

Section III – Items for the Information of the Board

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Friday, February 3, 2023 Meeting

FROM: Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

RE: **2022 YEAR-END FUNDING AND GRANTS PROGRAM UPDATE**

KEY ISSUE

To provide a year-end update to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Board of Directors on the Funding and Grants program and to highlight program successes as of December 31, 2022.

RECOMMENDATION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the 2022 Year-End Funding and Grants program update, be received.

BACKGROUND

The Funding and Grants program within the Strategic Business Planning and Performance business unit provides timely and seamless support for all TRCA and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) funding and grant applications. This program provides opportunities for TRCA programs and services to diversify their revenue streams through additional support provided through the centralized funding and grants team. The funding and grants team also assists in strengthening leadership and collaboration among all divisions to ensure consensus in the prioritization and strategic positioning of all new funding opportunities.

RATIONALE

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the status of funding applications submitted as of December 31, 2022, which are organized based on their current status of approved, under review, and declined grants.

Relationship to TRCA's 2022-2034 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following Pillars and Outcomes set forth in TRCA's 2023-2034 Strategic Plan:

Pillar 4 Service Excellence:

4.2 Provide and manage an efficient and adaptable organization

Pillar 4 Service Excellence:

4.3 Responsive relationships and a trusted brand with a reputation for excellence

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022, the Funding and Grants program facilitated a total of 82 grant submissions with a total request value of \$24.5M. The

Item 10.1

additional revenues and support generated through the funding and grants program help to provide projects and programs with an increasingly sustainable business model by reducing reliance on partner municipality funding.

TRCA currently has \$7.9M in grant applications under review with various funding programs following grant applications that were submitted in 2022. Throughout 2022, TRCA received notice that \$14.2M had been awarded through the Funding and Grants program, and that \$8.9M had been declined. This indicates a program success rate of 61% as of December 31, 2022.

Table 1: Year-End Grant Program Update

Grant Status	# of Grants	Approved/Requested Funding \$ (000's)
Under Review Grants	22	7,894
Awarded Grants	52	14,159
Declined Grants	31	8,912

The Funding and Grants program successfully generated revenues for a wide variety of projects and programs across TRCA's divisions. Excluding grant programs with organization-wide benefits (such as Canada Summer Jobs), well over \$2M in grant revenue was generated for each of Education & Training; Conservation Parks & Lands; Development & Engineering; and Restoration & Infrastructure.

Table 2: Year-End Grant Awards by Division

TRCA Division	# of Grants	Approved Funding \$ (000's)
Education & Training	20	2,287
Conservation Parks & Lands	8	4,435
Development & Engineering	14	2,684
Restoration & Infrastructure	8	2,885

A significant portion of TRCA's grant funding for 2022 was awarded through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario's Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF). With the \$5.5M in grant revenue generated through the fund, TRCA is updating critical infrastructure at ten sites across its jurisdiction. Improvements include paving of roads and parking lots, retrofitting and rebuilding of park washrooms, trail construction, installation of picnic benches and shelters, and hazard removal. After a successful round of applications in the CCRF's first intake, the Funding and Grants team was able to successfully negotiate a second round of project funding to increase revenues through the program by more than 100%.

In addition to the divisional grants outlined in Table 2 above, TRCA was also awarded a record \$1.5M through the Canada Summer Jobs program. The Funding and Grants team has been managing TRCA's Canada Summer Jobs applications since 2018. Since 2020, TRCA's annual award through the program has increased by 160%, with wage subsidies benefitting TRCA projects and programs across the jurisdiction at sites including field centres, conservation parks, restoration sites, and many more.

Item 10.1

As well as the funding applications submitted and/or awarded in the 2022 fiscal year, TRCA continued to manage successful grants and funding from previous fiscal years that were still active in 2022. TRCA had budgeted a total of \$20.1M in revenues for 2022, which is representative of all sources of grant funding.

As of December 31, 2022, TRCA had earned 36% of its budgeted grant revenue for 2022. The percentage of revenue appears low as a result of the timing of invoicing for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF). TRCA staff continue to work closely with Infrastructure Canada program officers and will continue to report on the status of these projects.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Since 2021, the Funding and Grants team has increased its outreach and collaboration with funding partners resulting in the identification of additional funding opportunities beyond what was initially identified through public calls for proposals. The team is committed to continuing to develop professional channels with its funding partners to further increase the success and efficiency of the Funding and Grants program.

With the help of staff from across the organization, the Funding and Grants team has identified potential upcoming funding calls well in advance of their formal public announcement. By anticipating upcoming intakes of programs such as the Disaster and Mitigation Adaptation Fund and additional funding streams through Canada's National Adaptation Strategy, the Funding and Grants team is able to more efficiently collaborate with TRCA staff, municipal partners and other stakeholders to identify eligible programs, secure matching funding and develop and submit strong funding proposals for future grant intakes.

The Funding and Grants team will also continue to work closely with Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) and TRCA's partner municipalities to support joint interests. Staff are currently collaborating to develop a new Strategic Plan for TRCF, as well as revised fundraising strategies, policies and procedures to better enable TRCF to fundraise and direct funding to key TRCA priorities. The Funding and Grants team also continues to explore opportunities to put forward joint applications and co-applicant submissions wherever possible to ensure that the co-benefits of collaborative projects will be realized.

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Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Year-End Grant Program Update January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022