

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting
October 18, 2024, 9:00a.m.
Carolinian Hall
3350 Merrittville Hwy., Thorold ON
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Metcalfe, Chair
S. Beattie, Vice Chair
D. Cridland
R. Foster (departed 9:49a.m.)
B. Grant
D. Huson
P. O'Neill (arrival 9:33a.m.)
M. Seaborn
A. Witteveen

MEMBERS ABSENT: B. Clark
M. Tadeson

STAFF PRESENT: L. Lee-Yates, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
E. Baldin, Manager, Land Planning
B. Buggeln, Manager, Natural Hazard Management and Resiliency
A. Christie, Director, Conservation Areas
C. Coverdale, Manager, Financial Services
M. Davis, Manager, Office of the CAO & Board
D. Deluce, Director, Planning & Development
L. Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services
E. Gervais, Manager, Corporate Support Services
K. Royer, Specialist, Conservation Area Land Planning
G. Shaule, Administrative Assistant
G. Verkade, Senior Manager, Integrated Water Strategies
S. Zavarella, Manager, Communications & PR

OTHERS PRESENT:

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Metcalfe noted that Item 9.1 is related to Item 6.1 and suggests they be addressed consecutively.

Resolution No. FA-104-2024

Moved by: Stew Beattie

Seconded by: Michelle Seaborn

THAT agenda for the Full Authority Board meeting held on October 18, 2024 **BE AMMENDED** to address Item 9.1 immediately after Item 6.1.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution No. FA-105-2024

Moved by: Stew Beattie

Seconded by: Brian Grant

THAT the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting Minutes dated September 20, 2024 **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

- On September 25, 2024, over 100 high school students from 7 schools across both school boards gathered at Old Fort Erie for the first Niagara Great Lakes Student Conference to learn about fishes of the Great Lakes, invasive species, climate change impacts, species at risk, Indigenous relations to water, and water quality. Chair Metcalf thanked staff and partners that championed this collaborative event.
- Volunteers, staff, and Board Members were acknowledged for their efforts in bringing together the 50th Anniversary of the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival together. Gratitude was expressed to Mayor Easton and Heritage Committee Chair, Scott Foster, at the Town of Lincoln, for hosting the heritage designation ceremony at the Thanksgiving Festival Opening.
- NPCA and Niagara Region partnered to plant 1,000 trees at Waterworks Park on October 17, 2024. The event was a rewarding endeavour for staff and volunteers in attendance. Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation's support for this collaborative initiative was greatly appreciated.
- The Chair welcomed Member Witteveen to the Full Authority Board for his first meeting.
- Chair Metcalfe yielded the floor to CAO/Secretary-Treasurer Lee-Yates to introduce NPCA's new Manager, Natural Hazards Management & Resiliency, Brendan Buggeln.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1. Correspondence dated September 20, 2024 from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury RE: Ontario Deposit Return Program

Discussion ensued regarding the impact of sustainable practices outlined in the correspondence. Member Cridland proposed a motion for consideration.

Resolution No. FA-106-2024

Moved by: Robert Foster

Seconded by: Brian Grant

WHEREAS NPCA has committed to demonstrating leadership in addressing climate change and sustainable practices through its lands and operations;

WHEREAS NPCA's corporate climate change action plan strives to reduce the NPCA's climate impacts and carbon footprint;

WHEREAS the Ontario Deposit Return Program has successfully incentivized the recycling of alcoholic beverage containers, resulting in the removal of over 204,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks has indicated consideration of adopting a deposit-and-return system for nonalcoholic beverages;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Correspondence dated September 20, 2024 from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury RE: Ontario Deposit Return Program **BE RECEIVED**.

AND THAT the NPCA **ENDORSE** the expansion of the Ontario Deposit Return Program to include nonalcoholic beverage containers;

AND FURTHER THAT the endorsement **BE CIRCULATED** to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and municipalities within the watershed for information.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1. 2025 Draft Budget and Municipal Levies

Presentation provided by Director, Corporate Services, Lise Gagnon. Discussion ensued regarding long-term projections, mitigation strategies, and leveraging external funding.

Resolution No. FA-105-2024

Moved by: Donna Cridland

Seconded by: Brian Grant

THAT Item 6.1. 2025 Draft Budget and Municipal Levies presentation **BE RECEIVED**.

CARRIED

9.1. Report No. FA-FA-24 RE: 2025 Draft Budget and Municipal Levies

Chair Metcalfe noted that a weighted vote will be conducted in accordance with Ontario Regulation 402/22 under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Manager, Office of the CAO & Board, Melanie Davis, conducted a roll call and provided members present with the value of their weighted vote.

Resolution No. FA-108-2024

Moved by: Brian Grant

Seconded by: Donna Cridland

THAT Report No. FA-50-24 RE: 2025 Draft Budgets and Municipal Levies **BE RECEIVED**;

THAT the 2025 Draft Budgets & Municipal Levies **BE APPROVED BY WEIGHTED LEVY VOTE** for discussion with municipal staff, in accordance with Board approved Budget Assumptions;

THAT the list of 2025 unfunded pressures **BE PROVIDED** to partner municipalities for any future opportunities outside the 2025 budget through collaborative projects or external funding;

AND FURTHER THAT NPCA staff **REPORT** the results of discussions with municipal staff to the 2025 Q2 Finance Committee and Board of Directors meetings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. DELEGATIONS

None.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

None.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.2. Report No. FA-52-24 RE: Draft Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy

CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, Leilani-Lee-Yates, and Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Strategies, Geoffrey Verkade, provided an overview of the report noted above.

Resolution No. FA-109-2024

Moved by: Patrick O'Neill

Seconded by: Brian Grant

THAT Report No. FA-52-24 RE: Draft Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to post the draft Watershed Strategy for public comment for three weeks;

AND THAT the draft Watershed Strategy **BE CIRCULATED** to the NPCA partner municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Watershed Strategy be brought forward for Board approval on or before December 13, 2024.

CARRIED

9.3. Report No. FA-51-24 RE: Draft Conservation Area Strategy

Manager, Land Planning, Eric Baldin, provided an overview of the report and identified next steps in developing the Conservation Area Strategy.

Resolution No. FA-110-2024

Moved by: Stew Beattie

Seconded by: Donna Cridland

THAT Report No. FA-51-24 RE: Draft Conservation Area Strategy **BE RECEIVED**;

AND THAT staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to post the draft Conservation Area Strategy for public comment for three weeks;

AND THAT the draft Conservation Area Strategy **BE CIRCULATED** to the NPCA partner municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT the Conservation Area Strategy be brought forward for Board approval on or before December 13, 2024.

CARRIED

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Resolution FA-111-2024

Moved by: Michelle Seaborn

Seconded by: Brian Grant

THAT the Finance Committee Minutes, dated September 24, 2024 and Public Advisory Committee Minutes, dated September 17, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**.

CARRIED

11. MOTIONS

None.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.1. Verbal update RE: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

- Member Cridland shared that the 50/50 draw held at the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival was a success, totalling over \$2,000.
- Next Foundation event, Womenchant Winter Solstice Concert is scheduled for December 19, 2024.

13.2. 2025 Meeting Schedule Discussion

- Staff sought feedback from Members on the development of the 2025 Meeting Schedule in advance of presenting the proposed schedule at the November meeting.
- Discussion ensued regarding commuting challenges, scheduling of Council meetings, organizational initiatives, and meeting start times.

14. CLOSED SESSION

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Metcalfe adjourned the meeting at 10:16 a.m.