



**Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
FULL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

October 16, 2013; 7:00 p.m.
250 Thorold Road West; 3rd Floor; Welland, ON Board Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: **B. Timms (Chairman)**
 A. Jeffs (Vice-Chair)
 D. Barrick
 T. Dalimonte
 C. D'Angelo
 D. Dick
 D. DiFruscio
 T. Easton
 D. Joyner
 B. Maves
 B. Sharpe

MEMBERS ABSENT: B. Baty (regrets)
 B. Steckley (regrets)
 S. Beattie (regrets)
 D. Ransom (regrets)

STAFF PRESENT: T. D'Amario, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
 D. Baker, Director, Land Management
 L. Conte, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Glen Robins, Gerry Prentice, Lennie Aarts, and Bev Leopard

ROLL CALL:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:26 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest declared.

BUSINESS:

(1) **MINUTES – Full Authority Meeting – Sep 18, 2013**

FA-164-13

Moved by: A. Jeffs
Seconded by: B. Sharpe

THAT: the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting held 18th September 2013, be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED”

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

No business arising from the Minutes

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

- Chair, B. Timms offered his congratulations to a successful Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival and thanked all those who helped and volunteered. We look forward to the report on the numbers for this event.
- Through a PowerPoint presentation, Chair Timms thanked all the volunteers who participated in the clean-up at the Jordan Harbour Garbage Derby on September 7th and had pictures to indicate all the debris that was collected (total 771 lbs.).
- Chair Timms reminded the board that the Binbrook Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss master plan.
- The wakeboard meeting took place and Wakeboard Canada is pleased with the success it had this summer and has every intention to return to Binbrook next summer.
- Walker's Creek event took place September 7th and NPCA stewardship staff was on hand to distribute landowner stewardship guide and answer questions from the public.
- The Chairman attended an event hosted by DSBN at Woodend Conservation Area. The Canadian Wildlife Federation broadcasted the event live via a webinar from the future home of the Walker Living Campus at Woodend. The event celebrated the CWF national Connect with Nature Day. Primary students from Westdale School planted approximately 25 trees at the Walker Living Campus - making a mark in the history of our partnerships at the Walker Living Campus.

(4) CAO'S REMARKS

- CAO, T. D'Amario thanked board members and staff for a successful Thanksgiving Festival and noted that the final results are not in yet, however there were approximately 20,000 paid admissions. Final results will be available at the next meeting.
- The DSBN agreement was signed and DSBN received approval from the Escarpment Commission and are scheduled to break ground this winter.
- T. D'Amario will present the 2014 budget at Niagara Region tomorrow.
- C. D'Angelo was at the Thanksgiving Festival and thought it was great, however noted that the on-site electronic transfer payments needs improvement.
- Doug Ransom is doing well and asked CAO to thank everyone for their well-wishes.

(5) Correspondence

- Correspondence received from the Walker's Creek Neighbourhood Association thanking NPCA staff for preparing the "Homeowners Stewardship Guide to Walker's Creek" and the planting of 425 trees and shrubs donated courtesy of a TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant.
- Correspondence to Wainfleet Drainage Committee as a reminder to provide NPCA staff with requirements of information request.
- Water Canada article on what climate change's wild weather is doing to insurance.

The following resolution was presented;

FA-165-13

Moved by: D. Barrick

Seconded by: D. Dick

**THAT: the correspondence submitted be received for information.
'CARRIED'**

(6) BeeWay Delegation – George Scott

No presentation.

(7) DRAFT – Strategic Plan

A hardcopy of "Draft 2- Four Year Strategic Plan" was provided to board members for review and Chair, B. Timms explained that the NPCA mandate is to put this plan out to the public and come back to the board prior to finalizing.

- D. Barrick asked if the intent is to lock-down the plan for 4 years. B. Timms responded that the intent of the plan is to cover until 2017 and can be revisited in 2017.
- B. Maves asked if any dates have been applied to move forward with the plan. B. Timms responded; there are no hard dates as we need to have public consultation.

Following resolution presented;

FA-166-13

Moved by: B. Maves
Seconded by: T. Easton

THAT: we receive the draft plan and endorse 2 (two) public consultations.
'CARRIED'

(8) Niagara Children's Water Festival - Report No 97-13

T. D'Amario commended Brianne Wilson for the extensive work in putting together this report and for the logistics and sponsorship for this event. This event is extremely well received and has been for the past 12 years. He thanked all for their participation.

- From a parental standpoint, A. Jeffs expressed appreciation for the water festival and was very impressed with the amount of volunteers. A. Jeffs stated it is a very well-run program.
- C. D'Angelo stated that from a business perspective, the levy amount is insufficient. The \$300K that is being provided by the Region for this program has not increased. Also, D'Angelo asked if any schools are on a waiting list. This is a tax funded program, what does it take to accommodate all on the waiting list and is it open to all? M. Stack will provide a response for the next meeting as she is not here tonight.
- B. Maves commented that this is a good program; the region provides "\$110,000 towards the program and we do the best we can with the funds provided.
- T. Easton commented on C. D'Angelo's question about schools on the waiting list and stated that we need to consider the size of groups attending the festival, and whether there are too many kids to handle for the amount of volunteers. The program has to be safe in a controlled environment. T. Easton suggested as an option, to charge participants a fee to make up for the shortfall in funds.

The following resolution was presented:

FA-167-13

Moved by: A. Jeffs
Seconded by: B. Sharpe

THAT: Report No. 97-13 be received for information purposes
"CARRIED"

(9) **PFOS BINBROOK RESERVOIR – Report No. 98-13**

T. D’Amario stated there are no new developments to report.

- T. Easton asked if there are any true dangers associated with the PFOS at the reservoir. D. Baker responded that the designated compound is a recognized danger to the health of people. The Ministry of Environment is on top of this and we maintain communications with the MOE with regards to any information and new developments.

Resolution presented as follows:

FA-168-13

Moved by: T. Easton
Seconded by: C. D’Angelo

THAT: Report No. 98-13 regarding PFOS Compounds at the Binbrook Reservoir be received.
"CARRIED"

(10) **2013 Year-End Estimate Report - Report No 99-13**

T. D’Amario explained that the Operating & Project/Capital Budget reports outline our anticipated year-end position. With a number of projects underway, we anticipate these will be completed within the year-end estimates. The Thanksgiving Festival figures are unknown at this time but feel that we will meet the expectations of the budget. We have a number of variances due to expenditures in Strategic Planning, HR costs, corporate communications, additional gauge stations and the unexpected Wainfleet drainage cost.

The Operating Budget has a list of projected variances in **Corporate Services**; resource inventory and environmental monitoring, flood protection services, environmental advisory services, conservation land management and conservation land programming.

Variances in **Capital/Project Budget** consisted of water management and land management. The Binbrook dam costs increased significantly. With regard to land acquisition, T. D’Amario indicated that more details will be provided in-camera as there was no land acquisition in 2013 and those additional funds will go into the reserve fund.

- B. Maves asked where the money is coming from to pay for the drainage cost to Wainfleet, if we did not budget for it. T. D’Amario explained that the funds would need to come from operation reserves. Using capital funds would not be appropriate for this expenditure.
- D. Joyner stated that all landowners would have been advised years ago when petitioned. T. D’Amario responded that staff will research when notices were sent out and in future we will have to budget for drainage costs.
- B. Sharpe noted an error on page 2 of Report 99-13 under land management. Should read, “No land acquisitions for 2013 in Niagara which will result in a **\$500,000** amount to be placed in the Hamilton land acquisition reserve account.”

Resolution presented as follows:

FA-169-13

Moved by: A. Jeffs
Seconded by: M. DiFruscio

THAT: the 2013 Year End Estimates Report No. 99-13 be received with correction 'CARRIED'

(11) Project Status – Report No. 100-13

T. D'Amario indicated the Events List included in the Agenda package will be maintained monthly.

- Chair, Timms inquired on the status of the Jordan Harbour Pavilion and the Gord Harry Trail extension. D. Baker responded that the structure is now in place with modules having been delivered last Thursday. We expect completion of the Pavilion by mid-November. D. Baker noted that the funds for the construction of the pavilion came from the estate of Doug Ransoms' mother with much appreciation.
- Regarding the Gord Harry Trail, D. Baker explained that at the last meeting, prices came in and Haldimand County was happy with the prices. The project is underway with Steele Landscaping having cleared Burkett Road to Haldimand Road and expects completion of Trail by end of November. D. Baker noted that the Grand opening will be held in the spring of 2014 so as to allow the trail to settle and to install gates and appropriate signage.
- T. Dalimonte expressed appreciation for the extension of the Gord Harry Trail and is happy that Hamilton will now be well connected with Niagara and Haldimand.
- A. Jeffs commented that the Fall use for camping is up. D. Baker explained that we have two uses; advanced booking for campers and weekend/day use. The latter respond to weather changes and people head out on a daily basis depending on the weather.
- T. Easton stated that he receives numerous inquiries for the Jordan Stairs. D. Baker explained that the stairs are currently being fabricated by a steel company in Niagara Falls and that the steel stairs will be installed in modules on site by December.
- B. Maves asked who will access Jordan Harbour. D. Baker responded that we only have one building on site-the marina building and it is leased to an operator of a rowing school. We maintain the building and hire someone to open and close the gates. The gates remain closed for the winter.

The following resolution was presented:

FA-170-13

Moved by: T. Dalimonte

Seconded by: A. Jeffs

THAT: Report No. 100-13 outlining the status of Authority projects / programs be received for information

'CARRIED'

(12) Other Business

M. DiFruscio provided correspondence from the Globe & Mail regarding the damage to birds through wind turbines.

Resolution presented as follows:

FA-171-13

Moved by: M. DiFruscio

Seconded by: A. Jeffs

THAT: Article from the Globe & Mail dated September 11 regarding Eagle deaths at US wind farms, be received for information.

"CARRIED"

- B. Maves inquired about the wind turbines in Haldimand. T. Dalimonte replied that they have been up for one year now and the smaller turbines in Lowbanks for 6 years. They do get vandalism to the blades, but the major complaint is the flashing lights.

No other business.

Resolution presented as follows;

FA-172-13

Moved by: B. Maves

Seconded by: D. Dick

THAT: the meeting move in-camera to discuss tree by-law status, regulations and a land acquisition and a personnel issue with regards to the strategic plan implementation committee.

"CARRIED"

(13) In Camera

a) Tree By-law Status Report - Report No. CR-101 -13

The following resolution was presented:

FA-173-13

Moved by: M. DiFruscio
Seconded by: T. Dalimonte

THAT: Report No. CR-101-13 regarding the status of the Tree and Forest Conservation By-law be received for information.

“CARRIED”

b) Regulations Status – Report No. CR-102-13

The following resolution was presented:

FA-174-13

Moved by: B. Maves
Seconded by: M. DiFruscio

THAT: Report No. CR-102-13 regarding the status of active legal matters related to NPCA Development, Interference with Wetlands, and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulations, O.Reg 155/06, as amended, be received for information.

“CARRIED”

Land Acquisition - Property was not purchased and funds will remain in the reserve account.

Strategic Plan - Discussed the hiring of a consultant to address the implementation of the strategic plan.

The following resolution was presented:

FA-175-13

Moved by: B. Maves
Seconded by: T. Easton

THAT: meeting rise from in-camera with report.

“CARRIED”

The following resolution was presented:

FA-176-13

Moved by:

B. Maves

Seconded by:

D. Barrick

THAT:

**Carmen D'Angelo's resignation from the Strategic Implementation Committee be accepted and appoint member Barry Sharpe to the Strategic Implementation Committee.
"CARRIED"**

ADJOURNMENT

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

FA-177-13

Moved by:

M. DiFruscio

Seconded by:

D. Dick

THAT:

**this meeting is now adjourned. Received at 9:00 p.m.
"CARRIED"**



Lisa Conte, Recording Secretary



D. Bruce Timms, Chairman