

Section II – Items for Executive Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Meeting #4/19, Friday, May 03, 2019

FROM: Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

RE: **MUNICIPAL WATER SERVICING**
Swan Lake Centre for Conservation
1229 Bethesda Side Road, Richmond Hill

KEY ISSUE

Securing municipal water servicing to TRCA's Swan Lake Centre for Conservation through a collaborative partnership with DG Group.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS DG Group is constructing a new watermain along Bethesda Side Road, between the terminus of the existing municipal services eastward to Leslie Street;

AND WHEREAS the proposed watermain will abut TRCA's Swan Lake Centre for Conservation (Swan Lake) facility on Bethesda Side Road;

AND WHEREAS the Swan Lake facility is currently on well water service and it is beneficial to TRCA to connect to municipal water services for improved operation of the Swan Lake facility;

AND WHEREAS TRCA staff have discussed the opportunity with DG Group to connect to the new municipal watermain at the time of its construction, and confirmed that the DG Group is prepared to work with TRCA on this initiative;

THAT staff be authorized to enter into an agreement with DG Group to bring a water service to our Swan Lake facility;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take whatever action may be required to implement the agreement, including the obtaining of necessary approvals and the signing and execution of any documents.

BACKGROUND

West Gormley is a planned residential community, located west of Leslie Street, south of Bethesda Side Road, in the Town of Richmond Hill. Initial phases of development have occurred adjacent to Bayview Avenue, and subsequent phases of development are planned adjacent to Leslie Street. Several plans of subdivision within this next phase of development were approved by the Ontario Municipal Board in 2016. In order to facilitate this next phase of development, new municipal servicing is required to connect to the adjacent sanitary sewer and watermain network. This work has been approved by the City of Richmond Hill, Region of York and TRCA and is to be constructed by the developer. Multiple TRCA permits were required to facilitate this work, and TRCA's Executive Committee approved the associated permits on June 30, 2017 and March 2, 2018.

Item 9.1.

TRCA's Swan Lake Centre for Conservation is located on the south side of Bethesda Side Road, between Leslie Street and Bayview Avenue - directly adjacent to the proposed new watermain. The Swan Lake facility is currently on septic and well water services. With the new municipal water services that will be provided by the proposed watermain, it is possible for a water connection to be made to TRCA's Swan Lake facility at the time of construction of the watermain. Transitioning TRCA's facilities to a municipal water supply is a goal of TRCA staff, as it provides for sustainability, security and reliability with respect to domestic water quantity and quality to our facilities. TRCA staff have discussed the potential for a connection to Swan Lake at this time, with the developer, and an opportunity does exist for us to work collaboratively together. Specifically, DG Group is prepared to provide for the watermain connection from the watermain to the Swan Lake main building, in exchange for TRCA waiving/applying equivalent TRCA permitting fees associated with required permit renewals for their West Gormley subdivisions that are of an equal or greater value of the works.

RATIONALE

TRCA staff see significant value in attaining municipal water servicing to the Swan Lake facility at this time. The facility is currently occupied by TRCA Archaeology staff and TRCA has also entered into an agreement with the York Region District School Board (YRDSB) for use of a portion of the facility for outdoor education programming. TRCA is required to test the well water on a regular basis to meet TRCA's potable water policy, Ontario Regulation 170, and the YRDSB policies. Replacing the well with a municipal water service will reduce staff time to manage the water testing at this location and will provide a safe drinking water supply. This reduction of staff time would result in an annual savings of approximately \$10,000.

Through partnering with DG Group on this initiative and having their contractor install the water service connection to Swan Lake, significant cost savings will be realized over TRCA hiring a contractor to complete this work at a later date, through reducing procurement and mobilization costs, as well as attaining stand-alone approvals. Further, TRCA staff are supportive of applying DG's permitting fees in exchange for work of equal or greater value, as a means of financing this work. DG Group has submitted several applications for permit renewals for their West Gormley subdivisions, which would be applicable and referenced in the agreement.

Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan

This report supports the following strategy set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

Strategy 1 – Green the Toronto region's economy

Strategy 7 – Build Partnerships and new business models.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The DG is proposing to provide the watermain connection at the road and a 50 mm waterline to the Swan Lake facility. In order to facilitate this portion of the work, TRCA staff are proposing to work with DG, to waive final permit fees (approximately \$20,000) in exchange for this work.

TRCA will be responsible for the cost to connect the waterline into the Swan Lake main building, to attain the necessary permits and archaeological clearances required to facilitate the work. TRCA's share of the costs for this work is estimated to be \$20,000. Funds are available in TRCA's existing Major Facility Retrofit Budget 006-35, to cover this cost.

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