

Section III – Items for the Information of the Board

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Meeting #11/19, Friday, February 07, 2020

FROM: Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

RE: **2019 YEAR END FUNDING AND GRANTS UPDATE**

KEY ISSUE

To provide a year-end summary to the Funding and Grants program and to highlight the success rate for 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the year-end Funding and Grants Program update for 2019, be received.

BACKGROUND

The Funding and Grants Program (the Program) within the Strategic Business Planning and Performance business unit provides timely and strategic support for all Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) funding and grant applications. The Program provides opportunities for TRCA programs and services represented in Divisions across TRCA to diversify their revenue streams through additional support provided through the centralized funding and grants team. The funding and grants team apprises Divisions of opportunities and helps to coordinate information from various Divisions to meet submissions deadlines and technical requirements. The funding and grants team also assists in strengthening the leadership and collaboration among all divisions to ensure consensus in the prioritization and strategic positioning of all new funding opportunities.

At Executive Committee Meeting #7/19, held on September 6, 2019, Resolution #B100/19 was approved as follows:

THAT the in-year Funding and Grants Program update for 2019, be received.

The in-year report provided an interim update to the status and success of the various grants and funding applications. This current year-end report builds on the information provided in the interim report extending the information to December 31, 2019.

RATIONALE

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the status of funding applications submitted in the current or previous fiscal years where an approval or decline notice was received in 2019. The attachment also highlights funding applications submitted in the current or previous fiscal years that remain under review with the funder. The attachment is updated as of December 31, 2019. All financial information is reported in '000's.

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 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 9 – Measure performance

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FINANCIAL DETAILS

Throughout the 2019 fiscal year, the Program has facilitated a total of sixty-four submissions to a variety of grant opportunities, with a total request value of \$125,691. The additional revenues and support generated through the Program helps to provide projects and internal programs with increased support in developing sustainable business models and reducing reliance on partner municipality funding where possible.

TRCA currently has \$19,936 in grant applications under review with various external funders, following submissions in the current or previous fiscal years. In 2019, TRCA has received notice that \$62,289 has been awarded through the Funding and Grants program and \$3,761 has been declined. This provides TRCA with a success rate of 94% as of December 31, 2019, as noted in the table below.

Table 1: Year-End Grant Program Update

Grant Status	# of Grants	Approved/Requested Funding \$ (000's)
Under Review	15	\$19,936
Awarded	38	\$62,289
Declined	25	\$3,761

In addition to funding applications submitted and/or awarded in the current fiscal year, TRCA continues to manage grants and funding that have been successful in previous fiscal years and are still active in 2019. TRCA has budgeted a total of \$19,200 in revenues for 2019, which is representative of all sources of grant funding.

As of December 31, 2019, TRCA received 30% of the budgeted grant revenue for 2019. The percentage of revenue received appears low for two reasons. First, some projects which were expected to commence in 2019 have been postponed to 2020. For example, TRCA budgeted to receive \$3,551 for the *Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)* in 2019. As a result of ongoing negotiations towards a contribution agreement, projects associated with this grant have been delayed. As the federal fiscal year ends on March 31, however, TRCA still has a fiscal quarter to recoup some funds associated with the grant prior to federal year-ending. Second, TRCA is currently working to finalize internal 2019 year-end accounting processes. TRCA's grant revenue will be finalized once the external audit of TRCA's financial statements is completed in June 2020.

The following section highlights some of the major projects and programs that make up the budgeted total by sector.

Federal

Toronto Region Ravine Erosion Management and Hazard Mitigation Project – with funding from the Government of Canada's *DMAF program*, the project will be implemented to address erosion issues along ravine systems in the Region of Peel, York Region and the City of Toronto over the next ten years.

Waterfront Erosion Hazard Mitigation Project – With funding from the Government of Canada's *DMAF program*, the project will repair 80 existing shoreline erosion control structures along the Toronto waterfront across 13 different parks. The project will protect over 10 kilometres of the Toronto waterfront over the next ten years. Although TRCA's application under Intake 1 of

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DMAF for the *Waterfront Erosion Hazard Mitigation Project* was not funded, TRCA was encouraged by the funder to submit the same application to the program's second stream, at which time the project was awarded for the full application amount.

Monarch Nation – TRCA was awarded a grant from Environment and Climate Change Canada to engage 55,000 children aged 6-12 in programming focused on species at risk from 2018-2021. In 2019, over 15,000 students were engaged by TRCA staff and Monarch Nation partners, and students planted 32,901 native plants.

Newcomer Youth Green Economy Project – TRCA was initially awarded over four million dollars for the Newcomer Youth Green Economy Project. This program will partner with educational institutions, newcomer serving agencies, and employers to create pathways to employment in the environmental sector for 450 newcomer youth in the GTA. Although Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada reduced its funding commitment to just over one million dollars due to budgetary restraints, this program represents a significant step forward in TRCA's engagement in green job creation and employment training.

Provincial

Drinking Water Source Protection Program – With funding from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the Drinking Water Source Protection Program supports communities to continue to protect their drinking water sources under Ontario's framework for source protection planning.

Professional Access Into Employment (PAIE) Program – With funding from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, the PAIE Program continues to help internationally-trained environmental engineers, geoscientists, planners, ecologists, and green building specialists to obtain commensurate employment in Ontario. In 2019, 44 participants completed the program and TRCA delivered 40 in-class job search, communications, and technical skills workshops to participants.

Municipal

Richmond Hill Community Stewardship Program – In 2019, with funding support from Richmond Hill's Community Stewardship Program, TRCA prepared and implemented four spring plantings and planted over 6,000 trees and shrubs on public land in Richmond Hill.

Non-Government

The Meadoway – As part of Phase 1 (2018-2020) of The Meadoway, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation committed \$10 million to TRCA to support the development of the active transportation network, meadow revitalization, education and community learning, and public relations and communications programs. In 2019, the multi-use trail Class Environmental Assessment and visualization toolkit were completed, 100 hectares of hydro corridor were managed for meadow restoration, over 6,000 community members were actively engaged, and a comprehensive communications strategy was developed for implementation in 2020.

The Funding and Grants Program continues to support the establishment and success of sustainable business models through collaboration with partners and the pursuit of diversified revenue streams which directs additional resources towards key initiatives.

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DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Staff have recently purchased new digital software that will both track and report on ongoing grant applications. As the program grows, staff will continue to develop a more comprehensive methodology for tracking additional funding and collaboration opportunities resulting from grants awarded to our partner municipalities.

TRCA will continue its efforts to grow the Funding and Grants Program to support both mandatory and non-mandatory activities as a means of reducing the anticipated financial impacts of changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. TRCA staff will continue to update the Board of Directors on a bi-annual basis regarding the status and success of the Program inclusive of reporting on the success rate and performance indicators for the program.

Beginning in late-2019, the Funding and Grants Program has been working closely with Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation to ensure the alignment of Foundation initiatives with Funding and Grants priorities. Consolidating the Foundation and Funding and Grants Program will enable TRCA to realize funding efficiencies and further mobilize a combined network of stakeholders.

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Attachment 1: Year-End Funding and Grant Program Update