

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

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance,  
Wednesday, September 22, 2021 Meeting

**FROM:** John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer

**RE:** **TRCA COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTRY OF  
ONTARIO POSTING (ERO #019-2986) – REGULATORY PROPOSALS  
(PHASE 1) UNDER THE CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT**

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#### KEY ISSUE

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO on the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' (MECP) posting of a "[REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE: Regulations Defining Core Mandate and Improving Governance, Oversight and Accountability of Conservation Authorities](#)", Phase 1 Regulatory Proposals under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**WHEREAS** on May 13, 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) posted a 'REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE: Regulations Defining Core Mandate and Improving Governance, Oversight and Accountability of Conservation Authorities' for public comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO);

**AND WHEREAS** the ERO imposed a June 27, 2021 deadline for submission of comments on this Phase 1 of the MECP's regulatory proposals under the *Conservation Authorities Act*;

**AND WHEREAS** discussions surrounding the core mandate of conservation authorities is of interest to the partners and stakeholders represented on the Regional Watershed Alliance;

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) comments to ERO #019-2986 be received.

#### BACKGROUND

On May 13, 2021, MECP posted on the [ERO](#) a "REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE: Regulations Defining Core Mandate and Improving Governance, Oversight and Accountability of Conservation Authorities" for a 45-day public commenting period ending June 27, 2021. The purpose of the Consultation Guide is to provide a description of the proposed regulations and solicit feedback that will be considered by the Ministry when developing this first phase of proposed regulations. The Guide does not include draft regulations. At the Board of Directors Meeting held on May 28, 2021, Resolution #A109/21 was approved as follows regarding the staff report and preliminary analysis of the ERO posting:

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*WHEREAS on May 13, 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) posted a 'REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE: Regulations Defining Core Mandate and Improving Governance, Oversight and Accountability of Conservation Authorities' for public comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO);*

*AND WHEREAS THE ERO imposes a June 27, 2021 deadline for submission of comments on this Phase 1 of the MECP's regulatory proposals under the Conservation Authorities Act;*

*THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff report and preliminary analysis of the ERO posting be received and that any comments from the Board of Directors inform TRCA's final ERO submission;*

*AND FURTHER THAT staff report back on TRCA's final ERO submission to the Board of Directors on June 25, 2021;*

*AND FURTHER THAT the Clerk and Manager, Policy, so advise TRCA's partner municipalities, the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), and Conservation Ontario.*

Furthermore, at the Board of Directors meeting held on June 25, 2021, Resolution #A142/21 was approved as follows regarding the draft ERO submission drafted by staff and shared with members of the Board of Directors for input, prior to finalization and submission:

*WHEREAS on May 13, 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) posted a 'REGULATORY PROPOSAL CONSULTATION GUIDE: Regulations Defining Core Mandate and Improving Governance, Oversight and Accountability of Conservation Authorities' for public comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO);*

*AND WHEREAS THE ERO imposes a June 27, 2021 deadline for submission of comments on this Phase 1 of the MECP's regulatory proposals under the Conservation Authorities Act;*

*THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) draft comments to ERO #019-2986 be received and that any comments from the Board of Directors inform TRCA's final submission to the ERO;*

*AND FURTHER THAT the Clerk and Manager, Policy, so advise TRCA's partner municipalities, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD), and Conservation Ontario.*

### **RATIONALE**

TRCA's finalized submission to the ERO posting, including recommendations to inform the development of the enabling CA Act regulations for Phase 1 of MECP's regulatory proposal, is provided in Attachment 1 for the information of the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA). As

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the RWA is composed of important partners and stakeholders within TRCA's jurisdiction, including elected officials, municipal staff, environmental organizations, community groups, and watershed residents, it is anticipated that TRCA's comments to this ERO posting, and subsequent regulations to be released by the Province, are of interest to the RWA.

It should also be noted that on June 18, 2021, The Honourable Dave Piccini assumed the role of Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks. Both the Chair and CEO have had discussions with Minister Piccini and TRCA looks forward to working collaboratively with the Minister in the future. Also, Greg Rickford is now Minister of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry and Minister, Indigenous Affairs.

### **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 7 – Build partnerships and new business models**

**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 are undertaking the following next steps:

- Continue to inform the Regional Watershed Alliance on any new postings on the ERO or other provincial initiatives related to the CA Act regulations and any outcomes of engagements with MECP and MNRF.
- Advance and protect TRCA interests through Senior Leadership Team representatives' role on the CA Act Working Group.

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**Date: July 22, 2021**

**Attachments: 1**

Attachment 1: TRCA Submission to ERO #019-2986