

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2026
Carolinian Hall
3350 Merrittville Hwy., Thorold ON

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Metcalfe, Chair
S. Beattie, Vice Chair
B. Clark
D. Cridland
R. Foster
B. Grant (departed at 9:42a.m.)
P. O'Neill
M. Seaborn
M. Tadeson
A. Witteveen

STAFF PRESENT: L. Lee-Yates, CAO/Secretary-Treasurer
N. Bradley, Planning Technician
A. Christie, Director, Conservation Areas
M. Davis, Manager, Office of the CAO & Board
D. Deluce, Director, Planning & Development
J. Diamond, Manager, Watershed Monitoring & Reporting
M. Ferrusi, Manager, People & Performance
L. Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services
N. Green, Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change
T. Lennard, Watershed Planner II
S. Mastroianni, Manager, Planning & Permits
E. Navarro, Communications & Marketing Specialist
A. Parks, Manager, Planning Ecology
G. Shaule, Administrative Assistant
G. Verkade, Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Strategies
S. Zavarella, Manager, Communications & PR

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution No. FA-01-2026

Moved by: Mark Tadeson

Seconded by: Stew Beattie

THAT the agenda for the Full Authority Board meeting held on February 21, 2025 **BE AMMENDED** to address Item 9.1 immediately following Item 9.2.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

3. CONCLUSION OF 2025 BUSINESS

- Chair Metcalfe celebrated significant accomplishments achieved throughout 2025, including the launch of the Lake Ontario Coastal Resilience Pilot Project, securing 125 hectares of new protected conservation lands in the watershed, and advancing work in invasive species management.
- Staff, senior leadership, and the Board were recognized for their professionalism and commitment to conservation within the watershed community.
- Chair Metcalfe yielded the floor to CAO Lee-Yates to speak to significant operational milestones achieved in 2025. CAO Lee-Yates noted that NPCA completed significant floodplain mapping work and initiated the Beamer Memorial Conservation Area Management Plan to help guide the future of the space that balances ecological integrity and public use.
- CAO Lee-Yates further recognized the value of NPCA's partnerships on planning matters, Trees for All, and land use planning. Staff, Board Members, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation and partners were recognized for their contributions that strengthen NPCA's impact.

Resolution No. FA-02-2026

Moved by: Stew Beattie

Seconded by: Mark Tadeson

THAT the Board of Directors **CONCLUDE** the business of 2025;

AND FURTHER THAT the Chair and Vice Chair seats **BE DECLARED** vacant.

CARRIED

CAO/Secretary-Treasurer Lee-Yates assumed the Chair and called the 2026 business portion of the meeting to order.

4. ROLL CALL 2026 BOARD MEMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stewart Beattie
Brad Clark
Donna Cridland
Robert Foster
Brian Grant
John Metcalfe
Patrick O'Neill
Michelle Seaborn
Mark Tadeson
Albert Witteveen

5. ELECTIONS / APPOINTMENTS OF OFFICERS

5.1. Appointment of Scrutineers

Resolution No. FA-03-2026

Moved by: John Metcalfe

Seconded by: Mark Tadeson

THAT in the event of a vote for the position of Chair and/or Vice Chair, Natalie Green, Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change and David Deluce, Director, Planning & Development will act as scrutineers

CARRIED

5.2. Election of Officers

5.2.1. Chair of the Authority

Nomination

Moved by: Michelle Seaborn

THAT Member Robert Foster **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2026.

Nomination

Moved by: Mark Tadeson

THAT Member Stew Beattie **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2026.

Close Nominations:

Moved by: John Metcalfe

Seconded by: Albert Witteveen

The election of the Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2026 was put to a vote, with Members in person voting by paper ballot and Members attending virtually providing their vote vial email.

The appointed scrutineers tabulated the votes and declared Robert Foster had received a majority vote.

Resolution No. FA-04-2026

Moved by: Michelle Seaborn

Seconded by: Brian Grant

THAT Robert Foster **BE APPOINTED** as Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2026.

CARRIED

5.2.2. Vice Chair of the Authority

Nomination

Moved by: Robert Foster

THAT Member John Metcalfe **BE NOMINATED** as Vice Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2026.

Close Nominations:

Moved by: Robert Foster

Seconded by: Mark Tadeson

Resolution No. FA-05-2026

Moved by: Mark Tadeson

Seconded by: Albert Witeveen

THAT John Metcalfe **BE APPOINTED** as Vice Chair of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Board of Directors for 2026.

CARRIED

5.2.3. Appointments to Conservation Ontario for 2026

Resolution No. FA-06-2026

Moved by: Donna Cridland

Seconded by: Robert Foster

THAT Robert Foster, Chair of NPCA for 2026, or Vice Chair, John Metcalfe, acting as his delegate, **BE** the Authority's voting delegate to Conservation Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT the Chief Administrative Officer **BE** the alternate delegate.

