

Section I – Items for the Board of Directors Action

TO: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee
Friday, June 11, 2021 Meeting

FROM: Anil Wijesooriya, Director, Restoration and Infrastructure

RE: **REQUEST TO ENTER INTO SINGLE SOURCE AGREEMENT WITH PORTS TORONTO FOR EMERGENCY DREDGING OF KEATING CHANNEL**
Limited tendering procurement of Ports Toronto dredging services

KEY ISSUE

Approval to enter into a single source agreement with Ports Toronto (formally Toronto Port Authority) to complete scoped dredging of Keating Channel in the City of Toronto.

RECOMMENDATION

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is engaged in a project that requires dredging services;

AND WHEREAS current high sediment levels in Keating Channel pose an increased risk for flooding and will interfere with Waterfront Toronto’s construction activities in the channel for Summer 2021 onwards;

AND WHEREAS in order to address the immediate flood risk it is recommended that 7,000 m³ of sediment is dredged at an estimated cost of \$750,000 for services by Ports Toronto;

AND WHEREAS Waterfront Toronto has committed to supplement TRCA’s existing funding in order to facilitate these dredging activities;

AND WHEREAS TRCA has an existing MOU with Ports Toronto where TRCA has committed to give due consideration to Ports Toronto when procuring services which are within their core competency, such as dredging and where Ports Toronto will give due consideration to TRCA when procuring services which are within their competencies such as ecological monitoring, restoration works and environmental studies;

AND WHEREAS working with Ports Toronto on this project is the best option to complete dredging based on current unit rates and sediment disposal considerations;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT TRCA enter into an agreement with Ports Toronto for the dredging of Keating Channel at a total cost not to exceed \$750,000 plus applicable taxes, to be expended as authorized by TRCA staff;

THAT TRCA staff be authorized to approve additional expenditures to a maximum of \$75,000 (10% of the project cost), plus applicable taxes, in excess of the contract agreement cost as a contingency allowance if deemed necessary;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take whatever action may be required to implement the contract agreement, including the obtaining of necessary approvals and the signing and execution of documents.

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BACKGROUND

Sedimentation in the Keating Channel is a long-standing issue that has impacted navigation and created flood risks. From 1991 – 2018 annual maintenance dredging for the Keating Channel was funded through a tri-party arrangement between the City of Toronto, TRCA, and Ports Toronto whereby each party contributed \$160,000 per annum. Over the past 30 years, the annual maintenance dredging which could be achieved with the total of \$480,000 became insufficient to keep up with the annual sediment deposition, which has resulted in the backlog of 80,000 – 100,000 m³ of sediment in Keating Channel.

In 2019, Waterfront Toronto contributed \$250,000 towards the total cost of scoped dredging in Keating Channel to address immediate flood risk. The dredging was conducted by Ports Toronto under a fee-for-service agreement with TRCA. Ports Toronto subsequently expressed interest in continuing to work as a dredging contractor to TRCA.

In late 2020, TRCA staff used sediment modelling to explore options to address the flood risk due to high sediment levels by dredging in the highest risk areas of the channel knowing that limited funds were available. Based on the modelling results, staff estimated that 7000 m³ of sediment must be removed to address the immediate flood risk. This dredging did not go forward in 2020 because of conflicts with fisheries timing windows, the need to consider alternative dredging methodologies, and a lack of confirmed sufficient funding. Waterfront Toronto agreed to contribute \$485,000 in 2021 to supplement the funding from the City of Toronto to complete the emergency dredging this summer. However, this action will not address the sediment backlog and it is estimated that an additional \$10- \$14 million may ultimately need to be allocated to the dredging program to maintain conveyance and facilitate Waterfront Toronto's upcoming construction activities from 2021 to 2023 subject to confirmation through ongoing TRCA studies.

RATIONALE

High sediment levels in Keating Channel in 2021 pose increased risk for flooding and will interfere with Waterfront Toronto's construction activities in the channel for Summer 2021 onwards. Further, the current high sediment level is an obstacle to dredging required before the end of 2023 by Waterfront Toronto to reach the design depth specified for the Port Lands Flood Protection Enabling Infrastructure project (PLFPEI) to achieve overall flood protection, as per the Don Mouth Naturalization Project Environmental Assessment (2016).

Staff recommend that the 2021 scoped dredging be completed by Ports Toronto through a letter agreement in accordance with the existing MOU (RO # 10022286). Ports Toronto is the best option to complete this dredging project based on competitive unit rates and their exclusive access to the confined disposal facility for contaminated sediment in Cell 3 at Tommy Thompson Park. If TRCA was required to dispose of sediment at another location it is anticipated this cost could be in the magnitude of \$130 per m³. This approach to procuring Ports Toronto for this work assignment has been discussed and endorsed at the intergovernmental Port Lands Executive Steering Committee.

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 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

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FINANCIAL DETAILS

The total cost to remove 7000 m³ is estimated to be \$750,000, plus applicable taxes, a 10% contingency, labour and lab costs for dredgeate monitoring, and TRCA administrative fees. Waterfront Toronto has committed to supplement TRCA's funding, to facilitate these activities. Funds will be tracked in 207-01.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Bathymetric sounding by Ports Toronto will be conducted to inform TRCA modelling and determine the highest risk areas of sediment accumulation in the channel. Dredging is expected to begin in July 2021 and continue until approximately 7000 m³ of sediment is removed.

Report prepared by: Maryam Iler, extension 5937

Emails: maryam.iler@trca.ca

For Information contact: Maryam Iler, extension 5937; Nancy Gaffney, extension 5313

Emails: maryam.iler@trca.ca; nancy.gaffney@trca.ca

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