

**NIAGARA PENINSULA CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

November 21, 2025

Carolinian Hall

3350 Merrittville Highway, Thorold ON

**ADDENDUM**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

**5.8. Correspondence dated December 15, 2025 from Conservation Halton RE: Bill 68 and proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities (ERO Posting #025-1257)**

Page 1

**5.9. Correspondence dated December 17, 2025 from Niagara Falls Nature Club RE: ERO 025-1257 – Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities**

Page 8

**5.10. Correspondence dated December 17, 2025 from the Town of Pelham RE: Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency & Proposed Boundaries for Regional Conservation Authorities**

Page 9

**9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**9.1. Report No. FA-60-25 RE: NPCA Campground Electrical Upgrades**

Page 10

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**10.1. Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee, dated November 25, 2025**

Page 19



905.336.1158  
2596 Britannia Road West  
Burlington, Ontario L7P 0G3  
[conservationhalton.ca](http://conservationhalton.ca)

December 15, 2025

Hon. Todd J. McCarthy  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Hassaan Basit  
Chief Conservation Executive

c/o Public Input Coordinator  
MECP Conservation and Source Protection Branch  
300 Water Street North Tower, 5th floor  
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Dear Minister McCarthy and Mr. Basit:

**Re: Bill 68 and proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities (ERO #025-1257)**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of conservation authorities (CAs).

For more than 60 years, Conservation Halton (CH) has been a trusted and accountable partner to the Province of Ontario and our funding municipalities. Guided by strong fiscal management, operational excellence, and a culture of innovation, we have successfully modernized our programs and services. We are proud to be recognized as an innovative leader and top employer in the region, and are committed to excellence through modern digital solutions, robust governance, and responsive client service standards.

CH appreciates the Province's intent to modernize CAs and increase consistency, transparency, and capacity. While these goals are valid, the proposal does pose some risks that may be addressed through further collaboration and leveraging best practices from high-performing organizations such as CH. Outlined below are select recommendations, with details in the attached ERO response and CH Board Report No. CHB 08 25 01 for your consideration.

**Preserve Local Governance, Accountability, and Decision-Making**

CH is currently proposed to become part of the Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority (WLOORCA), which would include 27 lower- and single-tier municipalities. Watershed conditions and community priorities vary significantly across the proposed Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) jurisdiction.

To preserve local governance and decision-making, we recommend that the Province:

- Establish criteria for RCA Board representation that go beyond population size to include factors such as land base and levy contributions.
- Enable the creation of local watershed boards with meaningful authority and accountability integrated to maintain community-informed decision-making.
- Consider RCA-nominated municipal representation on the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agenda (OPCA).
- Ensure CA assets continue to serve local watershed priorities; reserves, infrastructure, and land holdings must be invested in local priorities as determined through existing Board policies.
- Consider reducing the size of RCAs and allow CH to voluntarily consolidate with CAs that have shared boundaries and similar performance and program standards. Alternatively, consider consolidating permitting and planning responsibilities with direct oversight by the OPCA.

### **Retain Local Expertise and High Performance**

We appreciate the Province's priorities for housing and the economy, and the need for more predictable and consistent permit turnaround times for builders, farmers, and landowners. Municipalities, stakeholders, and the public depend on CH's local knowledge and expertise. Any proposed changes must preserve CH's brand and reputation as a customer-centric, accountable, efficient, and solutions-oriented organization, particularly in our permitting and hazard management programs. CH consistently meets or exceeds strategic targets established for development review services; in 2024, CH issued 99% of minor permits within 30 days and 98% of major permits within 90 days. CH's hazard and regulatory mapping is updated annually, and there were no requests for administrative reviews in 2024.

To retain local expertise and high performance, we recommend that the Province:

- Retain local offices to ensure continuity of service and responsiveness.
- Establish CA working groups for key program and service areas and leverage high-performing CAs to develop solutions and best practices across Ontario (e.g., harmonize policies, share best practices, and maintain service standards). Alternatively, the Province may consider an advisory group of key stakeholders and experts to work with the OPCA to facilitate a phased approach to consolidation and effective transition.
- Create a consortium of high-performing CAs with shared services.

### **Ensure Transparent Budgeting and Sustainable Funding**

With strong fiscal principles, CH has worked diligently to minimize reliance on taxpayers and align our budgets with local municipal priorities. We consistently follow municipal guidelines, and 96% of municipal levy supports Provincially-mandated programs. Our parks and recreation programs are fully self-funded, and our permit fees are cost-recovery. CH's self-generated revenues must remain dedicated to local watershed priorities and extensive growth pressures on CH's conservation areas.

