



**Regional Watershed Alliance
Agenda**

#2/17

February 21, 2018

6:30 P.M.

HEAD OFFICE, 101 EXCHANGE AVENUE, VAUGHAN

Members

Chair: Jack Heath

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- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING #1/17, HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2017**
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- 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
- 4. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**
- 5. GOOD NEWS STORIES**
- 6. PRESENTATIONS**
 - 6.1 EVOLVING WATERSHED PLANNING AT TRCA: ADAPTING TO A NEW CONTEXT**
- 7. CORRESPONDENCE**
- 8. PROJECT TEAMS AND SUBCOMMITTEE VERBAL UPDATES**
- 9. ITEMS FOR ALLIANCE ACTION**
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NEXT MEETING OF THE REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE #1/18, TO BE HELD ON MAY AT 6:30 P.M. AT BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE, 1000 MURRAY ROSS PARKWAY, TORONTO, ONTARIO M3J 2P3

Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

/cb

Section I – Items for Regional Watershed Alliance Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Authority
Meeting #2/17, Wednesday, February 21, 2018

FROM: Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

RE: **EVOLVING WATERSHED PLANNING AT TRCA**
Adapting to a New Context

KEY ISSUE

Recent changes in provincial policy has elevated the importance of watershed planning in informing municipal land use decisions in the Greater Golden Horseshoe, which has implications for TRCA's watershed planning program. Staff present an update to the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) on these emerging changes, and discuss the potential role the RWA can play in positively influencing outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS TRCA has a long history in leading the development of watershed plans, in collaboration with community partners, to guide activities that protect, restore, and enhance watershed health;

WHEREAS recent changes to provincial policies of the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* now require municipalities to complete watershed planning to inform land use decisions related to settlement area expansions, major developments, and planning for municipal infrastructure;

WHEREAS in support of these policy changes, the Province has released a watershed planning guidance document for public review on the Environmental Registry. The intent of the guidance document is to provide detailed direction on how municipalities are to undertake watershed planning to satisfy the policy requirements;

AND WHEREAS TRCA has been considering how to evolve its watershed planning program to adapt to a changing science, policy, and implementation context through its Next Generation Watershed Planning project, and will be reviewing and commenting on the provincial guidance document in this modern context;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) be informed of these provincial changes through this report and an accompanying presentation by staff;

THAT TRCA staff encourages the RWA members to review the guidance document and consider submitting their own comments on the Environmental Registry to influence the development of an effective provincial watershed planning guidance document;

AND FURTHER THAT the RWA consider preparing for engagement activities that will be required to solicit community input into the future development and update of watershed plans as a critical component of future watershed visioning.

BACKGROUND

Conservation Authorities have a long history in watershed management, and were first established by the province of Ontario in 1946 to address concerns from grassroots communities about poor land, water, and forestry management practices that were occurring at the time. The impacts of these poor practices created significant soil loss and flooding issues, and led to cooperation between the province, municipalities, conservation groups, and practitioners to form Conservation Authorities (CAs). CAs were given a mandate to undertake programs using an integrated watershed management approach that considers natural watershed boundaries, which was recognized, even at that time, as critical in managing these issues.

Since inception, TRCA's watershed management program has included acquiring lands for conservation, prohibiting development within floodplains, and constructing flood and erosion control structures. Over the decades, TRCA programming has broadened to include, among others, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem management, education and stewardship, outdoor recreation, protection of Oak Ridges Moraine, source water protection, groundwater management, environmental monitoring, and most recently programs that address climate change and sustainability issues.

TRCA's *Greenspace Strategy* (1989) launched the unique approach to engaging TRCA's stakeholders and communities in collaborative watershed management. To help strategically focus where efforts are needed most to protect, restore, and enhance its watersheds, TRCA has developed various generations of watershed plans in collaboration with our municipal and community partners. TRCA's watershed and waterfront committees and task forces have been instrumental in supporting development and implementation of watershed plans and watershed report cards. The Regional Watershed Alliance represents the next generation of this community voice, and TRCA will again be relying on it to understand what the communities within the watersheds would like to see achieved through the future development and update of TRCA watershed plans.

RATIONALE

In 2015, the Province began the Coordinated Land Use Planning Review, and established a process for reviewing four provincial land use plans that work together to manage growth, build complete communities, curb sprawl and protect the natural environment. These plans included: the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Niagara Escarpment Plan. Following this review, in May 2017, the Province released amended plans, which included updated policies that considered the input of Ontario residents through an extensive consultation process.

While there were many important policy changes made, one notable change included requiring that municipalities complete watershed planning before planning settlement area expansions, infrastructure or major developments that could affect those watersheds. This change emphasized the importance of watershed planning in informing municipal land use decisions, and provided a rationale for TRCA to review its watershed planning program to better suit the emerging needs of its municipal partners. In anticipation of these policy changes, TRCA has undertaken the Next Generation of Watershed Planning project to examine how TRCA should evolve its watershed planning program to adapt to the changing science, policy, and implementation context TRCA has experienced since the last generation of its watershed plans (circa 2007-2010). TRCA has been piloting some of this new thinking through the development of a watershed plan that is currently underway for the Carruthers Creek in Durham region. Updates to natural heritage system planning to better consider climate vulnerabilities and ecological connectivity, and green infrastructure planning for improved community resilience are a few examples of new concepts being considered.

Item 9.1

Since the release of the amended provincial plans, on February 6, 2018, the Province has also released a watershed planning guidance document for a 60-day review period on the Environmental Registry. *Watershed Planning in Ontario: Guidance for Land Use Planning Authorities*, available at (http://www.downloads.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2018/013-1817_DraftGuidance.pdf), is intended to provide more detailed direction to municipalities, and their Conservation Authority partners, on how watershed planning should be undertaken in order to satisfy the provincial requirements. While TRCA staff are still in the process of reviewing the document, some preliminary observations include:

- the draft document provides good guidance on the watershed planning process, but little guidance on the technical approaches that will be needed (e.g. how to delineate certain features);
- there is little guidance on how municipalities can conform quickly for the current round of Official Plan reviews and updates;
- there is allowance for equivalency, but the wording is confusing and suggests that watershed plans may be the only equivalent document allowed;
- there is a section on transition provisions, but there is no guidance provided in this regard;
- the document recognizes the experience that CAs have in watershed planning and that they can be valuable partners in planning and implementation efforts, especially beyond the scope of land use policy direction. However, there is no requirement for CAs to lead or even be involved in their development.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The Environmental Registry posting closes on April 7, 2018. TRCA staff will continue to review the MOECC Watershed Planning Guidance document and will be taking draft comments to the Authority meeting in March. Staff encourages RWA members to read the board report to understand the issues and submit comments on behalf of their respective affiliations.

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Date: February 7, 2018

Section I – Items for Regional Watershed Alliance Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #2/17, Wednesday, February 21, 2018

FROM: Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

RE: **REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE COLLECTIVE PRIORITIES (2018 – 2019)**

KEY ISSUE

Receive feedback on proposed collective priorities and associated opportunities for action for the Regional Watershed Alliance.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS The Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) members participated in a discussion on ideas and themes of interest at the inaugural RWA meeting on November 15, 2017 and staff subsequently analyzed initial RWA member input into key themes of interest and proposed collective priorities for action;

THEREFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the proposed priorities, as appended, be finalized through further discussion and input at the February 21st RWA meeting and made available to members for their final review for a set period of time over the online platform;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA staff circulates final Collective Priorities and associated opportunities for action to RWA membership in the form of a 2018-2019 action plan.

BACKGROUND

At the inaugural meeting of the RWA, the following question was posed and answered by RWA members through a facilitated roundtable activity: *“If you could select one regional sustainability related theme that the Regional Watershed Alliance would focus on, what would it be and why?”* As RWA members provided their responses, staff recorded detailed notes to capture the breadth and nuance of ideas (a total of 53). In the days following, staff interpreted these ideas looking for common themes focused around opportunities of collective interest of TRCA partners and collaborators represented on RWA and systematically aligned with one of the six TRCA Leadership Strategies as presented in TRCA Strategic Plan *Building the Living City*.

Through this process, the original 53 ideas were collapsed into 23 theme clusters (see Attachment 1) with most of them aligning with one of these TRCA Leadership Strategies: Manage Water Resources, Foster Sustainable Citizenship and Rethink Greenspace, or Complete Communities. Of this narrower set of theme clusters, some were weighted more heavily as they represented the same/similar idea voiced by multiple RWA members. The top three “highest weighted” themes were selected as the “Collective Priorities” (see Attachment 2).

From there, a purposeful discussion amongst staff ensued to isolate the needs or gaps that TRCA faced with reaching our strategic regional goals associated with the top three Collective Priorities. Meeting these needs or filling these gaps on behalf of TRCA represent RWA opportunities for action (see Attachment 2).

Please note, there were a few ideas speaking to Indigenous Peoples relations and interests. These ideas were recorded but not included in the Collective Priorities presented in this report as engagement around these and future opportunities for planning and action will be deferred to the Indigenous Liaison Committee as well as through ongoing TRCA watershed programs.

RATIONALE

As per the RWA Terms of Reference, members have the opportunity to help TRCA advance various regional activities (e.g., watershed planning, trail planning, flood Preparedness, etc.), organize the Annual Watershed Forum as well as voice their interests and identify key actions to undertake that align with broader regional goals. This exercise to define Collective Priorities is the first step for RWA members to influence high priority issues /opportunities of collective interest.

The three proposed Collective Priorities are assumed to be most representative of the interests described by RWA members, and create a range of meaningful opportunities that respect the time and resources of both the members and staff. These assumptions require validation by the RWA members.

In order to validate assumptions and finalize Collective Priorities and associated opportunities for action, TRCA is requesting feedback on the top three proposed Collective Priorities and actions at the upcoming February 21 RWA meeting through facilitated break-out sessions. What did we miss? Were ideas correctly translated or interpreted into theme clusters? Are there new ideas that should be recorded for future consideration by the RWA?

Once there is refinement and validation of the current Collective Priorities and associated opportunities for action, a 2018 – 2019 RWA action plan can be developed and Working Groups can form as a means to deliver on collective action.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Undertake facilitated break-out sessions at February 21, 2018 RWA meeting, incorporation of feedback and development of 2018-2019 action plan.

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Date: February 9, 2018

Attachments: 2

Attachment 1: Table 1: Long List of RWA Theme Clusters

Attachment 2: Table 2: Proposed RWA Collective Priorities and associated opportunities for action

Table 1: Long List of RWA Themed Clusters



TRCA Strategic Goal	<i>Green the Toronto Region's economy</i>	<i>Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations</i>	<i>Foster sustainable citizenship & Rethink greenspace to maximize value</i>	<i>Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment</i>
<div> Highest count of repeated RWA member ideas in alignment with TRCA Strategic Goal</div> <div>Lower count of RWA member ideas </div>		Flood mitigation and storm water infrastructure renewal	Increase public interest and foster long-term sustainable citizenship	Fully integrated land-use policy
		Climate change flood mitigation	Multicultural engagement	Regional watershed planning integration and facilitation
	Valuation of natural capital	Neighbourhood climate resiliency	Increase education and environmental literacy	Complete, resilient and diverse communities
	Greening Toronto's economy with technology	Headwater and rural areas protection	Social engagement	Trail and transportation connectivity
	Economic sustainability of natural spaces	New technologies	Popularizing greenspace	Ecosystem connection
	Reduce reliance on animal capital	Sustainable urban agricultural practices	Promote understanding of value of nature Maintaining quality of greenspace	Natural and built heritage protection

Table 2: Proposed RWA Collective Priorities and associated opportunities for action

<i>RWA Collective Priority</i>	<i>TRCA Strategic Goal</i>	<i>Related TRCA Programs</i>	<i>TRCA Need of Gap</i>	<i>RWA Opportunities for Action</i>
<i>Increasing the preparedness and protection of communities from existing flooding and extreme weather events.</i>	Manage Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood forecasting, warning and preparedness • Floodplain mapping • Public education • Erosion control and maintenance • TRCA climate programs • Ontario Climate Consortium 	Greater awareness about issue generally, and better promotion of TRCA flood warning and management tools, resources and local opportunities for action; RWA input.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in or provide feedback on TRCA community preparedness workshops • Expanded messaging through RWA networks: Digital or print resource (website, print brochure) • Advisory on TRCA related programs • <i>Other suggestions welcome</i>
<i>Increasing the understanding and influencing the perceived value of nature and greenspace, both regionally and locally.</i>	Foster Sustainable Citizenship & Rethink Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TRCA Greenspace Strategy – in progress • TRCA Regional Trail Strategy – in progress • Ecosystem Service Valuation: Ravine System – in progress • Citizen science programs • Community engagement programs 	Greater issue awareness, public advocacy for increasing the importance and intrinsic value of nature and greenspace in political arenas, general public and targeted sectors of civil society where message impact may be higher (e.g. youth, New Canadians); RWA input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political awareness advocacy, e.g. letters to elected officials • Community workshops on the co-benefits of healthy natural systems and green space • Community workshop on accessing and growing the regional trail system • Advisory on TRCA related programs • <i>Other suggestions welcome</i>
<i>Improve the integration of environmental protection and community well-being in land-use planning and design, growth management decisions and consideration of future climate change impacts.</i>	Complete Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next generation watershed planning – in progress • Natural system strategy updates – in progress • Living City Report Card 	Greater issue awareness, public advocacy for more effective policies and implementation guidance, public education; RWA input.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community seminar series to raise issue awareness and improve understanding • Active community representation at land use planning opportunities open to the public • Political awareness campaign • Advisory on TRCA related programs • <i>Other suggestions welcome</i>

Section I – Items for Regional Watershed Alliance Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Authority
Meeting #2/17, Wednesday, February 21, 2018

FROM: Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

RE: **YOUTH COUNCIL FRAMEWORK**

KEY ISSUE

Approval of the goals, objectives, and activities of the Youth Council, as outlined in the proposed Youth Council Framework.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Community Engagement Strategy (2017) has recommended the development of a Youth Council as a priority action;

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the program framework (attachment1) created by staff with input from the Regional Watershed Alliance Youth Council working group, be approved;

THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance Youth Council working group develop a recruitment plan and establish the Youth Council as per the approved Framework;

AND FURTHER THAT progress of the activities of the Youth Council working group continues to be reported to the Regional Watershed Alliance until the Youth Council is fully established.

BACKGROUND

The long-term success of efforts to advance environmental protection and sustainability in the Toronto region depends on the support of the region's youth, both now and into the future. The TRCA Community Engagement Strategy highlights the importance of engaging youth and reflecting their unique perspectives in TRCA's priorities and programs, and identifies the creation of a Youth Council, overseen by the Regional Watershed Alliance, as an important and immediate priority. Around the world, youth councils have been created by governments, community groups and non-profit organizations as a means of providing local youth with an opportunity to gain important skills, build capacity and network, while providing the sponsoring agencies with important input and perspectives from youth stakeholders.

"At Regional Watershed Alliance Meeting #1/2017, held on November 15th, 2017, Resolution #R002/17 was approved, in part, as follows:

WHEREAS THE Terms of Reference of the Regional Watershed Alliance proposes the establishment of Watershed/Working Groups, Youth Council, and Indigenous Liaison Committee;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the following members of the Alliance work with staff to lead the establishment of Youth Council including development of terms of reference:

a) Lisette Mallet; b) Amory Ngan; c) Rui Felix; d) Mick Malowany; and e) Karen Lockridge".

Item 9.3

Staff have researched leading models for youth councils in the Toronto region and from other areas, and developed a preliminary concept outlining goals, objectives and potential program activities for a TRCA Youth Council. This preliminary concept was shared with the five members of the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) who volunteered to support staff in the development of the Youth Council (hereafter referred to as “the Youth Council working group”), who worked with staff to finalize goals and objectives for the Council as well as a program framework of activities, outputs and outcomes. These are outlined in Attachment 1.

Framework Development

The Youth Council framework was developed using a program development and evaluation approach, which outlines clear connections between program goals, objectives, activities, outputs and deliverables, and ultimate program outcomes. By breaking down large-scale goals into defined objectives, activities can be identified that directly address those objectives, creating a clear pathway between goals and outcomes.

Program Goals and Objectives

A key goal of the Youth Council is to “Build healthy communities through improved connection to greenspace and nature.” It is recognized that the most meaningful type of connection to nature and greenspace may differ from one community or individual to the next, however, the RWA Youth working group and staff agree that enhancing that connection through diverse and appropriate initiatives will improve community health and wellbeing. A healthy community will inspire empowered and engaged youth, which is the second program goal that has been identified, laying the groundwork for youth to have an integral role in the discussion in the region about environmental and sustainability issues, beginning with the planning and shaping of the TRCA Youth Council itself.

There are four objectives that will guide the development of program activities for the Youth council:

- a) Build capacity and engage youth by providing youth across the Toronto region with learning opportunities;
- b) Build a youth network/strengthen existing networks through creation of a broad network of youth in the region that is interested in environmental and sustainability issues;
- c) Identify youth perspectives by developing an understanding of youth opinion around current environmental issues and how these might be incorporated in the work of TRCA and its partners; and
- d) Create fun opportunities for youth through entertaining and engaging learning opportunities.

Program Activities

Prior to developing a more detailed scope of work, the Youth Council will work with staff to better understand and characterize the environmental priorities and perspectives of youth in the Toronto region, so that these are reflected in the Council’s activities. Subject to the results of this characterization, preliminary set of activities for the TRCA Youth Council has also been outlined in the framework, including the following:

- Convening an annual event (an action item identified in the TRCA Community Engagement Strategy);
- Holding regular council meetings;
- Advocating for key environmental and sustainability issues;
- Providing feedback on key TRCA projects and initiatives; and
- Creating a framework for youth network interaction.

Item 9.3

The above framework of goals, objectives and activities notwithstanding, the Youth Council working group and staff recommend that the Youth Council be provided the opportunity to identify their own priorities and activities to address those priorities (the “Activities” and “Outputs” rows in Attachment 1). If necessary, the framework should be updated to reflect these priorities and activities, subject to approval of the Regional Watershed Alliance. The highest level goals and outcomes are to be agreed upon prior to convening the Youth Council, but the Youth Council will be provided the opportunity to determine the pathways (i.e., Activities, Outputs, and Immediate Outcomes) to achieve those goals.

Recruitment

The Youth Council working group and staff recommended that the Youth Council consist of a relatively small group of individuals between 16 and 24 years of age, but that the activities of the Council, supported by staff and the Regional Watershed Alliance, would include the development of a much larger network of youth of all ages throughout the region. The RWA Youth Council working group agreed that recruitment for the Youth Council should be widespread, with no specific targets at this stage for any one stakeholder group (e.g., region, municipality, or demographic). However, in the interest of ensuring representation from historically under-represented communities a recruitment campaign will be developed that specifically targets those communities, leveraging Regional Watershed Alliance and TRCA contact networks as appropriate. Interest from the community will, in part, determine the Youth Council's membership size and composition, but the selection of members will strive to reflect the cultural and geographic diversity of the Toronto Region. Youth Council working group and staff will begin development of a recruitment plan in Spring 2018, targeting approval of Youth Council membership by the Regional Watershed Alliance in Fall 2018.

RATIONALE

The Youth Council working group and staff have developed a TRCA Youth Council framework that satisfies the objectives of the TRCA Community Engagement Strategy and reflects approaches for convening youth councils used in other leading jurisdictions. The framework for the Youth Council (Attachment 1) has as its foundation goals and objectives of the TRCA Community Engagement Strategy (identified by the blue boxes). More specific goals and objectives were identified and agreed upon by staff and the Youth Council working group (identified by the orange boxes).

The working group and staff are prepared to proceed with recruitment of Youth Council members on the basis of this framework, and will report on and receive input from the Regional Watershed Alliance prior to finalizing membership.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funds are available in TRCA Watershed Strategies program accounts for watershed engagement and community projects to support the recruitment, convening and ongoing activities of the Youth Council. Staff will work with the Regional Watershed Alliance Youth Council working group and eventually with the Youth Council itself to ensure that the scope of work reflects available budget and staff support.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- Approval of Youth Council Framework
- Develop a recruitment plan and identify prospective members
- Seek approval of final Youth Council membership.

Report prepared by: Kate Goodale, extension 5280; Ryan Ness, extension 5615

Item 9.3

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Date: February 12, 2018

Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Youth Council Program Framework

- Items Identified by RWA Youth Council working group
- Items Identified by TRCA Community Engagment Strategy

Goals

Build healthy communities through improved connection to greenspace and nature.

Community Engagement
Strategy Goals

To broaden and deepen TRCA's reach into its communities through new inclusive engagement models and tools that engage a wide range of residents, community leaders, groups and businesses and by investing in community-based engagement programs (GOAL 2)

Objectives

Empowered and Engaged Youth

- Build Capacity and Engage Youth
- Build a Youth Network/
Strengthen Existing Networks
- Identify Youth Perspectives
- Create fun opportunities
and experiences for youth

Identification of Youth Environmental Priorities

Activities

- Organize a regular large-scale event on youth 9.2
- Youth Council Meetings
- Advocate for environmental and/or sustainability issues
- Provide feedback on key TRCA projects/strategies
- Creation of framework for network interaction

Outputs

- Event
- Youth identified activity/ies
- Youth Input/Feedback
- Youth Network

Immediate Outcomes

- Facilitate capacity and advocacy around watershed and regional sustainability issues
- Maximize impact by advancing priorities that bring multiple interests together to work on shared interests
- Broaden and deepen TRCA's reach into its communities
- Empowed and Engaged Youth

Ultimate Outcomes

Healthy and Connected Communities

Section I – Items for Regional Watershed Alliance Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #2/17, Wednesday, February 21, 2018

FROM: Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

RE: **REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE – WATERSHED ENGAGEMENT
WORKING GROUP**

KEY ISSUE

Establish a working group comprised of the Regional Watershed Alliance membership to participate in the study, design, and development of an annual watershed forum in the Toronto region beginning in 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the Terms of Reference for the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) outlines an opportunity for members to provide, through watershed forums, events, and on-line engagement, a forum for watershed communication by maintaining and enhancing contacts within the community;

AND WHEREAS the Terms of Reference outlines a key goal and responsibility of the RWA to mobilize and empower networks of local communities to build capacity and influence people's behavior;

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

AND FURTHER THAT the Watershed Forum Working Group report back regularly to the RWA on progress as details on a watershed forum are established.

RATIONALE

With a mission to create healthy watersheds through advocacy, knowledge sharing and collective action, the RWA is positioned well to help deliver the next generation of conservation-based engagement in the Toronto region.

To successfully achieve this mission, the RWA would benefit from a mechanism that would allow them to interact with the public in a way that fosters strong relationships, allows for the communication new ideas, and creates a platform to lead by collective example.

As the guiding document for community-based engagement at TRCA, and supporting voice for the founding of the RWA, the TRCA Community Engagement Strategy outlines a recommendation to develop and organize new large-scale public events to augment existing watershed engagement activities.

In particular, the strategy recommends the initiation of an informative and interactive annual watershed forum that focuses on;

- Updates from the Regional Watershed Alliance, Indigenous Liaison Committee, Watershed / Waterfront Working Groups, and the Youth Council;

Item 9.4

- Deliver engagement and outreach activities resulting from RWA collective priorities action plan;
- New information on global, national and local sustainability challenges faced by urban and rural areas, how the challenges were addressed or managed and the relevance of these issues within TRCA's jurisdiction;
- Sharing of ideas and opportunities by community groups;
- Opportunities to ask questions of those who share ideas or opportunities;
- Facilitated sessions to help community groups tackle challenges they would like to address;
- Recognition of community champions and community groups;
- Networking opportunities that will encourage informal conversations and relationship building.

To achieve this recommendation, TRCA Staff have begun the process of allocating resources to design and develop an annual watershed forum beginning in 2018. To ensure that the voice of the RWA is integrated into this process from the beginning, the establishment of a Watershed Forum Working Group of the RWA would be a valuable contribution to the successful delivery of the watershed forum.

Further, a watershed forum would provide an effective opportunity for the RWA to position themselves as strong voice of civic leadership, while at the same time introducing themselves and their collective impact to the conservation focused community in the Toronto region.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Establish a Watershed Forum Working Group that consists of the Regional Watershed Alliance members at Meeting #2/17 on February 21st, 2018 that will regularly report back to the Regional Watershed Alliance as details on the watershed forum are developed.

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Date: February 12, 2018

Section I – Items for Regional Watershed Alliance Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #2/17, Wednesday, February 21, 2018

FROM: Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

RE: **2018 WATERSHED AND WATERFRONT EVENTS**

KEY ISSUE

A summary of 2018 signature watershed and waterfront events.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report on 2018 watershed and waterfront events be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Regional Watershed Alliance members engage in watershed and waterfront events through collaboration, participation, volunteer and fundraising opportunities.

BACKGROUND

TRCA hosts and delivers a wide range of public engagement programs and events each year. These events may range from conservation area family friendly events such as maple syrup festival at Kortright, to educational and stewardship workshops, community/business tree plantings and river clean up events, nature hikes, and professional education/ training seminars etc. TRCA staff also help support municipal events in our jurisdiction such as Region of Peel Water Festival. Information on these events are provided through specific invites and general posting on via TRCA's Events Calendar <https://trca.ca/events-calendar/>

For many years TRCA has also delivered large scale signature watershed and waterfront events across its jurisdiction to engage watershed residents, build public awareness, and to support the implementation of watershed priorities. The 2017 Community Engagement Strategy validated need for these watershed-based engagement activities and recommended the development of new large-scale public events to enhance public awareness and appreciation of our rivers and greenspace.

Some of TRCA's long standing watershed events have grown into more popular annual events, such as Paddle The Don which will be celebrating its twenty fifth anniversary this year. Paddle The Don was initially started by the Don Watershed Regeneration Council as a way to celebrate the Don by drawing attention to ongoing efforts to help improve the health of the Don River watershed. It has since become a fundraiser and to date has helped to raise over \$600,000 that goes towards ongoing restoration, stewardship programs and community engagement initiatives within the Don River watershed.

The following summary provides a snapshot of TRCA's signature watershed and waterfront events for 2018. These are events that TRCA hosts, often in collaboration with our partner municipalities and ENGO's and other agencies. Some of these events have a fundraising component and are hosted in partnership with The Living City Foundation.

There are various opportunities for Regional Watershed Alliance members to get involved. For example, members can engage with event planning or day-of volunteering, collaborate with TRCA on an event as a partner, or help with event promotion and seeking out sponsorship opportunities.

WATERSHED SIGNATURE EVENTS SUMMARY

DON RIVER WATERSHED EVENTS

Manulife Paddle the Don

Manulife Paddle the Don is one of TRCA's long running signature event. It represents a novel way for people to connect with the Don River watershed, by experiencing the river from a completely different vantage — from the water itself. Participants are provided an opportunity to paddle down the Don River from E.T. Seton Park to the Keating Channel in Lake Ontario. Through a partnership with Manulife, this event not only provides participants with a connection to the river, but also raises significant funds that go directly back into environmental initiatives in the watershed.

Date: Sunday, May 6, 2018

Location: Don River (E.T. Seton Park to Corktown Common), Toronto, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 1000

Mill Pond Splash

Mill Pond Splash is an annual celebration of the Don River watershed held in Richmond Hill. The festival is a unique opportunity for community members to learn about their local ecosystems and connect with the environmental groups of their area. Mill Pond Splash has a nineteen year legacy of collaboration with the Town of Richmond Hill to engage the community in restoration work and introduce them to environmental principles that will last a lifetime.

Date: Sunday, June 3, 2018

Location: Mill Pond Park, Richmond Hill, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 3500

ETOBICOKE-MIMICO CREEKS WATERSHED EVENTS

Heart Lake Dragon Boat Festival

The Heart Lake Dragon Boat Festival was developed in celebration of the Etobicoke-Mimico Creeks watersheds. Funds raised from the Festival will go towards the naturalization and restoration work being done by TRCA within the two watersheds. Within the beautiful natural setting of Heart Lake Conservation Area, the Festival will deliver a day of excitement on the water and fun for everyone!

Date: Saturday, June 9, 2018

Location: Heart Lake Conservation Area, Brampton, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 150 – 300

Bike the Creek

Bike the Creek is designed as a free, open, fun family event that showcases the Etobicoke Creek multi-use trail as an active transportation alternative. Participants cycle through the beautiful, ecologically and culturally important natural capital and heritage features within Brampton's and Caledon's urban river valleys. Five different rides are offered according to various skill levels. Pick up passport puzzle pieces at each pavilion for your chance to win great prizes. Bike the Creek runs rain or shine.

Date: Saturday, June 23, 2018

Location: Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, 292 Conestoga Dr., Brampton, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 700 – 900

Family Fishing Day

In partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources the Family Fishing Day provides an opportunity to learn about safe fishing. Over a two hour session participants learn about fishing in Ontario and get hands on experience on fishing at Heart Lake. Equipment is provided, and the cost is free to participate in the program.

Date: Saturday, July 7th & 8th, 2018

Location: Heart Lake Conservation Area, Brampton, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 40 people per session there are two sessions per day

HIGHLAND CREEK WATERSHED EVENTS

The Salmon Festival at Highland Creek

Held annually in Morningside Park, the Salmon Festival at Highland Creek is an event that brings watershed residents from across the region to view the annual salmon migration from Lake Ontario, up Highland Creek, through Morningside Park. The Salmon Festival offers children's activities, environmentally friendly vendors, live performances and guided nature hikes to celebrate the storied history of Highland Creek while witnessing nature in action in an urban setting.

Date: Sunday, September 30, 2018

Location: Morningside Park, Scarborough, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 2250

HUMBER RIVER WATERSHED EVENTS

Humber by Canoe

In partnership with the City of Toronto, TRCA launched the Humber by Canoe event which offered an opportunity for participants to get in a canoe to learn about the Humber River's rich cultural and recreational values and raise profile of the Humber River's Canadian Heritage Rivers designation. For a majority of the event participants this is their first experience being in a canoe. The event offers training by trained professionals.