CARRIED

5.2.4. Appointments to Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

Resolution No. FA-07-2026

Moved by: John Metcalfe

Seconded by: Brian Grant

THAT the following Board Members **BE APPOINTED** to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation for 2026:

Donna Cridland
Michelle Seaborn
Mark Tadeson (ex-officio)
Robert Foster (ex-officio)

CARRIED

5.2.5. Appointments to Finance Committee

Resolution No. FA-08-2026

Moved by: Brian Grant

Seconded by: Donna Cridland

THAT the following Board Members **BE APPOINTED** to the Finance Committee for 2026:

Robert Foster
John Metcalfe
Donna Cridland
Brian Grant
Mark Tadeson

CARRIED

5.2.6. Appointments to Governance Committee

Resolution No. FA-09-2026

Moved by: Brian Grant

Seconded by: Donna Cridland

THAT the following Board Members **BE APPOINTED** to the Governance Committee for 2026:

Robert Foster
John Metcalfe
Donna Cridland
Michelle Seaborn
Albert Witteveen

CARRIED

5.2.7. Signing Officers

Resolution No. FA-10-2026

Moved by: John Metcalfe

Seconded by: Michelle Seaborn

THAT the Authority's Chair, Robert Foster, Vice Chair, John Metcalfe, the Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer Leilani Lee-Yates, and the Director Corporate Services, Lise Gagnon, or any two of them **ARE** hereby **AUTHORIZED** to sign, make, draw, accept, endorse and deliver cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, orders for the payment of money and such agreements and instruments as may be necessary or useful in connection with the operation of the said account;

AND FURTHER THAT any one of the above-mentioned officers IS hereby **AUTHORIZED** for and in the name of the Organization to endorse and transfer to the Bank for deposit or discount with or collection by the Bank (but for the credit of the Organization only) cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, orders for the payment

of money and other instruments, to arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts with the Bank and to sign receipts for vouchers.

CARRIED

5.2.8. Appointment of Auditors

Resolution No. FA-11-2026

Moved by: Albert Witteveen

Seconded by: Robert Foster

THAT the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority **APPOINTS KPMG LLP** as its auditors for the 2025 fiscal year.

CARRIED

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution No. FA-12-2026

Moved by: John Metcalfe

Seconded by: Stew Beattie

THAT the Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting Minutes and the Closed Session Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated December 19, 2025 **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

7. CHAIR'S UPDATE

- Chair Foster expressed gratitude for the support of fellow Board Members and thanked outgoing Chair Metcalfe and Vice Chair Beattie for their exceptional work in the roles over the past two years.
- Chair Foster noted he is looking forward to doing a lot of meaningful work with the Board to navigate transitions throughout the year.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolution No. FA-13-2026

Moved by: Stewart Beattie

Seconded by: Robert Foster

THAT the following correspondence **BE RECEIVED**:

8.1. Correspondence dated December 18, 2025, from the Township of Zorra RE: Bill 68 and Proposed Consolidation of Conservation Authorities;

8.2. Correspondence dated December 16, 2025 from the Township of Alfred and Plantagenet RE: South Nation Conservation – Response to Bill 68 – Conservation Authority Changes;

8.3. Correspondence dated December 5, 2025, from the Town of The Blue Mountains RE: Town of The Blue Mountains Opposition to Bill 68 and the Proposed Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities;

- 8.4.** Correspondence dated December 18, 2025, from the Municipality of Meaford RE: Municipality of Meaford Response to the Proposed Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities;
- 8.5.** Correspondence dated December 8, 2025, from the Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal RE: Conservation Authorities Restructuring;
- 8.6.** Correspondence dated December 8, 2025, from the Township of Conmee RE: Consolidation of Conservation Authorities;
- 8.7.** Correspondence dated December 8, 2025, from The Nation Municipality RE: Request for support from South Nation Conservation regarding the amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and ERO Posting #025-1257;
- 8.8.** Correspondence dated December 16, 2025, from the Town of Fort Erie RE: Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities;
- 8.9.** Correspondence dated November 19, 2025, from the County of Essex RE: Resolution of Essex County Council in Support of Municipalities Vis-à-vis Bill 68;
- 8.10.** Correspondence dated December 17, 2025, from the City of Clarence-Rockland RE: Notice of Council Resolution – Conservation Authorities Act;
- 8.11.** Correspondence dated December 18, 2025, from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority RE: Comments on ERO Posting No. 025-1257 – Proposed Boundaries for Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities;
- 8.12.** Correspondence dated December 22, 2025, from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority RE: Environmental Registry Ontario Posting No. 025-1257;
- 8.13.** Correspondence dated December 19, 2025, from Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority RE: Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority Submission to ERO 025-1257 Consultation (proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities);
- 8.14.** Correspondence dated December 17, 2025, from Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority RE: Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities (ERO#025-1257) Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority Submission;
- 8.15.** Correspondence dated December 11, 2025, from Hamilton Conservation Authority RE: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities (ERO 025-1257);
- 8.16.** Correspondence dated December 19, 2025, from Quinte Conservation RE: Quinte Conservation Board of Directors position on the regional consolidation of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities;

