

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 25, 2021
5:00 PM
ONLINE VIDEO CONFERENCE

Anyone interested in joining the meeting as a guest may do so using the link below:
<https://npca.webex.com/npca/j.php?MTID=mbb9f12449750dc6b621dddc520f75b21>

A G E N D A

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

The Niagara Peninsula Watershed is located on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples dating back countless generations. We want to show our respect for their contributions and recognize the role of treaty-making in what is now Ontario.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) grieves with Indigenous people and communities across the country on the tragic loss of so many children to the Residential School System. We acknowledge that with this difficult history comes the responsibility to honour those who were lost, and to strive to better understand how we can support affected communities. The NPCA stands committed to improving our relationships with Indigenous peoples, and working with them to ensure an equitable and meaningful future for all.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee meeting dated October 5, 2021 (For approval)

Page #1

- b) Minutes of the Watershed Floodplain Sub-Committee meeting October 5, 2021 (For approval)

Page # 5

4. CORRESPONDENCE

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a) Presentation by Gregary Ford, Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative RE: VAST – Visual Assessment Survey Tool (For receipt)

6. DELEGATIONS

7. CONSENT ITEMS

- a) Report No. FA-57-21 RE: NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program
(For receipt)

Page # 8

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Report No. PAC-04-21 RE: Public Advisory Committee Meeting Dates 2022 (For approval)

Page # 13

- b) Report No. PAC-05-21 RE: Draft Public Advisory Committee Meeting Plan 2022
(For approval)

Page # 16

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a) C.A.O. Update (Verbal) – Status of NPCA's Climate Change Response and
Plans for Next Year (For receipt)
- b) Members' Updates (Verbal) – Information / Issues (For receipt)

11. ADJOURNMENT



**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ONLINE VIDEO CONFERENCE
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 5, 2021
5:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:	J. Oblak (Committee Chair) J. Ariens E. Furney B. Johnson, NPCA Board Chair (departed at 6:06 p.m.) D. Kelly H. Korosis B. Mackenzie, NPCA Board Vice Chair (arrived at 5 :17 p.m.) J. Musso J. Schonberger N. Seniuk
MEMBERS ABSENT:	C. Ecker-Flagg K. Huxley M. Kauzlaric D. Speranzini
STAFF PRESENT:	C. Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary – Treasurer G. Bivol, Clerk N. Green, Project Manager, Strategic Plan R. Hull, Manager, Strategic Business Planning and Public Relations A. Powell, Manager, Conservation Area Services K. Royer, Coordinator, Community Outreach
OTHERS PRESENT:	J. Hellinga, NPCA Board

Chair Oblak called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m..

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation No. PAC-21-2021

Moved by Member Ariens

Seconded by Member Schonberger

THAT the agenda for the October 5, 2021 NPCA Public Advisory Committee meeting **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee meeting dated June 17, 2021

Recommendation No. PAC-22-2021

Moved by Member Furney

Seconded by Member Korosis

THAT the minutes of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee meeting dated June 17, 2021 **BE APPROVED.**

CARRIED

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Correspondence dated September 24, 2021 from G. Bivol, NPCA Clerk RE: Report No. FA-56-2021 Vaccination Policy - C.A.O. Sharma spoke on the report.

Recommendation No. PAC-23-2021

Moved by Member Seniuk

Seconded by Member Schonberger

THAT the correspondence dated September 24, 2021 from G. Bivol, NPCA Clerk RE: Report No. FA-56-2021 Vaccination Policy **BE RECEIVED.**

CARRIED

- b) Correspondence dated September 24, 2021 from G. Bivol, NPCA Clerk RE: Report No. SPC-03-21 Public Engagement #2 Results and Draft Strategic Plan – Natalie Green, Project Manager, Strategic Plan spoke about the report and Strategic Plan.

Recommendation No. PAC-24-2021

Moved by Member Schonberger

Seconded by Member Furney

1. **THAT** the correspondence dated September 24, 2021 from G. Bivol, NPCA Clerk RE: Report No. SPC-03-21 Public Engagement #2 Results and Draft Strategic Plan **BE RECEIVED.**

2. **AND THAT** the Public Advisory Committee **ENDORSES** the recommendations contained in Report No. SPC-03-21 Public Engagement #2 Results and Draft Strategic Plan.

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a) PowerPoint Presentation by A. Powell, Manager of Conservation Area Services, RE: 2021 Ball's Falls Festival Update - Alicia Powell presented and addressed questions from the Committee.

Recommendation No. PAC-25-2021

Moved by Member Kelly

Seconded by Member Korosis

THAT the PowerPoint presentation by A. Powell, Manager of Conservation Area Services, RE: 2021 Ball's Falls Festival Update **BE RECEIVED**.

CARRIED

6. DELEGATIONS

None

7. CONSENT ITEMS

None

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Report No. PAC-03-21 RE: NPCA Pollinator Initiatives - Kerry Royer, Coordinator, Community Outreach presented. Lengthy discussion ensued.

Recommendation No. PAC-26-2021

Moved by Member Furney

Seconded by Member Kelly

1. **THAT** Report No. PAC-03-21 RE: NPCA Pollinator Initiatives **BE RECEIVED**.

2. **AND FURTHER THAT** members of the Public Advisory Committee **PROMOTE** planting of pollinator habitat through their networks and **COLLABORATE** with NPCA to advance the planting of Native Pollinator species.

CARRIED

Recommendation No. PAC-27-2021

Moved by Member Ariens

Seconded by Member Schonberger

THAT the Public Advisory Committee **REQUESTS** C.A.O. to develop additional requirements to ensure the planting of native vegetation that supports pollinator species through the development process at the discretion of the NPCA staff.

CARRIED

- b) NPCA Public Advisory Committee Discussion Paper – Chair Oblak advised of her willingness and intention to be present at the Board meeting where this paper was to be

discussed. It was noted that the version of the discussion paper contained within the agenda package was not the final copy. Ms. Royer brought forward the final version at the meeting for discussion.

Recommendation No. PAC-28-2021

Moved by Member Schonberger

Seconded by Member Furney

THAT the final version of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee Discussion Paper as presented at the meeting by Kerry Royer **BE RECEIVED** and **APPROVED** for submission to the Board of Directors.

CARRIED

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Resolution No. PAC-29-2021

Moved by Member Kelly

Seconded by Member Seniuk

THAT this meeting of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee **BE ADJOURNED** at 6:17 p.m..

CARRIED

Jackie Oblak
Public Advisory Committee Chair

Chandra Sharma
Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary –
Treasurer



**WATERSHED FLOODPLAIN SUB-COMMITTEE
ONLINE VIDEO CONFERENCE
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, October 5, 2021
4:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Oblak (Sub-Committee Chair)
E. Furney
B. Johnson, NPCA Board Chair
D. Kelly
H. Korosis
J. Schonberger

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Speranzini

STAFF PRESENT: C. Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary – Treasurer
G. Bivol, Clerk
S. Miller, Senior Manager, Water Resources
K. Royer, Coordinator, Community Outreach

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Cridland, NPCA Board

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m..

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation No. WFSC-06-21

Moved by Member Kelly

Seconded by Member Furney

THAT the agenda for the October 5, 2021 Watershed Floodplain Sub-Committee meeting
BE ADOPTED as presented.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. PRESENTATIONS

- a) PowerPoint Presentation by Steve Miller, NPCA Senior Manager, Water Resources RE: Summary of Beaver Creek and Big Forks Creek Public Information Session - Steve Miller presented the results of the public information sessions via PowerPoint. Members posed questions and discussion ensued.

Recommendation WFSC-07-21:

Moved by Member Korosis

Seconded by Member Schonberger

THAT the PowerPoint presentation by S. Miller, Senior Manager, Water Resources, RE: Summary of Beaver Creek and Big Forks Creek Public Information Session **BE RECEIVED.**
CARRIED

6. DELEGATIONS

None

7. CONSENT ITEMS

None

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation No. WFSC-08-21

Moved by Member Schonberger

Seconded by Member Kelly

THAT the meeting **BE ADJORNED** at 4:26 pm..

CARRIED

Jackie Oblak
Public Advisory Committee Chair

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

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program

Report No: FA-57-21

Date: October 15, 2021

Recommendations:

1. **THAT** Report No. FA-57-21 RE: NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program **BE RECEIVED** for information;
2. **THAT** a copy of this report **BE SENT** to NPCA's Public Advisory Committee for further outreach;
3. **AND FURTHER THAT** staff **CONTINUE** to implement outreach strategies listed in the report.

Purpose:

At the June 18, 2021, NPCA Board of Directors meeting, staff presented Report FA-38-21 "NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program Summary Report for the Year 2020". In the ensuing discussion, the Board expressed interest to learn more about the NPCA's Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program, which is a component of the NPCA's Water Quality Monitoring program.

As such, the purpose of this report is to provide further details regarding the NPCA's Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program and to inform the Board of the preliminary strategy to increase landowner awareness and involvement in the program.

Background:

In 2007, the NPCA initiated the Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program to provide interested landowners a financial incentive to properly decommission unused or abandoned water wells on their property.

This grant program was started as the result of both the NPCA's 2005 Groundwater Study and the NPCA's Source Water Protection watershed characterization studies (2005-2009) concluded that abandoned or unused water wells represent a direct threat to groundwater supplies, as contaminants applied at surface may easily flow through these open conduits and reach the water table. While the exact number is currently not known, it is estimated that there are hundreds of abandoned water wells in the NPCA watershed.

Discussion:

Applicable Legislation

The *Ontario Water Resources Act* provides for the conservation, protection and management of Ontario's waters and for their efficient and sustainable use. The *Ontario Water Resources Act* gives the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) extensive powers to regulate water supply, sewage disposal and to control sources of water pollution. As expressly stated in the Act, the Minister has the supervision of all surface waters and groundwaters in Ontario.

Regulation 903 (the *Wells Regulation*) has been made under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* as an implementation tool to ensure that groundwater quality, well water quality, and the environment are protected.

Under Regulation 903, a well owner must immediately abandon a well if it:

- is not being used or maintained for future use as a well,
- produces water that is not potable,
- permits any movement of natural gas, contaminants, or other materials between the ground surface and an aquifer, or
- is constructed in contravention of the *Wells Regulation* dealing with the location of wells, the methods and materials used in the construction of wells or the standards of well construction.

The *Ontario Water Resources Act* also sets out the consequences for non-compliance with the *Wells Regulation*:

- Well owners and persons constructing wells are subject to enforcement actions, such as orders and/or prosecution, if abandoned wells are not properly plugged and sealed or if groundwater contamination results.
- Well owners may be liable if a person is injured due to an improperly abandoned well on their property.

Due to the large number of abandoned or unused water wells in Ontario, the enforcement of the *Wells Regulation* is typically complaint driven. An MECP Enforcement Officer will typically issue an Order to Comply and will give the landowner a practical amount of time to decommission a water well as opposed to the immediate issuance of a fine.

Municipal Jurisdiction

Under the *Municipal Act*, a municipality has broad powers to enact By-laws in order to provide a service or dictate a requirement that the municipality considers necessary. In the case of drinking water wells, should a municipality extend a new watermain into an area previously serviced by private drinking water wells, the municipality has the power to pass a By-law requiring that private landowners connect to the new watermain and decommission their existing wells.

Based on preliminary research, staff estimate that NPCA's local municipalities currently do not have By-Law requiring well decommissioning and at least one municipality (the Town of Fort Erie) has a By-law (passed in 2016) requiring connection to watermain for properties fronting onto a Water Work.

This presents an opportunity advance outreach, education, and stewardship for landowner engagement through municipal partners.

NPCA Water Well Decommissioning Grant Funding Program

The NPCA acknowledges that the owner of the water well is responsible for the well's decommissioning; however, the NPCA understands that the cost to properly decommission a water well can be prohibitive. As such, the NPCA offers a grant to cover 80% of the cost to decommission a water well up to a maximum amount of \$1,000 per well (with a maximum of two wells per property). Depending on the location, type, and depth of the well the cost to decommission can typically range between \$700-\$2,500.

Grant applications are accepted anytime throughout the year and are processed on a first come, first served basis. Funding for the program presently sits at \$20,000 per year and once the funds are exhausted, the program stops intake for the calendar year. The NPCA typically receives approximately 10-14 Water Well Decommissioning Grant applications in any given calendar year. To date, the NPCA's Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program has helped to properly decommission 107 abandoned water wells. Please refer to Appendix 1 for a map showing the location of the properties on which water wells have been decommissioned through this program.

The Grant application is available for download on the NPCA's website at the following link:

<https://npca.ca/well-decommissioning>

To be eligible for the grant, the program requirements include:

- 1) The well must be within the NPCA's jurisdiction.
- 2) Grants are available for water wells only. Oil wells, gas wells, beach wells, or cisterns are not eligible for funding.
- 3) All works must be completed by a water well contractor licensed by the MECP and must comply with all decommissioning procedures as dictated by Ontario Regulation 903 (the *Wells Regulation*).

Communication Strategy

NPCA deploys multiple outreach and promotion strategies for program uptake. These include:

- a) Information on the NPCA website;
- b) Cross-promotion and outreach through City of Hamilton and County of Haldimand websites;
- c) Outreach through NPCA's restoration program;
- d) Public awareness through septic installers and well drillers.

Additional outreach opportunities being planned include:

- a) Cross-promotion with Niagara Region and local municipalities;
- b) Distribution of information materials through local channels such as libraries or Non-government Organizations;
- c) Distribution to Landowners as appropriate, with advice from the Public Advisory Committee;
- d) The promotion of the Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program with the media campaign currently planned in conjunction with NPCA's Restoration Grant Program scheduled for this fall.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications resulting from this report. The Water Well Decommissioning Grant Program is funded through NPCA annual budgets (municipal levy).

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1 – NPCA Decommissioned Water Wells (Map)

Co-Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Joshua Diamond, M.Sc., C. Tech
Water Quality Specialist

Co-Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Steve Miller, P.Eng.
Senior Manager, Water Resources

Reviewed by:

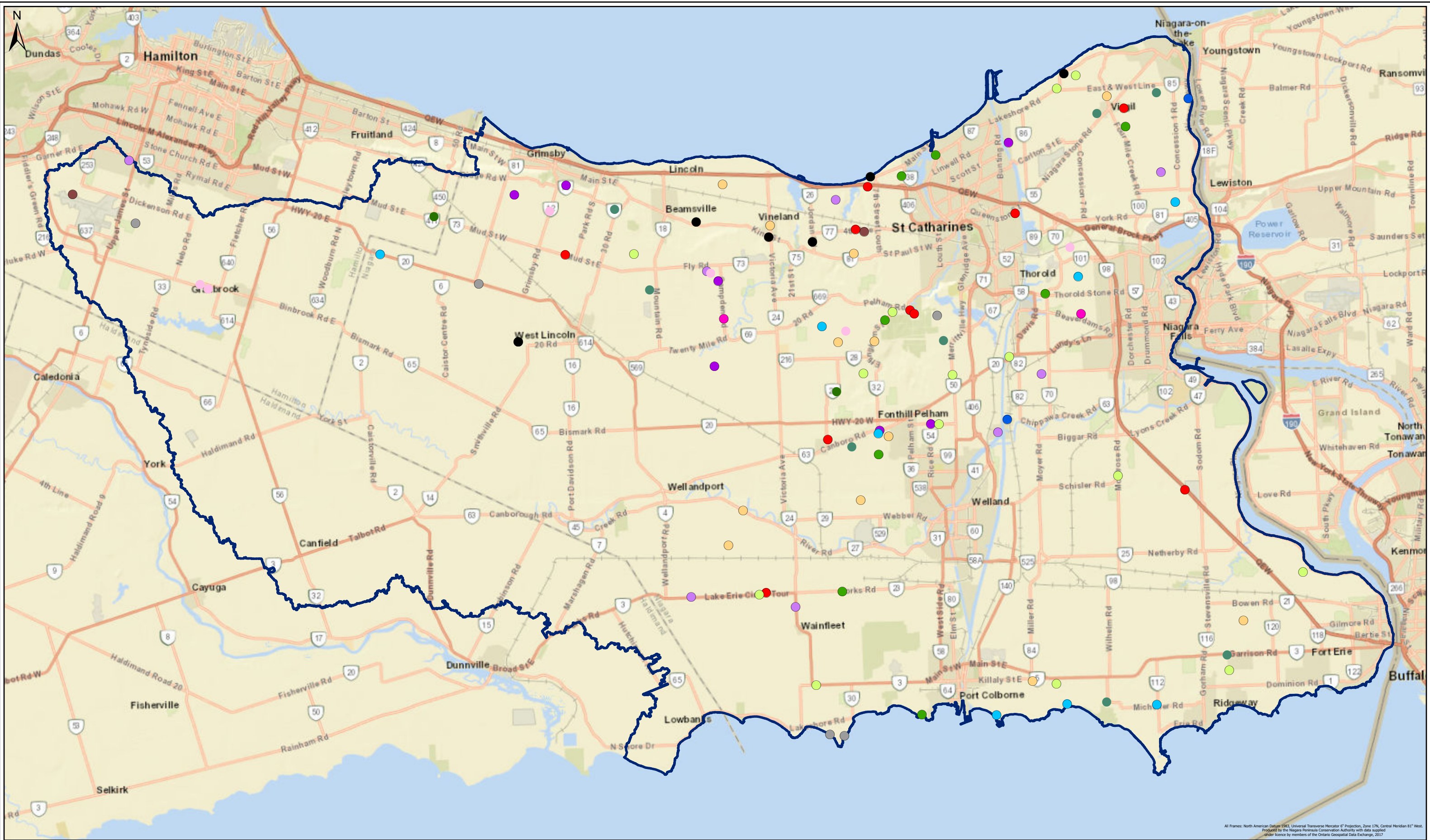
Original Signed by:

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

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

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



- Decommissioned Wells NPCA
- 2007
 - 2008
 - 2009
 - 2010
 - 2011
 - 2012
 - 2013
 - 2014
 - 2015
 - 2016
 - 2017
 - 2018
 - 2019
 - 2020
 - 2021
 - NPCA Jurisdiction

Report To: NPCA Public Advisory Committee

Subject: Public Advisory Committee Meeting Dates 2022

Report No: PAC-04-21

Date: November 25, 2021

Recommendation:

1. **THAT** Report No. PAC-04-21 RE: Public Advisory Committee Meeting Dates 2022 **BE RECEIVED.**
2. **AND THAT** the Public Advisory Committee **APPROVE** the 2022 meeting dates found in Appendix 1.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to establish the 2022 Public Advisory Committee meeting schedule for internal business planning purposes, member scheduling as well as public awareness and transparency of upcoming meetings for 2022.

Background:

The calendar of the Public Advisory Committee meetings for the year is typically approved in advance as members have various obligations and schedules. The schedule attached in Appendix 1 continues the existing practice of convening meetings at 5 p.m. on Thursdays. As per past practice, meetings have not been scheduled during the summer months of July and August and known days of significance.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

This report is in-line with Public Advisory Committee Terms of Reference for meetings and Strategic Plan Guiding Principles as follows:

“Diverse experiences and ideas lead to better and stronger collective impact and outcomes. We seek to exemplify inclusion and equity through meaningful engagement and collaboration.”

Strategic Priority: Partner of Choice

Goal 4.2 Foster relationships with the community, non-government organizations, businesses, agriculture, industry, and academic institutions for collective outcomes and impact.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Public Advisory Committee 2022 Meeting Schedule

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Kerry Royer
Coordinator, Community Outreach

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Rebecca Hull
Manager, Strategic Business Planning and Public Relations

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

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

Public Advisory Committee 2022 Meeting Schedule

Proposed Meeting Dates

Thursday February 24th 2022, 5 p.m.

Thursday June 1st 2022, 5 p.m.

Thursday September 22nd 2022, 5 p.m.

Thursday December 1st 2022, 5 p.m.

Report To: NPCA Public Advisory Committee

Subject: Draft Public Advisory Committee Meeting Plan 2022

Report No: PAC-05-21

Date: November 25, 2021

Recommendation:

1. **THAT** Report No. PAC-05-21 RE: Draft Public Advisory Committee Meeting Plan 2022 **BE RECEIVED.**
2. **AND THAT** the Public Advisory Committee **ENDORSE** the 2022 Meeting Plan found in Appendix 1.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to give Public Advisory Committee members a general outline of the projects and items coming forward in the 2022 meetings.

Background:

The NPCA has been providing Public Advisory Committee members with a meeting outline/plan for the past several years to allow for better internal planning and enable members to anticipate what will be coming forward throughout the year. The Coordinator, Community Outreach, met with managers and staff from all divisions in the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to provide input into the Public Advisory Committee Meeting Plan and determine projects and items forthcoming in the 2022 meeting cycle. The proposed schedule is for information purposes, and some projects or items may need to be moved depending on their development.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan

This report is in-line with Public Advisory Committee Terms of Reference for meetings and Strategic Plan Guiding Principles as follows:

“Diverse experiences and ideas lead to better and stronger collective impact and outcomes. We seek to exemplify inclusion and equity through meaningful engagement and collaboration.”

Strategic Priority: Partner of Choice

Goal 4.2 Foster relationships with the community, non-government organizations, businesses, agriculture, industry, and academic institutions for collective outcomes and impact.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Public Advisory Committee Meeting Plan 2022

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Kerry Royer
Coordinator, Community Outreach

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Rebecca Hull
Manager, Strategic Business Planning and Public Relations

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

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

2022 DRAFT MEETING PLAN - Public Advisory Committee				
Agenda Item	Targeted Meeting Date	Staff Lead	Outcome	Status
Land Acquisition Strategy	Q1	Natalie	For information	Not started
NPCA Events	Q1	Alicia	For endorsement	Not started
Centre for Conservation Gallery Interpretation	Q1	Alicia	For endorsement	Not started
Fee Schedule - planning, permits and compliance	Q1	David D	For input	Not started
Niagara River Remedial Action Plan progress update	Q2	Natalie	For information	Not started
Fish Consumption Survey	Q2	Natalie	For information	Not started
Restoration Feasibility Study	Q2	Geoff	For information	Not started
Lake Erie Shoreline Hazard Mapping Update and Media Campaign	Q2	Steve M	For endorsement	Not started
Fish & Wildlife Population Assessment	Q3	Natalie	For endorsement	Not started
Restoration Feasibility Study	Q3	Geoff	For endorsement	Not started
Habitat Assessment Results	Q3	Natalie	For endorsement	Not started
Watershed-based Natural Resource Management Framework	Q4	Geoff	For endorsement	Not started
Lake Erie Shoreline Hazard Mapping Update	Q3	Steve M	For information	Not started
Conservation Area Strategies	Q4	Adam	For input	Not started
Ecological Land Classification mapping update	TBD	Geoff	For information	Not started
Digital Terrain Model	TBD	Geoff	For information	Not started
Policy Update (may be multiple touchpoints)	TBD	David D	For endorsement	Not started
Regulations Mapping Update (may be multiple touchpoints)	TBD	David D	For endorsement	Not started
Compliance and Enforcement Education	TBD			Not started