

Item 7.1

Item for the Action of the Regional Watershed Alliance

TO: Chair and Members of the Regional Watershed Alliance
Wednesday, May 25, 2022 Meeting

FROM: John MacKenzie, Chief Executive Officer

RE: **REVISED REGIONAL WATERSHED ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP
COMPOSITION**

KEY ISSUE

To propose and discuss a revised membership composition for the 2023-2025 term of the Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA).

RECOMMENDATION

THAT RWA members endorse the proposed revised membership composition structure of RWA, as outlined in the Rationale section below, in advance of the proposed changes being made for the 2023-2025 term of the RWA;

THAT the proposed revised membership composition structure be brought to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Board of Directors for approval;

AND FURTHER THAT the RWA Terms of Reference be amended accordingly, pending RWA and Board of Director approval of the revised membership composition structure.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) is an advisory committee to TRCA's Board of Directors, made up of up to 45 voting members. According to the RWA Terms of Reference, members are appointed for a 2-year period with a possibility of re-appointment. The current RWA membership categories and composition are as follows:

- TRCA Board of Directors: up to 5
- Watershed residents: up to 20
- Sector experts and organizations: up to 10
- Municipal representatives: up to 8
- Provincial representative: up to 1
- Federal representative: up to 1

The current members were re-appointed by the Board of Directors at its March 29, 2019 meeting for a term expiring at the end of 2021 (RES.#A40/19). At the October 22, 2021 Board of Directors meeting, CG-2.01-G Public Appointments Policy was approved, aligning all advisory board appointment terms with the municipal Term of Council, which will end on November 14, 2022 (RES.#A205/21). In order to align RWA membership timelines with the municipal Term of Council, at the November 19, 2021 Board of Directors meeting the Board extended RWA member terms by one (1) year to November 14, 2022 (RES.#A228/21).

RATIONALE

In advance of the new 2023-2024 term, TRCA staff believe there is an opportunity to enhance oversight, governance, and impact of the RWA by revising the current membership structure to reduce the number of members and expand member diversity.

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It is suggested that 45 voting members be reduced to 30 voting members in total. A reduced number is proposed to make the administration of the RWA, including recruitment processes, more efficient. There is also the need to align membership numbers with the current state of attendance and vacancies. RWA attendance has typically been in the range of approximately 15 to 25 members, out of 45 total member spots, in the past year or two. Currently, there are 13 vacant positions.

It is also proposed that two additional membership categories be introduced: Youth Council Representative and Indigenous Representative. Given that the TRCA Youth Council reports to the RWA, it is recommended that the Youth Council also has representation in the RWA itself. This new membership category would also ensure there is a dedicated representative from a Youth perspective. It is also recommended that an Indigenous Representative slot be added to provide explicit representation for the Indigenous communities that TRCA's jurisdiction covers.

The suggested membership structure, and associated details, are as follows:

- Youth Council Representatives: 2
- Indigenous Representative: 1
- Board of Director Representatives: 2
- Watershed Residents: Up to 12
 - Toronto: 2 representatives
 - Peel: 2 representatives
 - York: 2 representatives
 - Durham: 2 representatives
 - The remaining 4 spots will be flexible and can be utilized for Mono, Adjala-Tosorontio and/or additional representatives from the municipalities above.
- Sector Experts and Organizations: Up to 6
 - All representatives for this category must be located in and/or undertake work within TRCA's jurisdiction.
 - Representation will be sought from both experts/organizations with impact and/or jurisdiction that spans TRCA's jurisdiction and local/community-focused experts/organizations, with efforts made to include membership representation from across TRCA municipalities.
- Municipal Representatives: Up to 5
 - There will be a minimum of 1 representative each from Toronto, Peel and local municipalities, York and local municipalities, and Durham and local municipalities (4 total).
 - The remaining additional spot can be allocated to one of the municipalities above or to Mono/Adjala-Tosorontio
 - Municipal representatives may be Council members or staff
- Provincial Representative: 1
- Federal Representative: 1

Soliciting, vetting and selection of candidates will be done in accordance with TRCA's Public Appointment Policy. Where relevant, TRCA staff will be involved in selection of candidates and criteria will be developed in advance to guide the review process. It is intended that the Youth Council representatives would be elected from within, and by, the TRCA Youth Council Executive.

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Staff will also explore and pursue opportunities to create stronger linkages between the RWA and TRCA's other relevant committees, including the Natural Science and Education Committee and the Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee in order to inform the work, perspectives and collaboration opportunities of all these committees.

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 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship

Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models

Strategy 8 – Gather and share the best sustainability knowledge

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Administration of the RWA will continue to be covered through applicable Operating accounts.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

If a revised RWA membership structure is adopted, the following will need to be undertaken to ensure that the RWA continue to fulfill their intended role as an advisory committee to the Board of Directors:

- The Terms of Reference would be updated to make clear attendance expectations at RWA meetings and at what point a member will be removed for non-attendance.
- The Clerk's Office would closely monitor RWA member attendance and would follow up immediately with members that have missed meetings without an adequate reason. The Clerk's Office would also enforce the revised Terms of Reference and remove RWA members that do not comply with attendance requirements. The Clerk's Office and Government and Community Relations would work together to fill RWA vacancies in a timely manner.

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