



THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY #3/11

March 25, 2011

The Authority Meeting #3/11, was held in Weston Room B, Black Creek Pioneer Village, on Friday, March 25, 2011. The Chair Gerri Lynn O'Connor, called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

PRESENT

	At Start of Meeting	Meeting in Progress When Arrived	At End of Meeting	
Paul Ainslie	No	Yes	No	Member
Maria Augimeri	Yes		Yes	Vice Chair
Bryan Bertie	Yes		Yes	Member
Laurie Bruce	Yes		Yes	Member
Glenn De Baeremaeker	Yes		Yes	Member
Michael Di Biase	Yes		Yes	Member
Chris Fonseca	No	Yes	No	Member
Pamela Gough	Yes		Yes	Member
Lois Griffin	Yes		Yes	Member
Jack Heath	Yes		Yes	Member
Chin Lee	Yes		Yes	Member
Gloria Lindsay Luby	No	Yes	No	Member
Gerri Lynn O'Connor	Yes		Yes	Chair
Glenn Mason	Yes		Yes	Member
Anthony Perruzza	Yes		No	Member
Gino Rosati	Yes		No	Member
Dave Ryan	Yes		Yes	Member
John Sprovieri	Yes		Yes	Member
Jim Tovey	Yes		No	Member
Richard Whitehead	Yes		Yes	Member

ABSENT

David Barrow	Member
Bob Callahan	Member
Gay Cowbourne	Member
Vincent Crisanti	Member
Colleen Jordan	Member
Peter Milczyn	Member
Linda Pabst	Member
John Parker	Member

RES.#A41/11 - MINUTES

Moved by: Pamela Gough
Seconded by: Laurie Bruce

THAT the Minutes of Meeting #2/11, held on February 25, 2011, be approved.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

- (a) A delegation by Peter Orphanos, Chair, Sierra Club of Peel Region in regard to item AUTH7.1 - Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan.
- (b) A delegation by John Willetts, Friends of Claireville, in regard to item AUTH7.1 - Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan.
- (c) A delegation by Peter Orphanos, Chair, Sierra Club of Peel Region in regard to item AUTH7.2 - Riverstone Golf Course.
- (d) A delegation by John Willetts, Friends of Claireville, in regard to item AUTH7.2 - Riverstone Golf Course.
- (e) A delegation by Paul and Kristin Doan, representatives for the residents of Riverstone, in regard to item AUTH7.2 - Riverstone Golf Course.
- (f) A delegation by Todd Kerr, Director, Real Estate, Giampaolo Investments Limited, and Diarmuid Horgan, President, Candevcon Limited in regard to item AUTH7.2 - Riverstone Golf Course.

RES.#A42/11 - DELEGATIONS

Moved by: Gloria Lindsay Luby
Seconded by: Laurie Bruce

THAT above-noted delegations (a) and (b) be heard and received.

CARRIED

RES.#A43/11 - DELEGATIONS

Moved by: Gloria Lindsay Luby
Seconded by: Laurie Bruce

THAT above-noted delegations (c) - (f) be heard and received.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

- (a) A presentation by Gary Wilkins, Humber Watershed Specialist, TRCA, in regard to item AUTH7.1 - Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan.
- (b) A presentation by Quentin Hanchard, Manager, Development, Planning and Regulation, TRCA, in regard to item AUTH7.2 - Riverstone Golf Course.

RES.#A44/11 - PRESENTATIONS

Moved by: Gloria Lindsay Luby
Seconded by: Laurie Bruce

THAT above-noted presentation (a) be heard and received.

CARRIED

RES.#A45/11 - PRESENTATIONS

Moved by: Michael Di Biase
Seconded by: Bryan Bertie

THAT above-noted presentation (b) be heard and received.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) An email dated March 23, 2011 from Rosemary Pauer, resident, Brampton, in regard to item AUTH7.1 - Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan.
- (b) A letter from Robert Hulley and Heather Broadbent, Humber Watershed Alliance, in regard to item AUTH7.1 - Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan.
- (c) An email dated March 24, 2011 from Lynn Short, in regard to item AUTH7.1 - Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan.
- (d) A letter dated March 24, 2011 from Susan Fennell, Mayor, City of Brampton, in regard to item AUTH7.1 - Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan.

