



July 24, 2019

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Office of the Minister
Room 6630, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Minister Yakabuski,

At the July 17, 2019 Full Authority meeting of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board, a motion was passed (attached) that a letter be sent to the Province by the Board of Directors, indicating its stance on Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW's) in relation to the Thundering Waters (now known as Riverfront Community) development.

As you are aware, wetlands are widely recognized as an important part of the ecosystem and are among the most productive and biologically diverse habitats in the world. They play a multi-dimensional role in the hydrologic cycle acting as a source for flood attenuation, ground water recharge and the improvement of water quality. Wetlands are an incredible source of biodiversity, offering a multitude of habitats for plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and other species and have potential to play a significant role in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

With the ever-evolving pressures of development expanding on our landscapes, wetlands continue to be threatened and removed. These losses could have substantial long-term impacts in our community.

While the Board of the NPCA does realize the Province designates and delineates Provincially Significant Wetlands, the NPCA Board of Directors is supportive of these designations and delineations, expanding wetland designations and delineations and is supportive of not removing any wetlands that have been designated as PSW.

With respect to the Thundering Waters (Riverfront Community) development, the NPCA Board supports the current PSW boundaries on the properties involved and requests that these boundaries not have their PSW designation removed. It is our opinion that the PSW's on this site, along with PSW's throughout our watershed should be protected and allowed to remain in a natural state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Bylsma', written over a horizontal line.

Dave Bylsma
Chair
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

C. Participating and local municipalities
Conservation Ontario
GR (CAN) Investments Co. Ltd.

Resolution No. FA-160-19

Moved by Board Member Huson

Seconded by Board Member Zalepa

THAT Report No. FA-56-19 RE: GR Paradise (Thundering Waters) Update **BE RECEIVED** for information.

CARRIED

Resolution No. FA-161-19

Moved by Board Member Clark

Seconded by Board Member Johnson

1. **THAT** a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry copied to local area municipalities be prepared by the NPCA Board of Directors to **ENDORSE** the current designation of the Provincially Significant Wetlands within the Thundering Waters properties.
2. **AND THAT** the relevant policy revisions **BE PRESENTED** to the Board for discussion.

CARRIED