

Section III – Items for the Information of the Board

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Friday, February 7, 2025 Meeting

FROM: Linda Charlebois, Director, Corporate Services

**RE: 2024 YEAR-END FUNDING AND GRANTS PROGRAM
UPDATE**

KEY ISSUE

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

RECOMMENDATION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the 2024 Year-End Funding and Grants Program Update, be received.

BACKGROUND

The Funding and Grants 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) 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. 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 December 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 December 31, 2024 SBPP facilitated a total of 71 grant submissions with a total request value of \$26M. The additional revenue and support generated through the Funding and Grants program supports TRCA 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 December 31, 2024, \$1.8M in municipal funding was leveraged towards projects successfully supported by grants and other funding.

TRCA currently has \$16.1M in grant applications under review with various funding programs. Throughout 2024, TRCA received notice that \$8M has been awarded through the Funding and Grants program.

Table 1: Year-End Funding and Grants Program Update

Grant Status	# of Grants	Approved/Requested Funding \$ (000's)
Under Review Grants	25	16,149
Awarded Grants	42	8,029
Declined Grants	48	1,919
Waitlisted Grants	4	1,680

SBPP successfully generated revenues for a wide variety of projects and programs across TRCA's divisions. Excluding grant programs with organization-wide or multi-divisional benefits (such as Canada Summer Jobs), over \$1M in grant revenue was generated for each of Development & Engineering and Education & Training. Restoration & Infrastructure programs received more than \$3.5M in grant funding, while Conservation Parks & Lands completed its successful delivery of over \$5M in funding for capital projects awarded funding in 2022.

Table 2: Year-End Grant Awards by Division

TRCA Division	# of Grants	Approved Funding \$ (000's)
Education & Training	14	1,651
Conservation Parks & Lands	2	22
Development & Engineering	10	1,385
Restoration & Infrastructure	12	3,540

In 2024, SBPP leveraged existing funding through the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) to secure additional funding in support of the restoration of Eastbourne Park. This effort was strengthened through ongoing collaboration with Conservation Ontario staff, who administer the NSCSF on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada. SBPP successfully accessed unspent funds reallocated from other organizations participating in the fund.

Additionally, SBPP partnered with staff from the Town of Ajax and the City of Brampton to secure over \$3M in funding to support wetland conservation projects within these two municipalities.

In addition to the funding applications submitted and/or awarded in the 2023 fiscal year, TRCA continued to manage grants and funding from previous fiscal years that remained active in 2024. For the 2024 fiscal year, TRCA budgeted a total of \$38.1 million in grant revenues, representing all sources of grant funding.

As of December 31, 2024, TRCA had earned 60% of its budgeted grant revenue for the year. This percentage appears lower than expected due to the timing of invoicing for projects supported by high-value grants, such as the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. TRCA staff continue to work closely with federal program officers to claim grant funding and will provide ongoing updates on the status of these projects.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

As outlined above, SBPP has successfully coordinated efforts among multiple provincial, federal, and non-government stakeholders to leverage existing funding and secure additional grants, thereby supporting TRCA projects through alternative revenue sources beyond municipal levies and

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self-generated revenues. The team will continue to collaborate with program staff across federal and provincial departments and ministries to maximize funding opportunities and identify prospects for out-of-cycle grant applications.

SBPP will also maintain close collaboration with TRCF and TRCA's partner municipalities to support shared priorities. Current efforts include the development of a sponsorship program to enable corporate support for priority TRCA projects. Additionally, SBPP is exploring opportunities to submit joint applications and co-applicant submissions, ensuring that the co-benefits of associated projects are fully realized.

Report prepared by: Max Smith, Supervisor, Strategic Business Planning & Performance

Email: max.smith@trca.ca

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

Email: linda.charlebois@trca.ca

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Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: 2024 Year-End Funding and Grants Program Update