

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

**APAC 1-2023
Friday, September 29, 2023
Meeting held by electronic participation**

Committee: Bateman, Bradley (Regional Chair), Easton, Kaiser, Seaborn, Witteveen; G. Janes, S. Marshall, C. Mullet Koop, J. Schonberger, K. White, K. Wiens

Absent/Regrets: Steele

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, A. Boekestyn, Development Planner, K. Boyko, Economic Development Officer, K. Costantini, Senior Planner, S. Fraser, Associate Director, Transportation Planning, B. Landry, Manager, Economic Research and Analysis, K. Lotimer, Legislative Coordinator, M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth Strategy & Economic Development, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, A. Stea, Director, Community & Long Range Planning, C. Tia, Planner, A. Tikky, Senior Project Policy Manager

Others Present: P. Bootsma, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, C. Yungblut, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, D. McGrath, Vineland Research Innovation Center

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jenna Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

3.1 Call for Nominations for Committee Chair

Jenna Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two-year term (2023-2024).

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Councillor Kaiser

That Councillor Seaborn **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two-year term (2023-2024).

Moved by K. Wiens
Seconded by S. Marshall

That Councillor Witteveen **BE NOMINATED** as Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two-year term (2023-2024).

3.2 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Chair

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by C. Mullet Koop

That nominations for the position of Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two-year term (2022-2024), **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.3 Voting for the Position of Committee Chair

Voting by a show of hands resulted in the following:

Seaborn: 4

Witteveen:5

Based on the result of the vote, Ms. Spratt announced that Councillor Witteveen had received the majority of votes and would be the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Chair for a two-year term (2023-2024).

3.4 Call for Nominations for Committee Vice Chair

Jenna Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two-year term (2023-2024).

Moved by Councillor Witteveen
Seconded by S. Marshall

That Kai Wiens **BE NOMINATED** as Vice Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two-year term (2023-2024).

3.5 Motion to Close Nominations for Committee Vice Chair

Moved by S. Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Bateman

That nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee for a two-year term (2022-2024), **BE CLOSED**.

Carried

3.6 Voting for the Position of Committee Vice Chair

There being only one nominee for the position of Committee Vice Chair, Ms. Spratt announced that Kai Wiens would be the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Vice Chair for a two-year term (2023-2024).

As Chair Witteveen was unable to chair the meeting, Kai Wiens, Vice Chair, assumed the Chair.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 APAC-C 1-2023

2023-2024 Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Schedule

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by S. Marshall

That Report APAC-C 1-2023, dated September 29, 2023, respecting 2023-2024 Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Schedule, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

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

- December 1, 2023
- February 2, 2024
- April 19, 2024
- September 20, 2024
- November 29, 2024

Moved by S. Marshall
Seconded by C. Mullet Koop

That the 2023-2024 Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Schedule **BE AMENDED** to include an additional meeting date of October 27, 2023.

Carried

The Committee Vice Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, and declared it,

Carried

6.2 APAC-C 2-2023

Terms of Reference: Agricultural Policy and Action Committee

Moved by Councillor Kaiser
Seconded by S. Marshall

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

That Report APAC-C 2-2023, dated September 29, 2023, respecting Draft Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Terms of Reference, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Terms of Reference attached to APAC-C 2-2023 as Appendix I, **BE APPROVED**.

Carried

Committee Information Request(s):

Committee requested that future amendments to the terms of reference ensure proper representation from the other appropriate agricultural sectors.

Committee requested that staff consider allowing a hybrid option for future APAC meetings.

7. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 PDS 26-2023

Statutory Public Meeting for Regional Official Plan Amendment (Regional Road Allowance Widths)

Alexandria Tikky, Manager, Senior Project Policy, provided information respecting Regional Official Plan Amendment (Regional Road Allowance Widths). Topics of the presentation included:

- Meeting Purpose
- Project Background
- Analysis Criteria
- Proposed Amendment (Increases and Decreases)
- New Road Allowance Widths
- Proposed Amendment (Policy)
- Comments and Feedback
- Next Steps

Moved by C. Mullet Koop

Seconded by Councillor Seaborn

That Report PDS 26-2023, dated September 13, 2023, respecting Statutory Public Meeting for Regional Official Plan Amendment (Regional Road Allowance Widths), **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried

7.2 PDS 21-2023

Woodland Conservation By-law Annual Report 2022

Moved by S. Marshall

Seconded by C. Mullet Koop

That Report PDS 21-2023, dated July 12, 2023, respecting Woodland Conservation By-law Annual Report 2022, **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried

7.3 ED 10-2023

Niagara Agriculture Profile

Moved by S. Marshall

Seconded by Councillor Easton

That Report ED 10-2023, dated September 13, 2023, respecting Niagara Agriculture Profile, **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried

Committee Information Request(s):

Committee requested that the Niagara Agricultural Profile be provided to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture for comment.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Irrigation Project Update

Erik Acs, Manager, Community Planning, provided an update respecting the Irrigation Project, informed Committee that the Canadian Infrastructure Bank will be conducting a site visit, and outlined future funding opportunities.

8.2 Soil Health and Impacts with Local Area Municipalities

Councillor Easton requested information respecting by-laws passed by Local Area Municipalities pertaining to soil health. Erik Acs, Manager, Community Planning, advised that staff would bring information back to a future meeting.

8.3 Abandoned Land Act

Kai Wiens, Committee Vice-Chair, inquired if the Abandoned Land Act could be reestablished at the regional level. Erik Acs, Manager, Community Planning, noted that the Town of Blue Mountain has a by-law in place for this that can be included on the agenda for the meeting being held on October 27, 2023.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Councillor Witteveen
Committee Chair

Jenna Spratt
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk