

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

**APAC 4-2019
Friday, November 29, 2019
Campbell East (CE) 101
Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell East
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

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

Absent/Regrets: Councillor Disero; J. Kikkert, B. Schenck (Committee Vice
Chair)

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, K. Costantini,
Planning Analyst, Regional Official Plan, M. Evelyn, Legislative
Coordinator, K. Provost, Economic Development Officer,
M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk

Others Present: N. Gill, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, S. Marshall, Ontario
Tender Fruit, H. Swierenga, Ontario Federation of Agriculture

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Witteveen called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Rural Broadband Expansion

Councillor Foster, South Western Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) Representative, provided information respecting Rural Broadband Expansion. Topics of the presentation included:

- SWIFT Region
- Sources of Funding
- Phase 2 Projects
 - Lambton County
 - Wellington County
 - Norfolk County
- Procurement Approach
- Phase 2 Schedule

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **APAC-C 5-2019**

2020 Agricultural Policy and Action Meeting Dates

Moved by K. Wiens

Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 5-2019, being a memorandum from A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, dated November 29, 2019, respecting 2020 Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Dates, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee meetings **BE HELD** on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates in 2020:

February 28, April 24, September 25, and November 27.

Carried

6. **CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Easton

Seconded by J. Schonberger

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

APAC 2-2019

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Minutes, Friday, April 26, 2019

APAC 3-2019

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Minutes, Friday, September 27, 2019

Carried

6.3 **APAC-C 6-2019**

Councillor Information Request - September 27, 2019

Moved by Councillor Steele

Seconded by Councillor Butters

That Correspondence Item APAC-C 6-2019, being a memorandum from E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, dated November 29, 2019, respecting Councillor Information Request - September 27, 2019, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide a draft mandate for a Niagara Agribusiness Sector Working Group. Councillor Easton.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Irrigation Ambassador Position

S. Marshall advised committee members that an Irrigation Ambassador will be appointed in early 2020 resulting from a funding collaboration with the Niagara Region, Town of Lincoln, the City of St. Catharines, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Grape Growers of Ontario, and the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers. The position will operate out of the Ontario Tender Fruit Growers office and will be accountable to an Irrigation Steering Committee representative of the funding organizations.

7.2 Development Charges Update

S. Marshall advised committee members that development charges are being issued on Farm "Help Houses" which board temporary workers. E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, advised that development charges are not issued for temporary housing, however, charges are issued for any dwelling with a foundation.

Councillor Easton requested clarification respecting building regulations on Farm "Help Houses" as some residents have expressed confusion with the requirements.

7.3 Phragmites Update

K. Wiens advised committee members that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has hired Lisa Price, LCA Environmental Consultants, to conduct a study on the impact of phragmites in the municipality. K. Wiens will provide updates to the committee throughout the study.

7.4 Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Public Advisory Committee

J. Schonberger advised committee members that he has been appointed to the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Public Advisory Committee and that they are looking for a representative from the Niagara South Federation of Agriculture.

7.5 Changes to Terms of References

A. Vaughan requested that staff update the Terms of Reference to recognize public committee members as "primary producers" and the amalgamation of the Niagara North Federation of Agriculture and Niagara South Federation of Agriculture.

7.6 Farm 911/The Emily Project

C. Hamilton advised committee members that the Township of Wainfleet has successfully implemented the Farm 911/The Emily Project. C. Hamilton explained that the Farm 911/The Emily Project aims to improve emergency services in rural areas as a result of inadequate civic address signage for rural properties, particularly remote farm entrances.

Moved by Councillor Steele
Seconded by Councillor Jordan

That the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee **DIRECT** Chair Witteveen to write a letter to the Chair of the Public Works Committee and the Niagara Region's CAO/Commissioner of Public Works, requesting that a presentation respecting the Farm 911/The Emily Project be delivered to the Public Works Committee; and

That the letter **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities for information.

Carried

7.7 Committee Membership Update

Committee Chair Witteveen advised committee members that Henry Swierenga will be retiring from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and Nadine Gill will be fulfilling the position of member service representative on the Committee.

7.8 Local Food in Long-Term Care Homes

Committee Chair Witteveen advised committee members that the University of Guelph, in partnership with the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance, is studying local food procurement in Ontario's long-term care sector in Niagara and Peel Region. They are currently undertaking an analysis of Niagara Region's 9 Long-Term Care homes' food procurement to look for opportunities to supplement with local product. K. Provost, Economic Development Officer, advised she would coordinate an updated presentation with the project coordinators for an upcoming APAC meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 4.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Councillor Witteveen
Committee Chair

Mark Evely
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk