

## Item 7.2

### Items for the Action of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee

**TO:** Co-Chair and Members of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee  
Meeting #3/20, Tuesday, November 17, 2020

**FROM:** Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

**RE: PROPOSED UPDATE TO PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING FORMAT**

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#### KEY ISSUE

To effectively utilize the Executive Management Committee (EMC) meetings to not only govern Partners in Project Green by reviewing and approving programming and budgets, but also provide dedicated time to collaboratively provide leadership and strategic considerations for Partners in Project Green moving forward, enhancing alignment with PPG's Terms of Reference and Strategy Refresh 2019-2023.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**WHEREAS at Meeting #6/08, the TRCA Board of Directors approved the establishment of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee ("PPG EMC") as a subcommittee of the TRCA Board of Directors;**

**AND WHEREAS the PPG EMC has been convened to assist businesses in the Pearson Eco-Business Zone to improve their environmental performance, retain and attract more environmentally friendly investments, and act as a catalyst for innovation with a focus on reducing environmental impacts;**

**AND WHEREAS the PPG Executive Management Committee is responsible for providing leadership and acting as a catalyst for new ideas, innovation, excellence and improvement in the employment lands encompassed by the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond;**

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the proposed adjustment to the PPG EMC meeting format, including both 'Governance Activities' and 'Leadership Activities', be approved.**

#### BACKGROUND

Partners in Project Green: A Pearson Eco-Business Zone was launched in 2008 by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), with support from the Regional Municipalities of Peel and York, the City of Toronto and from the nearby business community to transform the employment lands surrounding Toronto Pearson, and located within TRCA's Etobicoke-Mimico Creeks Watershed into an internationally recognized community of eco-friendly businesses.

The creation of Partners in Project Green (PPG) stemmed from an eco-business model recommendation identified in a 2006 joint TRCA and GTAA report that provided restoration strategies for the natural and aquatic systems surrounding Toronto Pearson.

PPG's Executive Management Committee (EMC) was established as a subcommittee to the

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TRCA Board of Directors, representing a collaboration between the TRCA, Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), business community leaders and municipality leaders. The EMC's purpose includes:

- Assisting businesses in the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond to help improve their environmental performance while at the same time reducing overall business costs;
- Retaining and attracting clean and more environmentally friendly investments in the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond; and,
- Acting as a catalyst for new ideas, innovation, excellence and improvement in the employment lands, with a focus on reducing environmental impacts, encompassed by the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond.

At Board of Directors Meeting #4/19, held on April 26, 2019, Resolution #A51/19 was approved as follows:

*THAT the Partners in Project Green Strategic Refresh 2019-2023 and Executive Management Committee Terms of Reference 2019-2023 ... be approved*

This strategic refresh was intended to guide the next generation of eco-business activities through PPG focused on increased engagement, improved performance outcomes and enhanced alignment with municipal and business priorities.

Throughout 2020, the PPG EMC has convened twice (Meeting #1/2020 on June 12, 2020 and Meeting #2/2020 on September 22, 2020) with a primary focus on review and approval of reports brought forward by PPG staff. PPG staff identified a growing need for timely PPG EMC input on developing market changes, and several PPG EMC members indicated a desire to provide input on PPG activities at earlier stages of program development.

### **RATIONALE**

As outlined in the Executive Management Committee Terms of Reference 2019-2023 and the Partners in Project Green Strategic Refresh 2019-2023, key roles and responsibilities for the PPG EMC include:

- Assisting businesses in the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond to help improve environmental performance;
- Acting as a catalyst for new ideas, innovation, excellence and improvement in the employment lands, with a focus on reducing environmental impacts, encompassed by the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond, and
- Providing leadership and communication among Partners in Project Green members and supporters.

As PPG continues to evolve programming and activities to drive sustainability innovation in the Pearson eco-business zone and beyond, PPG staff have identified a growing need for timely PPG EMC input on developing market changes, programming updates, and other matters. To meet this need while performing the EMC's roles & responsibilities as outlined above, PPG staff seek to update the format of PPG EMC meetings going forward.

Whereas recent PPG EMC meetings have primarily focused on review and approval of reports brought forward by PPG staff, the proposed updated format will involve a dual focus on:

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- 1) Governance Activities: review and approval of reports brought forward by PPG staff, and
- 2) Leadership Activities: facilitated collaborative discussion on emerging market trends, brainstorming on the needs of businesses in the greater Toronto area, and providing thought leadership with a view toward practical and effective solutions to the emerging needs of GTA businesses.

With this report, PPG staff seek the Executive Management Committee's approval to update the format for PPG EMC meetings going forward. This updated format will make the most productive use of the extensive industry and government experience of the PPG EMC members, while bringing timely and collaboratively developed ideas to bear in promoting sustainable development within GTA businesses. This proposed format has been successfully employed in other TRCA committee contexts, including the *Outdoor Education Task Force* in 2020. It is anticipated that future PPG EMC meetings will begin with governance activities, representing approximately half of the dedicated meeting time, and close with leadership activities.

### **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 7 – Build partnerships and new business models**

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

**Strategy 10 – Accelerate innovation**

### **DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE**

Future PPG EMC meetings will include a section focused on providing leadership and strategic considerations for GTA businesses and Partners in Project Green programming. PPG staff will identify discussion topics in advance of each meeting, providing a listing of such topics in each meeting's agenda, which is distributed in advance. PPG EMC members will also provide additional topics for discussion to PPG staff as they arise.

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**Date: November 2, 2020**

**Attachments: 2**

Attachment 1: 2019-2023 Terms of Reference: Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee

Attachment 2: Partners in Project Green Strategic Refresh 2019-2023