

Section III – Items for the Information of the Board

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Friday, February 05, 2021 Meeting

FROM: Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

RE: **FUNDING AND GRANTS PROGRAM**
2020 Year-End Program Update

KEY ISSUE

To provide a year-end update to the Funding and Grants program and to highlight the success rate as of December 31, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the staff report highlighting the year-end Funding and Grants program update for 2020, be received.

BACKGROUND

The Funding and Grants program within the Strategic Business Planning and Performance business unit provides timely and seamless support for all Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) funding and grant applications. This program provides opportunities for TRCA programs and services to diversify their revenue streams through additional support provided through the centralized funding and grants team. 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.

RATIONALE

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the status of funding applications submitted as of December 31, 2020 which are organized based on their current status of approved, under review, and declined grants. The attachment is current as of December 31, 2020.

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

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Between January 2020 and December 31, 2020, the Funding and Grants program in partnership with divisional staff, has facilitated a total of 66 grant submissions with a total request of \$14M. The additional revenues and support generated through the funding and grants program help to provide projects and programs with an increasingly sustainable business model by reducing reliance on partner municipality funding.

TRCA currently has \$8.3M in grant applications under review with various funding programs following grant applications that were submitted throughout 2020. During 2020, TRCA received notice that \$3.3M has been awarded through the Funding and Grants program, and that \$21.3M has been declined. This indicates a 2020 success rate of 13% as of December 31, 2020 for the Funding and Grants program.

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Table 1: Year-end Grant Program Update

Grant Status	# of Grants	Approved/Requested Funding \$ (000's)
Under Review Grants	18	\$8,339
Awarded Grants	24	\$3,265
Declined Grants	34	\$21,294

In addition to the 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 were still active in 2020. TRCA budgeted a total of \$25.7M in revenues for 2020, which is representative of all sources of grant funding.

As of December 31 2020, TRCA had earned 38% of the budgeted grant revenue for 2020. The percentage of revenue earned appears low primarily as a result of the timing of invoicing for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF). TRCA staff are working closely with program officers throughout this process and will continue to report on the status of these projects. Additionally, delays related to approvals for The Meadoway trail implementation have caused much of this project to be deferred into 2021.

The following section highlights some of the major projects and programs that make up the budgeted total for each revenue category as well as a section highlighting partner funding applications where TRCA has assisted, or will contribute to implementation activities to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Federal

Toronto Region Ravine Erosion Management and Hazard Mitigation Project and Waterfront Erosion Hazard Mitigation Project– With funding from the Government of Canada’s DMAF program, these projects continue to be implemented to address erosion issues within TRCA’s jurisdiction. The projects address erosion along ravine systems in the Region of Peel, York Region and the City of Toronto, as well as maintaining and restoring TRCA’s extensive network of shoreline erosion control structures over the next 8 years.

The Newcomer Youth Green Economy Project (NYGEP) – With funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, NYGEP helps support newcomer youth interested in careers in the environmental sector by providing access to field trips, experiential learning opportunities, and job skills training. The program has proven to be a success, with full enrolment in the fall 2020 program and successful project implementation using virtual alternatives to accommodate public health restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

TRCA’s New Administrative Office Building – With funding from Natural Resources Canada’s Green Construction through Wood (GCWood) Program, TRCA is constructing a new mass timber head office building which promises to be one of the most energy-efficient office buildings in North America once completed.

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.

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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.

Municipal

Toronto Tree Cover Project – The Toronto Tree Cover Project engages communities throughout Toronto in support of the development and expansion of native tree cover on commercial, industrial and institutional lands throughout the city.

Non-Government

The Meadoway – With funding from the Weston Family Foundation, detailed design work is currently being completed for The Meadoway trail network, as well as extensive meadow restoration and outreach and education programs to engage and inform members of the surrounding community.

Partner Funding Applications

Downtown Brampton Flood Protection – TRCA staff assisted the City of Brampton in their application to the Government of Canada's DMAF program which successfully secured funding for the Downtown Brampton Flood Protection project. This project is a critical step towards achieving the City of Brampton's Riverwalk – a transformative opportunity for the City and its residents that will create new, open urban spaces revitalizing downtown and making it healthy, sustainable, and resilient.

Rockcliffe Flood Remediation: Jane Street Crossing – With funding from the Government of Canada through the DMAF program, City of Toronto received an investment of \$19M to reduce the impact of severe storms and flooding in Toronto's Rockcliffe-Smythe neighborhood with improvements to the Jane Street crossing. TRCA completed the Black Creek and Rockcliffe Flood Remediation and Transportation Feasibility Study in 2020. The Jane Street crossing is one component of the proposed solutions that will help reduce flooding in the Rockcliffe-Smythe neighborhood by reconstructing the existing crossing to allow for increased conveyance capacity of Black Creek flood waters underneath. This is a critical component of a broader flood mitigation strategy for the area.

Kingston Road Wetland – Following both Region of Durham and Town of Ajax's successful applications to the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), TRCA will assist in the implementation of the Kingston Road Wetland Project. This initiative will focus on implementing one wetland feature, enhance existing ponds within the floodplain, and plant native tree and shrub species to promote connectivity to the natural heritage system while providing bank stability and shade for Carruthers Creek. This project will improve the hydrology, water quality, and natural cover within the Carruthers Creek project area.

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.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Various aspects of the Funding and Grants Program were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in March 2020. Throughout the year, the Funding and Grants team worked with TRCA's funding partners to ensure that grant application submissions and reporting were

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submitted in a timely manner, despite delays and implementation changes caused by public health restrictions. The Funding and Grants team will continue to collaborate with partners to work around adjustments that continue to be made to address our current circumstances.

TRCA has also leveraged various aspects of the federal Economic Response Plan to support TRCA operations throughout the pandemic, including the Temporary Wage Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS). Between these programs, TRCA has so far received \$498,000 for the first 3 claim periods with approximately 10 claim periods still pending for submission. TRCA staff will continue to investigate all available options to assist in offsetting the continued revenue losses resulting from COVID-19 restrictions.

TRCA staff have also focused on further coordination with both the Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) and partner municipalities to better support joint interests. TRCA and TRCF staff are currently collaborating to develop a revised donation framework that will enable funds to be better directed to key TRCA priorities. TRCA staff are also exploring opportunities to put forward joint applications where TRCA is unable to be a lead applicant, such as ICIP released in late 2020. TRCA will continue to foster these important partnerships through joint and co-applicant submissions wherever possible to ensure that the co-benefits of the associated projects will be realized.

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Date: February 5, 2021

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Attachment 1: 2020 Year-End Grant Program Update