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Items for the Information of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee

TO: Chair and Members of the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee
Tuesday, March 02, 2021 Meeting

FROM: Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

RE: **2021 WATER STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE**

KEY ISSUE

Update on municipal programs affecting water stewardship programming, and overview of PPG Water Stewardship Program direction for 2021 that benefitted from facilitated roundtable and consultation discussions to assist with effective program delivery.

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the following information report and presentation on the highlights of 2021 PPG Water Stewardship program delivery be received.

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 municipalities including Peel, York, the City of Toronto, and lower tier municipalities including Mississauga and Brampton, 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.

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. The delivery model for Partners in Project Green was updated to include four performance areas:

1. Waste Management
2. Water Stewardship
3. Energy Performance & Low Carbon Transport, and
4. Communications & Engagement.

RATIONALE

The PPG Water Stewardship team consolidated the previous Stormwater Infrastructure Projects program, the Innovative Water Technologies program, and the Water Auditing program into two programs going forward: the Natural Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency program and the Water Efficiency program. Both programs went live on the Partners in Project Green website in

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December 2020 and are now readily available for businesses within TRCA's jurisdiction to access and utilize.

Natural Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency

The Natural Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency program helps property managers, commercial developers, industrial manufacturers, institutional facilities, and business owners understand their climate risks and identify opportunities to mitigate those risks and provides support to this segment of the marketplace to become more climate resilient.

This program focuses on natural infrastructure, utilizing the environmental services that nature provides as a method of building resiliency to climate change, while creating a host of co-benefits. The program will seek to reduce the area of impermeable surfaces through on-site implementation of natural infrastructure on corporate properties and through business-led sponsorship of stormwater offset projects. This program re-design aligns positively with City of Toronto's effort to update their Water Fees, Charges, and Programs; consultation took place in December 2020 (<http://www.toronto.ca/waterconsultation>). TRCA/PPG staff provided direct input on the potential for a stormwater charge credit program to be explored for the industrial, commercial, and institutional sector.

Water Efficiency Program

The Water Efficiency program is designed to work collaboratively with local municipalities to provide water efficiency project identification and implementation support for businesses. Partners in Project Green's role through this program is to help businesses in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) discover and successfully implement water stewardship projects in their facilities. Partners in Project Green helps organizations reduce their process water and wastewater footprint to maximize environmental benefits and minimize operational costs.

The Water Efficiency program is supported by Region of Peel, City of Toronto, and York Region and is offered by the municipalities with incentives available to help lower the capital costs required to implement water efficient upgrades.

Region of Peel's WaterSmart Peel programming focused on businesses includes Business Equipment Replacement Incentives, Irrigation System Assessments, and Indoor Water Assessments. This programming has been placed on hold for 2021 as announced through a stakeholder reference letter received in September 2020. These changes are a result of the Water Efficiency Strategy update, for which current review and evaluation for business support programs will be taking place in 2021.

Water Stewardship Roundtable Event

Following the COVID-related shutdown of multiple municipal water stewardship audit programs (such as the Region of Peel's WaterSmartPeel Indoor Water Assessment program), TRCA/PPG staff identified a need to develop targeted programming to assist local businesses in pursuing water efficiency and water stewardship programs. Following consultations with these municipalities, TRCA/PPG staff hosted an invite-only Water Stewardship Roundtable on November 25. The focus of this discussion was to uncover priorities and challenges shared by multiple local businesses related to on-site stormwater management, process water uses and wastewater footprint reduction, and collaboratively identify potential water stewardship projects which are viable despite municipal programming changes.

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15 organizations attended including the following corporations and municipal stakeholders:

- Air Canada
- Apotex
- Calstone
- Coca-Cola Bottling Limited
- Dextran Products
- Greater Toronto Airports Authority
- Longo's
- Molson-Coors
- Peel District School Board
- Region of Peel
- Seneca College
- Unity Health
- University of Toronto Mississauga
- Weston Foods
- York Region

61 distinct collaborative implementation opportunities were identified from this roundtable, including seven specific action items for the PPG Water Stewardship team to pursue in 2021:

1. Develop a Water Leaders Consortium concept
2. Confirm timelines for implementation of project opportunities
3. Perform resource gap analysis for each organization
4. Relay reference materials
5. Develop inventory of technical support
6. Pursue supportive governmental alignment
7. Develop case study repository

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

At upcoming PPG Executive Management Committee meetings, staff will provide detailed reports and updates related to the evolution of PPG's programming and formats, ensuring delivery of program outcomes while acting in accordance with public health directives related to pandemic spread.

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Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: 2021 Programming Update – Water Stewardship