

**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
5:30 p.m.  
Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation  
Glen Elgin Room  
3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON**

**A G E N D A**

---

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**3. PRESENTATIONS (and/or Delegations)**

There are no presentations or delegations at the meeting.

**4. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

- a) Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee – June 27<sup>th</sup> 2019
- b) Chair's Remarks
- c) Chief Administrative Officer Comments

**5. BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION**

- a) NPCA Board Report No. FA-120-19 RE: PAC TOR Staff Response
- b) Verbal update on PAC recruitment process

**6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- a) NPCA Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2020

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**



**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 27, 2019**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation  
Glen Elgin Room  
3292 Sixth Avenue, Jordan, ON**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** D. Bylsma, Committee Chair  
D. Dick  
H. Korosis  
D. Pont

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** J. Ariens  
Y. Hopkins  
A. Kirby  
S. Stea

**STAFF PRESENT:** G. Wood, C.A.O. Secretary – Treasurer  
G. Bivol, Interim Clerk

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

## **1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

---

The C.A.O., Gayle Wood was asked informally to speak to the issue of phragmites under the Chief Administrative Officer Comments portion of the meeting.

Recommendation No. PAC-01-19

Moved by Member Pont

Seconded by Member Dick

**THAT** the agenda for the meeting of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee dated June 27, 2019 meeting **BE APPROVED**.

**CARRIED**

## **2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

---

None declared.

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

---

There were no presentations or delegations at the meeting.

### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

---

- a) Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee – November 29, 2018

Recommendation No. PAC-02-19

Moved by Member Korosis

Seconded by Member Dick

**THAT** the minutes of the Public Advisory Committee meeting dated November 29, 2018  
**BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

- b) Chair's Remarks

The Chair opted to forgo remarks to allow Ms. Wood additional opportunity to speak.

- c) Chief Administrative Officer Comments

Ms. Wood introduced herself and spoke to the issue of the reinstituted NPCA restoration program and opportunities to partner with other organizations to combat the phragmites issue. Mr. Dick spoke to initiatives by the group in Niagara-on-the Lake and its desire to have the NPCA participate in its initiatives to eliminate phragmites. Discussion ensued and Ms. Wood indicated that she would follow-up on the matter.

### 5. BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION

---

- a) NPCA Board Report No. FA-51-19 RE: NPCA Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

Recommendation No. PAC-03-19

Moved by Member Korosis

Seconded by Member Dick

**THAT** NPCA Board Report No. FA-51-19 RE: NPCA Public Advisory Committee (PAC)  
**BE RECEIVED** for information.

**CARRIED**

### 6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

---

- a) Proposed Draft NPCA PAC Terms of Reference

Discussion ensued with respect to the need to include provisions for the determination of quorum, membership, mandate and the number of projects to be endorsed annually.

b) Consideration of New PAC Members and process to select them

Discussion ensued with regards to the need for participation on the Committee from the development sector, homeowner's associations, agricultural representation from both above and below the escarpment and indigenous representation. The Committee asked to be circulated NPCA Board agendas and discussed the use of social media to solicit community involvement. Ms. Wood spoke to public consultation and PAC involvement in the 2020 budget projects and in development of a new strategic plan. Mr. Pont spoke on assistance the Committee may offer in endorsing priority projects and Mr. Dick spoke to the need for the NPCA to have project successes as a means of restoring public faith in the NPCA.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

---

The PAC discussed dates and times for subsequent meetings. Ms. Royer was requested to poll members for a September meeting date.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

---

Recommendation No. PAC-04-19

Moved by Member Pont

Seconded by Member Korosis

**THAT** this meeting of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee be hereby adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

**CARRIED**

---

Dave Bylsma  
Public Advisory Committee Chair

---

Grant Bivol  
Interim Clerk

**Report To: Board of Directors**

**Subject: Staff Response - Terms of Reference - Public Advisory Committee**

**Report No: FA-120-19**

**Date: September 18, 2019**

---

**Recommendation:**

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-120-19 RE: Staff Response - Terms of Reference - Public Advisory Committee **BE RECEIVED** for information.
2. **THAT** the Board of Directors **APPROVE** the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) for the NPCA Public Advisory Committee (PAC).

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this Report is to seek the Board of Directors' approval of a revised Terms of Reference for the NPCA's Public Advisory Committee.

**Background:**

The NPCA Public Advisory Committee (formally called the NPCA Advisory Committee) was created based on recommendations from the NPCA's Strategic Plan 2014-2017.

At the May 3, 2019 Board of Directors meeting, the Board members approved the staff recommended changes to the PAC Terms of Reference (TOR) and advised staff to forward the TOR to the PAC for their review, comment on filling vacancies and provide feedback to the Board.

At the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 PAC meeting, members were asked to review the Draft TOR. Changes recommended by members of the PAC are outlined below:

- Add a second Agricultural sector representative to allow for a North and South representative on the Committee;
- Add a seat for a First Nations representative;
- Remove the reference to review up to "4 projects" per year under the "new mandate" section of the TOR; and
- Approve all other changes highlighted in yellow in the attached Appendix 1 to this Report.

Report FA-115-19 (Appendix 1) concerning the approval of the draft TOR for the NPCA PAC was deferred at the August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Full Board Authority meeting for considerations of comments by Member Mackenzie.

The current mandate of the PAC, which was created in 2014, is:

“To provide collaborative local perspective, guidance and expert advice in the implementation of the NPCA policies, plans and/or other issues as the Board may request. Members serve in a non-governance capacity with a focus on providing advice and recommendations for consideration by the NPCA Board.”

The Committee is currently comprised of 10 public members and the NPCA Board Chair. The members represent the public-at-large, Métis Niagara, property owners, Chamber of Commerce/Tourism, agriculture, development, conservation, urban/rural planning, and user/volunteers. Members are appointed by the NPCA Board of Directors and the NPCA Chair functions as Co-Chair of the Committee until the end of his/her term, along with a member Co-Chair elected by the Committee.

The next PAC meeting will be September 25th, 2019. At the September meeting, the members will be asked to consider their role in the approved NPCA *Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*.

## **Discussion:**

At the August 14, 2019 meeting, Member Mackenzie requested up a number of considerations for the TOR and also sent an email to CAO/Secretary-Treasurer Gayle Wood and Chair Bylsma after the meeting to clarify some of the suggestions he spoke of. The list of suggested changes, and the staff recommendations are outlined below:

1. Simplify the seat currently called “property owners” by making it a 3<sup>rd</sup> Public-at-Large seat

Staff response: staff concur with this recommendation and have added it to the draft TOR in Appendix 3.

2. The Co-Chair of the PAC should be a Board member other than the NPCA Chair, and ideally have at least two (2) NPCA Board members sit on the PAC

Staff response: In January 2017 the Board erroneously appointed more than the Chair to the PAC, however before repealing the appointments, the Chair asked the PAC if they were interested in changing the TOR to include more Board members. The PAC unanimously agreed that there is no need for additional Board members on the PAC (see Report 36-17 from March 29, 2017, Appendix 2) for a full list of comments and suggestions brought forward by members of the PAC).

Staff have no concerns with the Board Chair acting as Co-Chair of the PAC. As the role is Co-Chaired alongside a PAC member Co-Chair there is little concern for this being perceived as Chair-centric and has never been raised as a concern by members of PAC. Currently, the member Co-Chair position is vacant, however staff hope to have this position filled at the November 2019 PAC meeting.

3. Mileage should be made available to the members of PAC.

Staff response: It would be wonderful to provide members with mileage expenses as some members are travelling as far as 120km (round trip) to attend meetings at Ball's Falls. If the Board approves this additional expense, staff agree it would add incentive for members to apply and to attend meetings. It should be noted that PAC members are invited annually to the Conservation Awards, our volunteer appreciation event and are recognized in the program as well as with a small gift as an appreciation for the volunteer time with the PAC.

Staff completed an exercise based on current members to determine the financial implications for providing mileage to members of PAC. See Financial Implications below for full details.

Should the Board approve mileage compensation for PAC members, the proposed 2020 Operating Budget would need to be revised.

4. Suggestion that where the reference is made to "their sector" that this be replaced with "the watershed"

Staff response: Staff suggest that the reference to "their sector" in the TOR is appropriate as it is not the intention for the PAC members to be representatives of the entire watershed. They are there to represent their stakeholder group and to act as a liaison between the PAC, the NPCA and their sector/stakeholder group. It is the responsibility of the NPCA and the Board to be liaisons to the entire watershed and we look to the members of the PAC to help us determine the most appropriate ways to communicate with the sector/stakeholder group they represent.

5. The representative seat structure should be altered to replace the development and planner seats with education, health and heritage.

Staff response: Staff suggest that the current seats for development and planners should remain on the PAC as it is important to hear all from all the different stakeholder groups on a public advisory committee such as this. Staff agree that knowledge about education, health and heritage would be beneficial to the PAC and offer the following suggestion for the TOR:

For the representative seat structure, 3 members for the Public-at-Large (with preference given to applicants that have relevant experience related to the NPCA's mandate and programs not specifically covered in other seats on the PAC, including, but not limited to; education, health, restoration, heritage, water quality, etc.)

6. Application Process suggestions included a list of community involvement, and the removal of the section on professional memberships.

Staff Response: The listing of community/volunteer service is included in the application form on-line. Professional memberships are important to show that the applicant can liaise with their sector for certain types of vacancies. An example of this is if someone is applying to represent the Agricultural sector, it would be important to know that they are a member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and other related organizations in order to show that they are a member of the broader agricultural community and can liaise with other members.

7. There was a suggestion that the wording "considerations for diversity of gender, age, geography and ethnicity" should not be a part of the TOR or the selection process, and this should be changed to "NPCA is an equal opportunity employer/agency" to avoid candidates being perceived to be selected based on things like gender or ethnicity.

Staff Response: That wording was suggested by the PAC during the 2016 and 2017 review of the TOR (see Appendix 2, Report 36-17). The member selection sub-committee uses a matrix to evaluate each candidate and there are no categories for the applicants to point out their gender, age, ethnicity, etc. This is simply meant to be an inclusive statement. The reference to geography is to include members from across various parts of the watershed, where appropriate, but not outside the NPCA jurisdiction.

### **Financial Implications:**

The following is an outline of estimated financial implications for providing mileage expenses to PAC members. Current average is 63km round trip for members, multiplied by 12 members at 50 cents per kilometer, the average cost per meeting would be \$378. The total estimated cost per year to provide mileage, would be approximately \$1500.

Another alternative would be to provide PAC members with an annual honorarium, or a per meeting honorarium, to ensure that the costs related to this are more predictable. This could be something around \$25 per meeting attended, for an annual cost of maximum \$1200, with the average being less than \$1000 as not all members attend each meeting.

