

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

**PEDC 4-2025**

**Wednesday, May 7, 2025**

**Council Chamber - In Person and Electronic Meeting  
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee: Bateman, Bradley (Regional Chair)\*, Champion\*, Foster, Ganann\*, Kaiser (Committee Vice Chair), Morocco, Olson, Redekop\*, Rigby, Seaborn (Committee Chair), Siscoe\*, Steele\*, Ugulini, Witteveen,

Absent/Regrets: Jordan, Junkin

Staff: K. Desharnais, Manager, Strategic Marketing, R. Hill, Legislative Coordinator, A. Korchok, Chief of Staff, Governance, C. Lampman, Manager, Environmental Planning, B. Landry, Manager, Economic Research and Analysis, S. Madder, Associate Director, Strategic Initiatives, M. Marino, Associate Director, Economic Development, D. Morreale, Director, Growth Management & Planning, R. Muzzell, Manager, Program Financial Support\*, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, C. Ogunniyi, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Indigenous Relations\*, B. Perna, Climate Change Specialist, B. Ray, Associate Director, Facilities Project, Asset and Energy, D. Root, Regional Forester, C. Selig, Acting Manager, Development Planning, M. Sergi, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, G. Spezza, Director, Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, A. Stea, Director, Corporate Strategy & Community Sustainability, B. Wilson, Legal Counsel\*

\* indicates participants who attended the meeting electronically, all others participated in person

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

Councillor Olson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. **DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

5. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

6. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

6.1 **PDS 11-2025**

Corporate Climate Change Action Plan

Beatrice Perna, Climate Change Specialist, and Suzanne Madder, Associate Director, Strategic Initiatives, provided information respecting the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP)
- Climate Change Action Parallel Initiatives
- Council Approved Corporate Target
- Niagara Region's GHG Emissions Inventory (2018)
- GHG Emission's 25 Year Forecast
- Challenges to Transformation
- Corporate Climate Change Action Plan Overview and Implementation Plan
- Examples of Climate Action Projects
- Integrating GHG Reduction into Operations
- Plan Benefits and Future Froward

Moved by Councillor Bateman

Seconded by Councillor Foster

That Report PDS 11-2025, dated May 7, 2025, respecting Corporate Climate Change Action Plan, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the proposed Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), attached as Appendix 2 to Report PDS 11-2025, **BE APPROVED**; and
2. That Report PDS 11-2025 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities.

Moved by Councillor Redekop  
Seconded by Councillor Bateman

That clause 1 of the motion **BE AMENDED** as follows:

1. That the proposed Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), attached as Appendix 2 to Report PDS 11-2025, ~~**BE APPROVED BE ADOPTED in principle;**~~

**Defeated**

The Committee Chair called the vote on the original motion and declared it,

**Carried**

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting financial implications associated with meeting the 5-year Climate Change Action Plan targets. Councillor Redekop.

**6.2 PDS 4-2025**

**Woodland Conservation By-law Update**

Moved by Councillor Olson  
Seconded by Councillor Witteveen

That Report PDS 4-2025, dated May 7, 2025, respecting Woodland Conservation By-law Update, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That By-law No. 2020-79, being A By-Law to Prohibit or Regulate the Destruction or Injuring of Trees in Woodlands in The Regional Municipality of Niagara (short title being the "Woodland Conservation By-law"), **BE AMENDED** to reflect the changes set out in Appendix 2 to Report PDS 4-2025;
2. That the necessary amending By-law **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Regional Council for consideration; and
3. That Report PDS 4-2025 and a final copy of the amended By-law, **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities, NPCA, Niagara Federation of Agriculture, Niagara Woodlot Association, Niagara Home Builders Association, Niagara Construction Association and Niagara Parks Commission.

**Carried**

6.3 PDS-C 4-2025

Public Member Appointments to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

Moved by Councillor Morocco  
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report PDS-C 4-2025, dated May 7, 2025, respecting Public Member Appointments to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the recommendation contained in Confidential Appendix 1 to Report PDS-C 4-2025, **BE APPROVED**, confirming the appointments to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee for the remainder of this term of Council.

**Carried**

7. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

7.1 ED 4-2025

Niagara Economic Update

Blake Landry, Manager, Economic Research and Analysis, provided a Niagara Economic Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- Population
- Consumer Price Index
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Wages and Salaries
- Household Disposable Income Per Capita
- Housing Prices
- Retail Sales
- Construction Investments
- International Trade
- Business Counts
- Labour Force and Employment
- Unemployment Rate
- Participation Rate

Moved by Councillor Ganann  
Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Report ED 4-2025, dated May 7, 2025, respecting Niagara Economic Update, **BE RECEIVED.**

**Carried**

**Councillor Information Request(s):**

Provide information showing the number of new residents to Niagara and the potential impact on the unemployment rate. Councillor Morocco.

7.2 ED 5-2025

Strategic Marketing Update

Katie Desharnais, Manager, Strategic Marketing, provided a Strategic Marketing Update. Topics of the presentation included:

- Discover Niagara: Invest, Inspire, Grow Video
- New Landing Pages on the Niagara Region Website
- Foreign Interest by Country
- Shop, Support, Share Local Campaign
- Film and Media Industry Support
- Sponsorship and Industry Engagement

Moved by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Olson

That Report ED 5-2025, dated May 7, 2025, respecting Strategic Marketing Update, **BE RECEIVED.**

**Carried**

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business.

9. **CLOSED SESSION**

Committee did not resolve into closed session.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

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Councillor Seaborn  
Committee Chair

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Jenna Spratt  
Legislative Coordinator

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk