

### Item for the Information of the Regional Watershed Alliance

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance  
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 Meeting

**FROM:** Laurie Nelson, Director, Policy Planning

**RE:** **TRCA SUBMISSION - PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION ON GROWING THE SIZE OF THE GREENBELT (ERO #019-3136)**

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#### KEY ISSUE

To update and inform the Regional Watershed Alliance on TRCA's response to the Province of Ontario's consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt, as posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO).

#### RECOMMENDATION

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Regional Watershed Alliance receive this report for information.**

#### BACKGROUND

On February 17, 2021, the Province (Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing) initiated consultation on ways to grow and further enhance the Greenbelt through a posting on the ERO ([#019-3136](#)). The Ministry sought input on whether to include a study area for the Paris Galt Moraine in the Greenbelt and solicited ideas for adding, expanding, and further protecting Urban River Valleys (URVs). The ERO posting noted that policy changes, land removals or land exchanges would not be considered, and that any addition must connect physically or functionally to the Greenbelt, support the Plan's vision, objectives, and goals, and follow the Plan's current amendment process. While the consultation focused on two priority areas (Paris Galt Moraine and URVs), the Province also stated that they would receive input on 'other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt as well as other priorities that should be considered'. The commenting period for this posting closed April 19, 2021.

#### RATIONALE

The outcome of this initiative has implications on TRCA's day-to-day work in multiple roles as a resource management agency, a regulator, a public commenting body with delegated authority to represent the provincial interest for natural hazards, and landowner, in a region experiencing significant growth and associated land use and environmental challenges. Where appropriate, it is important for TRCA to provide input to encourage the Province to align with and support TRCA objectives and interests. This type of policy work is also important for strengthening relationships and coordination between TRCA, provincial and municipal partners.

TRCA has worked with provincial ministries, CAs and municipalities and key stakeholders in support of the establishment of the Plan, as well as subsequent efforts to grow and enhance it through mapping criteria and policy amendments. We continue to build upon these efforts by promoting the Plan as an integral component of environmental protection and progressive land use planning. TRCA also plays an ongoing key role in the implementation of the Plan through our role as a public commenting body on *Planning Act* applications and our delegated authority to represent the provincial interest in natural hazards. In this role, we provide municipalities, who are the approval authorities for the Plan, with technical advice in the interpretation of Plan policies and related technical guides. A copy of TRCA's submission to the Province in response

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to the consultation on growing the Greenbelt is provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

### **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 4 – Create complete communities that integrate nature and the built environment**

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

**Strategy 12 – Facilitate a region-wide approach to sustainability**

### **FINANCIAL DETAILS**

Staff are engaged in this policy analysis work per the normal course of duty, with funding support provided by TRCA's participating municipalities to account 120-12. No additional funding is proposed to support the policy analysis work associated with the preparation of these comments.

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

Staff will monitor the outcome of any future decision notices pertaining to this consultation and will report on the implications of any related legislative, regulatory and/or policy initiatives as appropriate and keep the Regional Watershed Alliance informed of related TRCA submissions accordingly.

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**Date: May 12, 2020**

**Attachments: 1**

Attachment 1: TRCA Submission to ERO#019-3136