

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

WELLAND

FEBRUARY 18, 2009

700 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT : B. Baty (Acting Chairman)
B. Bentley
B. Butters
C. D'Angelo
D. DiFruscio
A. Fevez
D. Goulbourne
B. Heit
B. Henderson
N. Johnson
B. Steckley

MEMBERS ABSENT: G. Burroughs (with regrets)
T. Dalimonte (with regrets)
B. Greenwood (with regrets)
D. Ransom, (Chairman) (with regrets)

STAFF PRESENT: T. D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary
M. Stack, Director Communications
J. Kukalis, Director, Water Management
D. Baker, Director, Land Management
T. McDougall, Executive Director Conservation Foundation
C. Kaufmann, Senior Accounts Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT: Ron Tripp, Director of Infrastructure Services, Town of Fort Erie
Brett Ruck, Drainage Superintendent, Town of Fort Erie
Tim Whitfield, Councillor, Town of Fort Erie

BUSINESS:

The Chairman was not able to attend the meeting, therefore the Vice-Chairman assumed the Chair. He called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance and then requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it.

(1) MINUTES

(a) FULL AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 21, 2009

There was one error in item number nine which should have read 50th Anniversary not 10th. The following resolution was presented.

FA-16-09

MOVED BY: A. Fevez

SECONDED BY: B. Heit

THAT: the Minutes of the Full Authority Annual meeting held January 21, 2009, be received and approved as amended.

"CARRIED"

(b) FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – JANUARY 21, 2009

There were no errors or omissions with respect to these minutes and the following resolution was presented.

FA-17-09

MOVED BY: B. Heit

SECONDED BY: A. Fevez

THAT: the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held January 21, 2009, be received and approved as printed.

"CARRIED"

(c) BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – FEBRUARY 4, 2009

There were no errors or omission with respect to the minutes and the following resolution was presented.

FA-18-09

MOVED BY: N. Johnson

SECONDED BY: B. Steckley

THAT: the Minutes of the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held February 4, 2009 be received and approved as printed.

"CARRIED"

(d) NIAGARA REGION TREE AND FOREST CONSERVATION BY-LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – JANUARY 15, 2009

Damian Goulbourne questioned how the meetings were going since he sensed there may be questions from the farming community and the relationship with the Authority. The Director Land Management assured the board that all was going well and the committee is now quite comfortable with their limits. The following resolution was presented.

FA-19-09

MOVED BY: B. Butters

SECONDED BY: B. Heit

THAT: the Minutes of the Niagara Region Tree and Forest Conservation By-law Advisory Committee meeting held January 21, 2009, be received and approved as amended.

"CARRIED"

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

(3) DELEGATION

The Acting Chairman called upon Ron Tripp, Director of Infrastructure Services for the Town of Fort Erie to come forth and present his case. A copy of his presentation was provided to each of the Board members for them to follow, and is attached to these minutes. He thanked the board for the opportunity to attend and advised his concern is the level of Authority fees given the amount of review time involved by authority staff in some applications.

The Acting Chairman thanked Mr. Tripp for his presentation and advised staff will further investigate his concerns and bring back a report to the next meeting.

(4) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Acting Chairman advised that the reason the Chairman was not in attendance was that he was currently in Alabama.

The Acting Chairman commented on the tree bylaw committee noting it is positive and the committee is impressed on the reporting mechanism. He noted that he regretfully has been unable to attend the meetings but is keeping in touch with what is happening.

The Acting Chairman noted that as liaison to the Source Water Protection Committee he wished to advise the board that at a recent Committee meeting a discussion took place on the amount of honourarium received by the members. The Committee is requesting that they receive the same per diem as some other Source Water Protection Committees which is \$200. He indicated that perhaps a poll should be taken of what other Committees are receiving as well as comparables to the Conservation Authority. In that light, he noted that perhaps it should be investigated as well that Authority Board members be paid an additional per diem when a Source Water Protection Authority meeting occurs following a regular board meeting. The CAO advised a report will be provided at the next meeting.

(5) CAO'S REPORT

The CAO advised that a very successful ice fishing derby had recently taken place at the Binbrook Conservation Area with over 400 persons attending.

The CAO noted that the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls recently received a Niagara Escarpment Commission Achievement Award.

The CAO reminded the members that this was the 50th Anniversary of the Authority and that a list of preliminary activities for the year was provided at the meeting.

(6) 2008 CURRENT & CAPITAL BUDGETS–UNAUDITED YEAR END-REPORT NO. 07-09

The CAO outlined in detail both current and capital budgets. In capital several large projects were not undertaken, trail projects, heritage projects and upgrades at Long Beach and Chippawa Creek which will be completed in 2009. Several land acquisitions also did not take place in 2008. He noted that the 2008 financial statements will reflect this as not completed and show in reserves. A question was raised on whether the surpluses be offered back to Region. Regarding item No. 5 land acquisition reserves a discussion took place as to whether we should have reserves for acquisitions, since the Region has them as well. There were many questions and a long discussion took place. It was agreed that this matter be brought back to the next meeting the following resolution was presented.

FA-20-09

MOVED BY: B. Bentley

SECONDED BY: D Goulbourne

THAT: Report No. 07-09 regarding the 2008 Current and Capital Budgets – Unaudited Year End be received; and

This matter be deferred until clarification is received.

"CARRIED"

(7) PROPOSED 2009 CURRENT BUDGET – REPORT NO. 08-09

The CAO outlined the proposed 2009 budget noting it is much the same as the approved preliminary budget in September. Bob Bentley indicated that Woolverton is spelled incorrectly in the budget document. There were no questions with respect to this matter. The following resolution was presented and a recorded vote was taken.

FA-21-09

MOVED BY: M. DiFruscio

SECONDED BY: C. D'Angelo

THAT: Report No. 08-09 regarding the Proposed 2009 Current Budget be received; and

That the Proposed 2009 Current Budget with a total expenditure of \$6,778,161 and a general levy of \$2,100,210 and special levies of \$2,282,530 to the Region of Niagara, \$123,400 to the City of Hamilton and \$9,470 to Haldimand County be approved; and

That the 2009 matching levy in the amount of \$174,500 and the total non-matching levy in the amount of \$1,925,710 for the 2009 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 2009 Current Budget be assessed in the amount of \$2,282,530 to the Region of Niagara, \$123,400 to the City of Hamilton and \$9,470 to Haldimand County.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Douglas Ransom	absent	
Brian Baty	x	
Bob Bentley	x	
Gary Burroughs	absent	
Barbara Butters	x	
Tony Dalimonte	absent	
Carmen D'Angelo	x	
Dominic DiFruscio	x	
Andy Fevez	x	
Damian Goulbourne	x	
Barbara Greenwood	absent	
Brian Heit	x	
Barbara Henderson	x	
Norm Johnson	x	
Robert Steckley	x	

"CARRIED" Unanimously

(8) PROPOSED 2009 CAPITAL BUDGET – REPORT NO. 09-09

The CAO outlined briefly outlined the proposed 2009 Capital budget which he noted was generally consistent with the September 17th preliminary budget approved by the board. The preliminary budget was approved by Region, and the reduction in levy met targets. Hamilton endorsed budget as well, however, no comments were received from Haldimand. There were no questions and the following resolution was presented and a recorded vote taken.

FA-22-09

MOVED BY: N. Johnson

SECONDED BY: B. Steckley

THAT: Report No. 09-09 regarding the Proposed 2009 Capital Budget be received; and

That the Proposed 2009 Capital Budget with a total expenditure of \$5,959,221 and a general levy of \$1,163,600 and special levies of \$1,242,050 to the Region of Niagara, \$291,779 to the City of Hamilton and \$85,326 to Haldimand County be approved; and

That the 2009 general levy in the amount of \$1,163,600 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 2009 Capital Budget be assessed in the amount of \$1,242,050 to the Region of Niagara, \$246,050 to the City of Hamilton and \$76,250 to Haldimand County.

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Douglas Ransom	absent	
Brian Baty	x	
Bob Bentley	x	
Gary Burroughs	absent	
Barbara Butters	x	
Tony Dalimonte	absent	
Carmen D'Angelo	x	
Dominic DiFruscio	x	
Andy Fevez	x	
Damian Goulbourne	x	
Barbara Greenwood	absent	
Brian Heit	x	
Barbara Henderson	x	
Norm Johnson	x	
Robert Steckley	x	

"CARRIED" Unanimously

(9) NPCA LOGO UPDATE – REPORT NO. 10-09

The Director, Communications showed the members a banner with the 50th Anniversary logo noting it continues to incorporate the Tulip Leaf. She advised that it was just slightly updated with brighter colours and a truer interpretation of the tulip leaf. There were several questions and a discussion took place regarding the cost to replace all signs with the new logo. It was also noted that there is a booklet available with respect to the Region's N Brand which will be provided to the members at the next meeting. The Director, Communications stated that the Authority would use the N brand wherever possible. The following resolution was presented.

FA-23-09

MOVED BY: B. Heit

SECONDED BY: D. Goulbourne

THAT: Report No. 10-09 be received and that the updated NPCA logo as presented be adopted.

"CARRIED"

(10) BINBROOK RESERVOIR AND GAUGE STATIONS; INSTRUMENTATION UPGRADES – REPORT NO. 11-09

The Director, Water Management briefly outlined the report noting the reasons for the upgrades. There were no questions with respect to this report. The following resolution was presented.

FA-24-09

MOVED BY: A. Fevez
SECONDED BY: B. Henderson
THAT: Report No. 11-09 be received, and;

Staff be authorized to retain Hoskin Scientific Ltd. To complete the instrumentation and software upgrades as identified in this report.

“CARRIED”

(11) SKID-STEER LOADER PURCHASE – REPORT NO. 12-09

The Director, Land Management outlined the report noting that this particular piece of equipment was in need of replacement. There were no questions with respect to this report and the following resolution was presented.

FA-25-09

MOVED BY: B. Henderson
SECONDED BY: D. Goulbourne
THAT: the quote received from Bobcat of Hamilton, to supply one Bobcat S130, skid-steer loader for a price of \$27,973.15 be accepted.

“CARRIED”

(12) CONFINED SPACES POLICY – NPCA SAFETY MANUAL – REPORT NO. 13-09

Brian Heit declared a conflict of interest with respect to this report.

The Director, Land Management noted that this particular policy was not included in the Safety Manual which was brought to the Board in November. Once this has been approved it will become part of the safety manual and will be reviewed annually. There were no questions on this report.

FA-26-09

MOVED BY: D. Goulbourne
SECONDED BY: N. Johnson
THAT: Report No. 13-09 be received, and

That the Confined Spaces Policy be approved and added to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Safety Manual.

“CARRIED”

(13) PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 14-09

Barbara Henderson commented that she was pleased to see the matter of parking for the Bruce Trail Club members being looked into and would like to be kept up-to-date. There were no questions and the following resolution was presented.

FA-27-09

MOVED BY: C. D'Angelo

SECONDED BY: M. DiFruscio

THAT: Report No. 14-09 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

“CARRIED”

(14) IN-CAMERA

In accordance with Authority policy, the following resolutions were presented.

FA-28-09

MOVED BY: B. Bentley

SECONDED BY: B. Henderson

THAT: this meeting do now move in-camera.

Received at 8:22 p.m.

“CARRIED”

FA-29-09

MOVED BY: B. Bentley

SECONDED BY: B. Henderson

THAT: this meeting do now rise with report and move back into open session.

Received at 8:43 p.m.

“CARRIED”

As a result of the in-camera session, the following resolution was presented.

FA30-09

MOVED BY: D. Goulbourne

SECONDED BY: B. Steckley

THAT: the recommendation contained in Report No. CR-04-09 be approved.

“CARRIED”

(15) OTHER BUSINESS

Bob Bentley asked about the kickoff for the Authority's 50th Anniversary noting he would not be able to attend. The Director, Communications advised that upon looking into obtaining 50,000 trees, there appears to be a shortage of native trees and can only get approximately 2,000. This will be looked into further. It was suggested that if trees cannot be found locally, perhaps we could go out of Niagara. The trees will be used to encourage residents of the watershed to plant native species and each municipality will take part in a challenge to see who plants to most.

ADJOURNMENT

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

FA-31-09

MOVED BY: M. DiFruscio

SECONDED BY: A. Fevez

THAT: this meeting do now adjourn.

Received at 8:52 p.m.

“CARRIED”

"L. Sawatzky, Recording Secretary

B. Baty, Acting Chairman"