



## **Board of Directors Meeting Highlights – May 20, 2022**

On Friday, May 20, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) held its regular monthly meeting in a hybrid electronic format with a limited number of Board Members attending proceedings at the Ball's Falls Centre for Conservation. Highlights from the meeting included:

### **A Presentation on the European Water Chestnut Rapid Response Program**

The Board of Directors was given an overview on the European Water Chestnut Rapid Response Program from Karen Alexander, Invasive Species Policy Coordinator with the Invasive Species Centre (ISC). The European Water Chestnut (EWC) was explained to be an invasive species with negative economic, social, and ecological impacts. It was noted that the EWC has been found in the Northeastern United States and more recently, in parts of the Welland River. Ms. Alexander detailed the mechanisms that are effective at removing EWCs from the water surface.

It was noted that the removal program would be a collaborative project between the ISC, Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and the NPCA, with the goal of controlling the spread of EWC in the Welland River. Field staff employed by OFAH were slated to be removing EWCs from the Welland River from the end of June, 2022 to September, 2022. The project would require long-term control and monitoring by the ISC and its partners, as the intent was to invest in the control of EWC as required.

### **Gonder's Flats Wetland Enhancement Project Presentation**

The Board of Directors was given a presentation on the work taking place for the Gonder's Flats Wetland Enhancement Project. The project scope covered the removal of invasive species, excavation of a 1.5 ha of wetland, creation of berms with excavated soils, planting of wetland and shoreline vegetation, establishment of wildlife habitat features, accessible trails, and interpretive signage. It was noted that funding for the project came from the NPCA, Niagara Parks Commission, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Land Care Niagara, and Niagara Community Foundation. The timeline for the project was laid out with most tasks stated to be complete prior to 2023.

### **NPCA Draft Interim Section 28 Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Guideline**

The Board of Directors approved the "Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Draft Interim Environmental Impact Study Guideline for the Implementation of s. 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and O. Reg. 155/06". The guideline provides technical guidance for the completion and review of an EIS required for an NPCA work permit until such time that new NPCA policies

and a procedural manual are completed as part of the Phase 2 Policy Review work that is currently underway.

### **NPCA Draft Interim Wetlands Procedure Document**

The Board of Directors approved the “Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Draft Interim Wetlands Procedure Document for the Implementation of s. 28 of the Conservation Authorities Act and O. Reg. 155/06”. The procedure document provides clarity and certainty for landowners, applicants, and consultants to understand NPCA’s expectations and study requirements when proposed development or site alteration affects regulated wetlands.

### **Links to Agendas, Minutes and Video:**

<https://npca.ca/about/board-meetings>