

**Minutes of the Executive Committee**  
**Of the**  
**Niagara River Greenway Commission**  
**Beaver Island State Park**  
**July 28, 2009 @ 2:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Kresse at 2:00 p.m. and the roll was called by Amy Kinsky. A quorum of members was present.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Chairman  
Ron Pilozzi, Commissioner and LGAC Chair  
Paul Dyster, Commissioner and CAC Chair  
Mark Thomas, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission

New Commission members Ed McDonald and Alice Roth were in attendance.

Absent: John Giardino, Treasurer

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the May 19th, 2009 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Mark Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Ron Pilozzi. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**2009-2010 Funding Up-Date**

Executive Director Rob Belue delivered the Financial Report on behalf of Treasurer John Giardino who was absent. An update was given on the \$300,000 that NYS Senator Thompson included in this years NYS Budget for the Niagara River Greenway Commission. It will be funded from the EPF funds and is in the process of working through the state system and deposited into the Commissions "NHT" account, an entity through NYSOPRHP. Combined with the current balance the account will total just over \$400,000. A motion was made about the funding update moved by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Pilozzi.

**Paddles Up Niagara 2009**

Executive Director Rob Belue reported that Paddles Up Niagara 2009 was very successful. There were 175 canoes and kayaks with a total of 192 participants. The weather for the event was overcast with a mild breeze and the rain held off until 4:00 pm. Eastern Mountain Sports provided a safety presentation and displayed merchandise that is available to purchase at their Amherst location. They are very excited about the public response and look forward to returning next year for the 5 year anniversary of the event. Roe Woodard and the Marine Division of NYS Parks was a major contributor to the success of our event. This year they

agreed to provide the shirts for the event. Once again the Beaver Island State Park staff went out of their way to make the day and event goes smoothly as did all the departments from the Niagara Region who aided the Commission with this event. Additionally, the Town of Grand Island and the Park & Rec staff from the town were a great help. Chairman Kresse took the time to thank Paul Leuchner for all he has done for Paddles Up. Paul Leuchner, a former commissioner, said that everything ran smoothly and Rob Belue did a good job. Commissioner Pilozzi wanted to go on record and say that Paul Leuchner has been great to work with and he has helped not only the Greenway but the Town of Tonawanda also.

### **Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition Letter- Discussion**

Chairman Kresse thought the letter written to the commission by Margaret Wooster on behalf of the relicensing organization, NREC should be discussed. She would like the Commission to do more than agree on consistency. Mark Thomas' understanding of the project was that the Town of Lewiston was asking for a blessing for a planning grant not a construction grant. That is what the Greenway voted on. He felt some people didn't see it that way. Former Commissioner Richard Soluri questioned the reason for the letter. He felt that all something like this does is cause divisiveness and the project will get done either way. Chairman Kresse asked at what point the commission should intervene in the execution of the plan. He felt the letter is a question of public interest. Commissioner Pilozzi said that planning is the first step and planning is what consistency is based on. He doesn't see what the problem is. Rob Belue intervened and said the Niagara River Greenway Plan is conceptual and doesn't dictate to the communities within the Greenway. Projects submitted are held to the Vision of the Plan which is guided by the Goals, Principals and Criteria. Public hearings will be required during the course of the planned project, as required by the various state and federal agencies that will be providing funding. Chairman Kresse asked that the topic be added to the agenda where the full Commission could discuss the matter. Then address the topic to the public once the full commission weighed in.

### **Recognition of Former Commissioners Soluri & Leuchner**

Chairman Kresse thanked former commissioners Paul Leuchner and Mayor Richard Soluri for all of their hard work on the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Mayor Soluri was presented with a plaque and a letter from Commissioner Carol Ash of NYS Parks. Paul Leuchner's plaque and letter will be presented at the full commission meeting where he will be in attendance.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Committee was made by Commissioner Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Pilozzi. The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

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Niagara River Greenway Commission