

**PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
A G E N D A**

**NPCA Main Office
Carolinian Hall
3350 Merrittville Hwy., Thorold ON
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

The Niagara Peninsula watershed is situated within the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Attiwonderonk (Neutral), and the Anishinaabeg, including the Mississaugas of the Credit—many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties (No. 3, 4, and 381) and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today, the watershed is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

1. OPENING WELCOME

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**4.1 Minutes of the Public Advisory Committee meeting dated
May 25, 2024**

Page 1

5. CORRESPONDENCE

**5.1 Correspondence from NPCA RE: Notice of Public Information
Centre – Conservation Area Strategy**

Page 5

**5.2 Correspondence from NPCA RE: Notice of Public Information
Centre – Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy**

Page 6

6. PRESENTATIONS

**6.1 Conservation Area Strategy – Discussion Paper and
Preliminary Feedback**

**6.2 Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy –
Discussion Paper and Preliminary Feedback**

7. DELEGATIONS

8. CONSENT ITEMS

8.1 Report No. PAC-04-24 RE: Open Data GIS Portal – Watershed Explorer Usage

Page 7

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Members' Updates (Verbal) – Information/Issues/Items of Interest

12. ADJOURNMENT

**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.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is developing a Conservation Area Strategy to inform future policies and management plans, and strategically guide the delivery and enhancement of programs and services offered at conservation areas.

Members of the Niagara Peninsula watershed community are invited to participate in the development of the Conservation Area Strategy. Involvement opportunities can be found on the Strategy's [Get Involved portal](https://getinvolved.npca.ca/ca-strategy) (<https://getinvolved.npca.ca/ca-strategy>).

About the Strategy

The purpose of the Conservation Area Strategy is to outline broad objectives for conservation areas and related programs and services as outlined in the *Conservation Authorities Act* and Ontario Regulation 686/21: *Mandatory Programs and Services*. The Conservation Area Strategy is a requirement of Ontario Regulation 686/21 under the *Conservation Authorities Act* to be completed by December 31, 2024.

Guided by the NPCA's *2021-2031 Strategic Plan*, a discussion paper has been prepared to identify overarching goals, objectives, and components of the forthcoming Strategy.

Public Information Centre

A Public Information Centre (PIC) is being held to provide members of the watershed community the opportunity to learn more about the Conservation Area Strategy and provide feedback on contents of the discussion paper.

The PIC will be a hybrid format, held at the following date and location:

Date:	Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Time:	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location:	3350 Merrittville Hwy., Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6 Unit 16, Carolinian Hall

Strategy Process Development

Additional details on timelines and opportunities to provide feedback can be found on the [Get Involved portal](https://getinvolved.npca.ca/ca-strategy) (<https://getinvolved.npca.ca/ca-strategy>), including:

1. A 10-minute survey, closing Friday, September 27, 2024,
2. A question-and-answer tool to submit comments and questions, closing November 12, 2024, and
3. A 3-week commenting period, to be opened upon publishing the Draft Strategy in October 2024.

Contact

For more information about the Conservation Area Strategy, please contact:

Kerry Royer
Specialist, Conservation Area Land Planning
905-788-3135 ext. 234 | kroyer@npca.ca

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) is developing a Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy to guide the delivery and enhancement of programs and services that protect people and property from natural hazards and conserve natural resources.

Members of the Niagara Peninsula watershed community are invited to participate in the development of the Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy. Opportunities can be found on the Strategy's [Get Involved portal](https://getinvolved.npca.ca/watershed-strategy) (<https://getinvolved.npca.ca/watershed-strategy>).

About the Strategy

The purpose of the Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy is to assist NPCA with evolving or enhancing the delivery of programs and services, identifying efficiencies and opportunities to strengthen effectiveness of mandatory Category 1 programs. The Strategy is a requirement of Ontario Regulation 686/21 under the *Conservation Authorities Act* to be completed by December 31, 2024.

Guided by the NPCA's *2021-2031 Strategic Plan*, a discussion paper has been prepared to identify guiding principles, objectives, and components of the forthcoming Strategy.

Public Information Centre

A Public Information Centre (PIC) is being held to provide members of the watershed community the opportunity to learn more about the Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy and provide feedback on contents of the discussion paper.

The PIC will be a hybrid format, held at the following date and location:

- Date:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024
- Time:** 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- Location:** 3350 Merrittville Hwy., Thorold, ON L2V 4Y6
Unit 16, Carolinian Hall

Strategy Process Development

Additional details on timelines and opportunities to provide feedback can be found on the [Get Involved portal](https://getinvolved.npca.ca/watershed-strategy) (<https://getinvolved.npca.ca/watershed-strategy>), including:

1. A 10-minute survey, closing Friday, September 27, 2024,
2. A question-and-answer tool to submit comments and questions, closing November 12, 2024, and
3. A 3-week commenting period, to be opened upon publishing the Draft Strategy in October 2024.

