and provide an opportunity to participate in the review of two assessments of beneficial use impairments ('Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae' and 'Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations').

As of July 2019, the status of 'Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae' and the 'Phytoplankton/Zooplankton Populations' indicators have both been officially changed to 'not impaired'. This is an important environmental milestone for the Niagara River AOC and brings it one step closer to delisting. Two reports which outline the scientific results and public engagement efforts for both indicators were prepared and submitted to the parties of the Canada-Ontario Agreement by the Niagara River RAP team in 2018. A copy of the official letters from the parties regarding formal concurrence with the status changes are included as Appendix 2 & 3.

There was a hiatus in terms of public involvement in the RAP following the completion of the 2009 Stage 2 RAP Update Report. In 2014, the RAP commissioned a study to review outreach and engagement needs to support progress on the Niagara River AOC. Based on the recommendations of that study and through recent extensive outreach and engagement efforts, the Niagara River RAP has re-established its partnerships with many past and new stakeholders. In June 2018, a Governance Framework and Terms of Reference for the Niagara River RAP was created and accepted by members (Appendix 4). Together, the RAP Committees consists of twenty-seven representatives from government agencies, municipalities, community groups, U.S. partners, scientists, Indigenous communities, interested citizens, and the NPCA—all actively working together toward the common goal of improving the health of the Niagara River.

In Progress

As the Niagara River RAP approaches its targeted goal of restoring beneficial uses and delisting the AOC, it is imperative that there is a clear course of action and involvement from its partners; therefore, a delisting plan is presently in preparation to update the 2009 Stage 2 RAP Update Report and identify the remaining actions to achieve delisting. The Niagara River RAP team is working toward reviewing delisting criteria and identifying and completing actions for the following five remaining indicators: fish consumption, fish and wildlife populations, benthos, beach closings, and fish and wildlife habitat.

1. **Fish Consumption:** an online survey for Niagara River anglers is underway to understand which fish people are eating from the Niagara River. By knowing which fish people prefer to eat and how much, we can better focus our efforts on monitoring, research, and education related to fish consumption. Using the information from the 2017-2018 Guide to Eating Ontario Fish, the Project Manager led the development small, waterproof fish cards with colour-coded symbols so anglers can quickly check which types and sizes of some of the most popular Niagara River fishes are safe to eat. A similar, full-length educational guide is available online at: www.ourniagarariver.ca/fish. Also, the Niagara River RAP Project Manager facilitated a partnership with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation along with two other AOCs/RAPs located within their traditional territory and treaty lands to collaborate on developing and implementing a fish consumption survey amongst their community.
2. **Fish and Wildlife Populations:** A 3-year Niagara River fish community study was recently completed by Fisheries and Oceans Canada building on past work by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. An assessment of the condition of Niagara River fishes is planned for fall 2019. Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) Canadian Wildlife Service is completing the final year of a 2-year study to examine the health of wildlife populations

(hatching success, contaminants in eggs, and nest counts) using herring gulls, colonial waterbirds, and snapping turtles as indicators of ecosystem health. An assessment of wildlife populations is planned for 2020.

3. Benthos (bottom-dwelling invertebrates): Monitoring is underway at one contaminated sediment site within the AOC watershed (Lyons Creek East). Scientists at ECCC and the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) recently collected sediment core samples and benthic invertebrate samples for contaminant analysis. A review of the data from these studies and implications to the RAP will be conducted in 2019/20.
4. Beach Closings: Previous studies by ECCC showed that a stormwater outfall near the Queen's Royal Beach was likely a source of bacterial contamination that required further investigation and remediation. The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake received funding from ECCC to conduct a 2-year storm sewer investigation, and the Niagara River RAP Project Manager coordinated team discussions and provided implementation support throughout the process. A report was recently completed outlining findings and recommendations for infrastructure improvements to reduce bacterial loadings to the Niagara River at this public swimming beach. Remedial actions will be prioritized in 2019. Monitoring of water quality is underway by the Town of NOTL with support from Niagara Region, NPCA, and ECCC.
5. Fish and Wildlife Habitat: There were seven sites identified as high potential for coastal wetland restoration along the Upper Niagara River. Since winter 2017, four coastal wetland habitat projects have been completed by the Niagara Parks Commission (with support from ECCC, MNRF, and NYSDEC through the Niagara River RAP). One more site is planned for 2019/20. There are potential opportunities for partnership between the NPCA's restoration program, the Niagara Parks Commission and other RAP partners to leverage resources and complete these critical habitat projects.

Challenges

Funding from the parties (ECCC and MECP) with in-kind contributions from the NPCA supports the Project Manager's staff position and provides funds to coordinate the activities of the agencies involved in the Niagara River RAP, engage the local community, and move the AOC toward delisting. There have been significant funding constraints to the Niagara River RAP in 2018 and 2019 due to a lack of provincial funding (see financial implications below). As such, several projects were placed on hold or downscaled, some outreach and education activities have been cancelled, and RAP partnering organizations have taken on more costs to help complete priority tasks. Without additional funding support, the RAP may not be able to complete important assessments of indicators nor implement some remaining priority actions (e.g., outreach, monitoring). The RAP continues to make some progress with limited funding but without continued support, progress may stall.

Funding support beyond March 2020 is uncertain. Without continued funding support from external sources, the NPCA may not be able to continue to lead and facilitate efforts to improve the Niagara River ecosystem. Given the tremendous amount of success and progress over the last 2 years as well as other similar efforts to celebrate our natural heritage (i.e., pursuit of the Ramsar designation for the Niagara River, Ohni:kara Aspiring Geopark, and watershed studies contributing the Niagara Region New Official Plan), it would be unacceptable and a major oversight to hinder further momentum towards accomplishing the common goal of delisting the Niagara River AOC.

Financial Implications:

Since 1999, the NPCA has received financial support from ECCC and MECP to fund the project manager's position, and support activities such as outreach/communication, coordinate project activities, and provide administrative services for the continued development and implementation of remedial and monitoring actions for the Niagara River RAP initiative. These funds covered approximately 80% of the total costs for the RAP activities and staffing. The NPCA provides in-kind contributions (e.g., office space) to support a full-time staff person (Project Manager) to lead and administer the activities of the RAP initiative.

In 2018, the NPCA did not receive its provincial funding for RAP Governance. It was anticipated that funding would be provided pending further government direction post-election. The federal funding that was/is currently in place covers the majority of the project manager's position, with a minor shortfall. The additional provincial funding would normally cover roughly 20% of the costs related to the project manager's position and many of the costs associated with the associated outreach, coordination and implementation for the RAP. As a result, the NPCA covered the additional costs (\$14,000) to maintain the NPCA staff position in 2018-19. To date, there is no confirmation of provincial funding for 2019-2020; therefore, there may be a similar additional cost to the NPCA.

Furthermore, the NPCA is its last year of a 5-year contribution agreement with the Government of Canada for RAP Governance. Funding support to maintain the RAP Project Manager position beyond March 31, 2020 is unknown and would be subject to an application to ECCC's Great Lakes Protection Initiative.

The NPCA's 2020 budget will be prepared using the status quo funding formula to support Niagara River RAP Governance. Should funding not be confirmed by Canada and Ontario, the NPCA may need to consider alternative solutions and adjust accordingly.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: NPCA Board Report FA-84-17

Appendix 2: Letter from Environment and Climate Change Canada and Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks RE: Status of the Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations beneficial use

Appendix 3: Letter from Environment and Climate Change Canada RE: Status of the Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae beneficial use impairment

Appendix 4: Niagara River (ON) Remedial Action Plan Governance Framework and Terms of Reference document

Authored by:

Original Signed by

Natalie Green, M.Sc.
Project Manager, Niagara River Remedial Action Plan

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by

Geoff Verkade

Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Planning/Information Management

Submitted by:

Original Signed by

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII

Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan: Overview & Update

Report No: 84-17

Date: July 19, 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 84-17 regarding the Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan update, be RECEIVED for information.

PURPOSE:

To provide an overview of the Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan project, and next steps for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

BACKGROUND:

The Niagara River is a 58 km bi-national connecting channel linking Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, probably best known for its drop in elevation resulting in the Niagara Falls. The Niagara River provides many beneficial water uses for humans and wildlife alike. It's a source of drinking water, power generation, and provides numerous recreational opportunities such as fishing, sightseeing, and boating.

Over time, population growth coupled with the lack of regulations on pollution control resulted in severe environmental degradation. Pollution problems can be traced back as far as the late 1890s shortly after the Niagara Falls Power Corporation began operation, creating the opportunity for several large chemical industries on the U.S. side of the Niagara River to take advantage of the power.

In the early 1970s, pressure from the public regarding environmental issues throughout the Great Lakes resulted in the creation of the Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). The GLWQA commits both countries to working cooperatively to "restore and maintain the chemical physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes". During the same period, Canada and Ontario entered an agreement to fulfill Canada's obligations under the GLQWA (called the Canada-Ontario Agreement: Respecting the Great Lakes Basin or COA).

The GLWQA, first signed in 1972, was amended in 1978 and again in 1987 and 2012, to address new and emerging issues in the Great Lakes Basin.

In 1987, the GLWQA called for the development and implementation of cleanup plans or Remedial Action Plans (RAP) to restore ecosystem health at degraded areas around the Great Lakes called Areas of Concern or AOCs. AOCs are locations throughout the Great Lakes basin that were deemed to be significantly worse than other Great Lakes locations. There were 43 AOCs identified in the Great Lakes basin (12 in Canada, 26 in the United States, and 5 shared by both countries). The ultimate goal of the RAP program is to identify and complete restoration actions in order to remove an AOC from this list.

The process of removing an AOC from the list is called 'delisting'. Delisting occurs when all locally-defined actions are completed and the Governments in both countries agree that scientific evidence shows the location is no worse than other Great Lakes locations and that there is local, public support in favour of delisting.

To date, Canada has delisted 3 AOCs (Collingwood Harbour in 1994, Severn Sound in 2003, Wheatley Harbour in 2010) and has completed all remedial actions in a fourth: Nipigon Bay. The United States has delisted 4 AOCs (Oswego River in 2006; Presque Isle Bay in 2013, Deer Lake in 2014, and White Lake in 2014). Canada also designated two AOCs as AOCs in Recovery (Spanish Harbour in 1999; Jackfish Bay in 2011) signifying that all remedial actions have been completed and monitoring of natural recovery is in progress.

The Niagara River is one of 36 remaining AOCs in the Great Lakes basin. The Niagara River AOC is the river itself extending from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. The drainage area that flows into the river is referred to as the AOC watershed. Restoration efforts are focused on the river itself but some projects are implemented in the AOC watershed, when deemed necessary. Although the Niagara River is identified as a bi-national AOC, there are separate RAP processes on both sides of the border.

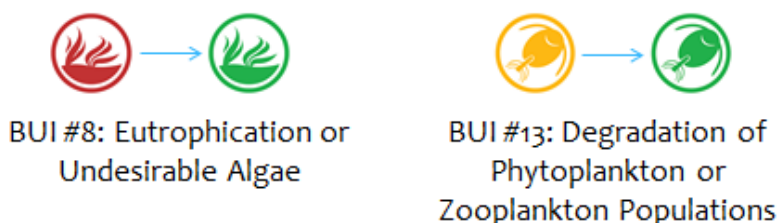
In order to meet the major environmental goal of removing the Niagara River from the list of AOCs, the support of various stakeholders is imperative. Efforts from key partners (i.e., federal, provincial government, municipalities, environmental organizations, industry, scientists, non-government organizations, First Nations and Métis communities, and the public) in the RAP team continue to help complete priority actions for the restoration, protection, and enhancement of the Niagara River ecosystem in order to help achieve delisting. The RAP follows guidance provided by the GLWQA and COA and leads the cleanup of the AOC from a local perspective.

As previously noted, the Niagara River offers several ecological, recreational and economic beneficial water uses. When something interferes with the enjoyment of a water use, it's called a beneficial use impairment or BUI. There are 14 potential BUIs identified in the GLWQA (common to all AOCs) that the RAP Team uses to focus restoration needs, track progress and report on success. When taken together, the status of the BUIs tells us the overall condition of the Niagara River AOC. For the Ontario side of the AOC, there are currently 6 BUIs that are deemed impaired, 7 that are not impaired, and 1 that requires further assessment. The RAP's goal is to complete actions that will restore the beneficial water uses. Once the required actions are complete for an individual BUI, it is assessed against locally-defined goals. If it meets the criteria then the RAP initiates a re-designation process by which the status of the BUI can be changed (i.e., from impaired to not impaired).

The designation of AOC (or AOC in Recovery, if appropriate) can be removed (i.e., delisted) when all actions are completed and environmental monitoring confirms that beneficial uses have been restored in accordance with the locally-established RAP criteria.

DISCUSSION:

1. The RAP Team is pleased to report that two BUI assessments were recently completed (and peer-reviewed). Each assessment recommends changing the status of their respective BUI to 'Not Impaired'. In the Fall 2017, we will begin soliciting public input on the recommendation to change the status of *Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae* (BUI #8) and *Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations* (BUI #13). If there is public support in favour of BUI re-designation, we will prepare the appropriate documentation to be submitted to COA Annex leads (ECCC and MOECC) to make the change official.



2. The RAP Team acknowledges that it previously identified its goal to delist the Niagara River (Ontario) AOC by December 2019; however, it is more accurate to state our goal is to “complete priority actions for delisting” the AOC by December 2019. Based on recent information, it is possible that this goal will not be achieved. The decision to initiate the delisting process (e.g., prepare delisting documents, solicit public input, notify appropriate agencies, etc.) will be made closer to 2019.

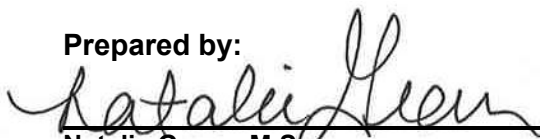
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) receives financial support from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (through Environment and Climate Change Canada, ECCC) and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) to coordinate activities and provide administrative services for the continued development and implementation of the Niagara River RAP. A full-time staff person, whose salary/benefits are covered by the aforementioned financial support, fulfills the administrative services for the RAP.

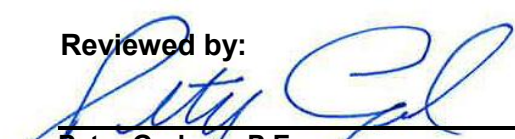
RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Copy of the presentation

Prepared by:


Natalie Green, M.Sc.
Project Manager, Niagara River RAP

Reviewed by:


Peter Graham, P.Eng.
Director, Watershed Management

Submitted by:


Mark Brickell
Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary Treasurer

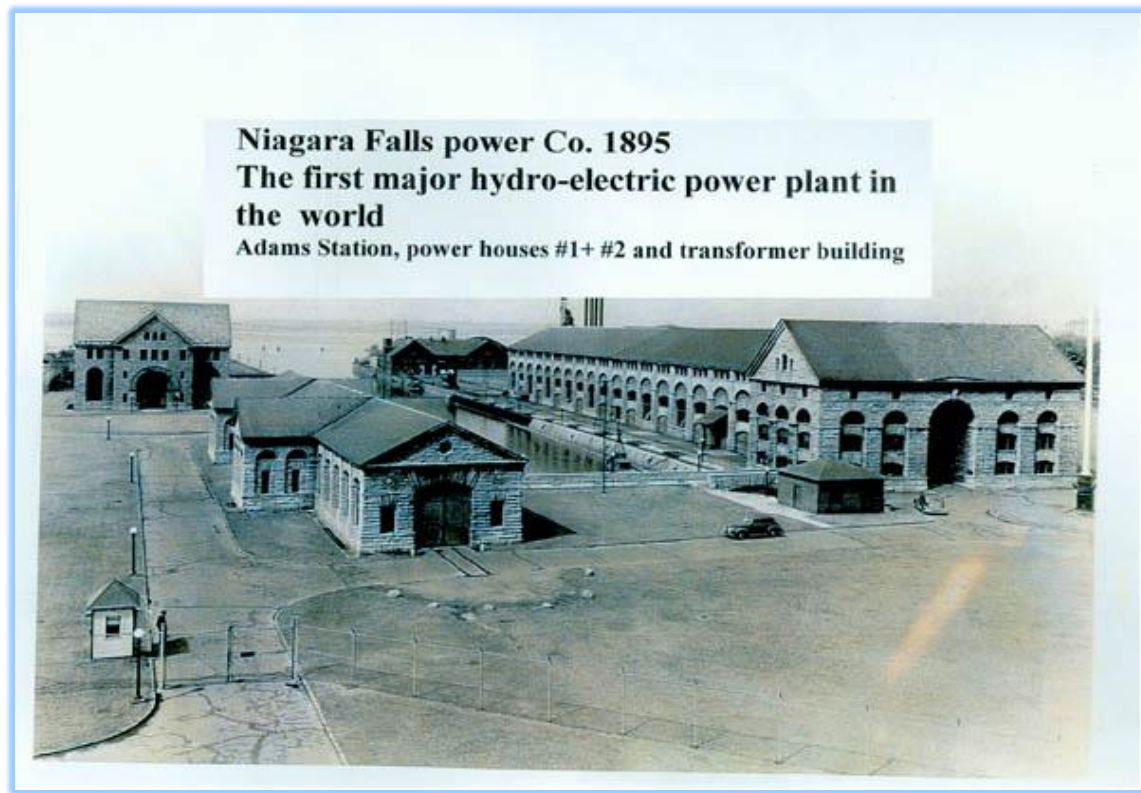
Niagara River (Ontario) Remedial Action Plan





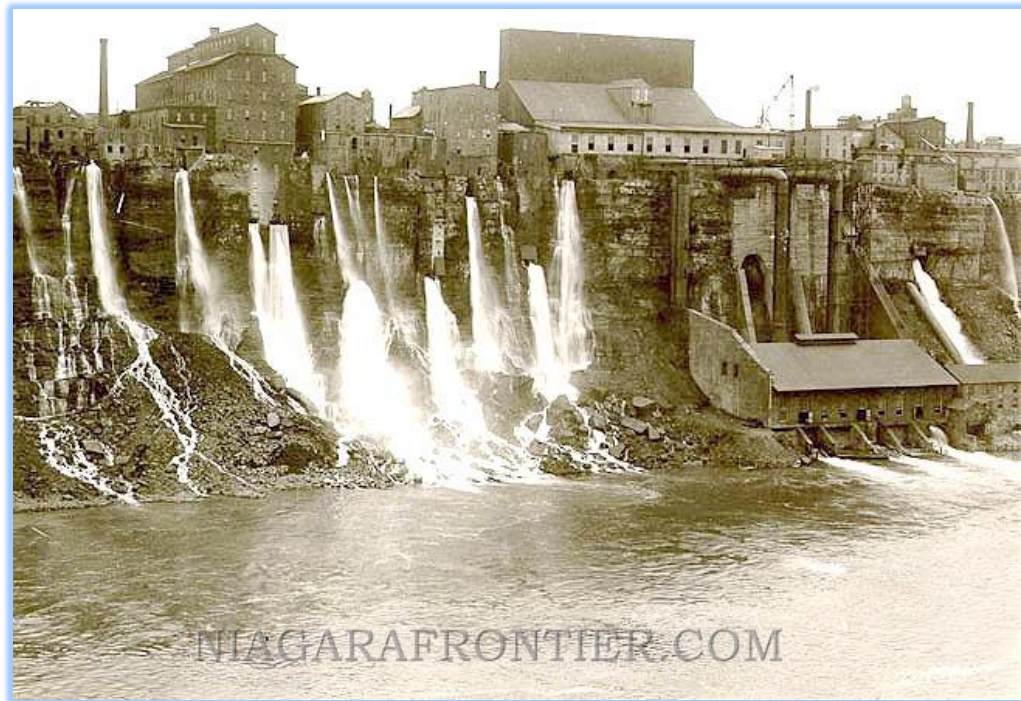
Early Warning

In the 1880s, the Niagara River became the first waterway in North America harnessed for large-scale generation of hydroelectricity



The solution to pollution is **NOT** dilution.

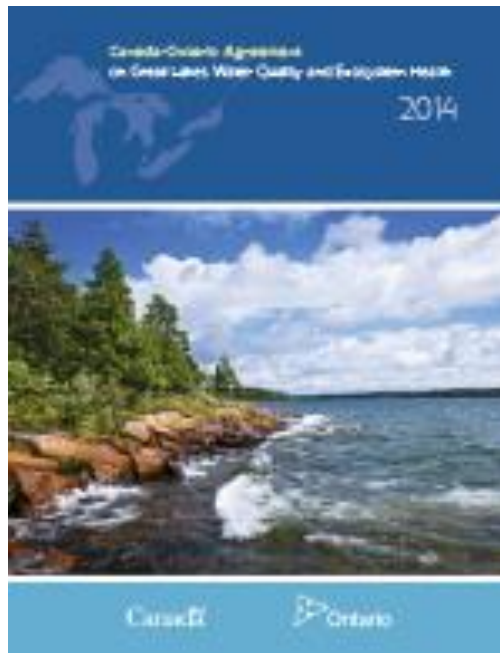
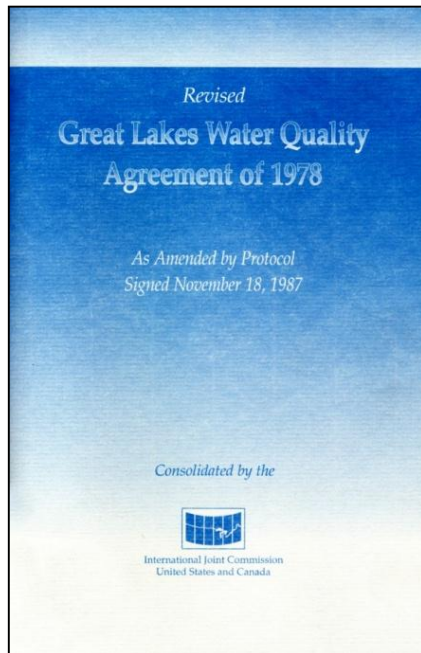
Hydroelectric power resulted in rapid growth of chemical industries along the River



“The pollution below the falls is gross, Niagara River water is totally unfit for human consumption”,

IJC Report 1918 - Niagara River most degraded place in North America

Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement



President Nixon and Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau sign the first GLWQA.

“...to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes System”^{14 of 25}

Canadian and U.S. Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin

CANADA

The Niagara River is one of 36 remaining Areas of Concern



Where is the Niagara River (Ontario) Area of Concern?



What is a RAP?



WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR NIAGARA RIVER

How do we measure success?

- * All AOCs use a set of 14 indicators related to the use and enjoyment of water.



Fish safe for eating



Clean beaches for swimming



Waters free of garbage, oil, scum



Habitat to support fish/wildlife



Aquatic bugs/plants to feed fish



Waters free of excess algae

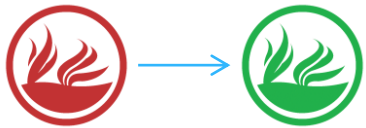
- Complete all locally-defined actions for 14 indicators.

Charting the Course to Delisting using Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs)



What's next for #OurNiagaraRiver?

- * Completed the scientific assessment of two BUIs, including peer-review.
- * Recommendation is to re-designate the status:



BUI #8: Eutrophication or
Undesirable Algae



BUI #13: Degradation of Phytoplankton
or Zooplankton Populations

- * Fall 2017: begin soliciting input from RAP stakeholders including the public.
- * Goal to delist by 2019 will not be met. Aiming for completing all actions by 2019-2020 and initiate delisting shortly thereafter.

Thank you Questions?

Natalie Green

905-788-3135 x243

ngreen@npca.ca

[@NiagaraRiverRAP](#)

[#OurNiagaraRiver](#) [#NRRAP](#)





Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada



Ontario

VIA E-Mail

January 18, 2019

DISTRIBUTION

**Re: Canadian Niagara River Area of Concern, Status of the Degradation of
Phytoplankton or Zooplankton Populations beneficial Use**

Since the inception of the Niagara River Area of Concern in the late 1980s, there has been uncertainty about the condition of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations in the Canadian Niagara River Area of Concern. The 1993 Remedial Action Plan Stage 1 report for the Canadian portion of the Niagara River Area of Concern identified the *Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations* beneficial use as "Requires Further Assessment" because there was no scientific evidence/studies to suggest an impairment or not. The status of the beneficial use did not change in the 2009 Remedial Action Plan Stage 2 Update Report.

In 2014, scientists from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans designed a comprehensive scientific study examining water chemistry and phytoplankton and zooplankton composition at six different monitoring sites along the Niagara River. The sites were sampled monthly (from June to October 2014). The results of the assessment show that there are no issues related to populations of phytoplankton and zooplankton in the Niagara River Area of Concern, and that the status of the *Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations* beneficial use should be considered as 'Not Impaired'. The results of this assessment are documented in the attached report.

The beneficial use status assessment report was peer reviewed and the reviewing scientists agreed with the soundness of the scientific document and the recommendations within the report. The Remedial Action Plan Team undertook an extensive approach to community outreach and engagement the results of which is summarized in the attached report. As this is a binational Area of Concern, the report was also reviewed by representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the United States Environment Protection Agency. Comments received have been considered in the attached beneficial use status assessment report. None of the reviewers expressed concerns with the conclusions of the studies or recommendation that this beneficial use was "not impaired" for the

Canadian portion of the Niagara River Area of Concern. The beneficial use has never been considered impaired for the U.S. portion of the Area of Concern.

As Annex 4 (Areas of Concern Annex) leads for the Canada Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health, we support the "not impaired" designation for this beneficial use and congratulate the Niagara River RAP team, local community and the federal and provincial experts involved in the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan for attaining this important environmental milestone. We look forward to continued progress toward our shared goal of delisting the Niagara River Area of Concern.

Sincerely,



Jon Gee
COA Annex 4 Lead for Canada
Manager, Great Lakes Areas of Concern
Environment and Climate Change Canada



Dawn Walsh
COA Annex 4 Lead for Ontario
Great Lakes/COA Divisional Project Manager
Ontario Ministry of Environment,
Conservation and Parks

DISTRIBUTION

Raj Bejankiwar, Great Lakes Regional Office, International Joint Commission
Members, Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee c/o Natalie
Green, RAP Coordinator
Carla Torchia, COA Management Committee, Federal Co-chair
Richard Raeburn-Gibson, COA Management Committee, Provincial Co-chair
Marc Tuchman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mark Chambers, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Cherlene Vieira, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Susan Humphrey, Environment and Climate Change Canada



VIA E-Mail

May 3, 2019

Natalie Green
Niagara River Remedial Action Plan Coordinator
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor
Welland, ON L3C 3W2
ngreen@npca.ca

Dear Ms. Green:

Re: Status of Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae Beneficial Use Impairment in the Niagara River Area of Concern (Canadian section)

Based on a comprehensive review by Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks of the following report:

- *Re-designation Report: Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae (BUI #8) in the Niagara River (Ontario) Area of Concern (January 2019)*

I am pleased to inform you that the Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae beneficial use impairment is hereby designated as "not impaired", pursuant to the provisions of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, 2012. As you know, this is already designated not impaired on the U.S. side of the Niagara River Area of Concern.

Congratulations to all the members of the Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee, Public Advisory Committee, and the local community who have worked so diligently to attain this important environmental milestone.

I look forward to continued collaboration toward our shared goal of restoring the Niagara River Area of Concern.

Regards,

Michael Goffin
Regional Director General for Ontario
Environment and Climate Change Canada

cc:

Raj Bejankiwar, International Joint Commission

Camille Mageau, International Joint Commission

Marc Tuchman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Mark Filipski, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Bruce Bateman, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Melissa Thomson, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Richard Raeburn-Gibson, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Ling Mark, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Dawn Walsh, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Susan Humphrey, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Sandra Kok, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Media Coverage and Communications Update- June 2019

Report No: FA-80-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-80-19 RE: Media Coverage and Communications Update **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to provide the Board of Directors with an update of media exposure surrounding the work of the NPCA in June 2019. This media coverage and communications update report will be provided to the Board of Directors as needed.

To assist with this, it would be helpful for Board Members to liaise with the Communications Department in advance of media interviews, until such time that the Communications & Social Media policies are updated for the consideration of the Board of Directors. This will ensure consistency with regards to corporate messaging and the inclusion of all media opportunities in future Board reports.

Background:

The Media Coverage Report consists of all coverage for the month of June. It includes outlet names, dates of coverage, titles, links when available, tonality, and estimated PR value.

Discussion:

Public Relations is the practice by which organizations communicate with the public and the media. It aims to earn understanding and support, maintain goodwill, and a strong and mutually beneficial relationship between the NPCA and its public. As opposed to one-way communication, when relationships are built through public relations, practitioners can engage the public and media with purpose and respect, to share news, educate, and inform.

To properly convey the value of public relations, a PR Value has been assigned to each published story found in the attached Media Coverage Report appendix.

In accordance with Canadian public relations industry standards, earned media is considered to carry four times the value of paid advertising. When a journalist writes about an organization, it is done so from a non-biased perspective, and holds more credibility to the reader. Therefore, the PR value assigned to each news coverage compares the monetary value of what has been published, with the equivalent advertising rate in the same format and publication.

Current and upcoming work includes:

Media Releases

- Mountainview Natural Playground & Healing Garden, Opens at Pathstone: <https://npca.ca/our-voice/post/natural-playground-healing-garden-pathstone>
- Ontario's Conservation Areas Visitors Guide: <https://npca.ca/our-voice/post/conservation-areas-visitors-guide>
- NPCA Statement Regarding Port Colborne Quarry Pit 1: <https://npca.ca/our-voice/post/statement-port-colborne-quarry>

Upcoming Media Releases:

- NPCA Restoration Program
- Ball's Falls Heritage Day

Events:

- 6th Annual Douglas Elliott Memorial Bass Derby: Chippawa Creek, July 13 at 7 a.m.
- Stargazing at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area: July 13 & August 17, begins after sunset
- Ball's Falls Heritage Day: July 14 at 10 a.m.
- Public Viewing Nights with Hamilton Amateur Astronomers at Binbrook: August 9 & 10
- Binbrook Family Movie Night: August 10

*For a detailed event listing please refer to the Communications, Community Engagement, Outreach and Volunteers Q2 Status Report Appendix.

Financial Implications:

Staff resources are allocated to media relations.

It is important to note that the value of public relations is not just monetary. The change in tone, opinions and behaviours, and their contributions to overall organizational objectives, should also be considered while measuring Return on Investment.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Media Coverage Report- June 2019

Authored by:

Erika Navarro, B.A. (Hon)
Communications Specialist

Reviewed by:

Renee Bisson,
Manager, Community Engagement

Submitted by:



D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

MEDIA COVERAGE REPORT

June 2019

Total Media Hits: 39
Estimated media impressions: 2,293,400
Estimated PR value: \$176,658

Outlet	Date	Headline	Link	Tone	Circulation/ Visitors Per Month	PR Value
Online						
St. Catharines Standard	June 3, 2019	High water won't sink St. Catharines Kiwanis Club duck race	https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news-story/9406610-high-water-won-t-sink-st-catharines-kiwanis-club-duck-race/	Neutral	57,000	\$6,500
Niagara at Large	June 4, 2019	Ontario's NDP Calls on Ford to Stop Cuts to Conservation Authority Programs for Youth Jobs, Flood Management	https://niagaraatlarge.com/2019/06/04/ontarios-ndp-calls-on-ford-to-stop-cuts-to-conservation-authority-programs-for-youth-jobs-flood-management/	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Niagara this Week	June 6, 2019	West Lincoln seeks citizen appointee for NPCA	https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9423417-west-lincoln-seeking-citizen-appointee-for-npca/	Neutral	161,400	\$9,744
Voice of Pelham	June 6, 2019	Huson to stay on NPCA board	http://www.thevoiceofpelham.ca/2019/06/06/huson-to-stay-on-npca-board/	Neutral	17,000	N/A
St. Catharines Standard	June 7, 2019	West Lincoln seeks citizen appointee for NPCA	https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news-story/9425345-west-lincoln-seeks-citizen-appointee-for-npca/	Neutral	57,000	\$6,500
105.7 The River	June 10, 2019	REPRESENT WEST LINCOLN ON THE NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY BOARD	http://www.105theriver.ca/news1/represent-west-lincoln-on-the-niagara-peninsula-conservation-authority-board/	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Newstalk 610 CKTB	June 10, 2019	WEST LINCOLN OPENS SEARCH FOR NPCA CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE	http://www.iheartradio.ca/610cktb/news/west-lincoln-opens-search-for-npca-citizen-representative-1.9319528	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Niagara this Week	June 11, 2019	Niagara tick reports tick up in 2019	https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9429583-niagara-tick-reports-tick-up-in-2019/	Neutral	161,400	\$9,744
Niagara this Week	June 11, 2019	Port Colborne will take second look at quarry permit	https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9429628-port-colborne-will-take-second-look-at-quarry-permit/	Neutral	161,400	\$9,744
Niagara this Week	June 14, 2019	Ed Smith brings resolute voice as St. Catharines appointee to	https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9432299-ed-smith-brings-	Positive	161,400	\$9,744

		Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	resolute-voice-as-st-catharines-appointee-to-niagara-peninsula-conservation-authority/			
Niagara at Large	June 18, 2019	Sustainable Communities is Focus of Friends of One Mile Creek Meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake	https://niagaraatlarge.com/2019/06/18/sustainable-communities-is-focus-of-friends-of-one-mile-creek-meeting-in-niagara-on-the-lake/	Positive	Neutral	Neutral
Niagara this Week	June 18, 2019	West Lincoln voices opposition to Bill 108	https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9442594-west-lincoln-voices-opposition-to-bill-108/	Neutral	161,400	\$9,744
St. Catharines Standard	June 18, 2019	NPCA to consider declaring climate emergency	https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news-story/9442919-npca-to-consider-declaring-climate-emergency/	Neutral	57,000	\$6,500
105.1 The River	June 21, 2019	NEW NPCA REPS FOR NIAGARA FALLS AND WAINFLEET	http://www.105theriver.ca/news1/new-npca-reps-for-niagara-falls-and-wainfleet/	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Niagara Falls Review	June 21, 2019	Council charges ahead with new batch of NPCA board appointees	https://www.niagarafallsreview.ca/news-story/9448624-council-charges-ahead-with-new-batch-of-npca-board-appointees/	Positive	34,000	\$6,500
St. Catharines Standard	June 21, 2019	Council charges ahead with new batch of NPCA board appointees	https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news-story/9448624-council-charges-ahead-with-new-batch-of-npca-board-appointees/	Positive	57,000	\$6,500
Newstalk 610 CKTB	June 24, 2019	NPCA UPDATES FLOOD WATCH STATEMENT	http://www.iheartradio.ca/610cktb/news/npca-updates-flood-watch-statement-1.9361961	Positive	N/A	N/A
St. Catharines Standard	June 25, 2019	Lake Erie breaks 1986 water level record	https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news-story/9454215-lake-erie-breaks-1986-water-level-record/	Neutral	57,000	\$6,500
Niagara this Week	June 26, 2019	Port Colborne seeks appointee to Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	https://www.niagarathisweek.com/news-story/9455291-port-colborne-seeks-appointee-to-niagara-peninsula-conservation-authority/	Neutral	161,400	\$9,744
NOTL Local	June 26, 2019	One Mile Creek friends seek support	https://notllocal.com/2019/06/26/one-mile-creek-friends-seek-support/	Positive	N/A	N/A

Print						
Niagara Falls Review	May 31, 2019	Clarification regarding Ombudsman investigation	N/A	Neutral	34,000	\$2,925
Welland Tribune	June 1, 2019	St. Catharines' Pathstone unveils first nature garden for kids	N/A	Positive	33,00	\$2,925
Welland Tribune	June 3, 2019	Wainfleet picks Coun. Cridland as rep for troubled NPCA board	N/A	Neutral	33,00	\$2,925
Niagara This Week	June 6, 2019	Letter to the Editor: Wainfleet NPCA appointee	N/A	Negative	161,400	\$9,744
Niagara This Week	June 6, 2019	Highwater wont sink Kiwanis club	N/A	Neutral	161,400	\$9,744
St. Catharines Standard	June 8, 2019	West Lincoln wants citizen on NPCA Board	N/A	Neutral	57,000	\$3,537
Niagara This Week	June 13, 2019	West Lincoln wants citizen on NPCA Board	N/A	Neutral	161,400	\$9,744
Niagara This Week	June 13, 2019	Port Colborne will take second look at quarry permit	N/A	Neutral	161,400	\$9,744
Welland Tribune	June 19, 2019	Port Colborne will take second look at quarry permit	N/A	Neutral	33,00	\$2,925
Welland Tribune	June 19, 2019	NPCA to consider declaring climate emergency	N/A	Neutral	33,00	\$2,925
Niagara This Week	June 20, 2019	Ed Smith brings resolute voice as St. Catharines appointee to Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority	N/A	Positive	161,400	\$9,744
St. Catharines Standard	June 22, 2019	Council charges ahead with new batch of NPCA appointees	N/A	Positive	57,000	\$3,537
Welland Tribune	June 22, 2019	Council charges ahead with new batch of NPCA appointees	N/A	Positive	33,00	\$2,925

Niagara Falls Review	June 25, 2019	Council charges ahead with new batch of NPCA appointees	N/A	Positive	34,000	\$2,925
Welland Tribune	June 28, 2019	Port Colborne to let councillors seek NPCA seed	N/A	Neutral	33,00	\$2,925
Broadcast						
Newstalk 610 CKTB	June 2, 2019	ADAM CHRISTIE - STAR TREK DISCOVERY FILMS AT BALL'S FALLS	http://www.iheartradio.ca/610cktb/audio/adam-christie-star-trek-discovery-films-at-ball-s-falls-1.9313510?mode=Article	Positive	N/A	N/A
Newstalk 610 CKTB	June 3, 2019	ROUNDTABLE ROUND #2 (DAVE BYLSMA, MISHKA BALSOM)	http://www.iheartradio.ca/610cktb/audio/roundtable-round-2-dave-bylsma-mishka-balsom-1.9301717?mode=Article	Neutral	N/A	N/A
Newstalk 610 CKTB	June 5, 2019	ROUNDTABLE ROUND #2 (LEAH FEOR, STEPHEN MURDOCH)	http://www.iheartradio.ca/610cktb/audio/roundtable-round-2-leah-feor-stephen-murdoch-1.9313604?mode=Article	Positive	N/A	N/A
Newstalk 610 CKTB	June 6, 2019	West Lincoln Seeking Citizen Appointee for NPCA	http://www.iheartradio.ca/610cktb/audio/west-lincoln-seeking-citizen-appointee-for-npca-1.9319458?mode=Article	Neutral	N/A	N/A

Report To: Board of Directors

**Subject: Communications, Community Engagement, Outreach and Volunteers
Q2 (2019) Status Report**

Report No: FA-81-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-81-19 RE: Communications, Community Engagement, Community Outreach and Volunteers Q2 (2019) Status Report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to provide the NPCA Board of Directors a summary of activities undertaken in the second quarter by communications, community engagement, community outreach and volunteers as per the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan document “Partners in Conservation”, A Shared Responsibility.

Financial Implications:

Distribution of Quarterly Reports is within the 2019 budget allocations.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1- Communications, Community Engagement, Outreach and Volunteers - Q2 Status Report.

Prepared by:

Original Signed by

Renee Bisson,
Manager, Community Engagement

Submitted by:

Original Signed by

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

This report was prepared in consultation with Kerry Royer, Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator and Erika Navarro, Communications Specialist.

Communications, Community Engagement, Outreach and Volunteers Q2 Status Report

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

The Community Engagement team had a very busy second quarter. Staff met with various partners, including the Niagara Catholic District School Board, Niagara Region, Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global Geopark, Pathstone Mental Health, Ontario Power Generation and many local libraries to discuss exciting projects and partnership opportunities in the months and years ahead.

A few of these partnerships are highlighted below:

2021 Canada Summer Games

The NPCA was contacted by the Legacy and Sustainability Coordinator for the Canada Games taking place in Niagara in the summer of 2021. The Committee is interested in placing turtles native to Niagara at the core of the games, including their mascot and theme. The partnership has been developing over the last six months and the NPCA continues to work with the Legacy and Sustainability Coordinator on potential partnerships related to turtle conservation projects and habitat enhancement for turtles in the Niagara region, as well as the creation of a pollinator garden, helping with volunteer call-outs and the possibility of hosting community events.

Niagara Region International Plaza and Civic Park

Vanessa Aykroyd, Landscape Architect with the Niagara Region, reached out to the NPCA mid-January to discuss a potential partnership for the construction of the International Plaza and Civic Park. The main request is NPCA staff assistance in planning and executing a large community planting with several partners for a 3000 square foot pollinator garden in the Fall of 2019. The plans for this area continue to develop and the NPCA is working closely with the Niagara Region to develop an implementation strategy for the planting of the large pollinator garden area. The planting is scheduled for September 2019.

Niagara Envirothon

The Niagara Envirothon program celebrated its 12th year in 2019. Students from ten schools participated in an indoor learning day at Ball's Falls in March, and an outdoor workshop in April at Brock University, where they learned about aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and agroecology from industry professionals. Professionals with various backgrounds volunteered their time from organizations including Brock University, Land Care Niagara, Niagara Restoration Council, SoilOptix and the NPCA. The Niagara Envirothon competition took place on May 1st, 2019 at Brock University and the winning team was Blessed Trinity from Grimsby, followed closely by two teams from Sir Winston Churchill in 2nd and 3rd place. Blessed Trinity represented Niagara at the provincial Ontario Envirothon where they received an honourable mention for their overall scores.

Niagara Children's Water Festival

NPCA continues to be an important partner for the Niagara Children's Water Festival. Two staff members are a part of the Festival Steering Committee and have assisted with logistics, risk management plan development, volunteer coordination and festival organization. Over 30 NPCA staff were involved in the delivery of the Water Festival this year, with role's that included activity centre leads, registration, welcome team and maintenance/grounds. This represents well over 50% of the current full-time staff and the Community Engagement team is thankful for the support of staff subject matter experts in this important educational initiative.

Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global Geopark

The NPCA continues to support the Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global Geopark by participating on the Steering Committee and lending support with partnership development, community outreach and recruitment of members for the new Advisory Committees specific to various stakeholder groups. The NPCA co-hosted the Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global Geopark workshop in May 2019 as we welcomed Patrick McKeever, a retired UNESCO Geologist and one of the key people involved in the development of the UNESCO Global Geopark designation, including drafting the statutes and operational guidelines. Patrick has advised countries on every continent regarding the creation of UNESCO Global Geoparks and when he retired from UNESCO in 2018 he decided to concentrate on establishing UNESCO Global Geoparks in areas of the world where there are none or few. If Niagara is successful in obtaining the UNESCO Global Geopark designation, it could be a first for Ontario and one of only a handful in existence in Canada.

Pathstone Mental Health Natural Playground & Healing Garden

The NPCA assisted Pathstone Mental Health with their natural playground project that became the first of its kind in Niagara. The project included the construction of an interactive outdoor space to allow for "Full sensory experience/enhancement therapy" where children, caregivers, therapists and families can work together towards recovery. Research has long revealed that exposure to the outdoors improves functionality, attention, focus and reduces feelings of fear and anger or aggression. This outdoor space is an extension of the support and care provided to children within the compassionate walls of the Branscombe Mental Health Centre. The Pathstone Natural Playground and Healing Garden will boost cognitive development, promote happy and healthier minds, and will be a calming environment within the city. The NPCA supports the connection that "Nature is Health", thus providing financial support towards the planting of some of the native trees and shrubs. NPCA staff will be providing in-kind support through a "Back to Nature series" of public talks/programs geared towards children within 6-12 years of age, offered at the Pathstone facility on Fourth Avenue in St. Catharines between June and September 2019. The partnership goal is to eventually offer off-site group outings for therapists and clients to enjoy the natural setting at Ball's Falls Conservation Area.

Scouts Partnership

NPCA Staff attended the Port Colborne Environmental Advisory Committee (PCEAC) meeting in March and were able to garner the support of the PCEAC to help the Scouts plant trees at the Camp DayHonDayLahQuah in Port Colborne. PCEAC will donate \$1000 towards the planting of trees at the

Camp in September 2019. An additional tree planting with the Scouts is planned for September and will likely take place at Woodend Conservation Area to enhance the area that was planted in 2017 by the same troop.

Grimsby Scouts planted 80 trees near the Scout Hut on Beamer Conservation Area property in early June. The trees will enhance the currently forested area and will replace some of the ash trees lost due to the Emerald Ash Borer. The NPCA has been working with local Scouts groups for over 20 years to plant trees in various parts of our watershed.

VOLUNTEERS

From April to June, new volunteers were recruited to support the educational programs at Ball's Falls, the Niagara Children's Water Festival, Niagara Envirothon and the bluebird and marsh monitoring programs. The two volunteers working at Ball's Falls, Howie and Mark, together have donated over 300 hours in the 2nd quarter of this year. Howie and Mark work at Ball's Falls 2-4 times per week and have been instrumental in building three new ticket booths for the Ball's Falls Festival and for Binbrook Conservation Area. The team have also been very active in the development of the Forest Free Play Area at Ball's Falls and in various repairs around the Conservation Area including the workshop, camp house and barn. Staff are now recruiting volunteers for both the summer camps, and the Ball's Falls Heritage Day event, and will soon start recruiting for the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival. The NPCA currently has a roster of over 1250 volunteers that are communicated with regularly by promoting volunteer opportunities, workshops, special events and career opportunities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT EVENTS ATTENDED OR SUPPORTED

Niagara Regional Chair's State of the Region (Sponsor) – April 3

Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair, St. Catharines – April 3

Acknowledging the Land/McMaster City Lab Indigenous Project, Hamilton – April 3

Yellow Fish Road painting at Beacon Christian School – April 5

Pathstone K.O. For Kids – April 12

Bioblitz at Niagara College, NOTL – April 13

Landcare Niagara Wild Game Dinner – April 13

*Niagara Envirothon Workshop and Competition – April 17 and May 1

Yellow Fish Road painting at Denis Morris Catholic High School – April 18

*Hawkwatch Event at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area, Grimsby – April 19

Welland River Keepers Earth Day Park Cleanup at EC Brown CA, Welland – April 22

Sustainability Fair for Infrastructure Ontario, Hamilton – April 23

Yellow Fish Road painting at Central Public School, Grimsby – April 24

Earth Day Expo/Links for Greener Learning at Market Square, St. Catharines – April 26

*St. Johns Trout Season Opener at St. John's Conservation Area (Pond) – April 27

Park Cleanup at Binbrook CA led by Black Key-Binbrook Lions Club – April 27

Presentation: Conservation in Niagara-Drinking Water Protection, St. Catharines Library – April 30

*Healthy Twelve Mile Creek Project Launch with Trout Unlimited – May 4

Protecting our Pollinators Policy Brief at Brock University – May 7

*Niagara Children's Water Festival at Ball's Falls Conservation Area – May 7-11

*Pollinator Garden presentation hosted by the Port Colborne and District Conservation Club – May 13

*Ohnia:kara Aspiring Global Geopark Workshop at Ball's Falls – May 17

Great Lakes Christian High School Community Service Day at Ball's Falls – May 21

Outdoor Education support for Soaring Eagles at St. Katari – May 21 and 22

*Canada Summer Games Mascot Challenge, White Oaks Resort – May 23

Pathstone Natural Playground and Healing Garden Open House – May 29

Nature Network Presentation in Fort Erie – May 30

*Scouts Planting at Beamer Memorial, Grimsby – June 1

Niagara Beeway Site Visit – June 1

*Yellow Fish Road Painting with Niagara Falls Girl Guides – June 3

*Pollinator Day at Ball's Falls PD Day Camp – June 7

*General Motors/World Environment Day Recognition/Tree Planting – June 11

State of the Games: Niagara Tourism Industry Forum (Canada Summer Games) – June 12

Mike Knapp Ford 10th Anniversary Celebration, Niagara Hornblower Cruises – June 15

Port Colborne & District Conservation Club Kids Fishing Derby – June 16

*Pathstone Mental Health – Back to Nature Series: Pollinators and Birds – June 19

NCDSB Outdoor Education Celebration Lunch at St. Katari – June 28

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Presentation: Experiencing Nature in Your Backyard, Lincoln Library – July 9, 6:30 pm

*Heritage Day at Ball's Falls Conservation Area – July 14, 10am-4pm

*Presentation: Conservation in Niagara-Drinking Water Protection, Lincoln Library – July 23, 6:30 pm

*Pathstone Mental Health: Back to Nature Series-Tree Investigation – July 24, 6:00 pm

*Presentation: How to Help our Pollinators, Lincoln Library – August 6, 6:30 pm

*Pathstone Mental Health: Back to Nature Series-Monarch Butterflies – August 8, 1:00 pm

*BioBlitz at Ball's Falls C.A. in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation – August 24

*Pathstone Mental Health: Back to Nature Series-Yellow Fish Road™ – September 15, 10:00 am

*Pollinator Garden planting at Niagara Region Civic Square – September 20&21 (TBC)

*Annual Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival – October 11 to 14

Planting at Fireman's Park with City of Niagara Falls – October 18

***NPCA is lead organizer/major partner**

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Social Media by the numbers:

The NPCA's social media continues to be a great resource for community outreach and education. Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages have been increasingly used to share more positive and proactive messages with NPCA's partners in conservation.

Using October 2017 as a benchmark for comparison, when a social media engagement strategy was implemented, all social media channels, followers, likes, and shares, have continued to increase in numbers:

Facebook Likes: 6,456 (increase of 1,444)

Facebook Followers: 6,795 (increase of 1,969)

Instagram Followers: 674 (increase of 426)

Twitter Followers: 3,432 (increase of 332)

Ball's Falls Facebook Likes: 2,365 (increase of 564)

Ball's Falls Facebook Followers: 2,508 (increase of 741)

Binbrook Facebook Likes: 3,630 (increase of 2,600)

Binbrook Facebook Followers: 3,807 (increase of 2,768)

Through the months of April, May, and June, social media strategies were used to communicate projects, events, partnerships, and initiatives such as:

- Corporate news and Board of Director meetings
- Educational programs and camps- i.e. Summer Adventure Camp
- Source Water Protection
- Human Resources announcements and career opportunities
- Watershed Statements/ Flood Outlooks
- Event Listings: St. Johns Pond Opening, Beamer Hawkwatch Open House, Ball's Falls Heritage Day, Chippawa Bass Derby, Stargazing Nights, Binbrook Movie Night
- Miscellaneous nature and wildlife shots from across the watershed in the form of Q&As, Trivia, Did You Know, etc. for social community engagement

Communication Materials/Collateral

The communications department plays a key role in how stakeholders and the public perceive the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. Through collaboration with every other department, the communications team is better able to tell the stories of the organization.

Support is provided to every department through the creation of various marketing, advertising, or communications collateral, such as press releases and advisories, pamphlets and brochures, traditional and social media advertisements, event promotion, presentations, web content, and more.

Below is a list of projects completed during the second quarter:

- **Quarterly Report-** Created a public-facing quarterly report to be sent to stakeholders, agencies, other Conservation Authorities, local municipalities, etc. to serve as an update on the work of the NPCA.
- **Step into Nature rack cards-** with this year's theme being Nature is Health, Biological Diversity Day, the Step into Nature campaign supported by Conservation Ontario allows us to communicate the many benefits of exploring the outdoors.
- **Chippawa Bass Derby** posters and social media collateral.
- **Beamer Hawkwatch Open House-** Created media release, media list for pitching, voluntary donation signage, social media and web updates.

- **St. Johns Pond Opening-** Promoted Facebook event and posts for further exposure, created poster for use at local business, community areas, and NPCA offices and parks.
- **Nature Club Walks-** Supported our partner nature clubs by promoting their existing walks and hikes taking place at NPCA Conservation Areas. All nature hikes proved to have increased attendance due to social exposure.
- **2019 Season Materials-** Completed work for the start of the 2019 Season for Chippawa Creek, Long Beach, and Binbrook conservation areas (update maps with GIS department, revised content and list of recreational activities, as needed, sent final brochures to print and delivered across Ontario and to corresponding parks).
- **Thanksgiving Festival-** The list of approved vendors was finalized and as such, their registration and payment forms were created on the website. This feature was new to 2018, which allowed for easier and quicker online payment instead of each vendor having to call in with their credit card information. This online form also included receipt confirmation email.
- **2019 Summer Adventure Camp posters** and brochures for distribution. This camp is being further promoted with Niagara Families advertising.
- **GCC Spring Derby-** Assisted with the creation of posters (print & digital), Facebook Event and social media support. The NPCA also provided funding for children to attend the derby from the Eva Rothwell Centre in Hamilton. It helped cover their fishing gear, transportation and lunch in partnership with the members of the Glanbrook Conservation Committee.
- **Business cards** for various staff members due to change in job titles and organizational structure.
- **Comment Cards-** Chippawa Creek and Long Beach Conservation Areas.
- **Restoration Program-** Created a new webpage to house information on the revitalized program, draft and print application forms, discussed ideas around advertising.
- **Mud Girl Run-** Drafted letter to be delivered to neighbours of Binbrook Conservation Area, to provide them with the necessary information around MudGirl Run and compensate them for their cooperation and patience with Park Day Passes.
- **Niagara Envirothon-** Pitched media advisory to media across Niagara.
- **Heritage Day-** With the event taking place on July 14, various materials have been created to promote Ball's Falls Conservation Area and its heritage. These materials include media advisory, event listing on website, event listing on Facebook, social media boosted posts, and digital graphics.
- **Advertising-** Communications team works directly with third party graphic designer to produce the appropriate social media graphics, print/digital advertising, and meet deadlines as required. In the second quarter, these ads focused on the following themes: Nature is Health, Earth Day,

Corporate Engagement, Step into Nature with NPCA, Father's Day, Chippawa Creek Derby, Conservation Areas & Recreational Opportunities.

Advertisement Calendar & Commitments

To further promote the good work of the organization, its mandate, events, services and initiatives, the Communications team has created a Marketing & Advertising calendar. This calendar outlines the advertising, marketing and sponsorship commitments for the remainder of the year, ensuring there is enough coverage across various mediums such as newspapers, radio, magazines, and social media, to reach the NPCA's diverse target markets.

Each opportunity was reviewed by the communications department and decisions were based on reach numbers, type of audience, location, and focus among other factors. The following is a list of commitments for the remainder of 2019:

- Niagara Dailies (Welland, Niagara Falls, St. Catharines)
- REVEAL Leisure Magazine- July Issue- 6-month cycle
- Creative Displays Technology- Niagara Health System Digital Screens
- Visit Hamilton 2019
- Today Niagara Magazine- Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring 2020 issue
- Business Link Niagara Magazine
- Health Wellness and Safety Magazine
- Summer Fun Guide
- Welland Jackfish Baseball (Outfield banner, outreach booth opportunities, on-air announcements, program guide advertisement).
- Giant GM
- Lincoln Playbook

Events Attended/Supported by Communications:

- St. Johns Pond Trout Season Opener (logistic coordination, communications and promotions, event management)
- Children's Water Festival volunteering as greeter
- Niagara Envirothon- Cogeco media coverage
- Mayor Easton's Annual Charity Golf Tournament

- Brock University Women in Leadership- Gayle Wood & Diana Huson
- Mud Girl Run at Binbrook Conservation Area

Storytelling/Media Coverage

Communications and marketing efforts focused on highlighting the important work of the organization, including strategic initiatives, source protection program, events and community outreach, and corporate initiatives, among others. A few highlights of this quarter included the following stories/media releases:

- NPCA CAO and Board of Directors Working Towards Transparency and Open Dialogue with the Community
- 100 Days of Change at NPCA
- Family Fishing Tradition Continues at St. Johns Conservation Area
- Voluntary Salary Declaration by Interim CAO
- Auditor General of Ontario's Special Audit Recommendations Initiated by NPCA
- Statement from Interim CAO regarding resolution of NPCA v Baker
- NPCA and Niagara Restoration Council Continue Research on RAMSAR Designation for the Niagara River
- Launching Healthy Twelve Mile Creek Pilot Program in Niagara Region
- NPCA Welcomes Citizen Appointees to Board of Directors
- Star Trek Discovery Films at Ball's Falls Conservation Area
- Mountainview Natural Playground & Healing Garden Opens at Pathstone Mental Health
- Launch of Healthy Hikes and Ontario Conservation Areas Visitors Guide

The media coverage obtained from the above news can be found in monthly Media Coverage Reports, Appendix 1.

Treetop Trekking at Binbrook Conservation Area

The Communications team worked closely with Treetop Trekking to prepare for the opening day of this great attraction at Binbrook. Prior to the opening date, both teams agreed on hosting a media day which would include a ribbon cutting event.

- NPCA Communications team worked on media advisory, website updates, social media promotion, media and local dignitaries invites and follow up emails and calls .

- On the day of the media event, Hamilton board members, as well as the NPCA Board Chair, joined members of the media to participate and experience the obstacle course and ziplines first-hand.
- The event welcomed Heart of Ontario, Global News, Hamilton Tourism, The Grand, Get out There Magazine, Toronto TV, KX 94, Y108, Energy FM, Cable 14, CHCH News, and The Spectator.
- Radio promotions with Corus Entertainment (Y108 & Fresh Radio) were done in exchange for day use passes and Treetop Trekking packages.

Part of the NPCA's commitment to ensuring the conservation of various species found at Binbrook once Treetop Trekking was installed, was to create informational signs that will educate guests who spend time at the park. Together with a third-party graphic designer, the Ecologist and Communications team prepared these signs which include educational information on the Gray Tree Frog, Spring Peeper, Coyote, Northern Harrier, Spotted Salamander, Little Brown Bat, and Small Footed Bat. These are scheduled for installation on July 8, 2019.

Ball's Fall Historical Signage

The Communications team, with support from Strategic Initiatives, has been working with a third party graphic designer to complete 11 historical signs to be placed at Ball's Falls Conservation Areas. These signs will be used to tell the story of the Glen Elgin Village and provide additional information and context for each historical building found on site.

Both the historical signs and the Treetop Trekking signage have been produced in braille to be available for guests with vision impairment, as per AOAD requirements.

Source Water Protection

In partnership with Conservation Ontario and other Conservation Authorities, the NPCA participates in ongoing social media campaigns promoting clean water and the source water protection program in Niagara. The last few months focused mainly on sharing posts by Conservation Ontario surrounding governmental budget cuts.

Ongoing website maintenance continues to be important to ensure up-to-date information is always available. Once more information and clarity is provided regarding funding available for this program, the team will head out to municipal councils to present on the Niagara Source Protection Program as it is still unknown by the majority of residents and elected officials.

NPCA Website

Throughout the second quarter, Communications continued to meet with various departments to further understand their website needs and ensure these were included in the revised project scope to the assigned website developers.

Updates and changes to the website included:

- ✓ Creation of Enforcement & Compliance page
- ✓ Creation of Restoration Grant Program page
- ✓ Addition of Board Member bios
- ✓ Changing photography to be a true representation of Niagara Peninsula Watershed
- ✓ Restructured the flow of information found in page such as Learning and Administration
- ✓ Restructured Contact and Info pages to include contact information for one or two staff in each department
- ✓ Updated forms such as Hunting, Careers, Geocaching, etc.
- ✓ Rectified issues with payment processing
- ✓ Updated board member information and board meeting agendas, minutes, video links, etc.
Biographies for each board member were created to provide the public with information on their elected board representatives, their qualifications, educational and work background, as well as contact information when available.

Ongoing Website maintenance

- ✓ Update content on the website as required
- ✓ Respond to specific requests from various departments
- ✓ Add events and media releases
- ✓ Add job postings for HR department
- ✓ Watershed Condition Statements- Flood Outlook

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Update - Auditor General Report Recommendations

Report No: FA-84-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-84-19 RE: Update - Auditor General Report Recommendations, July 17, 2019 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to provide a monthly update to the Board of Directors regarding continued progress in responding to the Auditor General's Report and recommendations.

Background:

The Auditor General of Ontario attended the May 3, 2019 Board of Directors' meeting to present her findings regarding the ***Special Audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, September 2018***. At the May 3rd meeting, staff, through Report No. FA-50-19, provided an Update regarding the NPCA's progress in responding to the Auditor General's recommendations.

The Auditor General advised the Board that she and her team will return in 2020 to complete an additional review to ensure her recommendations were addressed.

Discussion:

At the May 3, 2019 meeting the Board of Directors requested that a Standing Report be received at their monthly meetings to provide Board members with continuous updates in addressing the Auditor General's recommendations.

Attached to Report No. FA-84-19 is an updated Appendix, dated July 17, 2019. The column entitled ***NPCA Response*** outlines in red progress made since the June 19, 2019 meeting.

Staff are working on embedding links into the document on reports approved by the NPCA in response to the Auditor General's Report.

Financial Implications:

The draft 2020 budget, currently being considered by the Audit and Budget Committee will address any recommendations of the Auditor General requiring funding submissions, including addressing staff gaps, required capital projects and updating floodplain mapping.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Auditor General's Recommendations and NPCA Response – Updated July 17, 2019

Submitted by:**Original Signed by**

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

TABLE: Auditor General’s Recommendations and NPCA Response - Updated June 19, 2019
LEGEND:

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP)
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR)
NPCA Board of Directors (BD)
Board/CAO (BC)
CAO/Municipalities (CM)
Ministry/Conservation Ontario (MCO)
NPCA Operations Staff (OPS)

Lead and Rec. #	AUDITOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	NPCA RESPONSE	INITIATED	TARGETTED COMPLETION	COMPLETE
(MOECP) # 1	To ensure effective oversight of conservation authorities’ activities through boards of directors, we recommend that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks clarify board members’ accountability to the conservation authority.	<p>MOECP launched two reviews under the Environmental Registry of Ontario on April 5, 2019 - Modernizing conservation authority operations and Focusing conservation authority’s development permits on the protection of people and property. This provincial review will assist in addressing Recommendation 1.</p> <p>Bill 108 <i>More Homes, More Choices Act</i> as passed by the legislator on June 4, 2019. This included Schedule 2 – revisions to <i>The Conservation Authorities Act</i>. Revisions include a “duty on every member of an authority to act honestly and in good faith with a view to further the objects of the act.”</p> <p>Orientation with the Board of Directors began on June 10, 2019 with a session for the four new members joining NPCA as publicly appointed members from the Region of Niagara. Orientation on accountability continued at the June 19, 2019 meeting regarding confidentiality and code of conduct. Ongoing Orientation sessions will occur as the new members from the Region are selected around August 2019.</p> <p>The Board of Directors will receive training at their July 17, 2019 meeting regarding their obligations under The Statutory Powers and Procedures Act.</p> <p>NPCA understands that the Province is currently working on regulations under Bill 108.</p>	X	2020	
(BD) # 2	To ensure that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board of Directors has the necessary independence and objectivity to oversee the NPCA’s activities effectively, we recommend that the NPCA Board:				
(BD) # 2.1	Adhere to its Code of Conduct, which states that Board members are to refrain from unduly influencing staff, being respectful of staff’s responsibility to use their professional expertise and corporate perspective to perform their duties;	<p>The NPCA Governance Committee reviewed the Code of Conduct (contained within the Administrative By-law) and provided recommendations to the Full Authority in February and March 2019.</p> <p>Further reviews of the By-law are scheduled for a July 23rd meeting of the Governance Committee, including a Code of Conduct Investigation Procedure.</p>	X	Q3 2019	

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(BD) # 2.2	Update its Code of Conduct to clearly define the circumstances and relationships that could lead to an actual or perceived conflict of interest beyond those defined in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.	As part of the Q3 continued review of the By-law, the Board will define circumstances that could lead to an actual or perceived conflict of interest.	X	Q3 2019	
(BC) # 3	To ensure that members of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board of Directors collectively have the skills, experience and training necessary to oversee the NPCA's activities effectively, we recommend that the NPCA Board:				
(BD) #3.1	Determine the types of skills and experience required on the Board based on the NPCA's mandate and develop and implement a strategy to address any gaps.	<p>The Board of Directors responded to a March 1, 2019 letter from Niagara Region regarding board competencies (skills and experience). A list of competencies was approved by the Board at their April 17, 2019 meeting through Resolution No. FA-113-19.</p> <p>Both the Board of Directors and the NPCA Public Advisory Committee have been requested to develop profiles to be posted on the website. Based on this, a gaps analysis can be completed, and a strategy developed to address any gaps.</p> <p>Niagara Region appointed five new public appointees to the Board whose first meeting with NPCA was June 19, 2019 and June 28, 2019 respectively. An Orientation meeting for four members on June 10, 2019. Additional appointees will be considered by the Region after July 31, 2019.</p> <p>An additional Orientation Session will occur once the Niagara Region confirms final Board appointees to the NPCA in August 2019. A Training Program for the Board will be in August 2019.</p>	X	Q3 2019	
(CM) # 3.2	Work with the NPCA's funding municipalities to ensure that their Board appointment processes consider skills and experience requirements;	<p>A letter was circulated to Niagara, Hamilton and Haldimand regarding a recommended list of competencies and a reference to the Alberta Public Agencies – Board Profile & Competency Matrix Tool, as approved by the Board of Directors on April 17, 2019.</p> <p>The NPCA CAO met with the Niagara Region CAO and senior staff on June 5, 2019 to discuss the appointment process and procedures based on the matrix.</p>	X	Q2 2019	X

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(BD) # 3.3	Assess the current role of its advisory committee to determine whether it is sufficient in fulfilling any gaps in Board skills and competencies, and revise as necessary;	<p>The Board of Directors received a list of the Advisory Committees for 2019 at its March 20th meeting, which was further updated at its June meeting. A Report on the NPCA Public Advisory Committees, with recommendations for a revised Terms of Reference was considered by the Board of Directors at their June 2019 meeting.</p> <p>The PAC met on June 27, 2019 to review their Terms of Reference, provide recommendations on Committee vacancies and develop “profiles” for each Committee member.</p>	X	Q4 2019	
(BC) # 3.4	Identify initial and ongoing Board governance training needs.	<p>The current Board of Directors were provided with an updated Member Handbook in January 2019. Initial Orientation training with the Board was launched on March 20, 2019.</p> <p>A Report on Board Evaluation and Training will be considered at the July 17th meeting. A training program will be solidified at the August Board meeting and implemented from September to December 2019. To date training has occurred through orientation sessions and a session with the lawyer regarding confidentiality and legal matters,</p>	X	Q4 2019	
(M) # 4	We recommend that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks:				
(M) # 4.1	Make a recommendation to the Executive Council of Ontario to proclaim Section 40 of the Conservation Authorities Act;	<p>Section 40 of the CAA states that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations dealing with CA composition, advisory boards, programs/services, apportionment of capital costs and governing reviews under Section 27 and 27.1 of the CAA. The province began this review by launching ERO reviews on April 5, 2019.</p> <p>With the passage of Bill 108, the province approved amendments to <i>The Conservation Authorities Act</i> on June 4, 2019, with regulations to follow.</p>	X	2020	
(M) # 4.2	Once Section 40 is proclaimed, make a regulation prescribing requirements for board composition that result in board members having the independence and objectivity they need to fulfill their oversight responsibilities;	Response to this recommendation is dependent upon the province’s review noted above.		2020	
(MCO) # 4.3	Work with Conservation Ontario and conservation authorities to determine whether governance training should be developed and delivered province-wide for board members of conservation authorities.	Response to this recommendation is dependent upon the province’s review noted above.		2020	

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(BD) # 5	To ensure that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board of Directors has all the information it needs to effectively oversee the NPCA and improve its oversight when needed, we recommend that the NPCA Board:				
(BD) # 5.1	Regularly evaluate the performance of the NPCA's Chief Administrative Officer, as required by its policies;	A Performance Evaluation system has been developed for all staff. The Interim CAO's performance will be evaluated in August 2019. The Board can determine a performance schedule with the new CAO when hired.	X	Q3 and Q4 2019	
(BC) # 5.2	Develop performance indicators to facilitate the Board's evaluation of its oversight processes and activities;	Performance indicators regarding Board evaluation will be developed for approval in Q4	X	Q4 2019	
(BD) # 5.3	Regularly evaluate both its collective performance and the performance of individual Board members.	Both collective Board performance and individual Board member performance tools have been developed, in draft, by the Interim CAO and will be forwarded to the Governance Committee by June 2019.	X	Q3 2019	
(BD) # 6	To ensure that per diem payments to Board members are reasonable and transparent, we recommend that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority:				
(BD) # 6.1	Clarify its Board policies to specify the meetings and other functions for which Board members may receive per diem payments in the future;	The Governance Committee reviewed and clarified per diems in February 2019. Board members receive one per diem per day if attending NPCA meetings, despite the number of meetings attended. The per diem and honorarium policy is updated and outlined in the Administrative By-law. Further review of the By-law will occur in July 2019 by the Governance Committee so that a final Administrative By-Law update can be forwarded to the Board in August for approval.	X	Q3 2019	
(BD) # 6.2	Continue to publish information on actual Board per diems and other expenses annually online.	Municipalities require board expenses to be reported annually. This information for 2018 was provided to participating municipalities. Member expenses for 2019 will be posted at year end on the NPCA website under the heading <i>Administration – Reports</i> and will continue to be published annually.	x	Q1 annually commencing 2020	X
(OPS) # 7	To ensure that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) has complete and up-to-date information about flood risks within its watershed, we recommend that the NPCA:				

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(OPS) # 7.1	Assess the risk to communities around the unmapped watercourses;	<p>The NPCA has completed flood plain mapping for 42% of the watershed. Flood plain mapping is currently underway for the Welland River, 9 watercourses in Grimsby and Lincoln, and 2 watercourses in St, Catharines.</p> <p>The NPCA is met with the Watershed Floodplain Committee on June 13, 2019 to review updated flood lines and discuss public consultation. The first drafts of the other studies are scheduled to be reviewed in Q2 of 2019.</p>	X	Q2 2019 draft review Q4 completion of mapping and adopted by Board	
(OPS) # 7.2	Determine the time and cost for completing and updating floodplain maps;	<p>A five-year capital forecast for the remaining 58% of mapping to be completed will be placed in the 2020 budget and beyond. A minimum of \$200,000 per year over 5 to 7 years will be required to address the mapping deficiency.</p> <p>Once all mapping is completed, mapping updates are required on all watercourses.</p> <p>This cost will be addressed in the 2020 budget preparation through Business Cases to the participating municipalities.</p>	X	<p>Q# and Q\$ - Business Cases for funding</p> <p>Completion of mapping by 2026 subject to funding being received</p>	
(OPS) # 7.3	Schedule this work, based on its risk assessment and for the watercourses for which the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry recommends floodplain maps be prepared.	A risk-based assessment for the remaining mapping will be developed in 2019. NPCA believes that MNRF does not recommend flood plain mapping priorities.		Q3 2019	
(M) # 8	To ensure that conservation authorities have complete and up-to-date information about flood risks within their watershed, we recommend that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry work with Conservation Ontario to:				
(M) # 8.1	Establish clear responsibility and criteria for developing and updating floodplain maps across the province;	NPCA is waiting for this information from MNRF.			
(M) # 8.2	Review current funding levels to conservation authorities to determine how floodplain mapping can be completed in a timely manner.	<p>Transfer payments to CA's for natural hazards were reduced by 50% on April 13, 2019. The NPCA provincial transfer payment is now \$90,000 for the 2019/20 provincial fiscal year.</p> <p>Provincial funding to update flood plain mapping has not been available since 1996. Funding for updated mapping must be sought from participating municipalities, who may choose not to fund updates.</p>	x	Q4 2019	

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(OPS) # 9	To ensure that development is directed away from areas of natural hazards where there is an unacceptable risk to public health and safety or of property damage, we recommend that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA):				
(BD/OPS) # 9.1	Finalize, as soon as possible, its policies for reviewing development proposals and work permit applications;	<p>The NPCA Policy document was updated and approved in September 2018 and it became effective November 2018. Staff have been directed to follow the new policy document as approved.</p> <p>Housekeeping amendments and an update on the consultation policy were forwarded to the Board for approval on June 19, 2019. Housekeeping amendments were approved, and public consultation is being sought on policy items not considered to be of a minor nature.</p> <p>Staff will review the policy on an ongoing basis to determine if there are any refinements to be made and will bring those proposed changes to the Board for approval.</p>	X	Q4 2018	
(BD/OPS) # 9.2	In finalizing such policies, ensure that the criteria for where development is allowed is consistent with Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement and the Conservation Authorities Act.	NPCA Policies are consistent with Section 3.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement.	X	Q4 2018	X
(OPS) # 10	To ensure that staffing decisions are focused on improving the operations of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to fulfill its legislative mandate and provide effective and efficient services, we recommend that the NPCA:				
(OPS) # 10.1	Develop a human resources (HR) plan that identifies current and future HR needs, as they relate to the strategic direction of the NPCA;	<p>An organizational review was completed and approved by the Board on April 17, 2019. Staff alignments follow the NPCA's Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021.</p> <p>It is noted that this Strategic Plan was developed and approved by the previous Board of Directors and should be further reviewed by the current Board. Future staff needs were identified as part of the organizational review.</p> <p>Upon further review of the Strategic Plan by the new Board, a staffing/skills analysis will be completed as part of a Human Resources Plan.</p>	X	2020	
(OPS) # 10.2	In developing such an HR plan, review its staffing mix to determine the appropriate level of administrative and corporate support staff;	The April 2019 organizational review has identified staffing gaps for the Board to review and consider in relation to 2020 funding requests. Discussions are ongoing regarding the appropriate level of administrative and corporate support required. Discussion is ongoing regarding whether an administrative	X	Q4 2019	

		"pool" is more effective than having an administrative support staff member assigned each Division.			
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(OPS) # 10.3	Base future HR decisions on its HR plan;	The HR Plan requires Board approval and will be reviewed annually as part of the budget development commencing with the preparation of the 2020 budget.	X	Q4 2019	
(BD/CAO) # 10.4	Provide information about planned re-structuring decisions, including their financial implications, to the NPCA Board prior to implementing such decisions.	The 2019 organization review was discussed and approved by the Board on April 17, 2019. This review was accompanied by a financial assessment. Further restructuring was reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at their June meetings.	X	Q2 2019	X
(OPS) # 11	To ensure that reports of possible and known violations are appropriately addressed in a timely manner, we recommend that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority:				
(CAO/OPS) # 11.1	Determine the number of enforcement staff necessary to address violations on a timely basis and staff accordingly;	A Supervisor of Permits and Compliance was hired in March 2019. This Supervisor has 3 staff members, addressing both regulatory and forestry violations. A year-end review of compliance and staffing will be done for the Board's consideration. Given current permitting and enforcement requirements, a Business Case will be developed as part of the 2020 budget to recommend enhanced staff in this area.	X	Q4 2019	
(OPS) # 11.2	Ensure that enforcement staff obtain the necessary training to discharge their responsibilities;	All NPCA compliance staff have received Level 1 Conservation Ontario Compliance training as of March 2019.	X	Q2 2019	X
(BD/OPS) # 11.3	Revise its enforcement policy to provide guidance on the progressive actions enforcement staff should take to address violations taking into consideration the significance of the violations;	Conservation Ontario has updated a Manual on behalf of all conservation authorities regarding Section 28 of the Act. Progressive actions to address violations are included as part of the Manual. NPCA was actively involved in the review and updating of the Manual through the Conservation Ontario Regulatory Advisory Committee. The Manual will be implemented when the Province has approved regulations under Bill 108.	X	Q3 2019	
(BD/OPS) # 11.4	Revise its enforcement policy to require that enforcement activities be sufficiently documented and ensure that staff adhere to the policy;	Procedures regarding documentation of enforcement activities will be completed as part of the Manual implementation.	X	Q3 2019	

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(OPS) # 11.5	Use CityView to track reports of possible violations.	Compliance staff are now placing a flag on properties when there are violations, in order to advise other NPCA staff to refer to Compliance staff should they be working on a file related to one under violation. An update to CityView to handle Compliance/Violation issues is underway and should be completed by October 1, 2019.	X	Q4 2018	X
(OPS) # 12	To ensure that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) can proactively identify unlawful activities before they result in risk to people, property and the environment, we recommend that the NPCA:				
(OPS) # 12.1	Institute a mandatory reporting mechanism for landowners to notify the NPCA that approved work has been completed in compliance with the conditions of the permit, and follow up with landowners who fail to report;	As of April 2019, a dedicated e-mail has been placed on the landowners permit form for applicants to send notifications to the NPCA email address, including photos. This email is directed to the Supervisor, Permits and Compliance and his staff to ensure all staff are aware and checking the email regularly. There is also a Factoid which has been developed, to be included with the permits outlining to the applicant what their obligations are once the permit is issued. The permit issuance is now accompanied by this Factoid.	X	Q2 2019	X
(OPS) # 12.2	Develop a risk-based plan to conduct site visits to ensure that landowners have completed the approved work in compliance with the conditions of the permit;	The risk-based plan was finalized and presented to the Board of Directors, through a Report, at their June 19, 2019 meeting.	X	Q2 2019	X
(OPS) # 12.3	Update its website to provide information to the public about activities that are prohibited under the Conservation Authorities Act and how the public can report suspected violations to the NPCA	A Fact Page has been created and is posted on the website. Included on the webpage is a dedicated link that will create a form to be filled out and submitted to the Supervisor, Permits and Compliance to review and assign. This will be tracked to ensure all complaints are documented. There is also a dedicated phone number to allow for complaints to be called in. This number is monitored by the Supervisor or designated staff.	X	Q2 2019	X
(BD/OPS) # 13	To ensure that restoration funding is directed toward projects that best achieve the goals of the restoration program, we recommend that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, regardless of its chosen program delivery model, develop and implement a strategy to better target areas of the watershed based on water quality monitoring and other information on the health of the watershed.	A re-vitalized Restoration Program was approved by the Board of Directors on April 17, 2019. The new program includes a vision, principles, goals and is based on the CAA mandate, the NPCA Strategic Plan and our Watershed Report Cards. The new program will follow recommendations from the Dillon Report and Auditor General's recommendations. Ultimately, sub watershed plans, and implementation strategies should be developed/updated in order to ensure that restoration projects are targeted to priority areas. Restoration Program Guidelines and a 2019 workplan were considered and approved by the Board of Directors on June 19, 2019.	X	Q2 2019	X

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(BD/OPS) # 14	To ensure that funding from Ontario Power Generation (OPG) helps improve the health of the Welland River as agreed to, we recommend that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA):				
(OPS) # 14.1	Seek clarification with OPG regarding its expectations for how the remaining funds are to be spent;	<p>NPCA senior staff with met with senior OPG staff on three occasions - May 25, 2018, August 29, 2018 and October 31, 2018. NPCA discussed past spending with OPG staff on August 29, 2018 and a Draft MOU and protocols for future spending was established on October 31, 2018.</p> <p>An NPCA/OPG staff meeting was held in May 2019 and an updated MOU discussed.</p> <p>The Board of Directors received and approved the MOU their June 19, 2019 meeting. The MOU addresses both funding and budgets</p>	X	Q2 2019	X
(BD/OPS) # 14.2	Revise, as necessary, the formal agreement between the NPCA and OPG to outline such expectations;	The NPCA's 2018 Financial Audited Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on April 17, 2019 setting the stage for a subsequent meeting with OPG. This meeting was scheduled for May 6, 2019 to finalize the Draft MOU, discuss expenditure of funds and establish reporting requirements. The final MOU was approved by the Board on June 19, 2019, detailing goals and objectives for funding allocation.	X	Q2 2019	X
(OPS) # 14.3	Develop and implement a plan that identifies the projects and their locations for which the remaining funds will be spent, ensuring that such projects focus efforts on areas of concern based on the watershed plans that have been developed for the Welland River.	The approved MOU, included a plan that identifies projects and their locations, ensuring that these projects focus on priority areas of concern. Quarterly meetings with OPG will be held to ensure that project targets are met.	X	Q2 2019	X
(OPS) # 15	To ensure that lands are acquired to help the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) fulfill its mandate, we recommend that the NPCA:				
(BD/OPS) # 15.1	Review and revise its land acquisition goals—both in its latest 2015 plan and in its 100-year plan—for reasonableness and to reflect the NPCA's responsibilities under the natural hazard policies of the Provincial Policy Statement;	Staff have commenced a review of NPCA Conservation Area Master Plans, the Land Acquisition Plans and goals with a view to refining land acquisition targets.	X	Q4 2019	

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(BD/OPS) # 15.2	Improve its current land acquisition criteria to provide clear direction on which lands should be acquired;	An initial land acquisition criteria list has been developed. When reviewing a land acquisition opportunity, the following will be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of areas of ecological significance including wetlands, woodlands, ANSI's and species of concern or at risk; • Enhancing biodiversity; • Creating connectivity to CA lands, within CA lands or with other public lands; • Protection of, and access to shorelines; • Financial considerations, such as market value, donation of land, land taxes, maintenance costs, NPCA funding available; • Size of the property; • Continued ability to address water quality issues. 	X	Q4 2019	
(BD/OPS) # 15.3	Prioritize its current land acquisition criteria to reflect the revised goals;	Once the land acquisition criteria have been drafted, staff will recommend a ranking of the criteria to be considered and approved by the Board.		Q4 2019	
(BD/OPS) # 15.5	Develop and implement a plan to achieve its land acquisition goals;	The updated Land Acquisition Strategy will include an implementation plan.		2020 and beyond	
(BD/OPS) # 15.6	Monitor and report to the NPCA Board of Directors on land acquisition progress.	Currently staff provide Quarterly Progress Reports to the Board from all Divisional Program areas. Land Acquisition progress and monitoring will be part of this process. Currently NPCA is considering one acquisition for 2019, of which the Board is fully appraised.	X	2019 ongoing	
(BD/OPS) # 16	To enable the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to assess its performance in fulfilling its mandate, we recommend that the NPCA:				

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(BD/OPS) # 16.1	Develop performance indicators that are tied to its mandate and overall program goals;	<p>NPCA has completed Watershed Report Cards since 2012 which include four key performance indicators.</p> <p>Further, NPCA is part of Conservation Ontario's Watershed Report Card system. Our most recent Report Card was completed in 2018 and focused on performance indicators associated with:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Groundwater Quality Surface Water Quality Forest Conditions Wetland Cover</p> <p>The Watershed Report Card will be continually updated every 5 years.</p> <p>Additional performance indicators will be developed by staff by Q4 2019 for Board review and approval.</p>	X	<p>2017 ongoing</p> <p>Q4 2019</p>	
(OPS) # 16.2	Establish targets against which each indicator will be assessed;	<p>Current indicator grades have been established and some targets have been considered:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Groundwater – current grade = B. The target is to maintain grade. Surface Waters – current grade = D. No target is established. Forest Cover – current grade = D. No target is established. Wetland Cover – current grade = B. The target is to maintain grade.</p> <p>It is important to note that targets for both surface water quality and forest cover should be established through updated sub watershed plans.</p> <p>Staff will develop targets for performance indicators for review and approval by the Board of Directors by Q4 2019.</p>	X	<p>2017 ongoing</p> <p>Q4 2019</p>	
(OPS) # 16.3	Regularly collect and analyze information about the impact of its programs and services on the Niagara Peninsula watershed to help adjust programs on an ongoing basis;	<p>NPCA has established a regular program for collecting and analyzing information. In particular, surface water quality is monitored at 80 sites throughout the watershed and groundwater is monitored at 50 watershed sites.</p> <p>Staff will assess additional information to be collected on all program areas and services by Q4 2019 for review and approval by the Board of Directors.</p>	X	<p>ongoing</p> <p>Q4, 2019</p>	
(OPS) # 16.4	Review, and revise as necessary, its annual and quarterly reports to better reflect how the NPCA's initiatives and projects are helping the NPCA fulfill its mandate and overall program goals.	<p>Quarterly and annual reports will be refined to outline how NPCA initiatives and projects are fulfilling our mandate and goals.</p>	X	<p>Q4 2019</p>	

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(BD/OPS) # 17	To ensure that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) follows fair and transparent recruitment and promotion processes, and that the best-qualified individuals are hired and promoted, we recommend that the NPCA:				
(BD/OPS) # 17.1	Update its recruitment policies to include the steps and documentation required to support hiring decisions and eliminate situations of real or perceived conflict of interest in recruitment and hiring;	The HR Policy and Recruitment Procedures are scheduled for refinement including outlining the steps and documentation process to support hiring decisions and outlining what constitutes a conflict of interest, perceived conflict of interest and how to proceed if identified. The Recruitment Policy update was received and approved by the Board of Directors their June 19, 2019 meeting.	X	Q2 2019	X
(BD/OPS) # 17.2	Update its promotion policies to include the decision-making process required to be followed and documented for promotions and appointments;	Promotion Policies presented to the Board for consideration in Q3.	X	Q3 2019	
(OPS) # 17.3	Assess staff's performance annually, as required by its policies;	A Performance Review System was implemented in the summer of 2018 for permanent and summer staff. Training and review of the system was completed in October 2018. Effective dates for each employee are currently being compiled, including a "reminder system" to ensure that Performance Reviews are completed on a timely basis. Further training with Supervisors, Managers and Directors will occur in 2019.	X	Q2 2018 and ongoing	
(BD/OPS) # 17.4	Provide quarterly updates to the NPCA Board of Directors on staffing changes and performance.	Quarterly updates on all NPCA program areas are provided to the Board of Directors, including human resources updates. Included in quarterly reviews are recruitment updates and changes to staff, including promotions, departures, retirements, etc.	X	ongoing	
(OPS) # 18	To ensure compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Ministry of Labour Code of Practice, we recommend that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA):				
(OPS) # 18.1	For every harassment or discrimination complaint or grievance filed, fully assess and document whether an investigation is required and, if it is, conduct it in an appropriate and timely manner;	The NPCA's Harassment Policy was updated in 2016. As part of the procedures, a "checklist" will be developed to document actions taken up to and including whether an investigation is required for complaints of any nature. An update to the Workplace Harassment Policy received and approved by the Board of Directors at their June 19, 2019. NPCA ensures that each complaint or grievance filed is documented, reported to the Board, investigated if required and a report provided to the initiator of the complaint.	X	2016 Q2 2019 update	X

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(BD/OPS) # 18.2	Use its ability, under its workplace harassment policy, to appoint an external investigator or develop mechanisms to ensure that complaints against the CAO are investigated by a party who does not report directly to the CAO;	As part of the Workplace Harassment Policy Update, a process for handling complaints against the CAO was developed and approved on June 19, 2019 recommending the use of an external investigator rather than in house staff.	X	Q2 2019	X
(BD/OPS) # 18.3	Provide additional information on grievances, staff complaints and investigations, including their subject and financial implications, as part of confidential updates to the NPCA Board of Directors.	General information on grievances, staff complaints and investigations have been reported to the Board effective Q2, 2018. This information is now contained in each quarterly report to the Board of Directors, in closed session. Board requests for further details on grievances, including financial implications will be dealt with in closed session meetings of the board.	X	2018 and ongoing	X
(BD/OPS) # 19	To ensure the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) operates as effectively and productively as possible, without workplace issues hindering its operations unnecessarily, we recommend that the NPCA:				
(OPS) # 19.1	Develop and implement an action plan to address workplace concerns;	Initial documentation of workplace concerns commenced in 2017 with a staff survey. A second survey was completed in November 2018 and year over year results will be tracked and reviewed to create an Action Plan to address workplace comments, concerns and activities to address this input. The Interim CAO also launched an organizational review in April 2019 and invited all staff to provide comments (anonymously if desired) or to meet with her directly to discuss concerns. Workplace concerns which emerged during the CAOs April review will be reported at the August Board meeting along with an Action Plan.	X	2017 to Q1 2019 Q3- August Report	
(BD/OPS) # 19.2	Present this action plan and related timeline to the NPCA Board of Directors for review and approval;	Overall concerns will be reported to the Board in August 2019. An updated Workplace Comments and Concerns Process and Action Plan will be developed for approval in 2019.	X	Q3 2019	
(BD/OPS) # 19.3	Report on its progress in implementing the actions within the approved timeline.	Progress on workplace concerns will continue to be reported through Quarterly Reports to the Board of Directors.	X	Quarterly and ongoing	X

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BD/(OPS) # 20	To ensure that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) receives value for money spent on goods and services, we recommend that the NPCA:				
(OPS) # 20.1	Follow its procurement policies for the acquisition of goods and services;	<p>Since March 2018 the NPCA has been conducting competitive procurements as per its existing policy as evidenced by the document "Planned Procurement".</p> <p>Revisions regarding the use of Corporate Credit Cards has been completed which includes a specific policy regarding card use and a letter of understanding signed by each card holder.</p> <p>Additional revisions to existing Purchasing & Procurement Policy are in progress.</p>	X	Q4 2019	
(BD/OPS) # 20.2	Revise its procurement policies to require that any needed services associated with unsolicited proposals be obtained in a transparent and competitive manner;	The Unsolicited Proposal Policy originally approved in July 2014 will be reviewed and amended as per the direction of the Board.	X	Q4 2019	
(OPS) # 20.3	Assess the benefits of establishing continuity and achieving cost savings from contracting with a preferred law firm for each field of law it requires services;	<p>The NPCA inquired through its Purchasing Group (Niagara Public Purchasing Committee) how other public entities are handling legal services and it was discovered that the majority of these Public entities have exemptions for Legal Services excluding them from competitive procurement.</p> <p>Following discussion with the Office of the Auditor General, it was suggested that NPCA contact TRCA for details on their procurement strategies regarding legal services. In October 2018, dialogue occurred between NPCA and TRCA and it was discovered that the TRCA established a Vendor of Record listing in January 2017 to handle its legal services.</p>	X	2018	X
(BD/OPS) # 20.4	Revise its procurement policies for legal services to implement the results of the above assessment.	<p>Using the above as a model, as suggested by the Office of the Auditor General, the NPCA will issue a Request for Proposal to establish vendors of record to handle its legal services.</p> <p>Certain legal services which are specialized may be recommended to the Board to be single sourced. This will be done through a resolution at the Annual General Meeting of the Board held in January of each year.</p>	X	Q3 2019	X

Lead and Rec. #	AUDITOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	NPCA RESPONSE	INITIATED	TARGETTED COMPLETION	COMPLETE
(BD/OPS) # 21	To ensure that funds are available and that critical capital projects are completed in a timely manner, we recommend that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA):				
(OPS) # 21.1	Update the information in its asset management system to reflect the actual replacement cost of assets (when this information is available) and the estimated useful life of assets based on their condition;	<p>The NPCA included in its 2019 Operating Budget a position identified as Capital Project Specialist which will address each of the points outlined in Recommendation 21. The position will work in conjunction the Procurement Specialist to achieve the above goals.</p> <p>KPMG (the NPCA's third party auditor) has expertise in this specific area and has established contact with NPCA staff to assist in carrying out these objectives.</p> <p>This staff member will be responsible for developing the NPCA's Asset Management Plan and System, including all areas identified as Recommendations 21.1 to 21.5.</p>	X	Q3 2019	
(OPS) # 21.2	Obtain reliable information to support replacement cost estimates and cost estimates for planned capital projects;	The new Capital Project Specialist will work with the Procurement Specialist to obtain reliable information on replacement cost for planned capital projects.	X	Q3 2019 ongoing	
(OPS) # 21.3	Prioritize capital projects using an objective assessment of needs;	The new Capital Project Specialist will work with Park Superintendents along with other front-line staff and Department Heads to prioritize capital projects using an objective assessment of needs.		Q3 2019 ongoing	
(BD/OPS) # 21.4	Identify how the NPCA will obtain funding to undertake these projects;	The new Capital Project Specialist will work with Senior Management to identify funding sources for projects.		Q3 2019 ongoing	
(BD/OPS) # 21.5	Refine the capital plan, based on the above action items, and present it to the NPCA Board for approval.	The new Capital Project Specialist will work with all staff as required to constantly refine the Capital Plan for eventual Board approval.		Q3 2019 ongoing	
(M) # 22	To ensure that conservation authorities have the necessary information to interpret and fulfill their legislative mandate, we recommend that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, upon proclamation of Section 40 of the Conservation Authorities Act:				

Lead and Rec. #	AUDITOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	NPCA RESPONSE	INITIATED	TARGETTED COMPLETION	COMPLETE
(M) # 22.1	Clearly describe for conservation authorities what the development of natural resources entails, and how it differs from “development” in general;	MOECP has launched two reviews under the Environmental Registry of Ontario on April 5, 2019 - <i>Modernizing conservation authorities’ operations - CAA and Focusing conservation authority’s development permits on the protection of people and property.</i> This provincial review will assist in addressing Recommendations 22.1 to 24.3. As noted under recommendation #1, Bill 108 was passed on June 4, 2019. NPCA continues to work with the province and Conservation Ontario as we move toward establishing regulations which will enact Bill 108.	X	2020	
(M) # 22.2	Provide guidance to help conservation authorities prioritize the objectives of their programs and services (conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources);	NPCA is actively involved in providing comments to Conservation Ontario regarding the provincial government review.	X	2020	
(M) # 22.3	Use its regulatory powers to establish minimum requirements and standards for conservation authorities’ delivery of programs and services;	NPCA will ensure that minimum requirements and standards will be developed for programs and services. NPCA currently complies with response standards for commenting under The Planning Act.	X	2020	
(M) # 22.4	Establish the governance practices that it determines conservation authorities should be uniformly following province-wide;	NPCA will comply with governance practices recommended by the province.	X	2020	
(M) # 23	To ensure that conservation authority boards of directors are held to account appropriately, we recommend that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks work with municipalities to develop and implement a formal, cost-effective and purposeful reporting process that includes a discussion of the outcomes of conservation authorities’ activities.	NPCA will work through Conservation Ontario to request that CO/conservation authorities are part of the discussion with MOECP and municipalities regarding reporting processes.	X	2020	

Lead and Rec. #	AUDITOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	NPCA RESPONSE	INITIATED	TARGETTED COMPLETION	COMPLETE
(M) # 24	To ensure that issues that are beyond conservation authorities' ability to manage themselves are dealt with appropriately and in a timely manner, we recommend that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ministry) work with municipalities to:				
(M) # 24.1	Determine the circumstances when Ministry and/or municipality intervention is warranted;	NPCA will work through Conservation Ontario to request that CO/conservation authorities are part of the discussion with MOECP and municipalities regarding intervention definitions and requirements.	X	2020	
(M) # 24.2	Establish mechanisms for the Ministry and/or municipalities to intervene when necessary in conservation authorities' operations;	NPCA will work through Conservation Ontario to request that CO/conservation authorities are part of the discussion with MOECP and municipalities regarding intervention definitions and requirements.	X	2020	
(M) # 24.3	Formalize such mechanisms through a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry, municipalities and conservation authorities that clearly establishes the roles and responsibilities of each party and when intervention is necessary.	NPCA will work with the Ministry, Conservation Ontario and participating municipalities to formalize an appropriate Memorandum of Understanding.	X	2020	

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Q2 Strategic Initiatives / Operations / Ecology Status Report

Report No: FA-86-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-86-19 RE: Q2 Strategic Initiatives / Operations / Ecology Status Report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Purpose:

To keep Board members informed of Strategic Initiatives, Operations and Ecological activities on a quarterly basis.

Background:

The Strategic Initiatives and Operations departments maintain forty-two Conservation Areas while enhancing visitors experience. The teams focus on connecting people to nature, conservation, and the environment by creating exceptional experiences for people of all ages.

Discussion:

The second quarter is an active season for NPCA Operations and Strategic Initiatives services, including the opening of conservation areas and campgrounds for the season, increased facilities rentals, programming, and events.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Q2 Strategic Initiatives / Operations / Ecology Status Report

Authored by:

Original Signed by

Adam Christie,
Acting Senior Manager of Operations
and Special Projects

Original Signed by

Alicia Powell, B.Sc., MA, PhD(c)
Acting Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Submitted by:

Original Signed by

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



Q2 2019

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES / OPERATIONS / ECOLOGY

Strategic Initiatives

This quarter represented an active and crucial season for Strategic Initiatives services, including facilities rentals, programming, and site rentals and events within several conservation areas.

Capital Education Projects

Historical Village Signage

The graphics and narrative for new signage for within the historical village was edited over the course of the second quarter, in preparation for printing and installation at the beginning of the summer. Additional time and attention-to-detail was required to ensure the highest quality prints were produced for the signs, which will become centerpieces and storytelling tools within the village for many years to come.

Free-Play Forest

During the second quarter, NPCA staff and volunteers planned their approach to setting-up the play area perimeter. Ongoing projects and the intensity of program delivery this quarter prevented staff and volunteers alike from tackling this project in greater force. The area set-up and work will be concentrated in the third quarter when staff, and volunteers have greater capacity to complete this project.

Events

Beamer Memorial Hawkwatch

Once again, the annual Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch event took place on Good Friday, falling this year on April 19th at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area. In support of the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch organization's mission and educational outreach, the NPCA took on greater capacity in organizing and leading the event. This year, cold and dismal weather, and clouded skies obstructed raptor viewing, as well as visitation to the event. However, despite the weather, dozens of visitors, particularly families, attended the event in time to see the excellent live raptor demonstration performed by the Canadian Raptor Conservancy, and funds were raised to support the Hawkwatch event next year. While fewer nature and conservation clubs attended the event that originally planned due to the weather and wet conditions, those in attendance were pleased to continue their support for the event and with the organization and communication of the event. Participating clubs included Niagara Nature Tours, St. Catharines Photographic Club, Land Care Niagara, the Bruce Trail Conservancy, and Heartland Forest, among many other leaders in conservation and environmental causes. The day included hot food and concessions provided by RJ's Rolling Smokehouse, children's entertainment by Carla Carlson, and free face-painting for kids. Site preparation, maintenance and control prevented any issues with parking and accessibility in the wet conditions, and despite the weather, the event was successful. NPCA will support the Niagara Hawkwatch event again in 2020.



St. John's Pond Opening

On Saturday, April 27th, the NPCA once again held the opening event for fishing season at St. John's Pond. This annual family event and tradition saw expected visitation, despite the rainy, seasonal weather. Past board member, Mickey Defrucio again threw the first ceremonious cast to open the season. The event was supported by Trout Unlimited, with an information tent promoting healthy fishing practices, and central stewardship tenets, such as warning folks not to dump their bait or pets, in natural water sources. TU also provided casting lanes and demonstrations throughout the event. Concessions were provided by RJ's Rolling Smokehouse, and free children's face-painting was also offered to complete this annual family event.



Niagara Envirothon

This year the Niagara Envirothon workshop and competition dates, held in April and May respectively, were held at Brock University, offering competing high school students the opportunity to learn and showcase their knowledge in a new setting. NPCA Strategic Initiatives staff assisted Community Outreach staff in administering activities throughout each day, which saw schools from across the public and Catholic board participate, as well as a participating school from outside of the watershed. Subject matter experts delivered training and testing in the areas of Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and Agroecology, and Brock students had an opportunity to showcase their own Masters' research.



Niagara Children's Water Festival

For the 15th year running, the annual Niagara Children's Water Festival (NCWF) took place from May 4th – 7th at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. The event, led by the Niagara Region, is an important opportunity for the NPCA and other organizations, to provide high-quality and meaningful programming to help educate children on the importance of water, water conservation and preservation, and an opportunity to connect children to their environment. NPCA program staff and volunteers, among permanent staff, led a variety of activity centres, including 'Down at the Mill',

where students tour the historic grist mill and learn about the power and importance of water during early settlement. The 'Nuts About Nature Hike' is a fantastic, 30-minute activity that brings students into the heart of the Carolinian forest, along the Twenty Mile Creek to experience the diversity of the natural environment, and the importance of water to the plants and animals there.

The event was very well attended over the four-day period, despite poor, rainy weather. Unfortunately, the amount of rain and human traffic at Ball's Falls impacted the grounds, particularly the grass areas around the buildings. Next year, the NCWF will be held at Brock University, however the NPCA will remain a member of the event committee and will continue to provide programming in activity centres at the event.

Mud Girl at Binbrook Conservation Area

The Mud Girl charity race in support of the Breast Cancer Foundation took place again this year at Binbrook Conservation Area over the weekend of June 1st and 2nd. Both race days were highly successful, with over 5,000 women participating each day, for a weekend of over 10,000 conservation area visitors, including event volunteers and family members and spectators of the event. In a follow-up review the event management company, Sportera Events, stated that this was the most successful race to date, with the largest turnout of participants from the greater Golden Horseshoe Area. The significant amount of precipitation preceding the event made grounds conditions ideal, and particularly muddy. Implications from the amount of rain and foot traffic on the course throughout the grounds will require more seasonable conditions to regenerate areas of grass and trail. Wet grounds also led to limitations in parking event participants on site, leading to most participants being shuttled to the conservation area from the main parking location, at the Binbrook Agricultural Society fairgrounds. Binbrook CA was able to accommodate all Sportera staff, volunteers, accessibility needs, and first-heat runners however, and this was positively received. The Mud Run is an important event for the NPCA, as it provides an opportunity to showcase the breadth of services and beauty of the grounds at the conservation area to over 10,000 people over the course of two days, and provides an opportunity for recreation and support of a charitable cause within and beyond the immediate community.



Niagara Peninsula Biolith

At the beginning of Q2, the NPCA was approached by the Canadian Wildlife Federation regarding the possibility of providing a host site for one of the CWF's national-level Bioblitzes. In meeting and with approval by the NPCA ecologist, the event will be taking place at Ball's Falls in August 2019. Strategic Initiatives staff have been working alongside the CWF to support the event and look forward to continuing this work into Q3.



Filming

Over the course of Q2, several inquiries and requests for filming permits at Ball's Falls Conservation Area were received. Many of these have resulted in further site visits and meetings with conservation area Superintendents. Pending approval and permitting, several filming occasions will take place over the third quarter.

Facilities Rentals

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

Ball's Falls Conservation Area continues to be one of the leading wedding venue destinations in the Niagara Region. The area and staff are busy with the full swing of wedding season. The Barn venue is booked for each Friday and Saturday this year. Additionally, most Sunday in 2019 are also booked. Staff focused the second quarter on selling the remaining available dates in 2020, while starting a waitlist for bookings in 2021. Staff are pleased to announce that only two Saturday dates remain available for Barn rentals in 2020. The Glen Elgin venue has been receiving an increase in inquiries as a result. With a coat of fresh paint on the walls in the Glen Elgin room to brighten the space, staff believe this will increase bookings.

The rustic look of the Barn remains on trend with current wedding aesthetics, and staff will continue to capitalize on this by promoting sales for 2020 with the goal of selling out years end. Staff has also observed an increase in Chapel bookings this quarter. The historical Chapel was repainted earlier in this quarter, and many couples viewing the venue have commented on how beautiful it looks.

Interestingly this quarter, St. Catharines Mini dealer hosted a corporate event that was originally booked for the Glen Elgin venue, however with increased interest from clients in this event, the rental was moved to the Barn. The parking lot by the Barn was full of Mini Coopers, making for a great photo opportunity. The company indicated that this event was a huge success, and has already booked a date for next year to secure the Barn.



Ball's Falls Facility Rentals*

	2018	2019	+/- dollars	+/- %
Big Barn	\$55,392	\$53,386	\$2,006	4%
Glen Elgin	\$29,232	\$19,235	\$9,997	34%
Church	\$4,627	\$7,943	\$3,317	72%

Outdoor Ceremonies	\$6,488	\$7,666	\$1,178	18%
Bridal Suite	\$3,025	\$5,421	\$2,396	79%
Total	\$98,762	\$93,651	\$5,112	5%

*(As of June 30, 2019)

While facilities rental sales appear to have decreased during this quarter, staff reflect on the fact that a greater number of sales of the Barn and Glen Elgin venue took place in late 2018 with the return of permanent Customer Relations Representative staff, Therefore, this spring, there were few possible sales that could be made, as most dates had been sold during the previous year.

Thanksgiving Festival Update

Staff have reviewed 329 vendor applications for the 45th Annual Thanksgiving Festival. All 177 accepted Artisans have been contacted and payment deadline was to be received by July 1, 2019. NPCA Staff are well on their way to finalizing all permits for the Festival and Capital Projects to enhance the 45th Annual Thanksgiving Festival.

Programming

Between April and June 2019, over 2,500 students experienced immersive, environmental and historical programming at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. During this peak period for educational programming, NPCA staff ran PD Day camps, assisted with Niagara Children's Water Festival programming, lead daily class trip programs, and hosted nearly 400 overnight campers for the DSBN Outdoor Overnight Adventure program. Including public educational events such as the annual Beamer Memorial Hawkwatch and St. John's Pond Opening, NPCA education staff continued to provide exceptional educational programming to children, youth and adults across the watershed and beyond.

Seasonal Staff Training

Beginning in Q1, seasonal staff applications for Programming positions were analyzed and interviews were held, with a number of students returning to Ball's Falls Conservation Area. Seasonal staff started their roles in delivering education programs, running the weekend gate entrance, and leading historical tours. In-field staff training was held starting in mid-April as staff became available. On May 4th, High-Five Early Childhood Development Training was offered to staff, delivered through Parks and Recreation Ontario. Staff found that this training was very beneficial to their skills development in working with children and youth.

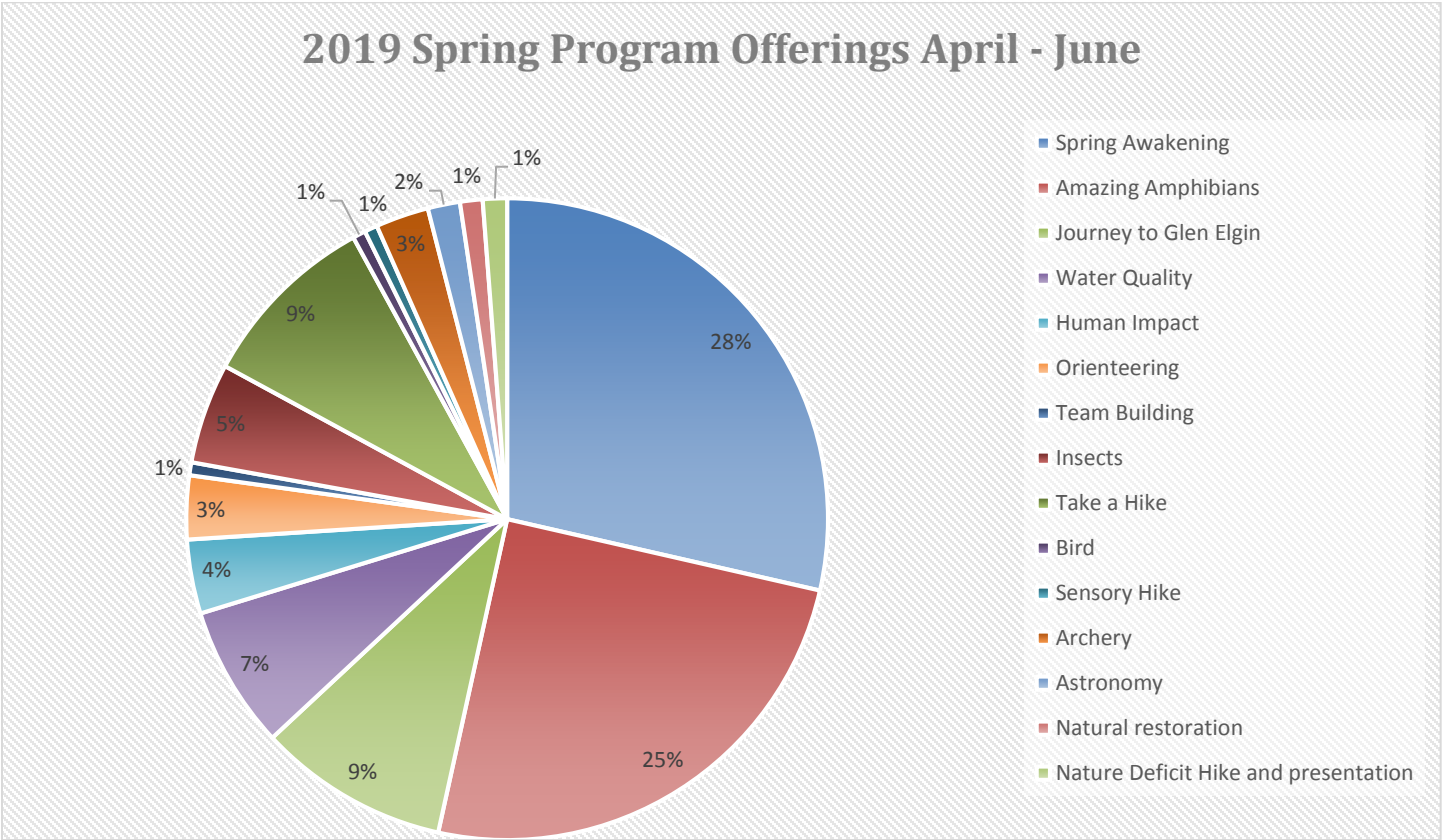
Education Programs

This quarter represents the busiest period for education programming at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. The area and education staff have hosted over 1,800 students attending class trips to Ball's Falls Conservation Area, learning about the history of the site, being immersed in nature, and connecting their actions to impacts on the environment

The most popular program that was attended is our Spring Awakening Program, in which students step back in time 200 years ago and become early settlers. They are tasked with helping with chores to get ready for spring, plowing fields, planting seeds, pumping water, making yarn dolls, and baking bread in our bake oven. This hands-on program is a very popular program with grade 3 teachers as it gives the hands-on early settler experience to complement their lessons on the early settlers in Ontario. 704 students attended the Spring Awakening program this quarter. The second most popular program with 613 students attending is the Amazing Amphibians program. This program immerses students into the world of amphibians. Students learn about their lifecycles, hunt for tadpoles in the pond, and discover salamander habitats in the forest. High school programs have increased in popularity, with the Water Quality program the most popular at this level with 177 students in attendance. This program gives students a glance at what NPCA staff do to monitor water quality, learn how humans impact the water systems, and give hands on experiences in testing the water. Each student tests for: nitrate, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH, and water temperature of the water. They also take benthic samples (macroinvertebrate organisms) and determine the quality of the water based on species and community diversity.



Feedback from teachers have been amazing; they love the hands-on activities, how well it fits into curriculum units, and how knowledgeable staff are. In total, education programming generated \$11,678.55 in the second quarter.



PROGRAM ATTENDANCE, APRIL – JUNE 2019

PROGRAM NAME	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Spring Awakening	704
Amazing Amphibians	613
Journey to Glen Elgin	237
Water Quality	177
Human Impact	92
Orienteering	79
Team Building	16
Insects	125
Take a Hike	225
Birds of Our Forest	16
Sensory Hike	16
Archery	66
Astronomy	40
Natural restoration	28
Nature Deficit Hike and presentation	60
Outdoor Overnight Adventure	372
TOTAL	2,866

PROGRAMMING BY SCHOOL BOARD

Overall, private schools make up most of those schools that attend day programs at Ball's Falls with 688 students this quarter. This is not entirely surprising, given the number of local private schools in the Lincoln area surrounding Ball's Falls. The DSBN follows closely with 680 students attending day programs. When accounting for the students that attended the overnight program this quarter, 1,052 students from within the DSBN attended programs at Ball's Falls, and thus make up most program recipients. This indicates the importance of an ongoing relationship and partnership with the DSBN to ensure the delivery of high-quality, experiential outdoor programming is delivered to local students. Schools from the NCDSB as well as Hamilton schools also attend programs at Ball's Falls, and interestingly this quarter, a school from Simcoe County DSB visited for an overnight program. Smaller special-interest groups also attend programs as part of their Scout or Girl Guide program.

School Board	Number of Students in Day Programs
Other	688
District School Board of Niagara (DSBN)	680
Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB)	120
Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB)	145
Girl Guides	30
Scouts	40
Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB)	40

Outdoor Overnight Adventure Program

This season marked the second year of the NPCA's Outdoor Overnight Adventure Program for grades 5 – 8 with the DSBN held at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. The Overnight program was held over five weeks, from May 27th – June 25th, with nine sessions held on Monday-Tuesday and Wednesday-Thursday with ten different DSBN schools. In total, 372 students attended the program from ten different schools, with over 20 teacher and principal staff, and the inclusion of one service dog. Overall, despite the rainy spring season, the program ran very successfully. Included in this program are a number of recreational, educational and environmental programs led by NPCA staff, and one volunteer organization, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Niagara Centre (RASC). Programs delivered within the Overnight Adventure include: How to Set-Up Your Campsite, Guided Nature Hikes, Introduction to Archery, Team-Building Challenges, Ultimate Capture-the-Flag, Campfire Building, Nighttime Hike, and Biodiversity Discovery led by NPCA staff, and Awesome Astronomy led by RASC volunteers, who provide an indoor presentation on the night sky as well as provide night sky observations through high-power telescopes, sky conditions permitting. The NPCA also provides all snacks and meals for students, and overnight campsite security rounds. This program is a considerable undertaking and is dependent upon strong leadership and exceptional seasonal programs, security and maintenance staff at Ball's Falls Conservation Area.

With 372 students in attendance over the course of the program, the Overnight Adventure generated \$34,500 in revenue. NPCA Strategic Initiatives staff will be meeting with the DSBN's Supervisor of Outdoor Education in July to review this session and confirm dates and school details for both Fall 2019 and Spring 2020. The success of this program is indicated through the ongoing and advance bookings of DSBN schools into 2020. NPCA staff are looking forward to another Fall session this September and October, and to elevating the program to further meet the needs and goals of students and educators within the watershed.





Educational Program Development

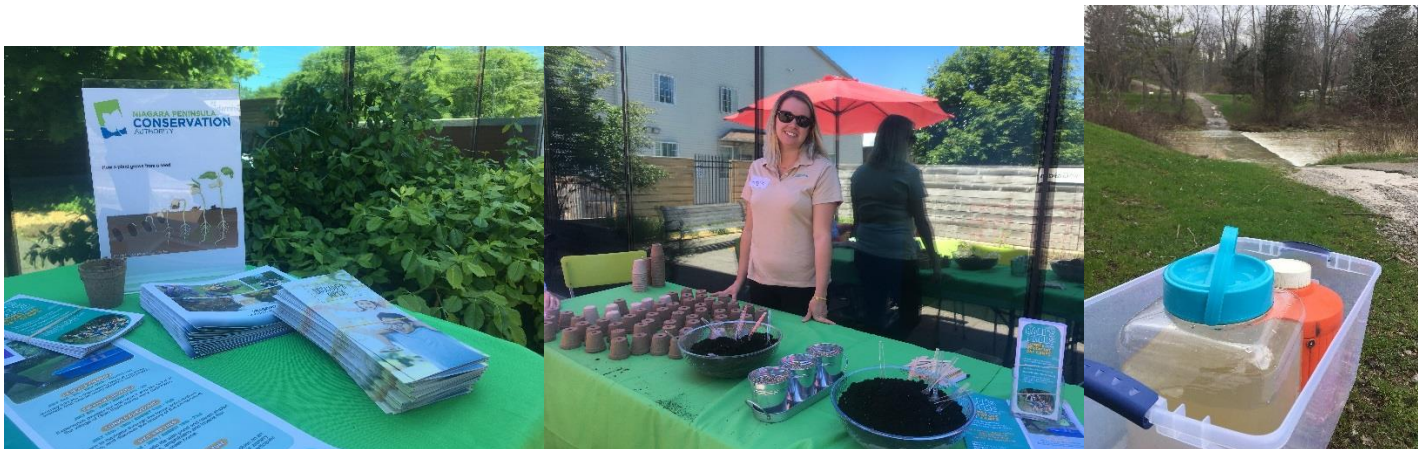
Following a meeting with the Alternative Education Coordinator with the NCDSB, new outdoor programming for intermediate students was an increasing need across the board. NPCA staff offered a pilot overnight program to one grade eight class within the NCDSB, to provide a camping and outdoor programming experience to students. In total, 18 students attended the program in June, and despite rainy weather, very much enjoyed their overnight camping adventure as part of their year-end and graduation celebrations. Follow-up and further development with the NCDSB will take place over Q3 in order to evaluate and modify such programming to suit this board's interests.

Program Bookings

Program bookings for the spring session, Q2, continued up until mid-June, with many educators booking Ball's Falls Conservation Area and programming as a destination for a year-end class trip. Over this quarter, several bookings have been made already for Fall 2019, including four high school class visits for the 'Water Quality' and 'Human Impact' programs. This interest indicates the popularity of NPCA programs, and the desire for educators to book well in advance to secure their preferred date and plan their classroom lessons around their visit to Ball's Falls. This is particularly helpful, as the class visit often represents the culmination of the classroom unit, and a hands-on opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned in class.

Outreach Programs

NPCA education programs have been hitting the road. On Friday, April 26th, NPCA program staff were invited to participate in the DSBN Forest of Reading event at the Meridian Centre in Niagara Falls with a hands-on environmental science workshop for intermediate students. Staff delivered two workshops on the importance of water conservation and preservation, as well as on the work of the Conservation Authority, and led a hands-on science experiment with students on how to build a water purifier. Staff demonstrated the efficacy of the water purifier with actual samples taken from the Twenty Mile Creek at Ball's Falls. NPCA program staff were invited to the new Grimsby Library for the Literacy Fair on June 7th, a PD Day that attracted hundreds of families to visit the new library site and engage in programming and activities that promoted a love for learning and reading. The NPCA offered native seed planting and promoted Summer Outdoor Adventure Day Camp. Looking ahead into Q3, NPCA have been privileged with invitation to participate in a number of outreach opportunities this summer, including education programming at a number of local libraries for their summer programs, an in local seniors' communities and residences. Staff enjoy the opportunity to connect with all members of the watershed in the community, and to demonstrate the work of the NPCA, as well as inspire concern for conservation through community outreach.



Outdoor Education Outreach to Teachers

This spring, Program staff were invited to present to teachers with the DSBN about the importance of outdoor education, how it can have an impact on student learning. The DSBN is interested in seeing more outdoor education as a complimentary component to classroom teaching as it can help with

students that are struggling in the classroom, decrease ADHD symptoms, and increase test scores. Over 60 teachers attended presentation and activities ran at Ball's Falls Conservation Area. Not only were these meaningful opportunities to educate teachers on the benefits of outdoor education, but this also provided an ideal opportunity to showcase the type of outdoor and environmental education that is offered by the NPCA.

Camps

PD DAY CAMP

Two PD Day Camps were held, in May and June, respectively. In May, the PD Day Camp was appropriately themes 'Spring at Glen Elgin', and activities included many of those that students experience during the 'Spring Awakening' education program, such as early settler chores, sowing and planting seeds, churning butter, baking bannock bread, and making pioneer crafts. This day was very well received by parents and campers alike, and was well-attended, with many registrations coming in right up to the PD Day. This indicates that parents are still just discovering the new program options available at Ball's Falls, and with more awareness and promotion, these PD day offerings will become even more popular with local families.

The second PD Day camp this quarter, was the 'Pollinator Playday' held in early June, in which campers were immersed in the world of insects and pollinators, having the opportunity to make a significant impact at Ball's Falls with the planting of a native-plant pollinator garden. This activity was led by the Community Outreach Coordinator, and included the campers getting hands-on and planting native plants, and seed bombs in a new pollinator bed located in the historic village. Pollinator Playday activities also saw NPCA volunteer and beekeeping intern lead hands-on honey bee education programming with the campers, including a honey taste-test and an opportunity to see a real hive. With growing interest in the PD Day Adventure Camp program, staff will continue to offer PD Day programming this fall, and into the 2019/2020 school year.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Planning for Ball's Falls Summer Adventure Day Camp took place over the second quarter, with seasonal staff taking on planning roles in their interest areas. While registration opened in March, the vast majority of registrations come in over the second quarter as families finalize their summer plans. Ball's Falls day camp operates as a small group day camp, previously reaching capacity at 24 campers, with a staff to camper ratio of 1:8. Due to increasing demand, and with the support of additional staff capacities, this summer will see the camp grow to a total of 32 campers per day at the maximum, with accompanying staff ratio. By the end of Q2, many camp weeks had sold out, including: both July and August weeks of the 'Summer Survivor' theme, July's 'Wet and Wild' week, and, as expected, the final week of camp, 'Ultimate Adventure.' Programming staff are looking forward to an active and adventurous summer of day camp, and to meeting new campers.

Programs Summary

In summary, Spring 2019 has been the most successful and engaging quarter to date for Programs, with NPCA staff providing a greater number of outdoor, environmental, historic and recreational programming, to more students from a broader range of grade levels than ever before. This achievement and the capacity to succeed was supported by NPCA staff from across the organization, volunteers and community partners. The momentum coming from this quarter carries NPCA program staff into another busy summer season of Day Camp, travelling programming, and camp field trips to Ball's Falls!

Operations

Financials

Due to the significant amount of rainfall revenues were slightly down in Q2. Early signs of good weather in late June saw record amounts of revenue and staff believe July and August will see record breaking revenue numbers

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

Operations and Capital

Ball's Falls Conservation Area saw a substantial amount of rainfall in Q2. As majestic as it made the lower and upper falls on the property staff were challenged to meet NPCA standards for the beginning of wedding season. The Water Festival that was held from May 7th to 10th also created several operational challenges. The amount of rain with the amount of foot traffic during that week left the park in an unfavourable condition. The nicer weather in late June has finally allowed the property to meet staff standards. Staff are responsible for a variety of capital projects in 2019. The Furry Cabin and Church historical restoration were completed this quarter. An additional roadway from 7th Ave, wifi upgrade to main park, and Thanksgiving Festival ticket booths were all initiated in Q2.



Binbrook Conservation Area

Special Events

Annual Binbrook Panfish Derby

On Saturday May 11th, the Glanbrook Conservation Committee (GCC) hosted yet another successful spring derby. Prizes were awarded to the single heaviest panfish for both Adults and Children under 12. Door prizes, 50/50 draw and a lunch BBQ were also available to all participants. In conjunction with this event, the Glanbrook Conservation Committee had also made arrangements for a number of inner-city kids to be brought to the area in coordination with the Eva Rothwell Centre of Hamilton. The GCC provided these kids with an introduction to fishing lead by a number of committee volunteers.

Society for Creative Anachronism

From Thursday June 6th – Sunday June 9th, hundreds of members of this medieval re-enactment group were in attendance to demonstrate their skills. Archery, axe-throwing and jousting were just a few of the events on display to the general public.



Scouts

Once again, Binbrook Conservation Area has accommodated a variety of local scouting organizations over this quarter including 31st Hamilton, 88th Hamilton, and Binbrook 1st. Collectively, they offer a unique set of outdoor experiences including camping, hiking and canoeing for hundreds of local children.



Upcoming Events

Perseids Meteor Shower

Hosted by the Hamilton Amateur Astronomers, this will be an opportunity for all local residents to enjoy a close look at the night sky and take in this annual astronomical phenomenon beginning at dusk on Friday August 9th. Overnight camping will be made available to those interested.

Annual Movie Night

This year's feature 'Jaws' will take place at dusk on Saturday August 10th on the beachfront as viewers will enjoy the thrills of this classic feature while in the waters of Lake Niapenco. Overnight camping will again be made available to those interested.

Staff Training

Select student staff members had the opportunity to attend a three-day 'Open Water' certification course delivered by a representative of the National Lifesaving Society of Canada. This is an initiative to help provide greater assistance to members of the public in the event of a water-related emergency.

Area Tenants

At this point, all area tenants are now up and running including BoarderPass Canada (Cable Wakeboarding), Staycation Rentals (yoga and watercraft rentals), FunSplash (Inflatable Water Park) and Treetop Trekking (aerial ziplining and outdoor adventure). Collectively, they provide a variety of products and services, making Binbrook Conservation Area and popular destination.

Capital Project Updates

Treetop Trekking Building and Amenities/Parking – all amenities including hydro, water and parking have been completed as per the tenant agreement. Drawings for the permanent build are near completion at which time they will be subject to permitting by the City of Hamilton. A new tractor purchase, additional parking and water treatment improvements have all been initiated and projected to be complete by year end.

Binbrook Services

NPCA continues to partner with different companies to offer a variety recreational programs and services at Binbrook Conservation Area. Recreational services include Boarder Pass Canada who offer wakeboarding, Staycation Rentals who offer a variety of boat rentals and PT Water Sports who operate an inflatable water park on Lake Niapenco. Treetop Trekking officially launched on May 17th. NPCA staff had the pleasure of attending the opening and were extremely impressed with the product. Treetop will be a major piece in the future success of the park. Treetop Trekking staff have been in weekly communication with NPCA staff and have nothing but positive things to say regarding Binbrook staff cooperation and early revenue numbers. NPCA staff believe Treetop Trekking is one of

the final pieces to the property that will elevate Binbrook Conservation Area to one of the top recreational properties in Ontario.



Campgrounds: Chippawa Creek Conservation Area and Long Beach Conservation Area

Facilities and Booking Updates

In preparing to open for the season, the water systems at both sites were charged and all water lines and facilities were inspected for leaks. Sewage pumps were also tested for defects before the park opened. All public-access sites were prepared for park opening with the assistance of seasonal staff.

Since opening earlier in the quarter, general campground maintenance has been a challenge due to the rainy weather this year, staff continues to do remedial work on sites daily.

Long Beach is currently at capacity with 125 campers, representing the most seasonal camper bookings that Long Beach has ever had. Chippawa Creek campgrounds have 97 seasonal camper this season.

Campground Events

Both Chippawa and Long Beach hosted 'Welcome Back' BBQs for seasonal campers this past quarter, this is one way that staff show appreciation to seasonal campers for their patronage.

Long Beach also hosted Music Depot's children's concert on June 22nd, this event showcases students of all ages demonstrating their musical talents.

Upcoming Events

Long Beach staff continued to prepare over Q2 for the 9th Annual Bolerama weekend. The Ontario Bolerama is having the 19th gathering of this light weight molded fiberglass camping trailer style. Their theme this year is "**Wheel Appeal**". From when they first met in Earlton Ontario in 2001, every year they have gathered together and enjoyed a community camping experience. This year will be

the ninth gathering at the Long Beach Conservation Area. This is an informal group from all around Canada and the USA that enjoys camping in Bolerama trailers.

Capital Project Updates

The electrical upgrade capital project was completed at Long Beach at both the north inner loop, and the southwest lakeside locations, including 30-amp service to 23 campsites. The sewer pipe replacement capital project was completed during this quarter at Long Beach. This included supplying and installing new sewer pipes to the lagoon. The lagoon valve project is ongoing at Long Beach, with water being drained from Cell 1, and biosolid transfer being completed over Q2. In the next quarter biosolids will be removed from the conservation area. Over this quarter, staff at Chippawa Creek began gathering quotes for a new Ccstern and beach sand.

Conservation Areas Ecology

Beamer Memorial Conservation Area

Another Hawkwatch season has been completed at the site by the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Group (NPH). In addition, this year the NPCA helped host the annual Good Friday Hawkwatch Open House on April 19. This event provided educational information and awareness of raptor birds annual migration, habitat use, and population gauge/ insight on the health of our environment. Hawk Talks, bird identification, and bird counting information were presented by the NPH; resource information provided by area naturalist group displays; live bird demonstration by Canadian Raptor Conservancy on various raptor, identification, habitat, food and biology; a children program by Nature Tours; food vendor by R.J. Catering; in addition to NPCA site, program and service information by NPCA staff.

Binbrook Conservation Area

Further to the requirements of the Environmental Impact Study and City of Hamilton policies, the environmental monitoring plan for Treetop Trekking is underway by NPCA staff. This plan is specific to the development area to assess potential invasive species, tree and understory health/disturbance and litter over the first five years of the activity's operation. From this data a report will be submitted to the City of Hamilton in year 1, 3 and 5 of the activity's operation. Monitoring begins in 2019.



Cave Springs Conservation Area

Bat acoustic monitors remain at the site until mid-late October for monitoring of bat movements throughout the site and comparison with other areas in the peninsula. It will also be used to assist the NPCA in refining seasonal site use and critical habitat areas for protection and consideration in site management activities at the site. This data is being compiled by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Peterborough and will be available in late 2019.



St. Johns Conservation Area

The trout pond and fishing season opened at the site on Saturday April 27, at noon. Approximately 150 people attended the opening event. Along with fishing, site visitors were able to experience fly fishing demonstrations and obtain information from Trout Limited Canada's local chapter; learn of site trails and NPCA organization's programs and services; as well as, partake in free face painting, and local foods from the on-site catering truck.

Long Beach Johns Conservation Area

As part of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) plant protection mandate, inventories are completed on Hemlock tree populations throughout Ontario to determine the presence of an insect known as the 'Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)'. This insect is an aphid which feeds on the sap of the tree causing decline and death to the tree species. During the CFIA inventories they found a positive population at the Long Beach Conservation Area and adjoining property to the north. To help reduce the potential spread of this insect, no plant parts are to be removed from the site, and signs will be posted by NPCA staff at the woodlot trail entrances on biosecurity measures to lint roll and wash clothes, and not visit other hemlock locations for over a week.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Morgan's Point Conservation Area

In late May, Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) plants were planted at the site to help augment the lost plants from the previous years of phytoplasma. This additional planting will assist in continuing to provide habitat for the Monarch butterfly, known to inhabit the site and congregate in the fall at site, using the site as a migratory stopover before their flight south.



Common Milkweed

Smith Ness Conservation Area

On May 29, the site bird prairie planting was augmented with additional tall grass species. These included Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) and Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) to help provide such limited habitat required for the Eastern meadowlark and Bobolink bird species.

Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area

- a) No fires concerns have been reported or observed to date this year. As further fire prevention/monitoring, site conditions of soil moisture and temperature conditions at the Wainfleet Bog are reviewed by NPCA staff. In addition, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Haliburton information on lightning strikes. In this quarter, no positive lightning strikes have been recorded in the area, and the NPCA weather station indicates monitoring soil moisture of 75% at the 10cm, 20 cm and 50cm layers, with the 'Fire Weather Index Risk Class' to be low (0-3).
- b) Water well data is part of the on-going monitoring at the site for site restoration. Replacement of data loggers and several wells has been delayed due to wet site conditions, accessibility and human resource limitations. Work is scheduled to be completed in July/August by NPCA staff. These data loggers are installed to minimize access to these more limited areas, and as a result, NPCA staff will only need to access and download this information every 3-6 months as opposed to monthly.



Well and Data logger

Wainfleet Wetlands Conservation Area

Monitoring of the site continues, with an inventory of the quarries vegetation and water quality being conducted by staff. This information establishes baseline information of existing conditions and habitat, as well as monitoring any changes. From this information restoration or management activities are determined and implemented as deemed necessary. No significant changes were observed in the quarry inventory between 2007 and 2019.

Woodend Conservation Area

Forest understorey has been impacted with the loss of saplings, shrub, and herbaceous layers at the site. Staff has developed a restoration plan to restore the area including planting with fencing exclosures. Schedule work date is October 3. Planting opportunities have been extended to the District School Board of Niagara with their onsite program to assist in site stewardship.

Other Conservation Area Ecological Activity

NPCA Hunting Program

a) General: Hunting Permits

There were 107 NPCA Hunting Permits issued for NPCA hunting areas during this quarter for 2019 for a total of 204 issued Hunting Permits. Of these 50 individuals are residents from outside the NPCA administrative watershed area.

In comparison to the previous year for the same time (first quarter in 2018),

- 57% increase from the same quarter/timeframe in 2018.
- monies generated from hunting permits during this quarter is \$4280, for a total of \$8,160 in 2019.

b) 2019 NPCA Controlled Waterfowl Hunting Program

The 2019 Waterfowl Hunting Lottery applications are now available on line, and have been mailed to past and existing site hunters. The lottery is for obtaining a hunting blind within the first two weeks of the hunting season at the sites. In addition, Binbrook CA a lottery for Blind #5 for the entire season, to provide equal opportunity in obtaining this popular blind. New this year, is one less hunting blind at each site, due to vegetation accessibility difficulties at Mud Lake Conservation Area and to reduce proximity to day use areas at Binbrook Conservation Area.

Geocache

One geocache was received during this quarter of 2019. The review found the proposed location to not be within our property boundaries and therefore no applicable.

External Research Permits on CA Lands

- a) A revised proposal for multiple research items in the Wainfleet Bog related to habitat was received. Staff is reviewing the proposal as it relates to the site management plan, resources, and ensuring consistency with existing activities and research.
- b) Niagara College has relocated their bee hives and associated program use, to the mid north portion of Woodend Conservation Area in the interim of their site greenhouse construction. Permission was granted through 2021.

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: 2019 Q2 Capital Projects Update

Report No: FA-87-19

Date: July 17, 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the 2019 Q2 Capital Projects update Report No. FA-87-19 **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Report is to provide Board members with a quarterly report on the 2019 Capital Projects.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

A detailed Projects Report is attached as Appendix 1.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial totals are for monies already spent or monies committed to be spent, that may not have been processed at the time of the writing of this report.

RELATED REPORTS AND APPENDICES:

1. Appendix 1: Updated 2019 Capital Projects Report

Authored by:

Original Signed by

Lise Gagnon, CPA, CGA
Director, Corporate Services

Original Signed by

Adam Christie
Acting Senior Manager of Operations
and Special Projects

Submitted by:

Original Signed by

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMM III
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority - 2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Asset Class	SAGE Acct #	Location/Site	Project Name	Fiscal Year	Class'n	Status	Approved Budget 2019	Revised Forecast 2019	YTD Spend June 2019
Building	8018-633	Ball's Falls	Historical Building Restoration and Improvements	2019	Land	In Progress	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	
Building	8019-633	Ball's Falls	Thanksgiving Festival Ticket Booths	2019	Land	In Progress	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	13,473
Building	8020-633	Ball's Falls	Interpretive / Education Facility Upgrades	2019	Land	In Progress	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	3,917
Equipment	8021-633	Ball's Falls	Wifi Boosting	2019	Land	In Progress	\$14,000.00	\$25,000.00	
Land Improvement	8022-633	Ball's Falls	Additional Roadway from 7th Ave into Park	2019	Land	In Progress	\$75,000.00	\$34,610.00	
Building	8023-633	Ball's Falls	Insulate and Heat Workshop	2019	Land	Complete	\$15,665.00	\$15,150.00	15,150
Equipment	8117-603	Binbrook	Tractor	2019	Land	In Progress	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	
Land Improvement	8118-603	Binbrook	Parking Capacity (Main Park)	2019	Land	Not Focused	\$95,000.00	\$95,000.00	
Land Improvement	8119-603	Binbrook	New Entrance (Plan/Permit)	2019	Land	Eliminated	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	
Equipment	8120-603	Binbrook	Water Tank and Equipment	2019	Land	Not Focused	\$30,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Land Improvement	8121-603	Binbrook	Treetop Trekking Building & Amenities	2019	Land	In Progress	\$150,000.00	\$168,455.00	69,090
Land Improvement	8122-603	Binbrook	Treetop Trekking Parking	2019	Land	Eliminated	\$18,455.00	\$0.00	2,029
Equipment	8310-609	Chippawa Creek	Water Capacity Cistern and Plumbing	2019	Land	Not Focused	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	4,766
Land Improvement	8311-609	Chippawa Creek	Beach Sand	2019	Land	Eliminated	\$8,000.00	\$0.00	
Equipment	8312-609	Chippawa Creek	Washer and Dryer	2019	Land	Eliminated	\$4,186.00	\$0.00	
Building	8228-643	Central Workshop	Gainsborough Drive Shed Roof Replacement	2019	Land	In Progress	\$35,000.00	\$16,793.00	
Equipment	8229-643	Central Workshop	New Mower	2019	Land	Complete	\$38,000.00	\$31,626.00	
Land Improvement	8230-643	Central Workshop	Gainsborough Compound Fence	2019	Land	In Progress	\$25,000.00	\$7,500.00	5,902
Building	8231-643	Central Workshop	Morgan's Point Comfort Station Renovation	2019	Land	Eliminated	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	
Equipment	8232-643	Central Workshop	Gainsborough Potable Water System	2019	Land	Eliminated	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	
Building	8233-643	Central Workshop	Morgan's Point Pavilion	2019	Land	Eliminated	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	
Land Improvement	8234-643	Central Workshop	St. John's Corner Dock Replacement	2019	Land	In Progress	\$40,000.00	\$13,600.00	
Equipment	8235-643	Central Workshop	Picnic Tables - All CA Properties	2019	Land	In Progress	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	
Equipment	8236-643	Central Workshop	Waste and Recycling Containers	2019	Land	In Progress	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
Land Improvement	8237-643	Central Workshop	New Park Signage	2019	Land	In Progress	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	720
Land Improvement	8238-643	Central Workshop	Ash Tree Removal	2019	Land	In Progress	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	14,806
Equipment	8239-643	Central Workshop	Double Walled Diesel tank and accessories	2019	Land	In Progress	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	
Land Improvement	8240-643	Central Workshop	Jordan Harbour Flag Pole	2019	Land	Complete	\$7,500.00	\$4,333.00	4,034
	8413-611	Long Beach		2018	Land				96,876
Land Improvement	8415-611	Long Beach	Sewer Pipe Replacement	2019	Land	In Progress	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	69,187
Building	8416-611	Long Beach	North Side Comfort Station Renovations	2019	Land	In Progress	\$75,000.00	\$250,000.00	
Building	8417-611	Long Beach	North Playground and Shade Structure	2019	Land	Deferred	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority - 2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Asset Class	SAGE Acct #	Location/Site	Project Name	Fiscal Year	Class'n	Status	Approved Budget 2019	Revised Forecast 2019	YTD Spend June 2019
Land Improvement	8418-611	Long Beach	Park Road Upgrades	2019	Land	Not Initiated	\$65,000.00	\$75,000.00	
Building	8419-611	Long Beach	Cabins Pilot Revenue Generator	2019	Land	Eliminated	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	
Building	8009-633	Ball's Falls	Septic System Replacement	2018	Land	In Progress	\$70,000.00	\$78,500.00	1,425
Building	8011-633	Ball's Falls	Refurbish Big Barn and Field Centre (Scoping)	2018	Land	In Progress	\$25,000.00	\$5,000.00	
Building	8012-633	Ball's Falls	St. George's Church Upgrades	2018	Land	Complete	\$45,000.00	\$47,000.00	
Building	8013-633	Ball's Falls	Centre for Conservation Upgrades	2018	Land	Complete	\$50,201.00	\$48,644.00	4,514
Building	8014-633	Ball's Falls	Fury Cabin Refurbishments	2018	Land	Complete	\$40,000.00	\$49,000.00	
Equipment	8017-633	Ball's Falls	Monitoring Well - CFC Septic	2018	Water	Complete	\$8,000.00	\$2,544.00	
Land Improvement	8114-603	Blinbrook	Hazard Tree Removal	2018	Land	Eliminated	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	
Land Improvement	8114-603	Blinbrook	Tree Planting	2018	Land	Not Initiated	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
Land Improvement	8223-643	Central Workshop	Tree Removal and Landscaping	2018	Land	Eliminated	\$150,000.00	\$0.00	
Land Improvement	8227-643	Central Workshop	Wainfleet Wetlands Parking Lot	2018	Land	In Progress	\$15,000.00	\$12,000.00	
Building	8307-609	Chippawa Creek	Main Washroom Renovation	2018	Land	Complete	\$75,000.00	\$48,038.00	
Land Improvement	8412-611	Long Beach	Lagoon Project	2018	Land	In Progress	\$150,000.00	\$75,000.00	10,405
Land Improvement	8506-613	Ecology	Red Mulberry/Perch Culvert/Brook Trout	2018	Land	Eliminated	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	
Land Improvement	8507-613	Ecology	Fowler Toad Habitat	2018	Land	Eliminated	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	
Equipment	8615-677	IT	Annual Computer Replacement	2019	Corp Res	In Progress	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	34,406
Equipment	8616-677	IT	Firewall	2019	Corp Res	In Progress	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	
Equipment	8706-673	All Departments	Office Furnishings	2019	Corp Res	In Progress	\$38,000.00	\$38,000.00	900
Equipment	8824-681	Watershed	Water Quality Loggers	2019	Water	In Progress	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	
Equipment	8825-681	Watershed	T.C Water Level Loggers	2019	Water	In Progress	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
Equipment	8826-681	Watershed	Groundwater Instrumentation	2019	Water	In Progress	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
Equipment	8827-681	Watershed	Telemetry & Sensors	2019	Water	In Progress	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Equipment	8828-681	Watershed	Survey / Leveling Equipment	2019	Water	In Progress	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
						TOTAL	2,318,507	1,812,293	351,599

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NPCA)
AUDIT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 26, 2019
9:30 a.m.
Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation
Glen Elgin Room
3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON

MEMBERS PRESENT: G. Zalepa, Committee Chair
S. Beattie
D. Bylsma (ex-officio)
J. Metcalfe
B. Wright

MEMBERS ABSENT: R. Foster
D. Huson (ex-officio)
B. Steele

OTHERS:

STAFF PRESENT: G. Wood, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
G. Bivol, Interim Clerk
A. Christie, Manager Strategic Initiatives and Capital Assets
L. Gagnon, Director Corporate Services
D. MacKenzie, Director, Watershed Management

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and thanked Councillor Metcalfe for chairing the last meeting on his behalf.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

1.1 Addition of Items – None.

1.2 Change in Order of Items – None.

1.3 Motion to Adopt Agenda

Recommendation No. A&BC 13-19

Moved by Board Member Bylsma

Seconded by Board Member Metcalfe

THAT the NPCA Audit and Budget Committee agenda dated June 26, 2019 be adopted.
CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS (and/or Delegations)

3.1 Presentation – 2020 Budget Assumption

The Interim Chief Administrative Officer introduced a new addition to NPCA staff, Lise Gagnon, Director of Corporate Services. Lise Gagnon presented via PowerPoint the 2020 Budget Assumption.

Conservation Lands operating costs/revenues and mandatory programs funding were discussed. Difference in budget timeline relative to Provincial timeline. A 1% increase in budget equals \$80,000.

Budget presentations to councils from Conservation Authorities are never consistent. It was suggested that a memo be circulated to 12 municipalities asking for levy to be included in tax bill.

4. BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION

There were no items for information.

5. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

A) Minutes of the Audit and Budget Committee Meeting dated April 15, 2019.

Resolution No. A&BC 14-19

Moved by Board Member Bylsma

Seconded by Board Member Metcalfe

THAT the minutes of the Audit and Budget Committee meeting dated April 15, 2019 be adopted.

CARRIED

B) Report No. A&BC-04-19 RE: Report on 2020 Budget Assumptions

Resolution of Report No. A&BC-15-19

Moved by Board Member Beattie

Seconded by Board Member Metcalfe

THAT Report No. A&BC-04-19 regarding the recommended budget assumptions for the 2020 budget, be approved for use in the development of the 2020 Budget, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

CARRIED

Direction to staff was that the Interim Chief Administrative Officer to present to the Audit & Budget Committee in the future:

- Capital Budget
 - Strategic Plan
 - Business cases
 - Additional significant programs
 - Foreseeable future legal costs
 - Special levy requests

Of the \$1.6 million withdrawn from the Niagara Region: \$500,000 was withdrawn from land acquisition and \$1.1 million was withdrawn from capital programs.

The Interim Chief Administrative Officer advised that a meeting has been set with Todd Harrison, a commissioner at Niagara Region.

6. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business items.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation No. A&BC-16-19
Moved by Board Member Metcalfe
Seconded by Board Member Beattie

THAT the NPCA Audit and Budget Committee be hereby adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

CARRIED

G. Zalepa,
Committee Chair

Grant Bivol,
Interim Clerk to the Authority



**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, June 27, 2019

5:30 p.m.

**Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation
Glen Elgin Room
3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON**

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Bylsma, Committee Chair
D. Dick
H. Korosis
D. Pont

MEMBERS ABSENT: J. Ariens
Y. Hopkins
A. Kirby
S. Stea

STAFF PRESENT: G. Wood, C.A.O. Secretary – Treasurer
G. Bivol, Interim Clerk

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The C.A.O., Gayle Wood was asked informally to speak to the issue of phragmites under the Chief Administrative Officer Comments portion of the meeting.

Recommendation No. PAC-01-19

Moved by Member Pont

Seconded by Member Dick

THAT the agenda for the meeting of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee dated June 27, 2019 meeting **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations or delegations at the meeting.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- a) Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee – November 29, 2018

Recommendation No. PAC-02-19

Moved by Member Korosis

Seconded by Member Dick

THAT the minutes of the Public Advisory Committee meeting dated November 29, 2018
BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

- b) Chair's Remarks

The Chair opted to forgo remarks to allow Ms. Wood additional opportunity to speak.

- c) Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Ms. Wood introduced herself and spoke to the issue of the reinstituted NPCA restoration program and opportunities to partner with other organizations to combat the phragmites issue. Mr. Dick spoke to initiatives by the group in Niagara-on-the Lake and its desire to have the NPCA participate in its initiatives to eliminate phragmites. Discussion ensued and Ms. Wood indicated that she would follow-up on the matter.

5. BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION

- a) NPCA Board Report No. FA-51-19 RE: NPCA Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

Recommendation No. PAC-03-19

Moved by Member Korosis

Seconded by Member Dick

THAT NPCA Board Report No. FA-51-19 RE: NPCA Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
BE RECEIVED for information.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a) Proposed Draft NPCA PAC Terms of Reference

Discussion ensued with respect to the need to include provisions for the determination of quorum, membership, mandate and the number of projects to be endorsed annually.

b) Consideration of New PAC Members and process to select them

Discussion ensued with regards to the need for participation on the Committee from the development sector, homeowner's associations, agricultural representation from both above and below the escarpment and indigenous representation. The Committee asked to be circulated NPCA Board agendas and discussed the use of social media to solicit community involvement. Ms. Wood spoke to public consultation and PAC involvement in the 2020 budget projects and in development of a new strategic plan. Mr. Pont spoke on assistance the Committee may offer in endorsing priority projects and Mr. Dick spoke to the need for the NPCA to have project successes as a means of restoring public faith in the NPCA.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The PAC discussed dates and times for subsequent meetings. Ms. Royer was requested to poll members for a September meeting date.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation No. PAC-04-19

Moved by Member Pont

Seconded by Member Korosis

THAT this meeting of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee be hereby adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

CARRIED

Dave Bylsma
Public Advisory Committee Chair

Grant Bivol
Interim Clerk



**CAO SELECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, June 28, 2019

11:42 a.m.

**Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation
Glen Elgin Room
3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON**

MEMBERS PRESENT: B. Steele, Committee Chair
S. Beattie
D. Bylsma
R. Foster
D. Huson
B. Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: G. Bivol, Clerk

OTHERS: P. Rowan, Feldman Daxon Partners, Inc.

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 11:42 a.m. immediately following the Special Full Authority Meeting of the NPCA Board of Directors.

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- a) Addition of Items
There were no additional items added to the agenda.
- b) Change in Order of Items
There were no changes in the order of items.
- c) Motion to Adopt Agenda
Recommendation No. SC- 23-19
Moved by Member Bylsma
Seconded by Member Johnson

THAT the agenda CAO Selection Committee agenda meeting of June 28, 2019
BE hereby **ADOPTED** as presented.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. CLOSED SESSION

- a) Motion to move into Closed Session - Discussion with Patrick Rowan, Feldman Daxon, Partners, Inc. relating to the CAO recruitment process.

Recommendation No. SC-24-19

Moved by Member Johnson

Seconded by Member Bylsma

THAT the meeting of the CAO Selection Committee for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **CONVENE** in closed session at 11:44 a.m. in accordance with Section 11.1 b) of the NPCA Administrative By-Law for consideration of personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; as it relates to the CAO recruitment process.

CARRIED

- b) Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

Recommendation No. SC-25-19

Moved by Member Bylsma

Seconded by Member Huson

THAT the CAO Selection Committee meeting hereby **RECONVENE** in open session at 12:48 p.m.

CARRIED

- c) Business Arising from the Closed Session

Recommendation No. SC-26-19

Moved by Member Huson

Seconded by Member Bylsma

THAT the documentation package submitted by Patrick Rowan, Feldman Daxon Partners, Inc. **BE RECEIVED** to remain private and confidential.

CARRIED

Recommendation No. SC-27-19

Moved by Member Beattie

Seconded by Member Foster

THAT the C.A.O. Selection Committee directs Mr. Steele to **PROCEED** as instructed in the closed session.

CARRIED

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Recommendation No. SC-28-19

Moved by Member Foster

Seconded by Member Beattie

THAT the CAO Selection Committee Meeting for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **BE** hereby **ADJOURNED** at 12:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Bill Steele
CAO Selection Committee Chair

Grant Bivol
Interim Clerk

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: NPCA Section 28 Permit Signatory Delegation

Report No: FA-61-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

1. That Report No. FA-61-19 RE: NPCA Section 28 Permit Signatory Delegation **BE RECEIVED** for consideration and;
2. That the Board **APPROVE** the Director, Watershed Management be an additional signatory on Section 28 work permits.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to obtain Board approval to allow the Director, Watershed Management to be a signing authority, in addition to the CAO/Secretary Treasurer, on Section 28 work permits that meet the NPCA policies.

Background:

Section 28(1) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, allows for the authority, subject to the approval of the Minister, to make regulations applicable in the area under its jurisdiction. For NPCA, this regulation is Ontario Regulation 155/06: Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses. To allow for works within these regulated areas, Conservation Authorities issue conditional permission as per Section 28(3) of the Act, in the form of work permits, if they are consistent with NPCA policies.

The signing authorization regarding permit issuance is outlined in Section 28(2) of the Act as it states:

“A regulation made under subsection (1) may delegate any of the authority’s powers or duties under the regulation to the authority’s executive committee or to any other person or body, subject to any limitations and requirements that may be set out in the regulation. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 12.”

Currently, the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer has the delegated authority to sign the Section 28 work permits. Section 28(1-3) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27, is appended to this report.

Discussion:

To ensure NPCA meets permit review timelines, as prescribed by the province, and to provide a client-centric focus on a timely issuance of permits, the ability to delegate additional identified individuals to sign the work permit is essential. This ensures that there would not be a delay in issuing of the permit.

It is important to note that any permit application that is not consistent with NPCA policy will be referred to the Board of Directors for a Hearing and decision, should the applicant wish. NPCA staff will only sign permits that are consistent with policy.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Appendix:

Appendix 1: Section 28(1-3) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27

Authored by:**Original Signed by**

Darren MacKenzie, C.Tech., rcsi
Director, Watershed Management

Submitted by:**Original Signed by**

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Appendix 1: Section 28(1-3) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27

Regulations by authority re area under its jurisdiction

28 (1) Subject to the approval of the Minister, an authority may make regulations applicable in the area under its jurisdiction,

- (a) restricting and regulating the use of water in or from rivers, streams, inland lakes, ponds, wetlands and natural or artificially constructed depressions in rivers or streams;
- (b) prohibiting, regulating or requiring the permission of the authority for straightening, changing, diverting or interfering in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse, or for changing or interfering in any way with a wetland;
- (c) prohibiting, regulating or requiring the permission of the authority for development if, in the opinion of the authority, the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or pollution or the conservation of land may be affected by the development;
- (d) providing for the appointment of officers to enforce any regulation made under this section or section 29;
- (e) providing for the appointment of persons to act as officers with all of the powers and duties of officers to enforce any regulation made under this section. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 12.

Delegation of powers

(2) A regulation made under subsection (1) may delegate any of the authority's powers or duties under the regulation to the authority's executive committee or to any other person or body, subject to any limitations and requirements that may be set out in the regulation. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 12.

Conditional permission

(3) A regulation made under clause (1) (b) or (c) may provide for permission to be granted subject to conditions and for the cancellation of the permission if conditions are not met. 1998, c. 18, Sched. I, s. 12.

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Welland River Floodplain Mapping Peer Review Request

Report No: FA-76-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

1. That Report No. FA-76-19 RE: Welland River Floodplain Mapping Peer Review Request **BE RECEIVED** for consideration and;
2. That the Board **APPROVE** NPCA staff recommendation that a Peer Review of the WSP 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update – Final Draft' report is not required.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to respond to the Board's June 19, 2019 request to evaluate the merits of undertaking a Peer Review of the 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update – Final Draft' report.

Background:

Comprehensive floodplain mapping for the Welland River was first completed in 1985. In 2015, as part of the NPCA's floodplain mapping update program, the NPCA contracted The MMM Group, a firm with known expertise in floodplain modelling, to re-analyze and remap the floodplain of the Welland River extending from the Binbrook Dam in Hamilton to the Niagara River. Please refer to Appendix 1 - Welland River Watershed: Main Branch, Binbrook Dam to Niagara River.

Some of the primary benefits of undertaking new floodplain mapping along the Welland River included:

- Addressing the widespread concerns regarding the reliability and validity of the 2010 Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update report.
- Allowing for extensive public consultation and engagement in order to address concerns that the 2010 Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update was not undertaken in an open and transparent manner.
- Requiring the selected consultant to provide additional independent analysis and rationale regarding:
 - The impacts of the Welland Canal siphons and Ontario Power Generation operations on the 100-year floodplain;

- The selection and utilization of an appropriate design storm for the watershed; and
- The selection and utilization of appropriate hydrologic and hydraulic models for the main branch of the Welland River.

With respect to the credibility of The MMM Group, it is noted that Public Safety Canada had retained The MMM Group to develop the 'National Floodplain Management Framework' (June 2014, Executive Summary attached). In addition, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) had retained The MMM Group in 2014 to develop the 'Provincial Floodplain Management Terms of Reference'.

The NPCA notes that in 2015, WSP Limited had purchased The MMM Group and in May 2017 the MMM Group formally changed its name to WSP Canada Group Limited. In Canada, WSP is one of the largest professional engineering firms with over 7,800 employees providing a broad range of engineering services to both the public and private sectors.

Discussion:

At the June 19, 2019 NPCA Board of Director's meeting, staff were directed to review the merits of having WSP's 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update - Final Draft' report sent out for a Peer Review (by a suitably qualified independent professional engineering firm). The purpose of a Peer Review in this instance would be to ensure that the subject floodplain mapping study meets all applicable Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's technical guidelines for the generation of hazard mapping.

NPCA staff would note that the WSP Canada Group's project team is led by Mr. Steven Van Haren, P.Eng., WSP's Manager of Land Development Infrastructure. Mr. Van Haren has over 25 years of experience in the field of water resources engineering and floodplain mapping. Mr. Van Haren will be professionally stamping and signing the finalized report.

The NPCA's Technical Project Lead throughout this study is Mr. Steve Miller, P.Eng., Senior Manager of Water Resources. Mr. Miller has over 22 years of experience in the field of water resources engineering and floodplain mapping. Mr. Miller reviewed the 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update - Final Draft' and was satisfied with the methodology and results of the study and that the study conformed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's technical guidelines.

After the NPCA completed their technical review and was satisfied with WSP's 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update - Final Draft', a meeting was scheduled with the NPCA's Floodplain Advisory Committee in order to allow Mr. Van Haren to present the Final Draft and answer questions. It should be noted that the seven citizen members of the Floodplain Advisory Committee have been serving in this capacity and dealing with the Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update and its associated issues since 2012.

At the June 13, 2019 Floodplain Advisory Committee meeting, Mr. Van Haren explained that the methodology that was used in the WSP study was similar to that utilized for the 1985 Welland River Floodplain Mapping Study. The differences were the greater accuracy of present-day mapping and an additional 30 years of climate data that was used in the WSP study. Despite these differences, the results of the 1985 floodplain mapping study and the WSP study were very similar resulting in

minor changes to the Welland River floodplain generally attributed to the more accurate mapping available to be utilized in the WSP study.

After a series of questions, the Floodplain Advisory Committee **was satisfied with the results** of the WSP 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update – Final Draft' report and recommended to the Board that staff proceed with scheduling the final round of public engagement prior to taking the revised Welland River floodplain mapping to the Board for formal adoption.

To summarize, NPCA staff and the NPCA Floodplain Advisory Committee are of the opinion that the WSP 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update – Final Draft' report methodology, results, and associated floodplain mapping are valid and conform to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's technical guidelines.

NPCA staff note that 4 public Town Hall meetings are scheduled to be held this fall which will allow opportunity for local residents to provide input and question WSP and NPCA staff regarding the results of the study and the location of the associated flood lines.

Financial Implications:

In 2013 the NPCA Floodplain Advisory Committee was not satisfied with the results of the 2010 Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update study. As such, an independent professional engineering firm was hired by the NPCA at a cost of approximately \$22,000 to undertake a Peer Review of the study.

NPCA staff estimate the 2019 cost to undertake a similar Peer Review of WSP's 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update – Final Draft' report (by a suitably qualified professional engineering firm) would be approximately \$30,000.

Conclusion:

Based on the foregoing, NPCA staff conclude that a Peer Review of the WSP 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update – Final Draft' report is not required for the following reasons:

- a) The demonstrated floodplain mapping expertise of WSP Canada Group.
- b) The WSP 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update – Final Draft' report was reviewed to the satisfaction of NPCA technical staff.
- c) The WSP 'Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update – Final Draft' report received the approval of the NPCA Floodplain Advisory Committee.
- d) Four public Town Hall meetings are scheduled to be held this fall which will allow opportunity for local residents to provide input and question WSP and NPCA staff regarding the results of the study and the location of the associated flood lines.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Welland River Watershed: Main Branch, Binbrook Dam to Niagara River
Appendix 2 - National Floodplain Management Framework Executive Summary' (June 2014)
Appendix 3 - Standing Committee Report – Minutes of the Watershed Floodplain Committee Meeting
(dated June 13, 2019)

Authored by:**Original Signed by**

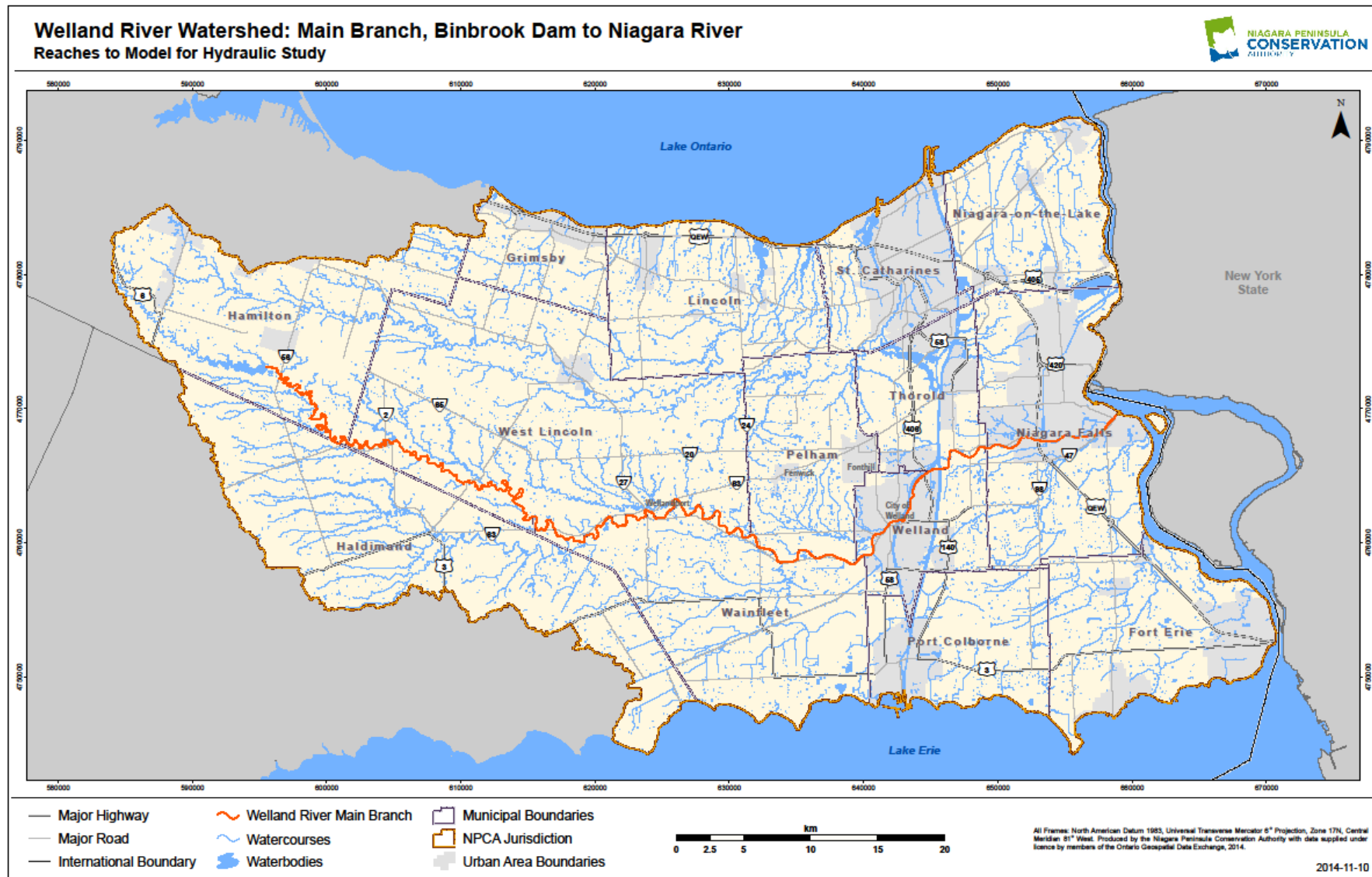
Steve Miller, P.Eng.
Senior Manager, Water Resources

Reviewed by:**Original Signed by**

Darren MacKenzie, C.Tech., rcsi
Director, Watershed Management

Submitted by:**Original Signed by**

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



Appendix 1 - Welland River Watershed: Main Branch, Binbrook Dam to Niagara River



National Floodplain Mapping Assessment - Final Report

COMMUNITIES
TRANSPORTATION
BUILDINGS
INFRASTRUCTURE



June 2014

National Floodplain Mapping Assessment

Final Report

June 2014

Executive Summary

Canada has witnessed a notable increase in flooding over the past decade, with total damages exceeding \$10 billion. As part of Public Safety Canada's mandate to mitigate losses resulting from natural events, a **National Floodplain Management Framework** has been prepared as an initial step in reducing flood risk across Canada.

Starting in 1975 the Flood Damage Reduction Program (FDRP), an initiative of Environment Canada, was implemented in collaboration with the provincial and territorial governments and ran until 1996. This very comprehensive initiative led to the thousands of kilometres of flood hazard mapping across Canada. The FDRP included the development of a comprehensive set of guidelines and standards that guided the program.

The National Floodplain Management Framework, summarized herein, builds upon the Emergency Management Framework, the National Disaster Mitigation Strategy and the original Flood Damage Reduction Program.

The National Floodplain Management Framework includes two key components: Flood Hazard Mapping and the Flood Risk Database. It will serve as a key document that will help to reduce and mitigate flood risk across Canada.

The National Floodplain Management Framework that is presented in this document identifies:

- The type and extent of information that must be collected and managed;
- The key standards and guidelines that will apply to the development of Flood Hazard Maps and the Flood Risk Database;
- The anticipated cost of updating and preparing new hazard maps, as required, and the compilation of data for the flood risk database; and
- A list of initiatives to be completed as part of implementation.

A number of Guiding Principles have been identified to help inform the National Floodplain Management Framework and its ultimate implementation. Adherence to these principles will aid significantly in developing the fundamental tools necessary to effectively manage and mitigate flood risk across Canada.

- Technical Accuracy
- Effective in Assessing and Managing Risk
- Accessibility to the User
- Current

The first step in developing the National Floodplain Management Framework included review of practices in seven countries other than Canada, review of current provincial and territorial practices, and input from subject matter experts.

The international review also provides a point of reference between current practices in Canada and those across the globe. The countries reviewed included the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, the United States of America (USA), France, Germany, Switzerland and New Zealand.

Following from the international review, a number of key practices and standards were identified for consideration in the development of the National Floodplain Management Framework for Canada.

The flood plain mapping practices, key standards, and unique challenges for each province and territory in Canada and a compilation of comments and recommendations from a wide range of subject matter experts were also summarized. All of the information will help to inform the National Floodplain Management Framework.

The key comments received from across Canada are summarized below.

Technical Accuracy

1. The fact that there is a high degree of uncertainty in all of the steps leading to estimation of flood risk should be documented and included as part of the presentation of flood risk.
2. Additional streamflow gauging would help with accuracy, particularly in ungauged watersheds.
3. Standard methods for relating flooding to damages should be updated across Canada.
4. There should be more formal procedures available to complete all steps of the mapping process.
5. More importance should be placed on both calibration and on-going updates/verification.

Effective in Assessing and Managing Risk

6. There should be a National Vision and set of standards that would apply across Canada.
7. Floodplain management should move beyond hazard mapping to consider risk to communities, industry and agriculture.
8. Mapping should be extended along more rivers, particularly through urban areas.
9. Events more severe than the 1:100 year event should be considered in hazard mapping and flood risk assessment; particularly when one considers both the degree of uncertainty associated with the estimates and that statistically a 1:100 year event has a 65 percent chance of occurring in a 100 year period.

Accessibility to the User

10. The public should have much better access to flood risk information.

Current

11. Across much of Canada there is a need for updated floodplain mapping.

The development of floodplain mapping, as it is understood today, began in approximately 1975. Currently mapping is available along some 28,000 km of rivers and streams across Canada. Most of the mapping was initially developed between 1975 and 1996 through the federal-provincial Flood Damage Reduction Program (FDRP). However with updates and additional mapping that have been completed since FDRP, approximately half of the existing mapping was developed after 1996.

The extent of mapping in each province and Territory is generally proportional to the population. Of the total, 59 percent of existing floodplain mapping is in Ontario, 21 percent is in Québec, and 10 percent is in British Columbia. The remaining 10 percent is distributed across the other provinces and territories. This is because the focus has always been on preparing mapping for the more populated areas.

Overall approximately 35 percent of the mapping is through urban areas. However the ratio of mapping that is in urban areas varies widely, from a low of 14 percent in British Columbia to a midrange of 49 percent in Alberta to a high of 75 percent in Québec.

Although the median age of all mapping in Canada is 18 years (1996), there is also a fair variability in mapping age. The median age of all mapping in Alberta, Québec and Ontario is approximately 10 years old, while it is in excess of 20 years old in the remaining jurisdictions.

The comparison of current mapping to the proposed mapping standards is based on the following key standards:

- Base Mapping
- Regulatory Event for Flood Hazard Mapping
- Flood Risk Database
- Age of mapping
- Climate Change Adaptation

It is concluded that existing flood plain mapping across Canada does not meet the majority of the standards proposed as part of the National Floodplain Management Framework. This conclusion does not infer that existing mapping is inadequate, but rather that the proposed standards represent a step forward in defining how floodplains should be mapped and how flood risk should be documented.

As a next step it is recommended that a Risk Assessment be completed to better identify and understand the areas of highest risk. Results of the Risk Assessment would then be used in establishing priorities for updating mapping in accordance with the proposed standards.

The cost of developing updated Hazard Maps and creating the Flood Risk databases is based on the costs associated with:

1. Preparing base mapping.
2. Completing the hydrologic studies.
3. Completing detailed hydraulic surveys of infrastructure and buildings in the floodplain.
4. Preparing the hazard mapping.
5. Populating the database.

Actual costs will vary widely depending on complexity, width of the floodplain, number of buildings, density of infrastructure, and approach to calculating flow rates. On average it is expected that the cost of completing all steps would range from \$7,500/km in a rural setting to \$10,500/km in an urban setting assuming a 1-D hydraulic model is employed. For 2-D hydraulic modelling the cost would increase to \$50,000/km due to greater complexity.

The cost of updating existing mapping and creating an additional 15,300 km of mapping is approximately \$365 million. The additional 15,300 km should be sufficient to ensure that mapping is available for 90-95 percent of the population in flood prone areas. Depending on the results of the Risk Assessment and the review of new areas to be mapped, it is anticipated that this cost estimate could change.

The National Floodplain Management Framework will include both Performance Standards and Technical Standards. The Performance Standards refer to the key standards that define risk. Three levels of standards are proposed: High, Medium and Low.

- High: Apply to all urban areas and rural areas that are protected by diking
- Medium: Apply to remaining rural areas that include settlements and agricultural lands
- Low: Apply to unpopulated areas, and may be used to guide the development of infrastructure

Table B1 in Appendix B details the proposed Performance Standards.

The Technical Standards refer to the tolerance requirements that are to be adhered to in developing the hazard mapping and the flood risk database. Table B2 (Appendix B) presents the key technical standards although it is not exhaustive. Many more standards will be incorporated into the guidelines as part of the various procedures that will be documented. In fact, many of the Technical Standards listed herein may also be adjusted at that time.

There are a several initiatives that are recommended to be completed prior to embarking on the update of the flood hazard mapping and the development of the flood risk database. These initiatives could be undertaken simultaneously over a period of 12 to 15 months.

- Complete a National Risk Assessment to help establish mapping priorities.
- Develop the Guidelines and refine the Technical Standards.
- Develop a framework for the Flood Risk Database.
- Determine the delivery model for preparing mapping and the database.
- Prepare Federal-Provincial/Territorial Agreements.

Appendix 3 - Standing Committee Report – Minutes of the Watershed Floodplain Committee Meeting
(dated June 13, 2019)



**WATERSHED FLOODPLAIN COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 13, 2019
3:00 p.m.
Ball's Falls
Centre for Conservation – Glen Elgin Room
3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	D. Bylsma (NPCA Board Chair) S. Beattie K. Gibson (departed 4:59 p.m.) B. Greenwood T. Whalen L. Aarts C. Freure L. Johnson G. Robins J. MacLellan
NON-VOTING MEMBERS:	B. Lepard D. Smith
STAFF PRESENT:	G. Bivol, Interim Clerk D. Deluce, Senior Manager Planning Review and Regulations D. MacKenzie, Director, Watershed Management S. Miller, Senior Manager, Water Resources G. Wood, Interim NPCA, Interim CAO / Secretary – Treasurer (departed 3:05 p.m.)
OTHERS:	D. Cridland J. Ingrao S. van Haren, WSP Consulting

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

The Committee Chair brought the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and called on NPCA CAO / Secretary-Treasurer Gayle Wood to make a few comments. Ms. Wood introduced herself and welcomed the members to the meeting. She left the proceedings at 3:05 p.m..

2. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair called on all attendees to introduce themselves.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Subsequent to the adoption of the following motion, the Committee thereafter opted to deliberate on Report No: WFPC-02-19 in advance of Report No: WFPC-01-19.

Resolution No WFPC-01-19
Moved by Member Beattie
Seconded by Member Gibson

That the agenda for Watershed Floodplain Committee the dated June 13, 2019 **BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

4. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

- a) Watershed Floodplain Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 13, 2018

Resolution No WFPC-02-19
Moved by Member Gibson
Seconded by Member Greenwood

That the minutes of the Watershed Floodplain Committee Meeting dated June 13, 2018 **BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

- a) PowerPoint presentation by Steve Miller, NPCA Senior Manager, Water Resources RE: Welland River Backgrounder – The Committee discussed the silt in the river and Ontario Power Generation activities, erosion and blockage of syphon tubes located along the river.
- b) PowerPoint presentation by Steven van Haren, WSP Consulting RE: Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update Report Final Draft – Discussion was heard on the variations observed with previous floodplain mapping. Restrictions on development in the floodplain were discussed.
- c) PowerPoint presentation by David Deluce, NPCA Senior Manager, Planning and Regulations RE: Revised NPCA Floodplain Policies adopted September 2018 – Discussion ensued.

Resolution No WFPC-03-19
Moved by Member Gibson
Seconded by Member Greenwood

That the following presentations **BE RECEIVED:**

1. The PowerPoint presentation by Steve Miller, NPCA Senior Manager, Water Resources RE: Welland River Backgrounder;
2. The PowerPoint presentation by Steven van Haren, WSP Consulting RE: Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update Report Final Draft; and
3. The PowerPoint presentation by David Deluce, NPCA Senior Manager, Planning and Regulations RE: Revised NPCA Floodplain Policies adopted September 2018.

CARRIED

Page 2

7. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a) Report No: WFPC-02-19 RE: Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update Public Consultation – The Committee members spoke to the need for public engagement and a preference for scheduling public meetings later in the fall from October onward.

Resolution No WFPC-04-19

Moved by Member Greenwood

Seconded by Member Gibson

1. That Report No. WFPC-02-19 RE: Welland River Floodplain Mapping Update Public Consultation **BE RECEIVED**.
2. That, save and except use of the Riverstone Event Centre, the Watershed Floodplain Committee **APPROVES** the proposed Town Hall meeting locations and Public Consultation format for the review of the Welland Review floodplain.
3. That the Watershed Floodplain Committee **RECOMMENDS** that staff proceed with scheduling the final round of Public Consultation.

CARRIED

- b) Report No: WFPC-01-19 RE: Proposed Watershed Floodplain Committee - Northern Watersheds - Members discussed the need for citizen and stakeholder engagement and the development of standardized procedures for public engagement. Member Gibson left the proceedings at 4:59.p.m. prior to the following vote.

Resolution No WFPC-05-19

Moved by Member Whalen

Seconded by Member Greenwood

1. That Report No. WFPC-01-19 RE: Proposed Watershed Floodplain Committee – Northern Watersheds **BE RECEIVED**.
2. That the Watershed Floodplain Committee **RECOMMENDS** that a new committee be formed regarding the review of floodplain mapping in Grimsby and Lincoln and a new Committee be formed regarding the review of floodplain mapping in St. Catharines.
3. That a new Terms of Reference for each identified proposed Watershed Floodplain Committee **BE DEVELOPED** for Board of Directors approval which includes Board member representation from Grimsby, Lincoln and St. Catharines as well as representatives from those communities to review the updated floodplain mapping in those areas.

CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair thanked the citizen members. Being no further business, the Watershed Floodplain Committee meeting adjourned with the following motion:

Resolution No. WCF-06-18

Moved by Member Beattie

Seconded by Member Greenwood

That the Watershed Floodplain Committee Meeting **BE HEREBY ADJOURNED** at 5:15 p.m..

CARRIED

Page 3

Dave Bylsma
Chair

Grant Bivol
Interim Clerk

Page 4

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: 2019 Restoration Project Approvals To Date

Report No: FA-79-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

1. That Report No. FA-79-19 RE: 2019 Restoration Project Approvals **BE RECEIVED.**
2. That the approved Restoration Program 2019 projects and associated grant estimates identified in Appendix 3. 'Management Approved Restoration Projects List' **BE APPROVED** for funding enabling staff to implement them.

Purpose:

To purpose of this report is to provide the NPCA Board of Directors with oversight of the NPCA Restoration Grant program budget, and the opportunity to review management's approval of associated applications by providing a summary of projects recently selected by the standing staff Restoration Program Review committee.

Background:

The Auditor General's report recommended that 'establishing a committee of the Board to review management's approval of grant applications will help ensure that funding is directed in accordance with the goals of the program and keep the Board from getting involved in day to day operations.'

At the April 2019 Full Authority meeting the board approved the implementation of a revitalized Restoration Grant program better addressing the mandate of the Conservation Authorities Act, the NPCA Strategic Plan, and the Auditor General's recommendation to develop and implement a strategy to better target areas of the watershed based on water quality monitoring and other information on the health of the watershed. A copy of FA-37-19 'Revitalizing the Restoration Program' is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

At the June 2019 Full Authority meeting the board received for information, the 2019 Workplan for the Restoration Grant program, including Program Guidelines detailing project eligibility, funding rates and ceilings. Project Evaluation Criteria and standing staff Review Committee information was also circulated. Monthly Full Authority meetings were identified as the avenue with which to present management's approval of selected projects for final fiduciary approval as opposed to a separate

standing committee of the board. A copy of FA-63-19 'Restoration Program Workplan' is attached to this report as Appendix 2.

Discussion:

In May of 2019, Gayle Wood, CAO/ Secretary Treasurer and Geoff Verkade, Senior Manager of Integrated Watershed Planning/ Information Management approved seven (7) projects for immediate funding outside of the yet to be established Restoration Project Review Committee Structure. These projects partnered with Ducks Unlimited Canada to construct 0.6 ha of wetlands, and with Land Care Niagara to plant 23,600 trees. These projects were expedited to help these organizations deliver on project commitments they would not be able to fulfill without NPCA assistance and to re-establish working relationships with significant partners.

At the July 5th NPCA Restoration Program Review Committee, staff selected eighteen (18) projects for board financial approval (see Appendix 3 for details). These projects will see 3.8 ha of wetlands restored, and 14,340 trees planted. Additionally, 115 m of riparian buffer will be established. All eighteen projects are in partnership with private landowners through the NPCA watershed.

The Review Committee will meet again in August to review and select additional projects to approve. It will also initiate a discussion on a strategy for prioritizing and targeting restoration activities for the 2020 grant season as per the Auditor General's recommendation and best practices with respect to integrated watershed management and planning.

In keeping with the Guiding Principles of the Restoration Program, staff have reengaged with several significant traditional partner organizations. These partnerships, with Ducks Unlimited Canada and Land Care Niagara, have allowed the NPCA and our partners to leverage funds and organizational capacities to reduce our financial contribution to these projects and increase the total number of projects completed. Staff are continuing working on negotiating Memorandums of Understanding with these and other significant partners as identified in the 2019 workplan (Appendix 2.)

Financial Implications:

The projects previously approved total \$34,004.50 spent from the 2019 restoration program budget.

Total NPCA projected contributions to the selected projects is \$198,824.05. The total cost for these eighteen projects is projected to be \$301, 614.67. Funds to support these projects are allocated in the 2019 budget. See appendix 3 for detailed breakdown of project costs.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1. - FA-37-19 RE Revitalizing the Restoration Program

Appendix 2. - FA-63-19 RE Restoration Program Workplan

Appendix 3. - Management Approved Restoration Projects List

Authored by:

Original Signed by

Stuart McPherson
Restoration Project Lead

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by

Geoff Verkade
Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Planning/
Information Management

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by

Lise Gagnon, CPA, CGA
Director, Corporate Services

Submitted by:

Original Signed by

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Report To: Board of Directors
Subject: Revitalizing the NPCA Restoration Program
Report No: FA-37-19
Date: April 17, 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Report No. FA-37-19 regarding revitalizing the NPCA Restoration Program **BE RECEIVED**.
2. That the proposed Restoration Program **BE APPROVED** for implementation as outlined in Report No. FA-37-19.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Demonstrate that a revitalized NPCA watershed restoration program addresses the mandate of the Conservation Authorities Act, the NPCA's Strategic Plan and the recommendations in the Auditor General's Report;
- Seek approval of the implementation of a revitalized Restoration Program;
- Authorize staff to finalize the details of the program's project selection criteria, associated processes, Communications Strategy, and proceed to implement the program.
- Authorize staff to re-evaluate all current applications received under the previous Water Quality Improvement Grant Program, including the Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding Request (Report FA-28-19) that was deferred at the March 20, 2019 Board meeting, in order to determine if they meet the requirements of the new program and be address accordingly.

BACKGROUND:

From 2006 to 2009 the NPCA conducted a comprehensive **Natural Areas Inventory** - a study which provided an overview of the watershed's features and functions. This study was followed by a project called **Nature for Niagara's Future** that quantified the watershed as highly degraded in contrast to what conservation literature suggests is required for a healthy and sustainable watershed.

These two studies are key in the watershed planning and management process, which allows the NPCA to “protect what is natural” and “restore what is degraded”. The **watershed planning and management cycle** is depicted in the graphic below:



Despite these studies, as well as the NPCA’s Watershed Report Cards, which have indicated watershed resource degradation, by 2017 the NPCA moved away from implementing restoration programs, including our Water Quality Improvement Grant program.

At the March 20, 2019 meeting, the NPCA Board approved Resolution No. FA-81-19, as follows:

Moved by Board Member Insinna
Seconded by Board Member Zalepa

1. THAT Report No. FA-27-19 respecting the Water Quality Improvement Grants Program be received;
2. THAT staff be directed to prepare a detailed Water Quality Improvement / Restoration Program Report for consideration at the April 2019 Board meeting that meets the intent of the Conservation Authority Act Mandate and the recommendations of the Auditor General’s Report;
3. THAT staffing regarding the Water Quality Improvement Grants Program be considered in closed session at the March 20, 2019 meeting.

DISCUSSION:

(a) Authority Mandate, Strategic Plan and Auditor General’s Recommendations:

A robust and accessible Restoration Program supports:

- 1) Section 20 of *The Conservation Authorities Act* which states that our objects are to “establish and undertake, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, programs designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of its natural resources”.

- 2) the **NPCA's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan** which embraces the following key principles:
 - a. **Evidence Based Watershed Resource Management** – The focus is to protect and rehabilitate aquatic habitats and undertake initiatives to improve water quality.
 - b. **Rebuild the Canopy by Planting 1 Million Trees and 3 Million Native Plants** – The focus is to achieve enhanced watershed restoration impacts and to mitigate climate change impacts through natural means.
 - c. **Forging Corridors** – The focus is to conserve, restore, and protect more land in the watershed.
- 3) Recommendation 13 of the 2018 **Auditor General's Report** which states that the NPCA shall: *'...develop and implement a strategy to better target areas of the watershed based on water quality monitoring and other information on the health of the watershed.'*
- 4) improving the low score assigned to Water Quality and Forest Conditions noted in the **NPCA's 2018 Watershed Report Card**.
- 5) the **Watershed Planning and Management Cycle** which is comprised of: assessing the condition of the watershed; undertaking projects to improve the watershed; monitoring results; and assessing change.

(b) Revitalizing the Restoration Program

The existing Restoration Program (Water Quality Improvement Grants Program) presently contains a number of barriers which hinder implementation. Feedback from the public has indicated that the program cannot be accessed by the majority of private landowners in the watershed, the program does not allow for an applicant to utilize the NPCA staff's technical expertise, and the application process itself is cumbersome and daunting.

Based on feedback received, staff are proposing:

- a new Program Vision,
- new Guiding Principles,
- three key program Goals, and
- new Program framework designed to improve water quality, reduce erosion and enhance natural watershed features.

The **Vision** of the new Restoration Program is:

'To foster collaboration among partners in the watershed to protect and restore water quality and diverse habitats by completing projects that meet the long-term mandate of the NPCA.'

The proposed Restoration Program will be shaped by the following **Guiding Principles**:

- a) Embracing partnerships and shared responsibility;
- b) Leveraging funding opportunities for an incentive-based cost sharing program;
- c) Promoting of adaptive management to meet the changing needs on the landscape;
- d) Conveying awareness of the benefits of environmental restoration and to celebrate success.

Top line **Goals** of the new Restoration Program are to:

- 1) **Improve** water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest cover to the benefit of local ecosystems and the overall health of the watershed;
- 2) **Monitor, assess, and communicate the change** of these conditions in the watershed; and
- 3) **Enable innovative approaches, partnerships, and solutions** to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest cover.

Program Framework

	Eligible Project Types	Project Description
1	Livestock Restriction, Alternate Watering Systems & Crossings	<i>Projects designed to improve water quality by restricting livestock access to watercourses.</i>
2	Conservation Farm Practices	<i>On-farm soil stabilization projects designed to reduce erosion, compaction and sedimentation.</i>
3	Erosion Control/Instream/Riparian Habitat Restoration	<i>Riverine projects such as in-stream habitat restoration, erosion control, watercourse buffers and removal of fish barriers.</i>
4	Wetland Habitat Restoration/Creation	<i>Wetland projects designed to improve local water quality, habitat, and floodplain capacity.</i>
5	Tree Planting/ Woodland Restoration/Creation	<i>Tree planting to reduce forest fragmentation and increase forest cover by creating wildlife corridors and increasing forest cover.</i>
6	Upland Habitat Restoration	<i>Improvements to/ creation of upland terrestrial habitat including meadows and pollinator habitat.</i>
7	Nutrient Management - Manure Storage	<i>On-farm projects that reduce and/ or eliminate of excess nutrients from animal waste contamination to watercourses.</i>
8	Nutrient Management – Waste Water	<i>Projects designed to reduce or eliminate wastewater streams from milk houses, fruit and vegetable washing facilities and greenhouses.</i>
9	Water Conservation Practices	<i>Improvements to irrigation practices to reduce excess agricultural nutrient loading.</i>
10	Cover Crops	<i>Targeted projects designed to reduce sedimentation and phosphorus loading on agricultural lands.</i>

Partnerships at the Ready!

Since the majority of the land within the NPCA's watershed is privately owned, the focus of the revitalized Restoration Program is to connect conservation minded landowners with funding and technical expertise to help implement projects on their property.

Recently, there have been many parties which have contacted the NPCA and have expressed a desire to establish/re-establish partnerships (including leveraged opportunities). These interested parties include:

- Ducks Unlimited
- Trout Unlimited
- Niagara Parks Commission
- Land Care Niagara
- Numerous Private Landowners.

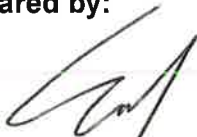
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The total available funding for this program currently sits at \$500,000. At the March 20th meeting, the Board authorized that a staff salary be allocated against this funding for 2019. An additional staff salary for this program is allocated in the 2019 operating budget.

All current applications received under the previous WQIGP, including the Haldimand Lakefront Landowner's Funding Request (Report FA-28-19) that was deferred at the March 20, 2019 Board meeting, will be re-evaluated to determine if they meet the requirements of the new program and be address accordingly.

As part of the program design, a year end report will be generated detailing the program successes, challenges and financial updates.

Prepared by:



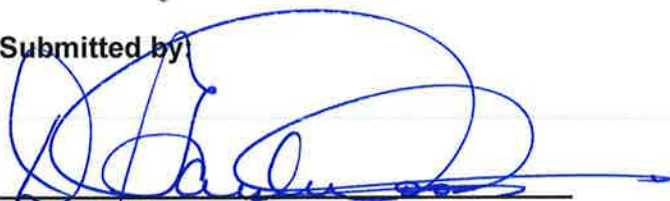
Steve Miller, P.Eng.
Sr. Manager, Water Resources & Restoration

Reviewed by:



Darren MacKenzie, C.Tech., rcsi
Director, Watershed Management

Submitted by:



D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Prepared with input from G. Verkade, Manager, Information Management; S. McPherson, Restoration Grant Coordinator and S. Gillis, Environmental Field Technician.

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: 2019 Restoration Program Workplan

Report No: FA-63-19

Date: June 19, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-63-19 RE: 2019 Restoration Program Workplan **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide detailed information regarding the revitalized NPCA Restoration Program's implementation in 2019 and beyond.

Background:

At the April 17, 2019 Full Authority Board Meeting, the NPCA Board approved Resolution No. FA - 108-19, as follows:

Moved by: Board Member Heit
Seconded by: Board Member Shirton

1. THAT Report No. FA-37-19 regarding revitalizing the NPCA Restoration Program be received.
2. THAT the proposed Restoration Program be approved for implementation as outlined in Report No. FA-37-19.

Discussion:

The revitalized NPCA Restoration program has three principle goals:

- 1) **Improve** water quality, wildlife habitat and forest cover to the benefit of local ecosystems and the overall health of the watershed;
- 2) **Monitor, assess and communicate the change** of these conditions in the watershed; and
- 3) **Enable innovative approaches, partnerships and solutions** to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest cover.

These goals will be accomplished in part by renewing partnerships with like-minded organizations and reengaging with landowners across the watershed to target restoration projects in priority areas. Priority areas are determined by a variety of factors, including poor water quality, low forest cover and historic wetland loss (see Appendix 1 for more details).

Project applications can be submitted by partner organizations, and private and public landowners. Projects will be assessed by NPCA staff using an objective evaluation matrix. (See Appendix 2 for detailed evaluation criteria).

Consistent with best practices identified by the Auditor General, an *internal* review committee will be formed to select eligible projects to be awarded for funding. This committee will be comprised of NPCA staff with a diversity of skills related to ecosystem restoration (See Appendix 5 for the Restoration Program Review Committee Skills Matrix.) and will also focus on targeting and prioritization. Funding for applications recommended by the staff will be presented to the board for final approval at monthly Full Authority Meetings as required.

The Restoration program, beyond word of mouth through its operations, will be advertised widely through traditional media, social media and on the NPCA's website. The marketing strategy is being led and developed by the Authority's communications team.

Due to an instantaneous launch, in 2019 the program will have a rolling intake for applications, with the Restoration Program Review Committee meeting preferable monthly to approve eligible projects. For the 2020 program year, a set due date is planned to ensure the highest quality applications are selected through due process. This intake date will take place in September 2019, with approved applicants notified in December of 2019. A second intake date in 2020 is proposed if required and depending on uptake and quality of applications.

Through 2019, staff will:

- Determine solutions for file retention to ensure program files contain required documentation;
- Negotiate Memorandum of Understanding agreements with principal partner organizations;
- Refine evaluation criteria cyclically for more targeted restoration opportunities utilizing natural heritage system data as a part of the Integrated Watershed Management process;
- Determine further how Ontario Power Generation funds and project goals will be implemented;
- Develop monitoring guidelines as part of an Integrated Watershed Management cycle;
- Assess program delivery as part of an adaptive management cycle to update guidelines to reflect organizational priorities and watershed needs;
- Finalize documenting internal formal program procedures.

Financial Implications:


Funds to support the implementation of the Restoration Program have been allocated in the 2019 NPCA budget.

Further restoration prioritization efforts in the workplan will help inform development of the NPCA's 2020 budget.

Related Reports and Appendices:

- Appendix 1: 2019 Restoration Program Guidelines
- Appendix 2: Guideline Appendices – Project Category and Evaluation Criteria
- Appendix 3: 2019 Restoration Program Application Form
- Appendix 4: 2019 Restoration Program **Draft** Landowner Agreement
- Appendix 5: 2019 Restoration Program **Draft** Partner Agreement
- Appendix 6: Restoration Program Review Committee **Draft** Terms of Reference
- Appendix 7: Restoration Program Review Committee Skills Matrix

Authored by:



Steve Gillis
Restoration Project Lead



Stuart McPherson
Restoration Project Lead

Reviewed by:



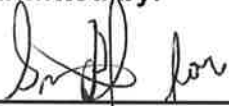
Geoff Verkade
Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Planning/Information Management

Reviewed by:



Lise Gagnon, CPA, CGA
Director, Corporate Services

Submitted by:



D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority – 2019 Restoration Program Guidelines

Section 1- Program Description

The NPCA is taking action to restore and improve water quality, wildlife habitat and forest cover across the NPCA watershed. In 2019, the NPCA has launched a revitalized restoration program with the vision of:

‘Fostering collaboration among partners in the watershed to protect and restore water quality and diverse habitats by completing projects that meet the long-term mandate of the NPCA.’

The Restoration Program is shaped by the following **Guiding Principles**:

- a) Embracing partnerships and shared responsibility;
- b) Leveraging funding opportunities for an incentive-based cost sharing program;
- c) Promoting of adaptive management to meet the changing needs on the landscape;
- d) Conveying awareness of the benefits of environmental restoration and to celebrate success.

The top line **Goals** of the Restoration Program are to:

- 1) **Improve** water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest cover to the benefit of local ecosystems and the overall health of the watershed;
- 2) **Monitor, assess, and communicate the change** of these conditions in the watershed; and
- 3) **Enable innovative approaches, partnerships, and solutions** to improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and forest cover.

This guide provides information on funding opportunities, eligibility requirements, the application and evaluation process. You're welcome to apply for 2019 funding, or, if you have questions contact the NPCA for further information at 905-788-3135.

Section 2- Who Can Apply?

1. Private and Public Landowners
2. Incorporated Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
3. Non-incorporated organizations (Nature Clubs, "Friends of" organizations)

Section 3- Project Process

- Step 1. Applicant expresses interest; site visit by NPCA staff; applicant completes application form
- Step 2. Project application evaluated by NPCA staff
- Step 3. Project approval by Restoration Program Review Committee
- Step 4. Detailed Project Plan completed with NPCA staff; Landowner/Partner Agreement signed
- Step 5. Project implementation
- Step 6. Project closing/reconciling accounts
- Step 7. On-going monitoring where applicable (1, 5 and 10 year)

Section 4- Restoration Project Categories

	Eligible Project Types	Funding Rate	Funding Ceiling	Application Date for 2019 projects
1	Livestock Restriction & Crossings	Up to 75%	\$10,000	N/A
2	Conservation Farm Practices	Up to 75%	\$5,000	N/A
3	Tree Planting/ Woodland Restoration	Up to 75%	\$10,000	N/A
4	Instream/Riparian Habitat Restoration	Up to 75%	\$10,000	N/A
5	Wetland Restoration	Up to 75%	Excavation \$15,000 Planting \$5,000	N/A
6	Upland Habitat Restoration	Up to 75%	\$5,000	N/A
7	Nutrient Management	Up to 75%	\$12,000	N/A
8	Water Conservation Practices	Up to 75%	\$5,000	N/A
9	Cover Crops	\$50/acre up to 50 acres	\$2,500	July 30*

*Applications will be accepted in July 2019 for 2020 projects.

** Funding rates and ceilings are program guidelines only; funding ceilings and rates may be changed at the discretion of the Restoration Program Review Committee.

Section 5- Application Evaluation

Application forms and their supporting materials will be screened for completion to ensure they meet the eligibility requirements before being reviewed and ranked by NPCA staff. The potential project will be evaluated based on specific evaluation criteria for each project category (see Appendix A).

Projects that meet a minimum score of 60% through the evaluation process will be considered by the Restoration Program Committee for funding. Funding is contingent on available budget and other eligible applications.

Projects must have a direct environmental benefit to water quality, diverse habitat and forest cover resulting in measurable results (see Appendix B). Project plans, developed with NPCA staff, will outline the performance measures meant to be achieved through the project. These may include; meters of fence installed, number of trees planted, acres of wetland created, etc.

Preference will be given to projects in Priority Areas for water quality improvement; forest cover and wetland habitat based on the following documents:

- Annual NPCA Water Quality Reports, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, 2007-2019.
- Nature for Niagara's Future Project; a Natural Heritage Systems Assessment; Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, 2011.
- How Much Habitat is Enough?, 3rd Edition; Environment Canada, 2013.
- Southern Ontario Wetland Conversion Analysis, Final Report; Ducks Unlimited Canada, March 2010.

Section 6 - Project Approval

Restoration staff will visit the project site with the applicant and the applicant will complete an application form. The potential project will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in Section 9 - Project Descriptions. The projects will be assessed, scored and ranked against other eligible projects. Projects that are not selected may be considered for the following year. For the 2019 program year, there will be no formal application deadline as projects will be evaluated and approved as submitted. Project approval letters will be sent once a project has been approved.

Section 7 – Funding

Approved projects will receive 75% funding, up to the program category cap limit. The landowner and/or partner organization is responsible for the remaining 25% or greater of the costs. NPCA grant dollars can be combined with other funding (i.e., Ducks Unlimited, SARFIP). In cases where applicant receives additional funding, the NPCA will cover 75% of the remaining costs up to the project cap limit (see Example 3). Where the NPCA and Partner Agencies have entered a Memorandum of Understanding alternative funding models may be used.

Example 1. A reforestation project costs \$11,050. The NPCA grant covers 75% of the costs - \$8,287.50. The applicant is responsible for the remaining \$2,762.50.

Example 2. A manure storage project costs \$18,000. The NPCA grant would reach its program category cap limit of \$12,000. The applicant organization is responsible for the remaining \$6,000.

Example 3. A wetland creation project costs \$23,800. The applicant organization receives grants for \$14,600 from another source. The NPCA Grant would then cover 75% of the remaining costs (\$6,900), the landowner is responsible for the remaining costs (\$2,300)

Payment of project expenditures (contractors, project materials) will be dependent on project specifics, in some cases the landowner will pay the project costs and be reimbursed for the NPCA's contribution when the project is complete; in other cases the NPCA will pay the project costs and the applicant will pay their contribution in two installments. In this case, a deposit at the beginning of the project and the remainder at project completion once all accounts are reconciled.

Section 8 - General Program Guidelines

To qualify for funding the following guidelines must be met:

- 1) Projects must be within the NPCA watershed (see Figure 1).
- 2) Projects must demonstrate improvement to local water quality, habitat and/or forest cover.

- 3) Projects that will result in the most significant benefits to water quality and habitat are prioritized for funding. Project approval will be based on an evaluation matrix with selection by members of an established technical advisory committee.
- 4) Landowners must contribute financially to the project.
- 5) Applicants must complete a Restoration Program application and sign a Project Agreement form before the project commences.
- 6) The NPCA must review and approve all projects before project commencement.
- 7) Projects are to take place within the calendar year.
- 8) Landowners may have up to two active projects in any one year.
- 9) Projects that are ordered or are for compensation are not eligible for funding.
- 10) Project plant material (trees, shrubs, wildflowers) shall be native to Southern Ontario; non-native or invasive species are not eligible for funding.

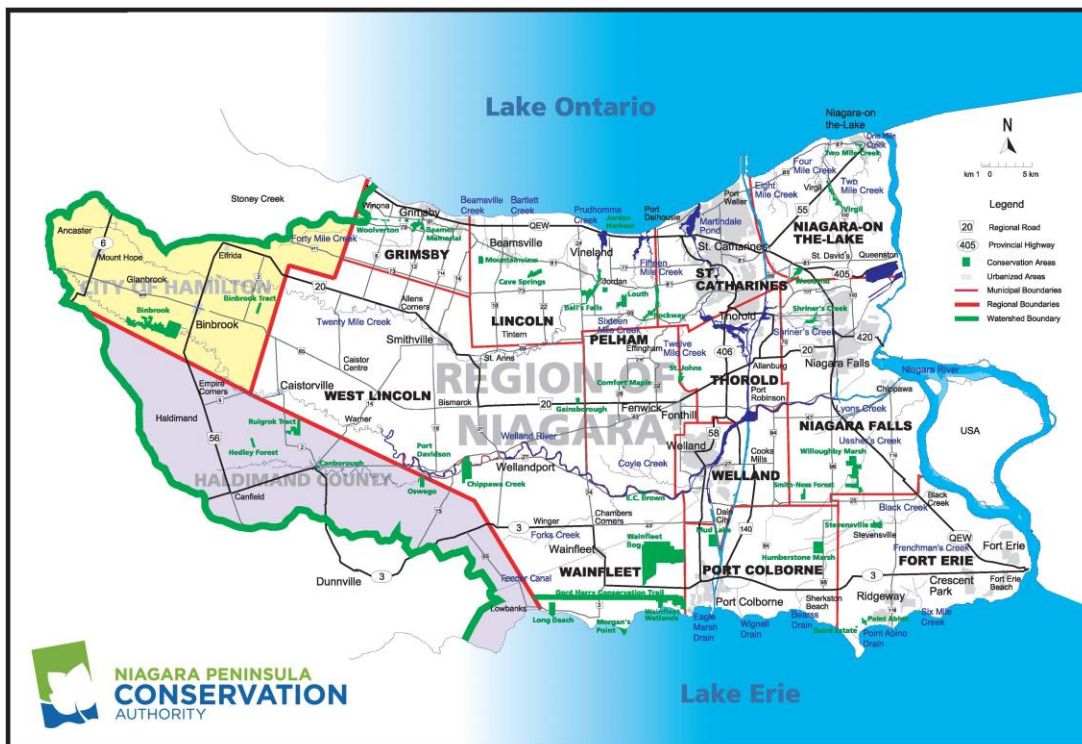


Figure 1

Section 9 - Project Descriptions

See appendices for project category descriptions, eligible projects, requirements and evaluation criteria.

1. Livestock Restriction & Crossings	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$10,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Projects designed to improve water quality by restricting livestock access to watercourses.			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencementProjects must utilize appropriate sediment control and mitigation measures (i.e., silt fencing)			
Eligible Projects:			
<u>Fencing to restrict livestock access to a watercourse</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fencing parallel to watercourse/wetland to restrict livestock and maintain or improve riparian conditions and function (eligible permanent fencing costs shall not exceed \$11.50 per meter, including labour)Temporary fencing will be considered eligible but will require a signed agreement requiring the applicant to install the fence before the introduction of livestockRiparian buffer planting after fencing has been installed			
<u>Improved stream crossings for livestock or equipment</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved crossingsBed-level, mid-level and bridge crossings eligible. All bridge crossing design must be stamped and approved by a Professional EngineerRemoval of harmful crossings/structures			
<u>Alternative watering systems to manage livestock:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gravity fed, solar, wind, grid line, alternative power, pump & waterline systems to provide livestock alternative water sources			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessment, design and construction costsContractor labour and planting servicesExcavation servicesProject material costs (fencing, crossing materials, trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers)			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Repair and maintenance of existing fencing or crossingsPerimeter fencing around farm propertyWater source developmentStream crossing projects that are associated with a new or expanded pasture – where no crossing has existed previously will be low priority projectsEstablishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nurseries, etc.)Caliper-sized trees.Landowner labour costsAdministrative costs			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Metres of fencingTrees plantedShrubs plantedHerbaceous plants planted		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acres of buffer createdIn-stream crossings createdHarmful crossings removedLivestock restricted from streams.Alternate watering systems installed	

Livestock Restrictions & Crossings Evaluation Matrix

Mailing Address:

Watershed:

Project Description:

Application

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Does the current system allow for livestock access to a watercourse? (10 points)

Is the watercourse currently being farmed through? (10 points)

Watercourse through the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (3 Points) Warm Water System (2 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Does the current system not allow for alternative crossings or watering sites? (3 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (1 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (3 Points)

Adjacent to a significant feature (PSW, etc.)? (1 points)

Identified fish habitat type?

Not identified (0 points) Type 3 (1 point) Type 2 (2 points) Type 1 (3 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (4 Points)

Staff Comments:

2. Conservation Farm Practices	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$5,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm soil stabilization projects designed to reduce erosion, compaction and sedimentation; and improve habitat connection through wildlife corridors. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must be designed to appropriate OMAFRA standards as per <i>Agricultural Erosion Control Structures; A Design and Construction Manual, Publication 832</i> All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement Projects must utilize appropriate sediment control and mitigation measures (i.e., silt fencing) 			
Eligible Projects: <p><u>Gully Stabilization and Erosion Control</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grassed waterways and buffer establishment Gully stabilization Contour terraces Water and Sediment Control Basins (WaSCoBs) <p><u>Agroforestry Practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerows and windbreaks Alley Cropping <p><u>Soil Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rotational grazing 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design costs, professional services Contractor labour and planting services Project material costs Site Preparation Plant material Temporary fencing to prevent livestock damage 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair and maintenance costs Construction of new drainage channels, repair of existing drainage systems (e.g., drainage ditch clean-outs) Converting open ditches to closed drainage systems New tile drainage installations Establishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nurseries, etc.) Caliper-sized trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metres of grassed waterways established Trees planted Shrubs planted Herbaceous plants planted WaSCoBs installed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of contour terraces Hectares converted to rotational grazing Metres of Hedgerows or Alley cropping Hectares of Alley cropping or Silvopasture established 	

Conservation Farm Practices Matrix

Mailing Address:

Watershed:

Project Description:

Application

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Site Length Size or length (Select one)

<10m OR < 1 Acre (1 point) 11-50m OR 1 to 2.5 Acres (3 points) 50-100m OR 5-10 Acres (5 points)
101- 500m OR 10-20 Acres (7 points) 500m + or 20 Acres+ (10 points)

Watercourse through or adjacent to the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (5 Points) Warm Water System (4 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (4 points)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation? (4 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Point)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (4 Points)

Staff Comments:

3. Tree Planting/ Woodland Restoration	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$10,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree planting to reduce forest fragmentation and increase forest cover by creating wildlife corridors. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plantings larger than 1 hectare or 1000 trees must be stamped by a Registered Professional Forester Plantings larger than 2.5 acres will meet a reforestation rate of 800 trees/acre Livestock must be restricted from the project area All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before planting 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upland woodland reforestation, wildlife corridor creation/restoration Slough forest restoration/pit and mound restoration Replanting previously NPCA planted sites that have failed to achieve a 70% survival rate. 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor labour and planting services Site preparation Plant material Habitat enhancement features (nesting structures) Temporary fencing to restrict livestock access 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Relocation of established trees Establishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nurseries, etc.) Caliper-sized trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees planted Shrubs planted Hectares of planting Hectares of forest restoration in degraded woodlands 			

Tree Planting Evaluation Matrix

Mailing Address:

Watershed:

Project Description:

Application

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Tree planting (1 point for each level, up to 5 points)

Less than 1 acre (1 point) 1 Acre to 2.5 acres (2 points) 2.5-5 acres (3 points)

5-10 acres (4 points) 10 acres+ (6 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream)? (2 points)

Watercourse through or adjacent to planting (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (4 Points) Warm Water System (3 points) Intermittent Watercourse/ Swale (1 point)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Points)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation (Select one)

Corridors <50m wide (1 point) Corridor 50-100m wide (2 points) Corridors >100m wide (3 Points)

Increase interior forest area as defined by *How Much Habitat is Enough?* (2 points)

Within 2km of another forest patch? (1 point)

Increase the size of the largest forest patch per watershed? (1 point)

Increase habitat to adjacent to or surrounding a significant feature, PSW (3 points)

Replanting in damaged or degraded habitat? (2 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (2 points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Forest Cover? (4 Points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality? (3 Points)

Staff Comments:

4. Riparian & In-stream Habitat Restoration	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$10,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects designed to improve habitat and water quality in watercourses. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock must be restricted from the project area All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement Projects must utilize appropriate sediment control and mitigation measures (i.e., silt fencing) Projects where structures may be impacted by erosion will not be considered for funding 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration or enhancement of riparian areas Sediment control measures including bioengineering, crib walls, fish lunkers, bend-way weirs, natural channel design. In-stream aquatic habitat creation/restoration Buffer strips and riparian habitat creation/restoration Removal of fish migration barriers. Converting online ponds to offline ponds 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design costs, professional services Contractor labour and planting services Site preparation Plant material Habitat enhancement features (nesting structures, fish lunkers, spawning beds) 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Hardscaping (i.e., Gabion baskets) Relocation of established trees Establishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nursery trees, etc.) Caliper-sized trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metres of riparian area/ shoreline restored Trees planted Shrubs planted Herbaceous plants planted Hectares of buffers created Fish migration barriers removed Ponds taken offline 			

Instream/ Riparian Habitat Evaluation Matrix*Mailing Address:**Watershed:**Project Description:***Application**

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Site Length Size (Select one)

<10m (1 point) 11-50m (2 points) 50-100m (3 points) 101- 500m (4 points) 500m + (5 points)

Watercourse through the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (2 Points)

Warm Water System (1 points)

Involves removing an existing wetland from a watercourse (Select one)

Within a Cold-Water System (2 Points)

Within a Warm Water System (1 Points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream)? (2 points)

Existing or proposed buffer on at >80% stream

< 1m (0 points) <5m (1 points) 5-10 (2 points) 10-15m (3 points) 15-30m (4 points) 30m+ (5 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Points)

Adjacent to a significant feature (PSW, etc.)? (2 points)

Will the project provide cover on the watercourse? (2 point)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation (3 points)

Removal of existing fish migration barrier? (3 points)

Will the project result in both sides being vegetated? (2 points)

Identified fish habitat type?

Not identified (0 points) Type 3 (1 point)

Type 2 (2 points)

Type 1 (3 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (2 points) Unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (3 Points)

Staff Comments:

5. Wetland Habitat Restoration	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$10,000 Excavation \$5,000 Planting	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland projects designed to improve local water quality, habitat, and floodplain capacity. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects will follow NPCA wetland design standards Livestock must be restricted from the project area All projects must have a minimum 5m vegetated buffer surrounding most (approximately 80%) of the wetland. Projects without a vegetated buffer will not be considered for funding. Projects must be proposed in areas with suitable soils and topography to be considered. All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement Projects must utilize appropriate sediment control and mitigation measures (i.e., silt fencing) 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation or enhancement of wetlands 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor labour and planting services Excavation costs Plant material Habitat enhancement features Tenant farmer crop loss reimbursement (case specific) 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ponds designed for irrigation/aquaculture Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Fish stock Aeration equipment Relocation of established trees Establishment of trees or shrubs that are intended for harvesting for economic benefit (i.e., Christmas trees, nursery trees, etc.) Caliper-sized trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of wetland created Trees planted Shrubs planted Herbaceous plants planted 			

Wetland Habitat Restoration/Creation Evaluation Matrix*Mailing Address:**Watershed:**Project Description:***Application**

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Wetland Size (Select one)

Less than 1/4 acre (2 points)

1/4 Acre to 1/2 acres (3 points)

½ to 1 acres (4points)

1 acre + (6 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream)? (2 points)

The project increases floodplain storage (3 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Point)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation (2 points)

Increase habitat adjacent to or surrounding a significant feature - PSW (3 points)

Addition of or existing vegetated buffer on >80% of wetland.

Less than 5m (0 points)

5-10m (2 points)

10-15M (3 points)

15-30m (4 points)

30M+ (5 points)

Excavated fill stays on-site (3 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (2 points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (3 Points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Area for Wetland Habitat? (4 Points)

BONUS POINTS: Is the proposed site within 2km of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie or the Niagara River? (3 Points)**Staff Comments:**

6. Upland Habitat Restoration/Creation	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Due
	75%	\$5,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing/ creation of upland terrestrial habitat including meadows and pollinator habitat. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock must be restricted from the project area Projects must be proposed in areas with suitable soils and topography to be considered All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upland prairie/meadow/savannah/grassland creation/restoration Pollinator habitat creation/restoration Buffer strips on natural features Shrub thickets 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor labour and planting services Seeding equipment rental Site preparation Plant material Habitat enhancement features Fencing to restrict livestock access 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Relocation of established trees Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of Upland habitat restored/ created Trees planted Shrubs planted Herbaceous plants planted 			

Upland Habitat Restoration Evaluation Matrix

Mailing Address:

Watershed:

Project Description:

Application

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Upland Habitat Size (Select one)

> than 1/4 acre (1 point) 1/4 Acre to 1/2 acres (2 points) 1/2 to 1 Acres (3 points)

1-5 Acres (5 points) 5 Acres + (7 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream)? (3 points)

Watercourse through or adjacent to planting (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (4 Points) Warm Water System (3 points)

Part of a larger naturalization project? (1 Points)

Increase connectivity to existing habitat, reducing fragmentation (Select one)

Corridors <50m wide (2 point) Corridor 50-100m wide (4 points) Corridors >100m wide (5 Points)

Increase habitat to adjacent or surrounding a significant feature, PSW (3 points)

Does the surrounding landscape support a diversity of land uses (hedgerows, riparian, wetland, etc.)? (3 points)

Is the project adjacent to an existing upland habitat? (2 points)

Replanting in damaged or degraded habitat? (2 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (2 points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (2 Points)

Staff Comments:

7. Nutrient Management	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Date
	75%	\$12,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-farm projects that improve local water quality through the reduction and elimination of excess nutrients from animal waste contamination and elimination or recycling of wastewater streams to recover nutrients before discharging to watercourses. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority must review and approve all projects before construction Projects will have an approved Nutrient Management Strategy that demonstrates that upgraded storage needs meet the MSTOR sizing requirements of section 69 of <i>Nutrient Management Act</i> Existing manure storages for non-regulated farm operations (not phased into <i>Nutrient Management Act</i>) All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid & liquid manure storages (earthen, concrete, steel, roofed) tanks and in-barn (below barn) and improvements to prevent risks of contamination Runoff containment and storages Increased storage to meet winter spreading restrictions Clean water diversions Manure treatment technologies (i.e., dewatering, nutrient recovery systems, solid-liquid separation). Modifications to manure application equipment (i.e., high trajectory) for improved manure application. Manure volume-reducing in-barn modifications (i.e. liquid-solid separation technologies) Decommissioning of manure storage that is part of an improvement project Treatment trench systems, separate storage, transfer systems, vegetated filter strips that are designed to OMAFRA standards Transfer piping to suitable storages. Greenhouse recirculation equipment, collection, storage, transfer and treatment system Fruit and vegetable washing facilities Tile drainage control shutoff Other Innovative discharge treatment technologies Water meters to monitor the amount of wash water discharged and sumps when required Low-water use retrofits for sinks 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional services (e.g., engineering costs) Approved construction materials Contractor labour Excavation services 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or expanding operations Repair and maintenance of buildings Repair and maintenance of existing nutrient recovery equipment Equipment to move manure from storage to field (i.e., Pumping equipment) Transportation costs of exported manure or local haulage of manure Project permit fees Incineration units Manure storage additives & related technologies Decommissioning of manure storage that is not part of an improvement project Design, construction and installation costs of items not directly related to the recycling process Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			

Potential Key Performance Indicators:

- Kg of phosphorus reduced
- Manure storage projects completed
- Waste water projects completed

Total Score /35**Nutrient Management Matrix***Mailing Address:**Watershed:**Project Description:***Application**

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Watercourse through or adjacent to the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (5 Points) Warm Water System (4 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Is this project replacing a system that is currently failing or does not exist? (7 points)

Does the current system allow for nutrients to contaminate watercourses? (7 points)

Does the project eliminate nutrients from entering a watercourse? (4 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (1 point)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

-additional sources of funding secured (3 points)

-additional sources of funding unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (4 Points)

Staff Comments:

8. Water Conservation Practices	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Date
	75 %	\$5,000	N/A
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to irrigation practices to reduce excess agricultural nutrient loading. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority must review and approve all projects before construction All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation equipment modification/improvement to increase water efficiency or nutrient use efficiency including low-pressure sprinkler nozzles, pipe/hose extensions/carts, booms for low-pressure extensions/carts, a delivery hose and small diameter flexible pipe, filters and emitters for trickle or drip systems Modification of planters to handle trickle tape installation Equipment to prevent backflow of altered irrigation water into water sources, new or improved backflow prevention mechanism/ equipment for an existing irrigation system 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional services (e.g. project design costs) Contractor labour Approved construction materials Consultant fees to develop an irrigation management plan that results in a water conservation improvement project Pre/post project sampling and analysis 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair and maintenance of buildings Professional services not directly related to irrigation management planning that result in a water conservation improvement project Routine sampling and analysis Project permit fees Purchase and installation of irrigation monitoring equipment Water source development, drilling, and changes to water licensing agreements Upstream water distribution systems that are not part of a farmer's operation Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of drip or trickle irrigation completed 			

Water Conservation Practices Evaluation Matrix

Mailing Address:

Watershed:

Project Description:

Application

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Watercourse through or adjacent to the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (4 Points) Warm Water System (3 points) Drainage Ditch (2 Points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Is this project replacing a system that is currently failing or does not exist? (8 points)

Does the current system allow for nutrients to contaminate watercourses? (8 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (2 points)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

-additional sources of funding secured (3 points)

-additional sources of funding unsecured but pending (1 point)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (6 Points)

Staff Comments:

9. Cover crops	Grant Rate	Grant Ceiling	Application Date
	\$50/ acre up to 50 acres	\$2,500	July 1
Purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-time grant to promote the establishment and over-wintering of cover crops (living or dead), which help provide soil protection and reduce soil erosion, sedimentation and nutrient loading to watercourses. 			
Category Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A one-time grant per-property. Landowners with multiple properties can apply once per property. Properties where cover crops are currently used are not eligible. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority must review and approve all projects before commencing. Only cover crops used exclusively for cover such as rye, oats, clover, or multi-mixes are eligible. Cover crops tilled no sooner than the spring of the year following planting, and cover crops must be destroyed by June 1st. A spring residue of at least 50% cover is required to receive the incentive. All necessary permits/permissions must be obtained before project commencement 			
Eligible Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash cropping fields up to 50 acres 			
Eligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seed 			
Ineligible Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance costs incurred after the establishment of plant material Planting costs Equipment rental/operation Landowner labour costs Administrative costs 			
Potential Key Performance Indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hectares of cover crops planted 			

Cover Crops Evaluation Matrix*Mailing Address:**Watershed:**Project Description:***Application**

Does this project fit within the guidelines? (Yes/No)

Complete application? (Yes/No)

Is the applicant willing to sign a project agreement? (Yes/No)

Has this applicant previously received funding for cover crops at this project site? (Yes/No)

Project Evaluation

Watercourse through or adjacent to the project site (within 30m) (Select One)

Cold Water System (5 Points) Warm Water System (4 points)

Does the project area contribute to a headwater area (watershed of 1st or 2nd order stream) (4 points)

Does the project site currently allow for bare soils in winter? (9 points)

Does this project site presently spread manure in winter? (9 points)

Does the project property have an Environmental Farm Plan? (1 point)

Additional sources of funding? (choose one)

Funding secured (3 points) Unsecured but pending (2 points)

Does the site fall within the Priority Areas for Water Quality Improvement? (4 Points)

Staff Comments:

Restoration Program Application

Program Purpose

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's (NPCA) Restoration Program aims to improve water quality, forest cover and habitat, to the benefit of local ecosystems and the overall health of the Niagara Peninsula Watershed. This will be done by fostering partnerships with local landowners and providing financial incentives to implement voluntary stewardship projects.

Applicant Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____ Municipality _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email _____ ☐ Current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP)?

Project Location

Project Address (if different from above) _____

Township _____ Lot _____ Concession _____

Property Size _____ ☐ hectares ☐ acres Watershed _____

Project Types

Please check the project types that you are applying for:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Live Stock Restrictions and Crossings | <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Wetlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Conservation Farm Practices | <input type="checkbox"/> (6) Upland Habitat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Tree Planting | <input type="checkbox"/> (7) Nutrient Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Instream and Riparian Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> (8) Water Conservation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> (9) Cover Crops |

Project Description

Please provide a brief description of your proposed project:

Project Cost Summary

Total estimated cost of the project (if known): _____

Project Process

In order to qualify for current funding the following criteria must be met:

- **Step 1:** Applicant expresses interest; site visit by NPCA staff; applicant completes application form.
- **Step 2:** Project application is evaluated by NPCA staff.
- **Step 3:** Project approval by restoration Program Review Committee.
- **Step 4:** Detailed Project Plan completed with NPCA staff; Landowner/Partner Agreement signed.
- **Step 5:** Project implementation.
- **Step 6:** Project closing/reconciling accounts.
- **Step 7:** On-going monitoring where applicable (1, 5, and 10 year).

Submitting Application

- Email to restoration@npca.ca.
- Bring to NPCA Head Office located at 250 Thorold Road West in Welland (Third Floor).
- Mail to address above.

Contact

For more information on this restoration program, interested applicants can contact: restoration@npca.ca
905-788-3135 (ask for Restoration)

How did you hear about us? Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> www.npca.ca | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Google/Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Event | <input type="checkbox"/> Promo brochures |

If possible, please share the specifics of your answer:

***"There can be no purpose more enspiriting than to begin the age of restoration,
reweaving the wondrous diversity of life that still surrounds us."***

Site Plan Sketch

Please provide a sketch of the proposed project site showing your project idea in relation to existing site condition.



The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority collects and uses your personal information pursuant to Section 29(2) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act 1991, and under the legal authority of the Conservation Authorities Act R.S.O. 1990 as amended. Any personal information collected and or used as part of a program application is intended for administration purposes to process, issue, monitor, determine, plan, and direct the stewardship project, including the granting of subsidies thereunder. The NPCA will only use the information that is required. It is understood and agreed such information may be disclosed to other funding agencies consistent with project reporting requirements.

The NPCA is governed by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("MFIPPA"), and the Personal Information and Protection Electronic Documents Act ("PIPEDA"). Questions about the collection of personal data can be made to the NPCA's Senior Manager, Corporate Services.

THIS AGREEMENT made this **XX** day of **XX**, 20**XX**

B E T W E E N

XXXX

Herein referred to as the "Landowner",

- and -

THE NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY,

Herein referred to as the "NPCA"

This Agreement sets out what is to be done and how the NPCA and its partner(s) will be involved with the "Project".

WHAT WILL BE DONE?

The NPCA will construct the "Project" generally as shown on the Work Sketch.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS THE WORK WILL ACHIEVE?

The Project is designed to:

WHERE WILL IT BE DONE?

The Project will be carried out on the property of the Landowner shown on the Work Sketch.

WHO WILL DO IT?

The NPCA will hire a mutually agreed contractor to do the Project and will provide the other party with a copy of it.

WHEN WILL IT BE DONE?

The Project must be completed by **XXXX** in order to qualify for the funding from NPCA and its Partners

WHAT WILL IT COST?

The projected cost of the Project is \$

WHO PAYS FOR IT?

The NPCA will pay the contractor and provide Landowner with proof of payment. The NPCA will contribute up to 75% of the cost of the Project to maximum grant rate of the

project category. **The Landowner will pay a deposit of half of their projected contributions before the project begins and pay the balance upon being invoiced by NPCA.**

The Landowner understands that NPCA is not the sole source of funds for the Project and the Landowner will contribute to the cost.. The landowner agrees that

1. They will co-operate in posting signs or other recognition of the support.
2. They will co-operate with inspections and the preparation of reports need to obtain funding.
3. Funding may be dependent on the approval in the Provincial or Federal budgets of the programs that permit the Project to be supported.
4. That payment may be delayed or refused if these terms are not met.

WHEN WILL PAYMENT BE MADE?

The Landowner will pay its share **upon being invoiced by NPCA.** The NPCA will pay its share 30 days after final inspection or as may be provided in its contract.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE WORK IS FINISHED?

The Landowner agrees that the Project as shown on the Work Sketch will be to the best of the ability left intact encouraged to grow as a natural feature in the landscape for a period of 15 years following completion.

The Landowner also agrees to communicate the details of the project to any subsequent owner, so that they may fully appreciate the value in the project area.

WHAT IF EITHER OF US IS UNHAPPY WITH THE WORK?

The Parties will meet as soon as possible and preferably at the site to discuss what the problem is and the possible solutions and will try to reach an acceptable resolution which shall be reduced to writing and become a binding amendment to this Memo. If this is not possible, either party may seek binding Arbitration by a single Arbitrator who shall be a professional engineer having expertise in the problem that has arisen. The Arbitrator shall be agreed to by the parties or, failing agreement, appointed by a Judge on an Application pursuant to the Arbitrations Act of Ontario.

PRIVACY

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority collects and uses your personal information pursuant to Section 29(2) of the Municipal Freedom of information and Protection of Privacy Act 1991, and under the legal authority of the Conservation Authorities Act R.S.O. 1990 as amended. Any personal information collected and or used as part of a program application is intended for administration purposes to process, issue, monitor, determine, plan, and direct the stewardship project, including the granting of subsidies thereunder. The NPCA will only use the information that is required. It is

understood and agreed such information may be disclosed to other funding agencies consistent with project reporting requirements.

The NPCA is governed by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act ("MFIPPA"), and the Personal Information and Protection Electronic Documents Act ("PIPEDA").

Questions about the collection of personal data can be made to the NPCA's Executive Coordinator to CAO and Board of Directors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals.

**SIGNED, SEALED AND
DELIVERED IN THE
PRESENCE OF**

XXXX

Landowner

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20**XX**

XXXXX

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20**XX**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NPCA)
AND
PARTNER ORGANIZATION**

Agreement made in duplicate this ____ day of _____, 2019.

BETWEEN: **Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)**
250 Thorold Road, West
Welland, Ontario, L3C 3W2

hereinafter called the "Corporation"

- and -

Partner Agency
Address

hereinafter referred to as the "Partner"

WHEREAS the Corporation and the Partner share a mutual interest in conservation to the benefit of the overall health of the watershed. (CHANGE TO MEET PARTNERSHIP DETAILS)

AND WHEREAS the Partner intends to implement restoration projects on privately owned lands listed on Schedule 'A'. The Corporation will provide funding and technical assistance to assist the Partner for the implementation of each restoration project conditional that each cooperating landowner signs a NPCA Landowner Agreement for the project. (CHANGE TO MEET PARTNERSHIP DETAILS)

NOW THEREFORE the Corporation and the Partner agree as follows:

1. INTERPRETATION

It is understood that the use of the term "Partner" is not intended and does not create a partnership at law between the parties.

2. TERM

This Agreement shall commence on the ____ day of _____, 2019 and terminate on the ____ day of _____ 20__.

3. DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES

- i) The Partner agrees that the Corporation, for the purposes of this Agreement, may act through any individual designated by the Corporation.
- ii) For the purposes of this Agreement the designated representatives for the Corporation are:

Geoff Verkade
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
(905)-788-3135

for the Partner is: Partner Representative
Partner Agency
Partner Telephone

Both the Corporation and the Partner agree that they may designate a different representative by providing notice in writing.

4. CORPORATION OBLIGATIONS

- i) The Corporation agrees to participate as the project proponent and lead agency for the project implementation including obtaining any and all required permits and approvals. This may include municipal bylaws, Conservation Authority approvals, permits to take water, fisheries or other federal approvals, consultation with First Nations, and Ministry of Natural Resources regulations and the Endangered Species Act assessments with registered mitigation plans whenever applicable.
- ii) The Corporation must obtain a signed Conservation Agreement with the legal project landowners and the Partner will provide necessary information that is required, for each project.
- iii) The Corporation will secure quotations, hire contractors and equipment, provide construction supervision and all materials that may be required for the works. (AMMEND AS NECESSARY)

4. PARTNER OBLIGATIONS

- i) The Partner agrees to provide payment of \$_____ upon execution of this agreement and receipt of appropriate invoice(s) from the Partner detailing the expenses incurred, up to the maximum amount available according to the Schedule 'A', to the Corporation in support of the implementation of the restoration projects listed.

- ii) The Partner agrees to provide to the Corporation upon request, technical assistance for the purposes of project design and regulatory compliance and approvals

6. JOINT OBLIGATIONS

- i) The parties agree to indemnify each other, keep indemnified and save each other harmless from and against all claims, demands, costs, actions, causes of action, expenses and legal fees, which may be taken or made against them arising from their existing and ongoing activities.
- ii) The parties agrees to recognize the support of the each other in any publicly available document, signage or presentation that specifically refers to this project, including traditional and social media stories.

7. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

The parties hereto agree that this Agreement embodies the entire Agreement between the parties and the Partner represents that in entering into this Agreement the Partner does not rely upon any previous oral or implied representation, inducement or understanding of any kind or nature.

8. TERMINATION of AGREEMENT

The NPCA shall have the right at any time, with or without cause, to cancel this agreement by giving the Partner thirty (30) days prior written notice to that effect. In the event of termination of this agreement by NPCA, either with or without cause, NPCA shall reimburse the Partner for all reimbursable costs incurred by the Partner to the date of cancellation, provided however, that the Partner shall not have the right to include as a cost of cancellation any profit or earnings that may have been realized by the Partner had the work not been terminated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Agreement

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED)	
in the presence of)	
)	
)	
)	
_____ Witness as to execution by)	_____ Gayle Wood
Gayle Wood)	CAO & Secretary Treasurer
CAO & Secretary Treasurer)	Niagara Peninsula Conservation
Niagara Peninsula Conservation)	
)	
)	
_____ Witness as to execution by)	_____ Authorized Signature
)	
)	
)	_____ Position

Schedule 'A' to MOA with PARTNER AGENCY

This schedule lists the properties and DUC funding commitments for wetland projects to be implemented under this MOA. The owner's name, the legal address, the estimated area of wetland and uplands secured and the funding amounts available from DUC is listed for each project.

Wetland Restoration Project #1

Address:
Property Description:
Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.25 ha (0.62 ac)
The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$5,000

Wetland Restoration Project #2

Address:
Property Description:
Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.12 ha (0.30 ac)
The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$1,500

Wetland Restoration Project #3

Address:
Property Description:
Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.41 ha (1.01 ac)
The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$4,500

Wetland Restoration Project #4

Address:
Property Description:
Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.15 ha (0.37 ac)
The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$3,500

Wetland Restoration Project #5

Address:
Property Description:
Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.20 ha (0.49 ac)
The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$4,000

Wetland Restoration Project #6

Address:
Property Description:
Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.14 ha (0.35 ac)
The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$3,500

Wetland Restoration Project #7

Address:
Property Description:
Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.10 ha (0.25 ac)
The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$4,000

The total DUC funding contribution to these projects is \$26,000.00 and is conditional on receipt of 2 copies of signed DUC Conservation Agreement with the landowners and copies of construction invoices. The NPCA will invoice DUC for each project completed.

Additional projects may be added as an addendum to this MOA subject to the agreement of the Corporation and the Partner.

Draft Terms of Reference:
Restoration Program Review Committee

- Committee Name:* Restoration Program Review Committee
- Committee Type:* Standing Committee
- Purpose/Scope:* The Restoration Program Review Committee reviews evaluated applications for Restoration projects and approves projects that meet program criteria.
- Authority:* Decisions will be made by the Committee members.
- Membership:* The Committee will have a minimum of Five (5) Members and will include the Manager of Integrated Watershed Management and Information Management. It may include: one (1) Water Quality Staff, one (1) Ecology/Biology Staff, one (1) Community Engagement & Volunteer Coordinator, one (1) Watershed Analyst, and one (1) RAP Project Manager.
- Meeting Requirements:* Meetings will be held –biannually, once after the application deadline, and the second at the end of the grant cycle to review the program success in improving water quality. Meetings will be at the call of the Committee Chair. Agendas will be prepared by the Committee Chair in consultation with staff. Minutes will be prepared by staff and distributed to all Committee members and Senior Management prior to the next meeting.
- Meeting Location:* Meetings will be at NPCA Head Office (250 Thorold Rd. West, Welland), Ball's Falls Conservation Area or at a location determined by the Committee Chair.
- Responsibilities/duties:* The responsibilities of the Restoration Program Review committee are to:
- Ensure projects are considered fairly and without personal bias, following the program's four Guiding Principles:
 - a) Embracing partnerships and shared responsibilities;
 - b) Leveraging funding opportunities for an incentive-based cost sharing program;
 - c) Promoting adaptive management to meet the changing needs of the landscape; and
 - d) Conveying awareness of the benefits of environmental restoration and to celebrate successes.
 - Prioritize projects that demonstrate the greatest potential improvement to Water Quality, Habitat and/or Forest Cover.
 - Provide feedback and guidance on program focus and priority areas
 - Validate and review project evaluation criteria to align with program priorities
 - Make every effort to attend all meetings, participate in the discussions.

Decision Making: The Committee will operate openly with the aim of arriving at recommendations through consensus. However, votes may be called by the Committee Chair to advance the agenda. Results of the discussions will be reflected in the minutes.

<i>Realms of Knowledge</i>	<i>Member 1</i>	<i>Member 2</i>	<i>Member 3</i>	<i>Member 4</i>	<i>Member 5</i>
<i>Interest/Availability</i>					
<i>Ecological Restoration</i>	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Water Quality</i>	x	x			
<i>Biology/Ecology</i>	x	x	x	x	x
<i>Engagement/Partnerships</i>		x	x	x	x
<i>Outreach/Stewardship</i>	x	x			x
<i>Integrated Watershed Planning</i>			x		
<i>Agriculture</i>	x				
<i>Budgetary Oversight</i>	x		x		x

Management Approved Restoration Projects List									
Project Number	Project Type	Project Description	Watershed	Partner	Projected Funds	Landowner Projected Cost	NPCA Projected Cost	Total Estimated Cost	NPCA %
RP201903006	Tree Planting	5.3 acre tree planting	Coyle Creek	Land Care Niagara		\$3,200.56	\$9,601.67	\$12,802.23	75%
RP201903007	Tree Planting	4.7 acre tree planting	Point Abino Drain	Land Care Niagara		\$2,859.12	\$8,577.35	\$11,436.47	75%
RP201903008	Tree Planting	2.5 acre tree planting	Barlett Creek	Land Care Niagara		\$763.66	\$6,187.27	\$6,950.93	75%
RP201903009	Tree Planting	1.6 acre tree planting	CWR- Unnamed Creek	Land Care Niagara/Forests Ontario	\$4,148.00	\$381.83	\$1,145.49	\$5,675.32	20%
RP201903010	Tree Planting	3.3 acre tree planting	SNF Lyons Creek	Land Care Niagara		\$2,062.42	\$6,187.27	\$8,249.69	75%
RP201904001	Instream/Riparian	Riparian/Instream restoration	Walker's Creek			\$1,875.00	\$5,625.00	\$7,500.00	75%
RP201904002	Instream/Riparian	Riparian/Instream restoration	Welland River			\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00	75%
RP201905001	Wetland Restoration	0.75 acre wetland planting	15 Mile Creek			\$1,250.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,250.00	75%
RP201905003	Wetland Restoration	0.5 acre wetland planting	UWR- Mill Creek			\$1,250.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,250.00	75%
RP201905004	Wetland Restoration	2.5ac wetland construction	CWR- Parkers Creek	Ducks Unlimited	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$22,500.00	67%
		2.5ac wetland planting				\$1,666.67	\$5,000.00	\$6,666.67	75%
RP201905005	Wetland Restoration	1 acre wetland	40 Mile Creek	Ducks Unlimited	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$20,000.00	60%
		1 acre wetland planting				\$1,666.67	\$5,000.00	\$6,666.67	75%
RP201905006	Wetland Restoration	1 acre wetland	20 Mile Creek	Ducks Unlimited	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00	60%
		1 acre wetland planting				\$1,666.67	\$5,000.00	\$6,666.67	75%
RP201905007	Wetland Restoration	1 acre wetland	6 Mile Creek	Ducks Unlimited	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$20,000.00	60%
		1 acre wetland planting				\$1,666.67	\$5,000.00	\$6,666.67	75%
RP201905008	Wetland Restoration	0.7 acre wetland planting	20 Mile Creek			\$1,666.67	\$5,000.00	\$6,666.67	75%
RP201905009	Wetland Restoration	1.1 acre wetland	Welland River	Ducks Unlimited	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00	60%
		1.1 acre wetland planting				\$1,666.67	\$5,000.00	\$6,666.67	75%
RP201905010	Wetland Restoration	1.24 acre wetland	West Wolf Creek	Ducks Unlimited	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00	60%
		1.24 acre wetland planting				\$1,666.67	\$5,000.00	\$6,666.67	75%
RP201905011	Wetland Restoration	1.0 acre wetland	Bearss Drain	Ducks Unlimited	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$20,000.00	60%
		1.0 acre wetland planting				\$1,666.67	\$5,000.00	\$6,666.67	75%
RP201905012	Wetland Restoration	0.6a acre wetland	Point Abino Drain	Ducks Unlimited	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$15,000.00	50%
		0.6 acre wetland planting				\$1,666.67	\$5,000.00	\$6,666.67	75%
					\$44,148.00	\$58,642.62	\$198,824.05	\$301,614.67	

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: NPCA Signing Authority

Report No: FA-82-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-82-19 RE: NPCA Signing Authority **BE RECEIVED**.

That the Board of Directors **APPROVE** the signing officers for 2019 to be the Chair, Vice Chair, Interim Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer and the Director, Corporate Services.

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to develop a "Delegation of Authority Protocol" for approval by the Board of Directors.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to gain Board approval for signing officers for NPCA contracts, memorandums of understanding, operating and capital disbursements and to direct staff to prepare a delegation of authority protocol for Board approval.

Background:

Generally, at each Annual General Meeting of the Authority a "signing officer resolution" is approved. With the transition of staff during the first 2 quarters of 2019, further approval is required in this regard.

Financial Implications:

This report does not impact the 2019 budget.

Submitted by:

Original Signed by

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Board Training and Evaluation

Report No: FA-83-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-83-19 RE: Board Training and Evaluation **BE RECEIVED**.

That the Board of Directors **REFER** the NPCA Board Evaluation Tool and individual member assessment tool for comment and recommendation from the Governance Committee.

That Board Members **ADVISE** the Interim Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer of their recommended 2019 training needs by July 31, 2019 in order that staff may prepare recommendations for the Board of Directors in August 2019.

That the Board of Directors **DIRECT** the Interim Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary Treasurer to prepare a Report for the August Board meeting regarding the Interim CAO/ST Performance Review, performance indicators that facilitate the Board's evaluation of its oversight as well as an individual Board member performance evaluation survey, in compliance with the Auditor General's Report.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to respond to recommendations 5 – #5.1 to #5.3 of the Auditor General's Report on the NPCA regarding Board of Directors and CAO performance.

Background:

The Auditor General of Ontario prepared a report in September 2018 on a ***Special Audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority***. Twenty-four recommendations were provided by the Auditor General – some rest with the Province of Ontario to implement; some require approval of the Board of Directors of the NPCA.

Discussion:

Recommendation 5 of the Auditor General's Report states:

“to ensure that the NPCA Board of Directors has all the information it needs to effectively oversee the NPCA and improve its oversight when needed, we recommend that the NPCA Board:

5.1 Regularly evaluate the performance of the NPCA’s Chief Administrative Officer, as required by its policies.

5.2 Develop performance indicators to facilitate the Board’s evaluation of its oversight processes and activities.

5.3 Regularly evaluate both its collective performance and the performance of individual Board members.”

This Report recommends that:

1. The Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer be requested to provide a performance evaluation of her workplan and performance over the past five months; and
2. An individual board member evaluation survey and a Board of Directors’ Evaluation Tool be forwarded to the Governance Committee for comment and recommendations.

The Draft Evaluation Tools noted in #2 above are attached as Appendices to this Report.

Financial Implications:

Implementation of a Board and CAO performance system has no impact on the NPCA budget.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: NPCA Draft Board of Directors Evaluation Tool

Appendix 2: NPCA Draft Individual Board Member Assessment Tool

Submitted by:

Original Signed by

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

Appendix 1: NPCA Board of Directors Evaluation Tool DRAFT – July 17, 2019

NOTE: to be implemented in November 2019 after the new Board of Directors is established.

(A) Board Responsibilities

The first section of this evaluation asks NPCA Board of Directors to assess how well the Board has set out its major duties. The responsibilities include: advancing the NPCA mission; engaging in strategic planning; exercising fiduciary obligations, monitoring programs, guiding services; and, building the staff/board partnership.

(Three choices for scoring performance are: Y= Yes, N=No and N/S= Not Sure)

1. Corporate Mission

The Board is accountable for its mandate and mission. A mission has impact when NPCA's members embrace it, are aligned in purpose and people are promoting it.

A-1 The Board understands and embraces the mandate/mission	Y	N	N/S
A-2 The Board uses the mandate/mission as the standard against which decisions are made	Y	N	N/S
A-3 The NPCA Strategic Plan and NPCA policy decisions by the Board support advancement of the mandate/mission	Y	N	N/S

2. Strategic Planning

The Board is responsible for engaging in a planning process which enhances understanding of the changing environment in which it operates, and decisions which will help the Board to function more effectively in that environment.

B-1 The former Board approved the Strategic Plan 2018-2021. Do you think the current Board should update the Plan?	Y	N	N/S
B-2 The Board makes strategic decisions which are based on approved policy and procedures	Y	N	N/S

B-3 The Board devotes time to planning and evaluation of short and long term needs for sustainability	Y	N	N/S
--	----------	----------	------------

3. Fiscal Management

The Board is responsible for maintaining sound fiscal policy, budget control, accounting practices and financial records.

C-1 The Board understands its fiduciary responsibility	Y	N	N/S
C-2 The Board receives sufficient information to keep current on financial performance and to make informed and prudent fiscal decisions	Y	N	N/S
C-3 The Board makes resource allocation decisions which enable the Authority to progressively advance the mandate/mission and achieve its strategic goals	Y	N	N/S
C-4 The Board approves an annual operating budget derived from the organization's plans	Y	N	N/S

4. Programs and Services

The Board is responsible for determining programs and services that address the Authority's mandate

D-1 The Board receives adequate information to prioritize programs and services in relation to the budget	Y	N	N/S
D-2 The Board monitors programs and services, using objective data, to ensure they are consistently of high quality and of good value to the municipalities and the public	Y	N	N/S
D-3 The Board reviews programs and services to be certain they support the mandate/mission and priorities	Y	N	N/S

5. Advocacy and Promotion

The Board is accountable and responsible for fostering a clear understanding of NPCA, its strategic directions and leadership decisions among the municipalities and the public.

E-1 The Board has a communications strategy for NPCA	Y	N	N/S
E-2 The Board fosters effective, open, transparent and accountable communications between NPCA, its municipalities and the public	Y	N	N/S

6. Board/Staff Partnership

The Board is responsible for building and nurturing an effective working partnership with the CAO/Secretary-Treasurer.

F-1 The Board ensures a climate of mutual trust and respect exists between the Board and the CAO/ST	Y	N	N/S
F-2 The Chair has defined authority and responsibility to lead, direct and manage the CAO/ST successfully	Y	N	N/S
F-3 The Board and CAO/ST have agreed upon criteria to evaluate the CAO/ST's performance	Y	N	N/S
F-4 The Board seeks the professional advice of staff, respects the valued recommendations of the CAO/ST and staff and understands their approval role versus staff's operating and implementing role	Y	N	N/S

(B) Board Effectiveness

The second section of the evaluation asks the Board to assess how effective and efficient the Board is in doing its work. Contributing to effective governance are the following factors: clearly defined roles and responsibilities; an effective governance structure; well-developed group decision process and well-informed governors; meaningful, organized meetings and real productivity.

1. Board Responsibilities

A-1 The Board has defined a role for the Chair, Vice Chair, Board and CAO/ST in the Administrative By-Laws	Y	N	N/S
A-2 The Board has ensured job descriptions and a performance measurement system is in place for staff	Y	N	N/S
A-3 The Board executes their fiduciary responsibilities	Y	N	N/S

2. Governance Structure

B-1 The structure of the Board, Officers and Committees contributes to NPCA's ability to function effectively	Y	N	N/S
B-2 Each Committee has a specific mandate and terms of reference	Y	N	N/S

3. Board Dynamics

For the Board to function as a team, and speak with one voice, Board Members must demonstrate a willingness to work together in a spirit of shared purpose and cooperation that relies on unified consensus from majority decisions.

C-1 There is a climate of mutual respect and trust among the Members of the Board of Directors	Y	N	N/S
C-2 All Board Members fully participate in Board discussions	Y	N	N/S
C-3 Board Members have sufficient opportunity to express themselves on issues during Board discussions	Y	N	N/S
C-4 There is strong commitment to building consensus	Y	N	N/S
C-5 The Board makes decisions based upon its mandate/ mission, reliable information and data	Y	N	N/S
C-6 There is appropriate and timely communication between the Board and its Committees	Y	N	N/S
C-7 There is effective and appropriate communication between the Board and the CAO/ST	Y	N	N/S

4. Organized Meetings

Board meetings with organized agendas, reports, time-lines and materials circulated well in advance are more effective and productive for all.

D-1 The Board receives agendas and Reports for review 5 days in advance of the Board meeting	Y	N	N/S
D-2 Board meetings make effective and productive use of the role of Board Members by focusing agendas and decisions on policies, practices, programs & priorities at a strategic level and not the operational details	Y	N	N/S
D-3 Sufficient meeting time is allowed for reaching Board consensus on complex issues as may be needed	Y	N	N/S
D-4 Board members are familiar with agency by-laws and policy documents (e.g. Administrative By-Law, workplans and budgets)	Y	N	N/S

(C) Board Development

The third section of the evaluation asks the Board Members to assess how committed the Board is in preparing new Members for their responsibilities and to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the Board. The key challenges are: identification and orientation of the Board and ongoing Board learning.

1. Governance Capacity

A-1 The Board currently contains a sufficient range of experience to make it an effective governing body	Y	N	N/S
A-2 A Board Policy Manual and systematic orientation program is in place	Y	N	N/S

2. Board Development

B-1 The Board commits time for annual group learning experiences at meetings and retreats designed to improve the Board's effectiveness as a governing body and its understanding of good governance and emerging issues facing NPCA and the community it represents	Y	N	N/S
B-2 Board Members are encouraged to enhance their skills in governance and leadership	Y	N	N/S

(D) General Assessment

Please use this section to contribute and discuss any other ideas or thoughts that from your perspective could make the Board of Directors more efficient, effective, engaged, contributing, relevant and/or productive in building, an open, transparent and accountable organization.

1. What issues or priorities may require the Board's special attention during the next one to three years?
2. How can the Board's organization or performance be improved in the next 6 - 12 months?
3. What specific areas of training would you and the Board benefit from?
4. What other comments, ideas or suggestions would you like to offer related to the Board's performance?

Name of the Board Member: _____

Date of the Evaluation: _____



APPENDIX 2

NPCA Individual Board Member Evaluation Tool

DRAFT – July 17, 2019

Permission to use copyright product would be required.



DIRECTOR SELF-ASSESSMENT INVENTORY

Foundational

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|---|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. I am interested in, and committed to, this Organization and its mission. | <i>low</i>
1 | 2 | <i>medium</i>
3 | 4 | <i>high</i>
5 |
| 2. I appreciate the importance of effective/efficient governance to this organization's success and take my director role seriously. | <i>low</i>
1 | 2 | <i>medium</i>
3 | 4 | <i>high</i>
5 |
| 3. I devote the necessary time and energy to fulfilling my commitments as a director on this board. | <i>low</i>
1 | 2 | <i>medium</i>
3 | 4 | <i>high</i>
5 |

Board Citizenship

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|---|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 4. In the past year, I have missed more than 20 percent of this board's regularly scheduled meetings. | <i>yes</i>
1 | | | | <i>no</i>
5 |
| 5. In the past year, I have attended at least 80 percent of the meeting of committees on which I serve. | <i>no</i>
1 | | | | <i>yes</i>
5 |
| 6. Within the past two years, I have attended at least one extramural governance educational seminar /conference. | <i>no</i>
1 | | | | <i>yes</i>
5 |
| 7. I have collegial and productive working relationships with other directors. | <i>low</i>
1 | 2 | <i>medium</i>
3 | 4 | <i>high</i>
5 |
| 8. I follow through on my commitments to this organization and board. | <i>low</i>
1 | 2 | <i>medium</i>
3 | 4 | <i>high</i>
5 |
| 9. I am a willing and effective representative of, and advocate for this organization in my dealings with - external parties/constituents. | <i>low</i>
1 | 2 | <i>medium</i>
3 | 4 | <i>high</i>
5 |

Director Responsibilities

basic

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|---|--------------------|---|------------------|
| 10. I understand the legal fiduciary duties of directors: loyalty, care and obedience. | <i>low</i>
1 | 2 | <i>medium</i>
3 | 4 | <i>high</i>
5 |
| 11. I do not talk with "outsiders" about sensitive/confidential organization or board information. | <i>low</i>
1 | 2 | <i>medium</i>
3 | 4 | <i>high</i>
5 |

11. I acknowledge potential conflicts-of-interest when they arise and refrain from participating in discussions/votes if they are deemed to be material.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

vision, goals and strategies

12. I have a good general understanding of the healthcare industry and major forces/trends shaping it.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

13. I have a good general understanding of this organization; including its strategies, structure, operations, finances in addition to its key strengths and weaknesses.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

14. I understand this organization's vision.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

15. I understand this organization's key goals.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

16. I understand this organization's key strategies.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

17. I am competent/comfortable dealing with issues coming before the board regarding this organization's vision, key goals and strategies.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

executive performance and compensation

18. I understand the different, yet complimentary, responsibilities/roles of the CAO and this board.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

19. I have a good general understanding of the CAO role and those factors that affect/drive executive performance, contributions and compensation.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

20. I am competent/comfortable dealing with issues coming before the board regarding CAO performance/contributions and compensation.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

21. I have a collegial and productive working relationship with the CEO.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

quality

22. I appreciate this board bears ultimate responsibility/accountability for the organization.

<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
1	2	3	4	5

finances

23. I am able to read, analyze and interpret this organization's key financial statements.

<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
1	2	3	4	5

24. I understand those factors that affect/drive this organization's financial performance/condition and am able to assess them.

<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
1	2	3	4	5

25. I understand this organization's capital allocation process and the board's role in it.

<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
1	2	3	4	5

26. I understand the objectives of an independent audit and the board's role in the process.

<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
1	2	3	4	5

27. I am competent/comfortable dealing with issues coming before the board regarding this organization's finances.

<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
1	2	3	4	5

Board Meetings

28. I carefully read through, and reflect upon, agenda materials prior to board meetings and come prepared to engage in discussions/deliberations.

<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
1	2	3	4	5

29. I arrive at board meetings on time and do not leave early.

<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
1	2	3	4	5

30. I actively participate in board meetings; sharing my ideas, expertise, experiences, opinions and perspectives.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

31. I ask questions and request clarification when I don't understand an issue.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

32. I listen to, and carefully consider, the views of other directors (even when disagreeing with them).	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

33. I communicate my ideas clearly, precisely and effectively.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

34. I am willing to change my opinion (even strongly held ones) when presented with convincing counter arguments and facts.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

35. I am comfortable expressing a dissenting opinion and voting "no" when necessary.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

36. I support board policies, decisions and actions; even those with which I disagree and/or voted against.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

Overall Performance

37. My presence and participation adds value to the board.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

38. I enjoy serving on the board.	<i>low</i>		<i>medium</i>		<i>high</i>
	1	2	3	4	5

39. Overall, and in comparison to other directors, I rate my performance and contributions on the board as:	<i>bottom</i>		<i>middle</i>		<i>highest</i>
	1	2	3	4	5



REFLECTION GUIDE

implications/consequences of your low rating on the board's overall performance and contributions

specific things you should consider doing differently/better to improve this characteristic/practice

What are your greatest strengths as a director on this board?

What are your most pronounced weaknesses (and hence, developmental opportunities) as a director on this board?

What are the most important things you should consider doing to enhance your performance/contributions as a director on this board?

What can the organization/board do to assist you in further developing/enhancing your director knowledge, skills, perspectives and experience?

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Response to Notice of Motion - Climate Change

Report No: FA-85-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

That Report No. FA-85-19 RE: Response to the Notice of Motion on Climate Change **BE RECEIVED** for information.

That the Board of Directors **SUPPORT** the Draft NPCA Climate Change Vision and Charter as outlined in the Draft Report entitled ***NPCA Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan – 2019 to 2020.***

That the Board of Directors **DIRECT** staff to develop a Business Case for 2020 funding support for the Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.***

That the Board of Directors **REQUEST** the NPCA Public Advisory Committee to review the NPCA Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*** prior to its submission as part of a Business Case for 2020 funding.

That the Board of Directors **SUPPORT** staff discussion with Brock University, the City of Hamilton, McMaster University, Haldimand County and Niagara Region representatives to determine if NPCA could be involved with their climate change initiatives.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to respond to the Notice of Motion on climate change which was introduced at the June 19, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

Background:

a) NPCA Notice of Motion

At the June 19, 2019 Board of Directors' meeting the following Notice of Motion was introduced. Staff were requested to respond to this Notice of Motion by providing a Report for the Board to consider at their July 17, 2019 Board meeting.

WHEREAS climate change is a threat to the citizens of the NPCA watershed; and

WHEREAS climate change is a threat to the natural environment of our watershed; and

WHEREAS climate change is a threat to the built environment of our watershed; and

WHEREAS Canada and 194 other nations signed the Paris Climate Accord in 2015; and

WHEREAS the United Nations and many other scientific agencies report that human activity is the main cause of global climate change; and

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act states “an authority shall provide...programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards”; and

WHEREAS recommendations 7 and 8 of the Auditor General of Ontario’s Special Audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority speak directly to recommendations related to flood risks and natural hazards; and

WHEREAS the NPCA is a lead environmental institution for the people of our watershed; and

WHEREAS action is needed to develop climate risk mitigation and climate risk adaptation strategies, policies, and procedures; and

WHEREAS there is no Planet B;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority declares a climate emergency and recognizes the need to take action that will contribute to the mitigation and adaptation of the effects of climate change throughout our watershed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPCA will create a climate change emergency charette with the aim of identifying a proposed plan of action for the NPCA: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the charette will include subject matter experts drawn from NPCA resources as well as community institutions in order to realize the best possible results.

b) NPCA Climate Change Work – 2010 – 2012

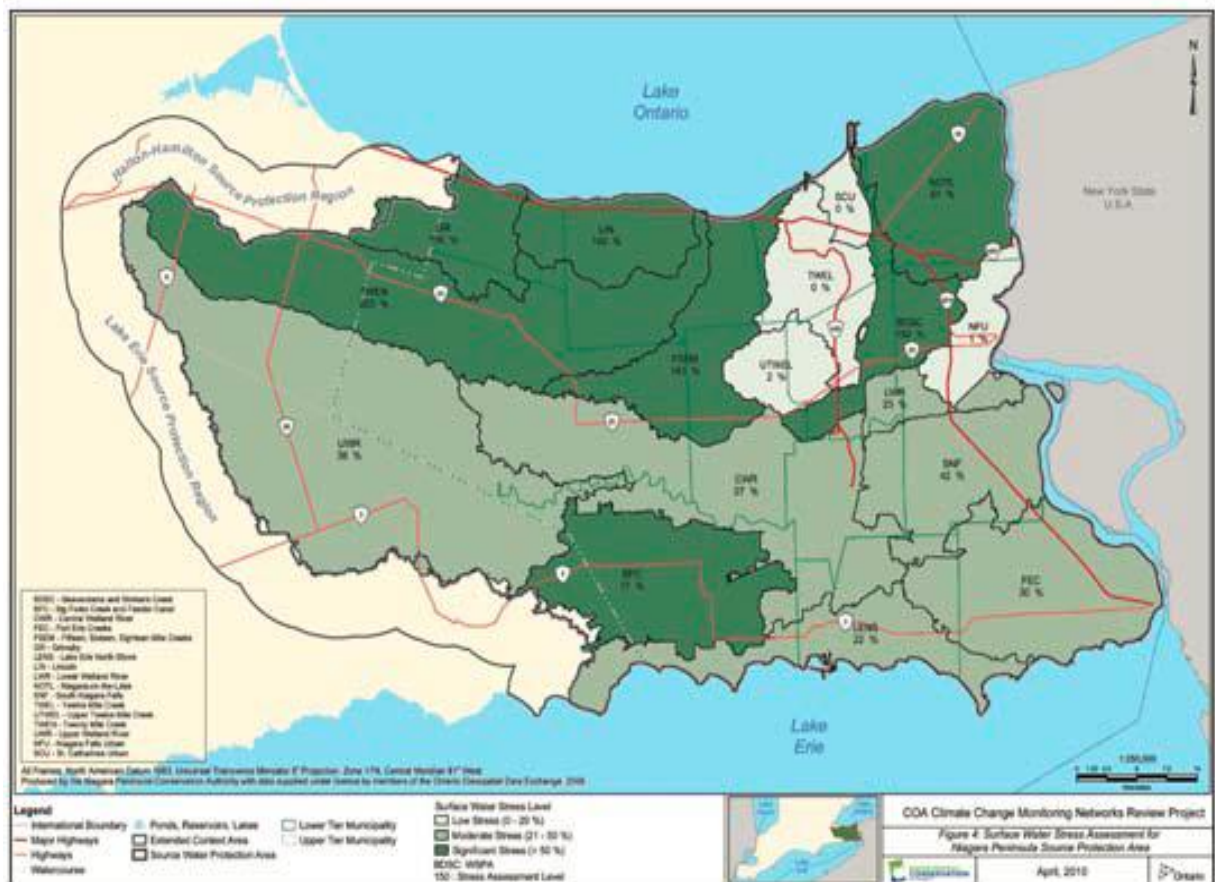
NPCA first commenced its climate change work in 2010 by completing a report entitled ***Climate Change Monitoring Networks Review***. This report provided an important evaluation require for climate change; that being a vulnerability assessment of our surface and ground water.

From this, NPCA provided Niagara Region with information for their report **Adapting to Climate Change: Challenges for Niagara, April 2012 –**

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/government/planning/pdf/climatechangereport.pdf>

In the Niagara Region Report, NPCA determined that 7 out of 13 Watershed Planning Areas in the Region were highly sensitive to climate change, as shown in the map below.

Based on its analysis, NPCA recommended adding or reactivating 7 weather stations in the Region to provide more comprehensive water quality and flow data from Niagara watersheds that are highly sensitive to climate change.



It is important to note that NPCA now has 15 dedicated climate stations and 20 precipitation gauges which support hydrological modelling in Niagara to assess the impact of climate change on water resources over time.

The Niagara Region Report also referenced the NPCA's restoration programs which are essential for climate change adaption.

The 2012 Regional Report concluded that "the experience of strong regional and local initiatives in other parts of Ontario, Canada and internationally suggests that additional commitments are needed. These include:

- Ensuring that local governments and key business organizations in the region make a commitment to do their part to reduce the impacts of climate change,
- Support by strong political or executive champions,
- Establishment of a clear organizational structure for adaptation planning with a clear mandate, financial support and the collaboration of key stakeholders in the region,
- Allocation of dedicated staff and budget – rather than simply adding adaptation to the responsibilities of already busy staff or volunteers with few financial resources,
- Active collaboration with local and regional researchers prepared to help with climate information, vulnerability and risk assessment, and identification of adaptation options, and
- Identification of priority sectors and projects for adaptation...”

c) NPCA Climate Change Work – 2012 – present

NPCA’s Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021 addresses the goal to:

“work in collaboration with other government bodies to develop science-based solutions to help mitigate climate change impacts...”

Although NPCA has not formalized a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, we currently undertake four key program areas where we can make a contribution to climate mitigation and adaption:

Hazard Mitigation

- Flood Warning and Forecasting
- Surface and groundwater vulnerability monitoring and assessment
- Floodplain Mapping

Climate Change Adaptation

- Wetland protection and restoration
- Carbon sequestration (tree planting)
- Riparian projects

Education and Outreach

- Community tree planting events
- Niagara Water Festival

Facilities Management and Conservation

- LEED building at Balls Falls
- Facilities energy conservation.

Discussion:

Staff concur that climate change is a threat to the watershed and to the citizens that reside within our jurisdiction and beyond.

Staff agree that, although NPCA currently addresses some mitigation and adaption programs, that a formal ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*** should be developed in 2020. We recommend a focus in 2020 for the following reasons:

- Approved Q3 and Q4 priorities for 2019 focus on the response to the Auditor General's Report, legal actions/outstanding grievances, preparation of the 2020 budget and operational priorities as approved in the June to December workplans by the Board of Directors.
- Completion of a ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*** will require further human and financial resources as addressed in the Niagara Region's Report on climate change.

Based on the Notice of Motion staff are recommending that:

1. The Board of Directors receive the Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the NPCA*** appended to this Report.
2. That the Board of Directors support the Draft NPCA ***Climate Change Vision and Charter*** as outlined in the Draft Report entitled ***NPCA Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***.
3. That the Board of Directors request staff to develop a Business Case for 2020 funding for the Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***.
4. That the Board of Directors support staff discussion with Brock University, the City of Hamilton, McMaster University, Haldimand County and Niagara Region representatives to determine where NPCA could be involved with their climate change initiatives.

Further, it is important to note that Brock University recently launched a climate change partnership with seven of Niagara's municipalities entitled ***Niagara Adapts***. By the end of this partnership it is anticipated that each of the municipalities will produce a climate change adaption plan that provides recommendations to build climate resilience. NPCA staff have reached out to Brock University to determine if the conservation authority could participate in this partnership.

Financial Implications:

- Staff have commenced the climate change work by developing a ***Strategy and Action Plan*** for the Board's consideration; however, a Business Case for funding to complete the strategy work in 2020 will be required, with a further Business Case for funding in 2021 and beyond for implementation of the Action Plan.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Draft NPCA ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***

Submitted by:

Original Signed by

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



NPCA Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2020

Draft for Approval July 17, 2019



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Cover Photo: Courtesy of David Sills

Background

Globally, various levels of governments have accepted climate change as a reality.

Key facts and figures

The climate impacts we are seeing today are expected to persist and worsen as a result of past and present-day emissions.

We must act now to adapt and build resilience to a changing climate.

We will be able to proactively manage risks, protect the health and well-being of Canadians and lower costs in the longer term.

The costs of climate change for Canada are only expected to rise.

Taking proactive action to manage risks associated with climate change impacts will reduce these costs.

There are economic opportunities that come from building the know-how and expertise necessary to successfully adapt to a changing climate.

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Canada has committed to a “new approach to global climate action” built on:

- Fact based decision making and robust science;
- Recognition of the necessity of transitioning to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy;
- Strong collaboration with provinces...to take concrete climate action; and
- Support for climate-resilient development and adaption in countries that need it.

Several conservation authorities and municipalities have followed suit by developing their own climate change strategies.

1. On July 17, 2019, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority’s Board of Directors will review a **Draft NPCA Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan** based on the “Local Governments for Sustainability” (ICLEI) framework.

NPCA's Strategic Plan –Mission, Strategic Focus, Goals

NPCA's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan provides an overarching set of key principles that should be considered when developing the ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***:

NPCA Mandate – As prescribed by the Conservation Authorities Act, our mandate is to establish and undertake programs and services on a watershed basis, to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources.

NPCA Mission – Our mission is to implement the Conservation Authorities Act mandate by remaining responsive, innovative, accountable and financially sustainable organization.

NVCA Strategic Goals and Objectives

NPCA Strategic Focus – "Evidence Based Watershed Resources Management":

- **Goal:** Work in collaboration with other government bodies to develop science-based solution to help mitigate climate change impacts, and report progress to the Board of Directors on an annual basis.

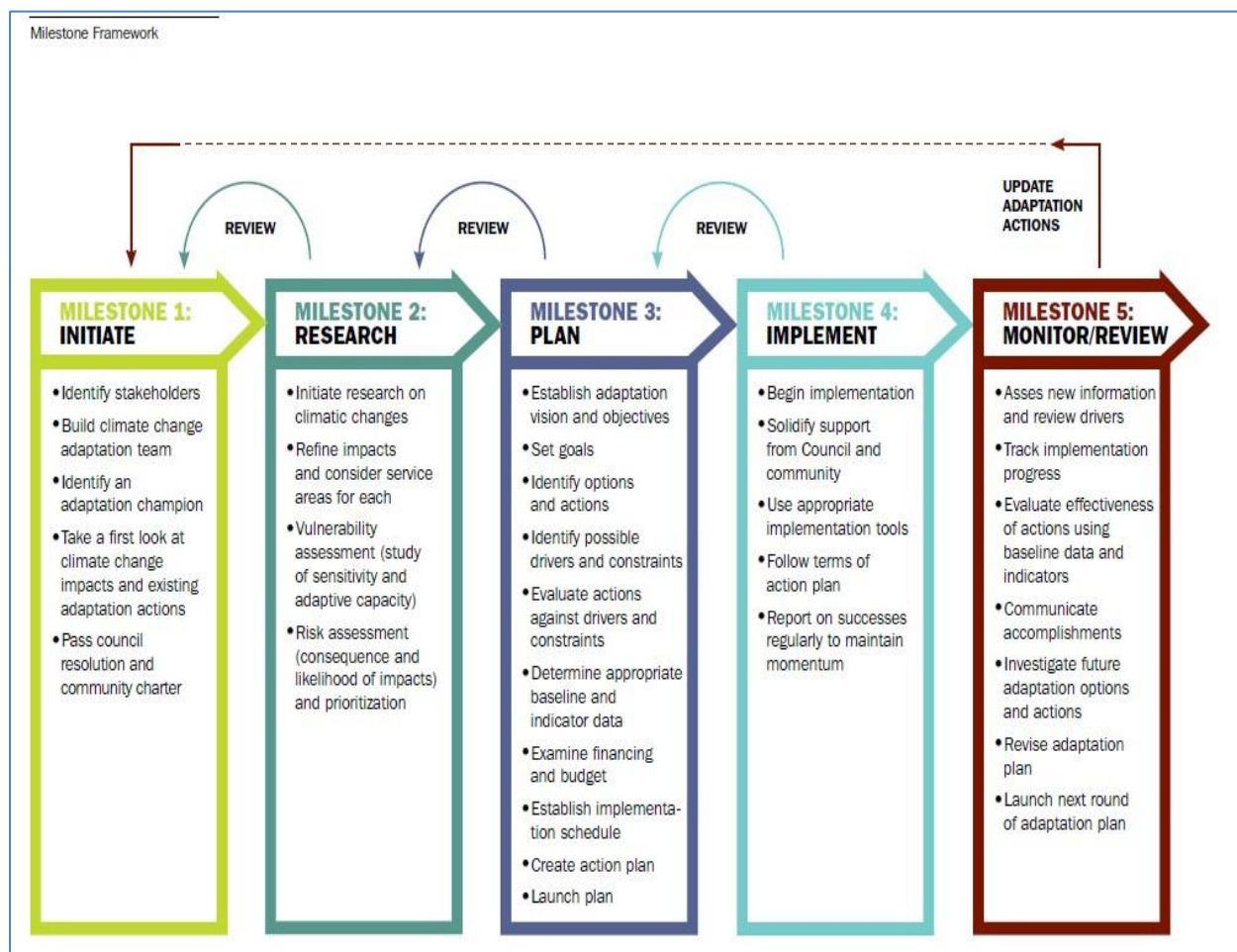
NPCA's Draft Climate Change Vision

NPCA's strategic mission and strategic focus offer an important link in addressing a draft NPCA Climate Change Vision, which is proposed as follows:

NPCA's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will support global, federal, provincial and participating municipal goals by focusing on our watershed to support climate change adaption and mitigation.

NPCA's Climate Change Strategy Framework

It is proposed that NPCA commit to the following strategy framework, as presented in *Changing Climate, Changing Communities: Guide and Workbook for Municipal Climate Adaptation*, 2014, by ICLEI Canada:



The following section of this Strategy responds to each of the action items listed in “Milestone 1: Initiate” of the climate change strategy framework, which could be completed by the NPCA in 2019.

Setting the Stage – Initial Climate Change Research

Climate Change in the Context of the Niagara Peninsula

In conjunction with the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases, it is certain that temperatures globally have been rising since the late 19th century and even more notably since the late 1940's onwards:

...each of the past three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than all previous decades in the instrumental record.¹

Reconstruction of past climates using ice core, tree rings and other datasets indicate it is very likely that in the Northern Hemisphere the 30-year period from 1983 to 2012 was the warmest in the past 800 years. Temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere have been climbing faster than the global average. Importantly, it is extremely likely that human activities have caused more than half of the warming observed since 1951.

Studies conducted for the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change have noted with high confidence that an increase in precipitation has occurred in the Northern Hemisphere."¹

A 2012 report entitled ***Adapting to Climate Change: Challenges for Niagara*** was released by Brock University which projected the following for Niagara:

- An increase in average annual temperature of 3-4 degrees C by the 2050's;
- An increase in freeze-free days by as much as 30 days in the 2050's and 50 days in the 2080's;
- A 20% decrease in summer rainfall by the 2050's;
- A continuing increase in free-thaw cycles for the next few decades;
- Growth in the conditions that give rise to thunderstorms with a likely increase in heavy rainstorms, lightning strikes, high winds, hailstorms and tornadoes.

In addition to the above work, NPCA completed a 2010 report entitled ***An Assessment of [monitoring stations] in the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority watershed for Climate Change Detection and Adaption***. This report is appended to NPCA Report No. FA-85-19 regarding Climate Change.

¹ Source: Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1, Assessment Report 5 (AR5), 2013, p.161.

NPCA's Internal Climate Change Team

Should funding be approved, the NVCA could have several teams who will each play critical roles in the development of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

NPCA Internal Team	Roles and Responsibilities
NPCA Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our governing body – the Board of Directors – will oversee all aspects of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan development and approval, including all policies, programs, and budget related to the Strategy and Action Plan. • The Board will approve all Staff Reports associated with the 5 Milestones of the Climate Change Strategy. • The Board will approve the Climate Change Action Plan. • The Board members may participate in stakeholder meetings. • The Board members will promote the Climate Change initiative with their respective municipalities.
Lead NPCA Team Gayle Wood, Interim CAO – Geoff Verkade Team– Watershed restoration Renee Bisson Team – Communications Steve Miller Team– Water Resources An additional staff person funded through a Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our lead team will complete staff reports for all Five Milestones of the initiative. • The lead team will conduct relevant research with the assistance of local academic institutions • The lead team will ensure implementation of the Five Milestones of the initiative. • The lead team will coordinate with the NPCA Public Advisory Committee and stakeholders on workshops and reports. • The lead team will coordinate all publications, stakeholder input, external communications and communications planning.

NPCA Internal Team	Roles and Responsibilities
Supporting NPCA Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Management Team Management Team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Executive Management and Management Teams will be involved in reviewing Stakeholder input and responding to the proposed NPCA Action Plan in terms of their program initiation.
NPCA Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The full team will be involved in the review of the draft and final Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Draft Public and Stakeholder Advisory Group

It is recommended that, if funded, the Board request the NPCA Public Advisory Committee to review reports and host workshops/charettes regarding the climate change work. The PAC could be augmented with the following stakeholders, as well as recommend a potential climate change champion for NPCA.

Sector	Proposed Representatives
Municipalities (3) 3 municipalities -	<input type="checkbox"/> One representative Niagara Region <input type="checkbox"/> One representative City of Hamilton <input type="checkbox"/> One representative Haldimand County
Academic Institutions (3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Brock University <input type="checkbox"/> Niagara Collage <input type="checkbox"/> McMaster University
Agricultural Sector (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Representatives from PAC
Building Industry (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> TBD
NGOs (2) Examples Include	<input type="checkbox"/> Greening Niagara <input type="checkbox"/> Niagara Sustainability Initiative
Federal Government (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate Change Canada
School Boards (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Niagara District Catholic School Board <input type="checkbox"/> District School Board of Niagara
Business (2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chamber of Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Homebuilders' Association
PAC Members (12)	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 members of PAC, including those identified above
Health Unit (1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Niagara District Health Unit

Watershed Climate Change Charter

"Scientific evidence shows climate change is happening now. This consensus that greenhouse gas emissions are seriously affecting Earth's climate and that climate change is having increasing negative global impacts, effects the NPCA watershed's environment and economy.

The NPCA agrees that we need to take responsibility at the local, watershed level and act to address both climate change adaptation and mitigation. We need to prepare for climate change impacts in ways that promote environmental integrity, economic prosperity, and health benefits for all.

It is important for individuals and organizations to share ideas and best practices and coordinate efforts to accomplish these goals as effectively as possible. NPCA agrees that we need to be part of this coordination and conversation".

Chair NVCA

Approved Date: 2019

Conclusion

With the adoption of the Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan – Milestone 1 – Initiating the Strategy Report*** could be commenced in 2019.

NPCA can seek funding for **Milestone 2 - Research** work in 2020. The second milestone involves additional investigation on impacts, vulnerability and risk assessments regarding climate change and the NPCA watershed.

Milestone 3 - Plan, which would result in the development of a NPCA Climate Change Action Plan could also be completed in 2020 with appreciate funding for an additional staff person and a communications budget for consultation.

Milestone 4 – Implement could be commenced in 2020 should funding be received for the first 3 Milestones.

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: 2019 Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Restoration Memorandum of Agreement

Report No: FA-90-19

Date: July 17, 2019

Recommendation:

1. That Report No. FA-90-19 RE: 2019 Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Restoration Memorandum of Agreement **BE RECEIVED**.
2. That the 2019 Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Restoration Memorandum of Agreement **BE APPROVED** for signature by the Chair and Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Report is to provide the NPCA Board of Directors with the 2019 Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) Wetland Restoration Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) detailing the renewed partnership between the NPCA and DUC to implement wetland restoration projects.

Background:

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is recognized as a leading agency in wetland design and conservation. From 2002, DUC and the NPCA have been working together with Niagara landowners to implement wetland restoration projects across the NPCA watershed. The two organizations share a mutual interest in wetland conservation to the benefit of waterfowl, water quality and the overall health of the watershed.

At the April 2019 Full Authority meeting the Board approved the implementation of a revitalized Restoration Grant program better addressing the mandate of the Conservation Authorities Act, the NPCA Strategic Plan, and the Auditor General's recommendation to develop and implement a strategy to better target areas of the watershed based on water quality monitoring and other information on the health of the watershed. A copy of FA-37-19 'Revitalizing the Restoration Program' is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

At the June 2019 Full Authority meeting the Board received for information, the 2019 Workplan for the Restoration Grant Program. Identified within the 2019 Workplan was the goal to re-establish partnerships with like-minded organizations and negotiate Memorandum of Agreements with these

significant partners. A copy of FA-63-19 'Restoration Program Workplan' is attached to this Report as Appendix 2.

Discussion:

In keeping with the Guiding Principles of the Restoration Program, staff have begun to reengage with several significant traditional partner organizations – including Ducks Unlimited Canada. Partnerships with organizations such as Ducks Unlimited Canada allows the NPCA and our partners to leverage funds and organizational capacities to reduce our financial contribution to these projects and increase the total number of projects completed.

The 2019 Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Restoration Memorandum of Agreement (Appendix 3) details the individual and joint obligations of each organization within the renewed partnership between the NPCA and DUC, including funding commitments, technical responsibilities and partner recognition.

Schedule 'A' to the MOA (see Appendix 3) provides the details of the eight (8) proposed wetland restoration projects. These projects will see approximately 3.8 ha of wetlands restored. All eight projects are also in partnership with private landowners through the NPCA watershed.

Financial Implications:

Ducks Unlimited will contribute up to \$40,000 to the eight (8) projects.

NPCA funds to support these projects are in the 2019 budget and are approximated to be \$103,500. This amount is also addressed in Report No. FA-79-19 which addressed the total amount of restoration funding allocated to date in 2019.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1. - FA-37-19 RE Revitalizing the Restoration Program

Appendix 2. - FA-63-19 RE Restoration Program Workplan

Appendix 3. - FA-90-19 RE 2019 Ducks Unlimited Canada Wetland Restoration Memorandum of Agreement.

Authored by:

Original Signed by

Steve Gillis
Restoration Project Lead

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by

Geoff Verkade
Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Planning/
Information Management

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by

Lise Gagnon, CPA, CGA
Director, Corporate Services

Submitted by:

Original Signed by

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA (DUC)
AND
NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NPCA)**

Agreement made in duplicate this 17th day of July, 2019.

BETWEEN: **Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)**
740 Huronia Road
Unit 1
Barrie, Ontario, L4N 6C6
hereinafter called the "Corporation"

- and -

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)
250 Thorold Road, West
Welland, Ontario, L3C 3W2
hereinafter referred to as the "Partner"

WHEREAS the Corporation and the Partner share a mutual interest in wetland conservation to the benefit of waterfowl, other wildlife and the overall health of the watershed.

AND WHEREAS the Partner intends to implement wetland restoration projects on privately owned lands listed on Schedule 'A'. The Corporation will provide funding and technical assistance to assist the Partner for the implementation of each wetland restoration project conditional that each cooperating landowner signs a Ducks Unlimited Canada Conservation Agreement for the project.

NOW THEREFORE the Corporation and the Partner agree as follows:

1. INTERPRETATION

It is understood that the use of the term "Partner" is not intended and does not create a partnership at law between the parties.

2. TERM

This Agreement shall commence on the 17th day of July, 2019 and terminate on the 31st day of March 2020.

3. DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES

- i) The Partner agrees that the Corporation, for the purposes of this Agreement, may act through any individual designated by the Corporation.
- ii) For the purposes of this Agreement the designated representative for the Corporation is:

Jeff Krete
Ducks Unlimited Canada
(519) 621-2763 X 2297
(705) 721-4444 (Barrie office)

for the Partner is: Geoff Verkade
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
(905)-788-3135 X244

Both the Corporation and the Partner agree that they may designate a different representative by providing notice in writing.

4. CORPORATION OBLIGATIONS

- i) The Corporation agrees to participate in a program of wetland restoration and to provide partial financial support to each project agreed to and implemented by the Partner. Projects implemented will be annually identified with specified Corporation funding commitments made. The **Schedule "A"** project list will be completed as a collaborative effort of DUC and NPCA field staff. Additional projects may be added to the project list Schedule A as an addendum and will be subject to the approval of the Corporation and the Partner.
- ii) Upon execution of this agreement, Schedule A approval and receipt of appropriate invoice(s) from the Partner detailing the expenses incurred (up to the maximum amount available according to the Schedule 'A'); payment will be made to the Partner in support of the wetland restoration projects listed and completed.
- iii) The Corporation agrees to provide to the Partner as requested, technical assistance for the purposes of landowner site visits/negotiations, project design and regulatory approvals.

5. PARTNER OBLIGATIONS

- i) The Partner agrees to participate as the project proponent and lead agency for the project implementation including obtaining any and all required permits and approvals. This may include municipal bylaws, Conservation Authority approvals, permits to take water, fisheries or other federal approvals, consultation with First Nations, and Ministry of Natural Resources regulations and the Endangered Species Act assessments with registered mitigation plans whenever applicable.
- ii) The Corporation must obtain a signed DUC Conservation Agreement with the legal project landowners and the Partner will provide necessary information that is required, for each project.
- iii) The Partner will secure quotations, hire contractors and equipment, provide construction supervision and all materials that may be required for the works.
- iv) The Partner will optimize available funding from all sources to ensure the success of the Project and accommodate the cooperating landowner's ability to contribute to the Project.

6. JOINT OBLIGATIONS

- i) The parties agree to indemnify each other, keep indemnified and save each other harmless from and against all claims, demands, costs, actions, causes of action, expenses and legal fees, which may be taken or made against them arising from their existing and ongoing activities.
- ii) The Partner and Corporation agree to recognize each other in any publicly available document, signage or presentation that specifically refers to the Projects; including traditional and social media posts.
- iii) Where necessary, the Partner may request DUC to review the Project for compliance with the Ontario Endangered Species Act (ESA). If required, DUC will assist the Partner in developing an ESA mitigation plan. The Partner agrees to inform the landowner and register the project location with MOECP.

7. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

The parties hereto agree that this Agreement embodies the entire Agreement between the parties and the Partner represents that in entering into this Agreement the Partner does not rely upon any previous oral or implied representation, inducement or understanding of any kind or nature.

8. TERMINATION of AGREEMENT

DUC shall have the right at any time, with or without cause, to cancel this agreement by giving the Partner thirty (30) days prior written notice to that effect. In the event of termination of this agreement by DUC, either with or without cause, DUC shall reimburse the Partner for all reimbursable costs incurred by the Partner to the date of cancellation, provided however, that the Partner shall not have the right to include as a cost of cancellation any profit or earnings that may have been realized by the Partner had the work not been terminated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Agreement

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED
in the presence of

Witness as to execution by
Owen Steele
Head Conservation Programs - Ontario
Ducks Unlimited Canada

Witness as to execution by

Witness as to execution by

Owen Steele
Head Conservation Programs - Ontario
Ducks Unlimited Canada

Gayle Wood
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
NPCA

Dave Bylsma
Chair, NPCA Board of Directors

Schedule 'A' to MOA with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Project List : July 2019

This schedule lists the properties and DUC funding commitments for wetland projects to be implemented under this MOA. The owner's name, the legal address, the estimated area of wetland and uplands secured and the funding amounts available from DUC is listed for each project.

Wetland Restoration Project #1

DUC project #: P-000013332

Property Owner:

Address: 1130 Ridge Road, Hamilton, ON,

Property Description: PT Lt 7, Con 4 Saltfleet, Stoney Creek, Hamilton

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 1.1 acres

Estimated area of secured wetland: 0

Estimated area of secured upland: 7.93 acres

The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$5,000

Wetland Restoration Project #2

DUC project #: P-000012657

Property Owner:

Address: 64 Buchanan Crescent, Thorold, ON

Property Description: Pt Lt 11 con 2 Gainsborough, West Lincoln

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 2.5 acres

Estimated area of secured wetland: 0

Estimated area of secured upland: 26.4 acres

The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$5,000

Wetland Restoration Project #3

DUC project #: P-000013_____

Property Owner:

Address: 1412 Hall Road, Hamilton, ON

Property Description: Pt Lt 26 con 8 Binbrook, Glanbrook, Hamilton

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 1.0 acres

Estimated area of secured wetland: 14.7 acres

Estimated area of secured upland: 25.0 acres

The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$5,000

Wetland Restoration Project #4

DUC project #: P-000013330

Property Owner:

Address: 5274 Canborough Road, Wellandport, ON

Property Description: Pt Lt 14-15 Con 1 Gainsborough, West Lincoln

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 1.0 acres

Estimated area of secured wetland: 4.0 acres

Estimated area of secured upland: 3.5 acres

The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$5,000

Wetland Restoration Project #5

DUC project #: P-000013_____

Property Owner:

Address: 700 Pleasant Beach Road, Sherkston, ON

Property Description: Pt Lt 3 Con 1 Humberstone, Pt Colborne

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 0.6 acres

Estimated area of secured wetland: 2.0 acres

Estimated area of secured upland: 5.2 acres

The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$5,000

Wetland Restoration Project #6

DUC project #: P-000013_____

Property Owner:

Address: 4386 Firelane 17, Sherkston, ON

Property Description: Pt Lt 7 Con 1 Humberstone, Port Colborne

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 1.0 acres

Estimated area of secured wetland: 14.0 acres

Estimated area of secured upland: 5.2 acres

The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$5,000

Wetland Restoration Project #7

DUC project #: P-000013 _____

Property Owner:

Address: 3850 Spring Creek Road, Jordan Station

Property Description: Pt Lt 4,5 Con 10 Clinton, West Lincoln

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 1.0 acres

Estimated area of secured wetland: 3.0 acres

Estimated area of secured upland: 5.8 acres

The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$5,000

Wetland Restoration Project #8

DUC project #: P-000013 _____

Property Owner:

Address: 1075 airport Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Property Description: Pt Lt 2 Con 7 Grantham, NOTL

Estimated area of wetland to be restored: 1.0 acres

Estimated area of secured wetland: 1.0 acres

Estimated area of secured upland: 22.0 acres

The DUC cash funding commitment to this project is: \$5,000

The total DUC funding contribution to these projects is \$40,000 and is conditional on receipt of 2 copies of a signed DUC Conservation Agreement with the cooperating landowner and copies of construction invoices.