

Board of Directors Meeting September 15, 2023 at 9:00 AM Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation 3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

The Niagara Peninsula watershed is situated within the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Attiwonderonk (Neutral), and the Anishinaabeg, including the Mississaugas of the Credit—many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties (No. 3, 4, and 381) and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today, the watershed is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. Through the 2021-2031 Strategic Plan, we re-confirm our commitment to shared stewardship of natural resources and deep appreciation of Indigenous culture and history in the watershed.

- 1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 3.1. Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated, July 21, 2023 (For Approval)

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- 4. CHAIR'S UPDATE
- 5. CORRESPONDENCE
 - 5.1. Correspondence dated August 18th, 2023, from Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation RE: Development of Lots 6-8, Con 6, City of Hamilton; and Lots 21-22, Con1, Town of Grimsby (For Receipt)

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5.2. Correspondence dated Aug. 14, 2023 from the Town of Grimsby RE: Beamer Conservation Area (For Receipt)

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5.3. Correspondence dated July 21, 2023 from The Niagara Region RE: Proposed Provincial Planning Statement – Natural Heritage Policies (For Receipt)

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6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1. Josh Diamond, Manager, Watershed Monitoring and Reporting Re: Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022 (For Receipt- To be circulated under separate cover. This presentation is in conjunction with agenda Discussion item 9.2 Report No. FA-37-23 RE: Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022)

7. DELEGATIONS

7.1. Lindsay Taylor, Sustainability Director, St. Catharines Downtown Association re:
Natural Asset Management (For Receipt- This presentation is in conjunction with
agenda Discussion item 8.1 Report No. FA- 38-23 RE: Natural Asset Inventory and
Management Initiative)

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8. CONSENT ITEMS

8.1 Report No. FA- 38-23 RE: Natural Assets Inventory and Management Initiative (For Receipt)

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9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Report No. FA 36-23 RE: NPCA – Appointment of Regulations Officers (For Approval)

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9.2 Report No. FA-37-23 RE: Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022 (For Approval-This report is in conjunction with agenda Presentation 6.1 Josh Diamond, Manager, Watershed Monitoring and Reporting RE: Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022)

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9.3 Report No. FA-35-23 RE: 2023 NPCA Quarterly Progress Report #5 Required for Conservation Authorities Act Amendments: Transition Plan and Agreements (O. Reg. 687/21) and Request for Extension of Final Transition Date (For Approval)

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10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 11. MOTIONS
- 12. NOTICES OF MOTION
- **13. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 12.1 Verbal update RE: Nagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation
- 14. CLOSED SESSION

- 14.1 <u>A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the NPCA (Confidential Report No. FA-39-23 RE: Land Acquisition will be circulated under separate cover.)</u>
- 14.2 <u>Matter of a proposed or pending negotiation of leased property by the NPCA</u>

 (Confidential Report No. FA- 40-23 RE: Lease Negotiation—will be circulated under separate cover.)
- **15. ADJOURNMENT**



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority July 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM 3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON

NOTE:

The archived recorded meeting is available on the NPCA website. The recorded video of the Full Authority meeting is not considered the official record of that meeting. The official record of the Full Authority meeting shall consist solely of the Minutes approved by the Full Authority Board. NPCA Administrative By-law

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Foster (Chair)

S. Beattie
D. Cridland
B. Grant
P. O'Neill
D. Huson
J. Metcalfe
M. Seaborn
M. Tadeson

REGRETS: B. Clark

STAFF PRESENT: C. Sharma, CAO / Secretary – Treasurer

A. Christie, Director, Conservation Areas

D. Deluce, Senior Manager Environmental Planning & Policy

T. Gaade, Program Coordinator, Watershed Strategies and

Climate Research

L. Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services

L. Lee-Yates, Director, Planning and Development

S. Miller, Senior Manager, Infrastructure Engineering & Asset

Management

G. Shaule, Administrative Assistant

J. Sinibaldi, Manager, Strategic Business Planning and Public

Relations

G. Verkade, Senior Manager IWP

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a) Addition of Items

Resolution No. FA-70-2023

Moved by Member Tadeson Seconded by Member Metcalfe

THAT the following item **BE ADDED** to the agenda:

 Correspondence dated July 14, 2023, from The City of Hamilton added as Correspondence Item 5 b).

CARRIED

b) Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. FA-71-2023

Moved by Member Huson Seconded by Member Cridland

THAT the agenda for the Full Authority Meeting dated July 21, 2023, as amended **BE ADOPTED.**

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting June 16, 2023

3.2. Closed Session Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting June 16, 2023

Resolution No. FA-72-2023

Moved by Member Seaborn Seconded by Member Tadeson

THAT the following minutes **BE ADOPTED**:

- Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated June 16, 2023; and
- Closed Session Minutes dated June 16, 2023, to remain private and confidential.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

Chair Foster welcomed the return of James (Stew) Beattie as the City of Hamilton Citizen representative.

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5. CORRESPONDENCE

 a) Correspondence from Conservation Ontario RE: Conservation Ontario Submission: Aggregate Resources Act Regulatory and Policy Proposal Changes (ERO 019-6767) dated July 12, 2023

Resolution No. FA-73 -2023 Moved by Member Huson Seconded by Member Cridland

THAT Correspondence from Conservation Ontario Re: Conservation Ontario Submission: Aggregate Resources Act Regulatory and Policy Proposal Changes (ERO 019-6767) dated July 12, 2023, **BE RECEIVED**

CARRIED

b) Correspondence from City of Hamilton dated July 14, 2023, RE: At the meeting of City Council today July 14, 2023, the following citizen representing Hamilton be appointed to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, with the term ending October 26, 2026: James Beattie.

Resolution No. FA-74-2023 Moved by Member Grant

Seconded by Member Metcalfe

THAT Correspondence from City of Hamilton dated July 14, 2023, RE: At the meeting of City Council today July 14, 2023, the following citizen representing Hamilton **BE APPOINTED** to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, with the term ending October 26, 2026, **BE RECEIVED**;

AND FURTHER THAT Board Member J. Beattie **BE APPOINTED** to the Governance Committee and the Finance Committee for 2023.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

None.

7. DELEGATIONS

None.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

8.1. Report No. FA-30-23 RE: Compliance and Enforcement Q2 Statistics 2023

Resolution No. FA-75-2023
Moved by Member Seaborn
Seconded by Member Huson

THAT Report No. FA-30-23 RE: Compliance and Enforcement Q2 Statistics 2023 **BE RECEIVED**.

CARRIED

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1. Report No. FA-29-23 RE: Rockway Conservation Area Enhancement Project Update and Award of Contract for Parking Area Construction. A. Christie provided comments.

Resolution No. FA-76-2023
Moved by Member Metcalfe
Seconded by Member Beattie

THAT Report No. FA-29-23 RE: Rockway Conservation Area Enhancement Project Update and Award of Contract for Parking Area Construction **BE RECEIVED**.

THAT a capital contract award to Stevensville Lawn Service Inc. in the amount of \$478,465 (plus non-recoverable HST) **BE APPROVED**;

AND FURTHER THAT a contingency of 10% or \$47,846.50 BE ALLOCATED to address any unanticipated costs during the project implementation process.

CARRIED

9.2. Report No. FA-31-23 RE: NPCA Comments on the Proposed Provincial Policy Statement. L. Yates spoke to this report.

Resolution No. FA-77-2023
Moved by Member Seaborn
Seconded by Member Cridland

THAT Report No. FA-31-23 RE: NPCA Comments on the Proposed Provincial Policy Statement **BE RECEIVED**.

THAT the Board **ENDORSE** the attached staff comment letter and **AUTHORIZE** staff to submit the letter to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO).

AND FURTHER THAT the NPCA's comments on the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement **BE CIRCULATED** to partner municipalities for their information.

CARRIED

9.3 Report No. FA-32-23 RE: Update on NPCA Regulation Mapping Project. Comments provided by L. Yates

Resolution No. FA-78-2023
Moved by Member Huson
Seconded by Member Tadeson

THAT Report No. FA-32-23 RE: Update on NPCA Regulation Mapping Project **BE RECEIVED**;

THAT the workplan for Phase 2 **BE ENDORSED**;

THAT staff **BE DIRECTED** to send correspondence to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) recommending that the current discrepancy in the hazard allowance within Ontario Regulation 155/06, be addressed through the new uniform Section 28 Regulation to be released later this year.

CARRIED

9.4 Report No. FA-33-23: Research Contract for Welland River and Big Forks Creek Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Modelling Research Project. L. Yates and T. Gaade provided comments.

Resolution No. FA-79-2023

Moved by Member Beattie Seconded by Member Metcalfe

THAT Report No. FA-33-23: Research Contract for Welland River and Big Forks Creek Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Modelling Research Project **BE RECEIVED**;

THAT a Grant-in-Aid research award to the University of Guelph in the amount of \$150,000 **BE APPROVED**;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized NPCA officials **BE DIRECTED** to take the necessary action to finalize the contract award, including obtaining any necessary approvals and the signing and execution of documents.

CARRIED

9.5 Report No. FA-34-23: Canada Water Agency and Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Funding Opportunities. CAO Sharma commented.

Resolution No. FA-80-2023
Moved by Member Metcalfe
Seconded by Member Beattie

THAT Report No. FA-34-23: Canada Water Agency and Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement Funding Opportunities **BE RECEIVED**;

THAT staff continue **TO COLLABORATE** with key stakeholders to advance conservation authorities critical initiatives in support of Canada Water Agency Mandate and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement priorities;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to NPCA jurisdiction municipalities.

CARRIED

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Minutes of the Governance Committee Meeting June 16, 2023

Resolution No. FA-81-2023
Moved by Member Tadeson
Seconded by Member Seaborn

THAT the Minutes of the Governance Committee Meeting dated June 16, 2023, **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

10.2 PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee Meeting July 5, 2023

Resolution No. FA-82-2023
Moved by Member Huson
Seconded by Member Cridland

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THAT the Minutes of the PAC Committee Meeting dated July 5, 2023, **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

11. MOTIONS

None.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

<u>Member Huson updated the Board Members regarding Niagara Peninsula Conservation</u> <u>Foundation (NPCF):</u>

- Member Huson has been appointed NPCF Chair at the NPCF Board of Directors Meeting on June 29, 2023.
- The Foundation is currently finalizing formalities related to a Donation.
- The Foundation has hired a Development and Investor Relation Officer to work on the "Nature for all, for Always" Campaign. Announcement to be made in the coming weeks.
- The appointment of two new NPCF Board Members: Member Brett Harrington and Member Doug Wilson.

14. CLOSED SESSION

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared The Full Authority Board Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:52 a.m.

Robert Foster Chair

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Chandra Sharma
Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary Treasurer
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

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August 18, 2023

Robert Foster

Chair, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority 250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor Welland, ON L3C 3W2



Dear Chairman Robert Foster:

Re: Development of Lots 6-8, Con 6, City of Hamilton; and Lots 21-22, Con 1, Town of Grimsby

As Giima of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation ("MCFN"), I am writing to advise of the potential impacts of development of former Greenbelt lands in the City of Hamilton and Town of Grimsby on MCFN rights, and to request early and meaningful consultation on any steps taken related to development of Lots 6-8, Con 6, City of Hamilton; and Lots 21-22, Con 1, Town of Grimsby. These lands are located south of White Church Road East, west of Ferris Road, north of Chippewa Road East, and east of Upper James Street in the City of Hamilton; and south of the GO rail line, west of Oakes Road North, north of Main Street West, and east of Kelson Ave North in the Town of Grimsby, respectively (the "former Greenbelt lands").

MCFN are the descendants of the Mississauga people whose primary settlement was near the mouth of the present-day Credit River and whose Traditional and Treaty Territory covers much of what is now southern Ontario, including the lots identified above and surrounding lands. Our ancestors signed a number of treaties with the Crown between 1781 and 1820 with respect to various parts of our Traditional Territory. These agreements recognize Treaty rights held by MCFN over these lands. The former Greenbelt lands described in this letter are subject to the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792 (Treaty No. 3) between MCFN and the Crown. MCFN also hold Treaty rights in lands to the east pursuant to the Mississaugas Treaty at Niagara (1781). We are the stewards of our Traditional and Treaty Territory, and we have a right and responsibility to care for the lands and waters.

MCFN was not consulted on the changes to the Greenbelt effected by the Ontario government. We are currently considering all options to ensure that developments do not occur without our support and consent.

We understand that recent changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* may impact the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's established procedures and authorities relating to development applications and the issuance of permits in the watershed. We would like to meet with you to better understand these impacts and to find ways to work together to ensure MCFN's rights and interests are protected, and that any potential impacts to our rights as the Treaty First Nation can be addressed through the appropriate channels. We ask that you make no decisions







within your authority respecting the former Greenbelt lands until we have had an opportunity to meet and discuss our concerns.

Please have your office reach out to Caytlen Burning at <u>caytlen.burning@mncfn.ca</u> to begin these important discussions at your earliest convenience.

Miigwech,

Gimaa (Chief) R. Stacey Laforme

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation

cc. Andrea Horwath, Mayor, City of Hamilton

Jeff Jordan, Mayor, Town of Grimsby

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change





The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby Administration

Office of the Town Clerk 160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5

Phone: 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

Email: bdunk@grimsby.ca

August 14, 2023

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority 250 Thorold Road West 3rd Floor Welland, ON L3C 3W2

ATTN: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

RE: Beamer Conservation Area

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on August 8, 2023, passed the following resolution:

Resolved that the Town of Grimsby Council request the NPCA to stop moving forward with the Beamer Conservation Area reconstruction until the NPCA consult with Grimsby Council.

Moved: Councillor Vardy

Seconded: Councillor Freake

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Regards,

Bonnie Nistico-Dunk

Town Clerk



Administration

Office of the Regional Clerk 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7 Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: I-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977 www.niagararegion.ca

July 21, 2023

CL 11-2023, July 20, 2023 PEDC 7-2023, July 12, 2023 PDS 22-2023, July 12, 2023

LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES

NIAGARA PENINSULA CONVERSATION AUTHORITY (NPCA)

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

<u>Proposed Provincial Planning Statement – Natural Heritage Policies</u> PDS 22-2023

Regional Council, at its meeting held on July 20, 2023, passed the following recommendation of its Planning and Economic Development Committee:

That Report PDS 22-2023, dated July 12, 2023, respecting Proposed Provincial Planning Statement – Natural Heritage Policies, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conversation Authority.

A copy of PDS 22-2023 is enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,

Ann-Marie Norio Regional Clerk

js

CLK-C 2023-081

cc: S. Norman, Senior Planner

M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth, Strategy and Economic Development

 $\mbox{N.}$ Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Growth, Strategy and Economic

Development



Subject: Proposed Provincial Planning Statement – Natural Heritage Policies

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Recommendations

1. That this Report **BE RECEIVED** for Information; and

2. That Report PDS 22-2023 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conversation Authority (NPCA).

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to inform Regional Council that the Province released the natural heritage policies for the proposed Provincial Planning Statement (2023) on June 16, 2023.
- In comparison to the existing Provincial Policy Statement (2020), there are no changes to the natural heritage policies. Several changes have been made to the associated natural heritage definitions.
- The proposed PPS (2023) has not carried forward the "Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan" which was introduced in the 2017 Growth Plan and fully integrated into the Niagara Official Plan which was approved by the Province in November 2022.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial consideration arising from this report.

Analysis

Background

On April 6, 2023, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) posted a proposal on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for the formation of a new Provincial Planning Statement (proposed PPS, 2023). This new planning instrument is proposed to combine the existing Provincial Policy Statement (PPS, 2020) and A Place

to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan, 2019) into a single province-wide planning document with a focus on housing.

The proposed PPS (2023) was introduced to Regional Council through CWCD 2023-77 (April 21, 2023) and Regional Council was advised of staff comments on the proposed PPS through PDS-C 20-2023 (June 7, 2023).

At the time of the initial April 6, 2023 release of the proposed PPS (2023) the natural heritage policies and their associated definitions were deferred. On June 16, 2023 the natural heritage policies and associated definitions were released by the Province for comments. The deadline for submitting comments on the ERO posting has been extended to August 4, 2023.

Proposed Policies and Definitions

In comparison to the existing Provincial Policy Statement (2020), there are no changes to the natural heritage policies. Several changes have been made to the associated natural heritage definitions. Firstly, the definition of "significant" as it applies to wetlands has been updated to reflect the revised process for identifying provincially significant wetlands which was introduced by the Province in late 2022. Secondly, "habitat of endangered species and threatened species" has been removed from the definition of "natural heritage features and areas", this change is not considered significant given that proposed policy 4.1.7 continue to prohibit development and site alteration in the habitat of endangered species and threatened species, except in accordance with provincial and federal requirements, and these habitats would continue to be protected through the Endangered Species Act.

There continues to be a requirement for municipalities to identify and protect natural heritage systems, including the consideration of connectivity and linkages (proposed policy 4.1.2) and adjacent lands (proposed policy 4.1.8). Previously released draft policies continue to require municipalities to identify a water resource system (proposed policy 4.2.1 c)).

Notably, the Province has not included a policy which prevents municipalities from going beyond the minimum standards of the proposed PPS (which were included for certain draft policies related to agriculture and employment). The introduction of the proposed PPS continues to states that "policies represent minimum standards" and "planning authorities and decision-makers may go beyond these minimum standards to address matters of importance to a specific community". This would suggest that natural

systems going beyond minimum standards – such as natural environment system (NES) option 3C implemented through the Niagara Official Plan would still be considered consistent with the proposed PPS.

Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan

When the updated Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe was released in 2017 and subsequently revised in 2019, it included policies, definitions, and mapping for a "Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan". Municipalities were required to incorporate and implement the policies and mapping into their official plans. The Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan was included as part of the integrated NES that was approved by the Province as part of the Niagara Official Plan in November 2022.

As the proposed PPS (2023) will integrate the PPS (2020) and Growth Plan (2019), there will no longer be a stand alone Growth Plan document. The Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan is not proposed to be included as part of the proposed PPS (2023), and would therefore no longer be Provincial policy.

Staff are currently considering the impacts of the loss of the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan and intend to provide comments to the Province including requesting that the "Proposed Approach to Implementation of the proposed Provincial Planning Statement" document be updated to provide further guidance to municipalities that have already fully integrated the Natural Heritage System for the Growth Plan into their municipal official plans. Staff will report back to Council once the analysis has been complete and comments have been submitted to the Province.

Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System

Through the "Proposed Approach to Implementation of the proposed Provincial Planning Statement" document that was included as part of the original ERO on April 6, 2023, it is understood that there are no proposed changes to the Greenbelt Plan policies and how the Greenbelt Plan is to be implemented. It is therefore understood that the Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System, first introduced in 2005, would continue to be Provincial policy and implemented by municipalities. The Greenbelt Plan Natural Heritage System policies and mapping form part of the Region's integrated NES.

Alternatives Reviewed

As this report is for information, there are no alternatives reviewed.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Reviewing and commenting on proposed changes to Provincial natural heritage policies aligns with Council's strategic priority of protecting Niagara's natural environment.

Other Pertinent Reports

- CWCD 2023-77 Provincial Consultation on Bill 97 and a new Provincial Policy Instrument (April 21, 2023)
- PDS-C 20-2023 Staff Comments on the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement (June 7, 2023)

Prepared by:

Sean Norman, PMP, MCIP, RPP Senior Planner Growth Strategy and Economic Development

Recommended by:

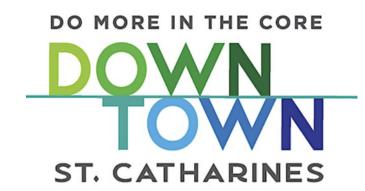
Michelle Sergi, MCIP, RPP Commissioner Growth Strategy and Economic Development

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.

Chief Administrative Officer

This report was reviewed by Cara Lampman, Manager of Environmental Planning and Erik Acs, MCIP, RPP, Acting Director of Community and Long Range Planning.



Presentation 2023

NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

St. Catharines Downtown Association

Lindsay Taylor, Sustainability Director CERPIT, OACETT #921147



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NAM Defined

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Why NAM?

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Next Steps



Natural Asset Management (NAM) Defined

NAI, 2017, Primer on Natural Asset Management

NATURAL ASSETS



The stocks of natural resources or ecosystems that contribute to providing one or more services required for the health, well-being, and long-term sustainability of a community.

NPCA's NATURAL ASSETS

Stock of natural resources or ecosystems that are managed and relied upon by the *Conservation Authority* for one or more service.



Green Infrastructure (NAI, 2017)

Natural Assets

- Wetlands
- Lakes/Rivers/Creeks
- Forests
- Fields
- Parks
- Soils

Enhanced Assets

- Rain Gardens Urban Parks
- Bioswales
- Biomimicry
- Urban Trees
 Stormwater Pond

Engineered Assets

- Permeable Pavement
- Green Roofs
- Rain Barrels
- Green Walls
- Cisterns







Canada's Target of Net Zero by 2050



To avert the worst impacts of climate change, the Government of Canada is committed to achieving netzero emissions by 2050.

This **goal will require support and engagement from all parts of society**, including provinces and territories, cities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and businesses.

COP15 Convention on Biological Diversity



The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, sets out an ambitious plan to **implement broadbased action to bring about a transformation in our societies' relationship with biodiversity by 2030**, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and ensure that, by 2050, the shared vision of living in harmony with nature is fulfilled.



Local Imperatives



Demand for active transportation, green infrastructure, and nature based solutions is growing.



Challenges with meeting service levels at the level of service residents are looking for.



Dated infrastructure that requires significant investment from the tax payer.







July 1, 2024: Date for municipalities to have an approved asset management plan for all municipal infrastructure assets that identifies current levels of service and the cost of maintaining those levels of service.

O. Reg. 588/17: ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING FOR MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE



THREE PHASES OF NAM



Phase One: Identification & Assessment of Natural Assets

- 1. Develop an asset management policy, bylaw or financial statement directing the municipality to consider natural assets.
- 2. Identify key natural assets and the services they provide.
- 3. Determine the condition of natural assets in your community and do an initial valuation.

Phase Two: Planning

- 1. Determine which assets are highest priority through a basic risk identification analysis.
- 2. Determine what scenarios you want to understand.

Phase Three: Implementation

1. Start managing your assets!

Service levels measure the performance of a system whereas levels of service refers to the quality of a given service.

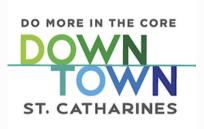
CASE STUDIES

Past and Ongoing Niagara Region NAM Projects



Conservation Halton Grindstone Creek

Collaboration between
Conservation Halton, Greenbelt
Foundation, Natural Asset
Initiative, City of Burlington &
City of Hamilton to assess the
value of Grindstone Creek



SCDA Urban Street Trees

This report assessed the value of urban street trees in the Downtown St. Catharines business improvement area



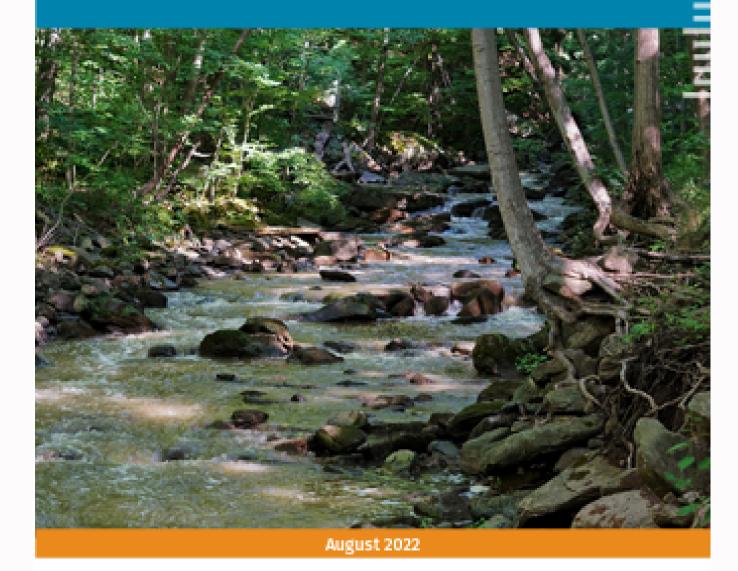
SCDA Low Impact Development (LID)

Active project to install and assess LIDs within the Downtown St. Catharines business improvement area

Grindstone Creek Watershed

Natural Assets Management Project

Main Report



Municipal Natural Assets Initiative



Grindstone Creek Watershed

Initiation of the Grindstone Creek NAM study was through a call for interest by the Greenbelt Foundation initially to Conservation Authorities and others. Conservation Halton approached the Cities of Hamilton and Burlington. Conservation Halton held discussions with the Mayor of Burlington and a proposal was pulled together and accepted by NAI and the Greenbelt Foundation. The Greenbelt Foundation paid for half the project costs, the other half was split between CH and the two municipalities.

"The total value of natural assets for stormwater services alone is estimated at more than \$2 billion (\$2,071,941,487)"

(Conservation Halton, 2022)







THE STATE, VALUE, & FUTURE OF URBAN STREET TREES (USTs)

Draft July 2023

A study and analysis within the St. Catharines Downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA)

St. Catharines Downtown Association

80 King Street, Unit #14 St. Catharines, L2R 7G1 905-685-8424 ext. 3 lindsay@MyDowntown.ca

SCDA Urban Street Trees

The tree report began with one simple question: how can we bring more trees downtown? After a thorough literature review and UST census our report concluded that large adult & mature trees provide the community the greatest economic, social, and ecological value.

Our research question changed: how can we better manage and measure our urban forests to ensure USTs reach maturity?







"Natural asset management is a meaningful way for municipalities to respond to the impacts of climate change."

Cassandra Pacey, Asset Manager, City of Waterloo (August 2022)





SCDA Low Impact Development

The SCDA is investigating sites in the BIA for LID projects. An example on the right depicts a site where a permeable surface is integrated with an active transportation resting hub.

LID Examples

Permeable pavement: allows stormwater to infiltrate & be stored in soil

Stormwater planter: captures and uses stormwater at sites where infiltration is discouraged or inaccessible

Downspout retrofits: collects or redirects stormwater for further use

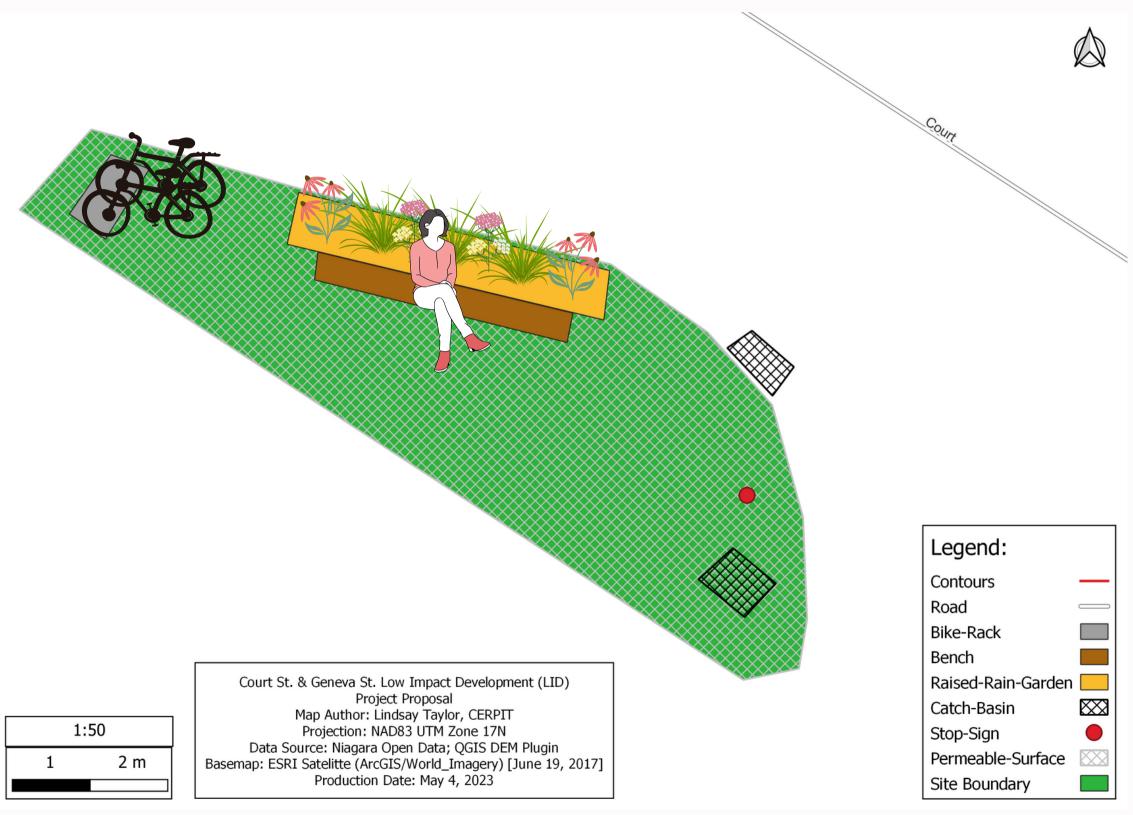
Greenroofs: maximizes evapotranspiration

for water balance targets

Swales: captures and conveys stormwater

using vegetated ditches

For more information check out the Sustainable Technologies Wiki: https://wiki.sustainabletechnologies.ca



Stakeholder Analysis

Important stakeholders concerned with the project.

Municipalities

- Fort Erie
- Grimsby
- Lincoln
- Niagara Falls
- Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Pelham
- Port Colborne
- St. Catharines
- Thorold
- Wainfleet
- Welland
- West Lincoln





















Possible Next Steps - For Discussion

- 1. Set up a meeting with the Natural Asset Initiative.
- 2. Roadmap Workshop (estimated costs vary depending on funding. Full workshop can be up to \$2,200.
- 3. Inventory of Natural Assets in Select Areas. Costs vary, can be up to \$28,000.
- 4. Full Asset Management Project. Akin to Conservation Halton. Multi-year investment. Costs vary, ranges from \$100,000-\$400,000.

Resources

Natural Assets Initiative -

https://mnai.ca/

CSA W218:23 Specifications for Natural Asset Inventories -

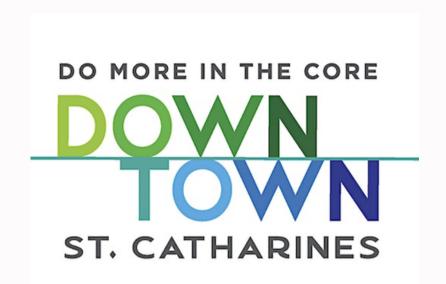
https://www.csagroup.org/store/product/2705376/

Grindstone Creek Watershed Natural Assets Management Project -

- Summary of Results and Recommendations
 - https://www.conservationhalton.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNAI-Grindstone-summary-report-101.pdf
- Main Report
 - https://www.conservationhalton.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNAI-Grindstone-main-report-104.pdf

St. Catharines Downtown Association Urban Street Trees -

- Interactive Website & Report
 - www.MyDowntown.ca/Urban-Street-Trees



THANK YOU

Lindsay Taylor, Sustainability Director CERPIT, OACETT



Lindsay@MyDowntown.ca

https://www.linkedin.com/in/lindsayttaylor/

80 King Street, Unit 14, St. Catharines







Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Natural Assets Inventory and Management Initiative

Report No: FA-38-23

Date: September 15, 2023

Recommendations:

THAT Report No. FA-38-23 RE: Natural Assets Inventory and Management Initiative **BE RECEIVED**.

Purpose:

To update the Board of Directors about NPCA's Natural Asset Management Initiative and associated activities.

Background:

Asset management refers to the accounting standards and processes used through an asset's full life cycle, from planning and acquisition through operation, maintenance, disposal or renewal. A proactive asset management plan is imperative to ensure the economic and capital value of an organization's assets over time.

Now more than ever, nature is being recognized as a valuable infrastructure asset critical for adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. Natural or green infrastructure (also called nature-based solutions) are those natural or human-made elements that provide important ecological and hydrological functions using natural processes. Natural asset infrastructure examples include natural heritage features and systems (forests, wetlands, meadows), parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces, and green roofs. Table 1 provides selected examples of green infrastructure assets. These natural assets provide essential services to people and the environment such as carbon uptake, protecting against flood and erosion, supporting biodiversity, providing shade/cooling effects, improving water quality, and many human health and recreational benefits. It is imperative to include nature and other green infrastructure into the traditional asset management planning and processes to ensure that natural assets as well as their ecosystem services are valued and maintained much like capital assets. However, there are differences on how natural assets are assessed and valued compared to traditional methods and this field is still new and emerging.

Table 1. Examples of green infrastructure assets within natural and human-made categories.

Green infrastructure assets			
<u>Natural</u>	<u>Enhanced</u>	<u>Engineered</u>	
 Wetlands Forests Meadows Lakes, rivers, streams Shoreline Lawns/gardens Parks 	 Rain gardens Bioswales Naturalized stormwater ponds Urban street trees Urban forests Trails 	Permeable pavementRain barrelsInfiltration trenchesGreen roofsCisterns	

On December 27, 2017, Ontario Regulation 588/17: Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure came into effect. This regulation sets out requirements for municipal asset management planning to help municipalities better understand their infrastructure needs and inform infrastructure planning and investment decisions. The regulation provides a phased approach and staggered timelines for municipalities to comply with the regulations' requirements and objectives. It also requires all municipal asset management plans to incorporate all other municipal infrastructure assets (including green infrastructure assets) into their plans by July 1, 2024.

Discussion:

While the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is not required to meet *O. Reg.* 588/17, the NPCA's 2021 Strategic Plan commits the organization to sound asset management planning and leadership in accounting for natural assets within NPCA's watershed jurisdiction. Furthermore, NPCA is also committed to advancing best practices through municipal support in natural asset accounting and management.

NPCA Asset Management Program

Progress on establishing the NPCA's asset management program is well underway through the establishment of a 4-year initiative and implementation schedule for asset management. A centralized asset management software system (i.e., PSD CityWide Asset Manager), also used by several municipal partners, is in place to support the asset management process including work orders and maintenance tracking. To date, an asset database has been completed which includes the following asset classes: land, land improvements (e.g., roads, bridges, septic systems), buildings, dams and water control infrastructure, monitoring gauge stations, equipment (e.g., office, information technology & general), and vehicles. The condition assessment, risk identification, and valuation (incl. depreciation and replacement costs) for buildings and equipment is complete. Integration of asset renewal into the annual budget cycle is ongoing. Next steps include completing the capital asset planning module (10-year plan), a strategic asset management policy and plan, and incorporation of NPCA-managed natural assets into its asset management plans and processes.

Natural Heritage Assets for the NPCA Watershed Jurisdiction Project (including Conservation Areas)

In 2022, the NPCA updated its natural areas inventory and associated ecological land classification mapping to inform various watershed-based resource management and climate-related processes

and initiatives. This information is crucial for qualitatively and quantitively evaluating the NPCA jurisdiction's natural assets to further assess and mitigate the impacts of climate change and the effectiveness of nature-based climate solutions.

As part of the NPCA's climate change initiatives, NPCA is currently completing carbon sequestration values of natural heritage features and natural asset analysis within the NPCA watershed jurisdiction. The project includes a natural asset database with the assessment of natural asset condition, the service and asset valuation by asset type, current potential of carbon sequestration of respective natural assets, and an interactive web-based tool for NPCA staff to interact with the natural asset registry and associated information. In addition, an integrated carbon budget model will be created for the NPCA watershed jurisdiction to establish baseline carbon storage and sequestration measurements as well as inform and prioritize decisions about investments in nature-based solutions.

Supporting our Municipal Partners: Fort Erie Natural Asset Inventory Pilot Project

As required by *O. Reg. 588/17*, the Town of Fort Erie has already completed its strategic management policy and asset management plan for core municipal services. Town staff are currently preparing information for incorporating all other municipal assets (including green infrastructure) into its asset management planning. Earlier this year, the Town of Fort Erie approached the NPCA to work together on conducting an inventory, condition and risk assessment, and valuation of municipally-owned green infrastructure assets to inform and support their asset management planning activities.

Through a collaborative approach, NPCA is leading a natural assets inventory and assessment project with the Town of Fort Erie. Given the NPCA's role in watershed-based natural resource management, most of the natural asset data was readily available and up to date. All other green infrastructure data requirements are being provided by the Town.

A major information gap identified by NPCA staff was an urban street tree inventory, which is now in progress. A tree data collection protocol and associated web-based app were developed to standardize and coordinate data collection. An interactive web-based GIS dashboard was created to illustrate, track, and share urban tree inventory data with Fort Erie staff. So far, over 7,200 individual trees have been inventoried in the Town of Fort Erie and 56% of roads have been analyzed or inventoried. Work continues into the Fall 2023 and will be an input to other key natural asset inventory and assessment activities for both the Town and NPCA. The project will be completed in Q1-2024.

Financial Implications:

These initiatives are supported through the approved operational budgets. The NPCA entered into a partnership with the Town of Fort Erie with cash and in-kind contributions from both partners.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Goal 4.1 – strengthen government relations toward collective outcomes and impact

Goal 6.3 – Improve asset management and close the state of good repair gap

Original Signed By:

Natalie Green, M.Sc., PMP, Manager, Climate Change & Special Programs

Tara Gaade, Program Coordinator, Watershed Strategies & Climate Research

Cathy Coverdale, CPA, CGA, Business & Financial Analyst

Reviewed by:

Original Signed By:

Leilani Lee-Yates, MCIP RPP Director, Planning and Development Interim Director, Watershed Strategies and Climate Change

Lise Gagon, CPA, CGA Director, Corporate Services

Submitted by:

Original Signed By:

Chandra Sharma, MCIP RPP Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer



Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) – Appointment of

Regulations Officer

Report No: FA-36-23

Date: September 15, 2023

Recommendation:

THAT Report No. FA-36-23 RE: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) – Appointment of Regulations Officer **BE RECEIVED**.

AND THAT Marlo Ostapiak, **BE APPOINTED**, for the term of employment with the NPCA, as an Officer of the NPCA and Provincial Offences Officer.

Purpose:

To appoint Marlo Ostapiak as a Regulations Officer and Provincial Offences Officer for the purposes of compliance and enforcement of Regulations made pursuant to Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Trespass to Property Act* by the Board of Directors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Background:

The Conservation Authorities Act provides for a conservation authority to appoint Officers to enforce its regulations. Furthermore, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry has implemented under the authority of Subsection 1(3) of the *Provincial Offences Act*, a class designation process for all conservation authorities whereby a conservation authority Officer appointed under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* shall be designated by the Minister simultaneously as a Provincial Offences Officer. Once appointed, Officers have the authority to enforce offences and Regulations under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, in addition to the *Trespass to Property Act*, when carrying out their duties within the jurisdiction of the conservation authority.

The prerequisite to the Minister's Provincial Offences Officer appointment is that all candidate officers:

- I. Be adequately trained in the legislation to be enforced, including the *Provincial Offences Act*:
- II. Have proof of a clean criminal record check, and;

III. Be appointed as an Officer to enforce conservation authority legislation at an official Board meeting.

Pursuant to the approval of the above-noted appointment, the Minister's requirements will have been addressed.

NPCA Officers are appointed specifically for the sections of the *Conservation Authorities Act* they are responsible for enforcing.

NPCA Regulations Officers are responsible for compliance and enforcement on private and public properties subject to Ontario Regulation 155/06 and Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

NPCA Operations staff (Superintendents, Land Care Coordinators) are responsible for compliance and enforcement in active parks and on lands owned by the NPCA where the rules for permitted uses and activities on the property are subject to Ontario Regulation 123 and Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications specific to the appointment of NPCA Officers or Provincial Offences Officers.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Related Reports and Appendices:

The duties carried out by the Compliance and Enforcement business unit are part of the NPCA's mandate and support NPCA's *Strategic Plan 2021-2031* to protect people and properties from natural hazards and climate impacts.

Authored by: Original Signed by: Original Signed by: Discrete Signed Signed

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Chandra Sharma, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer



Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022

Report No: FA-37-23

Date: September 5, 2023

Recommendations:

THAT Report No. FA-37-23 RE: Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022 and the appended Water Quality Stewardship Fact Sheet 2022 **BE RECEIVED**.

THAT the actions highlighted in the report to inform municipalities, stakeholders, and the public about the report findings and best practices to improve local water quality **BE IMPLEMENTED**.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this report **BE CIRCULATED** to municipalities, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Ministry of the Environment and Parks (MECP) and the Federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present NPCA's "Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022", and to recommend actions to inform NPCA's watershed municipalities, stakeholders, and the public about actions to improve local water quality.

Background:

The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program was implemented in 2001 and is operated in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Niagara Region, Haldimand County, and the City of Hamilton. This program consists of a combination of MECP surface water and groundwater monitoring stations combined with locally established NPCA watershed monitoring stations. The NPCA collects and analyzes hundreds of water samples each year from the streams and groundwater resources within the watershed. From this information, the NPCA can identify sources of pollution, track water quality trends, and help to assess and direct NPCA environmental programs. Also, the long-term data collected serves as a baseline by which to compare the success of various water quality improvement initiatives being undertaken by different organizations throughout the watershed.

Report No. FA-37-23

Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022

Discussion:

The NPCA "Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022" summarizes the results of the NPCA's surface water and groundwater monitoring program. The complete report can be found on the NPCA's website at the following link: https://npca.ca/watershed-health#water-quality-monitoring

Surface Water

The NPCA collects monthly surface water quality samples (during the ice-free season) at 80 monitoring stations (13 Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network stations and 67 NPCA stations) and analyzes them using several indicator parameters including chloride, nitrate, total phosphorus, total suspended solids, copper, lead, zinc, and *E. coli*. These indicator parameters are used to calculate the Canadian Water Quality Index (WQI) which provides a descriptive water quality rating for each station.

The NPCA also monitors surface water quality using benthic invertebrates (aquatic insects and animals) as indicators of stream health. Due to their restricted mobility and habitat preferences benthic invertebrates usually remain in a localized area. As a result, they are continuously subjected to the effects of all pollutants and environmental stream conditions, and as such can provide a broad overview of water quality related problems. They are abundant in all types of aquatic systems and can be easily collected and identified.

For surface water, the biological and chemical monitoring results indicate that most of Niagara's watersheds have poor or impaired water quality. Total phosphorus, *E. coli*, suspended solids, and chlorides from non-point sources (agricultural and livestock operations, faulty septic systems, winter de-icing operations) and point sources (combined sewer overflows, urban stormwater runoff) continue to be the major causes of impairment in the NPCA watershed.

Watercourses under the direct influence from the Great Lakes and Niagara River such as the Lower Welland River have higher water quality ratings. Watercourses that are strongly influenced by groundwater discharge like the Upper Twelve Mile Creek (Effingham Branch) also have higher water quality ratings as do watercourses located in areas with substantial natural landscapes like the Point Abino Drain and Beaver Creek (both located in Fort Erie). Please refer to Appendix 1 for additional information on the water quality ratings from 2018-2022.

Groundwater

The NPCA collects water quality data from 46 groundwater monitoring wells (15 wells Provincial Groundwater Water Monitoring Network and 31 wells NPCA wells). Please refer to Appendix 2 for the location of the wells within the NPCA groundwater monitoring network. This data is important to assess the ambient conditions of several bedrock and overburden aquifers found in NPCA watershed. For groundwater, monitoring results indicate that water quality was found to be highly variable with some wells exceeding the Ontario Drinking Water Standards. All groundwater quality exceedances were related to naturally occurring bedrock conditions and have been reported to the MECP and the applicable municipal Public Health Departments.

Recommendations

Report No. FA-37-23

The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program continues to provide valuable information about the health of the watershed. The poor surface water quality in the NPCA watershed has been caused by decades of environmental degradation. However, water quality programs that improve how nutrients are managed, serve to increase riparian buffers, and improve forest cover can begin to address these impacts. While collective efforts across the NPCA watershed will improve water quality over time, there is much work to be done before the water quality in the NPCA watershed improves to the point where it is able to meet federal and provincial water quality guidelines. As such, the Water Quality Monitoring Report recommends that the NPCA continue to monitor both our surface water and groundwater to ensure that there is up-to-date water quality information available, quantify trends, and continue to identify sources of contamination within the NPCA watershed.

Communication Strategy

In previous years, the Water Quality Monitoring Program Annual Summary Report was circulated via email to the Clerks at the member municipalities, the local Health Departments, and the MECP. At the October 22, 2020 NPCA Board Meeting, the NPCA Board directed staff (via Resolution FA-134-2020) to present the annual Water Quality Monitoring results and trends to the partner municipalities and to develop water quality education resources to engage stakeholders about the state of water quality and suggested best practices.

In response to the direction for the NPCA Board of Directors, the NPCA will undertake the following actions:

- 1. The Water Quality Monitoring Summary Report for the Year 2022 will be distributed to the Clerks at Niagara Region and its lower-tier municipalities, the City of Hamilton, the County of Haldimand, all associated Public Health Departments, and the local Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks office. With the circulation to the Clerk at the NPCA's watershed municipalities, an offer will be extended for NPCA staff to present the report and its associated findings to municipal council and/or senior staff.
- 2. A Water Quality Stewardship Fact Sheet 2022 summarizing the report's findings and a list of actions that individuals, communities, and businesses can undertake to improve local water quality will also be published via various mediums, such as digital posted on the NPCA's website and printed. Please see Appendix 3 for a copy of the fact sheet.
- 3. The Water Quality Monitoring Summary Report and fact sheet will be placed on the NPCA website.

Financial Implications:

The Water Quality Monitoring Program is funded through the annual operating budgets.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

The NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program provides information to partners and members of the community to support evidence-based decision-making for climate-resilient watersheds.

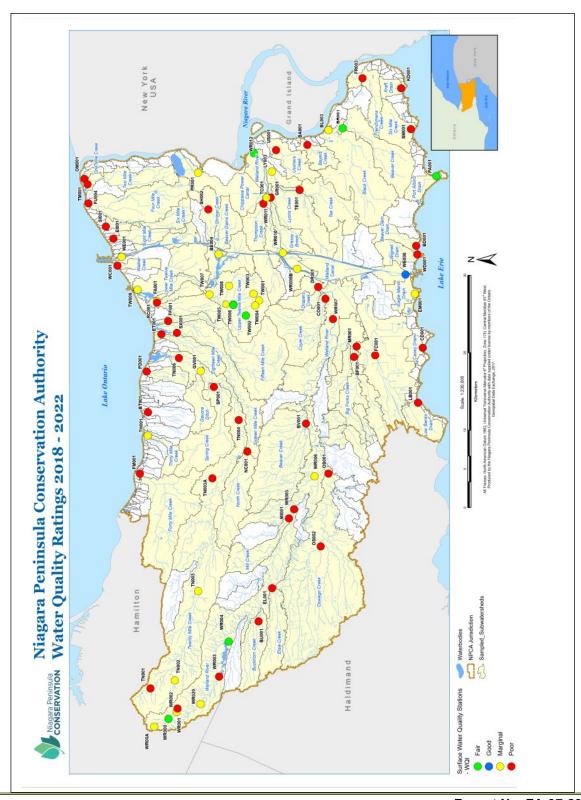
Related Reports and Appendices:

Report No. FA-37-23

Appendix 1 – Water Quality Ratings in 2018-2022 Appendix 2 – NPCA Groundwater Monitoring Network Appendix 3 – 2022 Water Quality Monitoring Report Fact Sheet
Authored by:
Original Signed by:
Joshua Diamond, M.Sc., C. Tech Manager Watershed Monitoring and Reporting
Reviewed by:
Original Signed by:
Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP Director, Watershed Management
Submitted by:
Original Signed by:
Chandra Sharma, MCIP, RPP Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

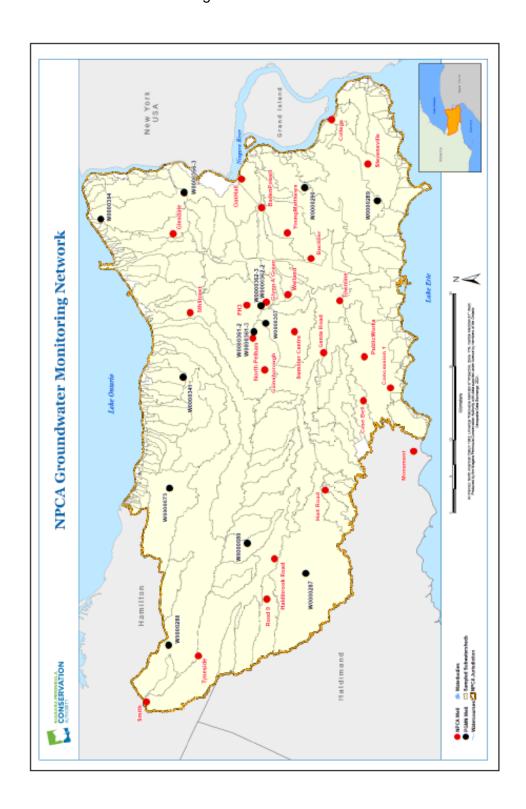
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Appendix 1 - Water Quality Ratings 2018-2022



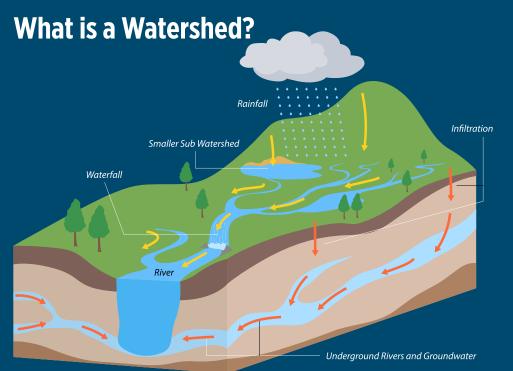
Report No. FA-37-23 Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2022 Page 5 of 7

Appendix 2 – NPCA Groundwater Monitoring Network



Appendix 3 – 2022 Water Quality Monitoring Report Fact Sheet					

Niagara Peninsula CONSERVATION 2022 Water Quality Monitoring Report Fact Sheet



A watershed is an area of land that catches rain and snow, and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Homes, farms, cottages, forests, small towns, big cities and more can make up watersheds. Some cross municipal, provincial and even international borders.

The NPCA regularly collects and tests surface water and groundwater samples (nondrinking water) at stations located throughout our watershed jurisdiction.

SURFACE WATER: WHAT ARE WE FINDING?

- Surface Water monitoring results indicate most of the watersheds in the NPCA's jurisdiction have poor water quality.
- The high concentrations of total phosphorus, E. coli and chlorides within the surface water continue to be a major cause of poor water quality.
- The sources of these pollutants are generally from both rural areas (agricultural runoff and faulty septic systems) and urban areas (combined sewer overflows and stormwater runoff).
- The best water quality is found in watercourses where water is introduced from Lake Erie and the Niagara River, in watercourses with significant groundwater discharges and in watersheds with substantial natural landscapes.

GROUNDWATER: WHAT ARE WE FINDING?

- The groundwater quality in NPCA's jurisdiction was found to be highly variable depending on the aquifer where it was found.
- The natural groundwater conditions from its host rocks and sediments and local human contaminant sources can contribute to poor groundwater quality.
- Private well owners are responsible for having their well water tested regularly and to ensure their well is properly maintained and in good condition.

NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program by the Numbers



Surface Water Monitoring Stations



Surface Water Samples Collected



26 Macroinvertebrate Samples



Since 2001



Groundwater Monitoring Wells



36 **Groundwater Samples**



Decommissioned Abandoned Water Wells for Watershed Landowners

NPCA SURFACE WATER MONITORING STATIONS

59% are rated as poor

31% are rated as marginal

9% are rated as fair

1% is rated as good





NPCA Restoration Program



BEFORE RESTORATION

AFTE RESTORATIO



The NPCA has developed a watershed restoration grant program that is geared specifically towards working with area residents to develop projects that will improve water quality, increase habitat diversity and expand forest cover. This program provides funding and expertise to help landowners to undertake restoration projects in priority areas.

2022 Restoration Program by the Numbers



26.7

Hectares Reforested



Hectares of Wetland Restored



Hectares of Riparian Habitat



70,000



4,347

What we can do to help?



What Can You Do?

- Plant native trees, wildflowers, shrubs, and/or rainwater gardens.
- Reduce the amount of mown grass on your property.
- Reduce the amount of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
- Conserve water by using low flow showers and toilets, high efficiency clothes washers and dishwashers.
- Install rain barrels to collect water for use around your yard.



What Can Your Community Do?

- Sponsor community clean ups to keep waste out of natural areas.
- Look for ways to expand the existing urban tree canopy.
- Reduce the amount of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used.



What Can Your Business Do?

- Establish a corporate volunteering program to support local initiatives such as tree plantings.
- Invest in 'greener' alternatives to current practices.
- Encourage recycling and composting in the workplace.
- Donate towards water quality and habitat improvement programs.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of environmental programs.



NPCA Corporate Programs and Initiatives

Become an NPCA volunteer: learn new skills, network, support local conservation projects, and step into nature.

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation: is a registered charity, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who are dedicated to raising funds that aid in the conservation of our natural environment for present & future generations. Donate today!

Land Securement: NPCA's new Land Securement Strategy lays the foundation for an ambitious and technically sound acquisition program that will address priorities for greenspace access, climate change, and protection of natural and cultural heritage across the watershed.

Grant Programs

Restoration: fostering collaboration among partners in the watershed to protect and restore water quality and diverse habitats by completing projects that meet the long-term mandate of the NPCA.

Water Well Decommissioning: the NPCA is pleased to offer a grant program to watershed residents for the plugging and sealing of abandoned or unused water wells.

More Information

Annual Water Quality Report

Watershed Report Cards

Do you have questions not answered by this summary document? Visit npca.ca for the full report or contact us for more information: info@npca.ca

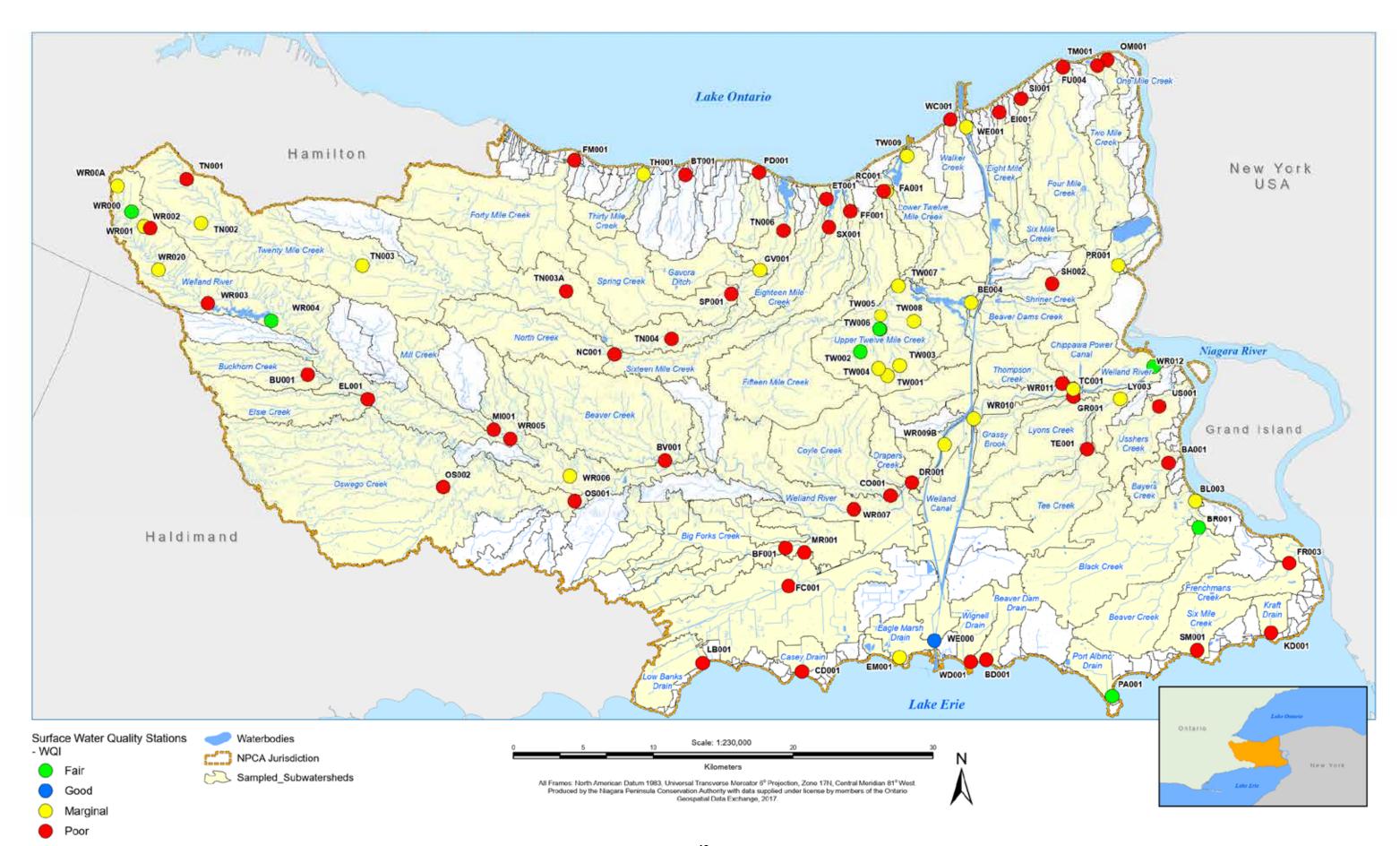
Property owners can scan this QR code for more information on Water Quality Best Management Practices



250 Thorold Street West, 3rd Floor Welland, Ontario, L3C 3W2

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WATER QUALITY RATINGS: 2018 - 2022





Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: 2023 NPCA Quarterly Progress Report #5 Required for Conservation

Authorities Act Amendments: Transition Plan and Agreements (O. Reg.

687/21) and Request for Extension of Final Transition Date.

Report No: FA-35-23

Date: September 15, 2023

Recommendation:

THAT Report No. FA-35-23 RE: 2023 NPCA Quarterly Progress Report #5 Required for Conservation Authorities Act Amendments: Transition Plan and Agreements (O. Reg. 687/21) **BE RECEIVED**.

AND FURTHER THAT a request to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry **BE SUBMITTED** to extend the transition deadline to April 30, 2024 for concluding the Category 3 cost apportioning agreements between the NPCA and its participating municipalities, and until the municipal budget process is concluded and Conservation Authority Levy has been approved by the participating municipalities.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the Board of Directors on the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's (NPCA) fifth quarterly progress report under Ontario Regulation 687/21 submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and seek approval for the extension of final transition conformity deadline as prescribed in O. Reg. 687/21.

Background:

On October 7, 2021, Ontario Regulation 687/21: Transition Plans and Agreements for Programs and Services Under Section 21.1.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act was passed requiring Conservation Authorities to submit quarterly progress reports, formerly to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), and now to the MNRF. The first such report was submitted to MECP in July, 2022 followed by four quarterly reports in 2022 and 2023.

Discussion:

NPCA Quarterly Progress Report #5 details activities ending June 30th 2023 (Attachment 1). The last remaining quarterly progress report is due by October 1, 2023 and the prescribed transition date is Jan 1st 2024. Conservation Authorities are required to submit a final version of Programs and Services Inventory and confirmation of Service Level Agreement (SLA) in regards to Category 3 cost apportioned programs and services by the transition date.

There is provision for a Conservation Authority to submit an extension request to the Ministry by October 1-2023, if more time is required beyond January 1, 2024 to meet the transition requirements associated with cost apportioning agreements for Category 3.

NPCA staff have shared the draft agreements with partnering municipalities and follow-up meetings are in progress. However, delays are anticipated in meeting Provincial deadlines due to alignment with the municipal budget approval process. The Conservation Authority Levy is generally approved as a package through the municipal budget process between December to March of the budget year. During municipal discussions it has become evident that the Provincial deadline is not in alignment with the budget process and an extension will be required to complete these agreements.

Staff recommend that an extension request be sent to the Ministry requesting additional time (until April 30, 2024) to conclude Category 3 cost apportioning agreements between the NPCA and its participating municipalities to allow appropriate council approvals of CA Levy through the municipal budget process.

Financial Implications:

Financial implications of *Conservation Authorities Act* changes and transition requirements in 2023 have been addressed through internal efficiencies, existing staff resources, and Board approved reserve funding.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Quarterly Progress Report #5

Authored and Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Chandra Sharma, MCIP, RPP Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer



Quarterly Progress Report 5 (period ending June 2023)

As required for Conservation Authorities Act Amendments: Transition Plan and Agreements Regulation (O.Reg. 687/21)

Submitted To:

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)

August15th, 2023

NPCA Transition Plan Deliverables for the Period Ending June 31st, 2023

The NPCA Transition Plan and Inventory of Programs and Services was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), the City of Hamilton, Haldimand County, and Niagara Region as per MECP timelines.

A draft Service Level Agreement was approved by the NPCA Board of Directors on June 16th 2023 with direction to circulate to Jurisdiction Municipalities.

Report No: FA-28-23 Date: June 16, 2023

Agreement of Services with Municipalities as required under the Conservation

Authorities Act Phase 1 Regulation

Recommendation:

- 1. THAT Report No. FA-28-23 RE: Agreements of Services with Municipalities as required under the Conservation Authorities Act Phase 1 Regulation BE RECEIVED.
- 2. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to circulate the draft Agreement of Services, as appended, for discussion with NPCA's partner municipalities as part of the 2024 Budget process, related to Category 2 and 3 Programs and Services.
- 3. THAT this report BE CIRCULATED to NPCA's partner (funding) municipalities, lower-tier municipalities, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP).
- 5. THAT the final Agreements of Services BE PRESENTED to the NPCA Board of Directors for final approval.
- 6. AND FURTHER THAT the final executed Agreements of Services BE POSTED online as required by the Conservation Authorities Act.

Following the June 16th Meeting of NPCA Board, the Draft Service Level Agreement and Schedule 2 (Category 2 non-Mandatory Services) has been circulated to NPCA Partners Municipalities.

Planned Municipal Meetings:

Following circulation of NPCA Board Report and Draft Service Level Agreement, NPCA has scheduled the following meeting to be held in August 2023.

- a) August 22nd 2023 Haldimand County
- b) August 28th 2023 Niagara Region

Levy Regulation and Budget Transition:

NPCA has completed first round of budget transition based on levy regulations and much earlier than required by the Ministry deadline. Transition to the new budget/levy model was partially executed for the 2023 budget cycle. Final budget transition has been launched with the 2024 budget planning in May 2024.

Difficulty and Challenges related to Transition Timelines:

Bill 23 has created significant work load for NPCA and Municipalities and uncertainty with respect to Category 2 and 3 programs and service. Furthermore, the multiple provisions related to municipalities have impacted any ongoing progress as municipalities are trying to understand the impacts of various provisions on their own business. At this time, NPCA does not plan to request extension for transition deadlines. However, the repercussions from Bill 23 may affect NPCA's ability to complete the agreements within the required timeframe.

Further updates will be provided in future Progress Reports.