

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

APAC 2-2024

Friday, November 29, 2024

Meeting will be held by electronic participation only

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

Absent/Regrets: Easton

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, C. Gaspar, Manager, Environmental Health, A. Habjan, Director, Environmental Health, M. Marino, Associate Director, Economic Development, M. McGinty, Economic Development Officer, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator

Others Present: R. Bierhuizen, Sunrise Greenhouses, I. Potter, Vineland Research Innovation Center, M.Sipos, Greenbelt Foundation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Witteveen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Committee Chair Witteveen read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Alternative Land Use Services - The ALUS program in Niagara

Leilani Lee-Yates, Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, and Alyssa Cousineu, Alternative Land Use Services, provided information respecting the Alternative Land Use Services - The ALUS Program in Niagara. Topics of the presentation included:

- About the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)
- NPCA Watershed

- Enhancing Watershed Restoration and Stewardship
- Agricultural Stewardship
- Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) Program
- NPCA Context for ALUS
- NPCA and ALUS to date
- ALUS Information Session
- Next Steps

4.2 Protecting the Health and Safety of Niagara's International Agricultural Workers (IAWs): The Role of Health Inspectors

Anthony Habjan, Director, Environmental Health, and Chris Gaspar, Manager, Environmental Health, provided information respecting Protecting the Health and Safety of Niagara's International Agricultural Workers (IAWs): The Role of Health Inspectors. Topics of the presentation included:

- International Agricultural Workers (IAWs) in Niagara
- Who We Are and Why We Inspect
- Interagency Collaboration
- Jurisdictional Documents
- Inspection Overview
- IAW Approval Inspection Report
- Number of IAW Approval Inspections and Re-inspections
- Operational Pressures
- Planning For the Future
- Cost Recovery
- Innovation
- IAW Niagara Region Webpage
- IAW Inspection Request
- Next Steps

Moved by Member S. Marshall
Seconded by Member C. Mullet Koop

That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee **REQUEST** that Regional Council support requesting the Regional Chair sending a letter to the Province and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for funding to support additional full-time Public Health Inspectors.

Carried

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 **APAC-C 3-2024**

2025 Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Dates

Moved by Member C. Mullet Koop
Seconded by Member G. Janes

That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee meetings **BE HELD** on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates in 2025:

February 28, May 9, September 19, November 28.

Carried

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 **APAC-C 4-2024**

Niagara Region Woodland Conservation

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Member C. Mullet Koop

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 4-2024, being a letter from Niagara Federation of Agriculture respecting Niagara Region Woodland Conservation, **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried

7.2 **APAC-C 5-2024**

News Release respecting Governments Strengthening Mental Health Services for International Agricultural Workers

Moved by Member C. Mullet Koop
Seconded by Councillor Steele

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 5-2024, dated October 17, 2024, being a news release respecting Governments Strengthening Mental Health Services for International Agricultural Workers, **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Consider inviting the Farms Organization to provide a presentation respecting the healthcare of international agricultural workers. Councillor Bateman.

7.3 APAC 1-2024

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Minutes - April 19, 2024

Moved by Councillor Bateman
Seconded by Member K. White

That Minutes APAC 1-2024, being the minutes of the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting held on April 19, 2024, **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

8.1 Irrigation Update

Erik Acs, Manager, Community Planning, provided an update on the Irrigation Project and advised Committee members that a tender for consulting services and funding agreements were currently being drafted and an update would be provided at the next meeting.

8.2 Bill 185

Erik Acs, Manager, Community Planning, provided an update on policy changes following the proclamation of Bill 185 and advised that an update would be provided at the February Committee meeting.

8.3 Burn Permit Fees

Sarah Marshall, Committee Member, expressed concerns surrounding costs associated with burn permit fees and advised that commodity groups are working with the Fire Chief on a resolution.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on February 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Councillor Witteveen
Committee Chair

Jenna Spratt
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk