

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
Meeting #3/20, Friday, April 24, 2020

FROM: John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer

RE: **PEEL CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE**

KEY ISSUE

Update on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's continued participation in the Peel Climate Change Partnership and Board of Directors endorsement of the associated Terms of Reference Update.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) continued participation, as a member of the Peel Climate Change Partnership, be endorsed;

THAT the Peel Climate Change Partnership Terms of Reference attached as Appendix I to the report, titled "Peel Climate Change Partnership Terms of Reference Update", be endorsed;

AND FURTHER THAT that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Partnership Member Organizations being the City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, Credit Valley Conservation, and the Region of Peel.

BACKGROUND

Since 2009, the Member Organizations of the Peel Climate Change Partnership (PCCP) have included the City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, Town of Caledon, Credit Valley Conservation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Region of Peel. Building upon the Region of Peel's Service Strategy Business Plan to address climate change adaptation and mitigation, the Region of Peel, together with the partners above, worked together to develop the Peel Climate Change Partnership ("the Partnership") in 2011. The Partnership built on ongoing and previous plans, policies and actions being undertaken by the six partners, intended to allow the scaling of practices within the region. Through the collaborative efforts of the Partnership, many of the priority actions outlined in the Region of Peel's Service Strategy Business Plan were implemented, including the development of a climate trends and futures report, cross sector community climate change vulnerability assessments, and a community greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

In 2017, the Partnership determined that a renewal of its original commitment was required in order to achieve greater collective impact over the next five years. The purpose of the Partnership is to identify those areas in which strategic collaboration will be most advantageous.

At Board of Directors Meeting #4/18, held on May 25, 2018, Resolution #A72/18 was approved in part as follows:

THAT the Region of Peel Community Climate Change Partnership Plan be approved, in principle;

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THAT staff be directed to continue to work with partners to achieve the desired outcomes established in the Plan;

The Partnership recently completed an update of its Terms of Reference to refresh its mandate and purpose, confirm ongoing value to members, review scope of priority work, and increase accountability. The Partnership Terms of Reference review occurred over several months in 2019, as a collective undertaking, and guided by a Working Group of executive leaders across the Partnership. The updated Peel Climate Change Partnership Terms of Reference (Attachment 1) and current Governance Structure (Attachment 2) were unanimously approved in principle by the Partnership's Steering Committee in December 2019.

RATIONALE

In order to focus member efforts, the Partnership has developed three strategies that partners align their work with: the Low Carbon Communities Strategy; the Green/Natural Infrastructure Strategy; and, the Flood Resiliency Strategy. TRCA has played, and continues to play, a key role in the development and implementation of these three strategies. By aligning work with Partnership strategies, TRCA ensures that staff efforts and resources support the needs and priorities of the Region of Peel and partner municipalities, while also maximizing the impacts of this work by coordinating with Partnership members. TRCA staff are working to enact the three current PCCP strategies through a variety of mechanisms and roles.

- **Low Carbon Communities Strategy** – TRCA is co-lead of the Low Carbon Communities Strategy, with the Town of Caledon. As part of this Strategy, TRCA is project managing the development of a Regional Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Strategy to accelerate the adoption of ZEVs in Peel Region. This work includes policy review and alignment mapping (complete), research and data analysis (currently underway) and hosting an action prioritization workshop and focus groups, as well as report synthesis and supporting implementation (to be completed). The ZEV Strategy is complemented by a recent joint grant application that was made by Partnership members to the Natural Resources Canada Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program for partial funding to install electric vehicle charging stations across Peel Region over the next 18 months. By working through the Partnership, minimum requirements for grant eligibility were exceeded.
- **Green/Natural Infrastructure Strategy** - The goal of the Green/Natural Infrastructure Strategy is to increase tree canopy to mitigate extreme heat and provide multiple co-benefits in high priority neighbourhoods in Peel Region. This strategy is co-led by TRCA, with the Region of Peel. Planting of street trees and stewardship efforts are targeting communities within Mississauga (Derry Rd E/Airport Rd), Brampton (Mavis/Hwy 407) and Caledon (Mayfield Rd/Hwy 50). As part of this Strategy, TRCA has worked to create a heat vulnerability index to identify, and support the selection of, these heat vulnerable areas in Peel. TRCA and partner staff are now in the process of forming implementation teams that can undertake community consultation and tree planting. This work is also complemented by the development of urban forest best practice manuals, being developed in collaboration with relevant partners, including the Region of Peel, local municipalities and both Conservation Authorities
- **Flood Resiliency Strategy** – The Flood Resiliency Strategy aims to strengthen the integrated approach to water management for collective action in reducing flood risk in priority areas and is led by Credit Valley Conservation. TRCA's work in flood outreach and flood emergency management, in partnership with the municipalities of Caledon,

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Brampton, and Mississauga, supports the objectives of this Strategy. As co-lead of the Emergency Preparedness component of the Flood Resiliency Strategy, TRCA staff conducted outreach efforts, including public open houses, in partnership with municipalities, for priority Flood Vulnerable Areas in Peel Region during Q1 2020. TRCA will be sharing lessons learned from this work with Partnership members and will also be initiating working groups to address technical, communications and training gaps identified by Partnership members related to emergency preparedness.

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 1 – Green the Toronto region’s economy

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

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

FINANCIAL DETAILS

TRCA leverages the special levy climate change funding provided by the Region to further activities that are in-line with Partnership objectives. In addition, TRCA pursues external funding through grant or other programs, where applicable and appropriate.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The Partnership strategies and associated work described above extend until 2022.

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Date: March 13, 2020

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Attachment 1: Peel Climate Change Partnership Terms of Reference

Attachment 2: Peel Climate Change Governance Structure