

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

**APAC 1-2019
Friday, February 22, 2019
Committee Room 4
Niagara Region Headquarters
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold ON**

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

Absent/Regrets: Bradley (Regional Chair), Councillor Jordan; J. Kikkert, B.
Schenck (Committee Vice Chair), A. White

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, K. Lotimer, Legislative
Coordinator, K. Provost, Economic Development Officer

Others Present: S. Marshall (Ontario Tender Fruit), H. Swierenga (OFA Member
Services Representative)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Kelly Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

3.1 Call for Nominations for Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee, for a two year term (2019 - 2020).

Moved by K. Wiens
Seconded by G. Janes

That Councillor Disero, **BE NOMINATED** for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee, for a two year term (2019 - 2020)

Moved by A. Vaughn
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Councillor Witteveen, **BE NOMINATED** for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Advisory Committee, for a two year term (2019 - 2020)

3.2 Motion to Close the Nominations for Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee. There being no further nominations it was:

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by K. Wiens

That the nominations for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two year term (2019 - 2020), **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.3 Voting for the Position of Committee Chair

Voting by a show of hands resulted in the following:

Councillor Disero = 4

Councillor Witteveen = 6

Based on the results of the vote, Ms. Lotimer announced that Councillor Witteveen had received the majority of the votes and would be the Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two-year term (2019-2020).

3.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

Kelly Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee, for a two year term (2019 - 2020).

Moved by K. Wiens
Seconded by G. Janes

That Bill Schenck, **BE NOMINATED** for the position of Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee, for a two year term (2019 - 2020)

3.5 Motion to Close the Nominations for Committee Vice-Chair

Kelly Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, called a second and third time for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee. There being no further nominations it was:

Moved by J. Schonberger
Seconded by Councillor Easton

That the nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two year term (2019 - 2020), **BE CLOSED.**

Carried

3.6 Voting for the Position of Committee Vice-Chair

There being only one nominee for the position, Ms. Lotimer announced that Bill Schenck would be the Vice-Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two year term (2019 - 2020).

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Witteveen assumed the chair.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4.1 Natural Environment Work Program - New Regional Official Plan

Sean Norman, Senior Planner, provided information respecting the Natural Environment Work Program - New Regional Official Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- New Regional Official Plan
- Natural Environment Planning
- Scope for Natural Environment Work Program
- Key Issues to be Addressed
- Official Plan Policies
- Upcoming Consultation and Engagement

Moved by K. Wiens
Seconded by A. Vaughn

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to invite a representative from the Ontario Phragmites Working Group to make a presentation at the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee meeting being held on Friday, April 26, 2019.

Carried

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 **APAC-C 01-2019**

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee 2019 Meeting Schedule

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Councillor Disero

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 01-2019, dated February 22, 2019, respecting the 2019 APAC Meeting Schedule, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee meetings be held on the following dates:

April 26, September 17 and November 29, 2019.

Carried

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 **APAC-C 03-2019**

Irrigation Working Group Update

Sarah Marshall, Manager, Ontario Tender Fruit Growers, provided an update from the Irrigation Working Group.

Moved by Councillor Disero

Seconded by Councillor Easton

That this Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Planning and Economic Development Committee:

1. That Correspondence Item APAC-C 03-2019, respecting an Irrigation Working Group Update, **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That Regional Council **ENDORSE** the formation of a volunteer Niagara Water Resource Board.

Carried

7.2 APAC-C 02-2019

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Representation for the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture

Moved by Councillor Butters
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 02-2019, respecting the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Representation for the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by J. Schonberger
Seconded by G. Janes

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

APAC-C 1 -2018
Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Minutes
January 26, 2018

APAC-C 2-2018
Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Minutes
April 20, 2018

Carried

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meetings

Gracia Janes, Committee member, enquired about increasing the number of Agricultural Policy and Action Committee meetings per year. Chair Witteveen advised of his ability to call additional committee meetings when necessary.

8.2 Representation from Cannabis Industry on the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee

Kai Wiens, Committee member, enquired as to whether or not the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee members would entertain the addition of a representative from the Cannabis Industry.

Moved by J. Schonberger
Seconded by Councillor Butters

That staff **BE DIRECTED** to invite a representative from the Cannabis Industry to make a presentation at the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee meeting being held on Friday, April 26, 2019.

Carried

8.3 Emily 911 Project

Arden Vaughn, Committee member, provided information on the Emily 911 project.

Moved by A. Vaughn
Seconded by C. Mullet Koop

That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee **ENDORSE** the Emily 911 Project.

Carried

8.4 Niagara North Federation of Agriculture Bus Tour

Arden Vaughn, Committee member, advised committee members of the Niagara North Federation of Agricultural Bus Tour taking place on June 20, 2019. More information regarding this tour will be provided at an upcoming Agricultural Policy and Action Committee meeting.

8.5 Agriculture Asset Management

Councillor Witteveen, Committee Chair, requested that staff provide information respecting the agricultural asset management work that was done through the Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance.

8.6 Long Term Strategies

Councillor Witteveen, Committee Chair, requested that staff provide information highlighting the findings and extracts for the agricultural component of the long term strategies report completed by Brock University and Niagara Region.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, April 26, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Councillor Witteveen
Committee Chair

Kelly Lotimer
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk