

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
Meeting #6/19, Friday, June 21, 2019

FROM: Moranne McDonnell, Director, Restoration and Infrastructure

RE: **TORONTO ZOO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT**

KEY ISSUE

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) request for Board of Directors approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) setting the guiding principles of a long-term relationship between TRCA and the Toronto Zoo, and a subsequent Master Service Agreement with the Toronto Zoo for a variety of environmental initiatives that provide mutual benefits to the two organizations in the Rouge River Watershed on the Toronto Zoo operated lands.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is dedicated to the conservation and management of natural resources;

AND WHEREAS the Toronto Zoo operates a zoological gardens and related facilities in the City of Toronto on lands partially owned by TRCA;

AND WHEREAS TRCA and the Toronto Zoo have a longstanding collaborative working relationship involving a variety of management initiatives and ecological restoration projects;

AND WHEREAS TRCA and the Toronto Zoo desire to support the activities of the other from a position of collaborating on projects that are beneficial to the Rouge River Watershed and the City of Toronto;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT TRCA staff be directed to enter into a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Toronto Zoo to agree upon the general principles which will guide cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations on a variety of natural resources management and related environmental initiatives;

THAT staff be directed to enter into a subsequent Master Service Agreement and Letter Agreements with the Toronto Zoo for TRCA to undertake a variety of activities on behalf of the Toronto Zoo that may include but not be limited to activities such as:

- (a) erosion hazard mitigation;**
- (b) sourcing disposal sites requiring clean organics from animal digestate;**
- (c) forest management and arboricultural services;**
- (d) review of TRCA Permit Applications under O.Reg. 166/06, including water resources engineering, geotechnical engineering and ecology;**

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- (e) coordination with City of Toronto Urban Forestry – Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law staff;
- (f) restoration opportunities planning and habitat restoration implementation;
- (g) invasive species management planning and ongoing management services;
- (h) wildlife management services;
- (i) carbon accounting and other energy management services;
- (j) trails and facilities planning design and implementation;
- (k) education and outreach related services;

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

BACKGROUND

TRCA and the Toronto Zoo have a longstanding relationship, which goes back to at least 1978 as part of the implementation of a tripartite agreement with the City of Toronto granting the Toronto Zoo permission to operate on 237 hectares of TRCA lands with 83% of the total 287 hectares currently being occupied.

Through ongoing conversations regarding various land management initiatives on the zoo-operated lands over the past forty years, TRCA and the Toronto Zoo have collaborated on several environmental initiatives including education and outreach, sustainability best management practices, invasive species control, habitat restoration and development, and erosion mitigation.

RATIONALE

With both organizations playing an integral role in the development and protection of the Rouge River Watershed, and the desire to support the activities of the other from a position of collaboration, the establishment of agreements is a key component of legitimizing a long-standing relationship into a more formal business arrangement.

The development and execution of an MOU allows the two organizations to agree on the guiding principles of a long-term partnership that seeks to expedite initiatives that are deemed beneficial to both parties. An MOU is typically intended to be non-binding, but it signals the intention of two parties to enter into future agreements from a position of mutual respect and shared objectives.

Where specialized services are requested to be provided by TRCA to advance specific initiatives of the Toronto Zoo, a Master Service Agreement and subsequent Letter Agreements govern the terms and conditions related to how future services will be provided. It is recommended that the Master Service Agreement with the Toronto Zoo be similar to the type of agreement that TRCA has with the City of Toronto Parks and Forestry Division but tailored specifically to the needs of the Toronto Zoo on their managed lands. With respect to the provision of specific services, a Letter Agreement appended as a Schedule to the Master Service Agreement speaks to the scope of work, budget, schedule and other project-specific details.

Item 8.4.

It is the desire of TRCA and the Toronto Zoo to develop and execute the MOU in summer 2019 following approval by each party's respective Board of Directors, with the Master Service Agreement to follow as soon as possible thereafter. Once the Master Service Agreement is executed, Letter Agreements may be developed and executed from a pre-approved template on an as-needed basis.

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

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

Strategy 2 – Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations

Strategy 3 – Rethink greenspace to maximize its value

Strategy 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

FINANCIAL DETAILS

TRCA and the Toronto Zoo will each fund their respective costs associated with the development and execution of these agreements, with TRCA's portion covered by projects funded by its stakeholders.

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Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Draft Memorandum of Understanding with Toronto Zoo