



**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
FULL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday December 16, 2015; 9:30 am
Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation
3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. Annunziata (Vice-Chair)

B. Baty
S. Beattie
F. Champion
P. Darte
D. DiFruscio
B. Hodgson
A. Jeffs
D. Joyner
J. Kaspersetz
J. Maloney
T. Quirk
R. Shirton

B. Timms (Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: J. Diodati (regrets)

STAFF PRESENT:

C. D'Angelo, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
D. Barrick, Director, Operations
P. Graham, Director, Watershed Management
J. Long, Sr. Mgr. Corporate Services
M. Brickell, Manager, Strategic Initiatives
G. Furtney, Operations Supervisor
M. Ferrusi, HR Generalist
K. Vallier, Communications and Foundations Manager
M. Reles, Communications Specialist
G. Verkade, Supervisor, GIS
K. Royer, Community Outreach Coordinator
B. Wilson, Events Coordinator
N. Devos, Superintendent, Ball's Falls C. A.
L. Conte, Administrative Assistant; Office of CAO

GUESTS PRESENT: Glen Robins, Bev Lepard, Don Smith, Lennie Aarts

Full Authority meeting called to order at 9:41 am and Chairman Timms welcomed board members, and guests. Timms commented on the disturbance that occurred at the last meeting and noted that Regulation 2 of the NPCA will be considered today with report 133-15 under “Code of Conduct of Members of the Public, Community Agencies and the Media”

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Resolution No. FA – 198 - 15

Moved by: P. Darte
Seconded by: D. DiFruscio

THAT the agenda for the Full Authority Meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

BUSINESS:

1. **A. Approval of the Minutes - Full Authority Board Meeting November 18, 2015**

B. Committee Meeting Minutes:

- ***Cave Spring Committee Meeting – October 6, 2015***
- ***Cave Spring Committee Meeting – October 27, 2015***
- ***CLAC Meeting – November 19, 2015***
- ***Watershed Floodplain Committee Meeting – November 25, 2015***

Resolution No. FA – 199 - 15

Moved by: R. Shirton
Seconded by: J. Maloney

THAT the minutes of the **Full Authority Meeting** held November 18, 2015 be approved as presented; and
THAT the **Cave Spring Committee Meeting** minutes of October 6, 2015 be approved as presented; and
THAT the **Cave Spring Committee Meeting** minutes of October 27, 2015 be approved as presented; and
THAT the **Community Liaison Advisory Committee Meeting** minutes of November 19, 2015 be approved as presented; and
THAT the **Watershed Floodplain Committee Meeting** minutes of November 25, 2015 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Timms drew attention to the Resolution passed by committee members of the Watershed Floodplain Committee and the request for 1 seat representation of the Welland River Floodplain Association. D'Angelo noted the minutes will be ratified in January by the Committee and will be brought back to the board in January.

3. Correspondence:

1. Maitland Valley CA letter dated November 16, 2015 Re: Conservation Ontario Governance,
2. Tim Hudak MPP – Ontario Legislative Assembly – letter dated November 27, 2015 RE: Beamsville bio-solids
3. Office of the Regional Chair, Alan Caslin - letter dated November 30, 2015 RE: letter from Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport regarding the upcoming St. Lawrence Seaway Mandate Expiring in 2018.
4. Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario letter dated December 2015 regarding climate and environmental outcome for Ontario
5. Additional Correspondence – Enbridge's Line 10

Board Comments:

- Regarding the two requests made by MPP Tim Hudak and the biosolids site in Beamsville, NPCA cannot intervene in an OMB case. Owners are requesting a change in the use of land and have their application before the Town of Lincoln. Member Hodgson clarified that the Town of Lincoln has not made a decision since a complete application by the proponent has not to-date been submitted and that the appeal is a result of the Town not processing the application. NPCA may investigate if requested by the Board on its legislative obligation regarding biosolids. Direction to CAO to respond to MPP Tim Hudak's correspondence.
- Member Quirk moved that the board endorse Maitland Valley's position regarding voting members of the Conservation Authority Council being represented by Conservation Authority Board members only.
- Chair Timms commented on the letter from the Minister of Transport regarding St. Lawrence Seaway Corp.'s mandate expiring in 2018 and direction given to CAO to forward a letter to the Minister of Transport supporting the Region's position and addressing the areas of concern; namely, Source water protection and the siphons. Member DiFruscio inquired about where the responsibility lies in the clean-up of the Welland Siphons. Staff will provide comments about the letter from the Minister of Transport and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Resolution No. FA – 200 - 15

Moved by: D. DiFruscio

Seconded by: P. Dart

THAT all correspondence items be received for information; and,
THAT the board endorse the position of Maitland Valley C. A.

CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

- Chair Timms stated, "It's been a pleasure and honour to serve this Board as Chair in 2015. I believe the NPCA has taken a confident step forward toward our mission this year. Our Mission is to manage our watersheds natural resources by balancing environmental, community and economic needs. We have established the Community Liaison Advisory Committee as a credible, open and contributing component of the NPCA, and I thank Chair John Whyte and all the members of that Committee for their contribution. We have rebooted the Welland River Floodplain mapping with the Health of the River as a parallel project in response to the concerns of the Committee and I want to thank the watershed Floodplain Committee and the Welland River Floodplain Association for their persistence and respectful contribution to the process.
- We have made great progress on the planning of the Cave Springs project, with great committee work thanks to Chairs, Stew Beattie and Bill Hodgson. The work of these committees reflect the new culture of balanced engagement stated in our Strategic Plan vision; balancing conservation and sustainable development for future generations by engaging land owners, stakeholders and communities through collaboration.
- Our Partnerships in the community have been strengthened this year; the partnerships we have with the NDSB at Woodend CA met a significant milestone with the opening of the Walker Living Campus Learning Centre; the new partnership with Brock University and Niagara College at the St. Johns property meets in a powerful way our mandate to further the conservation, restoration and development and management of natural resources in our watershed, and so does our partnership with the City of St. Catharines in our agreement to manage the Morningstar Mill.
- This has been a good year for the NPCA in the larger provincial picture as we have established ourselves as a significant voice and player in the Conservation Authority world of 36 CA's with our participation at Conservation Ontario and I want to thank CAO D'Angelo for his leadership on the staff side of that organization. We have been joined by several CA's outside the GTA in balancing the positions of the Conservation Ontario organization to reflect the concerns of CA's across the Province.
- The NPCA has taken firm steps forward in establishing a balance in our administration of the Provincial regulations where solutions are sought as the first strategy. Thanks to Peter Graham for leading a team that seeks solutions first and for standing firm when no environmentally sound solution is possible. I thank the Board for taking very responsible positions when regulations do not offer balanced solutions and a Board decision is required.
- RAMSAR; thanks to team lead by Jocelyn Baker, they championed the celebration of progress in improving Niagara's most famous Natural Resource through the pursuit of the RAMSAR designation for the Niagara River.
- A thanks to all the Board members for their work and support through all our issues this past year. All things considered, a good year for the NPCA and the watershed we have the duty to manage."

5. CAO Comments

- C. D'Angelo reminded the members of the board of NPCA's holiday office closures (Dec 24-Jan. 3)
- Feb 24th has been scheduled for the Conservation Achievement Awards;
- Christmas in the Village held on Dec 5th was a great success and exceeded our expectations;
- On Jan. 28, a meeting to discuss biodiversity offsetting with local Environmental Non-Government Organizations will be held at Ball's Falls. Board members are invited to attend if they so desire. This meeting will discuss the responsibility in the community and identify stakeholders.

Board comments:

- Member Annunziata inquired about the timeframe involved in seeing results for the biodiversity offsetting pilot projects and if there are other opportunities to expand these projects. C. D'Angelo commented that we are looking at a three year timeframe; we will work with Brock U, establish a base line, do the offsetting and monitor for 3 years. There are possibilities to take on other pilot projects.
- Member Hodgson asked whether a Developer can develop anywhere with offsetting. C. D'Angelo commented that should the Province approve the pilot project, we will look at a 3 tier process in determining;
 - First – if land is designated “wetland” we want to avoid it entirely
 - Second – Minimize the development of wetland through a mitigation process
 - Third – OffsettingHowever, offsetting should occur on the property with same ownership, within own property and further, should alternate land be acquired, it must be within the watershed.
- Member Quirk suggested staff deliver a presentation to the Economic Development Committee at the Region to show how Provincially Significant Wetlands are affected. Direction to staff to arrange presentation.
- Member Kaspersetz asked why NPCA is taking a lead role in offsetting and expressed concern that this would create a conflict of interest for Regional members since the Region would benefit from Development through offsetting. CAO, D'Angelo commented that there are merits to this program. The water quality in our watershed is poor and one way to help is to aid the natural filters for the water by creating a net gain. Niagara Region is the second depressed area in Ontario. Economic growth is set at 5% increase, Niagara Region is only growing by 0.5%, through this net gain we would be balancing economic needs.

Resolution No. FA – 201 - 15

Moved by: D. Joyner
Seconded by: P. Darté

THAT the C.A.O.'s comments be received.

CARRIED

6. Project Status Reports:

6.1 Watershed Status Report No. 126-15

- Member Annunziata commented that the RAMSAR key deliverables for March 2016 seems aggressive, but is pleased and hopeful that NPCA will meet the deadline.
- P. Dart commented that the agricultural community needs to know that this RAMSAR designation will not impact their farming.
- Member Baty suggested staff prepare a document for members to use that will explain how the RAMSAR designation will be beneficial and that this designation is cause for celebration. Direction to Staff.

6.2 Operations Status Report No. 127-15

- Member Jeffs expressed concern about hunting at Long Beach and inquired whether there has been an increase in hunting licenses being issued. D. Barrick stated that Long Beach has been delisted and provided the following statistics for hunting permits issued in the past four years:

Year	Permits Issued
2015	423
2014	410
2013	384
2012	346

6.3 Corporate Services Status Report No. 128-15

7. Financial & Reserve Status – Ending November 30, 2015 - Report No. 129-15

8. Forestry & Tree and Forest Bylaw – Report No. 130-15

9. 2015 Thanksgiving Festival Review - Report No. 131-15

Through a PowerPoint presentation, NPCA events coordinator, Brianne Wilson presented to the board the results of the Thanksgiving Festival. Link to video presentation:

<https://prezi.com/m/xbh6ggrhst60/2015-balls-falls-thanksgiving-festival/>

- Member Baty suggested extra parking can be utilized west of Fairground,
- Member Beattie suggested public transportation may aid in the traffic congestion during the festival.
- Member Joyner suggests NPCA avails itself of the volunteer groups in Lincoln
- Member DiFruscio suggested having the Church bell operate during the Festival. It was noted, that the Church bell is currently being refurbished.

10. Internet Live Streaming Authority Meetings – Report No. 132-15

- Member Joyner suggested staff check with Niagara Region and explore all opportunities before making a decision on live streaming. Direction to Staff.

- Member Jeffs inquired as to the reason staff only reached out to two companies, and why has no RFP been issued for live streaming. D. Barrick responded that before we can initiate an RFP process the infrastructure at Ball's Falls needs improvement. Staff assured members that there will be a further report to the board prior to any commitment to purchase.
- Member Hodgson suggested investigating the legal implications of live streaming.
- Member Annunziata recommended inquiring about Federal and private reserve budget to upgrade internet / Wi-Fi infrastructure through "swift program".

Resolution No. FA – 202 - 15

Moved by: T. Quirk
 Seconded by: B. Baty

THAT Reports 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131 and 132 be received for information.

CARRIED

Reports for Consideration:

11. NPCA Regulation #2 – Revised Code of Conduct – Public - Report No. 133-15

Resolution No. FA – 203 - 15

Moved by: P. Dart
 Seconded by: D. DiFruscio

That the NPCA Board of Directors **APPROVE** revisions to NPCA Regulation #2 entitled *Meeting Procedures* to address Code of Conduct of public members, community groups and the media representatives attending public meetings.

CARRIED

12. Purchasing and Procurement Policy - Report No. 134-15

- Member Quirk expressed concern about the RFP process and suggested the Draft Purchasing and Procurement Policy limit be amended from \$55,000 to \$75,000 as the limit for formal quotations and anything greater than \$75,000 go through the RFP process, with the following resolution;

Resolution No. FA – 204 - 15

Moved by: T. Quirk
 Seconded by: B. Baty

THAT the Purchasing and Procurement Policy, Report No. 134-15 be approved by the Board of Directors; and,
 THAT the Policy on formal quotations be amended to not exceed \$75,000 and that purchases greater than \$75,000 go through an RFP process.

CARRIED

NOTE: Member Hodgson recorded as opposed to the resolution

13. Draft Agreement St. Johns CA and NCDSB – Report No. 135-15

- Member Baty suggested NPCA pursue having St. Johns property designated tax exempt by the City of Thorold. Staff will investigate.

Resolution No. FA – 205 - 15

Moved by: T. Quirk

Seconded by: B. Baty

That this report be **RECEIVED**; and

That the NPCA Board **AUTHORIZE** the CAO to sign a Lease Agreement with Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) regarding the St. John's Centre property.

CARRIED

14. Other Business

1. Member Annunziata asked whether there is a more comprehensive way to advise the public about the increase in permit fees. C. D'Angelo commented that public consultation was conducted, it was vetted through the Community Liaison Advisory Committee, consultation was held with all municipal planners and neighbouring Conservation Authorities and reviewed their fee structure.
2. Member Baty suggested potential fundraisers in 2016 with Food Trucks and Craft Brewery and further suggested staff investigate which are appropriate for the Conservation Authority and the Foundation. C. D'Angelo commented that Twenty Valley Tourism is bringing such an event to Ball's Falls in the spring of 2016 and reminded members that NPCA and the Foundation are two separate entities and would like to keep these separate.
3. Administrative staff to remind board members via Outlook invitation of 2016 events.

With no other business in the public session, the following resolution was made:

Resolution No. FA – 206 - 15

Moved by: S. Beattie

Seconded by: S. Annunziata

THAT the meeting move to closed session to receive a verbal status update on property matters; a verbal status update on the Hamilton Levy mediation and a verbal status update on the 2016 compensation for Union and Non-Union staff.

CARRIED

CLOSED SESSION

Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

No conflicts declared

Business in Closed Session:

1. Property Matters – Verbal update
2. Verbal update – Hamilton Levy Mediation
3. Compensation 2016 - Report No. CR-136-15

With no further business in closed session, the following was resolved;

Resolution No. FA – 207 - 15

Moved by: B. Baty
Seconded by: T. Quirk

THAT the meeting rise from closed session with report. Received at 1:48 pm

CARRIED

Public Session:

The following resolution resulted from discussions held in closed session;

Resolution No. FA – 208 - 15

Moved by: T. Quirk
Seconded by: B. Baty

THAT the tentative agreement between NPCA and OPSEU is ratified by the Board of Directors; and further,

THAT staff follow direction related to compensation and a subsequent report be brought back to the Board of Directors in January.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Full Authority meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm with the following resolution:

Resolution No. FA – 209 - 15

Moved by: T. Quirk
Seconded by: R. Shirton

THAT the Full Authority meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED



Lisa Conte
Administrative Assistant to CAO & Board,
Recording Secretary



D. Bruce Timms
Chair, NPCA