In 2019, the Humber will be celebrating the Humber's 20th anniversary as a Canadian Heritage River. The 20th anniversary celebrations provide various opportunities for Alliance members to get involved from the event planning stages onwards.

Date: September, 2018

Location: Etienne Brule Park, Toronto, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 2,000

Dinner at the Farm: A Night of Culinary Enchantment in Support of Black Creek Community Farm

Black Creek Community Farm hosts an annual on-farm fundraiser dinner in collaboration with some of the best chefs in the Greater Toronto Area. This is an opportunity to support the educational programming at this unique urban farm, celebrate urban agriculture in Toronto, and enjoy delicious tapas-style food right from the farm. Celebrate local food under the night sky and support a valuable community space in the Jane and Finch neighbourhood.

Date: Thursday, September 13, 2018

Location: Black Creek Community Farm, 4929 Jane Street (at Steeles), Toronto, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 250

ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED EVENTS

Morningside Creek Festival

As part of Rouge Days, the Morningside Creek Festival invites the community to learn about the Rouge River watershed by getting involved in habitat restoration and joining guided nature hikes. This family-friendly event invites partner organizations and community members to help TRCA and the City of Toronto achieve the goals of a multi-year restoration project along Morningside Creek.

Date: June, 2018

Location: Seasons Park, 40 Seasons Dr., Scarborough, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 500

WATERFRONT EVENTS

Lake Ontario Evenings

Lake Ontario Evenings are a public speaker series on topics affecting the lake hosted by the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Program. Three to four Lake Ontario Evenings are held annually which usually include three 20 minute presentations from the invited speakers and a question/discussion period. In 2017, topics included microplastics, Toronto water quality issues, and biodiversity and citizen science.

Evenings are free of charge, easily accessible by public transportation (usually held at the Gladstone Hotel), and include free snacks and drinks for purchase. Events are advertised through the RAP mailing list (mailchimp), on the RAP and TRCA website, and through social media (Twitter and Facebook). Participation generally ranges from 80 to 110 individuals, with representatives from all three levels of government, community groups, academia, and the general public in attendance.

RWA members could participate in Lake Ontario Evenings by attending or volunteering at events, advertising through their networks, and/or providing recommendations on speakers or topics to the RAP team.

Date: Various

Location: Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W, Toronto, ON

Typical Attendance Numbers: 80 – 110

Report prepared by: Sonia Dhir, extension 5291

Emails: Sonia.dhir@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Sonia Dhir, extension 5291 or Cindy Barr, extension 5569

Emails: Sonia.dhir@trca.on.ca, cindy.barr@trca.on.ca

Date: February 13, 2018

Section III – Items for the Information of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #2/17, Wednesday, February 21, 2018

FROM: Chandra Sharma, Director, Watershed Strategies

RE: **GREAT LAKES PROTECTION INITIATIVE**

KEY ISSUE

To share Environment and Climate Change Canada's funding opportunities with Regional Watershed Alliance members and their networks.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information on funding opportunities through the Great Lakes Protection Initiative be received;

AND FURTHER THAT members of the Regional Watershed Alliance are encouraged to discuss any collaboration opportunities with TRCA staff.

BACKGROUND

Environment and Climate Change Canada announced a call for applications to eight Environmental Funding Programs, including funding under the *Great Lakes Protection Initiative* which includes the fund to **Restore Areas of Concern**, formerly known as the "**Great Lakes Sustainability Fund**."

Through the *Great Lakes Protection Initiative*, the Environment and Climate Change Canada takes action to address the most significant environmental challenges affecting Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health by delivering on Canada's commitments under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

To help achieve this goal, the Environment and Climate Change Canada is making funding available to support action by others to:

- **Prevent toxic and nuisance algae:** Increasing participation in the application of phosphorus load reduction measures by demonstrating innovative approaches and best practices and promoting broad uptake and application.
- **Reduce releases of harmful chemicals:** Increasing participation in the application of beyond-compliance measures to reduce releases of chemicals of mutual concern by developing, implementing, assessing and promoting use of innovative approaches.
- **Engage Indigenous Peoples in addressing Great Lakes issues:** Enhancing Indigenous capacity to address Great Lakes issues through projects that engage Indigenous Peoples at the community level.
- **Increase public engagement through citizen science:** Enhancing Canadians' knowledge of and engagement in addressing Great Lakes issues through participation in citizen science.
- **Restore Areas of Concern:** Supporting action at the local level to restore water quality and aquatic ecosystem health by implementing projects identified in Area of Concern Remedial Action Plans.

The submission deadline for applications is **March 15, 2018** at 11:59PM EST.

Item 10.3

The purpose of the 2018/19 Call for Proposals for the Restore Areas of Concern (AOC) fund is to solicit project proposals that will contribute towards the completion of necessary actions identified in the AOC's most current Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and/or Work Plan as this will facilitate the re-designation of beneficial use impairments (BUIs) and the eventual delisting of the AOC. With this in mind, please demonstrate clearly how your proposed project will contribute to the restoration of BUIs or achievement of delisting targets for an AOC. **Priority for funding will be given to those proposals that directly address projects/priority actions in current RAP Stage 2/Stage 2 Update Reports and Implementation Work Plans for the AOC that you are applying under.**

To learn more about all of the Great Lakes Protection Initiative funding opportunities and how to apply, please visit:

www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/great-lakes-protection/funding or contact ec.grandslacs-greatlakes.ec@canada.ca.

For general information on the *Great Lakes Protection Initiative*, please visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/great-lakes-protection.html>

RATIONALE

A number of new funding pools are now available through ECCC's Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI). Several TRCA projects advance the goals of GLPI and are eligible to apply to at least one of the five funding streams. TRCA will also support collaboration with community groups and other agencies to help align initiatives, achieve desired results, efficiency and increased impact.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance are encouraged to reach out to TRCA staff prior to Feb 28th 2018 should they wish to submit a grant proposal in collaboration with TRCA.

Report prepared by: Valerie Francella, extension 5322

Attachments: 1

Emails: Vfrancella@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Nancy Gaffney, extension 5313

Emails: nancy.gaffney@trca.on.ca

Date: February 12, 2018

Attachments: 1

Great Lakes Protection Initiative

Overview of Application-Based Funding Opportunities

PREVENTING TOXIC AND NUISANCE ALGAE	REDUCING RELEASES OF HARMFUL CHEMICALS	ENGAGING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN ADDRESSING GREAT LAKES ISSUES	INCREASING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH CITIZEN SCIENCE	RESTORING AREAS OF CONCERN
PROGRAM GOAL				
To decrease loadings of phosphorus to Lake Erie from Canadian sources.	To reduce releases of Chemicals of Mutual Concern (CMCs) to the Great Lakes from Canadian sources.	To increase Indigenous participation in decision making processes and actions to restore and protect Great Lakes water quality.	To increase Canadians’ knowledge of and engagement in addressing Great Lakes water quality and ecosystem health issues.	To restore water quality and ecosystem health in Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs).
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE FOR APPLICATION-BASED FUNDING				
Increase participation in the application of phosphorus load reduction measures by demonstrating innovative approaches and best management practices and promoting their broad uptake and application.	Increase participation in the application of beyond-compliance measures to reduce releases of CMCs by developing, implementing, assessing and promoting use of innovative approaches.	Enhance Indigenous capacity to address Great Lakes issues by implementing projects that engage Indigenous Peoples at the community level.	Enhance Canadians’ knowledge of and engagement in addressing Great Lakes issues through participation in citizen science.	Support action at the local level to restore water quality and aquatic ecosystem health by implementing projects identified in AOC Remedial Action Plans.
ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Authorities Indigenous communities or their governments Indigenous organizations or associations Industry associations Municipalities Non-government Organizations Not for profit and for profit organizations Research, academic and educational institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Authorities Indigenous communities or their governments Indigenous organizations or associations Industry associations Municipalities Non-government Organizations Not for profit and for profit organizations Research, academic and educational institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous communities or their governments Indigenous organizations or associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Authorities Indigenous communities or their governments Indigenous organizations or associations Non-governmental organizations Not for profit organizations For profit organizations Research, academic and educational institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Authorities Indigenous communities or their governments Indigenous organizations or associations Municipalities Non-governmental organizations Not for profit and for profit organizations Research, academic and educational institutions
ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing and evaluating innovative approaches or technologies to reduce phosphorus loads. Implementing and evaluating the effectiveness of Best Management Practices to reduce phosphorus loads. Increasing the extent of natural features (e.g. wetlands) and/or enhancing their effectiveness in reducing phosphorus loads. <p><i>*All projects must contain an outreach plan detailing how the project will promote broad uptake and application of the phosphorus reduction measures demonstrated.</i></p>	<p>Demonstration and assessment of approaches that reduce releases of CMCs in the Great Lakes basin from Canadian sources, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced life-cycle / end of life management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Lakes restoration, conservation or protection projects. Science related to Great Lakes issues. Creation of networks for Indigenous experts to share knowledge/experience. Projects building awareness of Great Lakes issues. 	<p>Projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of people participating in Great Lakes citizen science; Engage citizens in a manner that increases their knowledge of Great Lakes issues; AND, Collect and make available useful scientific information. 	<p>Projects in AOCs that contribute directly to eliminating identified “beneficial use impairments” by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring degraded habitat Remediating contaminated sediment Reducing point and non-point pollution
FUNDING DETAILS				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects up to \$600K. No matching funds required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects up to \$100K. No matching funds required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects up to \$100K. No matching funds required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects up to \$1.8M. \$40K minimum funding request. No matching funds required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects typically range from \$25K to \$150K. 2/3 matching funds required.
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE				
Lake Erie drainage basin.	Great Lakes drainage basin.	Great Lakes drainage basin.	Great Lakes shorelines, nearshore and/or offshore areas.	14 Canadian Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

For more information, please visit <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/great-lakes-protection/funding.html>.