### **Related Reports and Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Report FA-115-19  
Appendix 2 - Report 36-17  
Appendix 3 - Draft TOR for approval

### **Authored by:**

Original Signed by:

---

Kerry Royer  
Coordinator, Community Outreach

### **Reviewed by:**

Original signed by:

---

Renee Bisson,  
Manager, Communications and Public Relations



**Submitted by:**

Original Signed by:

---

D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII  
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

## **NPCA Public Advisory Committee** **Draft Terms of Reference v. 2**

Committee Name:	NPCA Advisory Committee
Type:	Standing Committee - Advisory
Date of Formation:	February 19, 2014
Staff Support:	Community Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator
Enabling Legislation:	Feb. 19, 2014 – NPCA Report # 06-2014
Amended Version:	September 20, 2017 (Proposed Revision Sept 18 2019)
Total No. of Members:	13 (Includes NPCA Chair)
Meeting Frequency:	Quarterly – as required
No. of Meetings Annually:	4 (+)
Budget:	\$2,500
Reporting Method:	PAC Draft Minutes provided to the Board for consideration

### **1. TITLE:**

The name of the Advisory Committee shall be “**The NPCA Public Advisory Committee**”, ~~or until such time a more reflective name representative of the Authority is chosen at the discretion of the NPCA Board.~~

### **2. ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANDATE:**

To provide collaborative local perspective, guidance and expert advice in the implementation of NPCA policies, plans and/or other issues as the Board may request. Members will serve in a non-governance capacity with a focus on providing advice and recommendations for consideration by NPCA Board, which are aligned with the approved NPCA annual workplans from each Division – Corporate Services, Land Management, Watershed Management, and Communications/Engagement.

### **3. TERMS OF APPOINTMENT and VACANCIES:**

Upon establishment of the Committee, members will be appointed to serve for a term of TWO (2) years beginning in January of that year. Positions vacated will be filled through a “Call for Expression of Interest” to be conducted as required. In the event of a vacancy during a regular term, the vacancy may be filled for the remainder of that term.

The power to appoint or rescind shall be reserved solely for the full Board Authority. The NPCA Chair shall function as Co-Chair and will serve until the end of his/her term.

#### 4. RESOURCES & BUDGET

The budget will be allocated at \$2,500 to cover meeting expenses. Thereafter, the budget will be re-assessed on an annual basis.

The Advisory Committee is primarily supported by the Community Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator, with the Community Engagement Manager and Chief Administrative Officer providing general oversight.

#### 5. REPORTING

Meeting Agendas will be prepared by the Executive Coordinator to the CAO and Board and Community Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator in consultation with the Committee Co-Chairs. Minutes shall be recorded and circulated to members. DRAFT minutes will be submitted to the NPCA Board at their earliest meeting following an ADVISORY COMMITTEE meeting as long as Committee members are given 2 weeks to review the draft minutes. Actionable items to be carried forward by the NPCA Chair in a timely fashion.

#### 6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Act as Champions/Ambassadors for the NPCA
- Advise on potential partnership opportunities
- Provide a conduit to the local community within their sector
- Identify barriers and opportunities in the community within their sector
- Advise on opportunities to communicate information from the NPCA to their sector partners
- Advise on other issues from within their sector.

#### 7. MEMBERSHIP:

The NPCA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE shall consist of up to THIRTEEN (13) members comprising multi-stakeholder representation including landowners, planners, business sector, agriculture, conservation, Indigenous representatives, development sector, the general public and the NPCA Chair. The NPCA encourages diversity of age and gender on the Committee.

##### 7.1 REPRESENTATIVE SEAT STRUCTURE:

The Advisory Committee shall consist of the following representation:

- TWO (2) THREE (3) members from the public-at-large (with knowledge of NPCA mandate and related programs including heritage, education, restoration, and health being an asset at least one member that has technical knowledge related to the work of the NPCA).
- ONE (1) member representing Métis Niagara
- ONE (1) member representing property owners
- ONE (1) member representing a Chamber of Commerce and/or Tourism

Industry

- ONE (1) member representing agricultural/value-added agricultural sector from the south part of the watershed and ONE (1) member representing agricultural/value-added agricultural sector from the north part of the watershed
- ONE (1) member representing the development sector
- ONE (1) member representing the environment sector
- ONE (1) member representing First Nations
- ONE (1) member representing urban and rural planning (must have Registered Professional Planner designation)
- ONE (1) member representing volunteers/users (e.g. hikers, hunters, campers, etc.)
- ONE (1) for the NPCA Board Chair (who also serves as a Co-Chair of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

**7.2** Internal or external persons may be invited to attend the meetings at the request of the Co-Chairs, on behalf of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE, to provide advice and assistance where necessary. These attendees will have no advisory privileges and may be requested to leave the meeting at any time by the Chairperson. NPCA Board members are encouraged to attend Advisory Committee meetings but will carry no voting power and will not receive per diem for attending.

**7.3** ADVISORY COMMITTEE members may cease to be a member of the Committee if they:

- Resign from the Committee
- Fail to attend 2 consecutive meetings without providing reasons of significance to the Co-Chairs
- No longer objectively represent their respective sector
- Breach of Confidentiality
- Co-Chairs can recommend to the NPCA Board for a member to be removed if they are no longer meeting their responsibilities.

**7.4** Decisions of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE are considered as recommendations only and no formal voting process is required.

**7.5** A meeting quorum will be 50% + 1 of current filled positions

**7.6** Extended Absence

In the event that a member of the Advisory Committee advises the Co-Chairs of an extended absence in writing, a surrogate may be pre-approved at the

[Type here]

discretion of the Chair and Full Board Authority.

## **8. PRIVACY**

The meetings of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE are public; however, members should be aware that their names will be in the public realm and a list of membership may be provided when requested. Personal member information, other than name and resident municipality, will be kept confidential in accordance with Provincial legislation.

## **9. LEADERSHIP & ADVISORY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS**

To provide leadership, the NPCA Board Chair will serve as Co-Chair of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE. In addition, a member Co-Chair shall be elected by the ADVISORY COMMITTEE to serve for a period of 12 months. Co-Chairs may serve for two (2) consecutive terms (with the exception of the NPCA Board Chair). The Co-Chair responsibilities include:

- Building consensus
- Providing leadership and ensuring the fair and effective functioning of the Committee
- Scheduling meetings and notifying ADVISORY COMMITTEE members
- Inviting special guests to attend meetings when required
- Guiding the meeting according to the agenda and time available
- Ensuring all discussion items end with a decision, action or definite outcome
- Review and approve the draft minutes before distribution

NPCA Chair responsibilities include:

- Approving Agenda items and correspondence
- Approving delegations for Advisory Committee meetings
- Act as a conduit between the Advisory Committee and the NPCA Board of Directors

## **10. ROLES AND EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS**

- Review meeting materials in advance of the meetings and arrive prepared to provide a broad perspective on the issues under consideration.
- Submit agenda items to the Co-Chairs and staff a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the meeting date for approval.
- Make every effort to attend regularly scheduled meetings. If not available, notify the Co-Chairs and staff contact on inability to attend at least one day prior to the meeting date.
- Agree to describe, process and resolve issues in a professional and respectful manner.
- Provide constructive input to help identify future projects or strategic priorities for consideration, respective of their sector representation.

- Members are encouraged to go back to their respective sectors with information received at Advisory Committee meetings to notify of opportunities to give feedback

## **11. ADMINISTRATION**

Community Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator will provide Administrative services for the Advisory Committee, including preparation and distribution of Agendas, recording of meeting minutes/notes, reports and general information as required to ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The Community Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator will coordinate reports on ADVISORY COMMITTEE activities for inclusion in NPCA Board meeting agendas.

## **12. DURATION OF MEETINGS**

Meetings will be approx. TWO (2) hours in duration. Exceptions may occur from time to time to deal with significant items.

## **13. APPLICATION PROCESS – CALLS FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

- Potential applicants will be assessed and recommended for appointment based not only on if there is an available seat but also on their ability to meet the roles and expectations of a member (Section 11). Seats may remain vacant until candidates with the requisite background and skills can be identified.
- The Call of Expressions of Interest will be fully transparent and made public and published via NPCA website, social media venues and local print media.
- For Committee recruitments, the ADVISORY COMMITTEE will develop a Selection Sub-Committee comprised of the NPCA Board Chair, the member Co-Chair and one Advisory Committee member in good standing. In the absence of a Co-Chair in good standing, the NPCA Chair shall approve a 3<sup>rd</sup> member to sit on the sub-Committee from the members in good standing on the Advisory Committee.
- Applicants shall be required to submit the following information:
  - contact information
  - area of expertise, general availability, why they want to serve on NPCA PAC
  - highest level of education
  - professional/employment background
  - professional memberships
- Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  - Knowledge and experience related to the sector representation

- Knowledge of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
- Experience working on multi-sector committees
- Relevant volunteer/community service work related to the seat they are applying for

Considerations for diversity of gender, age, geography and ethnicity will also be a part of the evaluation process, in accordance with the current TOR.

- Final recommendation of candidates will be presented to the NPCA Board for appointment.

#### **14. AMENDMENTS**

The Terms of Reference and the role of the NPCA Advisory Committee shall be reviewed and assessed every 4 years by the incoming NPCA Board of Directors. The Terms of Reference may be amended to meet the ongoing needs of the NPCA, by agreement of the majority of Board members.

**Report To: Board of Directors**

**Subject: Response to Notice of Motion - Climate Change**

**Report No: FA-85-19**

**Date: July 17, 2019**

---

**Recommendation:**

That Report No. FA-85-19 RE: Response to the Notice of Motion on Climate Change **BE RECEIVED** for information.

That the Board of Directors **SUPPORT** the Draft NPCA Climate Change Vision and Charter as outlined in the Draft Report entitled ***NPCA Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan – 2019 to 2020.***

That the Board of Directors **DIRECT** staff to develop a Business Case for 2020 funding support **for** the Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.***

That the Board of Directors **REQUEST** the NPCA Public Advisory Committee to review the NPCA Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*** prior to its submission as part of a Business Case for 2020 funding.

That the Board of Directors **SUPPORT** staff discussion with Brock University, the City of Hamilton, McMaster University, Haldimand County and Niagara Region representatives to determine if NPCA could be involved with their climate change initiatives.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this Report is to respond to the Notice of Motion on climate change which was introduced at the June 19, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

**Background:**

**a) NPCA Notice of Motion**

At the June 19, 2019 Board of Directors' meeting the following Notice of Motion was introduced. Staff were requested to respond to this Notice of Motion by providing a Report for the Board to consider at their July 17, 2019 Board meeting.



WHEREAS climate change is a threat to the citizens of the NPCA watershed; and

WHEREAS climate change is a threat to the natural environment of our watershed; and

WHEREAS climate change is a threat to the built environment of our watershed; and

WHEREAS Canada and 194 other nations signed the Paris Climate Accord in 2015; and

WHEREAS the United Nations and many other scientific agencies report that human activity is the main cause of global climate change; and

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act states “an authority shall provide...programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards”; and

WHEREAS recommendations 7 and 8 of the Auditor General of Ontario’s Special Audit of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority speak directly to recommendations related to flood risks and natural hazards; and

WHEREAS the NPCA is a lead environmental institution for the people of our watershed; and

WHEREAS action is needed to develop climate risk mitigation and climate risk adaptation strategies, policies, and procedures; and

WHEREAS there is no Planet B;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority declares a climate emergency and recognizes the need to take action that will contribute to the mitigation and adaptation of the effects of climate change throughout our watershed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NPCA will create a climate change emergency charette with the aim of identifying a proposed plan of action for the NPCA: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the charette will include subject matter experts drawn from NPCA resources as well as community institutions in order to realize the best possible results.

**b) NPCA Climate Change Work – 2010 – 2012**

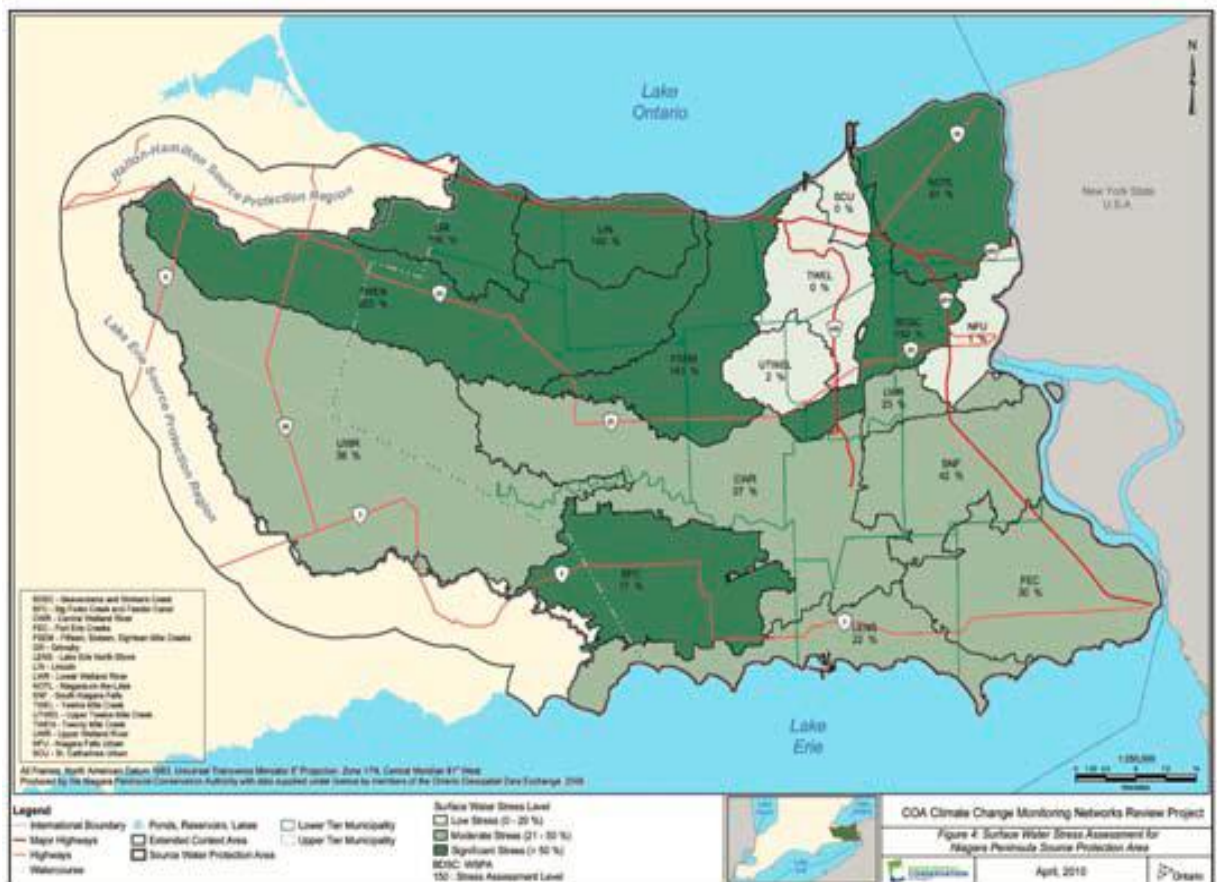
NPCA first commenced its climate change work in 2010 by completing a report entitled ***Climate Change Monitoring Networks Review***. This report provided an important evaluation require for climate change; that being a vulnerability assessment of our surface and ground water.

From this, NPCA provided Niagara Region with information for their report **Adapting to Climate Change: Challenges for Niagara, April 2012 –**

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/government/planning/pdf/climatechangereport.pdf>

In the Niagara Region Report, NPCA determined that 7 out of 13 Watershed Planning Areas in the Region were highly sensitive to climate change, as shown in the map below.

Based on its analysis, NPCA recommended adding or reactivating 7 weather stations in the Region to provide more comprehensive water quality and flow data from Niagara watersheds that are highly sensitive to climate change.



It is important to note that NPCA now has 15 dedicated climate stations and 20 precipitation gauges which support hydrological modelling in Niagara to assess the impact of climate change on water resources over time.

The Niagara Region Report also referenced the NPCA's restoration programs which are essential for climate change adaption.

The 2012 Regional Report concluded that "the experience of strong regional and local initiatives in other parts of Ontario, Canada and internationally suggests that additional commitments are needed. These include:

- Ensuring that local governments and key business organizations in the region make a commitment to do their part to reduce the impacts of climate change,
- Support by strong political or executive champions,
- Establishment of a clear organizational structure for adaptation planning with a clear mandate, financial support and the collaboration of key stakeholders in the region,
- Allocation of dedicated staff and budget – rather than simply adding adaptation to the responsibilities of already busy staff or volunteers with few financial resources,
- Active collaboration with local and regional researchers prepared to help with climate information, vulnerability and risk assessment, and identification of adaptation options, and
- Identification of priority sectors and projects for adaptation...”

### **c) NPCA Climate Change Work – 2012 – present**

***NPCA’s Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021*** addresses the goal to:

***“work in collaboration with other government bodies to develop science-based solutions to help mitigate climate change impacts...”***

Although NPCA has not formalized a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, we currently undertake four key program areas where we can make a contribution to climate mitigation and adaption:

#### **Hazard Mitigation**

- Flood Warning and Forecasting
- Surface and groundwater vulnerability monitoring and assessment
- Floodplain Mapping

#### **Climate Change Adaptation**

- Wetland protection and restoration
- Carbon sequestration (tree planting)
- Riparian projects

#### **Education and Outreach**

- Community tree planting events
- Niagara Water Festival

#### **Facilities Management and Conservation**

- LEED building at Balls Falls
- Facilities energy conservation.

## Discussion:

Staff concur that climate change is a threat to the watershed and to the citizens that reside within our jurisdiction and beyond.

Staff agree that, although NPCA currently addresses some mitigation and adaption programs, that a formal ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*** should be developed in 2020. We recommend a focus in 2020 for the following reasons:

- Approved Q3 and Q4 priorities for 2019 focus on the response to the Auditor General's Report, legal actions/outstanding grievances, preparation of the 2020 budget and operational priorities as approved in the June to December workplans by the Board of Directors.
- Completion of a ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*** will require further human and financial resources as addressed in the Niagara Region's Report on climate change.

Based on the Notice of Motion staff are recommending that:

1. The Board of Directors receive the Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the NPCA*** appended to this Report.
2. That the Board of Directors support the Draft NPCA ***Climate Change Vision and Charter*** as outlined in the Draft Report entitled ***NPCA Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***.
3. That the Board of Directors request staff to develop a Business Case for 2020 funding for the Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***.
4. That the Board of Directors support staff discussion with Brock University, the City of Hamilton, McMaster University, Haldimand County and Niagara Region representatives to determine where NPCA could be involved with their climate change initiatives.

Further, it is important to note that Brock University recently launched a climate change partnership with seven of Niagara's municipalities entitled ***Niagara Adapts***. By the end of this partnership it is anticipated that each of the municipalities will produce a climate change adaption plan that provides recommendations to build climate resilience. NPCA staff have reached out to Brock University to determine if the conservation authority could participate in this partnership.

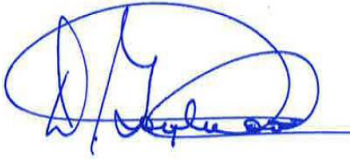
## Financial Implications:

- Staff have commenced the climate change work by developing a ***Strategy and Action Plan*** for the Board's consideration; however, a Business Case for funding to complete the strategy work in 2020 will be required, with a further Business Case for funding in 2021 and beyond for implementation of the Action Plan.

## Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Draft NPCA ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***

**Submitted by:**



D. Gayle Wood, BES, CMMIII  
Interim CAO/Secretary-Treasurer



---

# **NPCA Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2020**

Approved July 17, 2019

---



## Table of Contents

Background

NPCA's Strategic Plan – Mission, Strategic Focus, Goals

NPCA's Climate Change Vision

NPCA's Climate Change Strategy Framework

Setting the Stage – Initial Climate Change Research

NPCA's Internal Climate Change Team

NPCA's Public Advisory/Stakeholder Group

Proposed Watershed Climate Change Charter

Conclusion

**Cover Photo:** Courtesy of David Sills

## Background

Globally, various levels of governments have accepted climate change as a reality.

## Key facts and figures

*The climate impacts we are seeing today are expected to persist and worsen as a result of past and present-day emissions.*

*We must act now to adapt and build resilience to a changing climate.*

*We will be able to proactively manage risks, protect the health and well-being of Canadians and lower costs in the longer term.*

*The costs of climate change for Canada are only expected to rise.*

*Taking proactive action to manage risks associated with climate change impacts will reduce these costs.*

*There are economic opportunities that come from building the know-how and expertise necessary to successfully adapt to a changing climate.*

*Environment and Climate Change Canada*

Canada has committed to a “new approach to global climate action” built on:

- Fact based decision making and robust science;
- Recognition of the necessity of transitioning to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy;
- Strong collaboration with provinces...to take concrete climate action; and
- Support for climate-resilient development and adaption in countries that need it.

Several conservation authorities and municipalities have followed suit by developing their own climate change strategies.

1. On July 17, 2019, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority’s Board of Directors will review a ***Draft NPCA Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan*** based on the “Local Governments for Sustainability” (ICLEI) framework.



## NPCA's Strategic Plan –Mission, Strategic Focus, Goals

NPCA's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan provides an overarching set of key principles that should be considered when developing the ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***:

**NPCA Mandate** – As prescribed by the Conservation Authorities Act, our mandate is to establish and undertake programs and services on a watershed basis, to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources.

**NPCA Mission** – Our mission is to implement the Conservation Authorities Act mandate by remaining responsive, innovative, accountable and financially sustainable organization.

NVCA Strategic Goals and Objectives

**NPCA Strategic Focus – “Evidence Based Watershed Resources Management”:**

- **Goal:** Work in collaboration with other government bodies to develop science-based solution to help mitigate climate change impacts, and report progress to the Board of Directors on an annual basis.

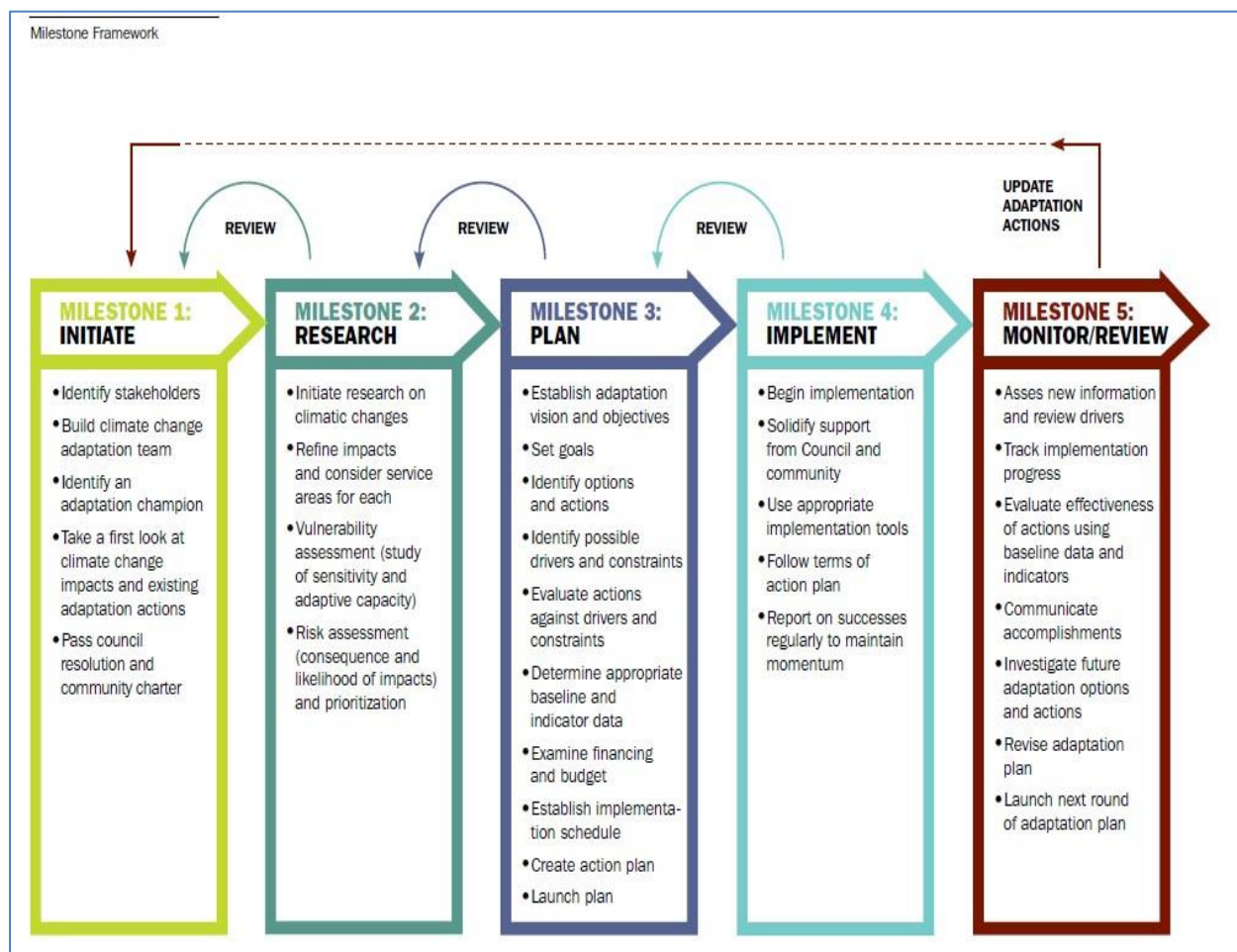
## NPCA's Draft Climate Change Vision

NPCA's strategic mission and strategic focus offer an important link in addressing a draft NPCA Climate Change Vision, which is proposed as follows:

*NPCA's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will support global, federal, provincial and participating municipal goals by focusing on our watershed to support climate change adaption and mitigation.*

## NPCA's Climate Change Strategy Framework

It is proposed that NPCA commit to the following strategy framework, as presented in *Changing Climate, Changing Communities: Guide and Workbook for Municipal Climate Adaptation*, 2014, by ICLEI Canada:



The following section of this Strategy responds to each of the action items listed in “Milestone 1: Initiate” of the climate change strategy framework, which could be completed by the NPCA in 2019.

## Setting the Stage – Initial Climate Change Research

### Climate Change in the Context of the Niagara Peninsula

In conjunction with the increasing concentration of greenhouse gases, it is certain that temperatures globally have been rising since the late 19th century and even more notably since the late 1940's onwards:

...each of the past three decades has been successively warmer at the Earth's surface than all previous decades in the instrumental record.<sup>1</sup>

Reconstruction of past climates using ice core, tree rings and other datasets indicate it is very likely that in the Northern Hemisphere the 30-year period from 1983 to 2012 was the warmest in the past 800 years. Temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere have been climbing faster than the global average. Importantly, it is extremely likely that human activities have caused more than half of the warming observed since 1951.

Studies conducted for the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change have noted with high confidence that an increase in precipitation has occurred in the Northern Hemisphere."<sup>1</sup>

A 2012 report entitled ***Adapting to Climate Change: Challenges for Niagara*** was released by Brock University which projected the following for Niagara:

- An increase in average annual temperature of 3-4 degrees C by the 2050's;
- An increase in freeze-free days by as much as 30 days in the 2050's and 50 days in the 2080's;
- A 20% decrease in summer rainfall by the 2050's;
- A continuing increase in free-thaw cycles for the next few decades;
- Growth in the conditions that give rise to thunderstorms with a likely increase in heavy rainstorms, lightning strikes, high winds, hailstorms and tornadoes.

In addition to the above work, NPCA completed a 2010 report entitled ***An Assessment of [monitoring stations] in the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority watershed for Climate Change Detection and Adaption***. This report is appended to NPCA Report No. FA-85-19 regarding Climate Change.

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 1, Assessment Report 5 (AR5), 2013, p.161.

## NPCA's Internal Climate Change Team

Should funding be approved, the NPCA could have several teams who will each play critical roles in the development of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

NPCA Internal Team	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>NPCA Board Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our governing body – the Board of Directors – will oversee all aspects of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan development and approval, including all policies, programs, and budget related to the Strategy and Action Plan.</li> <li>• The Board will approve all Staff Reports associated with the 5 Milestones of the Climate Change Strategy.</li> <li>• The Board will approve the Climate Change Action Plan.</li> <li>• The Board members may participate in stakeholder meetings.</li> <li>• The Board members will promote the Climate Change initiative with their respective municipalities.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead NPCA Team</b> Gayle Wood, Interim CAO –  Geoff Verkade Team– Watershed restoration  Renee Bisson Team – Communications  Steve Miller Team– Water Resources  An additional staff person funded through a Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our lead team will complete staff reports for all Five Milestones of the initiative.</li> <li>• The lead team will conduct relevant research with the assistance of local academic institutions</li> <li>• The lead team will ensure implementation of the Five Milestones of the initiative.</li> <li>• The lead team will coordinate with the NPCA Public Advisory Committee and stakeholders on workshops and reports.</li> <li>• The lead team will coordinate all publications, stakeholder input, external communications and communications planning.</li> </ul>

<b>NPCA Internal Team</b>	<b>Roles and Responsibilities</b>
<b>Supporting NPCA Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Management Team</li> <li>Management Team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Executive Management and Management Teams will be involved in reviewing Stakeholder input and responding to the proposed NPCA Action Plan in terms of their program initiation.</li> </ul>
<b>NPCA Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The full team will be involved in the review of the draft and final Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.</li> </ul>

## Draft Public and Stakeholder Advisory Group

It is recommended that, if funded, the Board request the NPCA Public Advisory Committee to review reports and host workshops/charettes regarding the climate change work. The PAC could be augmented with the following stakeholders, as well as recommend a potential climate change champion for NPCA.

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Proposed Representatives</b>
<b>Municipalities (3)</b> 3 municipalities -	<input type="checkbox"/> One representative Niagara Region <input type="checkbox"/> One representative City of Hamilton <input type="checkbox"/> One representative Haldimand County
<b>Academic Institutions (3)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Brock University <input type="checkbox"/> Niagara Collage <input type="checkbox"/> McMaster University
<b>Agricultural Sector (2)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Representatives from PAC
<b>Building Industry (1)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> TBD
<b>NGOs (2)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> TBD
<b>Federal Government (1)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Climate Change Canada
<b>School Boards (2)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Niagara District Catholic School Board <input type="checkbox"/> District School Board of Niagara
<b>Business (2)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Chamber of Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Homebuilders' Association
<b>PAC Members (12)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 members of PAC, including those identified above
<b>Health Unit (1)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Niagara District Health Unit

## **Watershed Climate Change Charter**

“Scientific evidence shows climate change is happening now. This consensus that greenhouse gas emissions are seriously affecting Earth’s climate and that climate change is having increasing negative global impacts, effects the NPCA watershed’s environment and economy.

The NPCA agrees that we need to take responsibility at the local, watershed level and act to address both climate change adaptation and mitigation. We need to prepare for climate change impacts in ways that promote environmental integrity, economic prosperity, and health benefits for all.

It is important for individuals and organizations to share ideas and best practices and coordinate efforts to accomplish these goals as effectively as possible. NPCA agrees that we need to be part of this coordination and conversation”.

---

Chair NPCA

---

Approved July 2019

## Conclusion

With the adoption of the Draft ***Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan – Milestone 1 – Initiating the Strategy Report*** could be commenced in 2019.

NPCA can seek funding for **Milestone 2 - Research** work in 2020. The second milestone involves additional investigation on impacts, vulnerability and risk assessments regarding climate change and the NPCA watershed.

**Milestone 3 - Plan**, which would result in the development of a NPCA Climate Change Action Plan could also be completed in 2020 with appreciate funding for an additional staff person and a communications budget for consultation.

**Milestone 4 – Implement** could be commenced in 2020 should funding be received for the first 3 Milestones.