

## Section III – Items for the Information of the Board

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Executive Committee  
Friday, February 11, 2022 Meeting

**FROM:** Michael Tolensky, Chief Financial and Operating Officer

**RE:** **FUNDING AND GRANTS PROGRAM**  
Year-End Program Update

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### KEY ISSUE

To provide a year-end update to Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) Board of Directors on the Funding and Grants program and to highlight program successes as of December 31, 2021.

### RECOMMENDATION

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the staff report highlighting the year-end Funding and Grants program update for 2021, be received.**

### BACKGROUND

The Funding and Grants program within the Strategic Business Planning and Performance business unit provides timely and seamless support for all TRCA and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) funding and grant applications. This program provides opportunities for TRCA programs and services to diversify their revenue streams through additional support provided through the centralized funding and grants team. The funding and grants team also assists in strengthening the leadership and collaboration among all divisions to ensure consensus in the prioritization and strategic positioning of all new funding opportunities.

### RATIONALE

*Attachment 1* provides a summary of the status of funding applications submitted as of December 31, 2021, which are organized based on their current status of approved, under review, and declined grants.

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

**Strategy 9 – Measure performance**

### FINANCIAL DETAILS

Between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021, the Funding and Grants program facilitated a total of 71 grant submissions with a total request of \$21.3M. The additional revenues and support generated through the funding and grants program help to provide projects and programs with an increasingly sustainable business model by reducing reliance on partner municipality funding.

TRCA currently has \$11.2M in grant applications under review with various funding programs following grant applications that were submitted in 2021. Throughout 2021, TRCA received notice that \$7.8M had been awarded through the Funding and Grants program, and that \$9.7M has been declined.

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**Table 1: Year-End Grant Program Update**

<b>Grant Status</b>	<b># of Grants</b>	<b>Approved/Requested Funding \$ (000's)</b>
Under Review Grants	21	\$11,224
Awarded Grants	45	\$7,818
Declined Grants	21	\$9,675
Waitlisted Grants	2	\$98

The Funding and Grants team has developed a standard operating procedure for declined grants, including a follow-up interview with a funder representative conducted using a series of standardized questions to determine why the application was not funded and how future applications could be improved. These follow-up interviews provide valuable information regarding funder preferences as well as general improvements that could be made during the application process. Staff are informed of areas for improvement, and the Funding and Grants team makes note of lessons learned to apply to future grant cycles.

In addition to the funding applications submitted and/or awarded in the 2021 fiscal year, TRCA continued to manage successful grants and funding from previous fiscal years that were still active in 2021. TRCA had budgeted a total of \$17.6M in revenues for 2021, which is representative of all sources of grant funding.

The following section highlights some of the major projects and programs that make up the budgeted total for each revenue category:

### **Federal**

*Toronto Region Ravine Erosion Management and Hazard Mitigation Project and Waterfront Erosion Hazard Mitigation Project*– With funding from the Government of Canada's *Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund* (DMAF) program, these projects continue to be implemented to address erosion issues within TRCA's jurisdiction. The projects address erosion along ravine systems in the Region of Peel, York Region and the City of Toronto, as well as maintaining and restoring TRCA's extensive network of shoreline erosion control structures over the next 7 years.

*The Newcomer Youth Green Economy Project (NYGEP)* – With funding from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, NYGEP supports newcomer youth interested in careers in the environmental sector by providing access to experiential learning opportunities and job skills training. Despite challenges posed by restrictions to in-person learning, staff have mobilized virtual alternatives to ensure NYGEP's continuous and successful implementation.

*TRCA's New Administrative Office Building* – With funding from Natural Resources Canada's Green Construction through Wood (GCWood) Program, TRCA is constructing a new mass timber head office building which promises to be one of the most energy-efficient office buildings in North America once completed.

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### **Provincial**

*Professional Access Into Employment (PAIE) Program* – With renewed funding from the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development for a further 3 years of programming, the PAIE Program will continue to help internationally trained environmental engineers, geoscientists, planners, ecologists and green building specialists to obtain commensurate employment in Ontario which benefits from their academic and overseas work experience.

### **Municipal**

*Toronto Tree Cover Project* – The Toronto Tree Cover Project has engaged communities throughout Toronto in support of the development and expansion of native tree cover on commercial, industrial and institutional lands throughout the city for over three years.

### **Non-Government**

*The Meadoway* – With funding from The Weston Family Foundation, implementation of Section 5 of The Meadoway trail network has commenced with continued extensive meadow restoration, adaptive management and outreach and education programs to engage and inform members of the surrounding community. Through a new partnership with Conservation Ontario and Environment and Climate Change Canada, The Meadoway project has secured full funding to match the Weston Family Foundation's contributions until 2024.

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

In 2021 grant award notifications were frequently delayed. The Funding and Grants team has worked closely with TRCA's funding partners to ensure timely negotiation of agreements and minimal impact to project implementation resulting from delayed awards. The Funding and Grants team continues to develop close relationships with its funding and implementation partners to strengthen its funding applications and build upon past successes.

The *Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF)* opened a second intake to accept applications to its small-scale stream (projects with budgets between \$1M and \$20M) and large-scale stream (projects with budgets greater than \$20M). The Funding and Grants team collaborated with TRCA staff and municipal partners to identify eligible projects, secure matching dollars and develop and submit strong funding proposals. The Funding and Grants team will continue to work with TRCA staff and municipal partners to submit further proposals in the intake's second phase in summer 2022.

The Funding and Grants team has also worked with several of its partner municipalities to leverage grant funding received through municipal applications towards collaborative projects. TRCA has recently partnered with the City of Toronto and the City of Brampton to implement DMAF-funded projects originating from municipal-led applications, as well as the Town of Ajax to implement Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP)-funded collaborative works.

The Funding and Grants team will continue to work closely with TRCF and its partner municipalities to support joint interests. TRCA and TRCF staff are currently collaborating to develop a revised donation framework which will enable funds to be better directed to key TRCA priorities. TRCA staff are also exploring opportunities to put forward joint applications and co-applicant submissions wherever possible to ensure that the co-benefits of associated projects will be realized.

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**Date: February 25, 2022**  
**Attachments: 1**

Attachment 1: 2021 Year-End Grant Program Update