

### Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Board of Directors  
Meeting #8/19, Friday, September 27, 2019

**FROM:** Chandra Sharma, Director, Community Engagement and Outreach

**RE:** **CARRUTHERS CREEK WATERSHED PLAN**  
September 2019 Update

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#### KEY ISSUE

Annual update to the Board of Directors on the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan

#### RECOMMENDATION

**WHEREAS TRCA Board Resolution #A106/15 requires staff to report on the progress of the Carruthers Creek Watershed Planning process to the Board of Directors annually, or more frequently as needed, and at the completion of the Watershed Plan;**

**THEREFORE IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan update be received.**

#### BACKGROUND

On April 1, 2015 Durham Region Council authorized staff to engage Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to update the 2003 Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan (CCWP) on the Region's behalf. The CCWP will be completed in two phases. Phase 1 was completed in October 2017 and culminated in the preparation of seven peer reviewed technical reports that characterized the watershed's existing conditions.

TRCA staff updates the Board of Directors annually, or more frequently as needed, in keeping with Authority Resolution #A106/15. The history of reporting to the Authority on this project includes the following resolutions:

- Authority Meeting #6/15, held on June 26, 2015, Resolution #A106/15
- Authority Meeting #6/16, held on July 22, 2016, Resolution #A128/16
- Authority Meeting #8/16, held on October 28, 2016, Resolution #A169/16
- Authority Meeting #8/17, held on October 27, 2017, Resolution #A194/17
- Authority Meeting #5/18, held on June 22, 2018, Resolution #A102/18

The last update to the Authority in June 2018 gave a detailed overview of the work involved in Phase 2 of the CCWP that was initiated in October 2017 and scheduled for completion in late 2019. The *CCWP Phase 2 Workplan (Updated April 2019)* (Attachment #1) provides detail on all tasks associated with Phase 2 of the CCWP.

#### *Technical Work*

The Phase 2 technical work completed to date includes:

- Establishing the updated Goals and Objectives of the Watershed Plan
- Development of five land use scenarios for the watershed consisting of:
  - Historical – Historical land use conditions from 1999
  - Current – Existing land use conditions from 2015
  - Scenario 1 (+OP) – Refines “Current” conditions by assuming all lands south of

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- the Greenbelt are developed as approved up to 2031 in the Official Plans
- Scenario 2 (+NHS) – Refines “Scenario 1” by adding an enhanced Natural Heritage System
- Scenario 3 (+ Potential Urban) – Illustrates prospective development in the headwaters outside of the enhanced Natural Heritage System identified in “Scenario 2”
- Evaluation and modelling of the land use scenarios including hydrology, hydrogeology, water quantity and quality, fluvial geomorphology, aquatic response, and terrestrial response.
- Development of the Table of Contents of the CCWP
- Development of Management Framework (including Goals, Objectives, Indicators, Targets and Management Recommendations) based on integration of all peer reviewed technical work from Phase 1 and Phase 2.

### *Consultation*

All consultation is completed in accordance with the *CCWP Communications and Consultation Strategy* (Attachment #2) as approved by Region of Durham in May 2018. In support of the Phase 2 technical work, TRCA is undertaking extensive stakeholder and public consultation. The Phase 2 consultation is occurring in three stages:

- Stage 1 – Consultation on updating the Vision Statement and promoting the CCWP process to the public.
- Stage 2: Consultation on the draft Management Recommendations
- Stage 3: Consultation on the draft Watershed Plan.

The first stage of consultation was initiated in December 2017 and was completed in October 2018. The *CCWP Communications and Consultation Summary Phase 2, Stage 1* (Attachment #3) 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. 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. To date, TRCA and municipal partner staff have been engaged to provide feedback on the draft Management Framework in July 2019. Stage 2 will culminate in Fall 2019 with Public Open Houses being hosted in both Ajax (October 8, 2019) and Pickering (October 10, 2019).

### **RATIONALE**

TRCA staff updates the Board of Directors annually, or more frequently as needed. This report to the Board comprises the annual update on the CCWP.

### **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 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge**

**Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability**

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### FINANCIAL DETAILS

The CCWP is a multi-year project with a total budget of \$1,089,431 funded 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 consultation strategy. The remaining high-level tasks to be completed are as follows:

- Phase 2, Stage 2 consultation will focus on the CCWP Management Framework and will be completed in Fall 2019. A Public Open House will be hosted in both Ajax and Pickering in October 2019 to solicit feedback on the Management Framework from all stakeholders.
- Indigenous partners will be engaged as part of Stage 2 consultation prior to the Public Open Houses.
- All feedback from Phase 2, Stage 2 will be integrated to draft the final CCWP and is scheduled for completion in December 2019.
- Phase 2, Stage 3 consultation will focus on soliciting feedback on the draft CCWP.

Staff will continue to consult monthly with municipal staff and update both the Board and the Region of Durham on the status of the study, as needed, as it progresses towards completion.

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**Date: September 13, 2019**

**Attachments: 3**

Attachment 1: CCWP Phase 2 Workplan (Updated April 2019)

Attachment 2: CCWP Communications and Consultation Strategy

Attachment 3: CCWP Communications and Consultation Summary Phase 2, Stage 1