

Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Directors
Friday, April 30, 2021 Meeting

FROM: Laurie Nelson, Director, Policy Planning

RE: **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, OAK RIDGES MORaine
GROUNDWATER PROGRAM**

KEY ISSUE

The 2020 annual program overview and 2021 workplan for the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP) has been released and a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed for this program. The previous MOU expired on December 31, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed for the collection, maintenance, and distribution of data by the Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program (ORMGP);

AND WHEREAS the terms and conditions of the MOU are satisfactory to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff'

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the 2020 Annual Program Overview and 2021 Workplan for the ORMGP be received;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized officials be directed to take the necessary action to implement the updated MOU for the ORMGP, including the signing and execution of documents.

BACKGROUND

The [ORMGP](#) was initiated in 1999 and previously referred to as the York Peel Durham Toronto (YPDT) and Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition (CAMC) Groundwater Management Program. This unique program reflects the interests of nine conservation authorities and four municipalities that are working together to better understand groundwater issues across the Greater Toronto Area. The ORM groundwater initiative continues to contribute insightful, practical deliverables to the partner agencies. The key focus areas of the groundwater program continue to be data management, geological understanding, numerical groundwater modeling and policy development. A large part of the program's success has been the delivery of data and tools at a practical level to partner agency staff and their consultants who are charged with understanding the groundwater system for a variety of day-to-day issues (e.g., development and infrastructure plan review, source water protection, etc.).

An important theme of the ORMGP initiative is that the major technical components assembled for the project including the database, hydrogeological interpretation, and numerical groundwater flow model, have been designed as a comprehensive groundwater analysis system. Each of the component parts are to be refined and updated on a continual basis. It is the goal of the partnered agencies that the project be maintained as a long-term initiative to continually build on the early development work that has now largely been completed.

Item 7.3

The Annual Program Overview for 2020 and Workplan for 2021 is attached, (Attachment 2), which provides further details on the vital work of this multi-agency collaborative.

After years of program development, the partners determined that there was a need to clearly define the terms and conditions for data collection, storage and sharing. A Memorandum of Understanding was prepared to address these issues, which expired December 31, 2020. An updated MOU, (Attachment 1), was approved by the ORMGP Technical Steering Committee in November 2020, with the understanding that the document would be submitted to all partner agencies for their review and signature.

RATIONALE

The *Memorandum of Understanding for the Collection, Maintenance, and Distribution of Groundwater Data and Information* includes the following key aspects:

- project and MOU objectives;
- data collection, storage and maintenance;
- interpretation of data and maintenance of such information;
- distribution of data and interpreted information;
- liability and insurance; and
- term of agreement, amendments, and termination.

This MOU reflects the outcome of a multi-year process that was initiated through the YPDT-CAMC Technical Steering Committee and culminated with the dedicated work of a legal team from the regional municipalities of Peel, York and Durham. It reflects the commitment of the partner agencies to, as much as possible, share the data and information that has been developed through the YPDT-CAMC Program.

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

Strategy 10 – Accelerate innovation

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The ORMGP is supported equally by the City of Toronto, and the Regions of Peel, York, and Durham through account code 104-90.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The MOU requires a signature by an authorized representative of TRCA.

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Attachments: 2

Attachment 1: Memorandum of Understanding for the Collection, Maintenance, and distribution of Program Data and Information

Attachment 2: Annual Program Overview (2020) and Workplan (2021); Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program