

RES.#R10/17 -

REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE COLLECTIVE PRIORITIES (2018 – 2019)

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

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Seconded by: Heather Broadbent

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.

CARRIED

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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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