

**Minutes of the Executive Committee**  
**Of the**  
**Niagara River Greenway Commission**  
**Beaver Island State Park**  
**March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 @ 2:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Kresse at 2:07 p.m. and the roll was called by Executive Director Rob Belue. A quorum of members was present.

Attendees: Robert Kresse, Chairman  
Paul Dyster, Vice Chairman and Citizen Advisory Committee Chair  
Ron Pilozzi, Chairman Local Government Advisory Committee  
Mark Thomas, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
David Hahn-Baker, Commissioner  
Rob Belue, Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission

Absent: John Giardino, Treasurer  
Alice Roth, Secretary

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Paul Dyster and seconded by Commissioner Mark Thomas. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Financial Report/2010 Budget**

On behalf of John Giardino, Executive Director Rob Belue reported that as of February 28<sup>th</sup>, the funds in the budget were \$2743.37. There was a deposit of \$300,000 on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, bringing the new balance to \$302,743.37. It took eleven and a half months to receive the \$300,000. Thanks need to go to Mark Thomas, Andy Beers and Natural Heritage Trust. Also, Senator Thompson helped push the money through. Chairman Kresse asked Executive Director Rob Belue to write a letter to thank everyone for their help with the funding.

The expenses for the 2010 budget are as follows: salaries, no part-time assistant, office supplies, postage, phone/fax, publications, media, equipment, rent, meetings, travel, web development, etc. The balance is out of \$250,000, with a \$50,000 fund balance left. Chairman Kresse asked how the money is able to be used. Executive Director Rob Belue said money vouchers are used. A motion to approve the budget was made by Commissioner Pilozzi and seconded by Commissioner Dyster.

Commissioner Paul Dyster stated that after talking to the public, there is a misconception that the Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) receives money through the New York Power Authority relicensing agreements; this has been an ongoing misconception and will

continue to be an ongoing educational process for the general public. Chairman Kresse asked how much has been spent on projects that the NRGC has found consistent. The Executive Director said that for just fewer than 60 projects and just under \$60 million, \$18 million has come from Greenway funds. Information can be found on the NRGC's web-site the following link is on the front page, <http://niagara.nypa.gov/RelicensingGreenwayFunds/Protocols.htm> which will take you to the NYPA web site.

Commissioner Mark Thomas suggested the Greenway put information on the web site to help with public relations. Commissioner David Hahn-Baker agreed and said there should be information about the jobs that these projects have created. Commissioner Paul Dyster said there are a lot of new stories to tell. The committee decided to hold both a Local Government Advisory and Citizen Advisory Committee meeting to up-date the public and elected officials on the status of the plan and projects. The meetings will be scheduled late April or early May as schedules allow.

### **Paddles Up Niagara 2010 Update**

An update was given by Commissioner Emeritus Paul Leuchner. The 5<sup>th</sup> Paddles Up will be held on July 24<sup>th</sup>. It starts at 7 am. A poker run and sprint races will be added this year. Also, there will be added participation and support from the Boy Scouts of America organization as well as other vendors on display. It will be a busy day, and the biggest Paddles Up Niagara to date. There will be another meeting about it on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Paddles Up Niagara 2010 was promoted at the Boat Show, and there has been a press release sent out. Executive Director Rob Belue said the Marine Division of Parks thru the National Association of Boating Law Administration will be donating 50 life vests to be given away as part of the raffle or for prizes. Chairman Kresse asked how long the sprints would be. That has yet to be decided. Paul Leuchner added that kayaks are becoming more popular with record numbers being sold. Executive Director Rob Belue added thanks to Paul Leuchner, Dave Clark and Roe Woodard for all their help.

### **Commissioner Emeritus Advisory Update**

Executive Director Rob Belue stated that the past Commissioners participating are Paul Leuchner and Richard Soluri.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Old Business**

Commissioner Mark Thomas asked where the Niagara River Greenway Commission stood on vacancies. Executive Director Rob Belue said there is one opening for an officer and one opening for a commission member, Senator Thompson has submitted Supervisor Peter McMahan from Grand Island to sit on the commission. Commissioner David Hahn-Baker was nominated by Chairman Kresse to chair the Citizens Advisory Committee. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Mark Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Paul Dyster.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting of the Executive Committee was made by Commissioner Mark Thomas and seconded by Commissioner Ron Pilozzi. The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

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Niagara River Greenway Commission