



## **Board of Directors Meeting**

### **Addendum**

**Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Hamilton Conservation Authority is now conducting meetings in a hybrid format via an in-person and Webex platform.**

**All hybrid meetings can be viewed live on HCA's You Tube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/HamiltonConservation>**

#### **5. Consent Items for Applications, Minutes and Correspondence**

5.6. Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network Request for Support

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**From:** Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network <[info@nebnetwork.org](mailto:info@nebnetwork.org)>  
**Sent:** December 5, 2023 11:07 AM  
**To:** Lisa Burnside <[lisa.burnside@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:lisa.burnside@conservationhamilton.ca)>  
**Cc:** Charlene Winger <[walkingwatertar@gmail.com](mailto:walkingwatertar@gmail.com)>; Norman Ragetlie <[norman.ragetlie@gmail.com](mailto:norman.ragetlie@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Request for Support

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December 4, 2023

Dear: Lisa Burnside

**Subject:** Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Request for Support

On behalf of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network (NEBN), we are reaching out to individuals and organizations like yours within the Niagara Escarpment area to enhance awareness and garner support for our newly established conservation initiative. The oversight of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere (NEB), previously associated with the Niagara Escarpment Commission, has been restructured to a non-governmental organization. The NEBN has been founded to facilitate the administration of the NEB as a community-driven, grassroots entity, dedicated to fulfilling the criteria mandated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Programme.

This pivotal transformation in governance is in response to UNESCO's directive for a revamped Biosphere framework, as it was deemed inappropriate to uphold oversight within a governmental framework. In 2021, a Transition Leadership Committee joined with Plenty Canada, an Indigenous non-profit organization committed to community collaboration to promote environmental sustainability worldwide. This collaboration culminated in a memorandum of understanding, shaping the path toward a novel co-governance structure for the NEB. Significant progress has been made, and in the spring of 2022, the NEBN attained official incorporation status under provincial regulations.

The NEBN stands as the official entity dedicated to renewing UNESCO's mission and upholding the NEB's designation. We have now reached a juncture where we seek your involvement. As a respected figure within the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere, your support holds immense value in reaffirming your commitment to the NEB designation. Given the ongoing UNESCO assessment of the NEB designation, your support will play an important role in safeguarding this globally esteemed recognition.

We have drafted a proposed motion of support for consideration. We extend our gratitude for considering this important matter and your potential support of our cause. Our timelines

are rather tight, and we are hoping to secure letters of support before the end of January 2024 to include in the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Periodic Review.

For your convenience, additional information about the NEBN can be obtained from our website at <http://nebnetwork.org/>.

Sincerely,

Norman Ragetlie Co-Chair  
Charlene Winger-Jones Co-Chair

Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network

Cc: Amanda Harwood, Plenty Canada  
[amandaharwood@plentycanada.com](mailto:amandaharwood@plentycanada.com)

## Sample Conservation Authority Resolution in Support of NEBN

**Whereas** the Niagara Escarpment, from Queenston in the south to Tobermory in the north, has been recognized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Biosphere since 1990;

**And whereas** the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere (NEB) provides a range of very positive returns to Ontarians, including but not limited to promoting biodiversity of both flora and fauna, open landscape, productive agriculture and agri-tourism, traditional Indigenous knowledge and cultural history, eco-system services, a living laboratory for learning, carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation and adaptation;

**And whereas** oversight of the NEB has successfully transitioned from the Ontario governmental agency, the Niagara Escarpment Commission to a citizen-centred, not-for-profit organization, the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Network (NEBN);

**And whereas** the NEBN has been established as a Co-Leadership model between Indigenous and Non-indigenous leaders, with a key objective of establishing the future direction of the NEBN as a model of delivering on the worthy goals of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as a demonstrated commitment to the United Nation's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

**And whereas** the NEBN has made and continues to demonstrate its commitment to partner engagement and collaboration across many sectors and interests, including municipal, environmental, tourism, educational, youth, economic, research, and more;

**And whereas** the NEBN is seeking continuation of the official UNESCO Biosphere designation for the NEB, with the support of those who call the NEB home for work, play and study;

**And whereas** *insert Conservation Authority name here* has reaffirmed its ongoing management commitments of conservation areas within the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System of the NEB;

**Now therefore be it resolved that the** *insert Conservation Authority name here* supports the continuation of the UNESCO Biosphere designation for the Niagara Escarpment and for the oversight model that has been established through the NEBN.