To ensure transparent budgeting and sustainable funding, we recommend that the Province:

- Streamline budget approval processes to reduce administrative burden while preserving transparency and municipal engagement. Continue applying *Ontario Regulation 402/22 (Budgeting and Apportionment)* to prevent disruption to municipal budget processes and program funding during and after the transition.
- Develop an equitable apportionment model to prevent cross-subsidization between jurisdictions.
- Maintain existing revenue streams and reserves for local priorities. Allow CH and our municipal partners to establish a local watershed entity with responsibility for key assets (e.g., land, parks, infrastructure) and select programs and services, as well as to maintain current branding.
- Support transition and hazard program modernization costs.

We appreciate the opportunity to share suggestions on how the Province can meet its goals while upholding the high-quality services we deliver to residents, stakeholders, and municipalities.

Sincerely,



Gerry Smallegange  
Chair, Conservation Halton Board

Cc:

Halton Region  
City of Burlington  
Town of Halton Hills  
Town of Milton  
Town of Oakville  
City of Hamilton  
Township of Puslinch  
Peel Region  
City of Mississauga  
Conservation Ontario

Encl. Conservation Halton Response to ERO #025-1257: Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

## **ERO #025-1257: Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities**

### **1. What do you see as key factors to support a successful transition and outcome of regional conservation authority consolidation?**

Conservation Halton (CH) appreciates the Province of Ontario's goals of standardization, consistency, and enhanced capacity for Conservation Authorities (CAs). We welcome the Province's commitment to strengthening relationships and support for CAs. Key factors that would support the successful transition to any proposed model include:

- **Phased implementation** – Consider phasing the implementation of the standardization and consolidation to areas where support is most needed. Develop a clear and phased implementation plan.
- **Quick wins** – Prioritize quick wins and changes that will have the greatest impact on achieving the Province's goals. Leverage expertise and best practices from high-performing CAs to help identify opportunities for quick wins and areas for improvement.
- **Expert working groups and advisory groups** – Establish working groups with CA staff from key program and service areas to harmonize policies and permit requirements, identify opportunities for regulatory improvements, create standardized procedures and processes, prioritize hazard mapping updates, and integrate data. The Province may also consider an advisory group of key stakeholders to advance the proposal further.
- **Local expertise and services** – Retain local offices to ensure stakeholders continue to access high-quality services, dedicated staff, and open communication channels.
- **Local assets and resources** – Ensure CA assets and resources continue to serve local watershed priorities. Existing CA reserves, infrastructure, and land assets, along with aspects of asset management plans, Board-approved reserve policies, and capital investment plans for facilities and infrastructure, must not be lost. Redistributing well-developed reserves to other jurisdictions could dilute CH's mature asset management program and ability to deliver high-quality services, assets, and resources that the local community values.
- **Local accountability and decision-making** – Maintain a local governance and decision-making model by enabling the establishment of Local Boards based on watershed boundaries or current CA boundaries. This would ensure that the

principles of effective watershed management, which are rooted in bottom-up, community-informed decision-making, are preserved.

- **Financial support during the transition** – Provide financial support during the transition to minimize financial strain on approved CA budgets and continuation of frontline watershed services.
- **Budget processes and revenue streams** – Maintain the current municipal budget process and CA budget and apportionment regulation for 2026 (or as long as necessary) to avoid disruptions. Ensure self-generated revenue streams remain uninterrupted.
- **Change management and communication** – Ensure open communication with CAs, municipalities, and the public, as well as provide change management support to CAs.
- **Regional Conservation Authority boundaries** – Consider including additional criteria for determining Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) boundaries to ensure RCA Board structure and boundaries best reflect the communities they will represent. Additional considerations such as community characteristics (e.g., rural versus urban), overall RCA size and jurisdiction, growth pressures, and watershed resource issues should inform boundary decisions. Consider reducing the size of RCAs and allow CH to voluntarily consolidate with CAs that have shared boundaries and similar performance and program standards. Alternatively, the Province could consider a) consolidating permitting and planning responsibilities with direct oversight by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA); b) a consortium of high-performing CAs with shared services; or c) allow CH and our municipal partners to establish a local watershed entity with responsibility for key assets (e.g., land, parks, infrastructure) and select programs and services, as well as to maintain current branding.
- **Updated Provincial technical policies and guidelines** – Expedite the delivery of regulatory tools to support hazard management programs and services, and to ensure timely and consistent permit reviews (e.g., technical guides to support permitting and flood hazard mapping).

## **2. *What opportunities or benefits may come from a regional conservation authority framework?***

Potential opportunities that may come from the consolidation of CAs include:

- Improved resource-sharing and modernization, particularly for CAs with limited capacity or technical expertise.
- Greater consistency in policies, permitting, planning reviews, hazard mapping, programs, and administrative systems. Shared modelling tools, monitoring databases, and mapping platforms will enhance climate-resilient planning.
- Expanded access (where technically feasible and cost-effective) to parks and open spaces for annual pass holders and visitors, improving the overall experience.

**3. Do you have suggestions for how governance could be structured at the regional conservation authority level, including suggestions around board size, make-up, and the municipal representative appointment process?**

Suggestions related to RCA governance structure include:

- Ensure the criteria for determining RCA Board representation goes beyond population to create a fair structure that reflects the entirety of the RCA. Additional criteria could include land base, community characteristics (e.g., rural versus urban), and/or apportionment contributions.
- Set a maximum number of RCA Board members (e.g., 20-25 members) to ensure the Board is efficient and effective.
- Consider extending the current term of the Board to facilitate a smooth transition.
- Define formal guardrails or governance principles for the OPCA Board to ensure local RCA Board governance and decision-making is maintained. OPCA Board representation should include at least one representative from each RCA.
- Enable the establishment of Local Watershed Boards with meaningful authority. Local Boards could be based on existing CA boundaries and have oversight over select programs or service areas and/or specific geographical areas (e.g., existing drinking water source protection regions).
- Consider RCA-nominated municipal representation on the OPCA Board.

**4. Do you have suggestions on how to maintain a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities within a regional conservation authority?**

Suggestions on maintaining a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities include:

- Maintain *Ontario Regulation 402/22 (Budget and Apportionment)*, which came into effect for the 2024 budget year, to avoid disruptions to municipal budget processes and program funding during and beyond the transition. This will ensure continuity of services and funding for ongoing programs.
- Streamline the budget approval process and mechanisms to reduce administrative burden while maintaining transparency, as it would be cumbersome and inefficient for the new RCAs to undertake the same level of engagement that current CAs do with every participating municipality (e.g., one RCA may have 25-50 municipalities).
- Standardize the budget framework and ensure early engagement with municipalities. Ensure budgeting is transparent, collaborative, and aligned with service-level expectations.
- Preserve CA self-generated revenues and reserves for local priorities, consistent with existing Board policies.

- Consider creating a transition fund administered by the OPCA to support the costs associated with transition and consolidation based on defined criteria and rules. These costs can be extensive, ranging from legal, insurance and risk, contractual, etc.

**5. *How can regional conservation authorities maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities and stakeholders?***

RCAs can maintain relationships with local communities and stakeholders by:

- Retaining local offices to maintain public and stakeholder access to high-quality services, dedicated staff, and open communication channels.
- Leveraging CH's decades of public trust and name recognition, as well as data and science resources, to build new tools, technologies, and services that would benefit Ontarians (e.g., interactive and predictive hazard and environmental modelling).
- Ensuring continuity of current programs and services (e.g., hazard management, education, parks programming, and events); maintaining high-quality service, communication, and local accountability is essential.
- Engaging consistently with residents, partners, and stakeholders.
- Ensuring open communication with CAs, municipalities, Indigenous partners, and the public, as well as providing change management support to CAs.



Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

December 16, 2025

Dear Minister McCarthy:

RE: ERO 025-1257 – Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities

Members of the Niagara Falls Nature Club have had a long relationship with our local conservation authority, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA). This is a mutually-beneficial relationship in which our members have volunteered with projects such as the Natural Areas Inventory and special events such as Envirothons and water festivals and we have gained knowledge from and brought concerns to the employees at the NPCA.

The Conservation Areas and trails are a vital and lovely part of our Wednesday Evening Walk Program where we host nature walks for members and any others who wish to join us from late in April through August. As we live in a built up part of Ontario, conservation areas are necessary if we are to find places where we can connect with nature.

Some of our conservation areas were donated to the NPCA by local residents who wanted their lands protected in the long term and sometimes available for residents to enjoy visiting. Will this still happen when conservation authorities are governed by a new agency in Toronto?

The NPCA was audited in 2018 and they have adopted changes that made them more open and efficient. This process could be duplicated for those conservation authorities that need this. There is no need to destroy what is working.

Conservation authorities were established to respond to concerns about flooding and erosion. The varied natural ecosystems of areas in Ontario are known by local employees and citizens. Their concerns would be lost as they struggle to be heard by a large central agency.

Please reconsider and do not proceed with the amalgamation of Ontario’s Conservation Authorities into just seven regional authorities. Our natural heritage belongs to all of us and we all should have the right, responsibility and opportunity to comment on decisions affecting it.

Sincerely,

Joyce Sankey, Conservation Director, Niagara Falls Nature Club

[jsankey@cogeco.ca](mailto:jsankey@cogeco.ca)

December 17, 2025

Via email: [mdavis@npca.ca](mailto:mdavis@npca.ca)

Attention: Leelani Lee-Yates & Melanie Davis

**Re: Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency & Proposed Boundaries for Regional Conservation Authorities**

At their regular meeting of December 17th, 2025, Council for the Town of Pelham received your presentation regarding the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency & Proposed Boundaries for Regional Conservation Authorities and endorsed the following:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the presentation from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority regarding Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency & Proposed Boundaries for Regional Conservation Authorities, for information;**

**AND THAT the CAO be directed to prepare commentary regarding the consolidation of conservation authorities, supporting the continued autonomy of the NPCA, and providing suggestions for potential changes.**

On behalf of Council, thank you for your presentation.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander Lewis".

Alexander Lewis  
Legislative Coordinator

**Report To: Board of Directors**

**Subject: NPCA Campground Electrical Upgrades**

**Report No: FA-60-25**

**Date: December 19, 2025**

---

Recommendation:

**THAT** Report No. FA-60-25 regarding NPCA Campground Electrical Upgrades **BE RECEIVED**;

**AND THAT** staff **BE DIRECTED** to proceed with engineered drawings for 500kW electrical capacity upgrades at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area and Long Beach Conservation Area;

**AND THAT** staff **BE DIRECTED** to proceed with engineering drawings to upgrade campsites to 30-amp services at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area and Long Beach Conservation Area;

**AND THAT** staff **BE DIRECTED** to proceed with generating detailed business cases, phasing plans, and financial models to undertake the proposed works required to increase Hydro One servicing capacity upgrades at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area and Long Beach Conservation Area;

**AND THAT** staff **BE DIRECTED** to proceed with generating detailed business cases, phasing plans, and financial models to undertake the proposed works required to upgrade campsites to 30-amp services at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area and Long Beach Conservation Area;

**AND THAT** staff **BE DIRECTED** to identify and pursue funding opportunities to implement the recommended renewable energy systems;

**AND THAT** staff **REPORT BACK** on proposed works, phasing plans, and financial models for Board consideration on or before July 24, 2026.

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to update the Board of Directors on the NPCA's Campground Electrical Upgrades study completed by Pretium Engineering Inc. and to seek direction on recommended actions related to enhancing electrical capacity to 500kW and 30-amp

---

service provision at Chippawa Creek Conservation Area and Long Beach Conservation Area.

It is also recommended that Pretium Engineering Inc. proceed with preparing **engineered drawings** to upgrade the two conservation areas with 30-amp services in order to inform business cases, and funding strategies that will be included in the NPCA’s Asset Management Plan project in 2026.

**Background**

NPCA owns and operates two campgrounds that provide a variety of recreational services, including seasonal and transient camping. Long Beach Conservation Area, located in Wainfleet, features 187 serviced and 19 non-serviced sites for a total of 206 campsites. Chippawa Creek Conservation Area, also situated in Wainfleet, offers 111 serviced and 45 non-serviced sites, for a total of 156 campsites.

On November 21, 2025, the NPCA Board endorsed Board Report No. FA-53-25 regarding the NPCA Campground Analysis and Operating Strategy. Based on campsite utilization rates, the report included a recommendation to prioritize a plan for providing electrical services to non-serviced campsites at both Long Beach and Chippawa Creek to improve site utilization and revenue generation.

**Discussion:**

To address the growing demand for electrical service camping at Long Beach and Chippawa Creek, and in parallel with the ‘Campground Analysis and Operating Strategy’ project, the NPCA engaged Pretium Engineering Inc. (Pretium) to conduct a proactive analysis of the electrical systems at both parks. Pretium is a consulting engineering firm headquartered in Etobicoke, specialising in building science and the mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering disciplines. The electrical systems analysis project was structured into three phases noted in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Electrical Systems Analysis Phases and Associated Works.

<b><i>Electrical Systems Analysis Phase</i></b>	<b><i>Work Undertaken</i></b>
<b><i>Phase 1: Electrical Audit</i></b>	On-site review of existing electrical distribution system including panels, transformers, and wiring.
<b><i>Phase 2: Future Servicing Options</i></b>	Grid capacity analysis, servicing concept development, and assessing feasibility of electrical expansion.
<b><i>Phase 3: Detailed Engineering Design</i></b>	Electrical servicing designs for each CA that includes proposed infrastructure sizing and layout.

As a value-added service, Pretium also included a high-level review of the feasibility of integrating renewable energy systems into both campgrounds to reduce operational costs, improve resiliency by limiting disruption due to any power outages, and align with NPCA's sustainability objectives.

### Electrical Audit

The Electrical Audit of Chippawa Creek and Long Beach Conservation Areas identified that the existing infrastructure is operating near capacity, leaving minimal ability to upgrade current sites, or develop new sites. Furthermore, there is very limited potential to add new amenities such as washrooms, pavilions, or other facilities that require hydro services.

Several components of the electrical system were found to be old, weathered, and at the end of their service life. To comply with current Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) standards, these components must be replaced, as they no longer meet the required safety and performance standards.

Immediate actions were recommended, such as replacing corroded outdoor panels and addressing missing overcurrent protection and enclosure covers to mitigate safety risks. Short-term recommendations focused on replacing equipment in poor condition, removing unused components, updating worn-out labels, and replacing shallow or damaged cables to meet code requirements. Long-term recommendations advised the proactive replacement of obsolete panel boards and disconnect switches, as well as ageing equipment, to ensure reliability and compliance.

Total costs to address these issues over the next five years are projected to be approximately \$134,153 for Chippawa Creek, and \$263,985 for Long Beach. This necessary work will ensure that both sites can meet current operational needs while maintaining the safety of our visitors and staff.

### Hydro One Servicing Capacity

Both Chippawa Creek and Long Beach are nearing the capacity of the current electrical service that Hydro One provides to the parks. A component of this study was to engage with Hydro One to understand how much electricity can be provided to the parks from Hydro One's grid.

Two scenarios were discussed with Hydro One. The first scenario indicated that a maximum of 500kW could be provided to both parks through the existing electrical grid. This amount of power is approximately double what both parks are presently using. This electrical upgrade will address immediate requirements, ensure that all existing campsites are equipped with reliable electrical service, and provide capacity for future growth, including the potential expansion of sites at both campgrounds.

The required electrical infrastructure to service Long Beach is already in place along Lakeshore Road; however, supplying Chippawa Creek would require extending infrastructure approximately 1.5km from Regional Road 45.

Should these projects proceed, Hydro One would provide the NPCA with a detailed engineering design. The total estimated costs to upgrade the Hydro One electrical service to each park to 500kW are \$425,509 for Long Beach and \$2,968,761 for Chippawa Creek.

The second scenario examined the requirements for exceeding the existing grid's 500 kW limit. Any demand beyond this threshold would necessitate a dedicated service originating from the nearest transformer station, which Hydro One has confirmed is located several kilometres away from both parks.

Under this option, an electrical service of 1,500 kW would be provided to both parks. This capacity would deliver virtually unlimited power and support long-term expansion at both sites. The estimated cost to upgrade Hydro One's service to 1,500 kW for both parks is \$6,366,192 for Long Beach and \$11,705,759 for Chippawa Creek.

Based on the high cost required to provide 1,500kW services to both parks and the Board-endorsed recommendations from the NPCA's Campground Operating Strategy (Report No. FA-53-25), the 500kW service option for both parks was determined to be the preferred alternative.

### Campsite Electrical Upgrades

NPCA campgrounds currently offer three categories of sites: non-serviced (no water or hydro, primarily for tent camping), 15-amp (suitable for basic camping setups such as lights, phone chargers, and small appliances, but not recommended for medium to large sized RVs with air conditioning or medium to high electrical demand), and 30-amp (designed for mid-sized RVs, supporting one air conditioner, a microwave, and several appliances).

As part of the electrical upgrades in the parks themselves, options were reviewed which included the potential addition of 15, 30, and 50-amp serviced sites. The 50-amp serviced sites could cater to large RVs equipped with multiple air conditioners, electric water heaters, and other high power consumption amenities.

The advantages and disadvantages of the three electrical servicing options are summarized as follows:

Table 2: Campsite Electrical Servicing Considerations.

<i>Electrical Servicing</i>	<i>Advantages</i>	<i>Disadvantages</i>	<i>Potential Risks</i>
<i>15-amp</i>	Lowest comparable capital cost	Not suitable for medium and large-sized trailers requiring higher power loads	Declining market trends for small trailers indicates reduced demand for level of service

	Potential for greater increase in number of sites	Cannot support 'Glamping' units and associated modern amenities	Higher risk of operational issues (i.e. breaker trips)
30-amp	Moderate comparable capital costs.  Capacity could provide moderate increase in number of sites.	Not suitable for luxury amenities found in large sized trailers.	May limit potential to attract campers seeking high-end, fully serviced sites.
	Suitable for modern amenities associated with 'Glamping'.		
	Increased reliability of service levels.		
50-amp	Suitable for servicing all trailers and modern amenities.	Greater capital costs compared to other options.	Many existing sites require reconfiguration to fit large trailers.
	Reduced operational issues compared to alternate servicing options.	Limits number of new sites compared to other options	'Conservation Area' experience vs. 'Resort Experience.'
		Does not support NPCA Sustainability Initiative	

Based on an analysis of the three options, a provision of 30Amp electrical service to campsites in both parks was determined to be the preferred option.

### On-site Park Upgrades and Associated Costs

Upgrades to each conservation area's hydro service to the park, which includes the main electrical infrastructure such as the incoming hydro supply, primary distribution panels, and feeder lines, cannot be phased. This is because the electrical service provided by Hydro One must be designed and installed as a complete unit and cannot be phased.

Should Hydro One services be upgraded to feed into Chippawa Creek and Long Beach, NPCA can further plan for utilization of the expanded 500kW Hydro One service. Works associated with upgrading campsites at each conservation area can be completed in phases based on identified priorities, demand, and budget pressures.

Utilizing a 500kW Hydro One service to both parks and upgrading all campsites in each park to a 30-amp electrical service would result in 179 30-amp serviced campsites at Chippawa Creek and 208 30-amp campsites at Long Beach. Upgrading both parks' campsites to 30amp electrical service aligns with the NPCA's Campground Analysis and Operating Strategy, which identified that 30amp sites consistently achieve significantly higher utilization rates Table 3 provides a breakdown of the current state and upgrades proposed for campsites at each conservation area.

Table 3: Current and Projected Number of Campsites and Electrical Servicing.

CA	# Existing Serviced Sites	# Existing 30-amp Sites	# 15-amp sites to be upgraded	# Non-serviced sites to be upgraded	# New 30-amp sites	# Future Total 30-amp Sites
Chippawa Creek	111	41	70	45	23	179
Long Beach	187	148	39	19	2	208

The total cost of upgrades to complete all campsite upgrade works proposed is estimated to be \$4,758,569 at Chippawa Creek and \$2,224,079 at Long Beach.

Developing a phased approach to complete the proposed works allows NPCA to spread capital costs across multiple years, prioritise high-demand areas, and maintain operational continuity while improvements are made. This will provide flexibility to adapt to visitor trends and incorporate sustainability measures incrementally without impacting the entire park's electrical system.

Approved upgrades will be included in NPCA's Asset Management Plan (AMP) and that is currently in development. The AMP will outline financial strategies and phased approaches to support decision-making.

Total Costs for Proposed Electrical Service Upgrades

Chippawa Creek

Hydro One 500 kW upgrade to the park: \$2,968,761  
 Providing 179 30Amp sites in the park: \$4,758,569 (to be phased)  
 Total: \$7,727,330

Long Beach

Hydro One 500 kW upgrade to the park: \$425,509  
 Providing 208 30Amp sites in the park: \$2,224,079 (to be phased)  
 Total: \$2,649,588

### Phase 3 Detailed Engineering Design

The final phase of the project involves preparing detailed engineering design drawings for upgrades to both the park's electrical service and internal infrastructure at Long Beach and Chippawa Creek. These engineered drawings will enable NPCA staff to bring the project to a shovel-ready state, based on recommendations endorsed by the Full Authority Board.

### Renewable Energy

The integration of renewable energy systems at both campgrounds was evaluated to explore opportunities that would reduce operational costs, improve resiliency, and align with sustainability objectives. The systems considered were:

- Solar Photovoltaic (PV), i.e. solar panels;
- Wind Power, i.e. wind turbines;
- Battery Energy Storage Systems; and
- Microgrid Integrations, including a combination of renewable energy, batteries, and load management systems.

The Solar PV system emerged as the most practical option, offering scalable deployment, predictable energy generation, a lower degree of complexity, and reduced capital, operating, and maintenance costs compared to the other options considered.

In the existing regulatory regime, any excess electricity generated by renewable energy systems can be provided back to the electrical grid whereby a credit is received which serves to reduce the associated electrical utility bill. Once enough credits are obtained to reduce the electrical bill to \$0 (per calendar year), no additional credits or cash are provided by Hydro One. In addition, it is not possible to exceed the 500kW capacity of the local power grid when providing electricity back to the grid. For example, if NPCA were to install a 1500kW solar farm, only 500kW could be supplied back to the grid due to the grid's capacity. Any additional power generated would be unused.

The estimated costs to provide a large enough solar photovoltaic system to generate enough credits to bring the completely upgraded Chippawa Creek and Long Beach annual hydro bills down to approximately \$0 are \$3,122,368 and \$3,029,242 respectively. As part of the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process required under regulation for such a project, a Natural Heritage Assessment (NHA) is required for solar photovoltaic systems. The NHA follows a staged approach that includes a records review, on-site investigations within 50-120 metres of the project area, and an evaluation of the significance of nearby natural features. The NHA work will be undertaken to ensure regulatory compliance.

Further to discussions with Pretium, staff are researching the potential for power purchase agreements. Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are long-term contracts between energy producers and buyers that lock in electricity prices for 10–25 years. They provide financial

certainty for renewable energy projects and help buyers secure predictable costs while meeting sustainability goals.

### Next Steps

To ensure the successful execution of the recommendations arising from this project, NPCA staff will immediately provide direction to Pretium Engineering to proceed with the preparation of finalized engineered drawings for both the upgrades to the park and in the park improvements. The completed engineered drawings will position the project at both parks to a shovel ready state.

In 2026, and as part of the Asset Management Plan project, NPCA staff will initiate the development of a detailed business cases to support future implementation of the project. Business cases will include a comprehensive financial analysis and funding strategies that explore all available options, including grants. It will also incorporate comprehensive risk assessments to identify potential challenges and mitigation strategies, along with a phased implementation plan that outlines timelines, resource allocation, and prioritisation of key activities to ensure smooth execution and minimise operational disruptions. Upon completion of a fulsome analysis and financial strategies supported by the Asset Management Plan, staff will bring recommendations forward relative to these business cases for the Board's consideration.

NPCA will also continue to explore funding mechanisms including grant opportunities to implement the Pretium's recommended renewable energy systems, which will come forward for the Board's consideration as required.

### **Financial Implications:**

The Electrical Servicing Masterplans for Chippawa Creek and Long Beach undertaken by Pretium is an approved 2025 capital project. Finalising the engineered drawings is included within the scope of this capital project and will not result in any additional financial impact.

To address the findings of the electrical audit, which identified several components of the campground electrical system as old, weathered, and at the end of their service life, the NPCA has approved a 2026 Capital Project titled Campgrounds Electrical. This project has an allocated budget of \$150,000.

The implementation of the recommended longer-term electrical upgrades will require a future investment estimated at \$10,376,918, broken down as follows.

Chippawa Creek	
Hydro One 500 kW upgrade to the park:	\$2,968,761
Providing 179 30Amp sites in the park:	<u>\$4,758,569 (to be phased)</u>
Total:	\$7,727,330

Long Beach	
Hydro One 500 kW upgrade to the park:	\$425,509
Providing 208 30Amp sites in the park:	<u>\$2,224,079 (to be phased)</u>
Total:	\$2,649,588
Total Cost:	\$10,376,918

The longer-term electrical upgrades will be included in NPCA’s Asset Management Plan (AMP) that is currently in development. The AMP will outline financial strategies and phased approaches to support decision-making. Further capital project requests to support the electrical upgrades will be presented to the Full Authority Board through the annual budgeting process.

**Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:**

- Goal 3.1 – Create equitable access to greenspace for the health and well-being of people
- Goal 6.1 – Ensure responsible, sustainable, and sound fiscal practices
- Goal 6.2 – Optimize self-generating revenue using innovative approaches

**Related Reports and Appendices:**

- Appendix 1: [Chippawa Creek Electrical Servicing Masterplan](#)
- Appendix 2: [Long Beach Electrical Servicing Masterplan](#)

Report No. FA-53-25 RE: NPCA Campground Analysis and Operating Strategy

**Authored by:**

*Original Signed by:*

\_\_\_\_\_

Adam Christie  
Director, Conservation Areas

**Authored by:**

*Original Signed by:*

\_\_\_\_\_

Steve Miller P.Eng.  
Senior Manager, Infrastructure  
Engineering

**Reviewed by:**

*Original Signed by:*

\_\_\_\_\_

Lise Gagnon CPA, CGA  
Director, Corporate Services

**Submitted by:**

*Original Signed by:*

\_\_\_\_\_

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP,  
RPP  
CAO/Secretary-Treasurer

**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, November 25, 2025  
5:00 PM**

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Cribbs, Chair  
Julia Baird  
Philip Beale  
Lageera Chatheechan  
Mary Jane Combe  
Andrew Panko  
Steven Rivers  
David Wylie  
Lennie Aarts  
John Metcalfe, ex-officio  
George McKibbon  
Naheed Qureshi  
Cindilee Ecker-Flagg (departed 5:24pm)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tracy Boese  
Lageera Chatheechan  
William Rapley

**STAFF PRESENT:** Melanie Davis, Manager, Office of the CAO & Board  
Eric Baldin, Manager, Land Planning  
Natalie Green, Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change  
Geoffrey Verkade, Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Strategies

---

**The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.**

**1. OPENING WELCOME**

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Recommendation No. PAC-13-25

Moved by: Philip Beale

Seconded by: George McKibbon

**THAT** agenda for the Public Advisory Committee meeting held on November 25, 2025 **BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### 4.1. Public Advisory Committee meeting dated May 13, 2025.

Recommendation No. PAC-14-25

Moved by: George McKibbin

Seconded by: Mary Jane Combe

**THAT** the Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee meeting dated May 13, 2025 **BE APPROVED.**

**CARRIED**

### 5. CORRESPONDENCE

#### 5.1. Correspondence RE: NPCA 2026 Meeting Schedule dated November 24, 2025

Recommendation No. PAC-15-2025

Moved by: Julia Baird

Seconded by: Andrew Panko

**THAT** the Correspondence RE: NPCA 2026 Meeting Schedule dated November 24, 2025 **BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

### 6. PRESENTATIONS

#### 6.1. Conservation Areas Management Planning Process

Manager, Land Planning, Eric Baldin provided a presentation regarding the initiative noted above. Discussion regarding process for revising land classifications and potential for 'dual classified' lands ensued.

Recommendation No. PAC-16-25

Moved by: David Wylie

Seconded by: Lennie Aarts

**THAT** the presentation regarding the Conservation Areas Management Planning Process **BE RECEIVED.**

**CARRIED**

#### 6.2. Trees for All

Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Strategies, Geoffrey Verkade, provided a presentation on the Trees for All program.

Page 2 of 4

Discussion regarding tracking mortality and success rates, operationalizing the seed collection Community of Practice, and engaging volunteers for public plantings (i.e. high school students, municipal partners where staff may receive paid days for volunteer work) ensued.

Recommendation No. PAC-17-25

Moved by: Andrew Panko

Seconded by: Julia Baird

**THAT** the presentation regarding Trees for All **BE RECEIVED**.

**CARRIED**

## 7. DELEGATIONS

None.

## 8. CONSENT ITEMS

**8.1. Report No. FA-56-25 RE: Proposed Amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities.**

Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change, Natalie Green, and Manager, Office of the CAO & Board, Melanie Davis, provided a brief overview of the report brought forward at the Full Authority Meeting on November 21, 2025, for the Public Advisory Committee's information.

Discussion regarding concerns related to governance structures and impacts to community connections and grassroots linkages ensued.

Recommendation No. PAC-18-25

Moved by: Philip Beale

Seconded by: David Wylie

**THAT** Report No. FA-56-25 RE: Proposed Amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, and Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities **BE RECEIVED FOR INFORMATION**.

**CARRIED**

## 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

## 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

## 11. NEW BUSINESS

### 11.1. Members' Updates

- Member Combe noted that attendance at the International Plow Match in September reached 50,000 visitors, highest rate of attendance since COVID-19.
- Vice Chair Beale noted the Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival was a major success and discussed the opportunity for a tour of the site for the Committee in 2026.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation No. PAC-19-25

Moved by: Philip Beale

Seconded by: Lennie Aarts

**THAT** the Public Advisory Committee meeting **ADJOURN** at 6:48 p.m.

**CARRIED**