



## **PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 26, 2020  
5:00 p.m.  
Virtual meeting via Webex**

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- MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. Oblak (Committee Chair)  
J. Ariens  
E. Furney  
B. Johnson  
M. Kauzlaric  
H. Korosis  
B. Mackenzie  
D. Pont  
J. Schonberger  
L. Sherry  
D. Speranzini
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** S. Brousseau
- STAFF PRESENT:** C. Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary – Treasurer  
C. Crerar, Communications Assistant  
N. Green, Project Manager – Niagara River Remedial Action Plan  
D. MacKenzie, Director, Watershed Management  
K. McCutcheon, Community Outreach Assistant  
S. McPherson, Restoration Specialist  
K. Royer, Coordinator, Community Outreach  
G. Verkade, Senior Manager, Integrated Watershed Planning/Information Management
- OTHERS PRESENT:** G. Wood, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation  
A. Crosby, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation
- REGRETS:** T. Insinna, Chair -Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

The Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m. welcoming the Members.

### **1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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Recommendation No. PAC-19-2020

Moved by Member Pont  
Seconded by Member Sherry

1. **THAT** the agenda be amended to allow Report No. PAC-02-20 RE: Restoration Project Evaluation Criteria to immediately follow the Restoration Project Evaluation Criteria presentation
2. **THAT** the agenda for the November 26, 2020 NPCA Public Advisory Committee meeting **BE ADOPTED** as amended.

**CARRIED**

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

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D. Speranzini declared that her opinions are her own and not that of her employer Agriculture and AgriFood Canada.

## **3. PRESENTATIONS**

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### 3 a) Presentation by Gayle Wood RE: Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation

G.Wood shared updates and historical information pertaining to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation. She sent regrets on behalf of Foundation Chair Tom Insinna. She shared upcoming projects for 2021 including:

- Director's Donation Challenge
- Holiday Trail at Ball's Falls
- Education Program funding
- Conservation Area project support

Member Speranzini shared that the Ball's Falls Holiday Trail poster could be shared with photography clubs in the area.

### Recommendation No. PAC-20-2020

Moved by Member Ariens  
Seconded by Member Korosis

1. **THAT** the NPCA Public Advisory Committee supports the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Foundation Director's Donation challenge.

**CARRIED**

### 3 b) Presentation by Stuart McPherson RE: Restoration Project Evaluation Criteria

S. McPherson presented the NPCA Restoration Grant Program, including maps showing forest cover, wetland cover and water quality grades in NPCA watershed and explained how this scientific data and information was used to develop the project evaluation criteria for restoration grant applications. A discussion ensued regarding long-term project monitoring, program budget and climate change implications.

3 c) Report No: PAC-02-20 RE: Restoration Project Evaluation Criteria (moved from item 7b) on agenda)

Recommendation No. PAC-21-2020

Moved by Member Korosis

Seconded by Member Speranzini

1. **THAT** Report No. PAC-02-20 RE: Restoration Project Evaluation Criteria **BE RECEIVED**.
2. **THAT** the NPCA Public Advisory Committee **ENDORSE** the proposed project evaluation criteria as presented.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

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4 b) Minutes of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee dated September 24 2020

Recommendation No. PAC-22-2020

Moved by Member Schonberger

Seconded by Member Ariens

**THAT** the minutes of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee meeting dated September 24, 2020 **BE APPROVED**.

**CARRIED**

#### **5. BUSINESS FOR INFORMATION**

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a) Community Outreach and PAC member recruitment updates (verbal update)

Community Outreach:

K. Royer shared a verbal update on Community Engagement projects since the last meeting, including the installation of two (2) Mickey DiFruscio and Family Legacy Pollinator projects in Port Colborne and Niagara Falls, as well as the installation of 5 signs for the gardens. The NPCA worked with over 30 different community partners to implement community outreach and stewardship projects in the last two quarters of 2020, including working with Niagara Chapter Native Women Inc. to implement a TD Tree Days grant that saw over 150 trees planted in Fort Erie, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Thorold that would have a direct impact on Indigenous community members.

PAC Recruitment:

K. Royer shared a verbal update to inform members that a total of 26 applications were received for the two (2) PAC vacancies in development and Public-at large. A PAC Selection Sub-Committee will be reviewing the applications and will put forward recommendations to the NPCA Board of Directors at the December 17, 2020 meeting for consideration and appointment.

- b) Strategic Plan update (verbal update)
  - N. Green shared a verbal update on the NPCA Strategic Plan including the following:
    - facilitator/consultant has been selected to support community engagement and other project tasks
    - Staff Working Group is wrapping up SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis after seeking input from staff, NPCA Board and PAC.
    - begun implementing Communication and Community Engagement plan
    - due to uncertainty with Bill 229, all strategic plan engagements will be moved to 2021
  
- c) NPCA Board Reports: (verbal update from D. MacKenzie)
  - i) Report FA-56-20 RE: Niagara Region's Proposed Woodland By-Law
  
  - ii) Report FA-50-20 RE: Water Quality Notifications and Communication
  
  - iii) Report FA-62-20 RE: Bill 229 Proposed Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act

D. MacKenzie gave a verbal overview of three (3) NPCA Board Reports. A discussion ensued related to Bill 229 proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act. C. Sharma, B. Johnson and B. Mackenzie all shared their perspectives on the issues and informed PAC members that many councils in the NPCA watershed are passing motions to back the work of the NPCA and all Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

- d) NPCA Media Releases – <https://npca.ca/our-voice>

Members were encouraged to check NPCA's website for recent media releases and other information related to Bill 229.

## **6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION**

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### 6 a) Report No. PAC-01-20 RE: PAC Meeting Schedule 2021

Chair Oblak asked members if there was an interest in adding an extra meeting to the proposed schedule from Appendix 1 of Report No. PAC-01-20. She also asked if the 5pm on Thursday evening meetings were still convenient for members.

#### Recommendation No.PAC-23-2020

Moved by Member Korosis

Seconded by Member Ariens

**THAT** the proposed schedule in Appendix 1 of Report No. PAC-01-20 be amended to include an additional meeting in 2021, PAC meeting schedule will be as below:

February 25, 2021 5 p.m.  
April 29, 2021 5 p.m.  
June 17, 2021 5 p.m.  
September 30, 2021 5 p.m.  
November 25, 2021 5 p.m.

**CARRIED**

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

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Recommendation No. PAC-24-2020

Moved by Member Pont

Seconded by Member Sherry

**THAT** this meeting of the NPCA Public Advisory Committee **BE** hereby **ADJOURNED** at 6:53 p.m..

**CARRIED**

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Jackie Oblak  
Public Advisory Committee Chair

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Chandra Sharma  
Chief Administrative Officer / Secretary –  
Treasurer