

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

**APAC 1-2020
Friday, February 28, 2020
Committee Room 4
Niagara Region Headquarters
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold ON**

Committee: Councillor Butters, Disero, Jordan, Steele, Witteveen (Committee Chair); C. Hamilton, G. Janes, J. Kikkert, C. Mullet Koop, B. Schenck (Committee Vice Chair), J. Schonberger, L. Troup, A. Vaughn, K. Wiens

Absent/Regrets: Bradley (Regional Chair), Easton

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, M. Evely, Legislative Coordinator, R. Fleming, Senior Tax & Revenue Analyst, K. Provost, Economic Development Officer, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk

Others Present: N. Gill, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Member Service Representative, T. Humphrey, Vineland Research Innovation Centre, S. Marshall, Ontario Tender Fruit

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Witteveen called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Niagara Agri-Business Working Group

Professor Charles Conteh, Director, Niagara Community Observatory, provided information respecting Niagara Agri-Business Working Group. Topics of the presentation included:

- Mapping Niagara's Agri-food Cluster
- What are Clusters?
- What Roles do Agri-food Innovation Clusters Play?
- Areas of Focus for Agri-food Clusters
- Niagara's Centres of Excellence in the Agri-food Sector
- Three Types of Cluster Platforms:
 - Participant Governed Cluster
 - Lead Organization-Governed Cluster
 - Network Administrative Cluster

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 APAC-C 3-2020

Update to Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Terms of Reference

Moved by A. Vaughan

Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 3-2020, being a memorandum from K. Provost, Economic Development Officer, and E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, dated February 28, 2020, respecting Update to Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Terms of Reference, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the amendments to the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee terms of reference, as described in Appendix 1 of Correspondence Item APAC-C 3-2020, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

J. Schonberger provided clarification respecting Minute Item 7.4 of Report APAC 4-2019 (Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Minutes - November 29, 2019). He advised that he was appointed as a representative of Agricultural South on the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Public Advisory Committee and the NPCA was looking for someone to represent Agricultural North.

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by C. Mullet Koop

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

APAC-C 1-2020

Farm Help House Development Charges

APAC-C 2-2020

Irrigation Steering Committee Update

APAC-C 4-2020

Farm 911 - The Emily Project

APAC 4-2019

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Minutes - November 29, 2019

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Bill 156, Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020

C. Mullet Koop advised committee members that the Legislative Assembly of Ontario is in the process of doing final readings of Bill 156, *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020*, and requested members to show support.

Moved by J. Schonberger
Seconded by J. Kikkert

That staff **PREPARE** a report requesting Council's endorsement of Bill 156, *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act, 2020*.

Carried

7.2 Update on Irrigation Ambassador

B. Schenck advised committee members that Hugh Fraser was hired as the Irrigation Ambassador. The position will operate under Grape and Tender Fruit Ontario and report to its Irrigation Steering Committee.

7.3 Niagara Agri-Business Working Group Presentation

Councillor Steele requested the presentation respecting Niagara Agri-Business Working Group (Minute Item 3.1) be presented to the Planning and Economic Development Committee with the recommendation that Economic Development staff lead the initiative.

Moved by Councillor Disero
Seconded by Councillor Steele

1. That Council **ENDORSE** the Niagara Agri-Business Working Group presentation; and
2. That staff **PREPARE** a report recommending an appropriate economic development strategy respecting Niagara's Agri-food cluster.

Carried

7.4 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Public Advisory Committee Update

J. Schonberger advised committee members that the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Public Advisory Committee appointed a representative for Agriculture North, and its next meeting is on March 12, 2020.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Councillor Witteveen
Committee Chair

Mark Evely
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk