

# Environmental Task Force Agenda

9:00 am - Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Council Chambers

[Zoom Link](#)

## 1. Call to Order

## 2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

We begin this gathering by acknowledging and celebrating these traditional lands as a gathering place of the first peoples and their ancestors who are entrusted to care for Mother Earth since time immemorial. We do so respecting both the land and the Indigenous People who continue to walk with us through this world. Today, the Township of North Frontenac is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples and all residents to pursue a united path of reconciliation.

## 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

## 4. Environmental Task Force Notes

- a) Notes of the Environmental Task Force Meeting dated November 25, 2025 as approved via email and received for information at the December 12, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council. 3 - 7

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## 5. Business Arising

- a) Work Plan Update
1. Net Metering - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt
  2. Invasive Species - Roy Huetl, Fred Fowler and Mike Ward
  3. Septic Inspection Programs - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Roy Huetl and Fred Fowler
  4. Short-term Rentals - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra and John Inglis
  5. Carrying Capacity of Lakes
  6. Community Engagement
- b) Approved 2026 Work Plan - Council 8  
**430-25 Moved by Deputy Mayor John Inglis, Seconded by Councillor Roy Huetl**  
**Be It Resolved That** Council receives for information the notes of the Environmental Task Force dated November 25, 2025;  
**And That** Council approves the 2026 Work Plan for the Task Force;  
**And That** Council approves filling the vacant voluntary sector member in accordance with the Procedural Policy.  
**Carried**  
[2026 Work Plan Draft November 2025](#)
- c) Voluntary Sector Member -Council  
**430-25 Moved by Deputy Mayor John Inglis, Seconded by Councillor Roy Huetl**

**Be It Resolved That** Council receives for information the notes of the Environmental Task Force dated November 25, 2025;

**And That** Council approves the 2026 Work Plan for the Task Force;

**And That** Council approves filling the vacant voluntary sector member in accordance with the Procedural Policy.

**Carried**

- d) Update - Proposed Provincial Changes to Conservation Authorities - Deputy Mayor Huetl

## 6. New Business

- a) High Speed Train - Deputy Mayor Huetl

## 7. Adjournment

- a) Meeting adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. until January 27, 2026



# Environmental Task Force Minutes

9:00 AM - Tuesday, November 25, 2025  
Council Chambers

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**Present:** Deputy Mayor Roy Huetl (Chair); Councillor John Inglis; Councillor Fred Fowler; Paul Asselin; Bruce Moore and Mike Ward

**Absent with Regret:** Katie Surra and Marlene Spruyt

**Also Present:** Tara Mieske, Clerk/Planning Manager and Darwyn Sproule, Public Works Manager

## 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

## 2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement

We begin this gathering by acknowledging and celebrating these traditional lands as a gathering place of the first peoples and their ancestors who are entrusted to care for Mother Earth since time immemorial. We do so respecting both the land and the Indigenous People who continue to walk with us through this world. Today, the Township of North Frontenac is committed to working with Indigenous Peoples and all residents to pursue a united path of reconciliation.

## 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None noted.

## 4. Environmental Task Force Notes

### a) *Notes of the Environmental Task Force Meeting dated October 28, 2025 for consideration.*

The Task Force approved the Notes as provided in the Agenda package which will be provided to Council for consideration at the December 12, 2025 Council Meeting.

## 5. Business Arising

### a) *Quarterly Newsletter*

The Task Force had no concerns with the quarterly newsletters. The Task Force feels these are important for public engagement. The Secretary will contact Ange Defosse to confirm if she would like to continue creating these on behalf of the Task Force.

### b) *2026 Work Plan*

The Task Force reviewed the 2025 Work Plan.

The Task Force discussed battery storage opportunities and decided to remove this from the work plan.

The Task Force discussed invasive species and decided to leave this on the Work Plan and focus on providing education on various invasive species. Ward advised he is currently completing research on the spread of invasive species by hunters and there may be an opportunity to provide information in this regard. He also noted that Megan Ward would like to continue to provide education at the Summerfest event. Sproule noted Quinte Conservation Authority provided examples of projects within the watershed to control invasive species (i.e. moths, herbicides, etc.).

It was noted that carrying capacity of lakes was included on the 2025 Work Plan. However the Task Force put this item on hold. The Task Force discussed having a sub-committee and reaching out to the County Planners and Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority to look at other options for determining carrying capacity outside the traditional measurement of phosphorous and nitrogen and to consider recreational aspects (i.e. boating, shoreline development, etc.).

The Task Force also discussed providing outreach to the public by continuing with the quarterly newsletters, looking at opportunities for community gardens, promoting the Earth Day community clean-up event and green energy projects.

The updated Work Plan will be provided to Council for consideration at the December 12, 2025 Council Meeting.

**c) *Meeting Dates for 2026***

The Task Force decided to continue the meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am. The Secretary will circulate the meeting dates to the Task Force by email.

**d) *Voluntary Sector Member Vacancy***

The Task Force discussed the vacant Voluntary Sector Member position and recommended the position be advertised in accordance with the Procedural Policy.

**e) *Work Plan Update***

**1. Battery Storage Opportunities** - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt

The Task Force held a debrief on the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) proposed by Alectra on the property adjacent to the 506 waste site. The Task Force Members felt they learned a lot about BESS systems including their purpose, how they operate, new technology introduced to address past concerns, etc. They also discussed some of the lessons learned and how to address potential future proposals including:

- Public engagement - Members of the public advised they were unaware of the

project. Information was provided through the Township website, social media, Engage Frontenac, lake associations, etc. Look for opportunities in the future to add additional opportunities to provide information. This process raised awareness on BESS projects and many people are supportive of them. Their concerns were with respect to the location. The Task Force noted there was a lot of misinformation being provided by the public. This is difficult to address especially by a municipality.

- Site location and review - Some of the concerns raised by the public about the site were discussed by the Task Force. Concerns were raised about the removal of forests, proximity to Mississagagon Lake, increased noise pollution due to the topography and lack of forest and impact on the wetlands. It was noted this site is the closest to industrial lands the Township has since it is adjacent to a waste site. Also, due to the size of the property there is an opportunity to alter the location of the system.
- Approval in Principle - It was difficult to explain the process and the site specific concerns being addressed in the future. The environmental, noise, archeological studies and permits may have deemed the site inappropriate or required mitigation measures to permit the construction.
- Confidentiality to Protect Bid Process -There were challenges for Council to openly explain the financial benefits due to the confidential nature of the agreements because of the competitive bid process.

## **2. Net Metering** - John Inglis, Paul Asselin and Marlene Spruyt

The PWM provided an update on the engineering review completed by Eastern Engineering. The roof of the Municipal office/garage and fire hall were inspected and analyzed using the requirements of the new Building Code. If solar panels are to be installed on the roofs there are some minor upgrades required to strengthen the roofs. The cost for these improvements is estimated at \$20,000. Asselin will add this information to the revenue model and provide it to the PWM. An update will be provided to Council which will include the details of the engineering report and a review of the financial information by the Treasurer. One of the challenges of getting support for this project is the concerns with the current MicroFIT system and the need to replace the solar panels and upgrade the system. The revenue generated is less than what was predicted at the time. It is important to note there have been extensive changes in technology and manufacturers are offering longer warranties on newly installed systems.

## **3. Invasive Species** - Roy Huetl, Fred Fowler and Mike Ward

This was briefly discussed under item 6b) Work Plan.

**4. Septic Inspection Programs** - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Roy Huetl and Fred Fowler  
Staff are currently working on the mandatory inspections at the time of sale report for Council. There may also be an opportunity to address septic review under short-term rental regulations.

## **5. Short-term Rentals** - Bruce Moore, Kate Surra, Ange Defosse and John Inglis

Moore advised the sub-committee has met and there are additional considerations for the sub-committee to consider with respect to proposed regulation of short-term rentals. The sub-committee is investigating the best approach for regulating including rezoning properties to a commercial use or licensing. It was noted they also need to consider rentals on properties that are not waterfront and other forms of rentals including recreational vehicles, campsites, yurts, etc. The sub-committee will be providing a report to the Task Force in early 2026. The Chair noted the Task Force may want to limit other business on the agenda to focus on this important topic.

f) ***Public Works Manager - Net Metering - Update on Engineering Analysis of the Roof Systems***

This item was discussed under the Work Plan - Net Metering item noted above.

## 6. New Business

a) ***Proposed Provincial Changes to Conservation Authorities***

Deputy Mayor Huetl advised the Province is proposing to reduce the current 36 Conservation Authorities (CA) into 7 regional and add a Provincial Authority agency to oversee CA. The goal of the Provincial government is to reduce administrative costs, improve consistency in permitting processes and streamline services. Council received a presentation from Sally McIntyre, General Manager of Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) on November 21, 2025 and Council passed a Resolution advising they do not support the formation of the regional conservation authorities. MVCA will become part of the St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority which includes 46 municipalities. Currently the MVCA Board has representatives from each municipality. There are many concerns with the proposal.

Councillor Huetl suggested members of the public contact their MPP or provide comments on the Environmental Registry of Ontario which is open for comments until December 22, 2025.

## 7. Adjournment

a) ***Meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m. until December 23, 2025.***

## 8. Recommendations

**Be It Resolved That** Council receives for information the notes of the Environmental Task Force dated November 25, 2025;

**And That** Council approves the 2026 Work Plan for the Task Force;

**And That** Council approves filing the vacant voluntary sector member in accordance with the Procedural Policy.

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Councillor Roy Huetl, Chair

## **Work Plan 2026**

### **1. Local resiliency to climate change through mitigation and adaptation**

- Net metering - Install more solar panels on Township facilities subject to Council approval to decrease carbon dioxide production, support, renewable energy. There is an upfront capital investment but long term savings anticipated

### **2. Environmental stewardship, protection and regeneration**

- Invasive species – Develop public education on invasive species and control and prevention strategies Septic inspection programs – potential policy and education
- Carrying capacity of lakes
- Short-term rentals - potential policy, lake protection, environmental impact

### **3. Community engagement**

- Quarterly Newsletters
- Community Garden(s)
- Earth Day community clean-up event
- Green Energy Projects