

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**PEDC 4-2021
Wednesday, April 14, 2021
Council Chamber / Video Conference
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: Huson (Committee Chair), Witteveen (Committee Vice Chair)

Committee Members Present via Video Conference: Bradley (Regional Chair), Butters, Bylsma, Campion, Darté, Easton, Fertich, Foster, Greenwood, Heit, Junkin, Redekop, Rigby, Sendzik, Ugolini, Zalepa

Absent/Regrets: Bellows

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: S. Guglielmi, Technology Support Analyst, D. Giles, Acting Commissioner, Planning & Development Services, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development

Staff Present via Video Conference: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, I. Banach, Acting Director, Community & Long Range Planning, P. Busnello, Manager, Development Planning, D. Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant, V. Kuhns, Associate Director, Economic Development, P. Lambert, Director, Infrastructure Planning & Development Engineering, B. Landry, Manager, Economic Research and Analysis, K. McCauley, Acting Manager, Long Range Planning, D. Morreale, Director, Development Approvals, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk, R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Huson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Insights on Proposed Pillar Statements and Directives - Niagara Official Plan

Rob Horne, Senior Advisor, Overlap Associates, provided information respecting Insights on Proposed Pillar Statements and Directives - Niagara Official Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- Overview of our Work with the Region of Niagara
- Part 2 Assignment to Overlap
- What Regional Councillors Received
- What We Heard
- What We Concluded

4. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 PDS 22-2021

Acquisition of Eco-Park Lands - Glendale District Plan

Moved by Councillor Easton

Seconded by Councillor Bylsma

That Report PDS 22-2021, dated April 14, 2021, respecting Acquisition of Eco-Park Lands - Glendale District Plan, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **BE DIRECTED** to send the letters, attached as Appendix 1 to Report PDS 22-2021, to the Federal Minister of Transport and the Provincial Minister of Transportation, respectively; and
2. That the attached letters also **BE CIRCULATED** to the Niagara Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the City of St. Catharines.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide an inventory of prospective lands that could be designated as park lands. Councillor Butters.

Provide information regarding which local area municipalities need to increase their parkland lots. Councillor Sendzik.

5.2 PDS 19-2021

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control and Wet Weather Management (WWM) Program – 2021 Funding Recommendations

Moved by Councillor Ugolini

Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Report PDS 19-2021, dated April 14, 2021, respecting Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control and Wet Weather Management (WWM) Program – 2021 Funding Recommendations, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the thirty-four (34) Local Area Municipal projects under the 2021 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control / Wet Weather Management (WWM) Cost Sharing Program, as identified in Appendix 1 of Report PDS 19-2021, **BE APPROVED** in the amount of \$3,252,976;
2. That Regional staff **PREPARE** and **EXECUTE** the respective partnership funding agreements with the Local Area Municipalities (LAM) for qualifying projects to reflect the terms and conditions set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 of Report PDS 19-2021; and
3. That the local Municipal partners **BE ADVISED** of the results of Regional funding support, as outlined in Appendix 1 of Report PDS 19-2021.

Carried

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Reports ED 9-2021 and ED 10-2021 were considered separately.

Moved by Councillor Junkin

Seconded by Councillor Dart

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

ED 8-2021

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Economic Development

PDS-C 28-2021

COVID-19 Response and Business Continuity in Planning and Development Services

PDS 20-2021

2020 Reserve Water and Wastewater Treatment Capacities

PDS 21-2021
Airport Master Plan Update

PDS-C 29-2021
Niagara 2051 Project - Water & Wastewater Master Servicing Plan Update -
Public Information Center Number 1

Carried

6.3 ED 9-2021

Niagara Economic Update

Blake Landry, Manager, Economic Research & Analysis, provided information respecting Niagara Economic Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- Population
- Labour Force and Employment
- Participation Rate
- Employment Change
- Total Household and Household Disposable Income
- Household Income Per Capita
- Consumer Price Index and Housing Price Index
- Investment and Building Construction
- Building Permit Values
- Real GDP Annual, Quarterly, and by Sector
- Retail Sales

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That Report ED 9-2021, dated April 14, 2021, respecting Niagara Economic Update, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

6.4 ED 10-2021

Students Going Digital: The Economic Impact on Niagara

Vivian Kinnaird, Chief Executive Officer, and Kevin McPhillips, Research Associate, Niagara Workforce Planning Board, provided information respecting Students Going Digital: The Economic Impact on Niagara.

Topics of the presentation included:

- Project Overview
- Rental Property Demand
- Niagara Region Public Transit
- Student Spending in Niagara
- Student Employment
- Work-Integrated Learning
- Effects Outside the Scope of this Paper
- Overall Project Findings

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Redekop

That Report ED 10-2021, dated April 14, 2021, respecting Students Going Digital: The Economic Impact on Niagara, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting the ability to claim lost revenue due to the decline in public transit usage as part of the Province's Safe Restart funding. Councillor Fertich.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Region's Natural Heritage System Presentation

Councillor Darte advised that he attended a video conference presentation, presented by Liz Benneian on behalf of the Biodiversity and Climate Action Committee - Niagara, respecting the Region's Natural Heritage System, and noted that it would be of interest to Committee Members. Committee Chair Huson advised that members interested could contact the Regional Clerk for the presentation materials.

At this point in the meeting Councillor Witteveen assumed the Chair.

7.2 Economic Development 10-year Plan

Councillor Huson requested that staff consider including childcare and care needs as part of the Economic Development 10-year plan in consultation with Community Services.

A this point in the meeting Councillor Huson assumed the Chair.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Councillor Huson
Committee Chair

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk