



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
AGRICULTURAL POLICY & ACTION COMMITTEE  
AGENDA**

**APAC 1-2020**

**Friday, February 28, 2020**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Room 4**

**Niagara Region Headquarters**

**1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold ON**

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	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u></b>	
<b>2. <u>DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST</u></b>	
<b>3. <u>PRESENTATIONS</u></b>	
3.1 <u>Niagara Agri-Business Working Group</u>	3 - 15
Professor Charles Conteh, Director, Niagara Community Observatory	
<b>4. <u>DELEGATIONS</u></b>	
<b>5. <u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION</u></b>	
5.1 <u>APAC-C 3-2020</u>	16 - 18
Update to Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Terms of Reference	
<i>This item had been previously listed under Consent Items for Information.</i>	
<b>6. <u>CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</u></b>	
6.1 <u>APAC-C 1-2020</u>	19 - 20
Farm Help House Development Charges	

6.2	<u>APAC-C 2-2020</u>	21 - 24
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6.3	<u>APAC-C 4-2020</u>	25 - 26
	Farm 911 - The Emily Project	
6.4	<u>APAC 4-2019</u>	27 - 31
	Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Minutes - November 29, 2019	

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 24, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or [accessibility@niagararegion.ca](mailto:accessibility@niagararegion.ca) (email).

# ***Towards a More Resilient Innovation Cluster***

***Niagara's Agribusiness Sector***

**Charles Conteh,  
Niagara Community Observatory, Brock University**

## **Core themes for mapping Niagara's Agri-food Cluster**

- Technological change, innovation, and the future of agriculture
- Industry 4.0 (smart/precision processes, automation and robotics adoption, logistics and supply chain) and the implications for agribusiness (and its connection with other sectors)
- The role of postsecondary institutions and research centres
- External linkages (supply chains, mega-regional & binational clusters)
- Governance at multiple scales (streamlined regulations, policy advocacy, & cluster strategy)

# What are clusters?



- "...geographic spaces with concentrations of interconnected companies, specialized suppliers, service providers, firms in related industries, associated institutions... in particular fields that compete but also *cooperate*" (Porter 1998, 197).

## What roles do Agri-food innovation clusters play?



- Organizing farmers and strengthening their associations
- Improving access to markets
- Stimulating business development services, and
- *Facilitating access to improved production technologies*



## Examples of areas of focus for Agri-food Clusters

- Food processing & food safety (*pathway analysis; prevention and control; detection and surveillance methodologies; sustainable food production, plant growth, horticultural practices, greenhouse operations, aquaponics, environmental management and renewable energies*).
- Competitive Production Systems (*Precision agriculture; Automation and robotics technology development and adoption; GIS, Computer programming*)
- Trade, Market & Targeted Sector Growth Opportunities (*Identifying and accessing new global hubs of agri-food markets & supply chains*)

## Niagara's Centres of Excellence in the Agri-food Sector

### ➤ **Brock University**

Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI)

Advanced Biomanufacturing Centre (ABC)

### ➤ **Niagara College**

Agriculture and Environment Innovation Centre (AEIC)

Canadian Food and Wine Institute (CFWI)

### ➤ **Other Centres**

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre (VRIC)

Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture

### ➤ **Emerging Assets**

Validating, Prototyping and Manufacturing Facility (VPMF)

BrockLINC

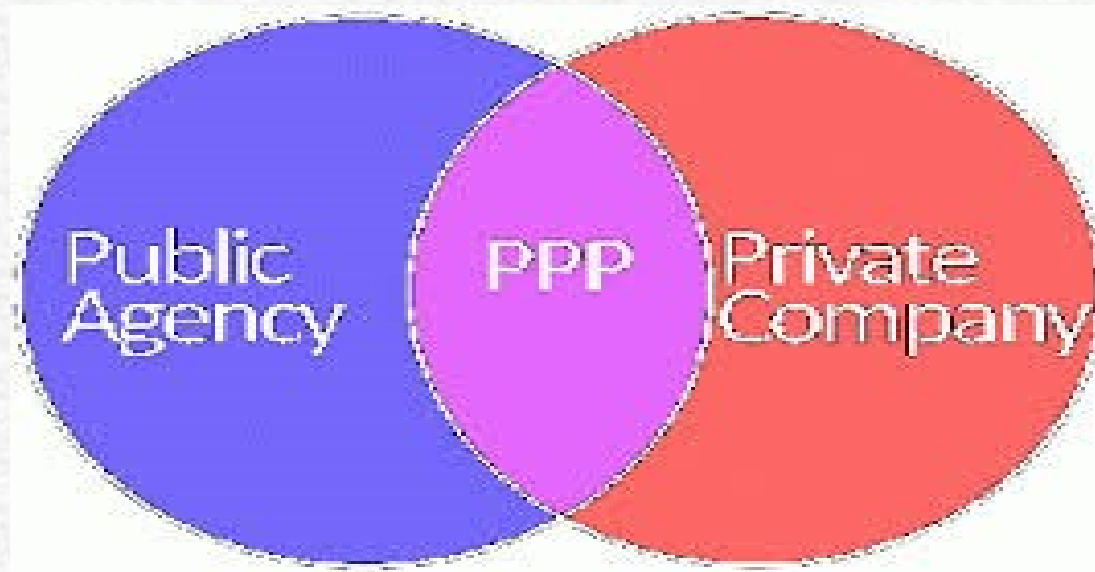


# Clusters are a distinct Type of Network

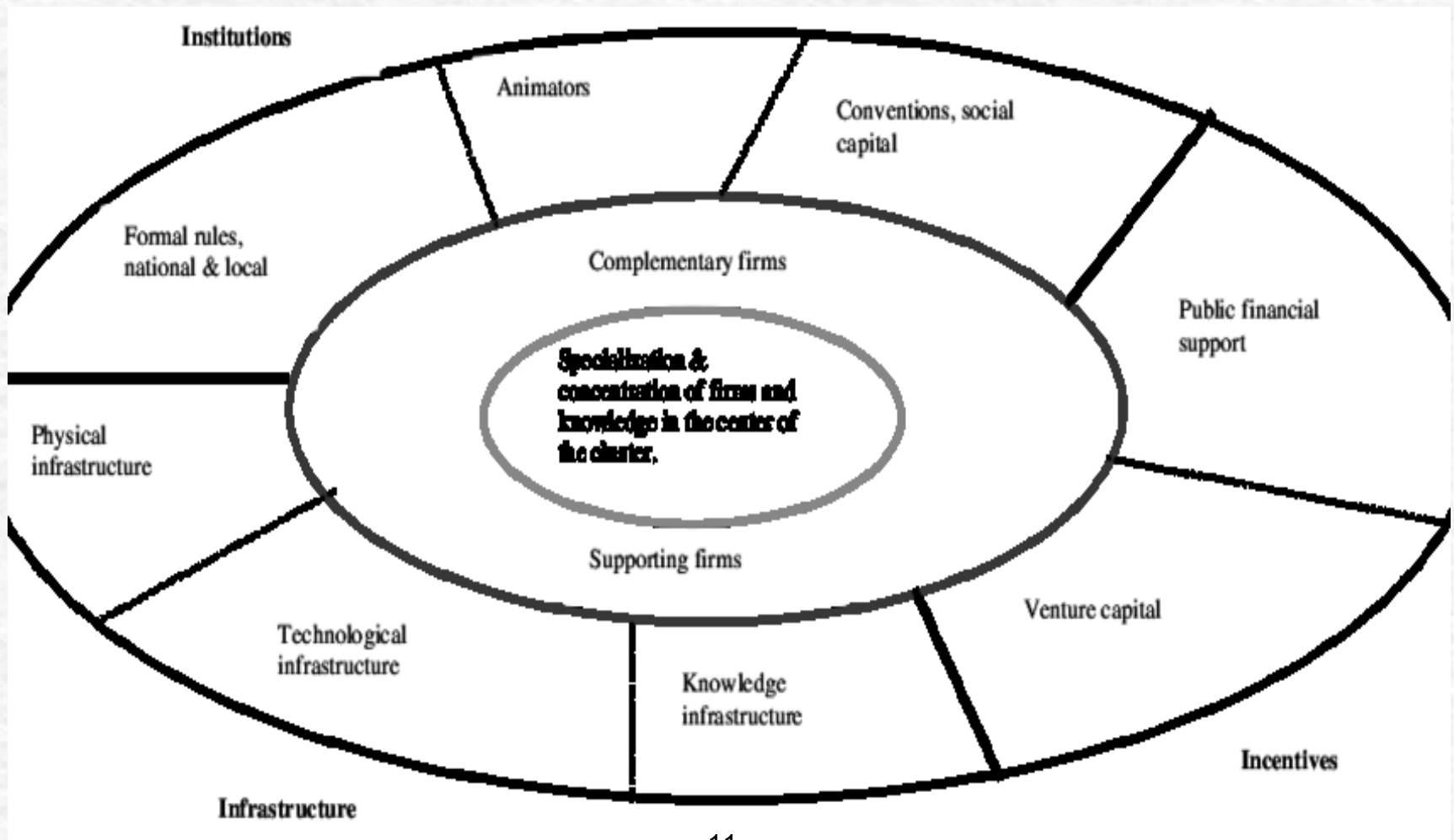
First, they are **not** policy networks (driven by advocacy and lobbying)

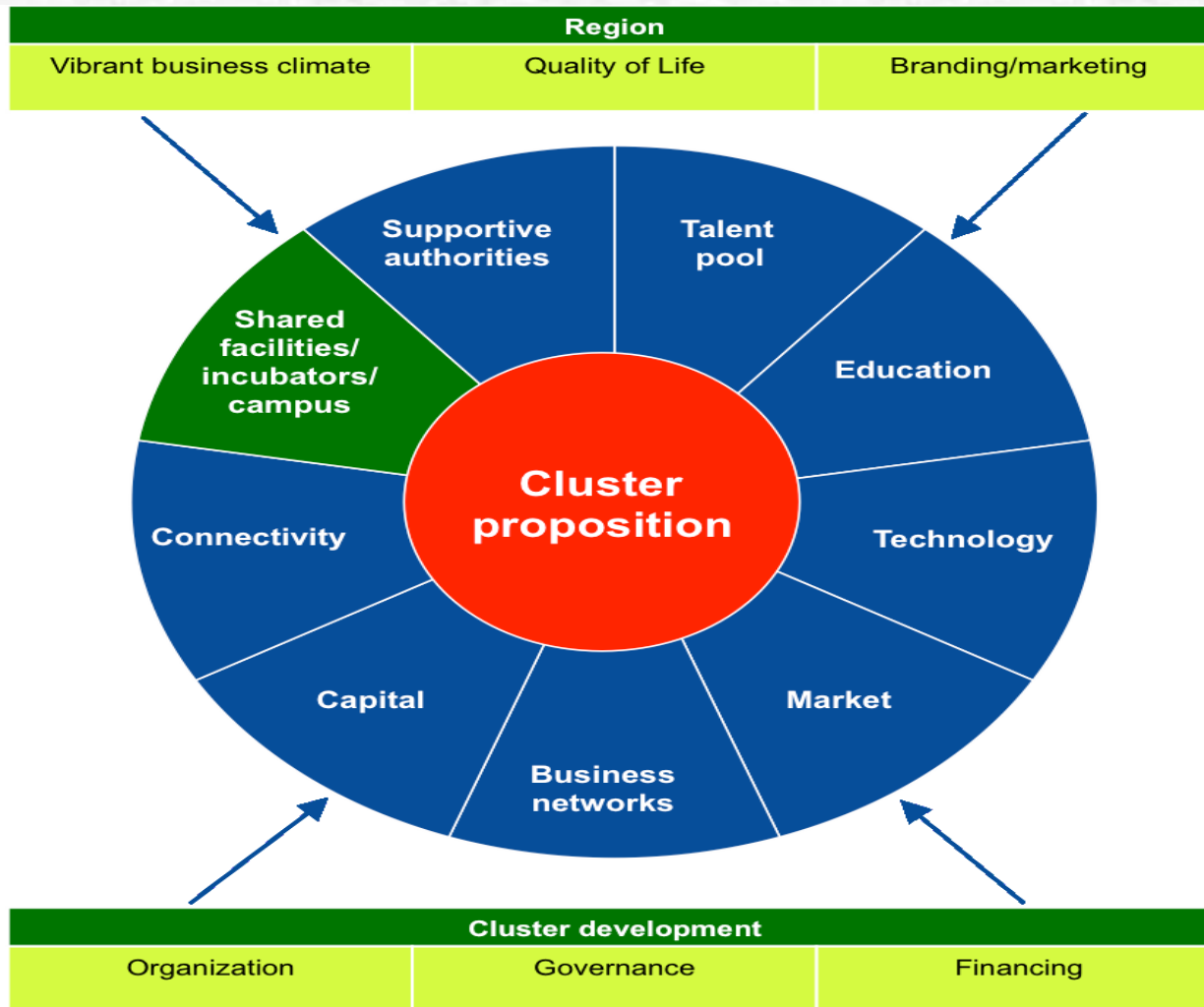


Second, they are **not** contractual networks (driven by single-purpose service delivery)



They **are** governance networks (Collaborative platforms)



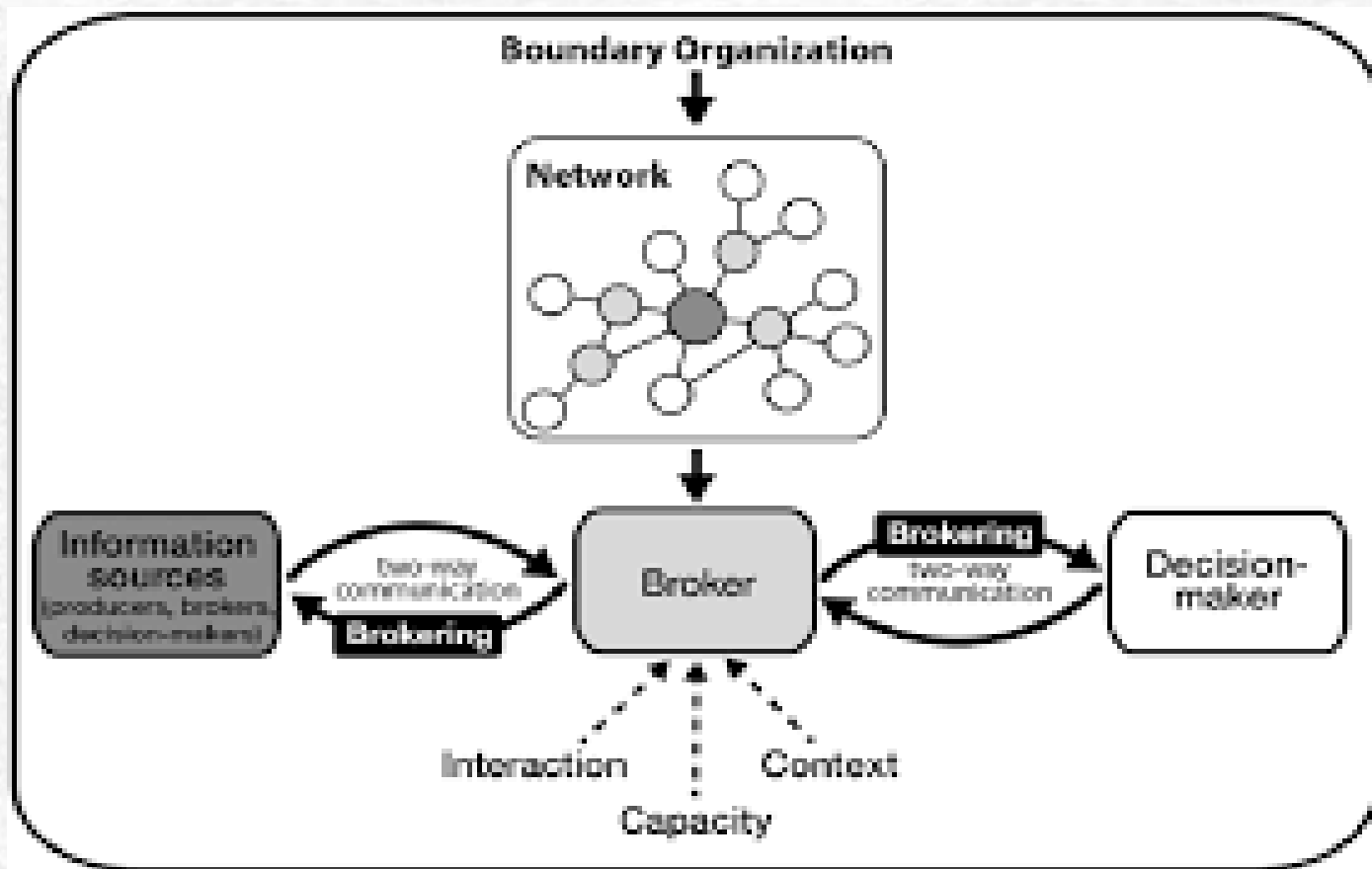


Source: BCI

# Three Types of Cluster Platforms

1. The participant-governed cluster (typically private-sector driven and relatively unstable)
2. The lead organization-governed cluster (often hosted by a postsecondary institution or large anchor firm)

3. The network administrative cluster (separate entity - a broker/bridge organization - that serves as intermediary platform for distinct stakeholders separated by geography, industry, institutional mandate or politics)







*Thank you*

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**APAC-C 3-2020**

**Subject: Update to Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Terms of Reference**

**Date: February 28, 2020**

**To: Agriculture Policy and Action Committee**

**From: Kelly Provost, Economic Development Officer and Erik Acs, Manager of Community Planning**

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At the November 2019 meeting of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee (APAC) there was discussion related to the amalgamation of the Niagara South Federation of Agriculture with the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture. The new name of the merged organization is the Niagara Federation of Agriculture. As a result of the amalgamation, it was suggested that the APAC Terms of Reference be revised to reflect these changes.

The recommendations contained in the following Appendix outline amendments to the Agriculture Policy and Action Committee's (APAC) Terms of Reference.

The purpose this memo is to seek APAC's approval on the recommended changes. If approved, these recommended changes will be presented for consideration at the Planning and Economic Development Committee and ultimately Regional Council for consideration before being considered approved.

It was requested that staff recognize public members as "primary producers". APAC membership outside of Regional Councillors are noted as "Public" on the Region's website and in the Terms of Reference. This is standard policy among all standing committees of council and will therefore remain unchanged.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Kelly Provost  
Economic Development Officer, Economic Development

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Erik Acs  
Manager of Community Planning, Planning and Development Services

Section/Schedule Number	Current Wording	Amended Wording/Deletions
MANDATE	The Committee has been established to advise Regional Council on issues that impact the agricultural industry and support Regional Council, reporting through the Integrated Community Planning Committee, by initiating, developing, implementing and participating in actions and strategies needed to advance the agricultural industry and preserve the agricultural land base throughout the Niagara Region.	The Committee has been established to advise Regional Council on issues that impact the agricultural industry and support Regional Council, reporting through the <b>Planning and Economic Development Committee</b> , by initiating, developing, implementing and participating in actions and strategies needed to advance the agricultural industry and preserve the agricultural land base throughout the Niagara Region.
REPORTING STRUCTURE	The APAC will report to Regional Council through the Integrated Community Planning Committee.	The APAC will report to Regional Council through the <b>Planning and Economic Development Committee</b> .
MEMBERSHIP	<p>Membership for the APAC shall not exceed a maximum of 15 members with the majority of members being from the agricultural sector (primary producers).</p> <p>Membership for the APAC shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one (1) Representative as appointed by the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture</li> <li>• At least one (1) Representative as appointed by the Niagara South Federation of Agriculture</li> <li>• Up to <i>six</i> (6) Regional Council Representatives as appointed by Regional Council</li> </ul> <p>Depending on the priority issues outlined in the APAC's work plan, the remainder of the membership should target membership from across the Niagara Region, throughout the value chain, from a range of commodities and sectors related to the agricultural industry. Membership or participation with either the Niagara North or Niagara South Federation of Agriculture is considered an asset.</p>	<p>Membership for the APAC shall not exceed a maximum of 15 members with the majority of members being from the agricultural sector (primary producers).</p> <p>Membership for the APAC shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>At least two (2) representatives of the Niagara Federation of Agriculture</b></li> <li>• Up to <i>six</i> (6) Regional Council Representatives as appointed by Regional Council</li> </ul> <p>Depending on the priority issues outlined in the APAC's work plan, the remainder of the membership should target membership from across the Niagara Region, throughout the value chain, from a range of commodities and sectors related to the agricultural industry. Membership or participation <b>by the Niagara Federation of Agriculture</b> is considered an asset.</p>

RESOURCES	The Integrated Community Planning Department is the designated lead department regarding resource support for the APAC; however, the Committee also has access to the technical expertise of staff from other Regional departments as may be required.	The <b>Planning and Development Services</b> is the designated lead department regarding resource support for the APAC; however, the Committee also has access to the technical expertise of staff from other Regional departments as may be required.
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**APAC-C 1-2020**

**Subject: Farm Help House Development Charges**

**Date: February 28, 2020**

**To: Agricultural Policy and Action Committee**

**From: Erik Acs, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Community Planning**

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At the November 2019 meeting of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee (APAC) there was discussion related to development charges (DC's) as they pertain to farm help houses. The purpose of this memo is to provide additional information with respect to DC's and how they are approached in other Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipalities.

Under the Region's current Development Charge By-law, which was last updated in 2017, agricultural exemptions only apply to non-residential buildings. Farm help houses are not exempt from Regional DC's. The only exception to this is where the help house structure is temporary, in which case Regional DC's are not applied. Local municipalities have their own development charge by-laws and may or may not exempt farm help houses from local DC's.

The approach to DC's vary across the GTHA. Below are some examples from surrounding municipalities:

- The City of Hamilton does not exempt farm help houses from DC's regardless of structure type.
- York Region does exempt up to two (2) farm help houses from DC's if an existing primary residence is on the same lot.
  - Farm help houses built on an agricultural parcel with no existing residence are not exempt from DC's.
  - Temporary structures may be exempt from DC's in conjunction with a temporary use by-law (up to 3 years).
- Durham Region exempts farm help houses from DC's regardless of structure type or length of use.
- Halton Region does not exempt farm help houses from DC's:
  - There is an exception for temporary buildings (up to 3 years) where the proponent enters into an agreement and provides a letter of credit/security in lieu of a DC.

- Mobile homes are permitted as a longer term temporary building at a lower DC rate than regular residential.

These examples illustrate the approaches taken by municipalities across the GTHA. Typically the decision to exempt DC's is based on local agricultural characteristics and municipal experience with DC by-law implementation.

For additional details on Niagara Region's DC's, including the Region's DC By-law and current rates, please see the following web address:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/business/property/default.aspx>

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Erik Acs, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Community Planning



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**MEMORANDUM**

**APAC-C 2-2020**

**Subject: Irrigation Steering Committee Update**

**Date: February 28, 2020**

**To: Agriculture Policy and Action Committee**

**From: Kelly Provost, Economic Development Officer**

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The contract for a 1 year Irrigation Ambassador released by Grape and Tender Fruit Ontario has been awarded. Hugh Fraser is the successful candidate that will advance the irrigation strategy over 2020.

The position was made available by a funding collaboration from the partners of the Niagara Region, the Town of Lincoln, the City of St. Catharines, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Grape Growers of Ontario, and the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers. The position will operate out of the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers office.

Each funding partner, and a number of provincial and federal stakeholders, are represented at the Niagara Irrigation Committee's committee of the whole. A sub-section of this group has been assembled to act as the Steering Committee that will direct and prioritize the work of the Irrigation Ambassador. The Irrigation Steering Committee includes the following representatives:

- Niagara Region                      1 rep
- Municipality Rep                    3 reps – 1 from each municipality
- OMAFRA                              1 rep
- Growers                                3 reps – 1 from each priority area
- APAC                                    1 rep
- Ag Canada                            1 rep

Attached are the Minutes from the first meeting of the Irrigation Steering Committee, along with a copy of the advocacy letter submitted requesting that irrigation projects be considered eligible under the Canadian Infrastructure Program: Green Stream.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Kelly Provost  
Economic Development Officer, Economic Development

## **MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA REGION IRRIGATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held Friday January 31, 2020 9AM  
1634 SOUTH SERVICE RD, ST CATHARINES**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER- BILL SCHENCK, CHAIR**

Roundtable introductions were held. In attendance were the following members;

Christine Adams, Bill Schenck, David Hipple, Erwin Wiens, Patrick Handyside, Kelly Provost, Rebecca Shortt, Sarah Marshall

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Agenda approved as presented.

### **3. REVIEW MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD JANUARY 14, 2020**

Minutes of the committee of the whole (Niagara Irrigation Committee) held January 14, 2020 were provided as a reference document only. These minutes will have to be approved at the next Committee of the Whole.

### **3. DEVELOP TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE**

Draft Terms of Reference for Steering Committee reviewed and recommendations for changes will be circulated in a second draft.

The following orders of business from the draft terms were determined to be required at this first meeting and were completed;

#### **1. Elections for Vice Chair**

Erwin Wiens was duly nominated and seconded with no other nominations put forth. Erwin accepted the position of vice chair of the steering committee.

#### **2. Signing Authority**

Moved by Erwin Wiens, seconded by Kelly Provost and **CARRIED** for Bill Schenck and Sarah Marshall to be signing authority on cheques from the payee Grape and Tender Fruit Ontario Ltd. which shall hold the partner funding in a separate account for the purposes of the irrigation project.

The partner funding is as follows;

Niagara Region -	\$32,000 (50% received)
Town of Lincoln -	\$12,000 invoiced
Town of Niagara on the Lake-	\$12,000 invoiced
City of St Catharines –	\$12,000 to be invoiced
Grape Growers of Ontario -	\$12,000 to be invoiced
Ontario Tender Fruit Growers -	\$12,000 to be invoiced
Total	\$92,000

#### **4. DRAFT WORKPLAN WITH TIMELINES AND BUDGET**

Hugh Fraser provided a verbal report on the overall scope for the work plan using a guide of 12 hours weekly and 600 hours total but that this was only an estimate at these early stages. In the short term he will endeavor to complete the following tasks with reporting back to the committee at regular intervals.

##### February 2020

- Ground work, photos and initial data gathering in each priority area connecting with key individuals in each;
  - Lincoln – David Hipple
  - NOTL – Brett Ruck
  - City of St. Catharines – David Wiley
- Obtaining topographical maps of each area through the Niagara Region and Report 4 of the Stantec report (Kelly Provost)
- Connecting with James Farrar for his contacts / feedback re OPG

##### March 3, 2020

- Report back to steering committee for recommended next steps

#### **5. NEXT STEPS**

Sarah to draft an introductory letter to the Senior Advisor of Canada Infrastructure Program including the following;

- brief introduction and explanation why irrigation security is so crucial to the region and what we have accomplished to date
- elevating the need for irrigation infrastructure to be included in any future intakes in funding and the importance of equality across all municipalities
- copy to committee of the whole, Niagara MPs, MPP Sam Oosterhoff, mayors, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure

#### **6. SET NEXT MEETING DATES**

Tuesday March 3, 2020 830 am board offices

Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 830 am board offices

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:15am

February 6, 2020

Canada Infrastructure Program: Green Stream  
Attn: Craig Reid Senior Advisor  
Via email: [credit@amo.on.ca](mailto:credit@amo.on.ca)

Re: **Emerging priorities - irrigation infrastructure in the Niagara Region**

Dear Craig;

We are pleased to see the launch of the Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP): Green Stream and future intake focus on other emerging priorities for water and/or climate change and disaster mitigation projects.

The Niagara region is home to thousands of acres of grape vines and fruit trees cared for by over 700 family farms supporting a community of close to 450,000 residents. Water is not only essential to the region's residents, but it is also crucial for growing high quality fruit. Although surrounded by fresh water sources, getting that water to the farm consistently and equally across the entire region has been an ongoing issue. Additionally, weather extremes over the past few years have resulted in drought conditions, followed by periods of excessive rain with limited infrastructure in place to deal with either situation.

In 2007, extensive engineering studies were done to investigate options to increase grower access to irrigation water in the Niagara region. These studies, and an Irrigation Strategic Action Plan done in the fall of 2017, are the backbone to our continued work to identify data gaps, pilot projects and implement larger infrastructure solutions.

We have recently established an Irrigation Steering Committee with participants from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, City of St. Catharines, Town of Niagara On the Lake, Town of Lincoln, and the Niagara Region itself. This new collaboration is key as we identify solutions that will enable our growers to access irrigation water efficiently, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector in this region.

We ask at this time that irrigation infrastructure be identified as a specific eligible project category in all future intakes of this program and recognition in program guidelines that all of the municipalities that make up the Niagara region are eligible applicants.

For additional information please contact the undersigned.

Yours Sincerely,



Bill Schenck [wmjschenck@gmail.com](mailto:wmjschenck@gmail.com)  
Irrigation Steering Committee Chair

C     Irrigation Steering Committee  
Ernie Hardeman- Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Laurie Scott- Ontario Minister of Infrastructure  
Sandra Easton- Mayor, Town of Lincoln  
Walter Sendzik- Mayor, City of St. Catharines  
Betty Disero- Mayor, Town of Niagara on the Lake  
Vance Badawey - MP, Niagara Central  
Chris Bittle - MP, St. Catharines  
Dean Allison - MP, Niagara West  
Sam Oosterhoff - MPP, Niagara West

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**APAC-C 4-2020**

**Subject: Farm 911 – The Emily Project**

**Date: February 28, 2020**

**To: Agricultural Policy and Action Committee**

**From: Erik Acs, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Community Planning**

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At the November 29, 2019 meeting of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee, the members directed the Committee Chair to write a letter to the Chair of the Public Works Committee and the Niagara Region's CAO/Commissioner of Public Works, requesting that a presentation respecting the Farm 911/The Emily Project be delivered to the Public Works Committee.

Attached with this memo is a copy of the letter that was sent in accordance with the above request.

Currently, a presentation related to the Farm 911 project is scheduled for the Region's Public Works Committee on March 11, 2020

Respectfully submitted and signed by

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Erik Acs, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Community Planning

Councillor Rigby & CAO Commissioner Tripp,

At the November 29 meeting of the Region's Agricultural Policy and Action Committee (APAC) the membership asked me to reach out to the Chair of the Public Works Committee and the CAO/Commissioner of Public Works to request that the Niagara Federation of Agriculture be invited to deliver a short presentation to the Region's Public Works Committee. The purpose of the presentation is to raise awareness for an important initiative in the agricultural community – the Farm 911 Project.

The Farm 911 Project aims to improve emergency services in rural areas as a result of inadequate civic address signage for rural properties, particularly remote farm entrances. Several Niagara municipalities are already participating in this program, however, others do not have policies in place to allow a civic address to be assigned to an agricultural property that doesn't have residence. We would welcome an opportunity to share the background of this project, and would be interested in any discussion and feedback the Public Works Committee may be able to provide on this project.

Sincerely, 



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
AGRICULTURAL POLICY & ACTION COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**APAC 4-2019  
Friday, November 29, 2019  
Campbell East (CE) 101  
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell East  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Councillors Butters, Easton, Jordan, Steele, Witteveen (Committee Chair); C. Hamilton, G. Janes, C. Mullet Koop, J. Schonberger, L. Troup, A. Vaughn, K. Wiens

Absent/Regrets: Councillor Disero; J. Kikkert, B. Schenck (Committee Vice Chair)

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, K. Costantini, Planning Analyst, Regional Official Plan, M. Evelyn, Legislative Coordinator, K. Provost, Economic Development Officer, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk

Others Present: N. Gill, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, S. Marshall, Ontario Tender Fruit, H. Swierenga, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Witteveen called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 Rural Broadband Expansion**

Councillor Foster, South Western Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) Representative, provided information respecting Rural Broadband Expansion. Topics of the presentation included:

- SWIFT Region
- Sources of Funding
- Phase 2 Projects
  - Lambton County
  - Wellington County
  - Norfolk County
- Procurement Approach
- Phase 2 Schedule

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **APAC-C 5-2019**

2020 Agricultural Policy and Action Meeting Dates

Moved by K. Wiens

Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 5-2019, being a memorandum from A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, dated November 29, 2019, respecting 2020 Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Dates, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee meetings **BE HELD** on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates in 2020:

February 28, April 24, September 25, and November 27.

**Carried**

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Easton

Seconded by J. Schonberger

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

APAC 2-2019

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Minutes, Friday, April 26, 2019

APAC 3-2019

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Minutes, Friday, September 27, 2019

**Carried**

6.3 **APAC-C 6-2019**

Councillor Information Request - September 27, 2019

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 6-2019, being a memorandum from E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, dated November 29, 2019, respecting Councillor Information Request - September 27, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

**Carried**

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide a draft mandate for a Niagara Agribusiness Sector Working Group. Councillor Easton.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**7.1 Irrigation Ambassador Position**

S. Marshall advised committee members that an Irrigation Ambassador will be appointed in early 2020 resulting from a funding collaboration with the Niagara Region, Town of Lincoln, the City of St. Catharines, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Grape Growers of Ontario, and the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers. The position will operate out of the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers office and will be accountable to an Irrigation Steering Committee representative of the funding organizations.

**7.2 Development Charges Update**

S. Marshall advised committee members that development charges are being issued on Farm "Help Houses" which board temporary workers. E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, advised that development charges are not issued for temporary housing, however, charges are issued for any dwelling with a foundation.

Councillor Easton requested clarification respecting building regulations on Farm "Help Houses" as some residents have expressed confusion with the requirements.

**7.3 Phragmites Update**

K. Wiens advised committee members that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has hired Lisa Price, LCA Environmental Consultants, to conduct a study on the impact of phragmites in the municipality. K. Wiens will provide updates to the committee throughout the study.

**7.4 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Public Advisory Committee**

J. Schonberger advised committee members that he has been appointed to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Public Advisory Committee and that they are looking for a representative from the Niagara South Federation of Agriculture.

**7.5 Changes to Terms of References**

A. Vaughan requested that staff update the Terms of Reference to recognize public committee members as "primary producers" and the amalgamation of the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture and Niagara South Federation of Agriculture.

7.6 Farm 911/The Emily Project

C. Hamilton advised committee members that the Township of Wainfleet has successfully implemented the Farm 911/The Emily Project. C. Hamilton explained that the Farm 911/The Emily Project aims to improve emergency services in rural areas as a result of inadequate civic address signage for rural properties, particularly remote farm entrances.

Moved by Councillor Steele  
Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee **DIRECT** Chair Witteveen to write a letter to the Chair of the Public Works Committee and the Niagara Region's CAO/Commissioner of Public Works, requesting that a presentation respecting the Farm 911/The Emily Project be delivered to the Public Works Committee; and

That the letter **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities for information.

**Carried**

7.7 Committee Membership Update

Committee Chair Witteveen advised committee members that Henry Swierenga will be retiring from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and Nadine Gill will be fulfilling the position of member service representative on the Committee.

7.8 Local Food in Long-Term Care Homes

Committee Chair Witteveen advised committee members that the University of Guelph, in partnership with the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, is studying local food procurement in Ontario's long-term care sector in Niagara and Peel Region. They are currently undertaking an analysis of Niagara Region's 9 Long-Term Care homes' food procurement to look for opportunities to supplement with local product. K. Provost, Economic Development Officer, advised she would coordinate an updated presentation with the project coordinators for an upcoming APAC meeting.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

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Councillor Witteveen  
Committee Chair

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Mark Evely  
Legislative Coordinator

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk