

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

FULL AUTHORITY

WELLAND

AGENDA

FEBRUARY 21, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

BUSINESS:

(1) MINUTES

(a) ANNUAL AUTHORITY MEETING – JANUARY 24, 2007

Attached are the Minutes of the Annual Authority Meeting held January 24, 2007.

(b) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – JANUARY 24, 2007

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held January 24, 2007.

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

(4) GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

(5) ACCOUNTS - JANUARY, 2007 – REPORT NO. 07-07

Attached is Staff Report No. 07-07 outlining the list of accounts for January, 2007.

(6) 2006 CURRENT & CAPITAL BUDGETS – UNAUDITED YEAR END – REPORT NO. 08-07

Attached is Staff Report No.08-07 regarding the 2006 Current & Capital Budgets.

(7) PROPOSED 2007 CURRENT BUDGET - REPORT NO. 09-07

Attached is Staff Report No. 09-07 together with the Proposed 2007 Current Budget.

(8) PROPOSED 2007 CAPITAL BUDGET - REPORT NO. 10-07

Attached is Report No.10-07 together with the Proposed 2007 Capital Budget.

(9) **2007 VEHICLE PURCHASE - REPORT NO. 11-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 11-07 with respect to this matter.

(10) **2007 EQUIPMENT PURCHASE – REPORT NO. 12-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 12-07 with respect to this matter.

(11) **2007 CONSERVATION AREA FEE SCHEDULE – REPORT NO. 13-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 13-07 regarding the proposed 2007 Fee Schedule.

(12) **LONG BEACH CONSERVATION AREA – ELECTRICAL UPGRADES – REPORT NO. 14-07**

Attached is a staff report outlining this matter. A staff report outlining the submissions received will be available at the meeting.

(13) **PRESENTATION – WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Staff will provide a brief power point presentation on the various projects and activities in the Water Management Program of the Authority.

(14) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 15-07**

Attached is Staff Report No. 15-07 outlining the status of Authority projects.

(15) **OTHER BUSINESS**

(16) **IN-CAMERA – VIOLATION AND COMPLAINT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. CR 1-07**

Attached is confidential Report No. CR 01-07 regarding this matter.

ADJOURNMENT



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WELLAND

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
JANUARY 24, 2007**

7:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

B. Baty
B. Bentley
G. Burroughs
B. Butters
T. Dalimonte
D. DiFruscio
A. Fevez
D. Goulbourne
B. Greenwood
B. Heit
B. Henderson
N. Johnson
D. Martin
D. Ransom

MEMBERS ABSENT:

M. Moccio (with regrets)

STAFF PRESENT:

A.L. Burt, General Manager
L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary
T. McDougall, Executive Director Conservation Foundation
M. Stack, Director Communications
T. D'Amario, Director, Water Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Erin Campbell, MacGillivray Partners
John Crossingham, Crossingham, Brady
Don Pearson, Conservation Ontario

BUSINESS:

The Vice-Chairman called the 48th Annual meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance and introduced Erin Campbell from MacGillivray Partners, the Authority's auditors, Don Pearson, General Manager of Conservation Ontario and John Crossingham of Crossingham, Brady, the Authority's solicitors. Due to the fact that this was a relatively new group of Board members he requested everyone to introduce themselves.

The Vice-Chairman advised that the members had received in their Board packages a copy of the Authority's Voting and Election Procedures. He requested a motion accepting these procedures. The following resolution was then presented.

Annual Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2007 continued

FA-01-07

MOVED BY: M. DiFruscio

SECONDED BY: B. Greenwood

THAT: the Conservation Authority's Voting and Election Procedures be approved.

"CARRIED"

As required in the Voting and Election Procedures, the following resolution was presented.

FA-02-07

MOVED BY: B. Heit

SECONDED BY: G. Burroughs

THAT: Andrew L. Burt be appointed Acting Chairman for the election of the Authority Chairman for 2007.

1) **ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2007**

Mr. Burt declared all offices vacant. He then outlined the Authority's voting and election procedures. The following resolution was then presented.

FA-03-07

MOVED BY: B. Baty

SECONDED BY: B. Bentley

THAT: Erin Campbell and John Crossingham be appointed to serve as scrutineers in the event of an election.

"CARRIED"

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Acting Chairman then called for nominations for the office of Chairman.

Mickey DiFruscio nominated Doug Ransom

The Acting Chairman called once again for nominations for the office of Chairman.

Gary Burroughs nominated Brian Baty

The Acting Chairman called for the third and final time for nominations for the office of Chairman.

Before closing nominations, the Acting Chairman asked Mr. Ransom if he would accept the nomination, which he advised he would. He then asked Mr. Baty if he would accept the nomination, which he advised he would.

There being no further nominations, the following resolution was presented.

Annual Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2007 continued

FA-04-07

MOVED BY: B. Bentley

SECONDED BY: A. Fevez

THAT: nominations for the office of Authority Chairman for 2007 be closed.

"CARRIED"

The Acting Chairman then asked Mr. Ransom if he wished to speak to the members and Mr. Ransom advised he would. The Acting Chairman advised him he had three minutes to do so.

Mr. Ransom provided an outlined of his background and his reasons for seeking the position.

The Acting Chairman then asked Mr. Baty if he wished to speak and Mr. Baty advised he would.

Mr. Baty outlined his background as well as his reasons and qualifications for seeking the position.

The Recording Secretary then handed out ballots to all members in attendance.

The scrutineers collected the ballots and left the meeting. Upon their return, the Acting Chairman requested Mr. Crossingham to advise the board of the successful candidate.

Mr. Crossingham advised that Mr. Doug Ransom had been elected Chairman for the year 2007.

Mr. Ransom then assumed the chair and thanked the board for their support.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman then called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Mickey DiFruscio nominated Brian Baty

The Chairman called once again for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

The Acting Chairman called the third and final time for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman.

Before closing nominations the Chairman asked Mr. Baty if he would be willing to stand for the office of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Baty advised he would.

The following resolution was then presented.

Annual Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2007 continued

FA-05-07

MOVED BY: B. Bentley

SECONDED BY: B. Henderson

THAT: nominations for the office of Authority Vice-Chairman for 2007 be closed.

"CARRIED"

The Chairman advised that Mr. Baty was elected Vice-chairman for the year 2007 by acclamation.

FA-06-07

MOVED BY: G. Burroughs

SECONDED BY: B. Heit

THAT: all ballots be destroyed.

"CARRIED"

The Director, Communications then proceeded to destroy the ballots.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the following resolution was presented.

FA-07-07

MOVED BY: D. Goulbourne

SECONDED BY: B. Heit

THAT: this meeting do now adjourn.

Received at 7:32 p.m. **"CARRIED"**

"L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary

D. Ransom, Chairman"

WELLAND

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

JANUARY 24, 2007

7:15 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Ransom, Chairman
B. Baty
B. Bentley
G. Burroughs
B. Butters
T. Dalimonte
D. DiFruscio
A. Fevez
D. Goulbourne
B. Greenwood
B. Heit
B. Henderson
N. Johnson
D. Martin

MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Moccio (with regrets)

STAFF PRESENT: A.L. Burt, General Manager
L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary
T. McDougall, Executive Director Conservation Foundation
M. Stack, Director Communications
T. D'Amario, Director, Water Management

OTHERS PRESENT: Don Pearson, Conservation Ontario

BUSINESS:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m., welcomed those in attendance and requested anyone who had a conflict of interest to declare it.

Brian Heit indicated a conflict with respect to the accounts regarding Talk Wireless and Telus Mobility.

1) MINUTES - FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2006

There were no errors or omissions, the following resolution was presented.

FA-08-07

MOVED BY: G. Burroughs

SECONDED BY: A. Fevez

THAT: the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held December 13, 2006, be received and approved as printed.

"CARRIED"

(2) **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman asked our guest Don Pearson, General Manager from Conservation Ontario if he had anything he wished to say to the Board.

Mr. Pearson thanked the Chairman for the opportunity and gave a brief outline of Conservation Ontario's activities and initiatives. He congratulated the Authority on their work and wished all the best for the coming year.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Pearson.

(4) **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The General Manager had nothing to report.

(5) **ACCOUNTS – DECEMBER, 2006 – REPORT NO. 01-07**

The General Manager responded to questions and the following resolution was presented.

FA-09-07

MOVED BY: D. Martin

SECONDED BY: b. Baty

THAT: The list of accounts for the month of December, 2006, in the amount of \$860,567.40 be received and approved.

"CARRIED"

(6) **2007 MEETING SCHEDULE - REPORT NO. 02-07**

The following resolution was presented.

FA-10-07

MOVED BY: T. Dalimonte

SECONDED BY: B. Greenwood

THAT: the 2007 Authority Meeting Schedule as outlined in Report No. 02-07 be approved.

"CARRIED"

(7) **PRELIMINARY 2007 CURRENT AND CAPITAL BUDGETS – REPORT NO. 03-07**

The General Manager outlined the report noting that the final budget will be presented at the February meeting. After a discussion and responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

FA-11-07

MOVED BY: D. Ransom

SECONDED BY: A. Fevez

THAT: Report No. 03-07 regarding the Preliminary 2007 Current and Capital Budgets be received for information.

"CARRIED"

(8) NPCA PLANNING AND REGULATION FEES - REPORT NO. 04-07

The Director, Water Management outlined the staff report. A lengthy discussion took place after which the following resolution was presented.

FA-12-07

MOVED BY: B. Bentley

SECONDED BY: B. Heit

THAT: Report No. 04-07 regarding the NPCA Planning and Regulation Fees be received; and

That the Planning and Regulation Fee Schedule approved in October, 2006 be revised to reflect 100% cost recovery, effective April 1, 2007.

"CARRIED"

(9) STEERING COMMITTEES – 15 – 16 – 18 MILE CREEKS WATERSHED PLANS AND NIAGARA SOUTH WATERSHED PLAN – REPORT NO. 05-07

The Director, Water Management outlined the staff report. Barbara Greenwood agreed to sit as Chair on the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan Steering Committee and Norm Johnson agreed to sit as Chair on the 15, 16, 18 Mile Creeks Watershed Plans Steering Committee. The following resolution was presented.

FA-13-07

MOVED BY: G. Burroughs

SECONDED BY: M. DiFruscio

THAT: Report No. 05-07 regarding the Steering Committees – 15-16-18 Mile Creeks and the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plans be received; and

That Norm Johnson and Barbara Greenwood be appointed to chair the 15-16-18 Mile Creeks Watershed Plan and the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan Steering Committees respectively.

"CARRIED"

(10) NIAGARA REGION PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE – REPORT NO. 06-07

The General Manager outlined the staff report. The following resolution was then presented.

FA-14-07

MOVED BY: D. Martin

SECONDED BY: B. Henderson

THAT: Brian Baty be appointed to represent the Conservation Authority on the Region of Niagara Planning Review Committee.

“CARRIED”

(11) OTHER BUSINESS

Brian Baty expressed his concern with respect to proposed expansion in Fonhill on Highway 20 and how the stormwater management may impact 12 Mile Creek. The General Manager advised that staff would review the stormwater plans as part of the development review process and would discuss this with Regional and Town staff.

Gary Burroughs questioned the wetland mapping that has recently been done and who did it. The General Manager noted that the Authority will be reviewing all wetlands in the watershed through the Natural Heritage Areas Inventory project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the following resolution was presented.

FA-15-07

MOVED BY: M. DiFruscio

SECONDED BY: B. Butters

THAT: this meeting do now adjourn.

Received at 8:25 p.m.

“CARRIED”

"L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary

D. Ransom, Chairman"



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TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: March 19, 2007

RE: Accounts January 2007 - Report No. 07-07

Attached is the list of accounts for the month of January 2007 in the amount of \$230,269.94.

Recommendation:

The list of accounts for the month of January, 2007, in the amount of \$230,269.94 be received and approved.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



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TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: February 14, 2007

SUBJECT: 2006 Current & Capital Budgets – Unaudited Year End - Report No. 08-07

In the Proposed 2007 Current and Capital Budgets, which are provided as a separate documents in this agenda, a column is included that identifies the unaudited 2006 year end position for program revenues and expenditures.

For the 2006 Current Budget, the Conservation Authority has an unused levy balance and deferred revenues of approximately \$268,000 due to various in-year program changes, deferrals and reductions as well as unanticipated revenues. Many of the variances from the approved budget were previously identified to the Board (see Reports No. 71-06 and 72-06, September 20, 2006). In the Conservation Areas Programming budget, a further \$45,300 was realized from conservation area gate receipts which exceeded the approved budget target as well as in-year program savings. I am recommending that these funds be appropriated to the following reserve accounts:

- 1) Approximately \$26,000 to the Vehicle Reserve
- 2) Approximately \$35,000 to the Equipment Reserve
- 3) Approximately \$111,000 to the Conservation Area Capital Reserve – Region of Niagara
- 4) Approximately \$81,000 to a new Regulations & Planning Services Reserve
- 5) Approximately \$15,000 to the Debt Charge Reserve
- 6) Approximately \$42,600 to the Conservation Area Operating Reserve - Region of Niagara
- 7) Approximately \$2,700 to the Conservation Area Operating Reserve - Haldimand County

For the Binbrook Conservation Area, the operating costs exceeded the revenues at this site and the levy assessed to the City of Hamilton by approximately \$21,100. To cover this 2006 deficit, it is recommended that the required funds be taken from the Conservation Area Operating Reserve – Hamilton.

For the 2006 Capital Budget, overall there is an unused levy balance of approximately \$2,122,700 for Conservation Area Development projects and an unused levy balance approximately \$380,200 for Water Management projects. While the majority of these funds will be used for projects carried into 2007, it is appropriate to assign the funds to reserve accounts pending their use. Accordingly, I am recommending that the funds be allocated to the following reserve accounts:

- 1) Approximately \$74,700 to Watershed Studies – Region of Niagara
- 2) Approximately \$190,500 to Resource Inventory & Environmental Monitoring
- 3) Approximately \$115,000 to Flood Protection Services
- 4) Approximately \$2,122,700 to Conservation Area Capital Reserve – Region of Niagara

An estimate of the Authority's Reserves and Reserve Accounts with the above noted additions is provided for your information. Subject to the approval of the Board, the 2006 Financial Statements will reflect the recommended appropriations.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 08-07 regarding the 2006 Current and Capital Budgets – Unaudited Year End be received; and

That the recommended appropriations be approved.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer

RESERVES & RESERVE FUND

	<u>Balance at</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2005</u>	<u>Appropriations</u> <u>From</u> <u>Operations</u>	<u>Appropriations</u> <u>To</u> <u>Operations</u>	<u>Est. Balance at</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2006</u>
<u>Reserves</u>				
Vehicles	115,223	77,389	(67,337)	125,275
Equipment	<u>95,871</u>	<u>66,915</u>	<u>(67,937)</u>	<u>94,849</u>
sub-total	211,094	144,304	(135,274)	220,124
Conservation Area Capital Reserve				
Region of Niagara	357,464	2,253,490	0	2,610,954
City of Hamilton	3,596	2,150	(3,756)	1,990
Haldimand County	<u>42,562</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>(27,547)</u>	<u>15,275</u>
sub-total	403,622	2,255,900	(31,303)	2,628,219
Conservation Area Operating Reserve				
Region of Niagara	277,436	42,600	0	320,036
City of Hamilton	46,467	0	(21,135)	67,602
Haldimand County	<u>3,593</u>	<u>2,700</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,293</u>
sub-total	327,496	45,300	(21,135)	393,931
Water Management Capital Projects				
Welland River Restoration	20,445	0	0	20,445
Water Management	154,524	0	0	154,524
Watershed Studies - Region of Niagara	375,893	74,700	0	450,593
Watershed Studies - City of Hamilton	31,944	0	0	31,944
Flood Protection Services	127,448	115,000	0	242,448
Resource Inventory & Environmental Monitoring	<u>43,365</u>	<u>190,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>233,865</u>
sub-total	753,619	380,200	0	1,133,819
General Operating Contingency	59,533	0		59,533
Debt Charge Reserve	6,938	15,400	0	22,338
Regulations & Planning Services Reserve	0	81,000	0	81,000
Agreement Forest	20,606	0	0	20,606
Computer & Office Equipment	52,551	0	0	52,551
<u>Reserve Fund</u>				
Accumulated Sick Leave Reserve Fund	<u>106,341</u>	<u>4,696</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>111,037</u>
Total	1,941,800	2,926,800	(187,712)	4,723,158

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: February 14, 2007

SUBJECT: Proposed 2007 Current Budget – Report No. 09-07

Attached for your review and consideration is the proposed 2007 Current Budget. The preliminary 2007 Current Budget was considered and approved at the October 18, 2006 meeting (see Report No. 81-06 which was distributed at the last Board meeting). The proposed 2007 Current Budget has several minor changes from the preliminary budget which are noted below:

1) Conservation Land Programming

- the Binbrook Conservation Area operating budget has been increased by \$20,000 to include site staff costs previously covered under the capital development program.

2) Vehicles & Equipment

- the vehicle budget has been increased by \$15,000 to allow for the replacement of the 1 ton crew cab to be funded through the use of reserves
- the equipment budget has been increased by \$5,000 to allow for the purchase of a tractor for the Binbrook Conservation Area to be funded through the use of reserves

Summary

- the total expenditure under the Proposed 2007 Current Budget is \$5,617,600
- the general levy to be assessed to the member municipalities is \$1,785,300
- a comparison of the 2007 and 2006 levies is shown below:

Levy Apportionment - 2007 Proposed Current Budget

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>2007 General Levy</u>	<u>2007 Special Levy</u>	<u>2007 Total Levy</u>	<u>2006 General Levy</u>	<u>2006 Special Levy</u>	<u>2006 Total Levy</u>	<u>Total Levy % Change</u>
Haldimand	\$13,925	\$4,000	\$17,925	\$13,779	\$3,550	\$17,329	3.4%
Hamilton	\$70,162	\$92,340	\$162,502	\$69,425	\$84,825	\$154,250	5.3%
Niagara	<u>\$1,701,212</u>	<u>\$1,774,200</u>	<u>\$3,475,412</u>	<u>\$1,683,345</u>	<u>\$1,482,156</u>	<u>\$3,165,501</u>	9.8%
Total	\$1,785,299	\$1,870,540	\$3,655,839	\$1,766,549	\$1,570,531	\$3,337,080	9.6%

The approved Preliminary 2007 Current Budget was submitted to the member municipalities in October. The Authority's 2007 Current budget levy meets the budget targets requested by the

Region of Niagara and the City of Hamilton. No comments have been received from Haldimand County.

It is recommended that the Proposed 2007 Current Budget as submitted be approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 09-07 regarding the Proposed 2007 Current Budget be received; and

That the Proposed 2007 Current Budget with a total expenditure of \$5,617,600 and a general levy of \$1,785,300 and special levies of \$1,774,200 to the Region of Niagara, \$92,340 to the City of Hamilton and \$4,000 to Haldimand County be approved; and

That the 2007 matching levy in the amount of \$183,250 and the total non-matching levy in the amount of \$1,602,050 for the 2007 Current Budget be apportioned to the member municipalities on the basis of the 2000 current value assessment of the member municipalities proportionate to the total 2000 current value assessment within the Authority's area of jurisdiction; and

That the special levies for the 2007 Current Budget be assessed in the amount of \$1,774,200 to the Region of Niagara, \$92,340 to the City of Hamilton and \$4,000 to Haldimand County.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: February 14, 2007

SUBJECT: Proposed 2007 Capital Budget – Report No. 10-07

Attached for your review and consideration is the proposed 2007 Capital Budget. The preliminary 2007 Capital Budget was considered and approved at the October 18, 2006 meeting (see Report No. 82-06 which was distributed at the last Board meeting). The proposed 2006 Capital Budget has several minor changes from the preliminary estimates which are noted below:

1) Watershed Management

a) Resource Inventory & Environmental Monitoring

- the Draper's Creek Restoration project was completed in 2006 and has been removed from the budget reducing the program expenditure by \$175,000.

b) Flood Protection Services

- general levy assessed in 2006 for the Binbrook Dam Emergency Spillway project has been carried forward to 2007 reducing the general levy required by \$100,000.

2) Conservation Land Development

- the special levy assessed to the Region of Niagara in 2006 for the Dunnville Spur line project which did not proceed has been carried forward to 2007 reducing the 2007 capital levy to the Region by \$225,000.

3) Summary

- the total expenditure under the Proposed 2007 Capital Budget is \$9,385,900
- the 2007 general capital levy to be assessed to the member municipalities is \$1,241,700
- a comparison of the proposed 2006 and 2005 levies is provided below:

Levy Apportionment - Proposed 2007 Capital Budget

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>2007 General Levy</u>	<u>2007 Special Levy</u>	<u>2007 Total Levy</u>	<u>2006 General Levy</u>	<u>2006 Special Levy</u>	<u>2006 Total Levy</u>	<u>Total Levy % Change</u>
Haldimand	9,685	27,300	36,985	5,536	21,200	26,736	38%
Hamilton	48,799	158,800	207,599	27,895	215,000	242,895	-15%
Niagara	<u>1,183,216</u>	<u>1,164,700</u>	<u>2,347,916</u>	<u>676,368</u>	<u>3,456,600</u>	<u>4,132,968</u>	-43%
Total	1,241,700	1,350,800	2,592,500	709,799	3,692,800	4,402,599	-41%

The approved Preliminary 2007 Current Budget was submitted to the member municipalities in October. The Authority's 2007 Capital budget levy meets the budget targets requested by the Region of Niagara and the City of Hamilton. No comments have been received from Haldimand County.

It is recommended that the Proposed 2007 Capital Budget as submitted be approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 10-07 regarding the Proposed 2007 Capital Budget be received; and

That the Proposed 2007 Capital Budget with a total expenditure of \$9,385,900 and a general levy of \$1,241,700 and special levies of \$1,164,700 to the Region of Niagara, \$158,800 to the City of Hamilton and \$27,300 to Haldimand County be approved; and

That the 2007 general levy in the amount of \$1,241,700 be apportioned to the member municipalities on the basis of the 2000 current value assessment of the member municipalities proportionate to the total 2000 current value assessment within the Authority's area of jurisdiction; and

That special levies for the 2007 Capital Budget be assessed in the amount of \$1,164,700 to the Region of Niagara, \$158,800 to the City of Hamilton and \$27,300 to Haldimand County.

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer



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TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: February 12, 2007

SUBJECT: 2007 Vehicle Purchase – Report No. 11-07

Funds have been allocated in the proposed 2007 budget for the purchase of 2 (two) ½-ton pick-up trucks, and 1 (one) one-ton crew cab pick-up truck, to replace two 2004 GMC ½-ton pick-up trucks, and a 1999 GMC 1-ton crew cab pick-up truck.

In an attempt to reduce fuel consumption and vehicle operating costs, the vehicle specifications were modified to include information on engine displacement and fuel economy. This information was used to forecast the annual operating cost of the vehicles and has been considered in addition to the purchase price.

Thirty area dealers were asked to provide quotes for the vehicle replacements by February 12, 2007. A summary of the eligible quotations is provided on the attached form. Prices include discounts for trade-ins and all applicable taxes. It is noted that all of the low quotes are within the proposed budget allocation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the low quotation, dated February 6th, 2007, received from Border Pontiac Buick GMC Truck to supply two (2) 2007 ½-ton pick-up trucks, for the total price of \$17,910.31 including trade-in and all applicable taxes be accepted; and,

That the low quotation, dated February 12th, 2007, received from Performance Chrysler Dodge Jeep to supply one (1) 2007 1-ton pick-up truck, for the total price of \$27,168.48 including trade-in and all applicable taxes be accepted.

Prepared by: Darcy B. Baker - Director, Land Management

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer



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TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: February 12, 2007

SUBJECT: 2007 Equipment Purchase – Report No. 12-07

Funds have been allocated in the 2007 budget for the purchase of 2 front mount riding mowers to replace two 2004 Massey Ferguson mowers in the Authority's equipment fleet. These purchases are in keeping with our equipment rotation and ensure a safe and efficient fleet.

Nine area equipment dealers were asked to provide quotations by Monday, February 12th, 2007. Three quotes were received on time. The submissions are summarized below. The price shown includes trade-in allowance and all applicable taxes. It is noted that the low quote is within the proposed budget allocation.

Two 2007 4-wheel drive front mount riding mowers:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Price</u>
1.	Ben Berg Farm & Ind. Equipment	F2880	\$34,529.46
2.	Agra Turf	JD1445	\$39,507.84
3.	W. J. Heaslip Ltd	JD1445	\$42,463.00

RECOMMENDATION:

That the low quotation, dated February 12th, 2007, received from Ben Berg Farm & Ind. Equipment, to supply two (2) 2007 Kubota F2880 front mount mowers for the total price of \$34,529.46 including trade-in allowance and all applicable taxes, be accepted.

Prepared by: Darcy B. Baker - Director, Land Management

Respectfully Submitted By: _____
Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer



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TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: February 13, 2007

SUBJECT: 2007 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule – Report No. 13-07

Authority staff have developed the attached schedule of Conservation Area Fees for the 2007 operating season. A number of factors were considered during the course of this exercise including; energy costs, property assessment and amenities. Nearby Conservation Authorities and private facilities were also consulted to ensure that the proposed fees reflect the local market rates.

Day Use Fees

There was a modest increase in the day use fee structure in 2006. Staff recommend that the existing rates be maintained in 2007.

Several conservation area upgrades will be completed in late 2007, resulting in significant improvements to the visitor experience at Ball's Falls and Binbrook. Staff will be recommending modifications to the day use fees in 2008.

Camping Fees

Over the past 3 years, Authority staff have been working on a strategy to streamline the fee structure and ensure that the rates charged reflect the level of service provided to visitors. This has involved tracking campsite use and comparing fees with nearby campgrounds or Conservation Areas. The attached chart provides comparisons between the NPCA fees and eight neighbouring campground operators.

The proposed 2007, short-term camping rates reflect a 3% increase. This is in keeping with the inflation rate provided by the Bank of Canada. Increases varying between 3.8% and 7% (based on service levels and site locations) have been proposed for the 15Amp and 30Amp seasonal campsites. Even with these increases, the seasonal discounts at Long Beach and Chippawa Creek represent some of the best camping values in the Peninsula.

Although the NPCA has offered a monthly rate for campsites for a number of years, it is rarely used. Staff recommend eliminating this rate. The weekly rate will still provide a discount for longer-term campers. Staff also recommend eliminating the boat launch fee. Under existing low lake levels, the launch ramp does not meet the water. As a result, the ramp can not be used by anything other than light personal watercraft & trailers.

The group camping area at Chippawa Creek has become a source for many noise complaints and security calls. Staff have investigated management options that would maintain group camping facilities for youth and conservation-based groups,

while making better use of this section of the campground. In 2007, the group camping area will be re-developed as a cluster of non-serviced campsites. This will make efficient use of this scenic area along the river and provide a new revenue source for Chippawa Creek. Groups wishing to stay together can still be accommodated in neighbouring campsites, similar to the approach used at Long Beach.

Finally, a new rate is proposed for Premium 30Amp sites. This rate will be applied to larger, waterfront sites at Chippawa Creek. It is a common practice at both public and private sector campgrounds to apply an additional fee to "premium sites". This new rate will better reflect the campsite service level and location.

One operational fee change is proposed for the 2007 camping season at Long Beach. Seasonal campers occupy many of the sites on the south side of Regional Road #3, close to the lake and washroom facilities. There are only a few that take seasonal sites on the north side of the campground. In 2007, staff propose a 10% discount for seasonal sites on the north side. The discount reflects the lower level of campground amenities and may encourage some of the seasonal campers to move from the south side. This would open more attractive sites on the south side for the lucrative short-term stays. At the end of the 2007 season, the discount will be reviewed to determine the impact to campground use and revenues.

Ball's Falls

A modest increase is proposed in the historical tours. The rate remains lower than similar facilities operated by the Niagara Parks Commission or Hamilton Region Conservation Authority.

Comparisons with similar rental facilities show that the church and barn at Ball's Falls remain at the high end of the wedding market. The church and barn rental fees at Ball's Falls have been increased by an average of 5% in keeping with increased operating costs and staffing requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

That Report No. 13-07 be received, and

That the proposed 2007 Conservation Area Fee Schedule be approved.

Prepared By: D. Baker, Director, Land Management

Respectfully Submitted By:

Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Proposed 2007 Fee Schedule

All Revenue Areas

Day Use	2006	2007
Adults	3.50	3.50
Seniors	2.50	2.50
Students	2.50	2.50
Max Car	12.00	12.00
Off-season (per car)	3.50	3.50
Bus (over 20/vehicle)	60.00	60.00
Season Pass	60.00	60.00

Long Beach and Chippawa Creek

Camping (non-serviced)	2006	2007
one Night	26.00	27.00
Weekly	130.00	134.00
Monthly	460.00	n/a
Seasonal	1,200.00	1,240.00

Camping (15Amp+Water)	2006	2007
one Night	31.00	32.00
Weekly	155.00	160.00
Monthly	550.00	n/a
Seasonal	1,430.00	1,520.00

Camping (15 Amp lakefront)	2006	2007
one Night	33.00	34.00
Weekly	180.00	185.00
Monthly	630.00	n/a
Seasonal	1,600.00	1,700.00

Camping (30Amp+Water)	2006	2007
one Night	35.00	36.50
Weekly	186.00	194.00
Monthly	650.00	n/a
Seasonal	1,675.00	1,800.00

Camping (30Amp Premium)	2006	2007
one Night	new	38.50
Weekly	new	203.00
Seasonal	new	1,930.00

Other Camping Charges	2006	2007
Reservation Fee	9.00	9.00

Ball's Falls Facilities

Field Centre	2006	2007
Organized Groups	80.00	80.00

Picnic Pavilion	2006	2007
Weekends	60.00	60.00
Weekdays	30.00	30.00

Historical Tours	2006	2007
School Group/person	2.50	3.00
Adult Group/person	3.50	4.00
Minimum Tour Fee	35.00	40.00

Church Rental	2006	2007
Wedding	415.00	435.00
Church Service	80.00	85.00
Security Deposit	150.00	150.00

Barn Rental	2006	2007
Non-Wedding (Sat)	415.00	435.00
Non-Wedding (Sun-Fri)	300.00	315.00
Education (weekday)	80.00	80.00
Licensed Reception	510.00	550.00
Non-Lic. Reception	415.00	440.00
Security Deposit	150.00	150.00

Packages	2006	2007
Church Wedding & Non-Lic. Reception	800.00	840.00
Church Wedding & Licensed Reception	900.00	950.00
Barn Wedding Service		
Non-Lic. Reception	490.00	520.00
Barn Wedding Service		
Licensed Reception	680.00	720.00

Outdoor Wedding	2006	2007
"v" area by parking lot (25 people maximum)		
Wedding only	370.00	390.00
Wedding & Non-licen. Barn Reception	715.00	740.00
Wedding & Licenced Barn Reception	810.00	850.00

Additional Vehicle	11.00	12.00
Launching Ramp	5.00	n/a
Pavilion Registration	60.00	60.00

**Long Beach, Chippawa
Creek, Binbrook**

Outdoor Weddings	2006	2007
service & non-lic. Reception	500.00	500.00
service & lic. Reception	625.00	625.00

Group Camping	2006	2007
Site Fee	20.00	20.00
Per Person / Night	2.50	2.50
Minimum Charge	35.00	35.00



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TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: February 15, 2007

SUBJECT: Long Beach C.A.- Electrical Upgrades – Report No. 14-07

In April of 2006, the Conservation Authority received a compliance order from the Electrical Safety Authority for electrical upgrades at the Long Beach Conservation Area campground. The problem involved an old method of wiring used to service campsites, comfort stations and the water treatment facility. Some of the repairs were required immediately to address public safety concerns. The remedial work began in late April and extended beyond the May opening weekend, resulting in three weeks of power disruptions and no water service for the campground.

Funds have been allocated in the proposed 2007 capital budget to complete the remaining part of the CSA order. The work involves upgrading the primary service by replacing the underground wire from the main service line to the comfort station on the north side of the campground. The underground wire running from the north side of the park to the south side must also be replaced. This will involve installing conduit and a directional bore under Regional Road #3.

In early January an electrical engineer was hired to prepare servicing plans and help staff develop terms of reference for the work. The Terms of Reference have been attached to this report for your information. Six pre-qualified firms were invited to submit quotes for the project. Five of these firms attended the site meeting. The deadline for submission is 2:00 p.m. Monday, February 19, 2007. Quotes will be opened on February 19th. Staff will review the submissions and prepare a detailed report for consideration at the February 21st, Board meeting.

Prepared By: D. Baker, Director, Land Management

Respectfully Submitted By: _____

Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: March 19, 2007

RE: PROJECT STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 15-07

WATER MANAGEMENT

Binbrook Reservoir – City of Hamilton (Glanbrook)

The reservoir water levels for the last 30 days have generally fluctuated between 650.4 feet and 651.3 feet (for reference the dam holding level is 650.50 feet). NPCA staff continue to monitor the reservoir water levels daily.

100 Year Regulatory Floodplain Mapping

1) Sixteen Mile Creek Floodplain Mapping – Lincoln / Pelham / West Lincoln

The NPCA has finalized the Sixteen Mile Creek 100 year Regulatory Floodplain Mapping. The NPCA intends to use the maps to support the NPCA's Generic Regulations and the Sixteen Mile Creek Watershed Plan.

2) Fifteen Mile Creek Floodplain Mapping – Lincoln / Pelham / West Lincoln

The NPCA is presently undertaking the necessary calculations, field work, and map analysis to accurately determine the extent of the 100 year flood elevations for Fifteen Mile Creek.

3) Town of Fort Erie Floodplain Mapping

The NPCA is continuing to review the draft floodplain mapping as submitted by Philips Engineering in support of their Fort Erie Watershed Plan. Regulatory mapping of the 100 year floodplain is being generated for: Black Creek, Beaver Creek, Miller Creek, Kraft's Drain, Six Mile Creek, and Baker Creek.

4) Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Floodplain Mapping

The NPCA is continuing to review the draft floodplain maps produced by Aquafor Beech Limited as part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan. Regulatory mapping of the 100 year floodplain is being generated for: Two Mile, Four Mile, Six Mile, and Eight Mile Creeks.

Watershed Stormwater Management Policies

Totten Sims Hubicki (TSH) has been retained to generate a set of stormwater management guidelines which may be uniformly applied throughout the NPCA's watershed. Use of this

document by the various municipal engineering departments, the Region of Niagara, and the NPCA will help to ensure that consistent standards are employed during the review of development in order to better protect the quality of water within the NPCA's watershed.

TSH, the NPCA, and the representatives from the member municipalities have recently met in order to provide final comments on the draft document. A final meeting is to be scheduled soon in order to wrap up the project.

NPCA 'Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses' Permits

The NPCA regulates construction around watercourses, wetlands, valley lands, shorelines, and floodplains. The NPCA has currently approved 10 permit applications for the 2007 calendar year.

Fort Erie's Creeks Watershed Plan

The 3rd public workshop was held on February 6, 2007 at the Fort Erie Leisureplex. Several members of the public attended as well as Town staff and representatives from Town Council. The public was presented with the consultants suggested management actions for the various subwatersheds and asked to provide comments by the end of February. The consultants will then begin preparing the draft watershed plan. They anticipate presenting it to the NPCA Board in April 2007 followed by a final public information centre and a presentation to the Town of Fort Erie.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Watershed Plan

The consultants are working on the draft watershed plan. Meetings with the Steering Committee, Niagara-on-the-Lake Irrigation Committee and the final public meeting will take place in April/May 2007.

Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan

The Steering Committee for the Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan will meet for the first time on February 26th, 2007. The purpose of watershed planning and the approach used by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority will be presented at this meeting along with the draft Background Report for the watershed and the long-term work plan for the Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks Watershed Plan. In addition, the Niagara Restoration Council will provide an update pertaining to its reforestation program in this watershed. A public workshop is planned for late March or early April, which will be used to gain more insight into the issues and concerns residents in the Fifteen-Sixteen-Eighteen Mile Creeks watershed may have about water quality and quantity as well as other land management issues.

South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan

The Steering Committee for the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan will meet for the first time on February 21st, 2007. The purpose of watershed planning and the approach used by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority will be presented at this meeting along with the draft Background Report for the watershed and the long-term work plan for the South Niagara Falls Watershed Plan. A public workshop is planned for late March or early April, which will be used to gain more insight into the issues and concerns residents in the South Niagara Falls watershed may have about water quality and quantity as well as other land management issues.

Source Water Protection (SWP) Program under the Clean Water Act

Written comments on the Water Budget Conceptual Understanding report were received from MNR and addressed by NPCA. Source Protection staff are now starting work on the Tier 1 Water Budget. The Tier 1 is the next phase of the water budget analysis in the Source Protection program.

The Niagara Region is currently conducting the Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) studies as part of the MOE Source Protection Technical Studies program. NPCA is liaising closely with Niagara Region on this project.

A discussion paper concerning the formation and operation of the Source Protection Committee was posted by the MOE on their EBR (Environmental Bill of Rights) website in January.

GIS (GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS) / INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Corporate GIS

Through the shared services agreement with the Regional GIS Services department, a second wave of data is currently being loaded into the corporate Authority published database centralized on the Regional application server. Migration to the enterprise technology has started within the GIS program workflows and has generally gone smoothly to date and will be gradually pushed out to the rest of the staff base on an as needed basis.

A mock up of the proposed customized NiagaraAtlas Internet Mapping application, another provision under the service level agreement, has been developed to expedite the site scoping process with Regional technical Staff. It is anticipated that development will commence shortly after refinement of the mock up based on consultation with the NPCA staff user base which is the next step.

GIS staff has completed the normalization and calibration of the historic NexRAD spatially distributed rainfall data. Evaluation of the data is currently underway to properly assess its limitations and so far it is surpassing expectations in terms of providing more realistic rainfall estimates.

Watershed Planning

GIS staff has been involved with Task 6 'Land Use Based Information into web based GIS' of the implementation plan for the Planning Function Review. It is very similar in concept and overlaps aspects of the Niagara Water Strategy WaterSmart project in that both are developing specific web based business portals. It currently appears that the Authority will be providing custodial roles for most of the contributing natural heritage and environmental datasets (i.e. evaluated wetlands) included in the mapping component for both.

GIS staff has also been providing comment on a number of GIS and data intensive provincial Natural Spaces initiatives from an Information Management perspective through.

The conceptual model for the integration between the GIS and tabular ELC data management systems so that field staff can start entering observation data has been completed for the Natural Areas Inventory and is currently being implemented.

The NPCA Generic Regulation Plan Review Screening Maps and data layer have been finalized and redistributed to the member municipalities.

Draft maps for 15, 16, and 18 Mile Creeks, and South Niagara Falls Watershed Plans Watershed Characterization reports have been also been completed.

Source Protection

Final revisions and drafts based on peer review of the Water Budget Conceptual Understanding have been completed and resubmitted. Comments based on peer review for the Watershed Characterization are anticipated for a similar effort with that report.

Pilot analyses to test out and refine a GIS supported methodology for the Tier 1 Water Budget are being conducted and explored.

A very preliminary potential Threats and Issues database has been compiled using the provincially prescribed source water data product output standards and is ready for verification and refinement once complete total water contributing areas and intake protection zones have been finalized for the surface water drinking intakes.

Restoration

All of the 2006 stewardship projects have been entered into the existing spatial restoration database with the assistance of the Authority Restoration technicians and updated statistics have been provided to the Restoration Coordinator for year end reports.

The Twenty Mile Creek Agricultural Non-Point Source (AGNPS) model is nearly calibrated. An initial analysis using the tool under existing land cover conditions will be conducted to identify hotspots contributing to non point source pollution within the watershed and will help restoration staff to direct and target and evaluate the potential impact of stewardship efforts within the watershed.

Engineering

GIS staff in concert with engineering staff has completed a Hazard Inventory Database at the provinces request who are compensating financially for the effort.

GIS support for the Floodplain Mapping program is ongoing and new completed studies have been entered into the corporate spatial floodplain database.

Watershed Restoration

Cost-share grant dollars and filed extension services continue to be the main focus of the restoration program. Projects that will have a demonstrated benefit to improving local water quality or habitat diversity will be prioritized for funding. Project focus continues in the watersheds where there are completed watershed strategies (Niagara River/ Welland River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) area, Twelve Mile Creek, Twenty Mile Creek, and One Mile Creek).

In total approximately 65 restoration projects will be completed in 2007 across the NPCA watershed jurisdiction, they include 20 (approximately 100 acres) tree planting, 7 wetland, 15 riparian, 8 stream & bioengineering, and 15 Best Management Practices (BMP) projects including manure storage improvements, livestock restriction from watercourses, grassed water ways, etc.

The Yellow-fish Road Program will have its spring launch as part of Earth Day and through a series of public events over the course of the spring, summer and fall.

The Eco School Program is gearing up for the spring implementation of school yard naturalization projects across the watershed. Last year 27 naturalization plots were completed. To date, 20 applications have been received from various schools for 2007.

A series of workshops will be held to invite the community to come out and learn more about the Conservation Authority Programs with a focus on water quality and habitat improvement. They will be held at the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, February 20th
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Grapeview School,
106 First St. Louth; St. Catharines, ON

Wednesday, February 28th
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
St. Patrick's School,
266 Rosemount Avenue; Port Colborne, ON

Tuesday, March 6th
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Stamford Collegiate,
5775 Drummond Rd; Niagara Falls, ON

Niagara River RAP / Welland River Restoration

Staff continue to liaise with landowners and project partners in order to secure projects for 2007.

Staff completed the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund 2007/2008 funding application and will be working on the 2006/2007 year-end report in the next month (fiscal year-end for this program is March 31st)

Projects for the 2007/2008 project year include approximately 60 acres in reforestation plantings, 8 acres of enhanced/created wetland habitat, 3km of riparian buffer plantings and at least 5 Best Management Practices projects including manure storages, erosion stabilization, trickle irrigation and various conservation farm practices.

Twelve Mile Creek

The first meeting of the Twelve Mile Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Committee was held on November 29 and got things off to a good start. Members came from the municipalities of St. Catharines and Thorold, the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Peninsula Field Naturalists, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and Friends of Mel Swart Park. After a presentation by Jennifer Durley to provide an overview on the plan process, a round-table discussion was held, covering issues of implementation priorities and finalizing the Terms of Reference for the committee. Comments on the latter are to be submitted by late January, and the next meeting will take place in February.

Projects for the 2007 include approximately 30 acres in reforestation plantings, 5 acres of enhanced/created wetland habitat, 2km of riparian buffer plantings and at least 5 Best Management Practices projects including manure storages / composting, erosion stabilization, trickle irrigation and various conservation farm practices.

Twenty Mile Creek Restoration

The first meeting of the Twenty Mile Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Committee was held on November 28th. In attendance were representatives from the Township of West Lincoln, Township of Lincoln, City of Hamilton, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, a rural landowner, and Conservation Authority staff. After a presentation by Jennifer Durley to provide an overview on the plan process, a round-table discussion was held, covering issues of implementation

priorities and finalizing the Terms of Reference for the committee. Committee members will review the Watershed Plan before meeting again in March or April of 2007.

Three wetland projects are planned including a 2 acre wetland creation near the confluence of Sinkhole Creek and a 3 acre pit and mound wetland project in Spring Creek. The third wetland project is a treatment wetland being designed by Niagara College students to treat overland flows at a large vineyard operation in Jordan.

Tree planting projects to-date total 16 acres including a 2 acre site, an eight acre site and two three acre sites. Approximately 1200 meters of wind break will also be planted.

Two riparian planting projects are planned including 100 meters along Twenty Mile Creek west of Smithville and approximately 150 meters along a small tributary east of Smithville. Another project is tentatively planned to plant 160 m along Twenty Mile Creek that is highly visible from Highway 20 southeast of Smithville.

Conservation Farming Practices and BMP projects include a 270 meter grassed waterway including the installation of 4 rock chutes. Another planned grassed waterway project is 200 meters long in association with approximately 440 meters of cattle exclusion fencing. Two new manure storage projects and one milkhouse wash-water treatment project are also planned. Three manure storages from 2006 are also being completed in partnership with the Environmental Farm Plan. In addition, two projects to install eaves-troughs on cattle barns are also planned (Clean Water Projects).

One Mile Creek Restoration

The One Mile Creek Watershed Strategy Implementation Committee had its second meeting on October 19 in NOTL. The group discussed the Implementation Actions from the strategy and started discussions around the prioritization of work plan actions. Three areas of action were agreed upon for immediate attention and they include Lansdowne Pond, the William Street Landfill and culvert replacements and upgrades.

Staff met with representatives of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and Ontario Ministry of the Environment regarding the landfill site. The Town had agreed to conduct further study to determine the best course of action for dealing with the landfill material.

A meeting with NOTL Town staff and NPCA staff regarding culvert replacements will be held in late February.

A public meeting for the Lansdowne Pond Study took place on Thursday November 9th at the NOTL Public Library. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the landowners adjacent to the pond and listen to their concerns and thoughts regarding restoration options for the pond. The landowners in the area are supportive of wetland restoration happening in and around the pond and are leaning towards a larger dredging project that would result in providing better flow through the pond and some open water areas free of emergent plant growth. The consultants are working on further project design and costs. Another public meeting will be held in early 2007.

Niagara River Remedial Action Plan

Contaminated sediments:

The Contaminated Sediments Technical Committee is making arrangements to meet with the stakeholders for Lyons Creek East and West (i.e. the City of Welland, Hydro One & Regional Niagara Health Dept.) to update them on the study's findings regarding sediment management

options and determine their role in the process. The meeting is expected to be held in early 2007.

Following a meeting in December with the consultant, the draft report for the *Lyon's Creek Wetland Inventory* is being finalized.

Niagara Water Strategy (NWS):

Staff have requested to participate on Steering Committees for the proposed Direct Actions for 2006/2007.

The Water Advisory Group (WAG) is expected to meet again in May 2007.

In the meantime, a special meeting was held between the RAP Team and representatives of NWS in January to provide background information and an update on the status of the RAP. Information was exchanged and issues of common interest between the two programs were discussed.

Stage 2 Update:

The draft Niagara River RAP - Technical Review Report - *Technical Review of Impairments and Delisting Criteria* - was distributed to the Steering Committee for review, and a meeting of the committee was held in December 2006 for their input and endorsement of the report. The report was endorsed, after some revisions, and it is now under internal review by Environment Canada and MOE.

A new draft RAP work plan and monitoring plan (with a preliminary list of monitoring/assessment needs and their priorities for implementation) remain under review, discussion and revision by the RAP Coordinating Committee.

These plans are expected to be presented to the Steering Committee and PAC for their input early in 2007.

The Niagara River Coordinating Committee is scheduled to meet later in February 2007.

Staff attended the MNR COA Lake Ontario workshop in early February.

Niagara River Toxics Management Plan (NRTMP):

The proposed timeframe for the full report and public meeting is early 2007.

Water Quality Program

The NPCA Water Quality Program now has 4 consecutive years of surface water quality data covering several stations at over 20 watersheds. The NPCA surface water quality monitoring network is currently the most extensive stream monitoring network in the Niagara Peninsula. Water quality staff are currently analyzing the 2006 data in preparation for the annual water quality report. Analysis of the benthic invertebrate samples collected during the fall of 2006 is now complete, and associated monitoring reports are currently being prepared for Hamilton International Airport, the City of Hamilton's Glanbrook Landfill, and the Shriner's Creek constructed wetlands evaluation.

A Technical Summary outlining the results of NPCA water quality monitoring of the Nunn Drain upstream and downstream of the Sound-Sorb berm constructed at 325 Church Street, Pelham, was completed and distributed to the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Town of Pelham, and

Sludge Tacklers of Pelham (STOP) for their information. Based on NPCA sampling results there is no observed impact to water quality in the Nunn Drain resulting from the presence of the berm at this time.

The NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Program was approved by the Board during the September 2006 meeting. Program information and promotional materials are currently being developed. Water quality staff recently attended a training workshop hosted by Conservation Ontario which covered several topics related to groundwater and water wells, including detailed water well decommissioning methods and practices.

Groundwater monitoring continues at all 15 Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN) wells. Dedicated submersible pumps have been installed in 5 wells, and groundwater samples have been collected from 13 of 15 monitoring wells. These groundwater samples have been analyzed for several parameters including nutrients, metals, microbiology and general chemistry. As outlined in the PGMN Exceedance Protocol, exceedances of the Ontario Drinking Water Standards were reported to the MOE, Region of Niagara Public Health, and local municipalities for their information.

LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

Kim Wienk completed her contract in December. Kim worked diligently to keep the programs running while Angela Wallace was on maternity leave.

Staff are finalizing the final design for the exhibit project. Final colour selections for the exhibit panels will be selected when the interior construction is farther along.

Staff are continuing to work on the federal Cultural Spaces Canada funding application for the New Centre, providing additional information and responding to questions regarding the Ball's Falls Master Plan and the new facility.

NPCA staff completed the installation of weather board on the north wall of the Grist Mill by the end of December. The work platform will be partially dismantled with a section remaining to accommodate work scheduled for the east gable end this year.

The evaluation forms received to date, for the 2006 'Christmas in the Country' education program are positive and indicate that visiting teachers continue to be very satisfied with the program. This year bookings were extended later into December, because there has always been a greater demand for the later dates. Staff did review the 2006 records and contacted teachers who had not booked by early November to encourage them to do so. Attendance was down slightly with just over 1000 students attending, compared to 1200 in 2006. Financial restraints continue to play a role in limiting opportunities to leave the classroom. An annual program evaluation which considers feedback from teachers, volunteers and NPCA staff will be completed. This exercise helps to ensure that the program meets curriculum guidelines, provides a variety of educational activities, creates an authentic experience for students and is valued by educators as a valuable outing for their students.

An outline of 2007 special events and programs has been prepared to list on the NPCA website. The schedule will be updated as more activities are finalized. In 2007 staff are hoping to expand our programming base as the opening of the new Centre for Conservation draws closer, by offering several programs for adults.

Final arrangements are being made for the Eco-Adventures March Break Camp to be held March 12 – 16th. Contacts have been made with several municipal recreation staff to determine if day visits might be arranged for their day camp participants similar to our summer camp program offering.

Initial planning for the Thanksgiving festival is underway. Close to 300 applications were mailed in the general mailing, which is on par with previous years. The application deadline is March 15th.

Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation

The foundation (NPCF) was successful in obtaining a donation of the landscape stone for the project from Nelson Aggregates, which helped to reduce the landscape contract by 20%. Stevensville Lawn Service has now been retained as landscape contractor for the project. Despite the winter conditions, work is still progressing on the site. The storm drain installation is at about 50% completion and is being coordinated with the site work required for installation of the heat pump coils. The building foundation is completely in place and backfilled, with two of the concrete building walls now visible from 6th Avenue. Staff reviewed security requirements for the building and site and provided information to the architect on our need for window and door break alarms, motion sensors, and specific camera locations. The electrical contractor is

reviewing this information to provide conduit rough-in for these items. Staff are monitoring the work in progress and taking photographs for our reference and file.

Ecological-Environmental Services

Balls Falls Conservation Area

Results of the Recycling Program for the Thanksgiving Festival were received from Regional Niagara. A total of 278 kg of recyclable material was collected and diverted from the landfill.

As a result of site forest monitoring, staff remarked the northeast boundary to address impacts of unauthorized trails, motorized vehicle activity and wood removal. Adjacent landowners have been mailed an information package outlining the ecological significance of the site and NPCA contacts should they observe any activities occurring on CA lands.

St. Johns Conservation Area

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has provided funding for fish habitat enhancement at the St. Johns Conservation Area pond. The habitat improvements include submerged timber cribs with rock and logs and root wads. These structures will provide greater habitat diversity, shelter and food. The work is scheduled to be completed by April 1, 2007.

Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area

Staff are completing the analysis and summary of the water level monitoring at the bog in 2006. This annual assessment examines the results of restoration work in relation to the water level goals for the site. Upon completion of the analysis, recommendations for any modifications to restoration techniques will be made, if deemed necessary. Analysis of restoration work from 2000- 2005 has shown water levels to be moving toward the site goal of a more natural bog ecosystem.

Willoughby Marsh Conservation Area

The survey for the species at risk project will be completed at the end of February. This project is implemented in conjunction with OMNR, Vineland. Ecological Land Classifications were completed for the Conservation Area. In addition to 8% of the area has been surveyed for the rare moss species. Over 50 Willoughby marsh landowners were contacted by mail and provided with packages outlining the unique ecosystem features, moss species, threats, protective tax incentive programs and NPCA contacts. A final report will be completed documenting the findings and recovery work to date and submitted to the Moss Recovery Team.

Carolinian Canada Signs

NPCA staff are working with Carolinian Canada on the communication program for the 'Grimsby-Winona Escarpment- Beamer Valley' and 'Willoughby Clay Plain' Carolinian Features signs for Beamer Memorial and Willoughby Conservation Areas. An unveiling of the signs has been scheduled for Hawk Watch Open House on Good Friday.

NPCA Hunting

Staff have received and issued an additional 55 hunting permits for 2007. To date 76 hunting permits have been issued.

In 2006, 132 hunting permits were issued. Of these, 52% of the harvest reports were returned. From these reports, the greatest site use was at reported at the Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area, followed by Mud Lake and Chippawa Creek Conservation Areas.

NPCA Waterfowl Hunting Program

On December 9, the Waterfowl Hunting Program finished at Binbrook Conservation Area. The NPCA Waterfowl Hunting Program at both Binbrook and Mud Lake Conservation are now completed for 2006. The results are

Binbrook

- 23 hunting days offered; 4 days no hunters
- 138 hunters spending, 250.5 hours of hunting in 19 days

122 waterfowl harvested including: geese 45% of the harvest, mallards 27%, mergansers 7%, wood duck 4%, teal 3%, red head, black duck, bufflehead and squaw 2% each, and gadwall, widgeon, pintail and shoveller 1% each

Mud Lake

- 39 days offered
- 17 hunters spent 92 hours of hunting in 9 days of the sites season

A total of 48 waterfowl were harvested. Mallard and Canada Geese were the primary harvested species reported, as per previous years. Of the returned reports the harvested species included- 34% mallard, 29% geese, 12% teal, 5% wood duck, 3% each of bluebill, black duck, green wing, 2% each of ring neck, red head, widgeon

Administrative Area Ecosystem

Marsh Monitoring Program results have been published indicating marsh bird and amphibian species population trends as they relate to overall ecosystem health. For our general administrative NPCA area,

- the marsh birds of the Black tern, Least bittern population have declined 1995 to 2004 and is of particular concern since they are already species at risk. Other marsh birds with statistically significant decline include- tree swallow, sora, moot, Virginia rail, marsh wren and red-winged blackbird. All but tree swallow and red winged blackbird are directly susceptible to changes in marsh quality or quantity for nesting, suggesting marsh wetland negative impacts.
- The amphibians indicate populations declines for the chorus frog, green frog, northern leopard, American toad, bullfrog (Lake Erie Bain). Wetland habitat impacts suggested as a factor of the decline. Of special concern is the American toad which is a habitat generalist suggesting wetlands and linkages may be impacted.

As a result, focus of conservation efforts within Niagara should be to maintain and enhance wetland area and features and hinterland wildlife corridors.

General Conservation Areas

Jordan Watermain

The Ontario Heritage Foundation has approved funding for our 2007 management work plan for the Ellis property. Work will be conducted by NPCA staff and volunteers managed by staff. OHT is receiving monthly status updates for their reference and file. With the mild December/ January weather, staff was able to complete some trail work and hazardous tree trimming on the property.

Hedley Forest

Staff have conducted winter field investigations to map and plan a recreational trail system for the property, starting out from the new parking lot at the north east corner. During the field investigation staff noticed a bow-stand in the forest, some foot traffic into the site, and vehicle use of the parking lot. Defined trails would allow for safer public access while protecting sensitive habitat and ecological features. Further field investigation by staff will be conducted during the growing season to map specific plant species of concern that could be affected by public trail use. The proposed trail network plan and implementation strategy is currently under review by staff and will be evaluated as to feasibility and maintenance demands.

EC Brown - New Constructed Wetland Project

Staff in the land department assisted with research and illustrations for the interpretive signs being planned for the site.

Property Assessments

Our property assessment notices for the 2007 tax year have been received and reviewed by staff. A number of properties are showing significant increases to our exempt portions, which should therefore reduce our property taxes for this year. We have concerns about residential assessments on some properties and have filed Request for Reconsiderations for Mountainview, Eight Mile, Long Beach (south parcel on lake) and EC Brown. These properties are currently under review with MPAC and we are awaiting word on their response. Cave Springs, Wainfleet Wetlands, and Wainfleet Bog may be contested later in the year, pending receipt of additional information from MNR and our CLTIP approvals.

Binbrook Ice Fishing Derby

An Ice fishing derby was held at Binbrook Conservation Area on Sunday, February 11th. The cold temperatures and high winds reduced the number of participants. There were 160 hearty people taking part in this event along with 30 children. This number is down by approximately 100 from the first event in 2005.

Illegal Dumping on Authority Lands

This winter, staff have noticed an increase in the amount of garbage being dumped on NPCA properties. The material tends to be construction debris or household garbage, however there have been a few cases where large numbers of tires have been left at the edge of a parking lot or park road.

Authority staff will be discussing the problem with the Niagara Regional Police and staff from Regional Waste Management to help address the matter.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Annual Report

Preparations are underway for the production of the Annual Report. Staff anticipates that this will be complete by early April.

2007 Special Events

The 2007 special events list is posted on the NPCA website. A number of new initiatives are planned. Members are encouraged to attend as schedules permit.

Niagara Children's Water Festival

The 2007 Festival will take place at Ball's Falls Conservation Area from September 17-21, 2007. This marks the 5th year of this highly successful event. This year a public day will included on Sunday, September 16th.

AWWA Conference

The Conservation Authority and the Region of Niagara have been selected to present an Abstract entitled "Niagara's Children: Investing in Water Sustainability" as part of the Public Affairs Track at 2007 Annual AWWA Conference and Exposition taking place in Toronto June 24 - 28. This submission is being prepared jointly by Authority and Region staff.

Watershed Report Card

Data is being coordinated to populate the 2006 Watershed Report Card with distribution expected in mid April. This project is funded through the Niagara Water Strategy and is circulated to all households in the watershed.

Water Efficiency Study

The Conservation Authority and Region of Niagara in partnership with other project partners in the Niagara Water Strategy have undertaken a Water Efficiency Study in the latter part of 2006. The Steering Committee met with the project consultants in January 2007 to review the draft report. The study provides a general overview of municipal water efficiency planning and outlines steps that can be taken to develop and implement water efficiency plans for all municipalities in the watershed. The direct outcome of this study will provide a toolset of techniques and practices, which can be implemented at a municipal scale depending on the specific impetus including legislative, economic, environmental or social. The committee will continue to work with our member municipalities on promoting water conservation and demonstrate leadership in good water resource management.

Source Protection Planning

Staff participated in several workshops with the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources.

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Golf Tournament

The *2007 Bob Welch Memorial Classic* will be taking place on Tuesday, June 5th at the Whirlpool Golf Course. Registration and sponsorship packages will be mailed to previous golfers and new prospects in the near future. Staff will be working on securing sponsors and donations for this event.

Grant Proposal

The Foundation has made a request of a grant for \$5,000 to the Niagara Community Foundation in support of the Authority's Natural Heritage Areas Inventory project. Confirmation of grants will take place in April. A grant of \$30,000 from The EJLB Foundation in Montreal has been confirmed for this project as well.

Centre for Conservation

Funds received to date total slightly more than \$250,000, with additional in-kind donations having been confirmed from Walker Industries and Nelson Aggregate Co.

Recommendation:

Report No. 15-07 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Andrew L. Burt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer