

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

WELLAND

DECEMBER 15, 2010

7:00 p.m.

**FULL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** D. Ransom, (Chairman)  
B. Baty, (Vice-Chairman)  
B. Butters  
D. DiFruscio  
T. Dalimonte  
A. Fevez  
D. Goulbourne  
B. Greenwood  
B. Henderson
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** B. Bentley (with regrets)  
G. Burroughs (with regrets)  
C. D'Angelo (with regrets)  
B. Heit (with regrets)  
N. Johnson (with regrets)  
B. Steckley (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, NPCF

**BUSINESS:**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. He then requested if anyone had a conflict of interest to so declare it.

**(1) MINUTES - FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – NOVEMBER 17, 2010**

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

**FA-133-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Butters

**SECONDED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**THAT:** the Minutes of the Full Authority meeting held November 17, 2010, be received and approved as printed.

**"CARRIED"**

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Brian Baty advised that his request at the last meeting regarding duplication of services can be part of the strategic planning process, so a separate report would not be necessary.

**(3) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman advised the board that membership cards were for sale for anyone who thought it would be an appropriate Christmas gift and could see staff following the meeting if they wished to purchase one.

The Chairman praised Ian Barrett and Steve Miller for their 1 ½ days spent at a recent violation hearing. He noted that they were very professional in their testimony and carried themselves well on behalf of the Escarpment Commission. He requested that the Director, Water Management pass on his comments to the two staff.

The Chairman reminded the members of the Foundation golf tournament which will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 as well as the Elimination Draw on April 1<sup>st</sup> in Welland.

The Chairman noted that the Conservation Achievement Awards were recently held at the Centre for Conservation at Ball's Falls. He advised that it was well attended and commended staff on how well the evening went and the large number of attendees. He also thanked staff for their work in putting the evening together.

**(4) CAO'S REPORT**

The CAO advised that Authority Staff made a presentation to the Niagara Region Council on December 2<sup>nd</sup> which was for all agencies, boards and commissions to give the councilors a better understanding of who we are and what we do.

The CAO attended the inaugural meeting of Council on December 9<sup>th</sup> and met the Regional Councilors

The CAO noted that recently the Conservation Authorities Act was amended and two major changes which affect violations were implemented. The first one was an offence contravening a regulation and the second one was for limitation of a proceeding changing the time for charging from six months to two years. He advised this will reduce the number of charges laid and give more time to negotiate a settlement.

The CAO reminded the Board of the Authority's annual meeting which will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2011. He noted that because there will be a number of new members and guests present that the meeting be held at Ball's Falls. He noted that at the annual meeting board members will elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. He also stated that currently, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman can be appointed for five consecutive years according to the Authority's Administrative Rules and Procedures.

The CAO advised that he is looking to recommend to the new board that an orientation day for current and new members be held to meet staff and have them make presentations from our various departments.

Barb Greenwood questioned the 5 year appointment. The CAO advised that previously there had been no limit for the term for Chairman and when the previous General Manager was hired he believed it was done at that time through Board resolution. She indicated that perhaps it can be discussed further at the next meeting.

**(5) BUDGET STATUS REPORT TO NOVEMBER 30, 2010 – REPORT NO. 72-10**

The CAO outlined the report and noted there were no significant variances in the revised budget with the exception of the land acquisition program. He noted that the application for a PST rebate through a consulting group was made and was successful. The net proceeds to the Authority is \$84,700.00. A brief discussion took place and after responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-134-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Baty

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** the Budget Status Report for the period ending November 30, 2010 be received.

**"CARRIED"**

**(6) NPCA STRATEGIC PLAN – REPLIMINARY WORK PLAN - REPORT NO. 73-10**

The CAO outlined the plan noting it was briefly discussed at a previous board meeting and included in the 2011 budget. He noted he would like to have a discussion at this time and bring it back in January or February to finalize. He outlined how he proposed to do it including forming a steering committee. He advised he will bring it back with revisions to next meeting.

Barb Butters questioned how the orientation part will work regarding the steering committee by who will be on it outside of the board and municipal staff. The CAO advised that we need to get public sector involved by either being on the committee or on a consulting basis. Barb Butters questioned how persons would be recruited perhaps the farm community, OFA or Niagara South could assist to reflect their point of view. The CAO advised that perhaps those groups could participate in the consultation stage.

Brian Baty expressed his pleasure to see this report. He indicated that perhaps other CA's could be contacted. The CAO advised other CA's have done strategic plans but didn't go far enough. The CAO noted that his timeline was for Phase 1 - 6 months and Phase 2 would be completed by the end of August or September, 2011.

After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-135-10**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** report No. 73 be received.

**"CARRIED"**

**(7) LOWER WELLAND RIVER FLOODPLAIN MAPPING – AWARD OF WORK – REPORT NO. 74-10**

The Director, Water Management outlined the report and advised the low bid is completely acceptable and the firm capable of completing the project.

A discussion took place and the following resolution was presented.

**FA-136-10**

**MOVED BY:** A. Fevez

**SECONDED BY:** D. Goulbourne

**THAT:** i) That Report No. 74-10 regarding the Lower Welland River Floodplain Mapping Project be, received for information.  
ii) That the Board support execution of the Consulting Services Agreement with AMEC Limited with an upset limit of \$ 66,835.00

**"CARRIED"**

**(8) APPOINTMENTS BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – REPORT NO. 75-10**

The Director, Land Management outlined the report noting Mr. Hunter has been very valuable to the committee and it would be very beneficial for him to continue.

The following resolution was presented.

**FA-137-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Baty

**SECONDED BY:** D. Goulbourne

**THAT:** Mike Hunter be appointed to the Ball's Falls Heritage Advisory Committee for a 3 year term effective January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2013.

**"CARRIED"**

**(9) 2011 ONTARIO VOLUNTEER SERVICES AWARDS NOMINATION – REPORT NO. 76-10**

The Director, Land Management outlined the report noting the value of volunteers with respect to this agency. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-138-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** B. Butters

**THAT:** Report No. 76-10 regarding the 2011 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards nominations be approved; and

That the above individuals receive a letter of thanks from the Authority in recognition of their dedicated volunteer commitment to the NPCA.

**"CARRIED"**

**(10) PROPOSED 2011 CONSERVATION AREA FEE SCHEDULE – REPORT NO. 77-10**

The Director, Land Management outlined the report and the proposed increases, noting the changes were identified on the attached sheets. A question was raised on whether cost of the season's pass could be rounded off to \$79.00 and it was agreed this could be done. The Director, Land Management responded to questions. A question was raised on whether the public understands the value they receive when visiting our areas. The Director, Land Management advised we are making progress with stronger marketing target areas for visitation. A question was also raised on whether we go to sportsman's shows etc. The Director, Land Management advised we have in the past gone through

Conservation Ontario and will again this year. He noted the costs are too high to go in as a separate authority. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-139-10**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** No. 77-10 regarding the 2011 Conservation Areas Fee Schedule be approved as amended;

**"CARRIED"**

**(11) NPCA FLEET VEHICLE ALTERNATIVES – REPORT NO. 78-10**

The Director, Land Management noted his concern regarding the delay following the quotes, however, the dealerships agreed to hold their prices. He outlined the authority vehicles and their uses. After responding to questions, the following resolution was presented.

**FA-140-10**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**SECONDED BY:** B. Baty

**THAT:** the Conservation Authority approve the quotation, dated November 17, 2010, received from Brock Ford, to supply one (1) 2010 Ford Ranger pick-up truck for the price of \$16, 787 (plus taxes); and,

That the Conservation Authority approve the quotation dated November 17, 2010, received from Niagara Motors, to supply one (1) 2011 GMC Sierra pick-up truck for the price of \$17,500 (plus taxes),

**"CARRIED"**

**(12) PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 79-10**

Staff responded to various questions and comments. The following resolution was presented.

**FA-141-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Henderson

**SECONDED BY:** D. Goulbourne

**THAT:** Report No. 79-10 outlining the status of Authority projects be received for information.

**"CARRIED"**

**(13) OTHER BUSINESS**

A question was raised on when the Authority plans to advise the public about our involvement with the St. Johns Centre. The CAO advised we will be owners in year 3 but have an obligation to maintain the site and will remain closed to the public until that time. Several questions were raised on the functions and activities at the property.

A question was raised regarding our obligations with respect to Wainfleet Beach. The Director, Land Management responded by advising we will be speaking to the Region to see what is required.

A comment was made that at AMO conference, the leader of the opposition was quite strong against some government agencies such as CA's, LHIN, and Source Water Protection". At that time a question was raised asking is if he would be in favour of reducing agencies. It was requested that we contact Conservation Ontario to provide the public with information regarding conservation authorities.

**(14) IN-CAMERA**

In accordance with Authority policy, the following resolutions were presented. Brian Baty declared a conflict of interest regarding CR-25-10.

**FA-142-10**

**MOVED BY:** B. Greenwood  
**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte  
**THAT:** this meeting do now move in-camera.

**Received at 8:02 p.m. "CARRIED"**

**FA-143-10**

**MOVED BY:** M. DiFruscio  
**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte  
**THAT:** this meeting do now move back into open session.

**Received at 8:15 p.m. "CARRIED"**

The Chairman advised there would be refreshments following the meeting. He noted that there may be some changes to our board and to those who do not know what the results will be, thanked them for their contribution. He indicated that in the future we may draw on their expertise. He praised them for being a very dedicated group, and thanked them for their support and thanked the CAO for diligence in his responsibilities. He asked that the CAO convey this message to staff and wished everyone a pleasant holiday.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**FA-144-10**

**MOVED BY:** D. Goulbourne  
**SECONDED BY:** B. Greenwood  
**THAT:** this meeting do now adjourn.

**Received at 8:16 p.m. "CARRIED"**