

**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**NPCA Main Office
Carolinian Hall
3350 Merrittville Hwy., Thorold ON
Tuesday, May 28, 2024
5:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lennie Aarts
Philip Beale
Tracy Boese
Lageera Chatheechan
David Cribbs, Vice Chair
John Metcalfe
Naheed Qureshi
William Rapley
Albert Witteveen, Chair
David Wyllie

MEMBERS ABSENT: Julia Baird
Leslie Clarke
Cindilee Ecker-Flagg
George McKibbon
Jonathan Musso

STAFF PRESENT: E. Augustino, Water Quality Specialist
M. Davis, Manager Office of the CAO & Board
J. Diamond, Manager, Watershed Monitoring and Reporting
N. Green, Manager, Climate Change & Special Programs
L. Lee-Yates, Director, Planning & Development and
A/Director, Watershed Strategies & Climate Change
S. MacIntyre, Remedial Action Plan Coordinator
K. Royer, Coordinator, Community Engagement

Chair Albert Witteveen called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.

1. OPENING WELCOME

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation No. PAC-07-24

Moved by: Philip Beale

Seconded by: David Wylie

THAT the Public Advisory Committee Agenda dated May 27, 2024 **BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee meeting dated February 27, 2024.

Recommendation No. PAC-08-24

Moved by: Philip Beale

Seconded by: Naheed Qureshi

THAT the Public Advisory Committee Minutes dated February 27, 2024 **BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence from NPCA RE: Report FA-09-24 RE: Conservation Authorities Act Legislative and Regulatory Changes

Discussion regarding implications of the removal of pollution from a test of Conservation Authorities' permitting powers and coordination with municipalities and partners with jurisdiction ensued. Staff informed the Committee that knowledge-sharing and best management practices will be provided where appropriate.

5.2 Correspondence from NPCA RE: Report FA-23-24 RE: Fish & Wildlife Populations Beneficial Use Impairment Change Status – Public Engagement

5.2.1 Public Engagement Page open for comment until May 31, 2024: <https://getinvolved.npca.ca/niagara-river-fish-wildlife>

Recommendation No. PAC-09-24

Moved by: David Cribbs

Seconded by: Philip Beale

THAT Correspondence from NPCA regarding Report FA-09-24 RE: Conservation Authorities Act Legislative and Regulatory Changes, AND Report FA-23-24 RE: Fish & Wildlife Populations Beneficial Use Impairment Change Status – Public Engagement **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

6. PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Draft Findings of Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report.

Eric Augustino, Water Quality Specialist, presented the draft findings that will be released in the Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report in June.

Discussion regarding the promotion of the well decommissioning program through rural libraries and town halls ensued. Committee expressed interest in highlighting which sites' index ratings are improving and which are decreasing. Discussion regarding the increases of Chloride over five years and impact of road salt ensued.

6.2 Fish and Wildlife Populations Beneficial Use Impairment Change Status – Public Engagement.

Sydney MacIntyre, Remedial Action Plan Coordinator, presented on the above noted and answered questions of the Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding the relationship between Canadian and American RAP partners, symbiotic relationship between cormorants and fish in the area, and societal changes that have positively impacted health of the populations. Discussion regarding community engagement, positive responses, and next steps ensued.

Recommendation No. PAC-10-24

Moved by: David Wylie

Seconded by: Philip Beale

THAT the following presentations **BE RECEIVED**:

- Draft Findings of Annual Quality Monitoring Report, and
- Fish and Wildlife Populations Beneficial Use Impairment Change Status – Public Engagement

CARRIED

7. DELEGATIONS

None.

8. CONSENT ITEMS

None.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 Report No. PAC-03-24 RE: Conservation Authorities Act Conformity Requirements – Conservation Areas Strategy and Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy Draft Engagement Plan

Discussion regarding the questions for Committee consideration ensued. Members discussed the importance of engaging at events with high foot traffic in the summer, such as festivals and farmers markets across the watershed. Committee members suggested a webinar in the summer would achieve higher attendance, with an in-person open house in the fall when drafts are available for public comment.

Recommendation No. PAC-11-24

Moved by: Philip Beale

Seconded by: David Cribbs

THAT Report PAC-03-24 RE: Conservation Authorities Act Conformity Requirements – Conservation Areas Strategy and Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy Draft Engagement Plan **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Members' Updates

- Member Rapley provided an update on the presence of white pelicans in the community.
- Member Boese shared that Metis Nation of Ontario will now be hosting their events at Ball's Falls.
- Member Beale noted that Heritage Day at Ball's Falls will be hosted on July 21, 2024 and encouraged folks to volunteer and attend.
- Discussion ensued regarding potential heritage designation of Ball's Falls and the 50th anniversary of the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.