



**Regional Watershed Alliance Meeting #3/18 was held at Head Office, 101 Exchange Avenue, Vaughan, ON, on Wednesday, September 19, 2018. The Chair Jack Heath, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

Barrett, Suzanne	Member
Bream, Margaret	Member
Broadbent, Heather	Member
Calvin, Elizabeth	Member
Drake, Jennifer	Member
Dyce, Dave	Member
Felix, Rui	Member
Heath, Jack	Chair
Iacvobellie, Tony (alternate, Alanna MacKenzie)	Member
Laing, David	Member
Lockridge, Karen	Member
Malowany, Mick	Member
Mattos, Mike	Member
McDowell, Madeleine	Member
McGlynn, Chris	Member
Nonnekes, Joanne	Member
O'Connor, Kevin	Member
Presutti, Michael	Member
Ramsay Brown, Jason	Member
Schulte, Deb	Member
Tschekalin, Jackie	Member
Vrana, Andrew	Member
Wickens, Andy	Member
Wolnik, Chris	Member
Wright, Doug (alternate to Karen Kun)	Member

**ABSENT**

Ballinger, Jack	Member
Deawuo, Leticia	Member
Burchfield, Marcy	Member
Burnett, Neil	Member
DeBaeremaeker, Glenn	Member
Ditschun, Lisa	Member
Hogg, Brenda (alternate, Stephen Huycke)	Member
Kavanagh, Brian	Member
Kelly, Jill	Member
Mallet, Lisette	Member
Mahoney, Matt	Member
McCullough, Sean	Member
Mckelvie, Jennifer	Member
Ngan, Amory	Member

Pickles, David  
Schofield, Jade  
Scotchmer, Carolyn  
Taylor, Paul

Member  
Member  
Member  
Member

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**RES.#R1/18 - MINUTES**

Moved by: Doug Wright  
Seconded by: Andrew Vrana

**THAT the Minutes of Meeting #1/18, held on May 22, 2018, be approved.**

**CARRIED**

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**DELEGATIONS**

**5.1** A delegation by Iain Craig, resident, in regards to Claireville Conservation Area.

**RES.#R2/18 - DELEGATIONS**

Moved by: Joanne Nonnekes  
Seconded by: Chris McGlynn

**THAT TRCA staff provide an on-site tour and an update on the progress and planning for the Claireville Conservation Area to the Greenspace and Ecosystem Services Working Group of the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) and other interested Alliance members.**

**THAT the Greenspace and Ecosystem Services Working Group of the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) work with staff to investigate opportunities to animate Claireville Conservation Area and create programming and infrastructure that will promote greenspace engagement, ecosystem preservation and education, and outdoor activities to the diverse communities of the local community and GTA and report back in Quarter 2 2019.**

**THAT the RWA and staff should also investigate potential partnerships and involvement of municipal, provincial and federal governments, as well as other means of generating the sustained investment and funding that would be required to implement the proposed priorities.**

**CARRIED**

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**PRESENTATIONS**

**6.1** A presentation by Mike Bender, Associate Director, Master Planning and Greenspace Conservation, TRCA, in regard to item 8.1 - Draft TRCA Trail Strategy: An Overview.

**6.2** A presentation by Derek Edwards, Interim Executive Director, The Living City Foundation, TRCA, in regards to An Introduction to The Living City Foundation.

**RES.#R3/18 -                      PRESENTATIONS**

Moved by:                      Andrew Vrana  
Seconded by:                      Doug Wright

**THAT the above-noted presentations 6.1 and 6.2 be received.**

**CARRIED**

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

**7.1**     A delegation correspondence from Iain Craig in regard to Claireville Conservation Area.

**RES.#R4/18 -                      CORRESPONDENCE**

Moved by:                      Andrew Vrana  
Seconded by:                      Doug Wright

**THAT the above-noted correspondence 7.1 be received.**

**CARRIED**

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## **PRESENTATION TO THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE.**

**By IAIN CRAIG.**

**Sept. 19, 2018.**

## **OPENING UP THE CLAIREVILLE CONSERVATION AREA.**

**Good Evening. I think it would be helpful if I quickly gave you some background information about myself and my connection to TRCA, and more specifically, my connection to Claireville.**

### **THE PAST**

**In 1954, I lived with my family on the banks of the West Humber River, south of Thistletown. On October 15 of that year I witnessed the terrible destruction created by Hurricane Hazel. In the late 50's I used to swim with friends at Claireville (a swimming hole very close to the Wiley bridge). The Claireville Dam was built in 1964 as a flood preventative measure. When the water in the reservoir is at the "recreation level", it is possible to canoe up the West Humber to the Horse Ranch. The Conservation Area was open to the public - specifically for swimming at the reservoir, and picnicking. At some point in the 90's, the area was closed to the public. Money from day users did not cover the costs of maintaining the upkeep of the area. I believe that the Conservative Government had a huge negative impact on Conservation Authorities throughout the province, and may well have been one of the reasons for closing Claireville.**

**The Humber River Task Force, later to be known as The Humber Alliance, was formed in the late 90's, and I was part of that Alliance for a good many years. I served on a number of Committees, including the Claireville Advisory Committee. It was a great experience for me to Chair The Humber Alliance several years ago. Over the course of the past 20 years, I have met, and worked with, a lot of TRCA staff. I have always been impressed with their dedication to Conservation and to the Humber. One of the goals from the very beginning of the Humber Task Force, was to make the Humber safe for swimming and fishing.**

**Just prior to 2005, a good number of concerned citizens, and members of the Claireville Advisory Committee, expressed concerns that Claireville was closed to the Public. It is true that The Claireville Ranch was operational, and a rugby team had access to a field, and the Etobicoke Field Centre was available for school trips. Aside from those activities, the 848 acres (340 ha) of Claireville was closed to the**

public. It was possible to apply for some special events - but those were few and far between.

In September of 2007, Res.#57/05 was sent to The Authority, by the TRCA Board. **“THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT staff be directed to work with interested groups and agencies to develop experiential learning opportunities through recreational programs at Claireville Conservation Area and report progress to the Authority”.**

**“The idea of creating a Claireville Leadership Adventure Conservation (CLAC) Partnership was proposed by staff from the City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department as an opportunity for external groups to develop, operate and generally benefit from each others strengths and recreation programs at the Claireville Conservation Area.**

**At that time 60 organizations/agencies were definitely interested in this partnership. A Mission Statement was created, and a draft business plan and terms of reference were developed. Unfortunately the idea of a “grass roots collaborative” approach was not a direction that TRCA seemed able to take. At that time it did seem that TRCA welcomed proposals, and we will see what we can do to help. The bottom line always seemed to revolve around “How will TRCA make money from your proposal”, or “TRCA can not provide funding”. The interest groups were looking for Leadership from TRCA - and that never seemed to happen. Given the challenges the Authority was facing to maintain funding of existing programs, the idea of a “low cost” grassroots initiative was not to be undertaken. Looking back at the proposal (which still makes a lot of sense, and should be revisited), it seems to me that TRCA should have been the driving force behind putting the proposal into action.**

**Fast forward to 2015-16. The Humber Alliance did establish a very informal committee to take a look at opening up the Claireville Conservation Area to the public. We did manage to get some members of this committee to visit Claireville. The Humber Alliance, and all of the associated community committees, disappeared as the TRCA moved on with the new Community Engagement Strategy. The community groups from the Humber Alliance (Boyd and the East Humber, Claireville Advisory Committee, Lower Humber, Black Creek....) felt that their work was not done as the new engagement strategy moved into place. There was concern that the issues they had been so concerned with would receive little or no attention. The concern from the Claireville Committee, that Claireville would remain closed and that the Management Plan would not see a progressive revision, and that Claireville would remain essentially closed to the public, seemed to reflect the “new reality”.**

## **PRESENT.**

Today there are two relatively new parking lots where the public can access Claireville. These are located on Highway 50 and on Highway 7. Cars are not permitted past these two parking lots. While there are new signs, and even maps of the entire Area, these entrances are far from being inviting. There are no washrooms to be found in the entire area. The trail system and maps, and details about the trails, should be finished this month - and that will be great!

Great progress has been made in restoration and the creation of wetlands. New boardwalks have been put in place on treacherous parts of the trails. The list goes on. A number of different TRCA departments have been involved in the enhancement and restoration of Claireville. So it appears that a number of TRCA departments have their share of projects in Claireville, but is there a master plan, and does it include the public?

The Area appears to be closed - except to the many dog walkers. I believe that this Conservation Area is one of a very few conservation areas without washrooms. Hence, the label “uninviting”.

There do not appear to be any plans to revisit the Partnership proposal from 2005. The public are certainly not aware of any plans to create new low cost activities in Claireville: Archery, non-Motorized bike courses that take up a small part of the property, picnic areas, fishing opportunities, camping.... The original Management Plan, and probably the existing Plan, has identified areas that are suitable for “low impact recreational activities”. There is no swimming at Claireville. There really isn’t any sense of a “fishery”, since the water level is so low in the reservoir. So at this point, you are probably wondering why the new Watershed Alliance should be concerned about Claireville? After all, you do already have a mandate and some very specific aims and objectives that have been clearly identified.

Claireville is the biggest piece of land that TRCA owns - or has stewardship of. A total of 848 acres of “public land” that is, to all intents and purposes, closed to the public. Surely we have to ask why that is. Recommendation #3 in the Community Engagement Strategy should be of particular note: “Enhance existing relationships with non-governmental organizations, thought-leaders, and special interest groups. 3.2 To mobilize grassroots action, build capacity within local NGO’s through shared learning, shared resources, and access to information”. In many ways we find ourselves back in challenging times with regard who will we engage and how will it be funded? It is the position of many people concerned with outdoor grassroots experiential activities, that cost, excluding building and event centres, is not great if there is reasonable collaboration.

In the entire GTA, there is not another large piece of true green space available for the development of active outdoor recreational activities. One of the people who created the 2005 partnership proposal has stated the following: “Under the

recommendations of CES, Claireville should be a gathering place of all those with a mission to engage those without money, time or experience to be engaged in what the Humber Canadian Heritage River watershed personifies. Re-open and take Leadership in making Claireville that centre, we can do it now if the spirit is truly there.”

## **FUTURE.**

There are concerned citizens who fear that lack of activity on Claireville will lead to the ‘sell off’ of some parts of Claireville -particularly along highway 7 and possibly highway 50. The selling of TRCA land has happened before. In the meantime the real concern is that TRCA will continue the steady restoration of Claireville and will not provide the leadership for public use.

There is a research paper by Chloe Humphreys, for the Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario, “Dynamic Horizons”, that should be read by everyone on the Watershed Alliance. It speaks volumes as to what TRCA’s Engagement Strategy is undertaking.

Here are my recommendations to the Watershed Alliance.

1. Ask the TRCA Staff to provide you with an update on the progress that has been made in Claireville. That report should also outline the plans for the coming year, and hopefully a long term plan. With all due respect, don’t just accept an update on the trails, or changes to the website... these are the appetizers. You need to hear about the “main course”.
2. Discuss, and seriously consider the establishment of a special Claireville Committee. The committee would be made up of Watershed Alliance members, TRCA staff and possibly some concerned citizens or representatives from non-governmental agencies. This special committee would investigate what could happen in Claireville next year - in other words, create some short term goals that would see Claireville opening up for the public.
3. This committee would assist TRCA in planning a long term strategy for Claireville. This is by far the most important issue at stake. Claireville is surely a “diamond in the rough”, waiting to be developed into a destination of choice for thousands of people. The Area is surrounded by a huge diverse population who will come to Claireville for many different reasons. Claireville needs to be prepared and ready to provide a wide variety of experiences for this growing population.

Claireville is accessible by public transit, by bike, by walking trails, and of course by cars. There shouldn’t be a reason why young people should not be able to bike to

**Claireville, gain access to the park without a huge cost, if any, and swim and fish in a the West Humber River - or at the reservoir. There shouldn't be a reason why a grandparent can't bring his or her grandchildren to Claireville and find clean (open) washrooms close to the parking lots - before exploring the trails. There shouldn't be resistance to creating picnic areas and camping areas that are similar to many other TRCA Conservation Areas in the GTA. Claireville should be a place where young leaders are trained in water safety, camping skills, and a respect for the special environment that Claireville provides. The potential of this unique part of the GTA is huge.**

**Great amounts of money have been spent on the Rouge and Don Watersheds, but much less on the Humber. Why is that?**

**The entire issue of maintaining the dam, and its future, needs special attention.**

**Ruth Bader Ginsburg has stated that “ Real change takes place one step at a time”. Change for Claireville is long overdue - waiting for a committee to be the driving force behind opening up the parts of the Area that can be used by the public.**

**I hope that the Watershed Alliance, working with TRCA staff, can take that first step, and be that driving force.**

**Respectfully submitted by Iain Craig.**

## **ITEMS FOR ALLIANCE ACTION**

### **RES.#R5/18 - DRAFT TRCA TRAIL STRATEGY: AN OVERVIEW**

Moved by: Madeleine McDowell  
Seconded by: Heather Broadbent

**THAT the draft TRCA Trail Strategy and staff presentation be received for Regional Watershed Alliance information and input;**

**THAT RWA members help to advance the objectives of the TRCA Trail Strategy through known grant or program opportunities, their respective networks, and municipalities;**

**AND FURTHER THAT the proposed working group of RWA on *Greenspace and Ecosystem Services* consider integrating Trail Strategy priorities in their work plan, including the formation of a Trail Leaders Round Table.**

### **AMENDMENT** **RES.#R6/18 -**

Moved by: Mick Malowany  
Seconded by: Suzanne Barrett

**THAT the last paragraph of the main motion be amended to read as follows:**

**AND FURTHER THAT the proposed working group of RWA on *Greenspace and Ecosystem Services* and Integrated Community/Watershed Planning and Engagement consider integrating Trail Strategy priorities in their work plan, including the formation of a Trail Leaders Round Table.**

**THE AMENDMENT WAS CARRIED**

**THE MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED, WAS CARRIED**

### **THE RESULTANT MOTION READS AS FOLLOWS:**

**THAT the draft TRCA Trail Strategy and staff presentation be received for Regional Watershed Alliance information and input;**

**THAT RWA members help to advance the objectives of the TRCA Trail Strategy through known grant or program opportunities, their respective networks, and municipalities;**

**AND FURTHER THAT the proposed working group of RWA on *Greenspace and Ecosystem Services* and Integrated Community/Watershed Planning and Engagement consider integrating Trail Strategy priorities in their work plan, including the formation of a Trail Leaders Round Table.**

## **BACKGROUND**

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has a long history of nature-based trail planning, development and delivery. Over the past 60 years, TRCA has worked in collaboration

with its regional trail partners to provide responsible access to nature through scenic recreational trails and greenways. In 1989, TRCA proposed the concept of a Greater Toronto Region trail network in greenspace that would connect the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment to the shoreline of Lake Ontario. Inspired by the successful establishment of the Bruce Trail, this proposed trail network would provide continuous public access through the conservation valley lands to the magnificent landscapes of the TRCA region.

Since 1989, TRCA has developed this network in partnership with community groups and all levels of government. Within our jurisdiction, there are currently over 500 kilometres of regional trails in greenspace connecting the municipalities of Mono, Peel, York, Durham and Toronto, including sections of the Bruce Trail, the Lake-to-Lake Trail, the Oak Ridges Trail, The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail) and the Waterfront Trail. In addition, TRCA has planned and implemented local and neighbourhood trail connections to connect residents to conservation lands and local trail systems. This comprehensive network has become an important conservation mechanism to secure greenspace, mitigate climate change, improve human health and well-being, promote responsible public access and inspire environmental stewardship.

Our region is experiencing unprecedented urban growth. By 2041, our population is projected to increase by 40 per cent to reach close to 10 million residents (Ontario Ministry of Finance, 2017). Twelve of the Urban Growth Centres in the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs, 2017), including 25 new communities, are in TRCA's jurisdiction. Increasing the amount of greenspace in our natural system is a primary means to accommodate this projected urban growth while maintaining user experience and ecological function. We must proactively and sensitively locate our trail infrastructure to support these new communities while mitigating the environmental impact associated with this intensification.

Expanding greenspace and providing trails more equitably across our jurisdiction will provide nature-based amenities, recreation opportunities and active transportation options to underserved communities while improving our collective health and well-being. The creation of new trails, trailheads and neighbourhood linkages to our regional system will facilitate access to incredible destinations, allowing people to experience nature through the seasons. We must target our efforts and capitalize on development opportunities to realize these possibilities and service this growth according to our environmental planning policies and objectives. We must also secure adequate and sustainable investment in this community infrastructure that accounts for the full lifecycle costs of trails to maintain assets in a state of good repair so that we can achieve our desired level of service.

In response, TRCA has drafted the Trail Strategy to provide a strategic vision for a complete regional trail network in greenspace that facilitates sustainable living in this next generation of trails. As development accelerates, TRCA will employ this Strategy and partner with municipal colleagues, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community partners and the development industry to continue to acquire, protect and enhance natural assets while connecting people to nature. Through this collaboration, ongoing public procurement of greenspace and the provision of scenic trail greenways will occur. At our doorstep, we have precious natural landscapes with nature-based recreation trails across the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Niagara Escarpment, our nine river valleys and the waterfront. By working together strategically, we can grow and maintain this legacy in support of complete communities, a thriving economy and a healthy environment.

In undertaking the draft Trail Strategy, TRCA has followed a seven-stage process:

**Stage 1:** Scoping Study and Brief  
**Stage 2:** Research and Context Review  
**Stage 3:** Trails Inventory and Existing Conditions Audit  
**Stage 4:** Trails Value and Demand Review  
**Stage 5:** Strategic Objectives and Concept Plan Development  
**Stage 6:** TRCA Trail Strategy and Implementation Workbook  
**Stage 7:** Communications and Branding Campaign (in progress)

Throughout these project stages, TRCA business units across all divisions were consulted in the draft Strategy development. This engagement also included working sessions with external groups comprised of: Federal staff (Parks Canada), Provincial staff (Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Sport), Regional staff (Peel, York, Durham and Toronto), Municipal staff (Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, Town of Ajax, Town of Aurora, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, King Township, Town of Markham, City of Mississauga, Town of Mono, City of Pickering, Town of Richmond Hill, Town of Uxbridge, City of Vaughan, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville), Conservation Authorities (Conservation Ontario, Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority), charitable organizations (Ontario Trails Council, Nature Conservancy of Canada) and grassroots associations (Bruce Trail Conservancy, CycleTO, Durham Mountain Biking Association, Green Durham Association, Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association, Oak Ridges Trail Association, Trans Canada Trail, Trans Canada Trail Ontario, Waterfront Regeneration Trust).

Through this engagement, our external partners communicated their strong support for the draft Trail Strategy. They confirmed that the Strategy addresses current shared challenges in trails development, particularly initiatives that provide greater leadership around, investment in, promotion of and full life-cycle management of the Greater Toronto Region trail network. They strongly support coming together as a united voice to advocate for trail funding at the Regional, Provincial and Federal levels.

## **OVERVIEW**

The TRCA Trail Strategy is a call to action to renew our collective efforts to complete, expand, manage and celebrate the Greater Toronto Region trail network in this next generation of trails. Its purpose is to express TRCA's policy on regional trails in our greenspace system across our rapidly urbanizing watersheds. It also serves as a framework to guide the planning, development and management of these trails in the current landscape of urban intensification. In addition, the Trail Strategy provides rationale to secure greenspace and should be used to support the *Greenlands Acquisition Project for 2016-2020 (GAP)* and its future iterations. As such, it will facilitate the concerted effort of expanding greenways and building the Greater Toronto Region trail network in partnership with our trail community colleagues. The draft TRCA Trail Strategy consists of:

- A vision expressing what we want to achieve
- A concept describing our proposal
- Guiding principles to steer our efforts
- Context outlining dimensions of influence
- Strategic objectives to translate our vision into specific plans and projects
- Implementation plans to execute our concept
- An action plan outlining the strategic roadmap to achieve our vision

The **vision** for the Greater Toronto Region Trail network sees a complete regional trail network in greenspace that connects our growing communities to nature and to each other, supporting active living and enhancing our conservation legacy.

The **concept** for the Greater Toronto Region trail network sees the development of over **570 km of proposed trails** through the Oak Ridges Moraine, the valleys of the Etobicoke, Mimico, Highland, Petticoat and Duffins creeks, the major valleys of the Don, Humber and Rouge Rivers, the Lake Ontario Waterfront, through regional infrastructure corridors, including transit, utility and electric power facility corridors and the introduction of blue trails along our navigable waterways. Combined with the **530 km of existing trails** in our greenspace system, this concept would see the provision of over **1,100 km of regional trails for the Greater Toronto Region**.

This concept builds on the existing regional trail system and capitalizes on current growth and development opportunities to strategically expand greenspace and trails through a variety of development mechanisms. It also proposes investment in 10 conservation destination areas to enhance the trail network and provide amenities. This concept is intended to be a point of departure for discussion. It identifies the existing trail system, key missing links within the regional network, and proposes opportunities for trail connections that would link into both the regional and municipal trail systems that could be accomplished through a variety of development mechanisms. Many of the opportunities to be investigated extend beyond TRCA-owned lands and require collaboration with member municipalities, private landowners and other agencies. The proposed trail alignments are conceptual and represent goals.

Five **guiding principles** form the foundation of the Trail Strategy, underpinning the vision of the document and informing the rationale and methodology for its implementation: Lead, Collaborate, Steward, Invest and Celebrate. Eight **strategic objectives** have been developed in support of these principles to meet the challenges associated with trail development in the Greater Toronto Region. These objectives, along with their associated initiatives and actions, will guide TRCA and partners toward achieving the overarching vision of the TRCA Trail Strategy:

1. Organize effective trail leadership
2. Prioritize trail and destination area capital projects
3. Promote greater trail use and awareness
4. Build a sound knowledge base
5. Balance enjoyment and protection of our heritage
6. Promote meaningful community engagement
7. Support complete communities
8. Secure adequate and sustainable investment

The TRCA Trail Strategy includes an **Implementation Workbook** to outline the steps required to achieve our vision, concept and objectives and complete the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network. This Workbook consists of:

- Trail Capital Projects: Candidate List
- Destination Area Projects: Candidate List
- Implementation Plans
- Action Plan

The Trail Capital Projects: Candidate List and Destination Area Projects: Candidate List outline prioritized trail and destination area capital projects by region, to inform capital planning efforts by

TRCA and municipal trail partners. Each candidate project has been assigned an implementation priority based on defined investment criteria. These capital projects are illustrated in the Implementation Plans required to complete the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network. The Action Plan organizes the eight strategic objectives and associated initiatives and actions into an execution timeframe to be phased across short, medium and long-term time horizons.

The draft TRCA Trail Strategy supports The Living City vision for a new kind of community where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity. In particular, it reinforces TRCA's Leadership Strategy 3: Rethink greenspace to maximize its value, identified in TRCA's Building the Living City®: 10 Year Strategic Plan 2013-2022. The expected outcomes of the TRCA Trail Strategy will be:

- Provision of connected routes and corridors for wildlife, recreation and active transportation;
- Provision of natural spaces for play, exploration and recreation;
- Provision and protection of green infrastructure and ecosystem services;
- Protection of our cultural heritage and promotion of its understanding;
- Support for opportunities for local food production;
- Creation of opportunities for land-based education;
- Enhancement of our physical landscapes, informing existing and future development;
- Encouragement of urban regeneration;
- Support for the economic potential of eco-tourism
- Improvement of social inclusion, equity and accessibility to greenspaces;
- Improvement of opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature;
- Reinforcement of our regional identity;

See **Attachment 1** for the draft Concept Plan: Greater Toronto Region Trail Network.

See **Attachment 2** for the draft TRCA Trail Strategy.

See **Attachment 3** for the draft TRCA Trail Strategy: Implementation Workbook.

## **RATIONALE**

Since the original vision of the Greater Toronto Region trail network proposed in 1989, our region has developed significantly. Thirty years of intensification warrants an update to the Greater Toronto Region trail network concept as well as the development of an associated Trail Strategy to deliver it. TRCA has the ability to bring four key strengths to continue the development of a regional greenway trail network in the Greater Toronto Region:

1. Over 18,000 hectares of greenspace are currently owned by TRCA. This land is largely associated with our large-scale regional natural features, including the valley and stream corridors, Lake Ontario waterfront, Niagara Escarpment and Oak Ridges Moraine. These features also serve as corridors where further securement will allow the completion of an inter-regional trail network.
2. TRCA jurisdiction transcends local and regional government boundaries to include the majority of the river valley corridors and a significant portion of the Lake Ontario Waterfront and the Oak Ridges Moraine within the Greater Toronto Region.
3. Additional trail funding can be facilitated by TRCA and partners, such as the RWA, through municipal grants, private donations and revenues.

4. TRCA has accumulated considerable technical expertise in the field of trail planning, design, construction, maintenance and programming. As the author of the 1989 concept for the Greater Toronto Region trail network, TRCA is positioned to build on this trails legacy.

The Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) is an advisory committee to TRCA and will be engaged in the future consultation, endorsement and adoption of the TRCA Trail Strategy. As per the RWA Terms of Reference, the RWA can help TRCA advance its strategic goals and priorities, including those outlined in the TRCA Trail Strategy. There is an opportunity for RWA members to help achieve the objectives of the TRCA Trail Strategy through the formation of a Trail Leaders Round Table working group. In addition, there is an opportunity for RWA members to advocate for the TRCA Trail Strategy in upcoming budget discussions and/or through known government grant programs to support future funding opportunities.

## FUNDING SOURCES

Regional trail projects are funded from a variety of sources. At TRCA, these sources include revenues and occasional donations or government grants (see **Table 1: Trail Funding Sources**). Financial resilience will require a greater range of eligible funding sources and leveraging the revenue-generating potential of trails and related facilities. In addition to these sources, TRCA will continue to engage with regional trail partners to capitalize on future development opportunities that maximize budgets, time and resources.

**Table 1: TRAIL FUNDING SOURCES**

TRAIL PARTNER	SOURCE OF FUNDS	DESCRIPTION
TRCA	Donations*	Funds received through The Living City Foundation and/or from trail donation boxes
	Government Grants*	Municipal, provincial or federal funding
	TRCA Revenues	Municipal levies, capital, special projects
Municipalities	Development Charges (DCs)	Development fees
	Federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF)	Local infrastructure priority funding
	Government Grants	Municipal, provincial or federal funding
	Municipal Taxes	Municipal operating and/or capital budgets
Trail Groups	Donations	Donated funds, time, labour and materials
	Government Grants	Municipal, provincial or federal funding
Future Sources	Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)	Co-operative funding arrangements
	Pay-Per-Use	Trail user fees (parking / membership fees)
	Road Tolls	Road toll funds

## GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

The TRCA Trail Strategy provides the government with a unique opportunity to meet its federal, provincial and municipal objectives in a cost-effective manner. The following government objectives, mandates and program opportunities are provided for the information of the RWA to advocate for future funding for the fulfillment of the TRCA Trail Strategy.

The **Government of Canada** is making historic new investments in infrastructure to build the cities of the twenty-first century and provide communities across the country with the tools they need to prosper and innovate. The **Investing in Canada Plan** provides investment to support three key objectives:

- Create long-term economic growth
- Support a low carbon, green economy
- Build inclusive communities

The TRCA Trail Strategy supports these objectives through provision of the five main infrastructure priorities targeted by the Investing in Canada Plan:

1. **Public Transit Infrastructure.** The Greater Toronto Region trail network is a key component of our region's active transportation network. Trails provide transportation alternatives to cars, helping to reduce traffic congestion and long commutes that make it harder for people to get to work and for families to spend time together. Trails also address the current "first mile/last mile" (FMLM) barrier to the success of our regional public transit system.
2. **Green Infrastructure.** The Greater Toronto Region trail network provides green infrastructure that protects our communities and supports Canada's ongoing transition to a clean growth economy. Greenways provide the needed forest vegetation that filters the air and directly improves its quality. The buffering effect of vegetation in our river valleys is important in controlling the delivery of surface pollutants to streams. The development of trails through our greenways offers an opportunity for residents to see and smell, first hand, the benefits of a strong network of natural open spaces in the local community.
3. **Social Infrastructure.** Investing in the Greater Toronto Region trail network is an investment in our social fabric. The TRCA Trail Strategy promotes investment in Indigenous communities, out-of-classroom education, and cultural and recreational infrastructure through trails. Indigenous peoples, educators, volunteers and grassroots organizations are key partners in creating and managing our regional trail network. Working in partnership, meaningful relationships can be created to respect and celebrate various cultural ways and beliefs, improving the quality of life for present and future generations.
4. **Trade and Transportation Infrastructure.** The Greater Toronto Region network supports the development of stronger, more efficient transportation corridors in our region. The provision of trails integrated into our public transit network provide residents with an active transportation alternative to move about their daily lives, helping to reduce road congestion, bottlenecks and capacity issues. Trails help the transportation system withstand the effects of climate change by acting as a climate change mitigation measure.
5. **Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure.** The Greater Toronto Region network connects rural communities in the protected northern areas of the Escarpment, the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt to the growing suburban and urban communities of the Greater Toronto Area. It also connects rural communities beyond TRCA jurisdiction by linking into Provincially and Federally significant trails, including the Bruce Trail, the Lake-to-Lake Trail, the Oak Ridges Trail, The Great Trail and the Waterfront Trail.

Furthermore, nine mandates of the **Government of Ontario** are supported by the draft TRCA Trail Strategy:

1. The **Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)** has identified walking as one of the most popular active living pursuits in Ontario. Public trails provide an accessible recreation alternative for all Ontarians. Eco-touring throughout Southern Ontario is a growing tourist business that requires a strong network of hiking and cycling trails linking the city to the country. From the standpoint of cultural heritage, trail development in greenway corridors encourages the cataloguing and development of archaeology resources. With over 18,000 hectares of valley and waterfront lands, TRCA is custodian to the largest reserve of archaeological resources in Southern Ontario. The **Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund (OSRCF)** is a grant program that supports a vision of getting and keeping Ontarians active in community sport, recreation and physical activity.
2. The **Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)** plays a role in the planning and management of natural heritage systems, including the provision of sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities and education on natural heritage. MNRF also partners with the natural resources and forestry industry to demonstrate sound forest and wildlife management in Southern Ontario. Greenway trails provide greater access to managed forests and interpretive trails through Conservation Areas can educate the public on a wide variety of vegetation and wildlife habitats in their communities. In terms of mineral resource management, aggregate resource rehabilitation projects can support the development of regional trails on the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Niagara Escarpment with the cooperation of such groups as the Ontario Stone, Sand & Gravel Association. This type of partnership resulted in the successful restoration of a former gravel pit in TRCA's East Duffins Headwaters Properties (EDH) to include for enhanced biodiversity, sustainable nature-based recreation trails and interpretive education.
3. Trails provide opportunities for the **Ministry of Education** and school boards to animate the course curriculum in out-of-classroom education across the disciplines. The 10 proposed Conservation Area destinations, including TRCA facilities such as the Kortright Centre for Conservation, Conservation Field Centres and Black Creek Pioneer Village, offer incredible education opportunities through the interpretation on the trails.
4. The **Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services** help to build communities that are resilient, inclusive and sustained by the economic and civic contributions of all Ontarians. A sense of community is one of the most critical elements in sustaining a neighbourhood. The development, management and programming of trails is a strong builder of community spirit. The active participation of community service clubs, organized youth groups and creative recreation programs can help build a sense of pride that is critical to the quality of life in our communities. Volunteer contributions range from raising funds to building and maintaining trails. Reduced crime and an increased sense of self-worth are natural by-products when community-driven projects like trails are encouraged.
5. The quality of our air and water are the direct concern of the **Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks**. The buffering effect of vegetation in our river valleys is important in controlling the delivery of surface pollutants to streams. The development of trails through our greenways offers an opportunity for residents to experience the benefits of a strong network of natural open spaces in the local community. The **Waterfront Regeneration Trust** provides strong support for Greenway Trails in its legislative mandate and its ongoing work with Provincial agencies, municipalities and shoreline residents. TRCA actively supports those efforts by sharing staff expertise, funding and a coordinated approach to trail management issues.

6. The development of inter-regional trail links throughout the Greater Toronto Region will greatly enhance the community's ability to experience a healthy walk or cycle in a natural setting. The **Ministry of Health** can significantly enhance its promotion of the wellness concept by encouraging communities to use greenway trails. The demonstrated health elements are both physical and mental. A key result of a healthier community will be reduced health care costs.
7. One of the many crossover benefits of greenway trails is the promotion of active transportation and the subsequent reduction in air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. The **Ministry of Transportation** supports the development of pedestrian and cycling networks as a core part of Ontario's transportation system. Increasing cycling opportunities in Ontario offers many benefits, including improved well-being, lower rates of chronic conditions and reduced health care costs as a result of active living, reduced traffic congestion in urban areas, a cleaner environment and increased tourism opportunities across the province. The Greater Toronto Region trail network will offer pedestrians and cyclists an environmentally safe alternative to move about their daily lives. Improved mapping and signage between existing greenway trails will further enhance the enjoyment and safety of such trails.
8. The **Ministry of Indigenous Affairs** works to ensure a better future for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. Trails provide opportunities for Indigenous communities to enhance awareness about their culture and heritage through the exploration of interpretive trails.
9. The **Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade** supports a strong, innovative economy that can provide jobs, opportunities and prosperity for all Ontarians. There is ample evidence that trails not only enable Canadians to live actively in a healthier environment, but also that trails most often economically benefit both adjacent landowners and the local business community (Go for Green, [The Economic Benefits of Trails](#)). Direct impacts of the TRCA Trail Strategy include equal opportunity employment for construction workers, designers, technicians, researchers and planners. Indirect economic benefits include the promotion of private commerce in such fields as increased sales for walking shoes, cross-country skis, bicycles and their repair, public transit use, sport clothing, gift shops and restaurants. The Bruce Trail Association has identified an economic spinoff of \$44 million from their trail system (2018 dollars).

Finally, municipal mandates of the **Regions of Peel, York and Durham** and the **City of Toronto** as well as those of their lower-tier municipalities are supported by the TRCA Trail Strategy. Regional and local governments recognize trails as essential green infrastructure through the inclusion of recreational and active transportation trail policies in Strategic Plans, Official Plans and Transportation Master Plans. These policies set out standards for new communities, managing growth and development and protecting the environment. All of the municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area make recommendations to prioritize walking, cycling and transit to meet the needs of residents and develop complete communities. Several Official Plans also include policies to improve connectivity between greenspaces and cover the role of trails in active transportation, recreational service delivery, community engagement and ecological enhancement. In response to population growth and changing community needs, municipalities are constructing significant regional trail routes. For example, York Region, the City of Toronto and the City of Richmond Hill are implementing the Lake-to-Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail. New trail segment construction along the Humber Trail, the Etobicoke Creek Trail and the East Don Trail are also recent examples of successful trail building partnership projects between TRCA, the regions and local municipalities.

Following the adoption of the TRCA Trail Strategy, a comprehensive inventory of current and future planned trail and destination capital projects across TRCA and member municipality organizations is required. This exercise will help optimize our collective capital planning efforts. Following this inventory, TRCA staff will develop a comprehensive implementation plan and financial plan to fully implement the Strategy. Based on these overlapping and aligned government objectives, this future implementation plan and funding plan should coordinate a funding request with contributions from all levels of government and include support from public groups and the private sector.

## PRELIMINARY COSTING

Basic unit costs per linear meter for the various trail descriptions and types implemented in the concept for the Greater Toronto Region Trail network are shown in **Table 2: Trail Unit Costs**. The basis for this costing has come from collaborative analysis with our municipal partners.

**Table 2: TRAIL UNIT COSTS**

TRAIL DESCRIPTION (TYPE)	UNIT	2018 DOLLARS
<b>Single-use</b>		
Construct new hiking trail in valley/ridge areas	Linear Metre	\$ 130.00
<b>Multi-use</b>		
Construct new asphalt waterfront trail	Linear Metre	\$ 1,240.00
Construct new asphalt trail in valley/ridge areas	Linear Metre	\$ 702.40
Construct new asphalt trail in road right-of-ways	Linear Metre	\$ 555.40
Construct new asphalt trail in utility corridors	Linear Metre	\$ 372.40
<b>Bike-only</b>		
Construct new cycle-track trail along roadways	Linear Metre	\$ 450.00
<b>Other Costs</b>		
Planning	Percentage	10.0%
Design and Engineering	Percentage	10.0%
Permitting	Percentage	10.0%
Contingency	Percentage	25.0%
Natural Heritage and Tree Compensation	Percentage	5.0%

These metrics were used to calculate the preliminary order of magnitude estimates for trail construction project costs per region shown in **Table 3: Trail Project Costs**. This table includes trail construction project costs per region, according to the high, medium or low implementation priority phase of work categorized in the draft TRCA Trail Strategy. The chart further itemizes trail project cost according to land ownership, by TRCA versus Other, per region. The schedule for expenditures is as follows:

**Table 3: TRAIL PROJECT COSTS**

TRAIL PROJECT COSTS (MILLIONS)				
REGION	HIGH PRIORITY	MEDIUM PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL
<b>Durham</b>	<b>\$2.3</b>	<b>\$16.1</b>	<b>\$21.0</b>	<b>\$39.4</b>
Durham (TRCA lands)	\$1.3	\$0.6	\$1.4	\$3.3
Durham (Other lands)	\$1.0	\$15.5	\$19.6	\$36.1
<b>Peel</b>	<b>\$24.2</b>	<b>\$12.9</b>	<b>\$33.9</b>	<b>\$71.0</b>
Peel (TRCA lands)	\$7.8	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$7.9
Peel (Other lands)	\$16.4	\$12.9	\$33.8	\$63.1
<b>Toronto</b>	<b>\$52.2</b>	<b>\$46.5</b>	<b>\$5.1</b>	<b>\$103.8</b>
Toronto (TRCA lands)	\$11.0	\$3.0	\$0.0	\$14.0
Toronto (Other lands)	\$41.2	\$43.5	\$5.1	\$89.8
<b>York</b>	<b>\$49.9</b>	<b>\$66.0</b>	<b>\$54.7</b>	<b>\$170.6</b>
York (TRCA lands)	\$18.0	\$6.7	\$2.6	\$27.2
York (Other lands)	\$31.9	\$59.3	\$52.1	\$143.4
<b>TOTAL (TRCA lands)</b>	<b>\$38.1</b>	<b>\$10.3</b>	<b>\$4.1</b>	<b>\$52.5</b>
<b>TOTAL (Other lands)</b>	<b>\$90.5</b>	<b>\$131.2</b>	<b>\$110.6</b>	<b>\$332.4</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$128.6</b>	<b>\$141.5</b>	<b>\$114.7</b>	<b>\$384.9</b>

Based on preliminary high-level costing of the proposed trail connections, the total cost to construct the built infrastructure of the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network is **\$384.9 million**. The total cost of these new trail construction projects on TRCA-owned lands is **\$52.5 million**. The accuracy of this estimate is considered to be **+/- 20 to 30% accurate**. This cost is expected to increase annually according to projected inflation. These trail construction project costs include planning, design and engineering, permits and agreements, construction and contingencies. These trail construction project costs exclude crossings, lighting, engineering features, site servicing and trail amenities.

The total annual cost for TRCA staff time to administer the Strategy is **\$423,775.00**. This cost includes staff time for one position in the Greenspace Conservation team of Planning and Development to be assigned to support the Trail Strategy to deliver the Implementation Workbook and organize the working groups. Senior management within the Greenspace Conservation team will oversee the successful management and execution of the Trail Strategy, including its administrative, financial, operating, planning, reporting and advisory components. This annual cost is expected to increase annually according to projected inflation and cost of living increases.

## IMPLEMENTATION

TRCA is currently undertaking trail and destination capital project work in support of the draft concept for the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network within approved capital budgets of multiple TRCA divisional and municipal partner programs. In order to develop a more detailed implementation plan and funding plan, a comprehensive inventory of current and future planned trail and destination capital projects across TRCA and member municipality organizations is required. The coordination of work and planning mandated through implementation of this Trail Strategy will clarify resources currently dedicated to trail work and will inform any requests for additional future funding. Implementation will also be assisted by the development of a Trail Implementation and Management Handbook, which will form an update to the TRCA Trail Planning and Design Guidelines Manual (1992), conveying sustainable development and best

management trail practices. With this in mind, and upon endorsement of the TRCA Trail Strategy, the following three strategic objectives will kick-start implementation of the Strategy:

**1. Organize Effective Trails Leadership.** Consolidate an internal Trail Working Group to guide the implementation of the Strategy, including developing an implementation plan and a funding plan to coordinate the delivery of the Strategy across business units. Form an external Trail Leaders Round Table as a working group of the RWA to promote knowledge-sharing, build capacity and focus fundraising efforts in support of the Strategy.

**2. Prioritize Trail and Destination Projects.** Perform a comprehensive inventory of current and future planned trail and destination capital projects across TRCA and member municipality organizations. Finalize the prioritized Trail and Destination Area capital projects lists in consultation with the Trail Working Group and the Trail Leaders Round Table. Perform high-level cost analysis for the confirmed capital projects. Develop a comprehensive implementation plan and funding plan to obtain funding and deliver capital projects in partnership with our municipal trail colleagues.

**3. Promote Greater Trail Use and Awareness.** Produce a digital and print map of the Greater Toronto Region Trail Network to provide clear wayfinding information for improved user orientation and experience. Implement a communications plan to promote the network and to generate support to secure funding to implement the Strategy.

#### **DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

- Present the TRCA Trail Strategy to the Authority Board for endorsement in principle (target Fall 2018).
- Continue engagement with external partners to finalize the draft TRCA Trail Strategy (target Spring 2019).
- Develop a comprehensive implementation plan and funding plan to fully implement the draft TRCA Trail Strategy (target Fall 2019).
- Report back to Authority Board with the finalized TRCA Trail Strategy, implementation plan and funding plan for Authority approval (target Fall 2019).
- Report back to RWA with the finalized TRCA Trail Strategy, implementation plan and funding plan for information and advocacy (target Spring 2019)
- Pursue and obtain funding to internally administer the Strategy and deliver priority trail and destination capital projects with municipal trail partners (ongoing).

**Report prepared by: Caitlin Harrigan**

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**Date:** September 19, 2018

**Attachments:** 3

**Attachment Link:** <https://3.basecamp.com/3942883/buckets/6451946/vaults/892003526>

**RES.#R7/18 -**

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF DESIGNATION OF THE HUMBER RIVER AS A CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER**

Moved by: Madeleine McDowell

Seconded by: Heather Broadbent

**THAT staff report on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration plan of the designation of Humber River as a Canadian Heritage River be received for input of RWA members;**

**THAT the RWA Watershed Forum Working Group consider adopting the Humber Heritage Theme as a priority for 2019 and acting as the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee;**

**THAT FURTHER THAT other interested RWA members consider participating in the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning activities as appropriate.**

**CARRIED**

**BACKGROUND**

In 1999, the Humber River was officially designated as a Canadian Heritage River and included in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS), Canada's national river conservation program. The CHRS program is a federal-provincial-territorial managed program which works with river managers across Canada to conserve and promote the natural, human and recreational values of designated rivers. The Humber has been formally recognized for its historic human heritage and its fundamental contributions to the development of Canada, in addition to its recreational values. The Humber River was used as an ancient transportation route known as the Carrying Place Trail by Indigenous peoples and early European settlers, many of whom also built homes and industries along the banks of the Humber River.

TRCA, over the past nineteen years has worked with watershed residents, community partners and Indigenous communities on several CHRS initiatives that protect, restore and celebrate the Humber River. Some of the accomplishments include:

- Watershed Plan for Humber River watershed;
- Humber River Watershed Report Cards;
- Humber River Heritage Bridge Inventory;
- The Shared Path Program;
- CHRS Heritage Plaques Program;
- Designation of heritage buildings and structures such as the Wiley Bridge and McVean Barn in the Claireville Conservation Area within the City of Brampton; and
- Signature watershed events such as Humber by Canoe.
- Support of community-lead heritage events.

Development of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Plan to date has considered ongoing watershed programs and activities of TRCA and its partners. In addition, staff have researched and compiled a scan of activities undertaken by other Heritage Rivers across the country celebrating designation anniversaries and have incorporated some of these ideas into this draft Celebration Plan as well.

Some of the proposed activities being considered are:

- **Anniversary Theme** – create a visual theme for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The visual theme will be incorporated into TRCA's website, annual report and meeting, newsletters, social media accounts (i.e., Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.), email signatures and promotional materials.
- **Anniversary Video** – will include accomplishments over the past 20 years, including, TRCA, partner and stakeholder testimonials.
- **Social Media Strategy** – create a social media strategy for TRCA social media accounts to create awareness for the Humber's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- **Mobile Display** – to be showcased at TRCA and partner events and facilities within the Humber watershed.
- **Indigenous Engagement** – support Indigenous groups to host their own heritage celebration events for the Humber River either through in-kind support.
- **Signature Event** – TRCA to host its annual Humber by Canoe Anniversary Event.
- **Watershed Community Events** – TRCA to support and participate in community events throughout the Humber watershed through materials, displays and activities that celebrate the Humber's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- **Municipal Heritage Departments, Museums and Archives** – TRCA will reach out to various municipal departments and cultural institutions to explore potential partnership and promotion opportunities.
- **Recognition of Humber Heritage Committee** – TRCA to recognize members of the original Humber Heritage Committee who championed the Humber River's CHRS designation alongside TRCA in the 1990s.
- **Launch of CHRS Digital Story Map** – in partnership with Parks Canada, launch the CHRS story map for the Humber River.
- **CHRS Forum** – A by invitation forum to develop a strategic action plan for the next 20 years to maintain, promote and celebrate the Humber's CHRS designation.
- **CHRS Plaques**– develop a plan for maintaining and restoring the 12 existing CHRS Plaques, including the installation of new CHRS plaques as appropriate.
- **CHRS 10 – Year Monitoring Report** – Preparation of the 10-Year Monitoring Report to CHRS.

### **Participation of RWA members in the Humber 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Activities**

Staff will seek RWA member participation via the newly established Watershed Forum Working Group which will act as the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee. The committee will also engage ENGO's, community groups, watershed residents and Indigenous communities in the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning and celebrations as appropriate. It is suggested that the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary be leveraged as an opportunity for the 2019 Watershed Forum to raise the profile, natural and cultural heritage value of TRCA rivers and the Humber River in particular.

The Working Group/Planning Committee will meet once a month from October 2018 – September 2019. Administrative support will be provided by TRCA staff.

## **RATIONALE**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Humber River as a Canadian Heritage River poses an excellent opportunity to celebrate this nationally significant river within TRCA's jurisdiction and promote its heritage values. It also provides a platform to communicate accomplishments of TRCA and its partners in protecting and restoring the Humber River watershed as well as the other watersheds in its jurisdiction. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations will engage TRCA's partners, stakeholders and the communities with the Humber watershed and beyond.

## **FINANCIAL DETAILS**

Detailed cost estimates to be developed as part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Plan. Depending on the scope of activities, staff and the Planning Committee may need to secure external sponsors and pursue fundraising opportunities.

## **DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

TRCA Staff to work with the RWA, partners and stakeholders to begin planning and developing the tasks required to complete the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Plan and initiate implementation of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration activities in 2019.

**Report prepared by: Sonia Dhir, extension 5291**

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**Date: August 27, 2018**

**RES.#R8/18 -**

**REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE WORKING GROUP  
MEMBERSHIP**

Confirmation and approval of Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) Working Group Membership.

Moved by: Andrew Vrana  
Seconded by: Doug Wright

**WHEREAS the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) considered the formation of the Greenspace and Ecosystem Services, Flooding and Extreme Weather Outreach, and Integrated Community/Watershed Planning and Civic Engagement and Watershed Forum Working Groups at its previous meetings;**

**AND WHEREAS the RWA also approved the framework for the development and implementation of the Youth Council Working Group;**

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the membership list for the RWA working groups, as amended and outlined in Attachment 1, be confirmed and approved;**

**AND FURTHER THAT these Working Groups meet on an as needed basis, no more than monthly, to develop and implement work plans with support from TRCA staff.**

**CARRIED**

**BACKGROUND**

The RWA Terms of Reference identifies that members have the opportunity to help TRCA advance its strategic goals and priorities, as well as to voice their interests and undertake activities that align with those broader goals. Section 6.0 of the Terms of Reference of the Regional Watershed Alliance states:

*The watershed/waterfront working groups will be subcommittees of the RWA and formed as deemed appropriate by the Regional Watershed Alliance. These committees may solicit local community representatives or experts to participate as needed. Mandate of these subcommittees can be watershed-wide or specifically focused around projects such as watershed plans. The Watershed/Waterfront Working Groups will report to the Regional Watershed Alliance. The supporting TRCA staff will coordinate regular reports to the Regional Watershed Alliance on the activities of these groups. Items pertaining to the working groups will be a standing item on the agenda of Regional Watershed Alliance meetings.*

At RWA Meeting #1/17, held on November 15, 2017, Resolution #R2/17 was approved, in part, as follows:

*... the following members of the Alliance work with staff to lead the establishment of Youth Council including development of terms of reference:  
Lisette Mallet; Amory Ngan; Rui Felix; Mick Malowany; and Karen Lockridge.*

At RWA Meeting #2/17, held on February 21, 2018, Resolution #R12/17 was approved, in part, as follows:

*the RWA, establish a Watershed Forum Working Group to collaborate with TRCA Staff on the study, design, and development of a model for an annual watershed forum in the Toronto region beginning in 2018;*

At RWA Meeting #2/18, held on May 23, 2018, the following recommendation was considered:

*THAT the following three Working Groups, comprised of interested RWA members and other interested parties, be formed around the collective priorities of:*

- a) Greenspace and Ecosystem Services;*
- b) Flooding and Extreme Weather Outreach; and*
- c) Integrated Community/Watershed Planning and Civic Engagement;*

## **RATIONALE**

The five identified working groups were developed based on facilitated discussions about RWA collective priorities and opportunities for action that took place at RWA Meeting #1/17 and RWA Meeting #2/17. A summary of the collective priorities and opportunities for action resulting from these facilitated discussions can be found in Attachment 1 of Item 7.1 from RWA meeting #2/17.

RWA members were invited to volunteer to participate in at least one of the five working groups via the online platform. Participants will be responsible for developing and implementing work plans as well as providing the RWA with regular updates regarding accomplishments of the working groups.

The RWA Working Group members list, Attachment 1, is appended to this report for confirmation and approval. Participation on at least one working group is recommended but not mandatory as per the RWA Terms of Reference.

## **DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

- RWA members who are not currently participating in at least one working group are encouraged to volunteer for one working group of interest to them.
- Following approval of the membership list, the established working groups will be responsible for developing and implementing 2018-2019 work plans.
- TRCA staff will support working groups through attendance at meetings, booking facilities, and through program support as identified by the working group. The working group lead will be responsible for the development of meeting agendas, and work priorities through consultation with TRCA staff.

**Report prepared by: Cameron Richardson, extension 5639**

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**Date: August 31, 2018**

**Attachments: 1**

Attachment 1

Regional Watershed Alliance Subcommittees/Working Groups	
Flooding and Extreme Weather Outreach	
Name	Affiliation
Kun, Karen	Waterlution
Schofield, Jade	Town of Ajax
Tschekalin, Jackie	Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
Heath, Jack (Deputy Mayor)	City of Markham
Lockridge, Karen	Don Watershed Resident
Mattos, Mike	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board
Greenspace and Ecosystem Services	
Barrett, Suzanne	Environmental Consulting
Ramsay Brown, Jason	Don Watershed Resident
Bream, Margaret	Waterfront Resident
McGlynn, Chris	Etobicoke Watershed Resident
Vrana, Andrew	Don Watershed Resident
Wickens, Andy	Don Watershed Resident
Felix, Rui	Humber Watershed Resident
Integrated Community/Watershed Planning and Engagement	
Kelly, Jill	Parks People
Ditschun, Lisa	Evergreen
Scotchmer, Carolyn	TD Friends of the Environment
Gomez, Orlando	Foodshare
Boahen, Leticia	Foodshare
Broadbent, Heather	Humber Watershed Resident
Burnett, Neil	Duffins Watershed Resident
Malowany, Mick	Don Watershed Resident
Nonnekes, Joanne	Humber Watershed Resident
Youth Council	
Ngan, Amory	Don Watershed Resident
Mallet, Lisette	Humber Watershed Resident
Malowany, Mick	Don Watershed Resident
Ballinger, Jack	Toronto or Region Conservation Authority Board Member
Drake, Jennifer	Toronto or Region Conservation Authority Board Member
Undecided	
Hogg, Brenda	
McKelvie, Jennifer	
Collins, Stephen	

## Attachment 1

<b>Alternate – Chris Wolnik</b>	
<b>De Baeremaeker, Glenn (Councillor)</b>	
<b>Dyce, David</b>	
<b>Kavanagh, Brian</b>	
<b>Laing, David</b>	
<b>Mahoney, Matt (Councillor)</b>	
<b>Calvin, Elizabeth</b>	
<b>Burchfield, Marcy</b>	
<b>Schulte, Deb (MP)</b>	
<b>McDowell, Madeleine</b>	
<b>Presutti, Michael</b>	
<b>O'Connor, Kevin</b>	

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**PROJECT TEAMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE VERBAL UPDATES**

**RES.#R9/18 - PROJECT TEAMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

Moved by: Kevin O'Connor  
Seconded by: Jackie Tschekalin

**THAT the verbal project teams and subcommittee updates be received.**

**CARRIED**

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**ITEMS FOR ALLIANCE INFORMATION**

**RES.#R10/18 - THE LIVING CITY DINNER**

Moved by: Andy Wickens  
Seconded by: Mike Mattos

**THAT the information on The Living City Dinner be received.**

**CARRIED**

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**TERMINATION**

ON MOTION, the meeting terminated at 9:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 19, 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_ John MacKenzie, CEO, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

/cb