

MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA REGION IRRIGATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

**Held Friday January 31, 2020 9AM
1634 SOUTH SERVICE RD, ST CATHARINES**

1. CALL TO ORDER- BILL SCHENCK, CHAIR

Roundtable introductions were held. In attendance were the following members;

Christine Adams, Bill Schenck, David Hipple, Erwin Wiens, Patrick Handyside, Kelly Provost, Rebecca Shortt, Sarah Marshall

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA, ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Agenda approved as presented.

3. REVIEW MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD JANUARY 14, 2020

Minutes of the committee of the whole (Niagara Irrigation Committee) held January 14, 2020 were provided as a reference document only. These minutes will have to be approved at the next Committee of the Whole.

3. DEVELOP TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STEERING COMMITTEE

Draft Terms of Reference for Steering Committee reviewed and recommendations for changes will be circulated in a second draft.

The following orders of business from the draft terms were determined to be required at this first meeting and were completed;

1. Elections for Vice Chair

Erwin Wiens was duly nominated and seconded with no other nominations put forth. Erwin accepted the position of vice chair of the steering committee.

2. Signing Authority

Moved by Erwin Wiens, seconded by Kelly Provost and **CARRIED** for Bill Schenck and Sarah Marshall to be signing authority on cheques from the payee Grape and Tender Fruit Ontario Ltd. which shall hold the partner funding in a separate account for the purposes of the irrigation project.

The partner funding is as follows;

Niagara Region -	\$32,000 (50% received)
Town of Lincoln -	\$12,000 invoiced
Town of Niagara on the Lake-	\$12,000 invoiced
City of St Catharines –	\$12,000 to be invoiced
Grape Growers of Ontario -	\$12,000 to be invoiced
Ontario Tender Fruit Growers -	\$12,000 to be invoiced
Total	\$92,000

4. DRAFT WORKPLAN WITH TIMELINES AND BUDGET

Hugh Fraser provided a verbal report on the overall scope for the work plan using a guide of 12 hours weekly and 600 hours total but that this was only an estimate at these early stages. In the short term he will endeavor to complete the following tasks with reporting back to the committee at regular intervals.

February 2020

- Ground work, photos and initial data gathering in each priority area connecting with key individuals in each;
 - Lincoln – David Hipple
 - NOTL – Brett Ruck
 - City of St. Catharines – David Wiley
- Obtaining topographical maps of each area through the Niagara Region and Report 4 of the Stantec report (Kelly Provost)
- Connecting with James Farrar for his contacts / feedback re OPG

March 3, 2020

- Report back to steering committee for recommended next steps

5. NEXT STEPS

Sarah to draft an introductory letter to the Senior Advisor of Canada Infrastructure Program including the following;

- brief introduction and explanation why irrigation security is so crucial to the region and what we have accomplished to date
- elevating the need for irrigation infrastructure to be included in any future intakes in funding and the importance of equality across all municipalities
- copy to committee of the whole, Niagara MPs, MPP Sam Oosterhoff, mayors, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure

6. SET NEXT MEETING DATES

Tuesday March 3, 2020 830 am board offices

Monday April 6th, 2020 830 am board offices

7. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:15am

February 6, 2020

Canada Infrastructure Program: Green Stream
Attn: Craig Reid Senior Advisor
Via email: credit@amo.on.ca

Re: **Emerging priorities - irrigation infrastructure in the Niagara Region**

Dear Craig;

We are pleased to see the launch of the Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP): Green Stream and future intake focus on other emerging priorities for water and/or climate change and disaster mitigation projects.

The Niagara region is home to thousands of acres of grape vines and fruit trees cared for by over 700 family farms supporting a community of close to 450,000 residents. Water is not only essential to the region's residents, but it is also crucial for growing high quality fruit. Although surrounded by fresh water sources, getting that water to the farm consistently and equally across the entire region has been an ongoing issue. Additionally, weather extremes over the past few years have resulted in drought conditions, followed by periods of excessive rain with limited infrastructure in place to deal with either situation.

In 2007, extensive engineering studies were done to investigate options to increase grower access to irrigation water in the Niagara region. These studies, and an Irrigation Strategic Action Plan done in the fall of 2017, are the backbone to our continued work to identify data gaps, pilot projects and implement larger infrastructure solutions.

We have recently established an Irrigation Steering Committee with participants from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Agri Food Canada, City of St. Catharines, Town of Niagara On the Lake, Town of Lincoln, and the Niagara Region itself. This new collaboration is key as we identify solutions that will enable our growers to access irrigation water efficiently, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector in this region.

We ask at this time that irrigation infrastructure be identified as a specific eligible project category in all future intakes of this program and recognition in program guidelines that all of the municipalities that make up the Niagara region are eligible applicants.

For additional information please contact the undersigned.

Yours Sincerely,



Bill Schenck wmjschenck@gmail.com
Irrigation Steering Committee Chair

C Irrigation Steering Committee
Ernie Hardeman- Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Laurie Scott- Ontario Minister of Infrastructure
Sandra Easton- Mayor, Town of Lincoln
Walter Sendzik- Mayor, City of St. Catharines
Betty Disero- Mayor, Town of Niagara on the Lake
Vance Badawey - MP, Niagara Central
Chris Bittle - MP, St. Catharines
Dean Allison - MP, Niagara West
Sam Oosterhoff - MPP, Niagara West