

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

**APAC 2-2023  
Friday, December 1, 2023  
Meeting held by electronic participation only**

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

Absent/Regrets: Bateman, Steele, Witteveen (Committee Chair)

Staff: E. Acs, Manager, Community Planning, K. Boyko, Economic Development Officer, K. Costantini, Senior Planner, J. Federici, Senior Planner, B. Landry, Manager, Economic Research and Analysis, M. Marino, Associate Director, Economic Development, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, A. Stea, Director, Community & Long Range Planning,

Others Present: P. Bootsma, Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, I. Potter, Vineland Research Innovation Center, M. Sipos, Greenbelt Federation, C. Yungblut, Ontario Federation of Agriculture,

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Vice Chair, Kai Wiens, called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

**4. DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

There were no items for consideration.

**6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**6.1 APAC-C 3-2023**

Draft Agriculture Economic Development Action Plan

Michael Bugeja, Optimus SBR, provided a presentation respecting the Draft Agriculture Economic Development Action Plan. Topics of the presentation included:

- Project Overview
- Project Approach
- Project Outputs
- Actions Plan Framework
  - Building a Unified Identity for Agriculture in Niagara
  - Working together to Reduce Red Tape
  - Protecting Agriculture Talent and Inspiring the Next Generation
  - Attracting High Value Agri-Based Investment
  - Proactively Embracing a Changing Climate
- Marketing Strategy and Target Audience

Moved by Councillor Easton  
Seconded by C. Mullet Koop

That Report APAC-C 3-2023, dated December 1, 2023, respecting Draft Agriculture Economic Development Action Plan, **BE RECEIVED**.

**Carried**

**Committee Information Request(s):**

Provide the amount associated with the Draft Agriculture Economic Development Action Plan marketing strategy. Councillor Kaiser.

**6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Moved by Councillor Easton  
Seconded by J. Schonberger

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

APAC-C 4-2023  
Committee Membership

APAC-C 5-2023

Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS)

APAC-C 6-2023

Update on Provincial Modifications to 2022 Niagara Official Plan

APAC-C 7-2023

Town of The Blue Mountains - Abandoned Orchards By-law

APAC 1-2023

Agricultural Policy and Action Committee Meeting Minutes - September 29, 2023

**Carried**

**Committee Information Request(s):**

Provide information respecting Abandoned Orchard By-laws. Kai Wiens.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**7.1 Irrigation Project Update**

Committee member Sarah Marshall requested that an update respecting the Irrigation Project be brought to each meeting. Erik Acs, Manager, Community Planning, provided a verbal update and informed Committee that information can be provided at each meeting respecting the project status and next steps.

**7.2 Excess Soil Regulations**

Councillor Easton provided information on the excess soil regulations, the monitoring and compliance burden that it could have on municipalities, and the need for the Ministry of the Environment to have a more comprehensive look at these changes. Erik Acs, Manager, Community Planning, informed Committee that Regional staff are working with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to include soil planning in site plan application to assist with this issue.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:12 p.m.

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Kai Wiens  
Committee Vice Chair

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Jenna Spratt  
Legislative Coordinator

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Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk