

Items for the Action of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Meeting #3/19, Wednesday, September 11, 2019

FROM: Gary Bowen, Government and Community Relations Specialist, Durham
Watersheds, Community Engagement & Outreach

RE: **CARRUTHERS CREEK WATERSHED PLAN: PHASE 2 UPDATE**

KEY ISSUE

To update the Regional Watershed Alliance on the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Workplan, including stakeholder consultation, and to solicit feedback on the draft Management Framework presented by staff.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance receive the report and staff presentation for information;

AND FURTHER THAT Regional Watershed Alliance members provide feedback on the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Management Framework and be encouraged to participate in Stage 2 consultation on this plan.

BACKGROUND

On April 1, 2015, Durham Region Council authorized Regional staff to engage the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in a fee for service arrangement to update the 2003 Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan (CCWP) on the Region's behalf. In June 2015, the TRCA received authority from the TRCA Board of Directors to enter into a service level agreement with the Region and to initiate the project.

The CCWP update is being completed in two Phases. Phase 1 culminated in the preparation of seven peer reviewed technical reports that characterized the watershed's existing conditions. Phase 2 was initiated in October 2017 and includes land use scenario development, technical analysis, public consultation, and an examination of a management framework. The CCWP is scheduled for completion by the end of 2019. The last update on the CCWP to the Regional Watershed Alliance was at meeting #1/18 (May 23, 2018) and included a detailed description of Phase 2 activities.

As part of Phase 2, extensive public consultation is occurring in three stages:

Stage 1: The first stage of consultation took place between December 2017 and was completed in October 2018. The *CCWP Communications and Consultation Summary Phase 2, Stage 1* (Attachment #1) provides a detailed summary of Stage 1 activities and results and was approved by Region of Durham Planning and Development Committee on May 7, 2019.

Stage 2: The second stage of consultation is currently underway and has the objective of gathering feedback on the draft Management Framework including Goals, Objectives, Indicators, Targets, and Management Recommendations from all stakeholders. Stage 2 will

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culminate in Fall 2019 with Public Open Houses being hosted in both Ajax and Pickering. Regional Watershed Alliance members are encouraged to take part in the Public Open Houses and provide comments.

Stage 3: The third stage of consultation will solicit feedback on the draft Watershed Plan.

RATIONALE

TRCA has assessed the many changes and impacts which have occurred in the Carruthers Creek watershed since 2003. The updated CCWP will guide future decision-making by proposing recommendations for the protection, restoration, enhancement and overall management of the watershed. Public and stakeholder consultation planned for Fall of 2019 will be critical to identify current issues and potential solutions that will guide the development of the CCWP management framework.

The Regional Watershed Alliance is an advisory committee to the TRCA Board of Directors and as such, will be consulted throughout the CCWP development process. This consultation with the Regional Watershed Alliance will include consultation on the future draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan.

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 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment

Strategy 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship

Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The CCWP is a multi-year project funded entirely by the Region of Durham through a service agreement with TRCA.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Phase 2 of the CCWP will continue to proceed in accordance with the approved workplan and *CCWP Communications and Consultation Strategy* (Attachment #3). The remaining high-level tasks to be completed are as follows:

- All Phase 2 technical reports will undergo external peer review, like Phase 1 technical reports, and be integrated to develop the Management Framework.
- Phase 2, Stage 2 consultation will focus on the CCWP Management Framework and will be completed in Fall 2019. Interactive workshops were hosted with internal TRCA technical experts as well as with municipal partners in July 2019. Public Open Houses will be hosted in October 2019 (one in Ajax and one in Pickering) to solicit feedback on the Management Framework from all stakeholders.
- Feedback from Phase 2, Stage 2 will be integrated into the draft Watershed Plan.
- Phase 2, Stage 3 consultation will focus on soliciting feedback on the draft Watershed Plan and is scheduled for completion in December 2019.
- TRCA will continue to consult monthly with municipal staff and present at Durham, Ajax and Pickering councils and/or standing committees of council as required.

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Date: June 26, 2019
Attachments: 3

Attachment 1: CCWP Communications and Consultation Summary Phase 2, Stage 1
Attachment 2: CCWP Communications and Consultation Strategy