

### Section III – Items for the Information of the Board

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Executive Committee  
Friday, September 13, 2024 Meeting

**FROM:** Linda Charlebois, Director, Corporate Services

**RE: 2024 MID-YEAR GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE**

---

#### KEY ISSUE

To provide a mid-year update to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Board of Directors on the Grant Program and to highlight program successes as of July 31.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the staff report highlighting the mid-year Grant Program update for 2024, be received.**

#### BACKGROUND

The Grant Program within the Strategic Business Planning and Performance (SBPP) business unit provides timely and seamless support for all TRCA and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) 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. SBPP 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 July 31, 2024, which are organized based on their current status of approved, under review, and declined grants.

#### Relationship to TRCA's 2023-2034 Strategic Plan

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

### Pillar 4 Service Excellence:

4.2 Provide and manage an efficient and adaptable organization

### FINANCIAL DETAILS

Between January 1, 2024 and July 31, 2024, SBPP facilitated a total of 57 grant submissions with a total request of \$18.9M. The additional revenue and support generated through the funding and grants program helps to provide projects and programs with an increasingly sustainable business model by reducing reliance on partner municipality funding while also leveraging municipal funding to increase its overall impact. Between January 1, 2024 and July 31, 2024, \$2.8M in municipal funding was leveraged towards projects successfully supported by grants and other funding.

TRCA currently has \$20.5M in grant applications under review with various funding programs. Throughout 2024, TRCA received notice that \$4.9M has been awarded through the Grant Program and that \$8.8M has been declined. Additionally, 4 grants with a total request of \$700K have been waitlisted.

**Table 1: Mid-Year Grant Program Update**

<b>Grant Status</b>	<b># of Grants</b>	<b>Approved/Requested Funding \$ (000's)</b>
Under Review Grants	38	20,529
Awarded Grants	26	4,918
Declined Grants	36	8,796
Waitlisted Grants	4	700

SBPP working with staff across TRCA successfully generated revenues for a wide variety of projects and programs across TRCA's divisions and for TRCF campaigns. Excluding grant programs with organization-wide or multi-divisional benefits (such as Canada Summer Jobs), \$4.4M in grant revenue was generated for Restoration & Infrastructure and over \$1M was generated for Development & Engineering projects. Eight separate Education & Training programs received nearly \$250K in grant funding, while Conservation Parks & Lands completed its successful delivery of over \$5M in funding for capital projects awarded funding in 2022.

## Item 10.2

**Table 2: Mid-Year Grant Awards by Division**

<b>TRCA Division</b>	<b># of Grants</b>	<b>Approved Funding \$ (000's)</b>
Education & Training	8	245
Conservation Parks & Lands	1	7
Development & Engineering	8	1,022
Restoration & Infrastructure	8	4,416

SBPP was also able to continue to leverage its existing funding through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) to secure additional funding in support of the restoration of Eastbourne Park, adding an additional \$300K in grant funds towards the project. The Funding and Grants team worked with Conservation Ontario staff – who are administering the NSCSF on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada – to secure additional unspent funds from other organizations participating in the fund.

SBPP has also continued to work with TRCA's municipal partners to submit joint grant applications. \$24.5M in grant applications were submitted this way in 2023 with the City of Toronto, the Town of Ajax and the City of Brampton. In 2024, TRCA secured an additional \$3.2M in contracted projects through this process thanks to successful applications to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' Wetland Conservation Partnership Program in partnership with Ajax and Brampton.

In addition to the funding applications submitted and/or awarded in the 2024 fiscal year, TRCA continued to manage successful grants and funding from previous fiscal years that were still active in 2024. TRCA had budgeted a total of \$20.7M in grant revenues for 2024, which is representative of all sources of grant funding.

As of July 31, 2024, TRCA had received 6% of its budgeted grant revenue for 2024. The percentage of revenue earned appears low because of the timing of invoicing and financial processing for projects supported by high-value grants, including the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund and Canada Community Revitalization Fund. TRCA staff continue to work closely with federal program officers to claim grant funding and will continue to report on the status of these projects.

## Item 10.2

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

As detailed above, SBPP working with staff across TRCA has recently found success in coordinating between multiple provincial, federal, and non-government stakeholders to leverage existing funding towards additional grants to complete TRCA and TRCF projects using alternative revenue sources to municipal levy and self-generated revenues. SBPP will continue to work closely with program staff across federal and provincial departments and ministries to leverage existing funding where possible and identify opportunities for out-of-cycle grant applications.

SBPP will also continue to work closely with TRCF, non-governmental partners and its partner municipalities and senior levels of government to support joint interests. TRCA staff are currently collaborating to implement a sponsorship program which will enable priority TRCA projects to benefit from corporate support. TRCA staff are also exploring opportunities to put forward joint applications and co-applicant submissions wherever possible to ensure that the co-benefits of associated projects will be realized.

**Report prepared by: Max Smith, Funding & Grants Coordinator**

**Email: [max.smith@trca.ca](mailto:max.smith@trca.ca)**

**For Information contact: Linda Charlebois, (437) 522-4106**

**Email: [linda.charlebois@trca.ca](mailto:linda.charlebois@trca.ca)**

**Date: July 17, 2024**

**Attachments: 1**

Attachment 1: 2024 Mid-Year Grant Program Update