Contact

For more information about the Watershed Strategy, please contact:

Tara Gaade
Program Coordinator, Watershed Strategies and Climate Research
905-788-3135 ext. 245 | tgaade@npca.ca

Report To: Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

Subject: Open Data GIS Portal – Watershed Explorer Usage

Report No: PAC-04-24

Date: September 17, 2024

Recommendation:

THAT Report No. PAC-04-24 RE: Open Data GIS Portal – Watershed Explorer Usage **BE RECEIVED.**

Purpose:

To provide the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) website usage of data statistics related to the public-facing web GIS viewer known as Watershed Explorer, for the month of July 2024 and cumulatively from March 1 to August 31, 2024.

Background:

The Watershed Explorer public-facing web GIS viewer is an easy-to-use mapping platform containing a wide range of data layers related to the NPCA watershed. Enabling ‘Google Analytics’, NPCA can track general usage characteristics of data contained within the GIS viewer.

At the February 27, 2024 Public Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee received a presentation regarding the features and functionality of Watershed Explorer for their information and to provide comments and questions. One member asked if usage statistics were being tracked and if further insights could be provided. Staff enabled the collection of this information as of March 1 to better understand usage of Watershed Explorer.

Discussion:

The web usage (or traffic) related to the data layers contained within the web viewer is summarized by volume of users, types of layers being viewed, and where the site users are located. Usage statistics can be found in Appendix 1.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan:

Goal 5.2: Improve internal operations and processes by enhancing tools and procedures and deploying tools for efficient internal and external information sharing.

Goal 5.3: Provide high standards of customer service through equitable access to information.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1: GIS Open Data Portal (Watershed Explorer) Usage Report for the month of July 2024, and cumulative 6-month statistics (March 1 to August 31, 2024)

Authored by:

Original Signed by:

Brian Lee
GIS Administrator

Reviewed by:

Original Signed by:

Wendy Baldin, GISP, PMP
Manager, Digital Transformation and Information Technology

Original Signed by:

Lise Gagnon, CPA, CGA
Director, Corporate Services

Submitted by:

Original Signed by:

Leilani Lee-Yates, BES, MSPL.RPD, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer



GIS Open Data Portal (Watershed Explorer)

Usage Report

Details

Title: GIS Open Data Portal Usage Report
 Author: Brian Lee and Wendy Baldin
 Effective Date: September 4, 2024
 Version #: 2

Total Users and Averages:

As of July 30, 2024, for the month of July, there have been the following number of users:

Table 1: New and Average Site Usage, July 2024 and March-August 2024.

	July 2024 (cumulative)	March-August 2024 (averaged monthly)
Users	497	465
New Users	431	412
Weekly Average	124	95
Daily Average	17	13

Chart 1: Usage by Dates, July 2024.

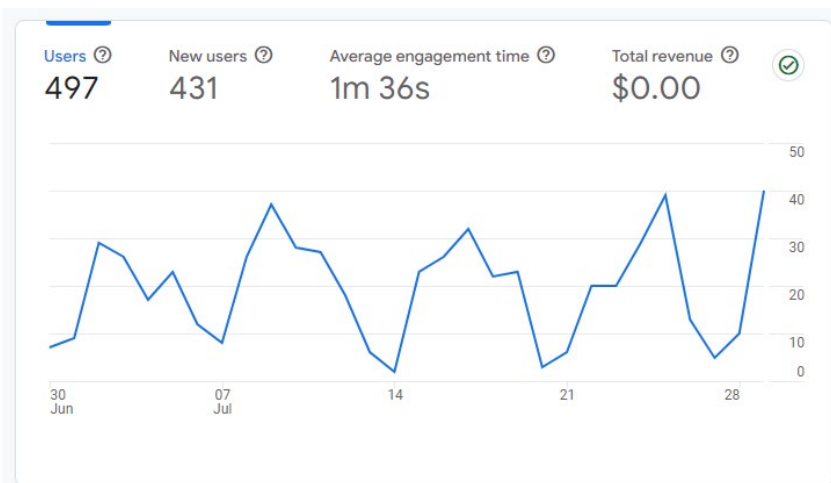
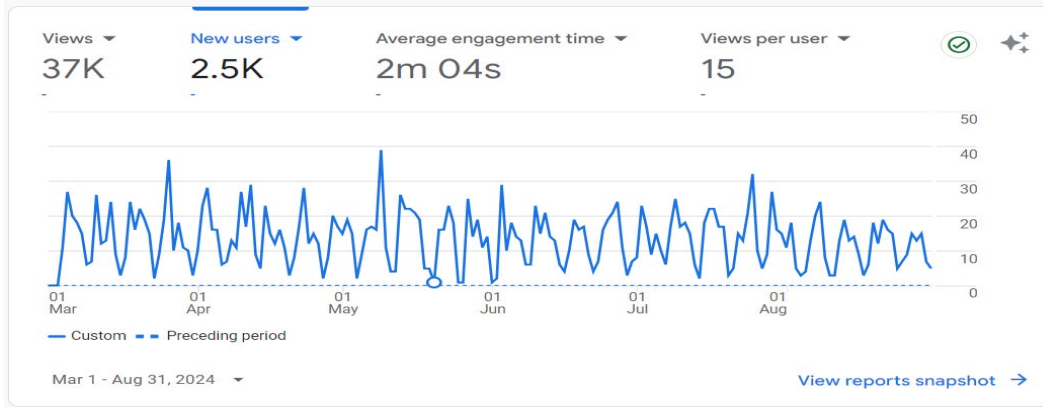


Chart 2: Usage by Date, March-August 2024.



Insights – Data Layers viewed:

Most viewed data layers (Top 10 in July):	<u>July</u>	<u>March 1 – August 31</u>
NPCA APPROXIMATE REGULATION LANDS	899 times	4955 times
REGULATION FLOOD EXTENT	285	1716
CONTEMPORARY MAPPING OF WATERCOURSES	265	1614
ENVIRONMENTAL LAND CLASSIFICATION	234	1578
REGULATION WETLANDS	172	1129
DTM CONTOURS 2020	137	681
TOP OF SLOPE FEATURES	84	282
TOP OF SLOPE ALLOWANCE	83	212
SHORELINE FLOOD EROSION INVENTORY	80	260
CONSERVATION AREAS	67	276
Note – Blue texted layers are data related to our regulation mandate		
Total Site Views:	6609	36,978
Top 10 views percentage of Total Site Views:	35%	34%

GIS OPEN DATA PORTAL USAGE REPORT

Chart 3, Site visits by Country, July 2024:

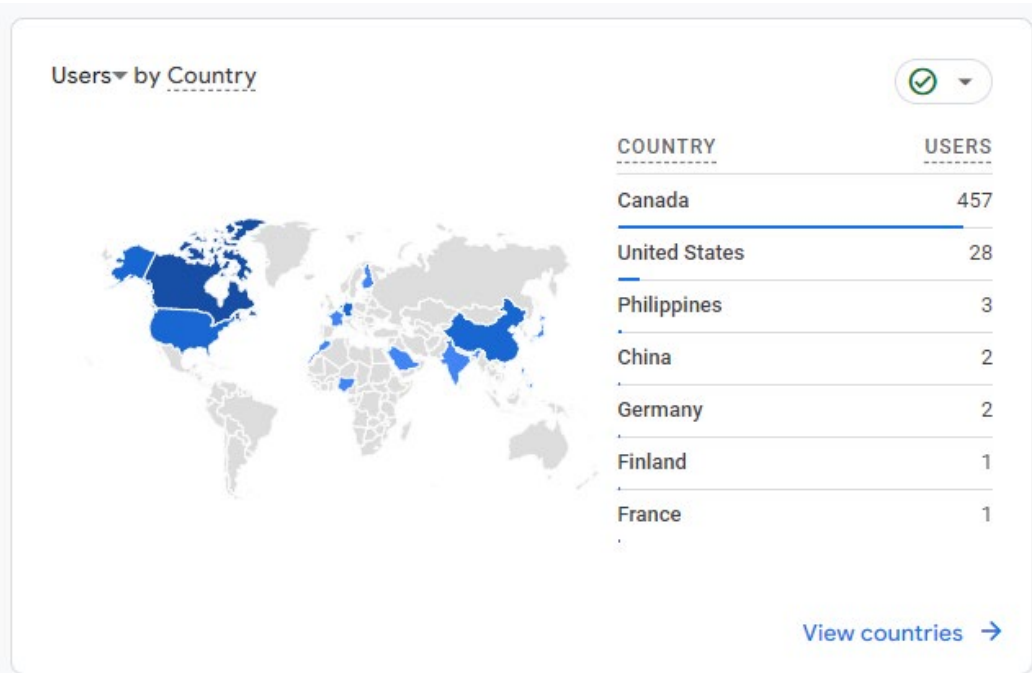


Chart 4, Site visits by Country, March-August 2024:

