



NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FULL AUTHORITY

WELLAND

AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 – 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

BUSINESS:

(1) MINUTES FULL AUTHORITY MEETING – July 18, 2012

Attached are the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held July 18, 2012.

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

(3) DELEGATIONS

Mr. Harald Thiel wishes to make a presentation in regards to the proposal of the Niagara Region Wind Corporation to route a High Voltage Power Line down Mountainview Road in Beamsville immediately adjacent to the Mountainview Conservation Area.

(4) CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

(5) CAO'S REMARKS

(6) 2011 ANNUAL REPORT – REORT NO 42-12

Attached is Report No. 42-12 in this matter, together with a copy of the 2011 Annual Report.

(7) BUDGET STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 43-12

Attached is the Budget Status Report for the period ending August 31, 2012.

(8) PRELIMINARY 2013 OPERATING AND PROJECT BUDGET – REPORT NO. 44-12

Attached is Report No. 44-12 together with Summary and Detailed copies of the Operating and Project budgets.

(9) WAINFLEET BOG FIRE REPORT – REPORT NO. – REPORT 45-12

Attached is Report NO. 45-12 regarding this matter.

(10) **TWENTY VALLEY TRAIL - JORDAN STAIRCASE – REPORT NO. 46-12**

Attached is Report No. 46-12 regarding this project.

(11) **WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – REPORT NO. 47-12**

Attached is Report No. 47-12 together with a copy of the proposed statement

(12) **PFOS – BINBROOK RESERVOIR – UPDATE – REPORT NO. 48-12**

Attached is Report No. 48-12 regarding the PFOS matter at Binbrook.

(13) **PROJECT STATUS REPORT – REPORT NO. 49-12**

Attached is Report No. 49-12 regarding the Project Status Report.

(14) **OTHER BUSINESS**

(15) **IN-CAMERA**

(a) Tree By-law – Report No. CR-12-12

(b) Violation Status – Report No. CR-13-12

ADJOURNMENT



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: September 12, 2012

RE: 2011 Annual Report – Report No. 42-12

Included in your agenda package is the Authority's recently completed Annual Report for the fiscal year 2011. The intent of the Annual Report is to provide an overview of the Authority's various program activities and to acknowledge the support of our member municipalities, the Province and Federal governments, NGO's and donors with which the Authority has established partnership with. The annual report is distributed to all watershed municipalities, MP's, MPP's libraries, universities, colleges, donors and is available at various events throughout the year. It is also available electronically through the NPCA website.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the 2011 Annual Report be received.

Prepared by: Mary Stack, Director of Communications

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony D'Amario".

Tony D'Amario, P.Eng. Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: September 13, 2012

SUBJECT: Budget Status Report - Report No. FA-43-12

Attached is the budget status report for the period ending August 31, 2012.

Expenditures and revenues in the operating budget are generally in line with the approved budget with the following notes.

- Unanticipated costs for continuation of the Strategic Plan will be incurred in 2012.
- Land Management Operating/Revenues Costs will be realized as the season comes to a close.

There are no significant variances to report at this time.

Authority staff will be preparing a year end projection report for consideration by the Board at the October Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Budget Status Report for the period ending August 31, 2012 be received.

Respectfully Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TD Amario".

Tony D'Amario, P. Eng. CAO/ Secretary-Treasurer

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
CURRENT BUDGET SUMMARY
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES =====				
MNR TRANSFER PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	175,000.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-MOE	0.00	6,575.22	58,300.00	11.28
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	1,223.93	80,000.00	1.53
FEDERAL GRANTS	0.00	37,633.42	41,000.00	91.79
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	1,714,276.00	5,577,603.00	2,392,100.00	233.17
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	3,056,500.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HAMILTON	0.00	0.00	129,306.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HALDIMAND	0.00	0.00	9,900.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-OTHER	0.00	0.00	8,300.00	0.00
USER FEES	122,095.96	998,012.40	1,410,500.00	70.76
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ADMINISTRATION FEES	51,575.00	214,045.00	220,000.00	97.29
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	138,694.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	4,974.65	121,196.51	433,547.00	27.95
	1,892,921.61	6,956,289.48	8,153,147.00	85.32
EXPENDITURES =====				
CORPORATE SERVICES	98,879.25	852,167.86	1,311,000.00	65.00
RESOURCE INV. & ENV. MONITORING	25,045.38	231,978.57	581,661.00	39.88
FLOOD PROTECTION SERVICES	48,974.64	355,203.66	477,700.00	74.36
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SERVICES	36,393.10	314,751.90	462,900.00	68.00
CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT	35,062.89	1,813,969.92	2,770,200.00	65.48
CONSERVATION LAND PROGRAMMING	246,673.58	1,390,523.08	2,361,286.00	58.89
VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT	10,064.69	134,225.59	188,400.00	71.25
	501,093.53	5,092,820.58	8,153,147.00	62.46

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
CORPORATE SERVICES - CURRENT
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES =====				
MNR TRANSFER PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	1,714,276.00	5,577,603.00	1,130,500.00	493.37
INTEREST INCOME	4,040.56	27,435.87	30,000.00	91.45
MISCELLANEOUS	112.00	2,805.11	30,000.00	9.35
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	60,500.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	1,718,428.56	5,607,843.98	1,311,000.00	427.75
EXPENDITURES =====				
CORPORATE MANAGEMENT	12,423.86	175,215.93	239,500.00	73.16
OFFICE SERVICES	32,185.49	213,511.95	367,900.00	58.04
FINANCIAL SERVICES	19,973.80	121,367.03	193,100.00	62.85
HUMAN RESOURCES	2,491.66	166,074.00	176,500.00	94.09
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	9,795.20	49,793.00	108,000.00	46.10
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS	22,009.24	126,205.95	226,000.00	55.84
CORPORATE FUNDRAISING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	98,879.25	852,167.86	1,311,000.00	65.00

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
 RESOURCE INVENTORY & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING - CURRENT
 8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES =====				
MNR TRANSFER PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-MOE	0.00	6,575.22	58,300.00	11.28
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FEDERAL GRANTS	0.00	37,633.42	41,000.00	91.79
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	310,000.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HAMILTON	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HALDIMAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	79,956.50	172,361.00	46.39
	0.00	124,165.14	581,661.00	21.35
EXPENDITURES =====				
NIAGARA R. REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN	810.69	57,801.39	99,300.00	58.21
GLANBROOK LANDFILL MONITORING	0.00	0.00	2,473.00	0.00
JOHN C. MUNROE AIRPORT MONITORING	103.54	857.77	2,200.00	38.99
DRAIN CLASSIFICATION	0.00	117.55	0.00	0.00
W/S WATER QUALITY MONITORING	17,011.86	135,760.72	253,600.00	53.53
NIAGARA CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL	7,119.29	37,441.14	184,088.00	20.34
WATERSHED REPORT CARD	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.00
	25,045.38	231,978.57	581,661.00	39.88

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FLOOD PROTECTION SERVICES - CURRENT
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES =====				
MNR TRANSFER PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	256,100.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FEDERAL GRANTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	113,300.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HAMILTON	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HALDIMAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-OTHER	0.00	0.00	8,300.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ADMINISTRATION FEES	25,360.00	92,870.00	100,000.00	92.87
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	25,360.00	92,870.00	477,700.00	19.44
EXPENDITURES =====				
FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING	14,159.29	125,811.77	154,000.00	81.70
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES	4,421.69	44,903.92	83,600.00	53.71
FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS	30,393.66	184,487.97	240,100.00	76.84
	48,974.64	355,203.66	477,700.00	74.36

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SERVICES - CURRENT
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES =====				
MNR TRANSFER PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	59,000.00	0.00
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	283,900.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ADMINISTRATION FEES	26,215.00	121,175.00	120,000.00	100.98
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	26,215.00	121,175.00	462,900.00	26.18
EXPENDITURES =====				
MUNICIPAL PLAN INPUT & REVIEW	26,039.75	230,332.76	338,300.00	68.09
DEVELOPMENT PLAN INPUT & REVIEW	10,353.35	84,419.14	124,600.00	67.75
	36,393.10	314,751.90	462,900.00	68.00

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
 CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT - CURRENT
 8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES =====				
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	1,223.93	0.00	0.00
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	316,900.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	2,425,500.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BUILDING/LAND RENTAL	710.00	5,680.00	8,300.00	68.43
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	822.09	10,434.03	19,500.00	53.51
	1,532.09	17,337.96	2,770,200.00	0.63
EXPENDITURES =====				
OPERATIONS	27,819.60	1,727,222.71	2,570,200.00	67.20
LAND STEWARDSHIP-AUTHORITY LANDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FOREST MANAGEMENT-AUTHORITY LANDS	0.00	311.61	0.00	0.00
TREE CONSERVATION BY-LAW - NIAGARA	7,243.29	86,435.60	200,000.00	43.22
	35,062.89	1,813,969.92	2,770,200.00	65.48

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
CONSERVATION LAND PROGRAMMING - CURRENT
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES				
=====				
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	631,000.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HAMILTON	0.00	0.00	129,306.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HALDIMAND	0.00	0.00	9,900.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	180,686.00	0.00
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
USER FEES	121,385.96	992,332.40	1,390,394.00	71.37
	121,385.96	992,332.40	2,361,286.00	42.03
EXPENDITURES				
=====				
BALL'S FALLS	70,155.65	545,567.27	953,300.00	57.23
BINBROOK	41,587.67	216,256.35	288,300.00	75.01
CHIPPAWA CREEK	47,613.80	219,421.57	301,700.00	72.73
LONG BEACH	50,230.48	213,148.34	333,500.00	63.91
BAIRD ESTATE	0.00	2,436.50	2,400.00	101.52
BEAMER MEMORIAL	934.04	14,544.65	21,400.00	67.97
BINBROOK TRACT	0.00	181.25	14,100.00	1.29
CAVE SPRINGS	502.36	3,310.25	12,500.00	26.48
COMFORT MAPLE	6,266.90	6,798.17	7,300.00	93.13
ELM STREET PROJECT	3,011.75	15,073.52	16,865.00	89.38
E.C.BROWN	1,068.93	3,272.74	13,200.00	24.79
GAINSBOROUGH	1,706.56	25,482.09	48,400.00	52.65
HEDLEY FOREST	42.85	601.47	2,900.00	20.74
HUMBERSTONE MARSH	0.00	126.99	3,100.00	4.10
JORDAN HARBOUR	0.00	127.00	5,100.00	2.49
LOUTH	0.00	127.00	1,100.00	11.55
MORGAN'S POINT	109.96	10,015.62	21,100.00	47.47
MOUNTAINVIEW	0.00	1,382.56	8,500.00	16.27
MUD LAKE	531.58	3,464.72	14,300.00	24.23
OSWEGO CREEK	21.98	42.79	3,100.00	1.38
PORT DAVIDSON	502.44	643.95	1,700.00	37.88
ROCKWAY	0.00	127.00	5,400.00	2.35
RUIGROK TRACT	29.11	493.75	3,900.00	12.66
STATION ROAD PROJECT	1,139.73	4,644.36	6,518.00	71.25
STEVENSVILLE	635.50	6,751.98	14,300.00	47.22
ST.JOHN'S	1,392.77	17,465.08	22,900.00	76.27
TWO MILE CREEK	0.00	768.25	5,000.00	15.37
VIRGIL	598.28	5,394.03	16,200.00	33.30
WAINFLEET BOG	2,905.84	5,772.87	10,000.00	57.73
THE GORD HARRY CONSERVATION TRAIL	2,823.75	10,120.97	10,900.00	92.85
WAINFLEET WETLANDS	1,252.11	11,524.34	13,400.00	86.00
WAINFLEET ACCESS POINT PROJECT	5,088.02	9,422.74	11,503.00	81.92
WILLOUGHBY MARSH	0.00	449.38	1,300.00	34.57
WOOLVERTON	0.00	127.01	1,200.00	10.58
GLENRIDGE QUARRY PROJECT	5,527.43	17,210.17	142,800.00	12.05
WOODEND	994.09	18,226.35	22,100.00	82.47
	246,673.58	1,390,523.08	2,361,286.00	58.89

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT - CURRENT
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES =====				
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	97,400.00	0.00
VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT SALES	0.00	565.00	1,000.00	56.50
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	90,000.00	0.00
	0.00	565.00	188,400.00	0.30
EXPENDITURES =====				
WAGES	0.00	11,417.97	24,000.00	47.57
INSURANCE & LICENSES	0.00	6,770.29	10,800.00	62.69
GAS/OIL	4,912.33	26,282.45	41,200.00	63.79
PURCHASES	700.17	68,228.00	90,000.00	75.81
MAINTENANCE	4,329.17	20,669.00	19,800.00	104.39
TOOLS & SUPPLIES	123.02	857.88	2,600.00	33.00
	10,064.69	134,225.59	188,400.00	71.25

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
CAPITAL BUDGET SUMMARY
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES =====				
MNR TRANSFER PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-MOE	0.00	302,940.00	27,800.00	1089.71
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	363,813.63	915,700.00	39.73
FEDERAL GRANTS	0.00	92,617.32	214,000.00	43.28
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	642,400.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	942,892.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HAMILTON	0.00	0.00	263,708.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HALDIMAND	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL RESERVE-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	600,000.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	54,000.00	0.00
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	749,063.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	95,796.87	253,544.01	451,015.00	56.22
	95,796.87	1,012,914.96	4,863,578.00	20.83
EXPENDITURES =====				
WATERSHED STUDIES	27,154.50	270,557.47	895,100.00	30.23
RESOURCE INV. & ENV. MONITORING	164,164.67	1,069,855.64	1,881,978.00	56.85
FLOOD PROTECTION SERVICES	7,098.84	179,272.17	416,220.00	43.07
CONSERVATION LAND DEVELOPMENT	65,667.47	430,365.14	1,670,280.00	25.77
	264,085.48	1,950,050.42	4,863,578.00	40.09

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
WATERSHED STUDIES - CAPITAL
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES				
=====				
MNR TRANSFER PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-MOE	0.00	302,940.00	0.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	345,813.63	895,100.00	38.63
FEDERAL GRANTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HAMILTON	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HALDIMAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL RESERVE-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	648,753.63	895,100.00	72.48
EXPENDITURES				
=====				
SOURCE PROTECTION PLANS	27,121.02	270,330.69	329,100.00	82.14
SOURCE PROTECTION-TECHNICAL STUDIES	0.00	0.00	566,000.00	0.00
STORMWATER MGMT. POLICY STUDY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
UPPER WELLAND RIVER W/S PLAN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CENTRAL WELLAND RIVER W/S PLAN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOWER WELLAND RIVER W/S PLAN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ERIE NORTHSORE W/S PLAN	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BEAVERDAMS/SHRINER'S CREEK W/S PLAN	33.48	226.78	0.00	0.00
	27,154.50	270,557.47	895,100.00	30.23

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
RESOURCE INVENTORY & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING - CAPITAL
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES				
=====				
MNR TRANSFER PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-MOE	0.00	0.00	27,800.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FEDERAL GRANTS	0.00	91,717.32	214,000.00	42.86
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	426,600.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	357,892.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HAMILTON	0.00	0.00	48,708.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HALDIMAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL RESERVE-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	276,100.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	79,863.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	55,176.87	189,300.29	451,015.00	41.97
	55,176.87	281,017.61	1,881,978.00	14.93
EXPENDITURES				
=====				
WELLAND R. WATERSHED RESTORATION				
STEWARDSHIP	4,750.59	42,519.33	76,800.00	55.36
WATERSHED GIS	8,662.75	30,392.47	99,100.00	30.67
AOC WATER QUALITY MONITORING	1,693.77	8,045.43	0.00	0.00
AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP	32,606.43	150,169.48	223,400.00	67.22
E.C.BROWN WETLAND PROJECT	234.18	5,749.88	0.00	0.00
OPG PROJECTS	9,334.98	79,783.69	342,600.00	23.29
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	657.14	6,263.74	83,082.00	7.54
sub-total	57,939.84	322,924.02	824,982.00	39.14
12 MILE CK WATERSHED RESTORATION				
STEWARDSHIP	4,622.61	42,336.51	60,900.00	69.52
PROJECTS	21,582.24	93,749.16	137,400.00	68.23
PCB BIODIVERSITY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
sub-total	26,204.85	136,085.67	198,300.00	68.63
WATERSHED GENERAL RESTORATION	40,667.20	297,028.71	257,133.00	115.52
WATERSHED WELL DE-COMMISSIONING	3,588.63	11,340.83	27,863.00	40.70
20 MILE CREEK RESTORATION	7,539.49	61,885.07	154,800.00	39.98
FORT ERIE CREEKS RESTORATION	15,895.64	39,674.62	90,800.00	43.69
N-O-T-L CREEKS RESTORATION	6,836.90	101,898.28	173,300.00	58.80
15,16,18 MILE CREEKS RESTORATION	5,048.04	96,320.20	127,000.00	75.84
LYON'S CREEK SEDIMENT REMEDIATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NATURAL HERITAGE AREAS INVENTORY	444.08	2,698.24	0.00	0.00
DRINKING WATER STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	27,800.00	0.00
	164,164.67	1,069,855.64	1,881,978.00	56.85

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FLOOD PROTECTION SERVICES - CAPITAL
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES				
=====				
MNR TRANSFER PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-MOE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	0.00	20,600.00	0.00
FEDERAL GRANTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	215,800.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HAMILTON	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HALDIMAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL RESERVE-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	179,820.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	416,220.00	0.00
EXPENDITURES				
=====				
FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURES				
BINBROOK DAM	1,027.99	75,656.20	109,520.00	69.08
SHRINER'S CREEK	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
sub-total	1,027.99	75,656.20	109,520.00	69.08
WATERSHED FLOODPLAIN MAPPING UPDATE	6,070.85	99,074.87	306,700.00	32.30
FLOOD FORECASTING MODELING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
STREAM GAUGE & MONITORING NETWORK	0.00	4,541.10	0.00	0.00
	7,098.84	179,272.17	416,220.00	43.07

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
CONSERVATION LAND DEVELOPMENT - CAPITAL
8 PERIODS ENDED 2012-08-31**

	Current Month	Current YTD	Approved Budget	% of Budget
REVENUES				
=====				
PROVINCIAL GRANTS-OTHER	0.00	18,000.00	0.00	0.00
FEDERAL GRANTS	0.00	900.00	0.00	0.00
MUNICIPAL LEVY-GENERAL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	585,000.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HAMILTON	0.00	0.00	215,000.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-HALDIMAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVY-SPECIAL-OTHER	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAPITAL RESERVE-NIAGARA	0.00	0.00	323,900.00	0.00
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION	0.00	0.00	54,000.00	0.00
RESERVE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	492,380.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS	40,620.00	64,243.72	0.00	0.00
	40,620.00	83,143.72	1,670,280.00	4.98
EXPENDITURES				
=====				
LAND ACQUISITION	2,574.53	9,371.11	600,000.00	1.56
BALL'S FALLS	12,400.75	44,759.27	120,113.00	37.26
BINBROOK	7,359.32	87,520.35	157,149.00	55.69
CHIPPAWA CREEK	1,675.88	17,803.34	226,153.00	7.87
LONG BEACH	852.18	1,752.02	50,500.00	3.47
BEAMER MEMORIAL	0.00	3,315.77	0.00	0.00
BINBROOK TRACT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E.C.BROWN	0.00	4.51	6,000.00	0.08
HEDLEY FOREST	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
HUMBERSTONE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MORGAN'S POINT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RUIGROK TRACT	0.00	0.00	6,900.00	0.00
WAINFLEET BOG	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	0.00
MEMORIAL FORESTS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
ROCKWAY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TWENTY VALLEY TRAIL	3,103.84	4,938.44	25,000.00	19.75
GAINSBOROUGH	147.88	1,149.19	79,310.00	1.45
MOUNTAINVIEW	18,928.76	18,928.76	0.00	0.00
ST.JOHN'S	0.00	2,256.48	27,110.00	8.32
VIRGIL	2,796.62	10,763.17	41,345.00	26.03
GORD HARRY CONSERVATION TRAIL	0.00	40.54	107,033.00	0.04
WILLOUGHBY MARSH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SMITH-NESS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TWO MILE CREEK	0.00	34,837.93	40,000.00	87.09
STEVENSVILLE	641.09	46,069.45	40,000.00	115.17
WAINFLEET WETLANDS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WOODEND	0.00	4,188.07	3,200.00	130.88
CAVE SPRINGS	0.00	0.00	11,800.00	0.00
MUD LAKE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
JORDAN HARBOUR	149.73	14,013.92	116,667.00	12.01
COMFORT MAPLE	0.00	2,493.12	0.00	0.00
ST. JOHNS CENTRE	15,036.89	126,159.70	0.00	0.00
	65,667.47	430,365.14	1,670,280.00	25.77



TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: September 12, 2012

SUBJECT: Preliminary 2013 Operating and Project Budgets – Report No. 44-12

Attached for your review and consideration is the Preliminary 2013 Operating and Project Budgets detailed and summary reports which were presented and discussed by the NPCA Budget Review Committee which include the approved 2012 amounts for comparison purposes. The year end numbers in the reports are the same as the approved budget at this time and will be established further into the fiscal year.

As discussed in the preliminary guidance meeting, the budget has been set out with the understanding of consolidating the operation and capital (herein referred to as project) budget as approved by the Niagara Region staff, however I have kept the programs separate for internal use and to provide separate accounts if requested by our other member municipalities (Hamilton and Haldimand).

In addition, given the relatively early process of setting out our next years' budget, I was unable to confirm external support from the Federal, Provincial, Partnership and Special Funding arrangements for many of our programs, specifically in Water Management. Accordingly, the budget assumes what we believe to be reasonable funding expectations based on historical funding for these programs. The preliminary budgets as proposed, however, will set out the municipal levy component of our budget in order to meet the Niagara Region's budget schedule. The final budget, later this year, will have revisions that more accurately reflects other external funding, however, the levy component would remain similar.

Municipal Guidance

The NPCA has not received guidance direction from Hamilton or Haldimand at this time.

The guidance objective set out by the Niagara Region is 2.57% over 2012.

As established in 2012, the NPCA adopted a budget that consolidates our levy to Niagara into a single grant, which encompasses operating grant, capital (project) grant, debt issue costs and debt charges as a base funding for future years. The debenture payments and interest continues into 2013 (small increase from 2012) however additional funding for projects would be available in future years if the debt is paid down without incurring any additional debt. I am not recommending that the NPCA approve additional debt for any 2013 project.

The preliminary budget as set out below, reflects the total guidance levy amount and is summarized in the attached 2012/2013 levy comparison schedule. Overall, the operating/project budget of the NPCA has a consolidated levy increase of 2.65% with a consolidated amount of 2.52% for Niagara, 1.94% for Hamilton and 21.18% for Haldimand. The Haldimand amounts have increased significantly primarily due to the adjustment for levy apportionment as set out by the Ministry of Natural Resources from time to time.

Salary Considerations

The NPCA Salary grid has remained the same for 3 years, 2010, 2011 and 2012 due to economic constraints and Provincial initiatives regarding public sector employees. Although the NPCA is not required to follow the provincial direction, previous years' budgets we prepared to follow in the spirit of this direction.

For 2013, I am recommending a 2.0% across the board increase in the salary grid and this is reflected in the preliminary budget. It should also be noted that the salary components in the budget include approximately 25% for benefits (an increase of 1% over 2012). Salary amounts in the various programs are reflective of the anticipated percentage of time spent on the various programs by all staff.

Attached for information is the 2010 salary schedule that was adopted for 2011, 2012 and also a copy of the proposed 2013 salary schedule.

Below is a summary of the salary schedule revisions since 2007.

2007	2.75%
2008	various – see Confidential Job Evaluation Report of April 9, 2008 (blue pages)
2009	2.75%
2010	2.50%
2011	0%
2012	0%
2013	2% (as proposed)

Preliminary Operating Budget

An explanation of the program changes and specific program implications to accomplish the target increases is provided below.

1) Corporate Services

- Miscellaneous Revenue – No funds indicated as partnership program opportunities have not been identified to date.
- Provincial Grant – Eliminated as previous budget was for Source Water Protection Plan preparation. The amount in this column may change as Source Water Protection Plan implementation unfolds.
- Reserve Funds – No reserve funds are recommended in the Corporate Services budget, however, additional reserves may be warranted where necessary to complete/undertake the Strategic Plan.
- Miscellaneous Expenses increase of \$70,000. This reflects an anticipated need in to have increased support for events and other NPCA initiatives. While I do not anticipate implementation of any resources before the Strategic Plan is complete, I have indicated a budget amount for 2013.
- Components of the Corporate Communications budget reduced to reflect reduced partnership funding.
- The Human Resources component is significantly reduced as the costs for the Planning Department organizational structure changes have been realized.
- Foundation – There is no salary component in the Foundation Budget similar to last year.(

2) Watershed Management and Health Monitoring

a) Resources Inventory and Environmental Monitoring

- The Glanbrook Landfill Monitoring program and the John C Munroe Airport monitoring is included will continue in 2013. Costs for these activities are 100% paid for by the affected parties.
- The popular Niagara Children’s Water Festival will continue for 2013 with an increase in external revenues for this program due to the limitations on base funding from the Region.
- Funding for the Watershed Report Card is proposed with offsetting revenues from separate Niagara Region funding under their Water Strategy program. This is subject to verification later this year.

b) Flood Protection Services

- There are no significant revisions to the Flood Protection Services Budget

c) Environmental Advisory Services

- Costs for the program are primarily due to increase in staff costs and slight reallocation of staff resources to reflect time spent on this program.
- I have not recommended an increase in planning and regulation review and permit fees for 2013 and accordingly, revenues from those areas have not increased.

3) Conservation Land Management

- The Debt Charges and Servicing Costs for capital projects which are assigned by the Region has not changed significantly for 2013, however commencing in the 2014 budget, the debt pay down will result in a reduction of this cost and result in increased project funding availability without impacts to the municipal levy.
- The NPCA will continue to implement the Tree Conservation By-Law on behalf of the Region of Niagara as previously endorsed by this Board.

4) Conservation Land Programming

- The Conservation Land Programming budget is consistent with the multi-year Land Management program previously approved by the Board with the area operating/maintenance costs being assessed to the member municipality in which the property is located.
- Program costs include in special revenues from the Niagara Region to undertake project and management services at the Glenridge, Elm Street and Station Road landfill restoration areas and the new beach access in Wainfleet. These costs have been included in the Region's consolidated levy and are within the funding guidance.
- It should be noted that historically, the NPCA has budgeted operational reserves for the Hamilton and Niagara conservation areas to be used for years where actual revenues and/or expenses differ from the approved budget due to various factors. For 2013, the proposed budget has anticipated reserves of approximately \$12,325 (Niagara) and \$22,785 (Hamilton).
- User fee are anticipated to increase approximately \$89,000 over 2012 due to the anticipated increase in park and facilities usages. As usual, staff will closely monitor the fee revenues through the course of the year and make adjustments as required if the revenues are less than anticipated.
- The majority of the cost increase is related to staff salary and non discretionary staff benefit costs. All other cost increases associated with Conservation Land Programming have been maintained to 2012 levels.

5) Vehicles & Equipment

- Funds have been included for the replacement of vehicles as required with a minor increase from 2012.

6) Summary

- Cost increases not specifically identified throughout the budget are related to inflationary adjustments.
- The total expenditure under the Preliminary 2013 Operating Budget is \$8,127,055, reduced from the 2012 level of \$8,150,147
- Revenue amounts for the Conservation Areas remain optimistic but obtainable subject to weather conditions. Program adjustments will be made throughout the year where revenues are less than anticipated.

Preliminary Project Budget

Attached for your review and consideration is the Preliminary 2012 Project Budget (detailed and summary).

Also attached are summary sheets outlining the respective capital projects for the Water and Land Management programs which provide a brief descriptions of the projects. The breakdown of costs for each of the projects is available on the detailed project budget sheets.

Summary

- the total expenditure under the Preliminary 2013 Capital Budget is \$3,338,908 a decrease from the 2012 budget of \$4,863,578
- the general levy to be assessed to the member municipalities is \$645,205, an increase of \$2,805 from 2012.

The General Levy apportionments are based on CA Levy Regulation (O. Reg. 670/2000) for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority modified in accordance with the 4 Year Levy Implementation Plan for the Years 2010-2013 (NPCA Report 63-09).

For information, the general levy apportionment amounts are as follows:

Municipality	2013 Apportionment	2012 Apportionment
Niagara	93.793 %	94.17408 %
Hamilton	4.002 %	3.969675 %
Haldimand	2.205 %	1.85625 %

It is also important to note that I have not included any budget carry-overs into 2013 in the preliminary budget. Any under expenditures and carry-over funds to complete uncompleted projects will be identified later in the year and included in the final budget. However this will not result in a change in the required municipal levies.

RECOMMENDATION

That Report No. 44-12 regarding the 2013 Preliminary Operating and Project Budgets be received; and

That the Proposed Preliminary 2013 Operating Budget with a total expenditure of \$8,127,055 and levies of \$5,422,678 to the Region of Niagara, \$230,396 to the City of Hamilton and \$66,026 to Haldimand County be approved; and

That the Proposed Preliminary 2013 Project (Capital) Budget with a total expenditure of \$3,338,908 and levies of \$1,607,352 to the Region of Niagara, \$293,031 to the City of Hamilton and \$14,227 to Haldimand County be approved; and

That staff be authorized to submit the 2013 Operating and Project Budget to member municipalities and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Tony D'Amario, P. Eng., CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

LEVY COMPARISON 2012/2013					
Municipality	Levy Category	2012	2013	Difference	% Increase
Niagara	Operating Base	\$5,009,238	\$5,122,676	\$113,438	
	Water/Wastwater Contribution	\$300,000	\$300,000		
	Operating Total	\$5,309,238	\$5,422,676	\$113,438	2.14
	Projects	\$1,547,866	\$1,607,352	\$59,486	3.84
	Total	\$6,857,104	\$7,030,028	\$172,924	2.52
Hamilton	Operating	\$224,264	\$230,396	\$6,131	2.73
	Projects	\$289,209	\$293,031	\$3,822	1.32
	Total	\$513,473	\$523,427	\$9,953	1.94
Haldimand	Operating	\$54,303	\$66,026	\$11,722	21.59
	Projects	\$11,925	\$14,227	\$2,302	19.30
	Total	\$66,228	\$80,253	\$14,024	21.18
GRAND TOTALS					
	Operating	\$5,587,806	\$5,719,098	\$131,292	2.35
	Projects	\$1,849,000	\$1,914,610	\$65,610	3.55
	Operating/Projects Combined	\$7,436,806	\$7,633,708	\$196,902	2.65

2013 Proposed Salary Schedule @ 2.0 %

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>	<u>Step 4</u>	<u>Step 5</u>
1	\$40,218	\$42,452	\$44,686	-	-
2	\$44,404	\$46,872	\$49,338	-	-
3	\$48,823	\$51,534	\$54,246	-	-
4	\$50,721	\$53,704	\$56,688	\$59,671	-
5	\$55,792	\$59,075	\$62,356	\$65,638	-
6	\$59,155	\$62,851	\$66,549	\$70,246	\$73,942
7	\$66,635	\$70,800	\$74,964	\$79,128	\$83,294
8	\$75,031	\$79,721	\$84,410	\$89,101	\$93,790
9	\$81,894	\$87,013	\$92,131	\$97,250	\$102,369
10	\$88,703	\$94,246	\$99,790	\$105,335	\$110,879
11	\$111,093	\$118,037	\$124,981	\$131,923	\$138,867

2013 CONSERVATION LAND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY

	2012 Approved	2013 Proposed	NOTES
LAND ACQUISITION	\$ 600,000	\$ 600,000	As per previous years.
BALL'S FALLS HERITAGE C.A.	\$ 120,113	\$ 25,000	Project will involve continued upgrades to the water and sewer facilities throughout the park to bring them to current standards. Site is under a Certificate of Approval with the Ministry of the Environment and the Regional Health Unit. Proposed upgrades are required to maintain proper water distribution and disposal systems.
CHIPPAWA CREEK C.A.	\$ 226,153	\$ 93,000	Project will complete the comfort station for the east campground and other improvements. This will eliminate the need for porta-potties in this section of the campground.
LONG BEACH C.A.	\$ 50,500	\$ 50,000	Project includes upgrades to campsites in south-east portion of the campground. Work to replace roof on several buildings.
CAVE SPRINGS C.A.	\$ 11,800	\$ -	Amount may be carried forward, pending completion of the Master Plan.
E.C. BROWN C.A.	\$ 6,000	\$ -	Trail work to connect E.C. Brown site to the new constructed wetland demonstration area.
COMFORT MAPLE	\$ -	\$ 5,000	Fencing and landscape measures to improve public safety. Work to improve health of the tree.
JORDAN HARBOUR C.A.	\$ 116,667	\$ 50,000	Upgrades to the site including additional dock space, water distribution, trailhead and washroom facility.
STEVENSVILLE C.A.	\$ 40,000	\$ -	Substantially completed by the end of 2012.
ST. JOHN'S C.A.	\$ 27,110	\$ -	Substantially completed by the end of 2012.
TWO MILE CREEK C.A.	\$ 40,000	\$ -	Substantially completed by the end of 2012.
MEMORIAL FORESTS	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Continued planting program in partnership with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation
TWENTY VALLEY TRAIL DEVELOPMENT	\$ 25,000	\$ 80,000	Replace faulty staircase.
GAINSBOROUGH C.A.	\$ 79,310	\$ 45,000	Workshop upgrades to be completed
GORD HARRY CONSERVATION TRAIL	\$ 107,033	\$ 55,000	This project will connect the trail with the Friendship Trail in Port Colborne to the east, and the Haldimand County Trail system to the west. Staff will also investigate possibility of upgrading the eastern section of the trail, near Port Colborne to accommodate wheelchairs and strollers.
WAINFLEET BOG	\$ 8,000	\$ -	Entrance improvements
WAINFLEET WETLANDS	\$ -	\$ 25,000	Site Access Improvements
WOODEND	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	Entrance upgrades deferred to 2011 (redesign to combat illegal dumping)

VIRGIL C.A.	\$ 41,345	\$ -	Trail work completed. Bridge and entrance upgrades to be completed in 2012.
BINBROOK C.A.	\$ 157,149	\$ 110,000	Project will expand washroom capacity and beach in the day-use area along the reservoir. Additional shoreline fishing opportunities and better facilities for group camping.
HEDLEY FOREST C.A.	\$ 3,000	\$ -	Expansion of trail work and associated water crossings in 2012.
RUIGROK TRACT	\$ 6,900	\$ -	To be completed in 2012
Grand Total	\$ 1,670,280	\$ 1,142,200	

2013 WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS			
	2012 Approved	2013 Proposed	NOTES
WATERSHED STUDIES			
SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN 10/11	\$ 82,300	\$ 82,500	implementation policies
SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN 11/12	\$ 246,800	\$ 265,487	
SOURCE PROTECTION - TECHNICAL STUDIES	\$ 566,000	\$ -	
sub-total	\$ 895,100	\$ 347,987	
RESOURCE INVENTORY & MONITORING			
WELLAND RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION			
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 76,800	\$ 65,161	Outreach and education including Community Fishery Program
GIS PROJECT	\$ 99,100	\$ 49,798	Scheduled Mapping Updates
AOC WATER QUALITY MONITORING	\$ -	\$ -	Federal/Provincial program ended
AGRICULTURAL STEWARDSHIP	\$ 223,400	\$ 224,560	Various landowner Best Management Practise projects including livestock fencing, manure storage, nutrient management, riparian habitat, trickle irrigation, wetlands and grassed waterways
E.C. BROWN WETLAND PROJECT	\$ -	\$ -	
OPG PROJECTS	\$ 342,600	\$ 244,311	Construction projects along Welland River
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	\$ 83,082	\$ 21,800	Outreach and education including Community Fishery Program
12 MILE CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION			
STEWARDSHIP	\$ 60,900	\$ 63,000	Support for Projects
PROJECTS	\$ 137,400	\$ 129,000	Landowner BMP projects to be undertaken as per the Watershed Plan
20 MILE CREEK WATERSHED RESTORATION			
FORT ERIE CREEKS RESTORATION	\$ 154,800	\$ 158,920	BMP projects as per the Watershed Plan
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE CREEKS RESTORATION	\$ 90,800	\$ 97,743	BMP projects as per the Watershed Plan
WATERSHED RESTORATION GENERAL	\$ 173,300	\$ 176,342	BMP projects as per the Watershed Plan
15,16,18 MILE CREEK RESTORATION	\$ 257,133	\$ 236,500	Program suport, outreach and education including Canopies for Kids Program
WELL DE-COMMISSIONING PROGRAM	\$ 127,000	\$ 128,200	BMP projects as per the Watershed Plan
DRINKING WATER STEWARDSHIP	\$ 27,863	\$ 25,000	Continuation of programs to assist owners to decommission wells
	\$ 27,800	\$ -	Provincial Grant Support (100%)

	sub-total	\$ 1,881,978	\$ 1,620,335	
FLOOD PROTECTION SERVICES				
	BINBROOK DAM	\$ 109,520	\$ 18,386	
	SHRINERS CREEK	\$ -	\$ -	
WATERSHED FLOODPLAIN MAPPING UPDATE		\$ 306,700	\$ 210,000	In house mapping program for 2013 to focus on watercourses draining to Lake Ontario
FLOOD FORECASTING MODELLING		\$ -	\$ -	Project Complete
STREAM GAUGE & MONITORING NETWORK		\$ -	\$ -	Project dependent on 100% external funding - unconfirmed and subject to change
	sub-total	\$ 416,220	\$ 228,386	
Grand Total		\$ 3,193,298	\$ 2,196,708	



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: September 11, 2012

SUBJECT: Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area Fire FA-45-12

On Thursday, July 26th, a storm passing over the Wainfleet Bog produced a lightning strike, starting a peat fire. This fire continued, unnoticed, for several days. On August 1st, NPCA staff were alerted to the fire by the Port Colborne Fire Chief, who was investigating burning complaints and discovered smoke and ash from the fire, carried by winds onto neighbouring properties..

Authority staff inspected the Conservation Area and located the fire in the north-west quadrant of the Bog, approximately 10 metres north of the Peat Car Trail, in a remote area with very limited access. The Conservation Area was immediately closed to the public and posted at all access points. The Wainfleet and Port Colborne Fire Departments were consulted, however the fire was determined to be beyond the capability of their equipment and training. The Ministry of Natural Resources was contacted by the NPCA for assistance.

On August 2nd, NPCA staff began monitoring the progress of the fire and clearing trails for equipment access. Over the long-weekend the area affected by smoke expanded to East Port Colborne and South Welland. By Tuesday the smell of peat smoke was reported in parts of Fort Erie.

NPCA staff inspected the site on Tuesday, August 7th and found the fire was shallow-burning and moving very slow in comparison to previous fires. Authority staff consulted once more with the local MNR and the Provincial Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services Branch who offered to send someone down to assess the situation. On Wednesday, August 8th, a Fire Sector Officer flew down from Haliburton to tour the site and offer recommendations on fire suppression. They estimated the area affected to be roughly 13 hectares (32 acres), outlined on the attached map.

In the afternoon representatives from the NPCA, the Township of Wainfleet, the City of Port Colborne and the MNR met to discuss options. One of the main problems associated with the fire was complaints about smoke and potential impact on the health of local residents. The Ministry offered to dispatch fire crews and cover one week of active suppression. The offer was conditional upon the local partners covering food, lodging and fuel for the personnel. By Thursday evening, three Fire Ranger Crews had arrived in Wainfleet along with several pieces of specialized equipment.

A planning meeting was organized for early morning on Friday, August 10th with personnel from the NPCA, MNR and Fire Chiefs from Wainfleet, Port Colborne, Pelham, Thorold and St. Catharines. The group discussed logistics, water supply and strategy for the operation. Smoke from this fire was affecting a large area generating a great deal of media interest in the bog fire. Since this was an "active fire operation", communications were handled through the Wainfleet Fire Chief. A selection of newspaper articles are attached.

The MNR crews began setting-up equipment immediately following the meeting. Waterford Quarry

offered access to a pond on their property as a water source. The Fire Rangers installed 2 – Mark III Forestry Pumps at the pond to move water along 3.3 kilometers of 2.5 inch hose to portable tanks, located at the south-west corner of the fire zone. Crews then used two additional pumps to feed hose lines, allowing Fire Rangers to encircle the fire zone with 1.95 kilometers of 1.5 inch hose. By Saturday morning, water was being applied to the fire.

The Conservation Authority provided two off-road utility vehicles for use by the Fire Rangers. NPCA staff were scheduled for security to keep public clear of operations and to assist with fuel and water supply. The Conservation Authority also covered the cost for meals, lodging and fuel.

The active firefighting operation lasted for 13-days. On Thursday, August 23rd, the fire was declared out and the equipment packed up. Fire Ranger Crews left for home the following day.

Over the next week (August 24 – 31) Conservation Authority staff worked in cooperation with the Wainfleet Fire Chief to patrol the area, looking for “hot spots”. The MNR left some equipment behind to assist, should the fire re-appear. On Friday, September 7th the remaining firefighting equipment was removed from the site. The Conservation Area remains closed to the public. Staff will be inspecting the site to ensure all trails are safe for visitors. They will also oversee the installation of new interpretive signs at the Erie Peat Road parking lot. A media release will go out on Friday to announce that the site is now open.

The NPCA’s total cost for the firefighting operation was \$24,930. This covers food and lodging for the Fire Ranger Crew, fuel for operations, NPCA staff chargebacks and equipment maintenance. The operations extended 5-days beyond the MNR’s original 7-day commitment. Additional costs may be forthcoming.

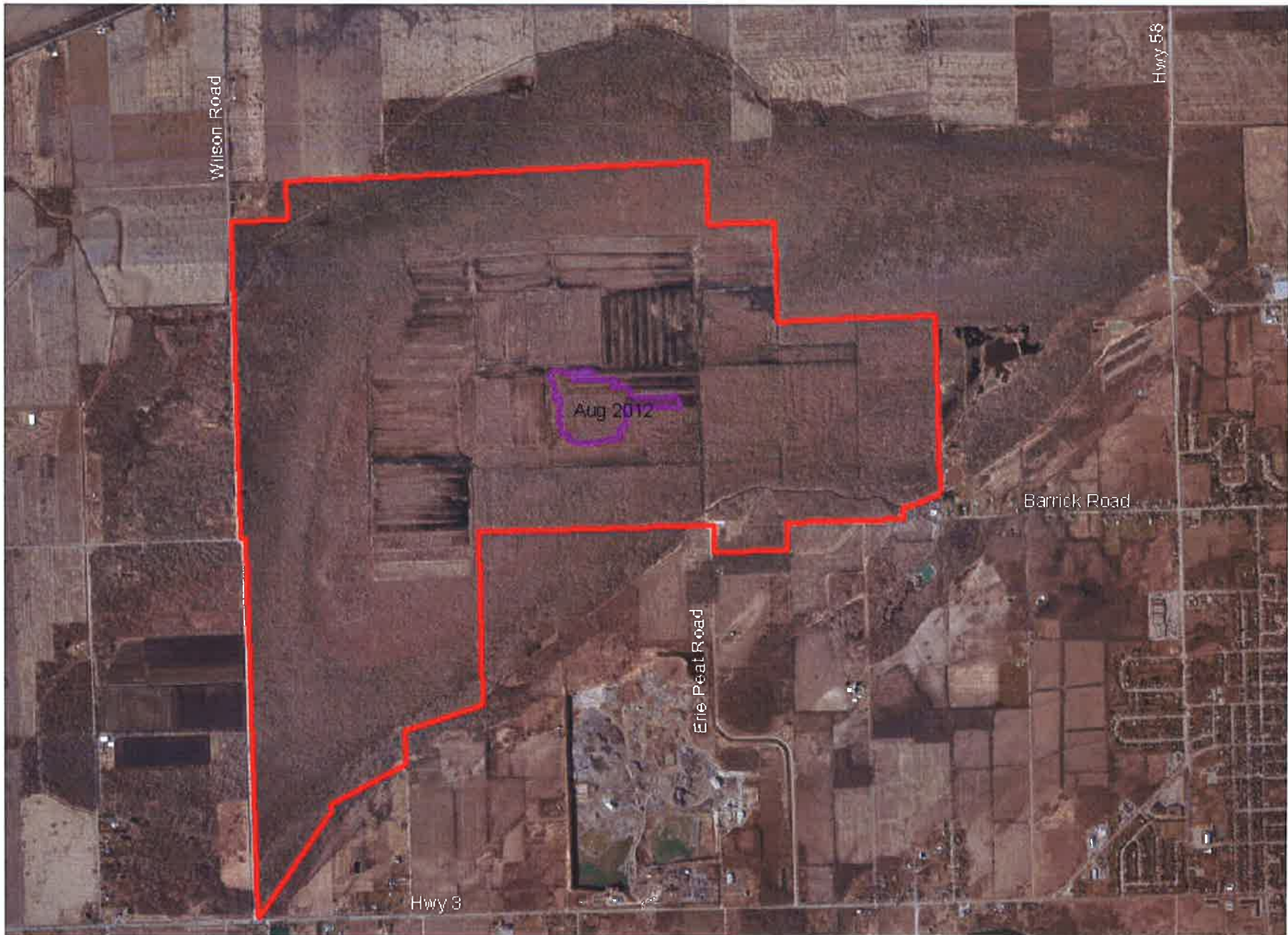
The firefighting operation was not included in the 2012 budget for the Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area. Staff will be reviewing the land management budget, looking for opportunities to reduce other expenses in an attempt to cover this shortfall.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. FA-45-12 regarding the Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area Fire be received.

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

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Tony D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area- 2012 Bog Fire

Legend

 Wainfleet Bog Cons. Area

 2012 Bog Fire Location (as of Aug. 14)



NEWS LOCAL

Officials letting inaccessible area of Wainfleet Bog burn, monitoring fire



By Dave Johnson, The Tribune
Sunday, August 5, 2012 11:04:21 EDT PM



In this view from Port Colborne-Wainfleet Townline Rd. North, smoke from a fire in an inaccessible area of the Wainfleet Bog drifts across a field. Fire officials in Wainfleet and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are going to let the fire burn for now.

WAINFLEET - UPDATE:

Heavy smoke drifting into north Port Colborne and maybe down in the Killaly Street West and Steele Street area is from the Wainfleet bog fire that started last week. Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services are aware of the smoke in the area as is St. Catharines fire dispatch.

An inaccessible area of the Wainfleet Bog is on fire and fire officials in Wainfleet and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority are going to let it burn for now.

Wainfleet fire Chief Harry Flagg said the conservation authority notified him of the fire on Wednesday after it received a call from Port Colborne fire Chief Tom Cartwright.

Cartwright said his fire service received burning complaints from the Hwy. 58 area and when he investigated, there was smoke in the area and embers landing on the highway.



Stamford Hearing Clinic
Hearing is Happiness

Come &
See Us



NEWS LOCAL

FireRanger crew on the offensive



By Dave Johnson, The Tribune
Tuesday, August 14, 2012 7:23:53 EDT PM



Image: 1 of 5



WELLAND - Wainfleet's fire chief and members of the Ministry of Natural Resources' aviation and forest fire emergency services are meeting twice daily to talk about efforts to extinguish a peat fire in the Wainfleet Bog.

Mayor April Jeffs also communicates daily — via e-mail, text or by phone — with fire Chief Harry Flagg to get updates on the roughly 13-hectare smouldering fire in an inaccessible area of northwest corner of the bog, which borders Wainfleet and Port Colborne.

The mayor said ministry staff said Monday that a perimeter has been set up around the fire and ministry FireRanger crews are working their way inwards.

NEWS LOCAL

Bog off-limits to visitors



By Dave Johnson, The Tribune
Wednesday, August 22, 2012 5:26:01 EDT PM



Two Ministry of Natural Resources FireRangers roll up hose behind the Wainfleet Bog sign after spending the past 12 days fighting an underground peat fire. The ministry said the fire is contained and under control and will spend today looking for any remaining hot spots.

WAINFLEET - A three-week-old fire in a remote section of the Wainfleet Bog is now contained and under control, but the area will continued to be monitored by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Wainfleet's fire chief.

"We'll be checking it over for the few weeks," chief Harry Flagg said Wednesday. "The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority will be the lead agency now and will go through with their people. We'll work with them."

With no rain predicted for the near future, Flagg said officials want to ensure the area where the underground fire was does not flare up again.

A release from the ministry said its crews are preparing to demobilize from the bog, at the end of Erie Peat Rd., and were conducting final thorough examinations Thursday and today to identify and re-apply water to any hot spots that posed a risk of flaring up.

Ministry FireRangers were called to the slow-burning fire on Aug. 10. Since that time, the FireRangers laid 2,940 metres of hose and applied more than 2.27 million litres of water to the 13.6 hectares that were burning and creating smoke that drifted across three municipalities.

"The ministry attributes a large part of the success in the containment of the fire to exemplary cooperation from the local fire chief and Ministry of Natural Resources staff as well as the local



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: September 12, 2012

SUBJECT: Twenty Valley Trail – Jordan Staircase FA-46-12

Background

At the July 18, 2012 Full Authority meeting the Board of Directors approved the closing of the staircase leading from Jordan Village to the Twenty Valley Trail. Staff inspections of the structure revealed that structural problems could not be repaired. As a result, the stair case was demolished and removed and the trail closed at the end of July. Signs were posted of the stair closure and the public was advised to contact NPCA with any questions or concerns.

A small number of complaints were received from local citizens and hikers who had regularly used the staircase. Museum staff reported a few visitors who were inconvenienced, mainly hikers of the Bruce Trail who had visited in the past. Visitors are still able to access the trail from Regional Road 81 and 21st Street using the parking area at the Baily Bridge off 21st Street.

Authority staff issued a tender for a new metal staircase, however the cost far exceeded the proposed project budget. The Authority Board asked staff to investigate other options for the stair replacement.

Discussion

Three options were investigated. All three assume use of the existing stair footings, already located on site.

Option 1 – Wood Staircase

In this option the stairs are built by NPCA staff on the existing footings but to narrower width and landing size than previously installed. The large lookout areas and benches have been removed from this option. The material would be pressure treated dimensional lumber with wood decking, treads, and railings. An upgrade would be to install the wood structure with metal treads and decking. All materials would be purchased and installed by staff. The anticipated lifespan of this structure for all wood construction is 10 years; adding metal decking and treads would increase the lifespan to 15 years and reduce the amount of yearly maintenance.

All Wood Option – Estimated costs for materials at \$25,000 plus labour = \$75,000 total.

Wood and Metal Option - Estimated costs for materials at \$40,000 plus labour = \$120,000 total.

Option 2 – Wood Staircase and Switchback Trail

In this option stairs are installed at the top and bottom of the trail, reducing by 75% the amount of stairs and landings proposed in Option 1. A granular surfaced switchback trail system would be developed on the slope to connect the stairs. The trail would be narrower than the staircase and it would be laid-out to ensure minimal disturbance to the existing grades. Staff believe that this could be accomplished without the need to remove any trees. The anticipated lifespan of the stairs are 10 to 15 years and the lifespan of the trail 20 to 30 years. Trail edge retaining products (stone, fabric, plastic) will also be installed.

All Wood Stairs and Trail – Estimated at \$ 20,000 for the stairs and \$45,000 for trail = \$65,000 total.
Wood and Metal Stairs and Trail – Estimated at \$40,000 for the stairs plus trail = \$85,000 total.

Option 3 – Steel Staircase

This option would replace the wooden structure with an all steel structure. The galvanized metal construction would extend the lifespan to an estimated 50 years. This type of construction involves specialized equipment and materials along a slope with limited access. As a result, the cost of this option is excessive.

Steel Staircase - \$278,997 (tendered price)

Conclusion

The Twenty Valley Trail Project was a very successful private/public partnership to develop a link between Lake Ontario, the Jordan Village and Ball's Falls Conservation Area. The Jordan Staircase was an important component of the project because it provided a safe access to the trail from the Jordan Historical Museum.

After reviewing the options, staff believe that Option 2 – Wood Staircase and Switchback Trail (with wood and metal staircase) will restore the access and extend the lifespan of the facility. The wood and metal staircase will also help to reduce maintenance costs. The Draft NPCA 2013 Project Budget includes an \$80,000 amount for this project. The remaining \$5,000 is available from the 2012 Project Budget allocation.

If approved, staff would complete plans for the project and begin construction before the end of November. The access would be fully completed by the spring of 2013.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. FA-46-12 regarding the Jordan Staircase be received; and,

That staff be authorized to proceed with the development of a Wood Staircase and Switchback Trail, linking the Jordan Historical Museum with the Twenty Valley Trail.

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

Respectfully Submitted by: _____


Tony D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



NIAGARA PENINSULA
CONSERVATION
AUTHORITY

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: September 13, 2012

SUBJECT: Workplace Health and Safety Policies and Procedures – Report No. 47-12

The health and safety of our employees has been a priority for the Conservation Authority and we endeavour to meet all the legislative requirements placed on us as an employer.

Corporate Health and Safety Policy Statement

Under Section 25(2)(j) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the NPCA is required to conduct an annual review of the Corporate Health and Safety Policy Statement. The intent of the policy statement is to reflect the employer's commitment, support and attitude to the health and safety program for the protection of its workers. The current NPCA Policy Statement was adopted in September of 2011.

In order to resolve this issue, the Policy Statement must be reviewed and adopted. Attached for Board consideration is the proposed 2012 Health and Safety Policy Statement. Since the wording of the 2011 Statement meets the requirements of the Act, no change is recommended.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Report No. 47-12 regarding the Health and Safety Program be received; and

That the Health and Safety Policy Statement for the Conservation Authority dated September 19, 2012 be adopted.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony D'Amario', written over a horizontal line.

Tony D'Amario, CAO/ Secretary-Treasurer

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is vitally interested in and committed to the health and safety of its employees and the prevention of injury and illness to its employees through the provision and maintenance of healthy and safe workplaces. The Conservation Authority will make every effort to meet its responsibilities for the health and safety of all employees by adhering to the relevant health and safety standards and legislative requirements.

It is a primary duty of all supervisory staff to ensure that all persons under their direction are made aware of and comply with all applicable health and safety policies and procedures. The supervisory staff are responsible for ensuring that all aspects of the workplace including machinery and equipment are safe and any risks, hazards and safety violations brought to their attention are investigated and corrected promptly.

The Conservation Authority will take all reasonable steps to acquaint its employees with their rights and duties in the workplace and the applicable regulations and procedures for protecting their health and safety.

All employees shall protect their own health and safety by complying with prevailing regulations and standards and with safe practices and procedures established by the Conservation Authority. Employees must report any health hazards and unsafe conditions or practices to supervisory staff for corrective action. Where appropriate, the Conservation Authority will support training programs to assist in maintaining safe conditions and work practices and will support employee participation in health and safety activities including health and safety committees.

It is in the best interest of all parties to consider health and safety in every activity and the commitment to health and safety shall be an integral part of the Conservation Authority's activities.

Date: September 19, 2012

Bart Maves
Chairman

Tony D'Amario
C.A.O./Secretary-Treasurer



TO: The Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: September 12, 2012

SUBJECT: PFOS Compounds at the Binbrook Reservoir (update) – Report No. FA-48-12

Sampling and studies continued throughout July and August. Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources are working with staff at Binbrook Conservation Area to sample fish in the Reservoir. These reports are usually released at the end of the year in conjunction with fish consumption guidelines.

Tradeport is working with their consultants and the Ministry of the Environment to refine the remediation plan for the Hamilton Airport training site. Transport Canada is not recognizing any responsibility for this issue in spite of several attempts by the City and Tradeport to bring them to the table.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Report No. 48-12 regarding PFOS Compounds at the Binbrook Reservoir be received.

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

Respectfully Submitted by: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony D'Amario", written over a horizontal line.

Tony D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



TO: Chairman and Members of the Authority

DATE: September 13, 2012

RE: PROJECT/PROGRAM STATUS REPORT - REPORT NO. 49-12

WATER MANAGEMENT

I. Watershed Development Services Division

1) Municipal and Development Plan Input and Review

i) To the end of August, staff have reviewed and processed 167 planning applications (of various types/complexity) and 223 building permits. In addition staff responds to many general enquires both from local municipalities and the public. Inquiries from landowners, real estate agents, etc. regarding floodplain mapping for the Welland River in Wainfleet, West Lincoln, Pelham and Welland appears to have peaked, although interest still remains high relative to other systems..

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

i) Permits

The NPCA has issued 101 work permits to date in 2012.

A notable project is the review of the Niagara Region Wind Corporation Renewable Energy Application. The project incorporates the installation of 77 wind turbines (80 locations have been proposed) spread over West Lincoln, Wainfleet and Haldimand County, with additional infrastructure (i.e. transmission and collection lines) in Grimsby and Lincoln. The project is subject to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act and Ont. Reg. 359/09 Renewable Energy Approvals. As such, the project is currently soliciting public and stakeholder comment.

The NPCA is currently reviewing the proposed turbine and appurtenance sites for compliance with our Hazard Mapping. Of the 80 sites proposed, 13 turbines have been sited in Regulated Areas or within the DFO setbacks to watercourses. However, upon further examination, the proposed areas to be disturbed by construction activity, access roads, collection and transmission lines greatly increases the number of sites that will require detailed review and Work Permits (under Ont. Reg. 155/06) at the construction phase. Review to determine the precise extent of sites requiring permits is currently underway, to be completed by September 20th, the date of the Public Meeting for this project. The Public Meeting is to take place at Smithville Christian High School, 6488 Smithville Townline Road, Smithville, between 5:00 and 8:00pm. To date, 60 permits have been issued.

ii) Violations

A separate Confidential Violation Status Report has been prepared for August.

iii) NPCA-DFO Partnership Agreement

As part of the NPCA-DFO Partnership Agreement, NPCA staff work as a liaison between DFO Assessors and proponents to recommend appropriate fish habitat compensation projects. To date, NPCA's Biologist has been consulted on approximately 49 matters.

II. Watershed Technical Services Division

1) Source Water Protection Plan

The Proposed Source Protection Plan (SPP) and supporting documents were submitted to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in late July 2012. The MOE anticipates that it will take about 6 to 12 months to review all the SPPs from across the province.

Other source protection work includes the uploading of information onto the provincial databases.

2) Water Quality Monitoring Program

Surface water quality monitoring continues at 72 stations in the NPCA watershed. Water samples are collected monthly from April to October. These samples are analysed for bacteria, metals, nutrients and general chemistry.

- Staff is continuing to monitor water levels at all Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells. As part of the regular maintenance of this data, a water level correction review is currently under way by NPCA staff.
- Staff is continuing to complete the benthic identification for the Hamilton Airport and Glanbrook Landfills biomonitoring projects.
- Two water well decommissioning projects were approved in July-August and will be completed in the near future. To-date 9 water well decommissioning projects have been approved or completed for 2012.
- Staff continue to assist the MOE with two projects: 1) the nutrient track down in Beaver Creek and Big Forks Creek watersheds; 2) and the Balls Falls Climate Change station.

3) Geographic Information Systems

a) Source Water Protection Support Activities

- Staff has been helping Conservation Ontario with some ARDB database structure issues.
- Archiving and organizing of project data not captured in the MOE databases continues.

b) Watershed Development Services Support Activities

- Staff continues with tasks for implementing the Property Information application.
- Integrating the toe of slope information delivered by consultant earlier this year into hazards data model as part of the riverine erosion and valley land features is near completion.

- Staff continues with the pilot project to migrate available fisheries information, drainage area, and stream ordering classifications onto our large scale 1:2000 surface water base to help develop a decision support framework and identify with more certainty where fisheries issues apply to watercourses.

c) Corporate GIS and Information Management Support Activities

- Samples of the Niagara Watershed's 1 meter contour supporting Digital Terrain Model update have been received and are being internally reviewed. This project is funded from the Niagara Water Strategy and is a critical information asset that addresses many Authority and municipal business needs. It will specifically enable the continued compilation and maintenance of the NPCA's large scale hydrology base data.
- The new Niagara Navigator (public web mapping tool) application was rebranded and launched as the 'NPCA Watershed Explorer' in July.

4) Flood Control

a) Monitoring & Major Maintenance

i) Staff continues to monitor the water levels at the Binbrook reservoir on a regular basis. With this summer's extended hot and dry weather, the reservoir's water level is currently 12 inches below holding level. A minimal amount of water is currently being discharged.

ii) Staff continues to routinely monitor the water levels at our 14 stream gauge stations, climatic data at our 15 climate stations, and undertake routine maintenance, calibration, and inspections at all 25 installations, as part of the NPCA's routine flood forecasting and warning duties. The public may access this real-time water level and rainfall information through the NPCA's website.

5) Other

a) Technical Services staff continues to provide on-going technical engineering support to the Development Services, Restoration, and Lands Divisions as requested.

b). Assisting with tours for the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) Convention, that is being held in Niagara Falls this year, since some tours include visits to conservation authority properties.

V. Watershed Stewardship Division

The Watershed Restoration Program is responsible for improving water quality, water quantity and biodiversity within the NPCA Watershed. The Restoration Program advances these areas through the implementation of a comprehensive cost-sharing program that offers local landowners financial incentives to implement water quality and habitat improvement projects on their properties, thereby, rewarding the private landowner who conserves the public interest.

In total, over 50 restoration projects are being planned and implemented this year across all watershed planning areas.

1) Project Implementation – Watershed Plans

- In total 20 woodland restoration / riparian projects were implemented across the watershed this year.

- Over 20 construction projects such as wetland restoration, aquatic in-stream works, erosion and bank stabilization projects will be implemented across the watershed.
- Over 10 Best Management Practice (BMP) projects such as nutrient management projects, livestock fencing, cover crops and erosion control projects (rock chutes and check point dams) are nearing completion.

2) Outreach & Education

Canopies for Kids

The following 10 schools were selected by the review committee to participate in the program:

Fort Erie:	St. Joseph – Catholic Crystal Beach - Public		St. Catharines:	Apple Wood – Public Burleigh Hill – Public St. Anthony – Catholic
Grimsby:	Lakeview – Public			
Niagara Falls:	Cardinal Newman – Catholic		Wainfleet:	St. Elizabeth – Catholic
Port Colborne:	St. John Bosco - Catholic		Welland:	St. Mary – Catholic

The Implementation phase of the program has been completed. Each school received their ten large trees and 15 smaller trees for the class planting. The schools watered and cared for the trees until the end of June. NPCA had the trees watered as needed over the summer, which was once per week given the lack of rain. Monitoring of the trees for survival and vandalism is taking place over the month of September. Given the extreme heat and lack of rain, the expectation is to have some mortality, mainly the smaller trees. It is likely some of the trees have gone dormant and just because they have lost their leaves does not mean they are dead. Schools have been directed to leave all trees until a proper assessment has been completed.

Landowner Stewardship Guide

- Building on the success of the One Mile Creek Landowner Stewardship Guide, staff are working to modify this guide to a watershed wide “How to” guide for landowners. Main topic sections will focus on improving water quality and biodiversity. The guide is currently undergoing final edits. An application for funding has been made to the Ministry of the Environment’s, Ontario Community Environmental Fund to support the production of the guide. Staff have met with the Walkers Creek Association, a passionate advocacy group located in St. Catharines committed to the restoration of the creek and its environment. The ultimate goal is to launch the document in the Walkers Creek Watershed in conjunction with a large media type event to promote the Authority and the Guide. The Guide will be completed in the fall.

Yellow Fish Road Program

- This year will be the 12th year that the NPCA has been coordinating the Yellow Fish Road (YFR) program locally on behalf of Trout Unlimited. Trout Unlimited had their annual Yellow Fish Road Day on Friday June 8th.

Community Fisheries Involvement Programs

- The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) has been collecting fisheries data in the Welland River Watershed for almost a decade. There are two active programs that allow the NPCA to collect this information, the Angler Catch & Release Program, and the Angler Diary Program. Both programs rely on local anglers to support the data collection. Staff are working with MNR to identify common areas of interest for fall fisheries assessments. In September, staff will be assisting with fish seining in the Welland River. The 2012 annual report for this program will be available in January.

Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)

a) Lyons Creek East – Contaminated Sediment

- The Administrative Controls Protocol for Monitored Natural Recovery of contaminated sediment in Lyons Creek East is in place, and the NPCA is the lead coordinating agency. The local community has been advised through distribution of an update newsletter.
- Details and reports are available at: www.npca.ca/planning-permits/lyons-creek-east/

b) Monitoring & Assessment

- The Welland River Eutrophication Study is complete. Next steps will involve developing a strategy with partners to address the problems and identify remaining RAP actions.

c) Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

- The Governments of Canada and the United States (the Parties) signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). Canada and the United States have renegotiated an important pact to protect the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes -- the world's largest source of fresh water -- face major challenges from climate change, invasive species and development pressure along the five shorelines. The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, signed Friday September 8th, includes commitments on all those fronts. It represents a new and better understanding of what affects water quality and the emerging threats that require government action.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Ball's Falls Conservation Area

Final arrangements are underway for the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival (October 5 – 8). Media have already toured the site in preparation for this annual event. The Festival will be the main feature of the next video newsletter.

The Authority received the Museum Assistance Program funding for Crystals to Gems Exhibit. The \$15,000 helps cover the cost of transportation and set-up.

Staff are working on an endowment fund for Ball's Falls day camp programmes as result of a generous \$500.00 donation. The program will be implemented through Family and Children Services, who maintain a listing of eligible recipients.

Iroquois Beadwork, a travelling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum, is in the gallery at the Centre for Conservation. Posters have been distributed for the exhibit and it has been well covered in the local media. A workshop associated with the exhibit is fully booked.

A new mill exhibit was completed and opened on Aug. 3rd. This is part of a larger plan to update some of the exhibits throughout the site.

The main entrance sign on Victoria Avenue was recently repaired and updated. The work was required after vandals shot the sign, along with many others along the roadway.

Historical buildings continue to be open for tours until October.

The Mill stabilization project will resume in September when stone masons begin work on the north west corner of the structure. Some of this work will be taking place during the Thanksgiving Festival, providing a unique opportunity for the public to see some of the maintenance activities required to preserve these structures.

4 Brides, a reality TV show, was recently shot at Centre For Conservation. The event went well and should be aired sometime in February. Staff expect this to be an excellent promotion of our rental facilities since the venue is a specific topic covered on the show.

On August 18th staff hosted a tour group attending the Ontario Horticultural Association Conference held at Niagara College in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Attendees were from different areas of Ontario and for many this was their visit to Ball's Falls. The group toured the landscaping and LEED building features at the Centre for Conservation, and received an information package about the NPCA.

Long Beach and Chippawa Creek Campgrounds

The upside of the mild winter and warm spring was in campground visitation and spring / early summer revenues. In fact, park staff who track the revenues commented that even a mediocre summer would leave us in great shape. At Canada Day, campground visitation and revenues can best be described as "remarkable."

By mid-July, the weather became too hot; eventually culminating in the month-long fire ban that lasted until the third week of August. During hot weather, camping visitors seem to tolerate the hottest days provided the nights cool off enough to roast a marshmallow and have a comfortable sleep. In "heat waves" where the nights remain hot and muggy, some campers will pack up, get a partial refund and leave a few days early. The only campers who are immune to this are those with large RV's with A/C. However, when the fire ban was added, some people didn't just leave; they simply stopped reserving and coming camping completely. The observation: "What's camping without a campfire?" We have tracked this trend in our reservation figures, which dropped off significantly parallel to the fire ban.

Day Use trends at the campgrounds are changing. The Long Beach day use area, which includes about half the NPCA's property adjacent to Lake Erie, continues to slide due to a combination of the presence and huge popularity of the Wainfleet Lake Erie Access Beach and

online beach postings by the Public Health Department. Beaches in the region are often posted, and the topography at Long Beach is a contributor to postings there. The natural conditions at Long Beach causes rock, weeds and algae to gather at Long Beach; while the Access Beach enjoys routinely clean sandy conditions. Then, where a carload fee is \$15 at Long Beach, the price at the Access Beach is free.

Day Use at Chippawa Creek, however, continues to build in both Day Use and Membership pass sales. One factor affecting Day Use at both parks are the online beach conditions from the Public Health Department. Where conditions at Long Beach, like many in the Region, are often shown as "posted," Chippawa Creek has enjoyed un-posted conditions for a number of full seasons. Visitors to the park's small beach on the Dils Lake Reservoir are keenly aware of this; and are beginning to drive from farther distances. Easy access to beach conditions has had a significant impact, both ways.

Campground staff are currently assessing Day Use trends and developing proposals that aimed to enhance the Chippawa increase trend and mitigate the Long Beach slide. Examples include: Comments by staff and visitors alike suggest that the NPCA may wish to consider devoting some of this prime lakeside Day Use property to expanded camping opportunities and revenues. In fact, this was tried at the July Bolerama trailer camping event with great success.

At Chippawa Creek, special group use is ramping up. This includes the usual Army and Air Force Cadet weekends, a corporate camping weekend and DSBN Cross-country race dates. However, demand is increasing with interest from the Catholic Board to do their cross-country racing at Chippawa Creek, and interest from a Hamilton school as well. More, camping reservations seem to be increasing, with parents pulling kids out of school to extend their summer and camping reservations posting both weekend and mid-week visits; primarily on serviced (electrical / water) campsites.

Where Chippawa Creek offers a broader spectrum of recreational opportunities, the nature of visitation at Long Beach is different because it primarily focuses on Lake Erie waterfront activities. As a result, where Chippawa Creek visitation has seen increase during the autumn months, Long Beach has remained fairly flat. So, to bolster fall use at LB, staff are more proactively optimizing the availability of campsites when seasonal campers leave early (especially our U.S. visitors who don't stay through Canadian Thanksgiving) and ensuring they are readily available for others use. With recent figures demonstrating the increase of online bookings up to 35% in 2012, staff have less opportunity to provide the face-to-face booking service as in previous years. So if campsites don't appear online as "available," they aren't. Provided we can identify, find or create excellent campsites in the fall months, Long Beach's fall camping revenue has room to exceed the amount generated through seasonal fees alone.

Binbrook Conservation Area

July 14th - Movie Night at the Park (The Lorax), 250-300 people attend. It was a suggested \$5 donation to the Glanbrook Home Support Programme. We raised approximately \$700, between the movie and the 50/50 draw. The event is still talked about by visiting patrons. We've tentatively discussed doing at least one, maybe two again in 2013 (one in July and one in August). That is yet to be determined.

Revenue over the August long weekend and Labour Day weekend still holds strong. We are unofficially ahead of revenue earnings for this time last year, even without the Ice Fishing

Program and Ice Fishing Derby. Weekends in general have been extremely busy throughout July and August.

Although we've only sold 490 season's passes this year to date, down from 520 last year, our revenue numbers have increased.

Staff have 13 booked pavilions for Sept, the most ever, taking us to Sept 29th, even including a couple of week day rentals, one from the new French Immersion School.

The Fish Binbrook Season Long Derby is over. Of the 150 caught/ released tagged crappie, only one was caught (at the GCC Spring Crappie Derby), but it was lost. No prizes were given out. Staff will assess the program over the winter to determine if changes should be put in place for next year.

Waterfowl Hunting Reservations opened on Sept 4th. The Lottery is complete and commences on Saturday Sept 22nd for two weeks. Reservations have started to come in for the remainder of the season, including the final hunt day which is Dec 8th.

The Glanbrook Conservation Committee (GCC) built and placed another 6 pike spawning beds into the reservoir. The Committee will also be hosting a booth at the Binbrook Fall Fair this year where they will have some information to hand out about the park.

PFOS – we've handed out a number of information packets about PFOS and fielded a number of general questions that we felt comfortable to discuss. However, long-time residents have commented throughout the season, even recently, that they have never seen the great number of boats on the lake as this year.

Our swimming beach was closed 3 times, twice for E.Coli and once for Blue/ Green Algae. Valens and others (public beaches in Hamilton) have been closed more often this season.

In August, MayDay productions shot part of an episode to do with the Russian Hockey Team Plane crash that happened last year. Filming took place down at the boat launch and reflection area (closest to the Dam). Also in August, Cold Blood filmed a part of an episode at the park. Filming took place down by Pavilion #1 and the trail system.

Construction was completed at the fishing dock to extend the dock at each end and has been well received by the public.

Jordan Harbour Conservation Area

The NPCA is supporting and assisting the Niagara Fishing Ambassadors for their volunteer Jordan Harbour Clean up and 'Garbage Derby. Staff will be assisting with the registration and site administration. Volunteers will be collecting garbage along the harbour shoreline, for prizes of most garbage collected. Sponsors/ Contributors include: Lucky Strike, Niagara Fishing.net, Outdoors Oriented, Niagara Bassmasters, Fishing World, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Saugeen Custom Rod and Fly Tying; and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. A lunch of hot dogs will also be provided.

The event will take place Saturday Sept. 15 from 8am. – 12 noon. Pre-registration is encouraged via the NFA social media webpage (Facebook)

Mud Lake Conservation Area

Monitoring of wetland management continues by staff. Data to date shows habitat objectives are being met:

- open water to vegetation ratio (surface cover) has increased, approximately 60:40
- number of plant species (diversity) has increased during management
- number of benthic invertebrates species (diversity) has increased since water levels lowered and reestablished
- habitat edge/interspersed has increased

ii) Bathymetry mapping for the Mud Lake has been updated. Staff updated the mapping with additional depth measurements previously inaccessible due to dense vegetation.

St. Johns Conservation Area

Species invasive to the upper 12 Mile Creek were removed from the pond to minimize potential negative impacts to the watershed, including competition with more limited and sensitive brook trout downstream. Targeted species were gold fish and largemouth bass which likely entered the pond from outside sources (i.e. live bait from anglers, residents releasing pond fish or catches, or perhaps fish eggs on birds). A total of 28 largemouth bass were removed, with the assistance of the Ministry of Natural Resources equipment and human resources.

Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area

Fire was detected in the bog July 31 started from a lightning strike. With the assistance of the Wainfleet Township Firefighters and the Ministry of Natural Resources the fire was extinguished August 22 after two weeks of continuous effort.

As with most bogs, fire is underground affecting the depths of peat and underground habitat. This fire covered 30 acres and was primarily a surficial burn with lost ground cover and shrubs. Several small locations experienced a deeper burn (over a meter deep) where larger trees occurred. Habitat loss was less than previous Wainfleet site fires due to the shallow burn. This reduced loss was most likely due to moister soil conditions (historical to this section and due to restoration work).

Staff and partners will be monitoring the burn area to determine the resulting vegetative and habitat changes from the fire to determine if other methods or timing of extinguishing fires should be used in any future fires.

During the fire the site was closed to site use. Site signage and all media information relayed this information. NPCA Staff also assisted in maintaining clear access for fire fighters and ensuring no tampering of equipment during night time hours.

New entrance and pedestal information signs will be installed mid-September at the Wainfleet Bog Conservation Area. These include the entrance kiosk and historical area pedestal signs outlining the site significance of plant, animal, community; formation; the generous donors for site acquisition; site rules and site map/features.

Conservation Area Research

One additional permit for external research on Conservation Area lands was granted. This permit is for education purposes with Brock University of sediment analysis/ comparison methods of site changes over time in the Jordan Harbour.

NPCA Hunting Program

Staff issued an additional 33 hunting permits for a total of 210 hunting permits issued for the NPCA Conservation Areas in 2012. Of this total, hunting permits are issued to 43 individuals residing outside of our administrative area.

Waterfowl Hunting Program

Waterfowl Hunting Lottery for Binbrook and Mud Lake Conservation Areas starts September 22. The lottery draw for the hunting blinds during the first two weeks of the site season/ duck season is now complete. A total of 32 applicants were received for the Mud Lake CA Lottery and 18 for the Binbrook CA Lottery.

Gord Harry Trail

We are currently in negotiation with staff at Haldimand County and the Trans Canada Trail to look at ways of partnering on the expansion of the western end of the trail into Haldimand County. This would require installation of approximately 1.2km of trail on our lands and an additional 1km of trail in Haldimand to connect to Regional Road 65 at Lowbanks. Costs for the trail work and the partnership agreement are currently under discussion.

Health and Safety

Staff are reviewing health and safety policies related to our management and operation of public beaches at our conservation areas. Staff also attended a workshop on risk and recreational

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Niagara Children's Water Festival

The 10th annual Niagara Children's Water Festival will take place at Ball's Falls the week of September 18-21, 2012 with record capacity. A number of new activity centres have been developed to accommodate the increased attendance. The Family Day will take place on Sunday, September 16th from 12:00 noon to 4:00. A number of great activities are planned for this day including a concert by the renowned group Splash 'N Boots. Staff will also visit other festivals to explore the possibility of sharing activities.

Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival

The 38th annual festival will be held October 5 – 8th, 2012. Staff is preparing to host the annual raffle. A number of artisans have donated items for the prize baskets and Marion Holman will be contributing a handmade quilt which is always a coveted prize. This event is classic thanksgiving tradition and members are encouraged to attend.

Source Water Protection

The Source Protection Plan was submitted to the Minister of Environment and the committee has received acknowledgement of its receipt. The plan is the culmination of over five years of work by the Source Protection Committee. Once the ministry has reviewed the document we will be sent a decision.

Bruce Davidson from the Walkerton Citizens Group will once again participate in the public day of the Children's Water Festival. He was very well received last year, and gave a great overview of his work in Walkerton.

Conservation Achievement Awards

Preparations are also underway for the annual Conservation Achievement Awards to recognize the efforts of individuals, businesses and organizations who voluntarily contribute to the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources. Members are encouraged to submit any persons or businesses for an award. Nominations are also invited from the public and internally.

Recipients are invited to an awards reception which is scheduled to take place at the Centre for Conservation on Wednesday, November 28th beginning at 7:00 pm.

Watershed Report Card

NPCA staff will be working on the development of an electronic version of a watershed report card as there is not funding available to produce a printed version. The template is being finalized and it is the intent to complete a report by the end of 2012 in time to for the simultaneous release by all conservation authorities in early 2013.

A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium

The theme for the 2012 A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium is *Prescription for a Healthy Environment*. The theme will draw attention to the important connections between healthy people and clean, sustainable water, and a rich mix of plants, animals and ecosystems. Ontario's Conservation community strives to implement programs that encourage healthy and resilient watersheds, and in turn, a healthy population. Delegates are challenged to bring solutions and innovations to this year's event.

Recommendation:

Report No. 49-12 outlining the status of Authority projects/programs be received for information.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____



Tony D'Amario, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer