



Board of Directors Meeting

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

July 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM

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 June 16, 2023 (For Approval)

Page # 1

3.2. Closed Session Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting June 16, 2023 (Private and Confidential - To be provided under separate cover - For Approval)

4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

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

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6. PRESENTATIONS

7. DELEGATIONS

8. CONSENT ITEMS

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

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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 (For Approval)

Page # 14

- 9.2 Report No. FA-31-23 RE: NPCA Comments on the Proposed Provincial Policy
Statement (For Approval)

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- 9.3 Report No. FA-32-23 RE: Update on NPCA Regulation Mapping Project
(For Approval)

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- 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
(For Approval)

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- 9.5 Report No. FA-34-23: Canada Water Agency and *Canada-United States Great
Lakes Water Quality Agreement* Funding Opportunities (For Approval)

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10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- a) Minutes of the Governance Committee Meeting June 16, 2023 (For Approval)

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10.2 PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- a) Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee Meeting July 5, 2023 (For Approval)

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11. MOTIONS

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

13. NEW BUSINESS

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
June 16, 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 9:00 a.m..

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- R. Foster (Chair)
- B. Clark
- D. Cridland
- B. Grant (arrived 9:09 a.m.)
- P. O'Neill
- D. Huson
- J. Metcalfe
- M. Seaborn
- M. Tadeson

STAFF PRESENT:

- C. Sharma, CAO / Secretary – Treasurer
- G. Bivol, Clerk
- A. Christie, Director, Conservation Areas
- J. Culp, Manager, Compliance and Enforcement
- J. Diamond, Manager, Watershed Monitoring and Reporting
- L. Gagnon, Director, Corporate Services
- N. Green, Manager, Climate Change and Special Programs
- L. Lee-Yates, Director, Planning and Development
- G. Shaule, Administrative Assistant
- J. Sinibaldi, Manager, Strategic Business Planning and Public Relations

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Resolution No. FA-60-2023

Moved by Member Clark

Seconded by Member Cridland

THAT the agenda for the Full Authority Meeting dated June 16, 2023 BE ADOPTED.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1. Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting May 19, 2023

3.2. Closed Session Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting May 19, 2023

Resolution No. FA-61-2023

Moved by Member Clark

Seconded by Member Cridland

THAT the following minutes BE ADOPTED:

- Minutes of the Full Authority Meeting dated May 19, 2023; and
- Closed Session Minutes dated May 19, 2023 to remain private and confidential.

CARRIED

4. CHAIR'S UPDATE

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1. Correspondence dated May 18, 2023 from Conservation Ontario to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, RE: Comments on Site Plan for Residential Developments 10 of Fewer Units (ERO #019-6822)

5.2. Correspondence dated June 11, 2023 from Jennifer Saunders RE: Bill 23

5.3. Correspondence from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury dated June 9, 2023 RE: Resolution No. 2023-199

Resolution No. FA-62-2023

Moved by Member Huson

Seconded by Member Metcalfe

THAT the following documents BE RECEIVED:

- Correspondence dated May 18, 2023 from Conservation Ontario to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, RE: Comments on Site Plan for Residential Developments 10 of Fewer Units (ERO #019-6822);
- Correspondence dated June 11, 2023 from Jennifer Saunders RE: Bill 23; and

- Correspondence from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury dated June 9, 2023 RE: Resolution No. 2023-199.

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 PowerPoint Presentation by Natalie Green, Manager, Climate Change and Special Programs, RE: Progress Update: Niagara River Remedial Action Plan 2019-2023

Resolution No. FA-63-2023

Moved by Member O'Neill

Seconded by Member Seaborn

THAT the PowerPoint Presentation by Natalie Green, Manager, Climate Change and Special Programs, RE: Progress Update: Niagara River Remedial Action Plan 2019-2023 **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

7. DELEGATIONS

None.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

8.1. Report No. FA-27-23 RE: NPCA Brand Identity Guidelines

Resolution No. FA-64-2023

Moved by Member Tadeson

Seconded by Member Grant

THAT Report No. FA-27-23 RE: NPCA Brand Identity Guidelines **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1. Report No. FA-05-23 RE: NPCA Section 28 Permit Signatory Delegation

Resolution No. FA-65-2023

Moved by Member Cridland

Seconded by Member Clark

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-05-23 RE: NPCA Section 28 Permit Signatory Delegation **BE RECEIVED.**

2. **THAT** the Board **APPROVES** the Senior Manager, Environmental Planning and Policy, and Manager, Planning and Permits to be additional signatories on Section 28 routine and minor work permits.

CARRIED

9.2. Report No. FA-26-23 RE: 2024 Budget Assumptions and Process

Resolution No. FA-66-2023

Moved by Member Metcalfe

Seconded by Member Huson

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-26-23 RE: 2024 Budget Assumptions and Process **BE RECEIVED**.
2. **THAT** the budget assumptions for the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets as identified in the report **BE APPROVED** for use in the development of the 2024 budgets.
3. **THAT** 2024 draft budget **BE DEVELOPED** in conformity to the updated *Conservation Authorities (CA) Act* and *Ontario Regulation 402/22: Budget and Apportionment*.
4. **THAT** staff **BE DIRECTED** to include a provision for an economic increase (COLA) to satisfy the terms of the OPSEU collective agreement and address inflationary pressures on non-salary in the spirit of municipal budget guidelines, once released.
5. **THAT** staff **BE DIRECTED** to continue discussions relative to known funding gaps, land securement, service level agreements and/or memoranda of understanding with municipal partners.
6. **THAT** a list of current known unfunded priorities **BE PREPARED** for the Board's consideration in conjunction with 2024 budgets.
7. **THAT** the Preliminary 2024 Budget **BE REVIEWED** by the Finance Committee and brought back to the Board of Directors at the September 2023 meeting for approval.
8. **AND FURTHER THAT** the funding municipalities **BE ADVISED** thirty days in advance of the Levy vote in accordance with the *Conservation Authorities (CA) Act* and *Ontario Regulation 402/22*.

CARRIED

9.3 Report No. FA-28-23 RE: Agreements of Services with Municipalities as required under the *Conservation Authorities Act Phase 1 Regulation*

Resolution No. FA-67-2023

Moved by Member Grant

Seconded by Member Tadeson

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).
4. **THAT** the final Agreements of Services **BE PRESENTED** to the NPCA Board of Directors for final approval.
5. **AND FURTHER THAT** the final executed Agreements of Services **BE POSTED** online as required by the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

CARRIED

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

11. MOTIONS

None.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation Update - Member Huson and Member Cridland spoke on developing support materials for funding prospects, challenges in hiring Foundation staff and an update for closed session. C.A.O. Sharma spoke on a photo op with Night Archives and Member Cridland.

C.A.O. Sharma talked about efforts to address issues with PFAS at the Welland River Headwater.

Chair Foster requested a staff report on shoreline erosion for the next meeting following a resolution presented to the regional council.

14. CLOSED SESSION

14.1 Litigation or Potential Litigation – Verbal Update by Jason Culp, Manager, Compliance and Enforcement

14.2 Personal Matters About an Identifiable Individual

Resolution No. FA-68-2023

Moved by Member Seaborn O'Neill

Seconded by Member O'Neill

THAT in accordance with Section 10.1 of the NPCA Administrative By-law, the Board hereby **PROCEEDS** into closed session at 10:00 a.m. for discussion on Litigation or Potential Litigation.

CARRIED

Resolution No. FA-69-2023

Moved by Member Clark

Seconded by Member Cridland

THAT the meeting **RECONVENE** in open session at 10:28 a.m..

CARRIED

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m..

Robert Foster
Chair
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

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



July 12, 2023

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Submitted via the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO#019-6767)

Re: Conservation Ontario's Comments on the "Proposed changes to the Aggregate Resources Act, Ontario Regulation 244/97 to expand self-filing activities and a new policy regarding amendments to existing aggregate approvals" (ERO #019-6767)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Proposed changes to the Aggregate Resources Act, Ontario Regulation 244/97 to expand self-filing activities and a new policy regarding amendments to existing aggregate approvals". Conservation Ontario is the network for Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities (CAs). These comments are not intended to limit the comments submitted by individual CAs.

Conservation Authorities may become involved with reviewing applications submitted pursuant to the *Aggregate Resources Act (ARA)* in several ways. Through Ontario Regulation 686/21, CAs may review proposals under the *ARA* for the purpose of commenting on risks related to natural hazards (e.g., floodplains, river valley slopes, etc.) arising from the proposal. When carrying out its duties, functions, and responsibilities as a source protection authority under the provisions of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, a CA may further review and comment on applications for the purpose of determining whether the proposal relates to a significant drinking water threat, as well as the potential impact to drinking water sources protected by the source protection plan. Upon notification from municipalities, source protection authorities may also assess whether certain activities such as aggregate extractions are considered transport pathways under the *Clean Water Act* and advise on the application of policies.

Proposed Amendments to Ontario Regulation 244/97

It is understood that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is proposing to amend Ontario Regulation 244/97 to expand the list of site plan amendments which can be made without ministry approval where conditions and criteria are met. As the Ministry

considers expanding this list, consideration must be given to ensure these activities would not aggravate existing or create new natural hazards, nor negatively impact sources of drinking water. O. Reg. 287/07 (General) under the *Clean Water Act* provides that site plans included in applications or licences under the *ARA* are “prescribed instruments” for the purposes of the *Clean Water Act* and are required to conform with the significant threat policies or designated Great Lakes policies within local source protection plans. Conservation Ontario acknowledges the proposed conditions for select activities which would help minimize negative impacts, such as establishing setbacks from natural features and protecting sources of drinking water (e.g., ensuring recyclable materials are not stored within 30m of a water body, no storage of fuel tanks in vulnerable areas for the protection of drinking water sources, etc.).

Drinking Water Source Protection

As noted above, the Ministry has proposed eligibility criteria and conditions for the self-filing approach for select activities to protect sources of drinking water. For instance, adding, re-locating or removing above ground fuel storage tanks would not be permitted within a vulnerable area for the protection of drinking water sources where the handling and storage of fuel would be a significant drinking water threat. While these conditions are appreciated, Conservation Ontario is concerned that other significant threats, such as handling and storage of road salt or snow storage, may be associated with a number of activities proposed for the self-filing approach. As such, it is recommended that the Ministry establish criteria or conditions to ensure a clear linkage with the *Clean Water Act* and site plan amendments.

To ensure strong protection for drinking water sources, it is recommended that proposed site plan amendments involving activities that are prescribed drinking water threats be reviewed by the implementing body of the local source protection plan policy. When undertaking site plan amendments, licensees should ensure consistency with applicable legislation and policy, including that outlined in local source protection plans, along with proactive measures to protect both municipal and private drinking water sources and designated vulnerable areas. This approach would be consistent with direction provided in the proposed Provincial Planning Statement that requires planning authorities to implement necessary restrictions on development and site alteration to protect drinking water sources and designated vulnerable areas. To assist licensees with identifying local vulnerable drinking water zones / areas and the applicable Source Protection Authority, licensees should be directed to the [Source Protection Information Atlas](#) prepared by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Natural Hazards

Proposed amendments to the list in section 7.2 of O. Reg. 244/97 include the ability for licensees to add or re-locate site entrances or exits without Ministry approval. As part of the self-filing approach, licensees would be required to ensure works do not harm or negatively impact natural or cultural heritage features. Conservation Ontario strongly

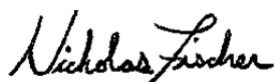
recommends an additional condition be included to ensure that adding or re-locating site entrances or exits does not aggravate existing or create new natural hazards. Conservation Ontario acknowledges that initial applications for licences and permits are circulated to CAs to determine if the proposed site is within a regulated area under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and to review for potential negative impacts to natural hazards. However, use of the self-filing approach may result in new site entrances or exits being located within regulated areas under *Conservation Authorities Act* on the site. To ensure that site plan amendments do not negatively impact flooding, erosion, or other natural hazards, it is recommended that licensees circulate proposed changes to site entrances or exits to the local Conservation Authority for review prior to finalizing site plan amendments.

Proposed Policy “Applications to amend licences, permits, and site plans under the Aggregate Resources Act”

In addition to the regulatory changes, the Ministry is proposing a new policy to clarify public consultation and notification requirements for amendments to authorizations requiring Ministry approval. The proposed policy would replace 12 existing provincial aggregate policies and procedures, many of which direct Ministry staff to advise operators/licensees to circulate notices and copies of the licences, site plans or permits to the local CA, as applicable. Conservation Ontario is pleased to note that the proposed policy continues to identify CAs as agencies which may require notification at the direction of the Ministry. It is noted that the Table in section 4.2 of the proposed policy provides that notification to a CA may be required for “significant amendments that may have potential to create negative impacts related to flooding, erosion or other natural hazards”. Conservation Ontario recommends an amendment to the Table be made to clarify that notification to a CA may also be required where a proposed amendment is taking place within a source protection plan area to determine whether the proposal relates to a significant drinking water threat and/or would impact drinking water sources protected by the Plan.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on “the “Proposed changes to the Aggregate Resources Act, Ontario Regulation 244/97 to expand self-filing activities and a new policy regarding amendments to existing aggregate approvals”. Please contact the undersigned should you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Fischer
Policy and Planning Coordinator

c.c.: All CA CAOs/GMs

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Compliance and Enforcement Q2 Statistics 2023

Report No: FA-30-23

Date: July 21, 2023

Recommendation:

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

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an overview summary of the 2023 second quarter activities related to Compliance and Enforcement in the NPCA watershed.

Background:

The Compliance and Enforcement Service Area at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) plays a pivotal role in the protection and conservation of wetlands, shorelines, and escarpment areas in the NPCA jurisdiction. The overall goal is to protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion. Three quarterly reports and one annual report is provided to the Board of Directors on statistics tracked by staff. Report No. FA-19-23 RE: The Compliance and Enforcement 2022 Year-End Summary was received by the Board of Directors on April 21, 2023.

Discussion:

Q2 2023 Compliance and Enforcement Statistics

The regulations team tracks a significant amount of data in relation to each complaint and potential violation reported to and investigated by staff. This is done both to support progressive compliance or enforcement actions if required, provide all regulations staff with access to pertinent file data, and to identify and assess on-going or continuing concerns, trends, and resourcing requirements. These statistics are only for Section 28 complaints and violations and do not include concerns in relation to Section 29 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (Conservation Authority properties).

The statistics below are from April 1, 2023, to June 30, 2023.

General Q2 File Statistics

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Open / Active Files					29
Closed / Resolved Files					65
TOTAL	21	59	118	90	94

Complaint Validity

	Q2 2023
NPCA jurisdiction – valid concern	66
Not NPCA jurisdiction or valid concern – file closed	27
Under review by NPCA or not specified	1
TOTAL	94

Complaint / Violation Avenues

	Q2 2023
TIPS – email, voicemail, online form	53
Staff Voicemail / Phone / Email	3
Professional Contacts	25
Officer Found	10
Other / Not Specified	3
TOTAL	94

Complaints By Regulated Feature

	Q2 2023
Lake Ontario Shoreline	0
Lake Erie Shoreline	20
Wetlands and Wetland Buffers	31
Watercourses and Watercourse Buffers	18
Valleyland and Valleyland Buffers	3
Floodplains	7
Hazardous Lands	0
Municipal Drains / Watercourses	1
Other / Not Specified	14
TOTAL	94

* Regulated Features was not specifically tracked in related data until 2023.

Complaints and Potential Violations by Municipality

	Q2 2023	% TOTAL
Fort Erie	18	19
Grimsby	2	2
Haldimand	9	10
Hamilton	6	6
Lincoln	7	7
Pelham	4	4

Niagara Falls	4	4
Niagara-on-the-Lake	3	3
Port Colborne	10	11
St. Catharines	1	1
Thorold	3	3
Wainfleet	9	10
Welland	8	9
West Lincoln	9	10
No Location	1	1
TOTALS	94	100%

* total percentage may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Notices of Violation

	Q2 2023
Notices Resolved	2
Notices Unresolved / In Progress	8
TOTAL NOTICES ISSUED	10

Risk and Response Levels (as per Section 28 Procedural Manual)

	Q2 2023
No Risk	21
Low	27
Moderate	29
High	8
Other / Not Specified	9
TOTAL	94

* Risk Assessment Level was not tracked in related data until 2023.

The NPCA Section Procedural Manual was completed and approved by the Board of Directors in July of 2022. The table below is from the procedural manual and provides additional details with regards to the Risk and Response levels being reported above.

Low Priority Response	Regulations may not investigate these matters depending on volume. Focus will be on education and outreach, deterrence and possible restoration or approval if time and resources are available.
Moderate Priority Response	Regulations staff will respond and investigate these matters as time and resources allow usually within the timeframes under the <i>Provincial Offences Act</i> . Voluntary compliance through approval for unauthorized works, remediation or restoration are required outcomes. Court proceedings may be warranted depending on the level of landowner compliance and nature of the potential violation.
High Priority Response	Regulations staff will endeavour to investigate all matters deemed a HIGH priority within the timelines of the <i>Provincial Offences Act</i> . Focus will be on likely court proceedings, remediation/restoration in the public interest, deterrence, and risk reduction.
No Risk	Regulations staff will not respond to frivolous or vexatious complaints, incidents with insufficient information provided, or not clearly within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Authority.

Financial Implications:

There are no additional financial implications as the work is accounted for in the 2023 budget. Should any complaint or violation proceed to the issuance of a summons and court proceedings, there will be costs associated with these activities that have been accounted for in the departmental operating budget. Additionally, the NPCA regulations staff will continue to employ prioritization strategies including the new Section 28 Procedural Manual to allocate the resources to appropriately respond to the more significant and high-risk contraventions of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Regulations staff are committed to enhanced statistical reporting, recording and analysis of compliance and enforcement related data which will continue to assist in quantifying resource and staffing requirements moving forward.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

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.

Related Reports and Appendices:

None.

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Jason Culp, C.Tech., EP
Manager, Compliance and Enforcement

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, MCIP, RPP
Director, Watershed Management

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

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

Report To: Board of Directors

**Subject: Rockway Conservation Area Enhancement Project Update
and Award of Contract for Parking Area Construction**

Report No: FA-29-23

Date: July 21, 2023

Recommendation:

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-29-23 RE: Rockway Conservation Area Enhancement Project Update and Award of Contract for Parking Area Construction **BE RECEIVED**;
2. **THAT** a capital contract award to Stevensville Lawn Service Inc. in the amount of \$478,465 (plus non-recoverable HST) **BE APPROVED**;
3. **AND FURTHER THAT** a contingency of 10% or \$47,846.50 **BE ALLOCATED** to address any unanticipated costs during the project implementation process.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the NPCA Board of Directors on an enhancement project at Rockway Conservation Area and request approval for a capital contract award to Stevensville Lawn Service Inc. in the amount of \$478,465 (plus non-recoverable HST). Further, the capital disbursement approval includes a 10% contingency in the amount of \$47,846.50 for a total capital project approval of \$526,311.50 (plus non-recoverable HST).

Background:

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority owns a 125.52 ha property in the Town of Lincoln and City of St. Catharines called Rockway Conservation Area. The Conservation Area is part of the Niagara Escarpment with significant ecological features, flora, fauna, and recreational features. The extensive trail system in the Conservation Area is also part of the Bruce Trail and offers a hiking experience to the Fifteen Mile Creek Valley surrounded by mature Basswood, Sugar Maple, Black Walnut, and Sycamore trees. Prior to August 15, 2022, conservation area facilities included limited parking off 9th Avenue for up to three vehicles with a small entrance to the Conservation Area. The Conservation Area was more commonly accessed via the parking lot at 2021 Regional Road 69 (owned by Rockway Community Club).

On August 15, 2022, the NPCA completed the purchase of the 2021 Regional Road 69 (Rockway Community Club). Since the purchase of the property NPCA staff completed short term priorities to support health and safety on the site which include the demolition of the Community Centre that was

deemed in poor condition and initiated the restoration plans to support the long-term goals of the property.

The Rockway Conservation Area Enhancement Project is included as one of the Canadian Community Revitalization Fund projects approved through FedDev Ontario's Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) approved in December 2021. The approved funding includes the improvement of greenspace infrastructure and improved accessibility at six conservation areas: Ball's Falls, Binbrook, Cave Springs, St. Johns, Louth and Rockway. Projects at Ball's Falls, Binbrook, Louth and St. Johns have been completed with only the St. Johns entrance area and Rockway entrance area parking and accessible trail to be completed by the end of the year.

Discussion:

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 has also been communicated to the public through NPCA's *Get Involved* portal on its website, as well as other through communications channels.

NPCA staff aim to enhance the Rockway site by providing increased parking and safe access using low impact development methods. The project will also include improved passive recreation experiences (i.e., trails upgrades), and added interpretive and wayfinding signage. NPCA staff will continue to engage the public on opportunities to enhance Rockway Conservation Area.

There are three initiatives to the project which include:

1. Entrance Area Parking / Accessible Trail and Associated Construction Procurement

This project will include an enhanced entrance and new parking area that will accommodate 43 vehicles as well as a new accessible trail to improve accessibility at the site. The parking area includes various Low Impact Development techniques to support stormwater management on the site. Specifically, this project includes the installation of pervious paving stone overtop of an infiltration gallery to capture and infiltrate any stormwater runoff. This Low Impact Development technique will not only drastically reduce the amount of stormwater leaving the site but will also serve to improve the local groundwater regime.

Procurement Details for Parking Area Enhancement

On June 6, 2023, the NPCA issued competitive procurement No. NPCA-2023-011 to Construct a New Parking Lot at the Rockway Conservation Area based on low impact landscape design prepared by AECOM Canada Ltd. with appropriate technical approvals. The Request for Quotation closed on June 28, 2023, and eight compliant bids were received and evaluated. The evaluation team included NPCA infrastructure and conservation area staff.

Staff is recommending a contract award to the highest-ranked proponent Stevensville Lawn Service Inc. in the amount of \$478,465 (plus non-recoverable HST) and a contingency of \$47,864 to address any unanticipated costs during the project implementation process. Stevensville Lawn Service Inc. is a creative landscape firm based out of Stevensville, Ontario.

2. Develop Trail System and Wayfinding

The current trail system at Rockway Conservation Area includes a section of the Bruce Trail, with one Bruce Trail side trail and several man-made trails not sanctioned by the NPCA. As such, the project will include creating a new trail system and wayfinding to complement the existing Bruce Trail that can be accessed through the property. Wayfinding signage will be added to enhance passive recreation and prevent people from impacting sensitive areas.

3. Interpretive and Wayfinding Signage

Interpretive and wayfinding signage has been initiated to share information about the site's natural and cultural heritage (i.e., Niagara Escarpment, Bruce Trail, UNESCO Biosphere designation, recognition of Indigenous culture). The signs will be electronically designed in 2023 and scheduled to be created and installed in 2024.

Financial Implications:

Total contract award to Stevensville Lawn Service Inc is \$486,886, including non-recoverable HST. Staff is recommending a 10% contingency provision in the amount of \$47,847 bringing the total value of the Rockway Parking Area Enhancement capital project to a maximum upset limit of \$534,732.

Project funding:

• FedDev Ontario's CCRF	\$401,049
• <u>NPCA – approved 2023 capital budget</u>	<u>133,683</u>
• Total (including contingency)	\$534,732

The Rockway Conservation Area project is a 2023 Board approved capital project in the amount of \$300,211. Further to contract award to Stevensville Lawn Service, a balance of \$166,528 remains in the capital budget to accommodate additional projects disbursements.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

The Rockway Conservation Area Enhancement initiative supports Goal 3.1 of NPCA's *Strategic Plan 2021-31* to "Create equitable access to greenspace for the health and well-being of people". This enhancement initiative will promote recreation opportunities, as well as improve services and visitor experiences at NPCA properties (trail maps, wayfinding, accessibility).

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: NPCA Comments on the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement

Report No: FA-31-23

Date: July 21, 2023

Recommendation:

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-31-23 RE: NPCA Comments on the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement **BE RECEIVED**;
2. **THAT** the Board **ENDORSE** the attached staff comment letter and **AUTHORIZE** staff to submit the letter to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO);
3. **AND FURTHER THAT** the NPCA's comments on the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement **BE CIRCULATED** to partner municipalities for their information.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Directors with an update on the Province's initiative to consolidate the *Provincial Growth Plan* and *Provincial Policy Statement* into a proposed *Provincial Planning Statement*, and staff's draft comments for endorsement.

Background:

In the Fall of 2022, the Provincial government undertook a housing-focused policy review of *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* (Growth Plan) and the *Provincial Policy Statement* (PPS, 2020), seeking input from stakeholders on how to integrate the two provincial policy instruments into one streamlined province-wide land use planning policy instrument. Since that time, the *Proposed Provincial Planning Statement and Bill 97, Helping Home Buyers and Protecting Tenants Act, 2023* was initially released on April 6, 2023 with a 60 day comment period, however, the natural heritage policies were not included in that release. On May 30, 2023, the comment period was extended to August 4, 2023 and the Province released the draft natural heritage policies on June 16, 2023.

The PPS, 2020 and the Growth Plan both provide comprehensive, integrated policy direction on land use planning matters and aim to support achievement of livable communities, a thriving economy, a clean and healthy environment and social equity, improving the quality of life for all Ontarians. The PPS, 2020 was issued under the *Planning Act* and is the primary provincial land use planning policy document, applying across Ontario. The Growth Plan was issued under the *Places to Grow Act, 2005* and provides a more detailed framework for where and how growth should be accommodated in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The proposed *Provincial Planning Statement* is an integrated provincial planning policy instrument combining the PPS, 2020 and the Growth Plan that will be applicable province wide and is intended to support the Ontario government's housing policy objectives. All decisions that relate to a planning matter will be required to be consistent with the Policy Statement.

Discussion:

NPCA staff have prepared comments on the draft *Provincial Planning Statement*, focusing on areas of interest to NPCA. The full draft staff comment letter is included as *Appendix 1*.

Upon review of the proposed *Provincial Planning Statement*, NPCA has identified the following general themes as seminal to our response to the Province. Detailed comments related to these themes are included in the staff comment letter.

Natural Hazards

The proposed retention of the natural hazard policy direction from the PPS, 2020 is supported, and staff recommends the continued delegated responsibility of Conservation Authorities (CAs) in representing the provincial interest on natural hazards, other than those policies related to hazardous forest types for wildfire, encompassed in the proposed Section 5 of the *Provincial Planning Statement*. Under the delegated responsibility, CAs provide a critical service in reviewing and providing comments on municipal policy documents (e.g., official plans and comprehensive zoning by-laws) and applications submitted pursuant to the *Planning Act* as part of the Provincial One-Window Plan Review Service.

Increased Coordination

Staff supports the focus on increased coordination between agencies through additional references to working with/coordination with CAs as appropriate (e.g., for proposed new policies requiring planning authorities to identify hazardous lands and sites and manage development in those areas). It is important to recognize the mandate of CAs is to delineate and map areas of natural hazards within its area of jurisdiction and develop programs and services to manage and mitigate natural hazards. This critical work of CAs informs the development of municipal policy documents, mapping, and planning decisions.

Climate Change

Staff is supportive of the proposed policy requiring planning authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate by incorporating climate change considerations in the planning and development for stormwater management systems. Further, staff are supportive of the proposed policy that promotes the use of green infrastructure, low impact

development and active transportation to protect the environment and improve air quality. NPCA staff, however, recommends a greater focus on preparing for impacts of a changing climate. For example, assessing the cumulative impacts of climate change on water resources, natural hazards, natural heritage and infrastructure through watershed or subwatershed planning.

Implementation Guidance

It is recommended that the Province provide comprehensive, up-to-date implementation guidance for the proposed *Provincial Planning Statement* (e.g., natural hazard technical guidelines, watershed and subwatershed planning guides, and the *Natural Heritage Reference Manual*) to increase consistency in implementation and support decision-making.

Watershed Planning

NPCA staff supports the inclusion of policies that ensure that planning authorities protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by using the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning, and that planning authorities will minimize potential negative impacts, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-watershed impacts. It is noted that the Province is proposing to remove the requirement for planning authorities to evaluate and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate to water resource systems at the watershed level. Staff recommends that the Growth Plan policies requiring “large and fast-growing” municipalities to undertake watershed planning be continued, and staff supports the encouragement of all other municipalities to undertake watershed planning.

Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management

Currently, Growth Plan policies require municipal water, wastewater, and stormwater master plans to be informed by watershed planning or equivalent. These policies are not proposed to be brought forward into the proposed planning instrument; however, a new policy is proposed that encourages municipalities to undertake watershed planning to inform planning for sewage and water services and stormwater management, and the protection, improvement or restoration of the quality and quantity of water. The NPCA appreciates the proposed reference to undertaking watershed planning to inform planning for public infrastructure. It is noted however that the shift in language may result in major public infrastructure planned without consideration to broader watershed impacts. Such an approach could result in cumulative impacts by natural hazards which may result in risk to life and property and require costly remediation.

It is noted that the draft natural heritage policies within the proposed *Provincial Planning Statement* are the same as the PPS, 2020 policies. Similarly, the various definitions for natural heritage features also remain unchanged. Staff are also supportive of this.

Upon endorsement by the Board of Directors, the comments in *Appendix 1* will be filed with the ERO as NPCA’s official response to the posting and circulated to our partner municipalities for their information.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to this report.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan

Providing comments on provincial policy initiatives to ensure environmental concerns are upheld contributes to the strategic goal of supporting sustainable growth within NPCA's watersheds.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's Comments on the "Review of proposed policies adapted from *A Place to Grow* and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument" ERO Number 019-6813

Authored by:

David Deluce, MCIP, RPP
Senior Manager, Environmental Planning & Policy

Reviewed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Development

Submitted by:

Chandra Sharma
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

July 21, 2023

Via Email Only

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Provincial Land Use Plans Branch
13th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's Comments on the "Review of proposed policies adapted from *A Place to Grow* and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument" ERO Number 019-6813

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the "Review of proposed policies adapted from *A Place to Grow* and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument". It is understood that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is seeking input on proposed policies for an integrated, province-wide planning instrument ("proposed planning instrument"). The proposed planning instrument would include policies from the current Provincial Policy Statement ("PPS 2020") as well as *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* ("Growth Plan"). The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) has reviewed the draft PPS and offer the following comments.

Conservation Authorities (CAs) fulfill a critical role in providing expert guidance to planning authorities and to the Province to ensure consistency with provincial natural hazard policies and to identify regulatory concerns under Section 28 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* early in the process. Through the Mandatory Program and Service Regulation (O. Reg. 686/21) made under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, CAs review and comment on applications and other matters made pursuant to the *Planning Act* to help ensure consistency with the natural hazard policies found within policy statements issued under section 3 of the *Planning Act*, as well as protection of drinking water sources.

Both the PPS 2020 and the proposed planning statement provide that the Province, planning authorities, and CAs are required to work together to mitigate potential risk to public health or safety, as well as property damage from natural hazards. The NPCA supports this ongoing collaborative, preventative approach which is recognized for making Ontario a leader in the management of natural hazards. It is acknowledged that this reference to "working together" is proposed to be moved from the preamble of Section 3.0 of the PPS 2020 to the Vision section of the proposed planning instrument.

The NPCA supports the Province's proposal to keep the natural heritage policies and related definitions analogous to those within the PPS 2020. We recognize that natural heritage features such as forests and wetlands play important roles to reduce flows, store floodwaters and mitigate drought, which reduces risk and allow people greater response time to flooding emergencies. It is noted that often, the

natural heritage, water resource and natural hazard systems are inextricably linked, and therefore coordinated protection of all these systems is necessary to support the maintenance of healthy watersheds and to best protect public health and safety from natural hazards and protect drinking water sources.

To support planning authorities and CAs, NPCA recommends the Province provide comprehensive, up-to-date implementation guidance concurrently with the issuance of the proposed planning instrument. It is noted that the proposed policies are quite flexible and may result in additional Ontario Land Tribunal hearings without adequate interpretation support. Comprehensive and up-to-date guidance with ongoing implementation support from the Province would help to increase consistency and certainty regarding planning outcomes. As provided in Conservation Ontario's December 2022 submission on the Review of *A Place to Grow* and Provincial Policy Statement (ERO#019-6177), the Province should consider updating and/or finalizing the following: the *Natural Hazard Technical Guides*, the *1993 Watershed Planning Guidelines*, the *2022 Subwatershed Planning Guide*, and the *Natural Heritage Reference Manual* (and related guidance).

Upon review of the proposed Provincial Planning Statement, NPCA has identified the following general themes as seminal to our response. Further information on these themes can be found in *Attachment 1*.

- **Natural Hazards:** Support for the proposed retention of the natural hazard policy direction from the PPS 2020 and recommend the continued delegated responsibility of CA's in representing the provincial interest on natural hazards, other than those policies related to hazardous forest types for wildfire, encompassed in the proposed Section 5 of the Provincial Planning Statement. Under the delegated responsibility, CAs provide a critical service in reviewing and providing comments on municipal policy documents (e.g., official plans and comprehensive zoning by-laws) and applications submitted pursuant to the *Planning Act* as part of the Provincial One-Window Plan Review Service.
- **Increase Coordination:** Supports recommendations to increase coordination through additional references to working with/coordination with CA's as appropriate (e.g., for proposed new policies requiring planning authorities to identify hazardous lands and sites and manage development in those areas). It is important to recognize the CA's mandate to delineate and map areas of natural hazards within its area of jurisdiction and develop programs and service to manage and mitigate natural hazards. This critical work of the CA's informs the development of municipal policy documents and mapping, and planning decisions.
- **Climate Change:** Recommends a greater focus on preparing for impacts of a changing climate (e.g., as a purpose for undertaking watershed planning).
- **Implementation Guidance:** Recommends the need for comprehensive, up-to-date implementation guidance for the proposed Provincial Planning Statement (e.g., natural hazard technical guidelines, watershed and subwatershed planning guides, and the *Natural Heritage Reference Manual*) to increase consistency and support decision-making.

- **Watershed Planning:** Recommends that the Growth Plan policies requiring large and fast-growing municipalities to undertake watershed planning be continued and supports the encouragement of all other municipalities to undertake watershed planning.
- **Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management:** Requests to carry forward existing PPS 2020 policies, including maximizing vegetation within settlement areas where feasible and minimizing stormwater volumes to protect, improve or restore water quality and quantity.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the “Review of proposed policies adapted from *A Place to Grow* and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument” (ERO#019-6813). Please contact me should this letter require any clarification.

Sincerely,

David Deluce, MCIP, RPP
Senior Manager, Environmental Planning & Policy

Attachment 1:

NPCA's Feedback on the Proposed Policy Concepts and Proposed Wording for a New Provincial Planning Policy Instrument

The NPCA offers the following responses to the consultation questions provided by the MMAH on the Environmental Registry proposal. These responses should be read in conjunction with the general comments provided in the NPCA's covering letter.

1. What are your thoughts on the policies that have been included from the PPS and A Place to Grow in the proposed policy document, including the proposed approach to implementation?

Chapter or Section (New Provincial Planning Instrument)	NPCA Comments
Chapter 1 Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed text for the "Vision" section proposes substantial changes from the text within PPS 2020. For instance, the PPS 2020 provides detail in this section that highlights the need for the Province to manage and protect natural resources for a myriad of reasons which support strong, liveable communities, protecting "essential ecological processes and public health and safety", and minimizing environmental and social impacts. The text in PPS 2020 further notes that "strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and a strong economy are inextricably linked". The NPCA strongly recommends this text be retained to clearly demonstrate the linkages between managing and protecting natural resources, thriving and safe communities and a strong provincial economy. It is further noted that this section proposes text which reads "potential risks to public health and safety or of property damage from natural hazards and human-made hazards... will be mitigated". Further to the provincial "Understanding Natural Hazards" Technical Guide, prevention measures, including "good land use planning, development and management, and the regulation of hazardous lands and unsafe developments" is the first and most important step. The efficacy of this preventative approach was recently re-confirmed by the "Independent Review of the 2019 Flood Events in Ontario" as well as "Ontario's Flooding Strategy". To continue to support this approach, the NPCA recommends that the text be amended to read "Potential risks to public health or safety or of property damage from natural hazards and human-made hazards, including the risks associated with the impacts of climate change, will be avoided, and where not possible, mitigated". This would also be consistent with proposed policy 5.1.1 which requires development to be directed away from areas of natural or human-made hazards.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NPCA is appreciative of the proposal to retain text which requires the Province, planning authorities and Conservation Authorities to work together. This highlights the important role of CAs within the land use planning system to ensure that development occurs in a manner which protects people and property from the risks of natural hazards as well as the protection of sources of drinking water.
Section 2.1 Planning for People and Homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed section 2.1.2 sets out requirements for planning authorities to provide for an appropriate range and mix of housing options and densities required to meet the needs of current and future residents within the area. Many of these requirements have been carried forward from policy 1.1.1 from the PPS 2020 which outlines means to sustain healthy, liveable and safe communities. It is noted that the Province is not proposing to carry forward policy 1.1.1(d) from the PPS 2020, which notes that communities are sustained by “avoiding development and land use patterns which may cause environmental or public health and safety concerns”. While section 5.2 in the proposed Provincial Planning Statement states that development shall generally be directed to areas outside of hazardous lands and hazardous sites, the NPCA recommends policy 1.1.1(d) from PPS 2020 be carried forward to provide clarity to planning authorities regarding matters to be considered to achieve complete communities. Section 2.2.8 of the Growth Plan outlines policies for Settlement Area Boundary Expansions. Policy 2.2.8.3 requires planning authorities to determine the feasibility of proposed boundary expansions based on the application of all policies within the Growth Plan, including ensuring that the proposed expansion would be planned and demonstrated to avoid, or if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate any potential negative impacts on watershed conditions and the water resource system, including the quality and quantity of water. This policy is not proposed to be brought forward into the proposed planning instrument. To provide consistency with existing and proposed policies related to using the watershed as the meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning, the NPCA recommends that existing policy 2.2.8.3 from the Growth Plan be included in section 2.3.4 of the proposed planning instrument (Settlement Areas and Settlement Area Boundary Expansions) for “large and fast-growing municipalities”.
Section 2.9 Energy Conservation, Air Quality and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NPCA is supportive of the proposed policy 2.9 (b) requiring planning authorities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate by incorporating climate change considerations in the planning and development for

	<p>stormwater management systems. We are further supportive of the proposed policy 2.9 (d) which promotes the use of green infrastructure, low impact development and active transportation to protect the environment and improve air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is noted that policy 1.8.1 (g) from the PPS 2020 “maximize vegetation within settlement areas, where feasible” is not proposed to be brought forward into the proposed planning instrument. While the proposed planning instrument would require planning authorities to consider approaches which promote green infrastructure, the PPS 2020 policy requiring maximizing vegetation within settlement areas (where feasible) provides a strengthened approach to establishing or maintaining vegetative cover on the landscape. The NPCA recommends that the existing policy be carried forward, such that the proposed Section 2.9 policies continue to recognize the important contribution of natural vegetation to support energy conservation, air quality, and mitigation for impacts of a changing climate and extreme weather events such as flooding.
Section 3.6 Sewage, Water and Stormwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NPCA is pleased by the inclusion of the proposed policy 3.6.8 (g) which would require planning for stormwater management to “align with any comprehensive municipal plans for stormwater management that consider cumulative impacts of stormwater from development on a watershed scale”. It is noted that policy 2.2.1(i) in the PPS 2020 is not proposed to be carried forward, which requires planning authorities to protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by “ensuring stormwater management practices minimize stormwater volume and contaminant loads, and maintain or increase the extent of vegetative and pervious surfaces”. While proposed policy 3.6.8 (b) would require planning for stormwater management to “minimize, or where possible, prevent increases in contaminant loads”, the reference to minimizing stormwater volume is not proposed to be incorporated. Minimizing stormwater volume should remain a priority policy for the provincial government to ensure planning authorities have regard to increased volumes which may contribute to flooding in developed areas from stormwater flows. As such, the NPCA recommends that proposed policy 3.6.8 (c) be amended to read “minimize, or where possible, prevent increases in stormwater volumes and contaminant loads”. Currently, Growth Plan policies within Section 3.2.6 (Water and Wastewater Systems) and 3.2.7 (Stormwater Management) require municipal water, wastewater, and stormwater master plans

	<p>to “be informed by watershed planning or equivalent”. These policies are not proposed to be brought forward into the proposed planning instrument; however, a new policy (4.2.3) is proposed which states that “municipalities are encouraged to undertake watershed planning to inform planning for sewage and water services and stormwater management, and the protection, improvement or restoration of the quality and quantity of water”. The NPCA appreciates the proposed reference to undertaking watershed planning to inform planning for public infrastructure. It is noted however that the shift in language from the Growth Plan which requires municipalities (“large and fast-growing”) to have plans informed by a watershed plan, or equivalent, to encouraging watershed planning for all municipalities may result in major public infrastructure planned without consideration to broader watershed impacts. Such an approach could result in unforeseen watershed impacts which may require costly remediation. To support the Province’s streamlined, coordinated and comprehensive approach to public infrastructure planning, and to maintain consistency with existing and proposed policies for using the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning (see proposed policies 3.6.8(g) and 4.2.1(a)), the NPCA recommends that the existing policies from 3.2.6 and 3.2.7 of the Growth Plan regarding watershed planning be carried forward for “large and fast-growing municipalities”. Encouragement of watershed planning for all other municipalities is strongly supported.</p>
Section 4.2 Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPCA is pleased to note the policies in section 4.2.1 which are proposed to be carried forward into the new planning instrument. Particularly, the NPCA supports policies 4.2.1 (a) and (b) which ensure that planning authorities protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by using the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning, and that planning authorities will minimize potential negative impacts, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-watershed impacts. The NPCA notes that the Province is proposing to remove the requirement for planning authorities to evaluate and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate to water resource systems at the watershed level (PPS 2020 policy 2.2.1 (c)). Recognizing the Province’s existing standard of requiring watershed planning to be the basis for infrastructure, stormwater, water resource and comprehensive planning for “large and fast-growing municipalities” through the Growth Plan policies, and for consistency with both existing PPS 2020 and the proposed planning instrument policies, NPCA recommends the ‘watershed planning’ policy direction in the proposed 4.2.3 be improved by:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Requiring “large and fast-growing municipalities” to undertake watershed planning, as per the existing Growth Plan policies while continuing to encourage all other municipalities to undertake watershed planning; ○ Retaining PPS 2020 policy 2.2.1 (c) to ensure planning authorities protect, improve or restore water quality and quantity by evaluating and preparing for the impacts of a changing climate to water resource systems at the watershed level; ○ Including references that one of the purposes of watershed planning is to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate, along with informing “planning for sewage and water services and stormwater management, and the protection, improvement or restoration of the quality and quantity of water”; and, ○ Including references to partnerships with CAs to undertake watershed planning, as appropriate and where they exist. ● The NPCA is supportive of the proposed policy 4.2.1 (e) which will continue to protect all drinking water supplies and designated vulnerable areas. The amendments to this policy would help to strengthen the protection of all sources of drinking water.
Section 5.2 Natural Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NPCA strongly supports the proposed retention of natural hazard policy direction from the PPS 2020. Retention of these policies is vital to ensure the Province’s continued commitment to high standards for the protection of public health and safety from the risks of natural hazards. ● NPCA is pleased to note that text previously part of the preamble for Section 3.0 in the PPS 2020 is proposed to form a new general policy for natural and human-made hazards in the proposed planning instrument (proposed policy 5.1.1). This proposed approach will strengthen requirements to ensure that development is directed away from areas of natural or human-made hazards where “there is an unacceptable risk to public health or safety or of property damage” and will ensure development does not “create new or aggravate existing hazards”. ● A new general policy is proposed which states that “planning authorities shall identify hazardous lands and hazardous sites and manage development in these areas, in accordance with provincial

	<p>guidance” (5.2.1). The NPCA is supportive of this proposed policy, with amendment, to ensure continued coordination with other planning and development related instruments, such as Section 28 of the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> and associated regulations. The NPCA recommends the policy be modified to include reference to “collaborating with conservation authorities, where they exist”. Such an amendment would be consistent with Recommendation #3 from the “Independent Review of the 2019 Flood Events in Ontario” Report. As previously noted, it is recognized and appreciated that details in the proposed “Vision” section regarding natural hazards requires “the Province, planning authorities and conservation authorities to work together”, however, further details regarding collaboration with CAs would provide additional clarity for the proposed Natural Hazards policies and would be consistent with the CA mandatory program and services regulation (O. Reg. 686/21) regarding the management of natural hazards.</p>
Section 6.2.1 Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NPCA is pleased to note that the Province is proposing to largely maintain policy 1.2.1 from the PPS 2020 (now proposed policy 6.2.1) which states a “coordinated, integrated and comprehensive approach should be used when dealing with planning matters within municipalities...”, including coordination of water, ecosystem, shoreline, watershed and Great Lakes related issues, as well as natural and human-made hazards. Many of these elements are inter-related and as such a coordinated approach is required to ensure all concerns or issues can be addressed efficiently and effectively by the Province or planning authorities. • Proposed policy 6.2.1 outlines a list of entities who may be involved in this coordinated approach; however, it is noted that CAs are not explicitly mentioned. Given their role in providing expert guidance to planning authorities and to the Province to ensure consistency with provincial natural hazard policies, as well as their regulatory role under Section 28 of the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>, the NPCA recommends this section be amended to ensure CAs are identified as being involved in this coordinated approach.
Section 7 Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Impact Development: The NPCA is pleased to note that elements of the definition of “Low Impact Development” have been brought forward into the proposed planning instrument from the Growth Plan. No previous definition was provided in the PPS 2020. • Subwatershed Plan / Study: The NPCA notes that no definition is proposed for “subwatershed plans” or “subwatershed studies”. Both the Growth Plan as well as the Greenbelt Plan define “subwatershed plans”. To support and provide clarity to planning

	<p>authorities, it is recommended that a definition for “subwatershed plans” be included in the proposed planning instrument, consistent with the definitions in the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed Planning: The NPCA is supportive of the proposed definition of “watershed planning”, with amendment. As previously articulated, it is recommended the definition read “...for the protection, enhancement or restoration of water resources, including the quality and quantity of water, within a watershed, consideration of the impacts of a changing climate and severe water events, and for the assessment...”. • Water Resource Systems: The NPCA is pleased to see the definition of the “water resource system” brought forward into the proposed planning instrument from the Growth Plan (with amendments) and that it reflects the importance of all aspects of the system which contribute to the “ecological and hydrological integrity of the watershed”. • Wave Effects: The NPCA is supportive of the proposed amendment to the definition for “wave uprush” to now read “wave effects”. The proposed new definition has been made more specific and comprehensive, and includes “wave uprush, wave set up and water overtopping or spray” and states that the “limit of wave effects is the point of furthest landward horizontal movement of water onto the shoreline”. The improved direction provided by this definition will help to protect people and property.
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2. What are your thoughts on the proposed policy direction for large and fast-growing municipalities and other municipalities?

Through review of the proposed planning instrument, the NPCA notes that existing Growth Plan policies related to requiring subwatershed studies and watershed planning (or equivalent) to inform infrastructure, stormwater, water resource and comprehensive planning are not proposed to be carried forward into the new Provincial Planning Statement. These existing policies provide critical and consistent policy direction for “large and fast-growing municipalities” (or parts thereof outside of the Greenbelt) when planning for growth in a comprehensive manner. It is noted that the Province is proposing to encourage municipalities to undertake watershed planning to inform planning for sewage and water services, stormwater management and the protection, improvement or restoration of the quality and quantity of water (proposed policy 4.2.3). “Encourage” rather than “require” represents a significant departure from the Province’s commitment and well established existing/proposed policies related to requiring the use of the watershed as the meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning and requiring watershed planning to support comprehensive planning. As noted above, Conservation Ontario recommends policies related to requiring subwatershed studies and watershed planning (or equivalent) from the Growth Plan be carried forward for “large and fast-growing municipalities” in the proposed planning instrument. Proposed policies to encourage watershed planning should be maintained for other municipalities

(e.g., small / medium) – recognizing it may not be relevant or feasible for all municipalities province-wide to undertake these comprehensive exercises.

3. What are your thoughts regarding the proposed policies to generate housing supply, including an appropriate range and mix of housing options?

CAs remain committed to working with the Province, Municipalities, and other partners in support of increasing the overall supply and diversity of housing types in Ontario while maintaining strong protections for public health, safety, and the environment.

4. What are your thoughts on the proposed policies regarding the conservation of agriculture, aggregates, natural and cultural heritage resources?

The NPCA supports the Province's proposal to keep the natural heritage policies and related definitions analogous to those within the PPS 2020. The NPCA recognizes that natural heritage features such as forests and wetlands play important roles to reduce flows, store floodwaters and mitigate drought, which reduces risk and allow people greater response time to flooding emergencies. It is noted that often, the natural heritage, water resource and natural hazard systems are inextricably linked, and therefore coordinated protection of all these systems is necessary to support the maintenance of healthy watersheds and to best protect public health and safety from natural hazards and protect drinking water sources. The NPCA supports the Province's decision to not move forward with the proposal to allow up to 3 lot severances per farm parcel.

5. What are your thoughts on the proposed policies regarding planning for employment?

The NPCA has no comments in response to this question.

6. Are there any other barriers to, or opportunities for, accelerating development and construction (e.g., federal regulations, infrastructure planning and approvals, private/public partnerships for servicing, provincial permitting, urban design guidelines, technical standards, zoning, etc.)?

The NPCA continues to recommend that technical support and implementation guidance from the Province should be provided to assist with accelerating development and construction approvals. The provision of comprehensive and up-to-date implementation guidance would support a predictable, consistent, and streamlined process. Please see additional detail under "General Comments" at the beginning of this letter.

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Update on NPCA Regulation Mapping Project

Report No: FA-32-23

Date: July 21, 2023

Recommendation:

1. **That** Report No. FA-32-23 RE: Update on NPCA Regulation Mapping Project **BE RECEIVED** for information.
2. **That** the workplan for Phase 2 **BE ENDORSED**.
3. **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.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board of Directors with an update on NPCA's Regulation Mapping Project.

Background:

Regulation mapping is a tool that conceptually shows the area of land within NPCA's jurisdiction that is likely to be subject to Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 155/06, *Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority: Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*. The Regulation limit boundary is based on the best technical information available to NPCA at the time of preparing mapping. The mapping is not a "statutory map", which means that the mapping does not have the force of law. The actual regulatory requirements are found within the provisions of O. Reg. 155/06. The mapping is considered a screening tool for the NPCA, municipalities and the public that indicates where the Regulation likely applies rather than a rigid boundary (unlike, for example, a schedule in a Zoning By-law), thereby assisting with implementation of NPCA's permitting responsibilities. This mapping can be updated by NPCA as

new information becomes available, and guidance for updates has been provided by Conservation Ontario.

Staff presented a report to the Board of Directors on April 16, 2021 (Report No. FA-27-21) that outlined a plan for updating the Regulation mapping. The updates were to be carried out in phases. Phase 1 consisted of general maintenance updates such as removing mapping where no feature existed and removing mapping where development had been approved by the NPCA. This phase is substantially complete and updates will be incorporated by the Fall of 2023 and made available online to municipalities and the public.

Phase 2 consists of updating NPCA wetland mapping and involves more detailed data processing and public consultation. It will also include incorporating karst features into NPCA regulatory mapping.

Phase 3 will consist of refining the confined river valley system (valleylands) component of regulatory mapping to better identify the projected long-term stable top of slope. This will involve retaining a consultant to assist with the data processing, including geotechnical review. Also, Phase 3 will include the identification of the meander belt for watercourses. Phase 3 will commence in 2024 upon completion of updates to the NPCA's drainage area and watercourse mapping. Separate approval from the Board for Phase 3 will be sought at that time.

Floodplain mapping updates are ongoing and will be incorporated into the Regulation mapping as the final floodplain maps are approved by the Board of Directors. The most recent updated floodplain mapping includes Big Forks Creek and Beaver Creek. Oswego Creek, Draper's Creek and Coyle Creek floodplain mapping will be completed in 2024. Updates to shoreline hazard mapping will be undertaken through the updates to the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie shoreline management plans, which is anticipated to commence in late 2023.

Discussion:

It is imperative that the work in Phase 2 be completed as soon as possible. The current wetland mapping is based almost exclusively on the Land Information Ontario (LIO) wetland mapping, which was initially completed by the Province for NPCA in 2009. While this mapping was adequate at the time, it is now out of date. In November 2022, NPCA completed new Ecological Land Classification (ELC) mapping for the entire NPCA watershed jurisdiction.

Karst topography is considered hazardous lands as defined in the *Conservation Authorities Act* and is regulated by NPCA. Previous work to identify karst areas in NPCA's watershed was undertaken in 2006. As part of Phase 2, the previous work will be refined where necessary and karst areas appropriately incorporated into our Regulation mapping.

Updates to the Regulated wetland and karst layers are required to capture unmapped features, reflect best available data and improve customer service delivery, including permit application processing times, in accordance with the Conservation Ontario's Section 28 permit customer service guidelines.

Workplan for Phase 2 of the Regulation Mapping Project

The workplan for Phase 2 will be undertaken from Summer 2023-2024 as follows and is subject to refinement.

- Review and analyze GIS data sources:
 - Review new ELC mapping and filter potential wetland communities from all vegetation types.
 - Overlay potential wetland communities with Canada Land Inventory soils mapping using appropriate soil types based on the *Conservation Authorities Act* definition of wetland.
 - Overlay draft wetland mapping with the Provincial evaluated/unevaluated wetlands mapping.
 - Review the existing 2006 NPCA Karst Report and draft karst mapping to determine level of additional refinement/processing based on best available information.
- Stakeholder and public engagement:
 - Establish a page on NPCA's *Get Involved* web portal to share information and engage the community.
 - Meet with Municipal partners to review draft mapping.
 - Provide interactive opportunities for input from stakeholders and the community, such as a public information centre and digital engagement through the *Get Involved* web portal and online mapping viewer.
- Quality Assurance and Quality Control:
 - Review draft mapping for accuracy and consistency using set evaluation criteria.
 - Where feasible, field verification will be used to help validate wetland mapping.
- Present draft updated Regulation mapping to the Board of Directors for adoption.
- Incorporate the approved wetland and karst mapping into NPCA's Regulation mapping and publish this information on NPCA's online watershed mapping viewer.
- Provide additional notice to the public, partners and stakeholders that the new wetland mapping is in effect.

Section 28 Regulation

Currently, the Province is developing one consistent Section 28 Regulation for all Conservation Authorities. The Province has not released a draft of the new Regulation and no specific date has been given.

As part of NPCA's Policy Document review undertaken in 2022, several policy documents and regulations for Conservation Authorities within southern Ontario were reviewed. It was noted as part of this work that there was variation among the setbacks or allowances from regulated features. Using NPCA as an example, within O. Reg. 155/06, there is no hazard allowance distance from the regulated floodplain, whereas other Conservation Authorities regulate a distance up to 15 metres from the floodplain. A hazard allowance helps account for the dynamic nature of a natural hazard feature and is an appropriate mechanism to account for increased impacts of natural hazards.

NPCA staff would like the inconsistency within O. Reg. 155/06 addressed through the new streamlined uniform Regulation for Conservation Authorities. As such, staff recommends sending

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

Financial Implications:

Funding for the Regulation Mapping Project is provided within NPCA capital budgets.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan

Maintaining an up-to-date Regulation mapping inventory helps support sustainable growth and a resilient watershed. It also helps provide better service delivery, contributing to organizational excellence.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Report No. FA-27-21

Authored by:

David Deluce, MCIP, RPP
Senior Manager, Environmental Planning & Policy

Reviewed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Development

Submitted by:

Chandra Sharma
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Research Contract for the Welland River and Big Forks Creek Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Water Quality Modelling Research Project

Report No: FA-33-23

Date: July 21, 2023

Recommendation:

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-33-23 RE: Research Contract for the Welland River and Big Forks Creek Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Water Quality Modelling Research Project **BE RECEIVED.**
2. **THAT** a Grant-in-Aid research award to the University of Guelph in the amount of \$150,000 **BE APPROVED.**
3. **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.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to enter into a Grant-in-Aid research agreement with the University of Guelph for the Welland River and Big Forks Creek Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Water Quality Modelling Research Project, in accordance with NPCA's purchasing policies.

Background:

NPCA's Watershed Report Cards and long-term annual water quality reporting consistently highlight that the Welland River and its contributing sub-watersheds exhibit poor water quality in part due to pervasive non-point source issues. As such, the Welland River remains a priority for mitigation through strategically implemented restoration efforts on the landscape.

The NPCA has enlisted the University of Guelph for their expertise with non-point source modelling to help inform science-based restoration decisions. Modelling research will aid in determining how best to target remedial actions in the Welland River Watershed towards those opportunities that demonstrate high prospective for water quality improvements. The proposed SWAT Modelling Research Project study area is 942 km² and advantageously consists of three NPCA priority watershed planning units (Upper Welland River, Central Welland River and Big Forks Creek Watershed Planning Areas) to leverage investment value by strategically covering a major portion of the Authority's jurisdiction.

Discussion:

The SWAT model is one of the most globally widely used hydrologic modelling tools when considering non-point source pollution and impacts of alternative land use in a given watershed. It is an extremely powerful tool that can help evaluate surface water quality impacts relative to crop development, sediment and nutrient yields, and pesticide transport. Scenarios exploring existing land uses and management choices such as deployment of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and restoration actions are comparatively evaluated against simulated water quality achievements.

SWAT has been successfully calibrated and simulated in watersheds across Southern Ontario through partnerships between the University of Guelph and several government agencies including Conservation Authorities. The objectives of many of these partnerships have included assessing BMPs at the watershed level, better understanding the role of wetlands on specific watershed hydrology and hydraulics or measuring the efficiency of existing riparian buffers and wetlands in sediment and storm runoff retention. The resulting research is generally applied directly to the design of natural system enhancements by identifying locations that best mitigate poor water quality.

Partnering with the University of Guelph introduces an innovative and cost-effective solution to NPCA's niche research needs with respect to implementing SWAT as a decision support tool to address the Welland River Watershed's non-point source pollution issues. The intensive parameter inputs, calibration, and validation require extensive training and professional academic experience to navigate through the model's complexities and research application. The partnership will consist of hiring a post-Doctorate research fellow through a Grant-in-Aid agreement under the supervision of Dr. Ramesh Rudra who has more than 45 years of research experience implementing the SWAT model predominantly in the agricultural watersheds of Southern Ontario.

Section 8.2 of NPCA's *Procurement Policy* relates to Non-Competitive Procurement of Goods and Non-Consulting Services. The policy states that Non-Competitive Procurement of Goods and/or Services are allowed for the Procurement of a prototype or a first Goods and/or Services to be developed during research, experiment, study, or original development but not for subsequent purchases.

Financial Implications:

The total Grant-in-Aid research award to the University of Guelph is in the amount of \$150,000 spanning 2023 to 2025 and consists of salaries and benefits and related costs. This contract award recommendation is compliant with section 8.2 of NPCA's *Procurement Policy*.

This multi-year project will be funded through the approved NPCA Capital Projects Budgets.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan

- Goal 1.1: Support evidence-based decision-making for climate-resilient watersheds and shorelines
- Goal 1.3: Restore and enhance natural habitat, water resources, and forest cover
- Goal 2.2: Lead an integrated watershed management approach to support planning and policy for protection and enhancing watersheds
- Goal 4.2: Foster relationships with the community, non-government organizations, businesses, agriculture, industry, and academic institutions for collective outcomes and impact

Authored by:

Tara Gaade
Program Coordinator, Watershed Strategies and Climate Research

Reviewed by:

Geoffrey Verkade
Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Strategies

Reviewed by:

Lise Gagnon, CPA, CGA
Director, Corporate Services

Reviewed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Interim Director, Watershed Strategies and Climate Change

Submitted by:

Chandra Sharma
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: Canada Water Agency and *Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* Funding Opportunities

Report No: FA-34-23

Date: July 21, 2023

Recommendation:

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.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on conservation authority's role related to Great Lakes water quality and shoreline resilience. The report further highlights NPCA's priorities and current actions in support of the Canada Water Agency and *Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* related funding opportunities.

Background:

a) *Canada Water Agency*: Further to the 2023 Federal budget commitment of \$85.1 million over five years and then \$21 million ongoing thereafter, the Federal Government has established the Canada Water Agency to protect Canada's freshwater supply. The Agency is intended to share the latest freshwater science and serve as a major data hub to fund high-priority watershed initiatives (including the Great Lakes) through the Federal Government's renewed *Freshwater Action Plan*. The Agency is also tasked with modernizing the *Canada Water Act* to ensure the Federal Government has the tools to work with the provinces and territories on protecting and restoring shared waters.

b) *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*: The achievement of goals in the *Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement* (GLWQA) is supported by investments from both governments through separate funding programs (i.e., Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the U.S. and the Great Lakes Protection Initiative in Canada). On March 24, 2023, Canada announced its

commitment of \$420 million in additional funding over 10 years to preserve and restore waters of the Great Lakes. Enhanced Canadian funding commitment from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is focused on both the Canada Water Agency and GLWQA priorities including delisting Areas of Concern, achieving the phosphorus reduction target for Lake Erie, and advancing restoration and protection of priority coastal natural areas that are under high cumulative stress.

c) In February 2023, Conservation Ontario (CO) made budget submissions for an increased multi-year funding commitment. Conservation Ontario's 2023 Federal Budget Submission (*Appendix 1*) and Provincial Pre-Budget Submission (*Appendix 2*) reinforced the need for increased investments to achieve improvement in Great Lakes water quality. Additionally, on January 17, 2022, CO sent a letter to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, supporting the environmental and economic sustainability of the Great Lakes and creating of the proposed Water Agency.

d) The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI) with member Mayors from Ontario and Quebec, and the United States, released their 2023 Canadian Federal Priorities for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin earlier this year with a focus on leveraging Federal resources and tools to support climate adaptation for coastal communities. Niagara Region (NPCA's jurisdiction) has a strong leadership at the GLSLCI table and NPCA anticipates collaboration with GLSLCI to support on the ground delivery and increased investment in Great Lakes water quality programs.

Discussion:

Conservation Authorities (CAs) are key delivery partners to achieve commitments made by federal and provincial governments related to the *GLWQA* and *Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health* (COA) related to various monitoring, habitat restoration and remediation actions implemented through local Remedial Action Plans and Lakewide Action and Management Plans (LaMPs). Thirty-five of 36 Conservation Authorities' watersheds drain into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and 26 have Great Lakes coast and/or St. Lawrence River shoreline to manage for natural hazards (e.g., coastal flooding and erosion).

CO and CA representatives participate on several bi-national committees with Canadian and U.S. partners. CO is a member of the bi-national Great Lakes Executive Committee representing watershed management agencies. NPCA is currently a representative on the LaMP committee representing CO and is the lead coordinating agency of the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

CAs have also been long time partners in collaborating with the municipal, federal, and provincial governments and other international agencies in addressing many aspects of Great Lakes protection, restoration and conservation. Many CAs (including NPCA) have legislative mandates for the management of long stretches of Great Lakes coastline, protecting and restoring Great Lakes tributaries, and taking actions in the watersheds contributing to Great Lakes water quality.

These efforts address new and continuing threats to Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health, including aquatic invasive species, excessive nutrients, harmful pollutants, discharges from vessels, climate change and the loss of habitats and species. CA programs also protect the Great Lakes which are a direct source of drinking water to 60% of Ontarians. Reducing nutrients and erosion from our watersheds and coastlines improves Great Lakes water quality, thus reducing algae that create taste and odour and, in some cases, toxins from our drinking water.

Overall (based on 2019 figures), CAs engaged approx. 535 landowners resulting in 702 rural water quality projects; 88% of which were agricultural. Close to \$2M in grant dollars were provided to landowners to implement projects including windbreaks, soil erosion control measures, manure

storage, and stream buffers. The total value of these projects was estimated to be in the order of \$5M to the rural and agriculture economy which went to design, materials, contractors and farmers to implement the projects. This approximates the return evidenced in economic stimulus studies undertaken in the U.S. which estimate that every dollar invested in the Great Lakes restoration initiative is projected to generate more than three dollars in additional economic activity.

In addition, CAs provide extensive experience in reducing watershed and coastal flood and erosion risk (and the associated costs of flooding and erosion) through their natural hazards programs. They oversee \$3.8 billion in flood and erosion infrastructure as well as manage watershed-wide rural and urban natural infrastructure assets (forests, wetlands, etc.) that also help to reduce risk. Based on a preliminary 2021 estimates from 10 CAs on the future expenditures anticipated to mitigate coastal impacts over the next two years ranged from \$100,000 to \$50M each.

NPCA's Current Actions and Priorities:

1) Niagara River Remedial Action Plan (RAP): The Niagara River Area of Concern (AOC) is defined as the 58-km connecting channel flowing from the mouth of Lake Erie to Lake Ontario with ongoing collaboration and coordination between Niagara River RAP representatives in the U.S. and Canada. NPCA is the coordinating agency of the Niagara River (Canada) RAP with funding from the federal and provincial governments through the Great Lakes Protection Initiative and Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy funding sources. NPCA coordinates local partners (i.e., federal, provincial, and municipal governments, environmental organizations, industry, scientists, non-government organizations, First Nations and Métis communities, and the public) in implementing projects that aim to improve the Niagara River's water quality and ecosystem health. NPCA continues to deliver on ongoing commitment to the de-listing of the Niagara River AOC including monitoring, community engagement, and maintenance following de-listing. In September 2022, NPCA hosted education and awareness activities in support of the Great Lakes Forum on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the GLWQA. NPCA staff also participated on expert panels and presented at the International Joint Commission (IJC) Water Quality Board Meeting.

2) NPCA's Great Lakes Shoreline Flood and Erosion Hazard Mapping update and Shoreline Resilience Plan development is scheduled to begin in 2023-2024. NPCA's Shoreline Resiliency Plan will go a step further to broaden shoreline management objectives and strategies to address climate issues, green infrastructure, and ecological considerations.

3) NPCA restoration program includes shoreline restoration initiatives with a focus on nature-based solutions to mitigate erosion hazards.

4) NPCA is working on an extensive shoreline erosion monitoring and mitigation program (for rivers, streams and lake-based shorelines).

5) NPCA's agricultural stewardship projects are being designed to maintain soil health for agriculture, reduce nutrient loadings to the Great Lakes and restore priority watersheds using rural storm water management systems, wetland restoration, tree planting, and promotion of best management practices.

Conclusion and Next Steps

As a local watershed and partnership agency, responsible for two Great Lakes shorelines and boundary waters with the U.S., NPCA is well-positioned to play a key role in delivering on federal and provincial priorities while also addressing the impacts of urbanization and the compounding effects of climate change in the rapidly urbanizing Great Lakes watersheds.

This new funding commitment from the Federal government presents an excellent opportunity to build on more than 70 years of CA expertise and experience as a science and delivery partner to multiple levels of government and international agencies.

Reducing nutrients and erosion from our watersheds and coastlines will improve Great Lakes' water quality. To meet nutrient reduction targets, Conservation Authorities' Healthy Great Lakes / Rural Water Quality / Clean Water programs need a long-term commitment. It takes time to develop targeted action plans with the watershed community, to build support for conservation measures and to implement them. Continued investment is needed for science and monitoring to identify the most effective on-the-ground actions. Investment is needed to increase the scale, scope, and intensity of targeted actions given the growing impact of climate change and development intensification. Watershed projects like buffer strip plantings, septic system upgrades, tree planting and shoreline erosion mitigation /coastal projects contribute to reducing or mitigating impacts on Great Lakes water quality.

NPCA staff will continue to work with CO, Conservation Authority Lakes Leads for GLWQA, LaMP partners, and other stakeholders such as the GLCSI, to address local priorities within our partner municipal jurisdiction of Niagara, Hamilton and Haldimand.

NPCA staff will continue to work with federal and provincial staff to advance priorities in the GLWQA and COA as part of its leadership in implementing the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan.

Financial:

There are no financial impacts resulting from this report at this time.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

This report strongly supports the NPCA's *Strategic Plan 2021-31* under several strategic priorities:

- a) Healthy and Climate Resilient Watersheds,
- b) Supporting Sustainable Growth; and
- c) Partner of Choice.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Conservation Ontario's 2023 Federal Budget Submission (February 2023)

Appendix 2: Conservation Ontario 2023 Provincial Pre-Budget Consultation Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

Submitted by:

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



Submission on the 2023 Federal Budget

February 10, 2023

Partnering with Ontario Conservation Authorities for Local Delivery Provides Value

Conservation Ontario and Ontario's 36 conservation authorities (CAs) are effective partners for the Federal Government. From policy tables to experienced boots-on-the-ground organizations delivering environmental programs and services, you can count on cost-effective, practical, and efficient approaches to challenging issues.

Conservation authorities offer proven experience in watershed management across Canada's most populated province. We trust our submission provides clear examples of our abilities.

In 2023, we see three main partnership opportunities:

1. Addressing climate change impacts;
2. Protecting people and property from flooding and erosion hazards through floodplain mapping and infrastructure investments; and,
3. Protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River water quality.

We have a number of recommendations and requests for your consideration during the 2023 Federal budget Deliberations:

Recommendation 1: That the Government renew multi-year commitments to Conservation Ontario under the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Program and the Nature Canada Fund.

Recommendation 2: That conservation authorities be eligible for programs developed under the National Adaptation Strategy and the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan.

Recommendation 3: That the Government provide funding to Conservation Ontario to support the capacity of CAs to successfully deliver the 2 Billion Tree Program.

Recommendation 4: That the Government continue and increase funding to conservation authorities under the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund and under the Natural Infrastructure Fund.

Recommendation 5: That the Government continue and expand its investment in the much-needed Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping program.

Recommendation 6: That the government establish a national high-risk flood insurance program in Budget 2023 with CA input and engagement in the development phase.

Recommendation 7: That conservation authorities be eligible for programs and projects developed to further objectives of the Canada Water Agency.

Recommendation 8: That implementation decisions on the Freshwater Action Plan continue to support significant investment in the Great Lakes St Lawrence Region. Canada has a significant responsibility to ensure environmental, social, and economic sustainability of this globally significant freshwater resource.

Recommendation 9: That the Government provide funding to Indigenous peoples to build greater capacity to contribute to the work being achieved by the Government around the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

About Conservation Authorities

Conservation Ontario (CO) represents the network of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities (CAs). CAs are local, watershed-based, natural resource agencies located throughout the province. Almost all of Ontario's population (95%) lives in a watershed managed by CAs. Conservation authorities are legislated under Ontario's *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Conservation authorities have worked very successfully with the Federal Government for many years monitoring Ontario's watersheds and delivering a wide range of watershed management programs in the most populated province in Canada. Outcomes from these collaborations protect Great Lakes water quality, build local watershed resilience, and address growing climate impacts with nature-based solutions.



1. Addressing Climate Change Impacts

Climate change is the overriding challenge affecting Ontario's natural resources. It significantly magnifies all other threats to biodiversity and creates more frequent flooding and erosion hazards. This results in severe business and social disruptions, costly infrastructure damages, and threats to water quality.

Conservation Authorities are concerned about the quality and sustainability of our water and natural resources. We rely and build upon the science provided by Environment Climate Change Canada (monitoring, modeling and research), apply it locally, and offer solutions and actions that benefit the watersheds and water quality of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change

Conservation Ontario and the conservation authorities are grateful for support under the Nature Smart Climate Solutions program and the Nature Canada Fund. Protecting land and investing in habitat restoration, rehabilitation, and enhancement provides multiple co-benefits including: Great Lakes water quality; flood risk reduction; maintaining biodiversity; sequestering carbon; building climate resilience; and protecting air quality.

- 2021 – 2024 Nature Smart Climate Solutions Work of CAs
<https://conservationontario.ca/policy-priorities/climate-change/nature-based-climate-solutions>
 - Currently, 17 conservation authorities, are delivering 58 projects as nature-based solutions including GHG reductions.
- In the first two years (2021-2023):
 - 8938 hectares of enhanced land management practices implemented (cropland/cover crops);
 - 1198.4 hectares of wetlands and grasslands restored;
 - 286.3 hectares of land secured for conservation;
 - Conservation authorities have leveraged over 50 percent (\$9.5 M) of \$9M in ECCC funding.
- Canada Nature Fund
 - To date, working with 17 conservation authorities to acquire 1,933 hectares of lands for climate change adaptation.
 - Conservation authorities leveraged \$6.9 M provided by ECCC with a matching contribution of \$20.3M

We ask the Government to renew multi-year commitments to Conservation Ontario and conservation authorities under these two programs to continue advancing the work needed to address climate change.

We further request conservation authorities be eligible for funding under the National Adaptation Strategy and the Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan.

2 Billion Tree Program

Conservation authorities plant approximately 2 million trees across Ontario's watersheds annually. They also map and monitor local forest cover.

Conservation authority tree planting and habitat restoration/rehabilitation projects are delivered in partnership with other agencies, local businesses, and landowners. This allows leveraging of resources, resulting in broader benefits and impacts.

We are thankful for the funding CAs, who applied directly to the Program have received. We welcome additional opportunities, including for Conservation Ontario on behalf of the CA network, to receive funding required to support the 2 Billion Tree effort.



2. Protecting people and property from flooding and erosion hazards through floodplain mapping and infrastructure investments

Flood and Erosion Hazard and Disaster Risk Management

Flooding and erosion are costly and devastating climate change impact challenges.

Conservation authorities have proven success in partnering with the Federal Government to address flooding and erosion issues. Ongoing and additional funding under the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund and Natural Infrastructure Fund will enable CAs to continue to address the challenge of aging infrastructure, as well as the natural infrastructure required to keep flood and erosion hazards from becoming costly disasters. Conservation authority water and erosion control infrastructure already helps to avoid more than \$150 M in damages to residential properties annually.

Updated floodplain mapping is critical to guide development away from hazards and support forecast and warning and risk management decisions. Conservation authorities and Conservation Ontario appreciated engaging with Natural Resource Canada staff to shape the newly launched Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program launched in September. We are pleased to learn that FHIMP will continue beyond March 2024 and are greatly encouraged that the Government will continue this much-needed funding.

Further to the recently released Task Force on Flood Insurance and Relocation report *Adapting to Rising Flood Risk: An Analysis of Insurance Solutions Canadians* and as leaders in floodplain management, Conservation Ontario requests that the government establish a national high-risk flood insurance program in Budget 2023 with CA input and engagement in the development phase. Conservation authorities manage many areas of erosion along Great Lakes shorelines [these hazards threaten cottages and homes built prior to the development of CA regulations]. Today, the work of CAs prevents development in hazardous areas, and minimizes damage to existing development.

A number of other federal initiatives are important in addressing flood hazards and supporting flood insurance. While outside the scope of this submission, they are of high interest to Conservation Ontario and we welcome ongoing engagement on them. Initiatives include:

- Creating the Federal Flood Mapping Guideline Series, which includes establishing a community of practice;
- The Federal commitment to complete all flood maps in Canada;
- Promoting flood risk in Canada through a public-facing information portal;
- Measures to improve flood mitigation in communities at risk of recurrent flooding;
- Implementation of the recently announced Climate Resilient Coastal and Northern Communities Program; and
- Continued investment in hydrometric monitoring to support flood forecasting, warning and monitoring.

3. Protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River water quality

Canada Water Agency

Conservation Ontario provided comments on the establishment of a Canada Water Agency and are supportive of its creation. We emphasize that an integrated watershed management framework (including watersheds, sub-watersheds and catchment basins) should be used as the framework for management of freshwater resources.

We request consideration for funding under new initiatives developed to further the objectives of the Canada Water Agency. Further, decisions around the implementation of the Freshwater Action Plan should continue to support significant investment in the Great Lakes St Lawrence Region.

Great Lakes / St. Lawrence River

Conservation authority watershed report cards align with results from the State of the Great Lakes 2022 report. The next report cards are being released in March 2023. Results show that water quality, forest conditions, and groundwater in the Great Lakes Basin remain unchanged, for now. There are exceptions. Conservation authorities' watershed management programs and projects support this status, but investment is needed to increase the scale, scope, and intensity of efforts given the growing impact of climate change and development intensification.

Increased support is needed for science and monitoring to identify on-the-ground actions. For example, studies of coastal processes under a changing climate to confirm the success of specific management actions such as replacing aging shoreline protection infrastructure with nature-based solutions. Watershed projects like buffer strip plantings, septic system upgrades, stormwater management, tree planting, shoreline/coastal projects, etc. all contribute to reducing or mitigating impacts on Great Lakes water quality.

Conservation authorities are keen to assist your government to meet its goals under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA).

We congratulate the Government on the 50th anniversary of the GLWQA and the release of the 2022 State of the Great Lakes Report and the 2022 Progress Report. Conservation Ontario and many conservation authorities attended the Great Lakes Public Forum in September. We are encouraged by the participation of Indigenous peoples in this event. From this successful event, we recommend that the Government fund Indigenous peoples to support greater participation in implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and development of these reports.

Conclusion

Conservation Ontario and the 36 conservation authorities are effective partners for the Government. We bring considerable experience in watershed management to the policy tables and are experienced on-the-ground delivery organizations. Additional examples of this include: working around species at risk; contributing to agricultural best management practices and resilient landscapes; and working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Leveraging the Work of Conservation Authorities

Conservation authorities bring additional, valuable resources to projects by leveraging vast, long standing local, municipal and provincial partnerships. We work closely with property owners to plan, develop, and implement significant, practical, projects. When added up, these actions provide significant improvements to the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River region and its waters.

Conservation authorities' watershed management expertise ensures: effective delivery of programs, value for money, local buy-in, and a more meaningful impact than any one organization can achieve independently.

For Additional Information

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Wainfleet, Lake Erie



2023 Provincial Pre-Budget Consultation Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

Submitted by Conservation Ontario
February 13, 2023

Conservation Authority Programs Deliver Value for Provincial Investment

Conservation Authorities are boots on the ground delivery agents for the Province and Municipalities. Our delivery of flooding and erosion mitigation programs, the management of conservation lands, and drinking water source protection, are a few examples.

Conservation Authority programs: protect the Great Lakes and other water resources; support a healthy agricultural industry; protect water quality and quantity; and provide the local science and operations that help Ontarians be emergency prepared. Our integrated watershed management approach manages impacts to natural resources to ensure the long-term viability of our environment and economy.

Partnering with the Province and others, the Conservation Authorities contribute significantly to the health and well-being of residents by protecting safe drinking water sources, protecting lives and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion, and providing almost 300 conservation areas for 8 – 10 million annual visitors.

Conservation Authorities offer cost savings by working at the watershed scale.

Conservation Authorities are locally based, cost-efficient partners for the Province, particularly for key provincial environmental, economic and social policy priorities. Working at the watershed scale brings multiple levels of government and partners to the table to achieve greater results than any one organization could working independently. Three key areas of increased investment are recommended to enhance outcomes of these partnerships for the benefit of Ontarians.

1. Increase Investment in Natural Hazards Programs

Conservation Authorities are a **key implementing partner of *Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy***. Flooding is the most costly natural hazard and the leading cause of public emergency in Ontario. For every dollar paid in insurance claims for damaged homes and businesses, the Insurance Bureau of Canada tells us that Canadian governments and taxpayers pay multiples more to repair public infrastructure that severe weather has damaged. These costs are rising as climate change impacts grow.

Flood and erosion events tell a cautionary tale for future planning and development decisions. Land use planning is a critical component of an integrated approach to flood risk management. Conservation Authority regulations and their participation in plan review keep development safely away from flooding and erosion. Conservation Authorities support the provincial housing strategy by improving planning application review and approval processes with Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative.

Conservation Authorities appreciate the Province's attention to this program including the timely management of the Federal Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP) projects. To continue to meet the growing challenges, however, Conservation Authorities need:

- ✓ continued and increased investment for local implementation of natural hazard programs;
- ✓ increased delivery of technical guideline support;
- ✓ continued and increased investment for the provincial Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECl) Program is needed for aging natural hazards infrastructure that prevents flooding and erosion. This risk-based program is delivered through a Municipal – Provincial – Conservation Authority partnership. Province provides \$5M with assistance from a Conservation Authority experts committee; Municipalities match this with another \$5M and Conservation Authorities implement the projects;
- ✓ continued funding for the Hydrometric Monitoring Network to support flood forecasting and advanced warnings for successful emergency response;
- ✓ new funding for the development of CA natural hazard asset management plans as required by changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*; and,
- ✓ provincial top up of current Federal natural disaster funding opportunities [e.g. Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) and Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP)] for additional infrastructure projects as well as floodplain mapping improvements.

2. Continue Multi-year Funding Model for Ontario Drinking Water Source Protection Program

Conservation Authorities are a **key implementing partner for the Ontario Drinking Water Source Program**. Conservation Ontario and the Conservation Authorities gratefully acknowledge the Province's commitment to two-year multi-year funding for the program. We are in year two of this commitment in 2023 and submit that this model is successful for both partners. We look forward to the Province's continued commitment.

3. Continued and increased investment in Great Lakes water quality programs

Conservation Authorities are a **key implementing partner for Ontario's Great Lakes Water Quality commitments**. Thirty-five of thirty-six Conservation Authorities' watersheds drain into the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and twenty-six have Great Lakes coast and/or St. Lawrence River shoreline to manage for natural hazards (e.g. coastal flooding and erosion). Conservation Authority programs protect the Great Lakes which are a direct source of drinking water to 60 percent of Ontarians. Reducing nutrients and erosion from our watersheds and coastlines will improve Great Lakes water quality thus reducing algae that create taste and odour and, in some cases, toxins that we don't want in our drinking water.

To meet nutrient reduction targets, Conservation Authorities' Healthy Great Lakes / Rural Water Quality / Clean Water programs need a long-term commitment. It takes time to develop targeted action plans with the watershed community, to build support for conservation measures and to implement them. Continued investment is needed for science and monitoring to identify the most effective on-the-ground actions. Investment is needed to increase the scale, scope, and intensity of targeted actions given the growing impact of climate change and development intensification. Watershed projects like buffer strip plantings, septic system upgrades, tree planting, shoreline/coastal projects, etc. all contribute to reducing or mitigating impacts on Great Lakes water quality.

Outcomes Achieved in Partnership with Conservation Authorities.

- Reduced risk and costs from flooding events
- Less red tape and more sustainable growth under the provincial housing strategy

From January 1st – December 31st, 2021, the high-growth Conservation Authorities issued a combined total of 7533 permits, representing a 12% increase from 2020. The high-growth Conservation Authorities continue to be highly successful – issuing 91% of permits within the provincial timelines.

In 2021, 17 non-high-growth Conservation Authorities joined the annual reporting cycle, issuing a combined total of 4192 permits. These Conservation Authorities were similarly successful in their first year of reporting – with 93% of permits within the provincial timelines.

- Improved public health of Ontario residents and reduced healthcare costs through drinking water source protection and enabling people to be active in nature at over 300 conservation areas

Advantages of Working with Conservation Authorities

- ✓ Known and valued for their watershed-based approach to managing flooding & erosion
- ✓ Governed by member municipalities and fosters collective actions at the local and community level
- ✓ Ability to leverage partnerships for greater resources and broader outcomes

More Information

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Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket ON L3Y 3W3
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**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, June 16, 2023
11:00 a.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: D. Cridland
B. Clark
R. Foster
P. O'Neill
D. Seaborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: B. Clark (with regrets)

STAFF PRESENT: C. Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary–Treasurer
G. Bivol, Clerk
M. Ferrusi, Manager, People and Performance

In the absence of a duly appointed Governance Committee Chair, NPCA Board Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation No. GC-01-2023

Moved by: Member Seaborn

Seconded by: Member O'Neill

THAT the Governance Committee meeting agenda dated April 13, 2023 **BE
APPROVED.**

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Chair Foster called three times for nominations to the position of Governance Committee Chair and received the following:

Motion:

Moved by: Member Cridland

THAT Member Seaborn **BE NOMINATED** as Governance Committee Chair for 2023.

With no further nominations for the position of Committee Chair, Chair Foster called three times for nominations to the position of Vice Chair to the Governance Committee and received the following:

Motion:

Moved by: Member Seaborn

THAT Member O'Neill **BE NOMINATED** as Governance Committee Vice Chair for 2023.

Receiving no other nominations, the following recommendations came forward:

Recommendation No. GC-02-2023

Moved by: Member Cridland

Seconded by: Member O'Neill

THAT Member Seaborn **BE APPOINTED** as Governance Committee Chair for 2023.

THAT Member O'Neill **BE APPOINTED** as Governance Committee Vice Chair for 2023.

CARRIED

Chair Seaborn presided over the remainder of the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Governance Committee meeting dated November 10, 2022

Recommendation No. GC-03-2023

Moved by: Member Foster

Seconded by: Member Cridland

THAT the minutes of the Governance Committee meeting dated November 10, 2022 **BE APPROVED**.

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

6. DELEGATIONS

None.

7. PRESENTATIONS

None.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

8.1 Report No. GC-01-23 RE: Freedom of Information Statistical Report 2022

8.2 Report No. GC-03-23 RE: Appointment of NPCA to Conservation Ontario Council Board of Directors

8.3 Verbal Update on Compensation Review by Misti Ferrusi, Manager, People and Performance

8.4 Verbal Update on Salary Disclosures by Misti Ferrusi, Manager, People and Performance

Recommendation No. GC-04-2023

Moved by: Member Foster

Seconded by: Member Cridland

THAT the following items **BE RECEIVED**:

- Report No. GC-01-23 RE: Freedom of Information Statistical Report 2022;
- Report No. GC-03-23 RE: Appointment of NPCA to Conservation Ontario Council Board of Directors;
- The verbal update on the Compensation Review by Misti Ferrusi, Manager, People and Performance;
- The verbal update on Salary Disclosures by Misti Ferrusi, Manager, People and Performance.

CARRIED

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Report No. GC-02-23 RE: Governance Committee – 2023 Work Plan

Recommendation No. GC-05-2023

Moved by: Member Cridland

Seconded by: Member O'Neill

1. **THAT** Report No. GC-02-23 RE: Governance Committee – 2023 Work Plan **BE RECEIVED**.
2. **AND THAT** the Governance Committee - 2023 Work Plan attached as Appendix 1 **BE APPROVED** with provision for a meeting on November 17 and the deferral thereto of all workplan items from the September meeting, save and except the Insurance Update and Compensation Review .

CARRIED

9.2 Excerpt of Draft Minutes from the Meeting of the NPCA Board of Directors dated May 19, 2023 - Motion to Permit NPCA Chair to Vote at Committee – Discussion ensued culminating in a request for a report with justifications to support any changes or revisions to the existing process and structure of committee meetings.

Recommendation No. GC-06-2023

Moved by: Member Foster
Seconded by: Member O'Neill

THAT the Excerpt of Draft Minutes from the Meeting of the NPCA Board of Directors dated May 19, 2023 - Motion to Permit NPCA Chair to Vote at Committee **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

10. NEW BUSINESS

C.A.O. Sharma spoke on the potential appointment of an agricultural representative to the Board and the pending Hamilton citizen representative appointment.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m..

M. Seaborn
Committee Chair

C. Sharma
C.A.O. / Secretary - Treasurer

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

**Thursday, July 5, 2023
5:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Foster (Committee Chair)
Lennie Aarts
Philip Beale
Tracy Boese
Lageera Chatheechan
Leslie Clarke
David Cribbs
Cindilee Ecker-Flagg
George McKibbin
Jonathan Musso
Naheed Qureshi
William Rapley
Albert Witteveen
David Wyllie

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: C. Sharma, C.A.O. / Secretary – Treasurer
G. Shaule, Administrative Assistant
D. Deluce, Senior Manager, Planning and Regulations
J. Sinibaldi, Manager, Strategic Business Planning and Public
Relations
L. Lee-Yates, Director, Watershed Management
K. Royer, Coordinator, Community Outreach

Welcome from Chair Foster and the meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

1. OPENING WELCOME FROM CINDILEE ECKER-FLAGG

- Cindilee Ecker-Flagg provided an opening statement.
- Added – introductions of members (roundtable)

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Recommendation No. PAC-01-2023
Moved by Member Albert Witteveen
Seconded by William Rapley

THAT the Public Advisory Committee agenda dated July 5, 2023 **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. Approval of the minutes

None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

6. PRESENTATIONS

- a) PowerPoint Presentation by Leilani Lee-Yates, Director of Planning and Development/Interim Director, Watershed Strategies and Climate Change, Overview of NPCA Programs and Services and NPCA Administrative By-Law. Ms. Lee-Yates provided comments.

Recommendation No. PAC-02-2023

Moved by Member Lageera Chatheechan

Seconded by Member David Wyllie

THAT the PowerPoint Presentation by Leilani Lee-Yates, Director of Planning and Development/Interim Director, Watershed Strategies and Climate Change RE: Overview of NPCA Programs and Services and NPCA Administrative By-Law **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

- b) PowerPoint Presentation by Kerry Royer, Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist, RE: PAC Terms of Reference: Roles and Responsibilities of Members and Election Process - Ms. Royer, provided a background on the item including a short PowerPoint presentation.

Recommendation No. PAC-03-2023

Moved by Member Lageera Chatheechan

Seconded by Member David Wyllie

THAT the PowerPoint Presentation RE: PAC Terms of Reference: Roles and Responsibilities of Members and Election Process **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

7. DELEGATIONS

None

8. CONSENT ITEMS

Report No. PAC-01-23 RE: Public Advisory Committee 2023 Meeting Dates

Recommendation No. PAC-04-23

Moved by Member Phil Beale

Seconded by Member William Rapley

THAT Report No. PAC-01-23 RE: Public Advisory Committee 2023 Meeting Dates **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Roundtable Discussion

Chair Foster recommended moving the roundtable discussion to next meeting.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

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

- Chair Foster suggested that Committee Members who attend public events as ambassadors of NPCA to discuss with NPCA in advance. Chair Foster also encouraged Committee members to keep the lines of communication open with the Full Authority Board Members.
- Foundation discussed briefly by Chair Foster: for future meeting.
- CAO Sharma provided updates on Land Securement Strategy. Fund matching was approved by Full Authority Board Members.
- CAO Sharma also briefed Committee Members on The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation's \$5 million Funding Campaign - Restoration, Land Securement Strategy, Parks and Infrastructure, and Education Stewardship
- CAO Sharma commented on the development of a national trails tourism strategy.

11. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the Public Advisory Committee meeting of July 05, 2023 **BE ADJOURNED** at 6:53 p.m.

CARRIED

Rob Foster
Public Advisory Committee Chair

Chandra Sharma
Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary –
Treasurer