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## IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**February 7, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Kevin Buis - Chair, Erwin Wiens - Vice Chair, Kurt Neumann, Rob Enns, Aaron Oppenlander

Members Absent: Michael Kauzlaric, George Lepp

Staff Present: Darren MacKenzie - Director of Operations (A), Brandon Enns - Irrigation & Drainage Superintendent, Cheryl Lootsma - Administrative Assistant - Operations

Others Present: Sarah Marshall - Ontario Tender Fruit  
Adam Christie - Director, Conservation Areas, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)  
Chandra Sharma - Chief Administrative Officer, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)

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### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kevin Buis called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

### 2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Rob Enns that the agenda be adopted as presented.

**APPROVED.**

### 3. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

### 4. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Moved by Kurt Neumann that the previous minutes from November 8, 2023 be received.

### 5. **PRESENTATIONS**

## **5.1 NPCA MOU**

Darren MacKenzie, (A) Director of Operations provided an overview of the Memorandum of Understanding between Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

He discussed "Schedule B", regarding operating the Virgil Dams and how it relates to irrigators. Once confirmed from the Clerks Department, it will be forwarded to the Committee members.

Adam Christie, Director of Conservation Areas for the NPCA and Chandra Sharma, CAO of the NPCA, also participated in this discussion.

Recommendation for the Committee to review Schedule B and any comments provided will be brought forth to Council. Following endorsement by Council, it will return to NPCA for endorsement by their Board.

## **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No announcements were made.

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

## **8. BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Canada Infrastructure Bank Funding**

- Sarah Marshall, from Ontario Tender Fruit, provided a summary of the Project Charter for Niagara-on-the-Lake's application.
- A letter from each municipality is required to confirm a cash support of \$50,000 per year for 2 years, towards this project.
- Darren MacKenzie will help to facilitate this letter with the CAO and Town Treasurer as soon as possible.

### **8.2 Billing - Buy In**

Brandon Enns, Irrigation and Drainage Superintendent, provided the Committee with an update:

- Billing will be sent out in mid-March, as scheduled.
- 2024 Rate is \$41.23/Acre.

### **8.3 Meters**

Brandon Enns provided an update on flow meters for the Committee:

- Four paddle wheel meters are available for trial purposes.
- The Committee will determine who will participate in the trial and Brandon will contact those members in the spring.
- Staff will research a possible alternative meter with the Water Department.

#### **8.4 Pump Status Update**

Brandon Enns reviewed the pump status with the Committee:

- All pumps had been winterized
- All pumps are on schedule to reopen in the Spring.
- Repairs are needed on the cage on the Three Mile Creek transfer pump.
- The meetings with OPG are ongoing and occur every three weeks to discuss the Site Access Agreement
- A question was raised from the Chair regarding the placing of flow meters on each side of the hydro canal pumps to gauge how much loss is generated across that pipe.
- The Committee agrees to investigate this option.

#### **8.5 All Growers Meeting**

Brandon Enns opened discussion for dates to hold the meeting.

- Recommendation from the Chair April 15-17 at the Community Centre.
- The Chair wanted it to be noted about the potential to use irrigation water in tender fruit for frost protection.

### **9. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **9.1 Renew Permit to Take Water**

- Brandon Enns recommended to submit a permit renewal as opposed to an amendment.
- MECP will determine which type of application should be submitted.

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE**

March 20, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Move to adjourn meeting was called by Kurt Neumann at 2:50 p.m.