8.17. Correspondence dated December 4, 2025, from Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority RE: NVCA Board Submission on the Proposed Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities;

8.18. Correspondence dated December 4, 2025, from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority RE: Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Submission to ERO 025-1257 Consultation on Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities;

8.19. Correspondence dated December 19, 2025, from Mattagami Region Conservation Authority RE: Mattagami Region Conservation Authority position on the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities;

8.20. Correspondence dated December 17, 2025, from Lower Trent Conservation Authority RE: ERO number 025-1257;

8.21. Correspondence dated December 11, 2025, from Nickel District Conservation Authority (Conservation Sudbury) RE: Response to ERO # 025-1257, Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities;

8.22. Correspondence dated December 18, 2025, from Biodiversity & Climate Action Niagara RE: ERO 025-1257 Bill 68;

8.23. Correspondence dated December 4, 2025, from Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors RE: Bill 68, Schedule 3 – Conservation Authority Amalgamations and Regional Boundaries;

8.24. Correspondence dated December 18, 2025, from the Municipality of South Huron RE: Response to Bill 68- Proposed new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency;

8.25. Correspondence dated December 22, 2025, from the Municipality of West Elgin RE: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities;

8.26. Correspondence dated December 5, 2025, from the Municipality of Neebing RE: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities;

8.27. Correspondence dated December 16, 2025, from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent RE: Amalgamation of Conservation Authorities – Bill 68;

8.28. Correspondence dated December 10, 2025, from the United Counties of Prescott and Russell RE: Response to Bill 68 – Conservation Authority Changes;

8.29. Correspondence dated January 16, 2026, from the Town of Grimsby RE: Support for NPCA Resolution – NPCA Position on the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities; and

Correspondence dated February 20, 2026, from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
RE: Consolidation of NPCA into “Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation
Authority.”

CARRIED

9. PRESENTATIONS

9.2. In Memory of Brian Lee, 1963-2026

CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, Leilani Lee Yates spoke to the memory of Brian Lee, a long-standing member of NPCA’s GIS team and fond shared memories of him.

Chair Foster expressed condolences to staff and all of Brian’s loved ones in this time of loss.

Resolution No. FA-14-2026

Moved by: Stew Beattie

Seconded by: John Metcalfe

THAT the presentation In Memory of Brian Lee, 1963-2026 **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

9.1. NPCA Employee Service Recognition 2025

Manager, People & Performance, Misti Ferrusi provided an introductory overview and invited NPCA leadership to speak to staff milestones and accomplishments.

Resolution No. FA-15-2026

Moved by: Brad Clark

Seconded by: Patrick O’Neill

THAT the presentation RE: the presentation regarding NPCA Employee Service Recognition 2025 **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

9.3. 2025 NPCA Year in Review Video

CAO/Secretary-Treasurer, Leilani Lee-Yates, emphasized the importance of collaboration, progress and conservation that are highlighted in NPCA’s 2025 Year in Review Video.

Resolution No. FA-16-2026

Moved by: John Metcalfe

Seconded by: Stew Beattie

THAT the 2025 Year in Review Video **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

10. DELEGATIONS

10.1. Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

NPCF Chair, Brett Harrington, provided a brief presentation on 2025 highlights, community engagement initiatives, and priorities for 2026, including a signature event to be held on July 24, 2026.

Resolution No. FA-17-2026

Moved by: Albert Witteveen

Seconded by: Donna Cridland

THAT the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation Delegation **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

11. CONSENT ITEMS

None.

12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

12.1. Report No. FA-01-26 RE: Twelve Mile Creek Watershed Committee Terms of Reference and Recruitment

Discussion among Board members regarding deferring Item 12.1 to the next Full Authority meeting took place.

Resolution No. FA-18-2026

Moved by: Albert Witteveen

Seconded by: Donna Cridland

THAT Report No. FA-01-26 RE: Twelve Mile Creek Watershed Committee Terms of Reference and Recruitment **BE DEFERRED** for consideration at the March 27, 2026 Full Authority meeting.

CARRIED

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

14. MOTIONS

None.

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

16. NEW BUSINESS

None.

17. CLOSED SESSION

None.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Foster adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.