

Board of Directors Meeting

December 15, 2023, 9 a.m.

(hot breakfast will be served from 8:30 - 10:30 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, Attiwasandeg (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, November 17, 2023 (For Approval)**

Page # 1

- 3.2. Closed Session Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated November 17, 2023 (For Approval- to be circulated under separate cover)**

4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- 5.1 Correspondence dated November 17, 2023, from The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward RE: Motion regarding support for the Province to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, storm water management systems, and certain water taking activities (For Receipt)**

Page # 5

- 5.2 Correspondence dated December 4, 2023, from Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network RE: Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Request for Support**

Page # 6

5.3 Correspondence Dated November 30, 2023, from Conservation Ontario to the provincial government on three Environmental Registry proposals, RE:

- Proposed regulatory amendments to encourage greater reuse of excess soil

Page # 8

- Proposed amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act

Page # 14

6. PRESENTATIONS

7. DELEGATIONS

8. CONSENT ITEMS

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Report No. FA-52-23 RE: Conservation Areas Infrastructure Update (For Approval)

Page # 16

9.2 Report No. FA-51-23 RE: 2024 Full Authority Board Meeting Dates (For Approval)

Page # 21

9.3 Report No. FA-53-23 RE: Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Request for Support (For approval)

Page # 25

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 PAC Committee Minutes dated November 30, 2023 (For Approval)

Page # 27

11. MOTIONS

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.1 Verbal update RE: Nagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT

Board of Directors Meeting

November 17, 2023, 9 a.m.

Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation

3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 9:04 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

OTHERS:

STAFF PRESENT:

- C. Sharma, CAO / Secretary – Treasurer
- E. Baldin, Manager Land Planning
- A. Christie, Director, Conservation Areas
- D. Deluce, Senior Manager Environmental Planning & Policy
- M. Ferrusi, Manager, People and Performance
- L. Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services
- E. Gervais, Manager, Corporate Support Services
- L. Lee-Yates, Director, Planning and Development
- A. Parks, Manager, Planning Ecology
- G. Shaule, Administrative Assistant Corporate Resources
- S. Shah, Accounting Coordinator
- J. Sinibaldi, Manager, Strategic Business Planning and Public Relations

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Addition of item:

Item# 6.1 Presentation RE: 30 by 30 Program and Canada Target 1

Resolution No. FA-112-2023

Moved by Stew Beattie

Seconded by Donna Cridland

THAT the Full Authority Board Agenda on November 17, 2023 **BE ADOPTED** as amended.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated, October 20, 2023

3.2. Closed Session Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated October 20, 2023

Resolution No. FA-113-2023

Moved by John Metcalfe

Seconded by Patrick O'Neill

THAT the following Minutes **BE APPROVED**:

- **Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated, October 20, 2023**
- **Closed Session Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated October 20, 2023**

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

- **CAO Chandra Sharma was recognized as the finalist for Women in Business Corporate Leadership at the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce (GNCC) event.**
- **Town of Lincoln Heritage Committee is working on Heritage Designation of Balls Falls Conservation Area.**
- **NPCA Chair and CAO attended the announcement as invited partners in a Great Lakes Innovation Initiative by MP Vance Badawey, Mayors of Port Colborne and Thorold as well as the Hamilton Oshawa Ports Authority (HOPA). The proposed initiative aims at building a facility for innovative programming and business through remediation of brownfield lands transferred by Seaway Authority to HOPA.**

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence dated October 23, 2023, from City of Niagara Falls RE: Statutory Public Meeting for a Regional Official Plan Amendment Application (Proposed Uppers Quarry, City of Niagara Falls) PDS 33-2023

Resolution No. FA-114 -2023

Moved by Mark Tadeson

Seconded by Diana Huson

THAT Correspondence dated October 23, 2023, from City of Niagara Falls RE: Statutory Public Meeting for a Regional Official Plan Amendment Application (Proposed Uppers Quarry, City of Niagara Falls) PDS 33-2023 **BE RECEIVED**

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Presentation RE: 30x30 Program and Canada Target 1. Eric Baldin, Manager, Land Planning spoke to this.

Resolution No. FA-115-2023

Moved by Brian Grant

Seconded by Diana Huson

THAT Presentation RE: 30x30 Program and Canada Target 1 BE RECIEVED

CARRIED

7. DELEGATIONS

8. CONSENT ITEMS

- 8.1 Report No. FA-49-23 RE: Conservation Authority Act Transition Requirement for Programs and Services for the year 2024. Chandra Sharma, CAO / Secretary – Treasurer and Eric Baldin, Manager Land Planning provided comments. Discussion ensued.**

Resolution No. FA-116-2023

Moved by Donna Cridland

Seconded by Stewart Beattie

THAT Report No. FA-49-23 RE: Conservation Authority Act Transition Requirement for Programs and Services for the year 2024 BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 10.1 Governance Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday November 9, 2023.**

Resolution No. FA-117-2023

Moved by Michelle Seaborn

Seconded by Donna Cridland

THAT Governance Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday November 9, 2023 BE APPROVED

CARRIED

- 10.2 Report No. FA-47-23 RE: NPCA Insurance Coverage. Lise Gagnon, Director Corporate Services spoke to this report.**

Resolution No. FA-118-2023

Moved by Patrick O'Neill

Seconded by John Metcalfe

THAT Report No. FA-47-23 RE: NPCA Insurance Coverage BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

11. MOTIONS

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

13. NEW BUSINESS

- 13.1 Verbal update RE: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation (NPCF)**

- **Director's Challenge to support The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation. Members were encouraged to Donate to the Foundation.**

- Winter Solstice concert will be December 20, 2023, at Balls Falls- donated prizes are welcome for silent auction
- Video of Comfort Maple being created with Niagara College
- Volunteer appreciation event in recognition of NPCF at the Town of Pelham
- Table was sponsored by NPCF at National Philanthropy Event in Hamilton
- Social media campaign to raise awareness.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. FA-119-2023

Moved by Mark Tadeson

Seconded by Donna Cridland

THAT The Full Authority Board meeting dated November 17, 2023 **MOVE INTO** closed session at 9:44 a.m.

CARRIED

14.1 A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of The Full Authority Board of Directors (Confidential Report No. FA-48-23 RE: NPCA Lease Agreement- to be circulated under separate cover)

14.2 Labour Relations, Human Resource or Employee Negotiations - (Confidential Report No. FA-50-23 RE: Compensation Review and Assessment- to be circulated under separate cover)

Resolution No. FA-120-2023

Moved by Donna Cridland

Seconded by Stewart Beattie

THAT the meeting **RECONVENE** in open session at 10:38 a.m.

CARRIED

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair **ADJOURNED** The Full Authority Board Meeting on November 17, 2023 at 10:39 a.m.

November 17, 2023

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of November 14, 2023 the following motion regarding support for the Province to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, storm water management systems, and certain water taking activities was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-569

DATE: November 14, 2023

MOVED BY: Councillor Maynard

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roberts

WHEREAS the Municipality, in support of the Quinte Conservation Authority, actively supports the Source Water Protection Program, as part of local efforts to implement the Clean Water Act, 2006 and its regulations to protect local municipal drinking water sources;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is proposing to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, stormwater management systems, and certain water taking activities;

AND WHEREAS In 2018, Bill 68, the Open for Business Act was passed, whereby it legislated that less complex activities that pose low-risk to the environment should not be required to go through the approval process and instead, should self-register on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR);

AND WHEREAS Quinte Conservation Authority has outlined in their October 24, 2023 report to their Board, that the activities proposed to move to the EASR may pose too much risk to drinking water, and can pose threats to human health and the environment;

AND WHEREAS Quinte Conservation Authority noted the source water protection concern generally lies in the fact the Ministry will no longer undertake an up-front detailed review of applications related to the specified activities, thereby potentially weakening regulatory oversight;

AND WHEREAS the specified activities, which have the potential to cause significant adverse impacts to the natural environment and human health will no

longer be subject to public and site-specific scrutiny prior to commencing operation in Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County supports the concerns outlined by Quinte Conservation Authority and urges the Provincial government to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, stormwater management systems, and certain water taking activities; and

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, Todd Smith, Bay of Quinte M.P.P. and Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and all Ontario Conservation Authorities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Maynard and Marcia Wallace, CAO



December 4, 2023

Dear: Chandra Sharma

Subject: Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Request for Support

On behalf of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network (NEBN), we are reaching out to individuals and organizations like yours within the Niagara Escarpment area to enhance awareness and garner support for our newly established conservation initiative. The oversight of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere (NEB), previously associated with the Niagara Escarpment Commission, has been restructured to a non-governmental organization. The NEBN has been founded to facilitate the administration of the NEB as a community-driven, grassroots entity, dedicated to fulfilling the criteria mandated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Program.

This pivotal transformation in governance is in response to UNESCO's directive for a revamped Biosphere framework, as it was deemed inappropriate to uphold oversight within a governmental framework. In 2021, a Transition Leadership Committee joined with Plenty Canada, an Indigenous non-profit organization committed to community collaboration to promote environmental sustainability worldwide. This collaboration culminated in a memorandum of understanding, shaping the path toward a novel co-governance structure for the NEB. Significant progress has been made, and in the spring of 2022, the NEBN attained official incorporation status under provincial regulations.

The NEBN stands as the official entity dedicated to renewing UNESCO's mission and upholding the NEB's designation. We have now reached a juncture where we seek your involvement. As a respected figure within the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere, your support holds immense value in reaffirming your commitment to the NEB designation. Given the ongoing UNESCO assessment of the NEB designation, your support will play an important role in safeguarding this globally esteemed recognition.

We have drafted a proposed motion of support for consideration. We extend our gratitude for considering this important matter and your potential support of our cause. Our timelines are rather tight, and we are hoping to secure letters of support before the end of January 2024 to include in the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Periodic Review.

For your convenience, additional information about the NEBN can be obtained from our website at <http://nebnetwork.org/>.

Sincerely,

Norman Ragetlie Co-Chair
Charlene Winger-Jones Co-Chair

Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network

Cc: Amanda Harwood, Plenty Canada
amandaharwood@plentycanada.com



Reema Kureishy
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Environmental Policy Branch
40 St. Clair Avenue West, 10th Floor
Toronto Ontario, M4V 1M2

November 30, 2023

Re: Conservation Ontario's comments on the "Proposed regulatory amendments to encourage greater reuse of excess soil" (ERO#019-7636)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Proposed regulatory amendments to encourage greater reuse of excess soil" (ERO#019-7636). Conservation Ontario (CO) represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs), whose mandatory programs and services include natural hazard management and Drinking Water Source Protection.

Protection of Drinking Water Sources and Application of Source Protection Plans

Appropriate safeguards must remain in place to ensure that reuse of salt-impacted soil would not adversely impact municipal drinking water sources. It is Conservation Ontario's opinion that that proposed 100m setback from existing or planned potable wells for use of salt-impacted soil at certain properties is insufficient to protect municipal drinking water sources from potential contamination. Rather, Conservation Ontario strongly recommends the proposed rules be amended such that, in addition to the proposed 100m setback, the use of salt-impacted soil should not be allowed in protection zones identified under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* where the vulnerability score is 10. It is also strongly recommended that the use of salt-impacted soil should not be allowed in Issue Contributing Areas for chloride identified under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

Further, the proposal to exempt specific excess soil management operations from requiring an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) is not supported. The current framework under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* allows for these activities to be managed through prescribed instrument policies as provided in Source Protection Plans. The proposed exemption would remove the ability for local Source Protection Plan policies to

effectively manage these activities. If approved, Conservation Ontario strongly recommends that the exemption not apply to excess soil management operations where the activities are identified as significant drinking water threats under the *Clean Water Act*.

Consideration of Natural Hazards

This proposal, the *Environmental Protection Act*, and the Rules for Soil Management and Excess Soil Quality Standards generally do not provide direction for the placement or storage of excess soil as it relates to natural hazards. This is a significant gap, as a proponent could meet requirements under the *Environmental Protection Act*, and still be undertaking works within an area regulated for natural hazards by a local CA (e.g., storage of excess soil within 30m of a water body, which may be directly in the floodplain). Such works may require written permission from the local CA for the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material (e.g., excess soil). To assist proponents with navigating the legislative and regulatory landscape for excess soil, the Ministry is encouraged to clarify the need to avoid natural hazard areas and to promote coordination amongst applicable regulatory authorities (including CAs) to ensure effective and appropriate reuse of excess soil.

Compliance with Rules in Regulation (Enforcement and Monitoring)

Conservation Ontario appreciates the Province's objectives of clarifying regulatory requirements and exploring opportunities for greater reuse of excess soil in Ontario. However, we are concerned with the proposed shift to exempt certain excess soil management operations from requiring a waste ECA and direct proponents to follow rules in regulation instead. The ECA process involves direct Ministry review of applications, ensuring that the activity will not adversely affect the environment or human health. The shift to a rules in regulation approach would remove direct provincial oversight of these activities, which is concerning particularly in areas where municipal drinking water sources require protection from contamination

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Proposed regulatory amendments to encourage greater reuse of excess soil" (ERO#019-7636). Additional detailed comments are provided in Attachment 1 to this letter. Please contact the undersigned should this letter require any clarification.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Fischer

Nicholas Fischer
Policy and Planning Liaison

1 Attachment: Detailed Comments
c.c: All Conservation Authority CAOs/GMs

Attachment 1:

Detailed Conservation Ontario Comments the "Proposed regulatory amendments to encourage greater reuse of excess soil" (ERO#019-7636)

Proposed Amendments	Conservation Ontario Comments
<p>Exempt specified excess soil management operations from a waste environmental compliance approval (ECA) subject to rules</p> <p>A. Topsoil and landscaping reuse depots</p> <p>B. Aggregate reuse depots</p> <p>C. Small liquid soil depots</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Ontario is concerned that the proposal to exempt specified excess soil management operations from the current requirement to obtain a waste Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) would weaken provincial oversight of these activities in areas where municipal drinking water sources require protection from contamination. If the amendments proceed as proposed, these exemptions must be complemented by appropriate oversight and enforcement to ensure operators are appropriately following the rules outlined in regulation. The current framework allows these activities to be managed through prescribed instrument policies (e.g., waste ECAs as outlined in subsection 1.0.1(1)(7) of the <i>Clean Water Act, 2006</i>) in source protection plans. The proposed exemption would take away the ability for local source protection plan policies to manage these activities through the ECA process. Conservation Ontario recommends that the proposed exemption should not apply to excess soil management operations where the activities are identified as significant drinking water threats under the <i>Clean Water Act, 2006</i>.
<p>Enhanced reuse opportunities for salt-impacted soil (Section D, Part I in the Soil Rules)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Ontario is concerned that enhanced reuse opportunities for salt-impacted soil would not adequately protect municipal drinking water sources. Specifically, the 100m setback from existing or planned potable wells or properties expected to use groundwater wells for potable purposes is insufficient to protect municipal drinking water sources from contamination from salt-impacted soil. Under the <i>Clean Water Act, 2006</i>, well head protection zones have been identified for each well and are based on best available science and technical assessment. Studies undertaken consider the vulnerability/permeability of the soil and time of travel of water and contaminants to the well. Protection zones where activities are identified as significant drinking water threats can exceed the 100m setback.

Proposed Amendments	Conservation Ontario Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to maintaining the current 100m setback, Conservation Ontario recommends the following amendments to the proposed rules to provide further protection for municipal drinking water sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of salt-impacted soil should not be allowed in protection zones identified under the <i>Clean Water Act, 2006</i> where the vulnerability score is 10; and, ○ Use of salt-impacted soil should not be allowed in Issue Contributing Areas for chloride identified under the <i>Clean Water Act, 2006</i>. • While the MECP is proposing to retain rules that prohibit placement of salt-impacted soils within 100m of wells and 30m of surface water bodies (<i>note: the proposal incorrectly states that the current setback from surface water bodies is 100m</i>), as well as new prohibitions for use at agricultural properties in areas used for growing crops, there is no discussion of the impacts of natural hazards. For example, there is potential for salt-impacted soil placed in areas susceptible to flooding to transport the salt during flood events or to increase the flood risk. It is recommended that placement of salt-impacted soils in natural hazard areas be considered in the proposed amendments to protect sources of drinking water. While a restriction exists for placement of salt-impacted soil within 30m of a surface water body, Conservation Ontario notes that floodplains can extend significantly further than 30m from a water body. Proper setbacks should also be considered for sites receiving salt-impacted soil to avoid interaction with stormwater management facilities. • With appropriate safeguards in place to protect municipal sources of drinking water, Conservation Ontario acknowledges that the proposal would enhance opportunities to reuse salt-impacted soil in areas where it is deemed to have minimal impact. If the amendments proceed, Conservation Ontario recommends road projects be prioritized for the re-use of salt-impacted soil, given the elevated levels of chloride which exist in these areas due to road maintenance. • The proposed rules state that a landscape plan would need to be prepared and certified by an expert (e.g., a licensed landscape architect) to permit the use of salt-

Proposed Amendments	Conservation Ontario Comments
	<p>impacted soil on properties with a community, institutional, parkland or residential use. This expert would be required to identify the acceptable concentration of salt-related contaminants in these areas. Conservation Ontario is concerned that a landscape architect may not have the necessary expertise to determine acceptable chloride concentration (as opposed to, for example, a Qualified Person). Greater clarity is required as to what information an expert such as a landscape architect would base their decision-making on. It is recommended that such experts base their assessments on targets identified in relevant source protection and watershed plans, where such exist.</p>
<p>Enable greater soil management at Class 2 soil management sites and create greater alignment at local waste transfer facilities and depots (section 21 and 25 of the Excess Soil Regulation and associated provisions in the Soil Rules)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the proposed amendments for Class 2 soil management sites, the Ministry is proposing to allow mixing of soil from different projects areas into one stockpile so long as there is confidence that the mixed soils are of similar quality and there is no evidence of contamination. Conservation Ontario requests additional clarity on how “confidence” will be determined to allow for the mixing of soils from different areas into a single stockpile.
<p>Clarify the responsibility of a qualified person (QP) when dewatering or solidifying liquid soil (section 6(4) of the Excess Soil Regulation, as well as associated rules under the Soil Rules)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Ontario requests clarification on the rationale for removing the requirement for a QP to confirm there will be no negative effect from the use of a polymer, or to ensure that the polymer and any potential break down products will not result in an adverse effect. The proposal is to instead require a QP to undertake their investigation to verify that “such information does not identify concerns that an adverse effect may result from the use of these polymers, or their breakdown products, for this purpose in soil.” This shift seems to imply the project leader or operator will make the final decision regarding the use of a polymer, rather than this decision coming from a QP. Having a QP attest to there being “no negative effects” prior to the use of a polymer is an important baseline to assist with monitoring the effects on the surrounding environment. Conservation Ontario recommends the current process be retained which required a QP to confirm that the storage and final

Proposed Amendments	Conservation Ontario Comments
	<p>placement of the excess soil will not cause an adverse effect.</p>
<p>Greater flexibility for storage of soil adjacent to waterbodies (storage rules in the Soil Rules document)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Ontario is concerned with the proposal to allow soil storage within 30m of a water body for projects excavating in or near that area. Through regulations made pursuant to Section 28 of the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>, CAs regulate development, including the temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, on sites located within CA regulated areas. Storage of soils in the floodplain is generally not supported by CAs due to the associated natural hazards. As a result, the changes facilitated by the proposed regulatory amendment may conflict with CA regulatory policies and may result in a contravention of an individual CAs' Section 28 regulation. While Conservation Ontario acknowledges the proposed amendments would only permit storage if mitigation measures are in place to minimize adverse effects to the water body, it is unclear what level of monitoring and Ministry-led enforcement would occur to ensure these sites appropriately employ mitigation measures. Therefore, it is recommended that soil storage occur outside of the hazard area to mitigate any adverse impacts on the waterbody, including sources of drinking water.

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
Tel: 905.895.0716 Email: info@conservationontario.ca
www.conservationontario.ca



November 30, 2023

Public Input Coordinator
MNRF – RPD PB – Natural Heritage Section
300 Water St., 2nd Floor South
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

RE: Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Proposed amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act" (ERO# 019-7696)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the "Proposed amendments to the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*" (*NEPDA*). Conservation Ontario represents Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs). These comments are not intended to limit the consideration of comments shared individually by CAs.

It is Conservation Ontario's understanding that, through Bill 139, the *Less Red Tape, More Common Sense Act, 2023*, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is proposing amendments to the *NEPDA*. Conservation Ontario offers comments on the following aspects of the MNRF's proposal: (1) Expanding the Minister's regulation-making powers to allow broader exemptions for low-risk activities, and (2) Broadening the range of Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC) staff compliance tools and powers.

Expanding the Minister's regulation-making powers to allow broader exemptions for low-risk activities.

ERO# 019-7696 indicates a proposal to "expand the Minister's regulation-making powers to allow broader exemptions for low-risk activities where standard conditions would provide appropriate mitigation in regulation". It is noted that subsection 23(c) of the *NEPDA* currently provides the regulation-making authority to exempt any class or classes of development from the requirement of obtaining a development permit under the Act, and specific exemptions are included under O. Reg. 828 under the Act. Conservation Ontario requests clarity on the expansion of these powers, given that no legislative amendments are proposed to this effect in Bill 139. If exemptions are broadened, Conservation Ontario requests an opportunity to review a detailed list of proposed activities for exemption, prior to finalization. Where development activities may be exempt under the *NEPDA*, proponents must be aware of other applicable legislation, permits and approvals that may be required for their project, including permission under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA). Under Section 28 of the CAA, CAs may require permission for development, alteration, or interference activities in a regulated area to protect people and property from the risks of natural hazards, including flooding and erosion hazards. The MNRF is encouraged to

communicate this requirement to proponents to ensure that all other applicable approvals related to the development works can be obtained prior to construction, which will help to improve service delivery and reduce potential delays.

Broadening the range of compliance tools and powers to provide NEC staff greater abilities to inspect and address non-compliant development activities.

It is Conservation Ontario's understanding that amendments are proposed to Section 28 of the *NEPDA* to facilitate efficient exchange of information between NEC staff and other types of enforcement personnel, which would include CA provincial offences officers designated under the *CAA*. Conservation Ontario is supportive of the proposed amendments, particularly with respect to the exchange of information between NEC staff and other enforcement agencies. CA officers regularly collaborate with NEC enforcement staff for development and site alterations proposed within *NEPDA* and CA regulated areas, including violations affecting both the *NEPDA* and *CAA*. Formalizing this process would expedite review of development applications under both pieces of legislation, including processing offences.

Furthermore, in accordance with Schedule 11 of Bill 139, a new *NEPDA* Section 28.0.1 is proposed making it an offence to knowingly make a false statement in an application or in any other document required to be submitted under the *NEPDA* or knowingly making a false or misleading statement to an enforcement officer or otherwise obstructing them. Conservation Ontario acknowledges the proposed amendment would be effective for encouraging clients and alleged offenders to fully cooperate in application and enforcement process.

Given the *NEPDA* and the *CAA* are both valued pieces of environmental legislation, we ask the Ministry to consider amending the *CAA* with similar administration and enforcement tools mentioned above. Specifically, the Ministry has not indicated the *CAA* would be amended to facilitate efficient exchange of information between CA staff and other types of enforcement personnel, nor is it proposed the *CAA* would be amended with similar legislation indicated in proposed *NEPDA* Section 28.0.1 above. This recommendation would improve compliance, assist officers with appropriately collecting statements, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of persons making statements under the *CAA*.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the "Proposal to amend the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act". Should you have any questions regarding the comments in this letter please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Brandi Walter

Brandi Walter
Policy and Planning Liaison

c.c. CAOs, All Niagara Escarpment Conservation Authorities

Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
Tel: 905.895.0716 Email: info@conservationontario.ca
www.conservationontario.ca

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Conservation Areas Infrastructure Update

Report No: FA-52-23

Date: December 15, 2023

Recommendation:

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-52-23 RE: Conservation Areas Infrastructure Update **BE RECEIVED**;
2. **THAT** staff **CONTINUE** to seek community input in regard to the proposed 6 month pilot at St. Johns Conservation Area and that a report be brought back with staff recommendations in October 2024.
3. **AND FURTHER THAT** the Board **APPROVE** a formal opening of the Rockway Conservation Area formal entrance in the Spring of 2024.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the NPCA Board of Directors on a multi-site infrastructure project in 2023 as well as an update on remaining project tasks scheduled for completion in 2024.

Background:

Since 2020, the NPCA experienced a substantial increase in park visitation. NPCA's active sites saw an increase of 159% and passive conservation areas saw an average of 500 hikers a day and over 100,000 visitors annually. This increase in visitation was problematic due to lack of parking and poor overall infrastructure at these parks. With increased visitation, the NPCA, like other park and conservation area operators, observed a stark increase in non-permitted activities and destructive behaviours within its 41 conservation areas. All such activities represent contraventions of Section 29 of the Conservation Authorities Act. Activities such as non-permitted camping and fires, vandalism and defacement of NPCA property and natural heritage features, prohibited removal of plant and forestry materials, and the creation of unsanctioned trails and access points. In addition to these observations, conservation area users and staff noted an increase in litter, illegal dumping, operation of non-permitted motorized off-road vehicles, and the consumption of controlled substances within conservation areas. Within staffed conservation areas, these behaviours and activities occurred most frequently during unstaffed hours, and generally outside the hours of operation, leading to concern with the frequency and manner by which people were accessing conservation areas across the watershed.

To address poor infrastructure, staff began documenting NPCA's unfunded priorities and state-of-good repair (SOGR) gaps pertaining to NPCA assets. Documentation and monitoring of SOGR helped staff identify funding needs outside the current budgets. Through an initial assessment, staff identified a state of good repair gap of \$7.4 million and began researching funding opportunities to

support larger infrastructure projects that would promote increasing access to greenspace within NPCA conservation areas aligned with NPCA's 10-Year Strategic Plan priorities approved in 2021.

On April 15, 2022 the NPCA Board of Directors consented to the successful application to improve NPCA conservation area greenspace infrastructure through the FedDev Ontario (Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario) Canada Community Revitalization Fund. The project included increase safe access to NPCA sites through more parking and improved trails, boardwalks and stairs to 6 conservation areas by:

- Addition of automated gates to manage problematic non-permitted activities
- Enhance accessibility for disabled visitors through designated parking and accessible trails
- Promote community education through developing and installing interpretive and wayfinding signage
- Creating or improving parking lots that incorporate low impact development features
- Upgrading 21 km of trails

Following the successful approval of federal funding, annual updates were provided to the Board of Directors on June 17, 2022 and July 21, 2023.

In 2021, NPCA successfully purchased property located on Regional Road 69 (Rockway Community Club) and staff sought Federal government approval to add the Rockway Enhancement Project as one of the Canadian Community Revitalization Fund projects.

In the fall of 2022, NPCA staff developed a concept to enhance the newly acquired property at the Rockway Conservation Area. NPCA staff used the concept to consult with key stakeholders and held a virtual information session to address any comments and concerns from the public. The project was also communicated to the public through NPCA's *Get Involved* portal on its website, as well as other communication channels.

Discussion:

As of December 8, 2023, the NPCA has completed a multi-park infrastructure enhancement project which includes substantial improvements to 6 different conservation areas that include:

- **Parking Areas:**

An enhanced entrance and parking area was created at Cave Springs Conservation Area using various low impact development (LID) elements including a rain garden and bioretention area. Parking areas were also improved at St. Johns and Rockway using various LID techniques to support stormwater management across the site. St. Johns used infiltration galleries while Rockway used pervious paving stone overtop of an infiltration gallery to capture and infiltrate any stormwater runoff. These LID techniques will not only drastically reduce the amount of stormwater leaving the site but will also serve to improve the local groundwater regime.

- **Improved Accessibility:**

The project included improved accessibility features at 3 different conservation areas. At Cave Springs a 400m accessible trail was restored and a new accessible bridge was

constructed along the trail. St. Johns included significant enhancements, by improving the accessible trail around the pond and pathway to the washroom building as well as 6 new accessible parking spots. Improvements at Rockway included a new accessible trail along the escarpment edge as well as the addition of accessible parking spots.

- Trail Improvements:

The project includes the improvement of trails at 4 different conservation areas. New trail systems were created at Louth, Cave Springs and Rockway and bridges and boardwalks were constructed at Louth, Cave Springs and St. Johns.

- Interpretive Signage:

The project includes the development and installation of new interpretive signage and wayfinding at Cave Springs and Rockway. The signage is anticipated to be completed and installed in spring 2024.

- Automated Gates:

New automated gates were installed at Ball's Falls and Binbrook. These new modern gates allow staff to manage access into the parks and prohibit entry during times the park is closed. Since the gates were installed in spring 2022, there has been a substantial reduction in non-permitted activities and destructive behaviours. The automated gates that were procured in 2022 were awarded to Key West for a variety of reasons that appealed to NPCA staff. The gates are compatible with the NPCA's Nature Plus Pass, which is an annual pass that allows vehicles access into any of NPCA's gated conservation areas during permitted times. It is also compatible with NPCA's current reservation system, Camis, which allows staff to integrate online day use passes that are scheduled to come online in 2024.

The Key West automated gates are used by similar parks organizations like Parks Ontario, Parks Canada and Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA). Hamilton Conservation Authority has successfully implemented automated gates at the majority of their passive parks. This strategy has allowed HCA to sell over 10,000 membership passes annually. This has led to a reduction in observed non-permitted behavior at HCA parks.

Community Input

In the fall of 2022, NPCA staff developed a concept to enhance the newly acquired property at the Rockway Conservation Area. NPCA staff used the concept to consult with key stakeholders and held a virtual information session to address any comments and concerns from the public. The project was also communicated to the public through NPCA's *Get Involved* portal on its website, as well as other communication channels.

For regular infrastructure upgrades, Information signs are provided at the entrance of the conservation areas that provide a link to the website where visitors can learn more about the upgrades and provide feedback.

Next Steps and 2024 Deliverables

- a) In 2024, NPCA staff efforts will be concentrated on completing the outstanding components of the Canadian Community Revitalization Fund Project. This involves the finalization of signage plans and installation of interpretive and wayfinding signage at Cave Springs and Rockway Conservation Areas. Safety fencing and automated gates are planned for the Rockway Conservation Area. This project will culminate in the official opening of Rockway Conservation Area in the spring of 2024.
- b) Automated gates with paid parking is also proposed for the St. Johns Conservation Area. Over the course of the last four years since COVID, St. Johns has experienced a 20 per cent increase in visitation year over year. As a result of this increased use, the site has experienced unprecedented wear and tear. In order to sustainably address the impacts of increased visitation and the site's deteriorating visitor amenities and front gates, reinvestment in the site is critically needed. The installation of new automated gates with modern management features will be implemented to regulate unauthorized visitation and non-permitted activities. NPCA's intention is to continue to ensure the local community can access the park free of cost. As such, a pilot program is proposed starting the Spring of 2024 with the goal of exploring and evaluating equitable methods for providing access to the conservation area. St. Johns will always remain free for visitors that access the site on foot or by bike or other modes of active transportation. Staff will continue to seek community input on conservation area upgrades and the proposed St. Johns access pilot initiative. Following the analysis in 2024, staff will present a report to the board, outlining the outcomes derived from community input and evaluation.

Conclusion:

Currently, the NPCA has automated gates at its four active conservation areas and paid public gatekeepers to physically open and close standard farm-style gates at other parks like St. Johns, Woodend and Morgan's Point. The gate system at passive conservation areas has become operationally deficient for a variety of reason which includes gates being closed while cars are still in parking areas after permitted hours and the recent challenge of being able to hire local residents as gatekeepers to open the gate at dawn and close the gate at dusk.

NPCA staff recommend replacing existing farm gates with automated gates that are compatible with NPCA's active parks' gate systems at St. Johns and Rockway to coincide with recent park improvements. The installation of automated gates at St. Johns and Rockway will not prevent free access for walk-up visitors and users that access the site by bike or other modes of active transportation. NPCA is also planning to implement a pilot project at St. Johns to continue to grant free daily access during off-peak hours from dawn to 9:00 a.m. Free NaturePlus park passes are also available through local libraries. NPCA is committed to ensuring equitable access to greenspace for all peoples and communities across the watershed. Residents with a library card can sign one out and freely access St. Johns and Rockway once the gates are installed for paid parking, as well as all other paid NPCA sites such as Ball's Falls, Binbrook, Chippawa Creek and Long Beach conservation areas. Passes can be borrowed from the library for one week and are often accompanied by nature backpacks complete with binoculars and guidebooks.

Financial Implications:

The Canadian Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) Project had a total project cost of \$1 million with the CCRF contributing 75% of the project cost. The remaining 25% of the project was funded through the NPCA's 2022 and 2023 capital budget.

These projects will result in operational efficiencies as the current manual system is operationally cumbersome.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Goal 1.4 - Manage NPCA lands to increase biodiversity, habitat connectivity, and natural cover.

Goal 3.1 - Create equitable access to greenspace for the health and well-being of people.

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

Related Reports and Appendices:

None.

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Adam Christie
Director, Conservation Areas

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

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

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Board of Directors' 2024 Meeting Schedule

Report No: FA-51-23

Date: December 15, 2023

Recommendation:

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-51-23 RE: Board of Directors' 2024 Meeting Schedule **BE RECEIVED**.
2. **THAT** Appendices 1 and 2 to Report No. FA-51-23 RE: Board of Directors' 2024 Meeting Schedule **BE APPROVED**.
3. **AND THAT** the meeting schedule **BE MADE** available on the NPCA website and **PROVIDED** to the participating and local area municipalities.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to establish the NPCA Board of Directors' 2024 meeting schedule for internal business planning purposes and public awareness, accessibility, and transparency.

Background:

The schedules attached as both Appendices 1 and 2 maintain the practice originally established in 2021 for convening Board meetings at 9:00 a.m. on the third Friday of the month. In 2024, it is again proposed that the Board forego meetings in the month of January and August.

Discussion:

The regular March Board meeting is moved from the third Friday of the month to the fourth Friday, being March 22, 2024 to avoid conflict with the March Break. The regular December Board meeting is moved from the third Friday of the month to the second Friday of the month, December 13, 2024 to avoid conflict with holiday closure. Efforts were made to give regard to meeting schedules of the local and participating municipalities, but occasional conflicts may exist with individual Members' other meeting commitments.

Governance Committee meetings will be scheduled immediately following the Board of Directors meetings three times in 2024 or as needed at the direction of the Chair of the Governance Committee. Finance Committee meetings are scheduled as per NPCA's Audit and Budget approval timelines.

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation and Source Water Protection Committee Meetings schedule is also included.

Financial Implications:

There are no new or additional financial implications posed by adoption of the Board of Directors' 2024 Meeting Schedule as presented.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Approving and publicizing the Board of Directors' 2024 Meeting Schedule supports the Strategic Plan's Goal to ensure "Organizational Excellence" by "providing high standards of customer service" and "improving internal operations and processes."

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: NPCA Board of Directors' 2024 Meeting Schedule

Appendix 2: NPCA Board of Directors' 2024 Meeting Calendar

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Gina Shaule
NPCA Administrative Assistant

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

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

NPCA Board of Directors' 2024 Meeting Schedule

Full Authority Board Meetings (9:00 a.m.):

Friday February 16
Friday, March 22
Friday, April 19
Friday, May 17
Friday, June 21
Friday, July 19
Friday, September 20
Friday, October 18
Friday, November 15
Friday December 13 *(optional)

There will be an additional Source Protection Authority Board meeting scheduled for Friday April 19th to coincide with the Full Authority Board meeting.

Committee Meetings:

Finance Committee (9:30 a.m.):

Wednesday, April 3
Wednesday, July 24
Wednesday, September 25

Governance Committee (9:30 a.m.):

Friday, Feb. 16
Friday, May 17
Friday, October 18


Public Advisory Committee (5 p.m.):


Tuesday, February 27, 2024
Tuesday, May 28, 2024
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Tuesday, November 26, 2024


NPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING CALENDAR

2024

January							February							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3					1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						
April							May							June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30						
July							August-							September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13*	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

 Full Authority Board Meeting (None in Jan & Aug)
(Dec. 13th -optional Board Meeting)

 Governance Meeting

 Finance Meeting


 PAC

 March Break

 Statutory Holiday / Office Closure

Jan 1-New Year's Day
Mar 29-Good Friday
Mar 31-Easter Sunday
May 20-Victoria Day
Jul 1-Canada Day
Aug 5-Civic Holiday

Sep 2- Labour Day
Sep 30 -Truth and Reconciliation
Oct 14 -Thanksgiving
Nov 11 -Remembrance Day
Dec 25 -Christmas Day
Dec 26-Boxing Day

 **GOVERNANCE DATES:**
(to follow the FA Board Meeting)

February 16, 2024

May 17th, 2024

October 18th, 2024

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network Request for Support

Report No: FA-53-23

Date: December 15, 2023

Recommendation:

THAT Resolution to support Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network **BE APPROVED** as presented in Report No. FA-53-23.

Purpose:

To seek Board of Directors approval in support of Niagara Escarpment Biosphere (NEB) UNESCO Biosphere designation by the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network (NEBN).

Background:

As per correspondence item 5.2 dated December 4th, 2023, NPCA staff have been approached by the NEBN with a request for support of their continued efforts towards the official UNESCO Biosphere designation for the NEB.

NPCA staff have been working in collaboration with NEBN, have attended NEBN meetings, and fully support the proposed resolution.

RESOLUTION

Whereas the Niagara Escarpment, from Queenston in the south to Tobermory in the north, has been recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Biosphere since 1990;

And whereas the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere (NEB) provides a range of very positive returns to Ontarians, including but not limited to promoting biodiversity of both flora and fauna, open landscape, productive agriculture and agri-tourism, traditional Indigenous knowledge and cultural history, eco-system services, a living laboratory for learning, carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation and adaptation;

And whereas oversight of the NEB has successfully transitioned from the Ontario governmental agency, the Niagara Escarpment Commission to a citizen-centred, not-for-profit organization, the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network (NEBN);

And whereas the NEBN has been established as a Co-Leadership model between Indigenous and Non-indigenous leaders, with a key objective of establishing the future direction of the NEBN as a model of delivering on the worthy goals of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as a demonstrated commitment to the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

And whereas the NEBN has made and continues to demonstrate its commitment to partner engagement and collaboration across many sectors and interests, including municipal, environmental, tourism, educational, youth, economic, research, and more;

And whereas the NEBN is seeking continuation of the official UNESCO Biosphere designation for the NEB, with the support of those who call the NEB home for work, play and study;

And whereas the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority reaffirms our commitment through our 10-year Strategic Plan to undertake work that supports the UNESCO Biosphere designation for the Niagara Escarpment;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority supports the continuation of the UNESCO Biosphere designation for the Niagara Escarpment and for the oversight model that has been established through the NEBN.

Authored and submitted by:

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

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
250 Thorold Rd, Welland, ON
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday November 30, 2023
5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lennie Aarts
Julia Baird
Lesley Clarke
David Cribbs
George McKibbon
Naheed Qureshi
William Rapley
David Wyllie

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Robert Foster, NPCA Chair
Lageera Chatheechan
Philip Beale
Tracy Boese
Cindilee Ecker-Flagg
Jonathan Musso
Albert Witteveen

STAFF PRESENT:

C. Sharma, C.A.O. / Secretary – Treasurer
E. Baldin, Manager Land Planning
L. Lee-Yates, Director, Planning and Development/Interim Director,
Watershed Strategies and Climate Change
K. Royer, Coordinator, Community Outreach
G. Shaule, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Resources

OTHERS PRESENT:

T. Mereu, Project Manager, Floodplain Mapping, NPCA

Welcome from CAO Chandra Sharma, acting Chair and the meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. OPENING WELCOME FROM TRACY BOESE

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Recommendation No. PAC-10-2023

Moved by George McKibbon

Seconded by William Rapley

THAT the Public Advisory Committee agenda dated November 30, 2023 **BE RECEIVED.**
CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. ELECTIONS / APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

The election of officers for the NPCA Public Advisory Committee (PAC) will be conducted by either NPCA Chair or NPCA Chief Administrative Officer. Positions are required for Chair and Vice Chair of the NPCA PAC to serve for a period of TWO (2) years, and may serve for a maximum of TWO (2) consecutive terms.

a) Election of Officers

i) Chair of the Public Advisory Committee

David Cribbs nominated Albert Witteveen as Chair of the Public Advisory Committee of The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Recommendation No. PAC-11-2023

Moved by Lesley Clarke

Seconded by Naheed Qureshi

THAT Albert Witteveen BE APPOINTED as Chair of the Public Advisory Committee of The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority for a period of TWO (2) years.

CARRIED

ii) Vice Chair of the Public Advisory Committee

Naheed Qureshi nominated David Cribbs as Vice Chair of the Public Advisory Committee of The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Recommendation No. PAC-12-2023

Moved by Naheed Qureshi

Seconded by George McKibbin

THAT David Cribbs BE APPOINTED as Vice Chair of the Public Advisory Committee of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority for a period of TWO (2) years.

CARRIED

David Cribbs, Public Advisory Chair presided over the remainder of the meeting.

5. Approval of the minutes

Public Advisory Committee minutes dated September 14, 2023.

Recommendation No. PAC-13-2023
Moved by Lesley Clarke
Seconded by David Wyllie

THAT the Public Advisory Committee minutes dated September 14, 2023 **BE RECEIVED**.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. PRESENTATIONS

- a) PowerPoint Presentation RE: Conservation Authorities Act Transition Requirements for Land Planning, Eric Baldin NPCA Manager, Land Planning

Recommendation No. PAC-14-2023
Moved by George McKibbon
Seconded by David Wyllie

THAT the PowerPoint Presentation RE: Conservation Authorities Act Transition Requirements for Land Planning **BE RECEIVED**.

CARRIED

- b) PowerPoint Presentation RE: Floodplain mapping projects for Coyle, Draper's Creek and Oswego Creek by Tim Mereu, Project Manager, Floodplain Mapping, NPCA. T. Mereu, and Leilani Lee-Yates, Planning and Development/Interim Director, Watershed Strategies and Climate Change spoke to presentation and policy. Discussion ensued.

Recommendation No. PAC-15-2023
Moved by Lesley Clarke
Seconded by George McKibbon

THAT the PowerPoint Presentation RE: Floodplain mapping projects for Coyle, Draper's Creek and Oswego Creek **BE RECEIVED**.

CARRIED

8. DELEGATIONS

None

9. CONSENT ITEMS

- a) Report No: PAC-05-23 RE: Conservation Authority Act Transition Requirement for Programs and Services for the year 2024. C. Sharma, C.A.O. / Secretary – Treasurer provided comments. Discussion ensued with excellent suggestions from the PAC members. Direction to integrate climate change in accordance with O.reg. 686/21 for mandated programs and services was proposed by member McKibbon.

Recommendation No. PAC-16-2023

Moved by Bill Rapley
Seconded by George McKibbon

THAT Report No: PAC-05-23 RE: Conservation Authority Act Transition Requirement for Programs and Services for the year 2024 **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Report No: PAC-04-23 RE: 2024 Public Advisory Committee Meeting Dates.

Recommendation No. PAC-17-2023

Moved by Lesley Clarke
Seconded by Naheed Qureshi

THAT Report No: PAC-04-23 RE: 2024 Public Advisory Committee Meeting Dates **BE APPROVED.**

- Tuesday, February 27, 2024 (5 p.m.)
- Tuesday, May 27, 2024 (5 p.m.)
- Tuesday, September 16, 2024 (5 p.m.)
- Tuesday, November 25, 2024 (5 p.m.)

CARRIED

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Members' Updates (Verbal) – Information / Issues / Items of Interest –

Chandra Sharma to bring back infrastructure report to next PAC meeting on February 27, 2024.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Advisory Committee meeting of November 30, 2023, was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

David Cribbs
Public Advisory Committee Chair

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