RES.#A46/11 - CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by: Gloria Lindsay Luby
Seconded by: Laurie Bruce

THAT above-noted correspondence (a) - (d) be received.

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE (A)

Rosemary <>

03/22/2011 05:14 PM

To <info@trca.on.ca>

cc

Subject Claireville Conservation Area

Dear Friends,

I have lived in Bramalea for thirty six years and have relied on Claireville Conservation Area as a wild place, where many animals and birds can be seen and it is possible to walk with nature close to home. For many years I have volunteered at the tree planting events and seen the trees grow over the years.

I understand that plans are in the works to make a wide trail around the conservation area, and this will result in great harm to wildlife, as it will be used by atvs and motor cycles and youths on the rampage. No matter what signs are posted, people ignore them, and a wide trail through bush will be just too tempting for those who do not care about wildlife. There is no need for any more trails.

Claireville is a precious resource, close to large populations, and the animals and birds there should be as undisturbed as possible. I oppose any further development on the area, including expanding golf courses, or taking any of Claireville for recreational uses. There is little enough room for the animals as it is, they are losing habitat at an alarming pace, so please leave them what there is now.

I understand that there is a meeting about this on 25th March, and I shall be glad if you will make my views known to the Chairman. Please leave Claireville as it is now.

Thanking you, yours truly, Rosemary Pauer

CORRESPONDENCE (B)

To the Chair and Members of the Authority Board,

Over the past five years the local Chapter of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario has worked tirelessly to open up to the public the vast heritage resources available in the Claireville Conservation Area (CCA).

Recently, we have sponsored, together with the Ontario Heritage Trust and the TRCA, two heritage hikes in conjunction with *Trails Open Ontario* which have been well attended and appreciated by those in attendance. One of the problems we have encountered in conducting these hikes is that there is no organized trail available for public use. In each case, we have had to create 'ad hoc' trails in conjunction with TRCA's environmental resources in order to seek out the most appropriate path so as not to endanger sensitive habitat areas. For this reason we not only welcome and support the plan for a permanent Inter-regional Trail for Claireville but feel it is of the utmost importance in order to protect sensitive areas and wild life in the CCA from indiscriminate use and to accommodate the growing population base in the area.

There are many heritage resources in the CCA. Among them is the McVean Double English Wheat Barn. We have worked with the Brampton Heritage Board to have this rare barn and surrounding areas designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and have an interpretive sign erected on the property. The Barn has been the destination for several well attended heritage tours over the past years since its designation.

There are other heritage sites in the CCA as well, including the site of the first merchant grist mill and saw mill on the West Humber River. There is also the site of the original settlement of the McVean and Lawrence Families who are considered to be among the first settlers in the area. There are a number of aboriginal sites including a Paleo Indian site. In addition, there are 'old growth forests', remnants of the Albion Plank Road route and The Wiley Bridge. The bridge is mentioned in the recently completed Humber Watershed Bridge Inventory and cited as a potential heritage property suitable for designation under the OHA.

In summary, we wholeheartedly support the establishment of an Inter-regional Trail in the CCA and believe it will not only benefit the community at large but enhance the surrounding tax base supporting Municipalities by providing an opportunity for local tourism and outdoor recreation and an appreciation of our culture and heritage. It almost goes without saying that we fully appreciate TRCA's efforts to fulfill their mandatory regulations to protect and preserve the sensitive areas of the CCA and know that under no circumstances, would TRCA allow a trail system to adversely impact sensitive habitats.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert B. Hulley,
Agent to the Board of Directors,
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario,
Member of the Heritage Subcommittee,
Humber Watershed Alliance.

Heather Broadbent,
Co-Chair Humber Watershed Alliance,
Co-Chair, Heritage Subcommittee,
Humber Watershed Alliance

CORRESPONDENCE (C)

"Lynn Short" <>

03/24/2011 09:54 PM

I appreciate that Claireville Conservation Area is a very special place for many people. It is important to create a situation that preserves its special aspects while allowing people to enjoy it.

There are areas that students can visit during the school year to learn about their environment. I have been part of that program at the Toronto District School Board, seeing students explore and learn at Claireville.

There are areas that children can explore in the summer while they participate in summer camp activities. I have been part of that, leading nature walks each summer for the adventure camp groups and witnessing the wonder in the children's eyes.

There are areas that are used by visitors from the public to walk dogs on leash or go on nature hikes. I have enjoyed walks through the park with friends and family in all the seasons.

There are areas that few people visit and are reserved for native animals. These are important habitats to support native species. I have participated in activities to support these areas, installing duck boxes and planting trees.

Visiting Claireville Conservation Area has the potential to expose people to the wonders of the natural environment thus invoking a sense of ownership and stewardship for the land and its plants and animals.

Claireville Conservation Area is a very important place for me and many other people of different ages. The surrounding areas are rapidly being developed into industrial and residential areas. This is an unstoppable reality of the GTA. As more people move into the surrounding residential areas, pressure to use Claireville for recreation will increase. It is crucial that this use of the conservation area be focussed in areas that will result in the least disturbance to environmentally sensitive areas and provide people with opportunities to enjoy Claireville and develop a sense of ownership and stewardship for the area.

An inter-regional trail will encourage visitors in Claireville to remain on the trail. People will take the path of least resistance, along the trail. This will keep people from entering the environmentally sensitive areas. Without a defined trail, visitors will develop their own trails which are not necessarily following paths that are desirable from an environmentally concerned perspective. I have witnessed dog owners with their pets off leash and running through areas without official paths. Creating a trail which is welcoming to visitors will allow visitation to the Conservation Area while resulting in a minimum disturbance to plant and animal life.

I support the idea of an inter-regional trail as a way of protecting the valuable environmental areas of Claireville while, at the same time, giving the residents of the surrounding areas access to this beautiful natural area in an environmentally responsible way.

Sincerely,
Lynn Short

CORRESPONDENCE (D)

Office of the Mayor

The Corporation of the City of Brampton



Susan Fennell
Mayor

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Toronto and Regional Conservation Authority
5 Shoreham Drive
Downsview, Ontario
M3N 1S4
Canada

Attention: Gerri Lynn O'Connor, Chair

At our meeting of December 15, 2010, Brampton City Council directed staff to work with TRCA to implement a comprehensive trail plan that connects the West Humber inter-regional trail and Claireville area trails. Brampton Council called for the trail network to be designed in keeping with the natural heritage protection objectives of Claireville with special attention to the unique environmental protection, restoration and enhancement opportunities north of Queen Street.

City staff are examining modification to the City's 3.0 metre asphalt standard to a granular path to minimize environmental impacts. As Mayor of the City of Brampton, I am personally aware that there is continued debate on this matter and I would suggest there needs to be some additional discussion and community consultation before the pathway portion of the management plan can be completed. I would therefore be grateful if the motion attached to this letter would be considered by the Board as a way to resolve the path component of the plan.

The City of Brampton has the funds in place to construct the trail and we look forward to the trail plans being finalized following the environmental review being carried out by TRCA in consultation with MNR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan D. Fennell".

Susan Fennell,
Mayor



**CITY OF BRAMPTON MOTION:
CLAIREVILLE CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN
PATHWAY ALIGNMENT AND STANDARDS**

WHEREAS an interregional trail supports TRCA strategy

WHEREAS an interregional trail supports The City of Brampton Pathways Master Plan

WHEREAS TRCA adopted a motion by Mayor Susan Fennell incorporating the urban forest and nature first philosophy into the Management Plan

WHEREAS the management principle of “land management activities shall implement sustainable best practices and strive to eliminate, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts natural cultural features functions and linkages” is highlighted in the plan.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT

1. The TRCA staff and biologists work with the City of Brampton and community groups to review and explore alternate trail alignment options and forms that ensure that the environmental integrity and environmental potential of the area is not compromised, and
2. The TRCA and City staff present the results of their review of the trail alignment and design standard to the public and stakeholders prior implementing the trail project.

SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION

RES.#A47/11 -

CLAIREVILLE CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Update (March 2011). Approval of the updated Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan.

Moved by: Glenn De Baeremaeker
Seconded by: Lois Griffin

THAT the Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan, dated March 2011, including updates described herein, be approved;

THAT funding for the implementation of the Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan be included in the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) capital budget ten year forecast for Peel Region;

THAT copies of the updated Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan be distributed to members of the Humber Watershed Alliance and Councillors and staff representing the City of Brampton, City of Toronto and Region of Peel who have a jurisdictional interest in the Claireville area;

THAT the Regional Municipality of Peel, City of Brampton and City of Toronto be requested to include consideration of the Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan in planning decisions related to this geographic area;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA staff continue to work with local community groups on trail options for the alignment in the vicinity of Queen Street and staff invite Authority members to attend a site visit.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Claireville Conservation Area (CCA) is an 838 hectare (2,100 acre) parcel of land owned by TRCA. This includes approximately 748 hectares of land and the 90 hectare Claireville Reservoir. It is located in the West Humber subwatershed and is almost 15 per cent of all the land owned by the TRCA in the Humber River watershed.

The CCA is located in the City of Brampton, Regional Municipality of Peel (728 hectares of land) and the City of Toronto (19 hectares of land). The CCA lands are bounded by Finch Avenue to the south, Goreway Drive to the west and Highway 427 to the east. Highway 407, Steeles Avenue and Regional Road 107 transect the property. The City of Mississauga abuts the property to the southwest and the City of Vaughan in the Regional Municipality of York abuts the property to the northeast.

The CCA is one of the largest tracts of land that TRCA owns. It is highly accessible to the public and has recreation, tourism and education facilities and programs. It is an integral part of the Toronto region's natural and cultural heritage fabric.

The existing management plan for the CCA was approved at Authority Meeting #2/97, held on April 4, 1997, with the adoption of Resolution #A46/97. Since the endorsement of the CCA Management Plan in 1997, the area surrounding the CCA has been subject to the influences of increased development that has surrounded the property, unauthorized public use and competing interests. Several years ago the Claireville Stewardship Committee suggested the management plan be re-visited to:

1. update out of date language and references;
2. add new technical knowledge and accomplishments;
3. re-assess the management zones based on the terrestrial natural heritage strategy model and subsequently to validate their accuracy or revise accordingly.

RATIONALE

Consultation

Updating the management plan has been done in consultation with a number of people and organizations.

1. Humber Watershed Alliance/Claireville Stewardship Committee

The Humber Watershed Alliance and Claireville Stewardship Committee assisted in updating the CCA Management Plan. They reviewed the 1997 management plan, made editorial suggestions, and recommended additions, deletions and corrections. The Stewardship Committee's primary suggestions were to remove the Commercial land management zone on Regional Road 107 and avoid trail impacts on interior forest habitat. The updates to the management plan for the CCA were approved by the Humber Watershed Alliance as Resolution #G24/10 at Meeting #3/10, held on September 21, 2010.

2. Municipal Partners

The CCA is an integral part of Brampton's environmental and social fabric. Consequently, City of Brampton representatives contributed to the update of the CCA management plan by reviewing and commenting on the draft, contributing to the development of strategic vision, goals and objectives, facilitating a public information session and attending site visits to view recommendations in the field.

At Authority Meeting #3/10, held on April 30, 2010, the Mayor of Brampton, Susan Fennell, made a presentation to emphasize the City of Brampton's interest in the CCA. At that same meeting Resolution #A46/10 was approved, in part, as follows:

...THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) approve, in principle, the following motion, subject to staff reviewing and reporting back to the Authority on its implementation and how it will be incorporated into the management plan:

THAT TRCA identify the Claireville Conservation Area as an Urban Forest;

THAT TRCA support the integration of Claireville into the environmental, social and cultural fabric of the City of Brampton;

THAT TRCA prepare a strategic vision, in partnership with the City of Brampton and other interested municipalities, to define a long term, environmental framework to guide the future planning of Claireville;

THAT TRCA consult and engage municipal and community partners to protect and restore Claireville;

THAT TRCA manage and program Claireville with a nature first philosophy to restore and enhance the environmental sustainability of the local and regional ecosystem;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA ban future development and land use activities in Claireville Conservation Area that will affect the ecological health and diversity of Claireville's natural heritage system.

This delegation and resolution reinforced the value that City of Brampton places upon the CCA as an important part of the natural heritage system, cultural heritage resource and an important recreational destination for City of Brampton residents. TRCA involved City of Brampton staff, the Regional Council member, and the Brampton Environmental Planning Advisory Committee in the process of updating the management plan.

In addition to the City of Brampton, staff from the cities of Mississauga, Toronto and Vaughan and the Regional Municipality of Peel were also provided the opportunity to comment on the recommended updates to the management plan. Only Toronto and Peel Region staff responded.

3. General Public

At the outset of updating the management plan, it was understood that recreation, education and stewardship of the CCA are very important to the community at large. A public meeting was held in June 2010 to present and receive input on the recommended updates to the management plan. Opinions were split on the location and construction specifications of the proposed inter-regional trail north of Queen Street. It is the desire of TRCA staff and municipal staff to extend the existing trail in Toronto via the CCA to connect to the approved Brampton trail system. This is supported by the City of Brampton's *PathWays Master Plan* (2002). Since the area surrounding the CCA is completely urbanized, TRCA and City of Brampton staff proposed a trail width of 2.5 metres to 3 metres with a crushed limestone tread to accommodate the anticipated type and level of public use and to make provision for safety, security and maintenance concerns. Some members of the public recommended the trail be a 0.5 metre wide earth or woodchip trail surface; however this does not meet the trail design specification details that have been adopted by TRCA and the City of Brampton where multi-use and public safety are major factors.

Plan Description

An updated management plan will replace the 1997 version once approved. Key changes are:

- Revisions to out-of-date language and references.
- Addition of current biological information and accomplishments to date.
- Addition of a vision statement and revised principles.

- Updated management zone mapping, including the addition of Cultural Heritage and Agricultural Reserve land management zones and the reclassification of the 10 hectare Commercial/Office node at Ebenezer Road and McVean Drive to Agricultural Reserve and Restoration land management zones.
- Updated management recommendations.
- Addition of a Site Securement and Protection Plan, with associated mapping.
- Inclusion of a management plan implementation section.

Copies of the updated management plan for the CCA are available upon request.

The updated management plan supports the clauses in TRCA Resolution #A46/10 as stated above. Forest cover is being maintained and enhanced through the designation of Nature Reserve, Natural Environment and Primary Restoration land management zones at the CCA. These zones protect existing forest, including sections of interior forest habitat, and will increase the forest cover as the updated management plan is implemented. These initiatives will allow the CCA to continue to be a forest in an urban area which provides refuge for animals, protects forest plant species, offers passive recreation opportunities and improves the water and air quality in the area.

The original management plan states that environmental considerations are paramount and the actions since the plan's endorsement in 1997 have reinforced this position. The updated management plan honours this same philosophy.

TRCA has worked extensively with the City of Brampton to ensure that the CCA is considered in the environmental, social and cultural fabric of the City of Brampton. City of Brampton representatives were an integral part of the development of the vision and management principles for the updated plan. Also, TRCA worked with the City of Brampton staff to define a route for the inter-regional trail north of Queen Street and to host the June 2010 public information session regarding the updated management plan. The updated management plan is consistent with and supports the City of Brampton's *Official Plan* and *PathWays Master Plan*. Above all, this consultation has ensured that the CCA management plan will use a "nature first" philosophy to restore and enhance the environmental sustainability of the local and regional ecosystem.

In support of this philosophy, the updated management plan includes direction that will ensure future land use activities in the CCA will not negatively affect the ecological health and diversity of its natural heritage system. Consequently, the concept of a dogs-off-leash area and commercial/office zone were removed from the updated management plan.

Vision and Management Principles

The strategic vision and guiding management principles define an end state for the property and how we can achieve it.

Vision

Based on input from partners, stakeholders and the public, the following statement has been developed to reflect a vision of CCA in the future.

"Claireville Conservation Area is an oasis for wildlife and people – a healthy, diverse urban forest and one of the largest natural corridors in a major city region. It is a destination where the natural and cultural heritage resources are protected and restored through partnerships and community-based stewardship. Visitors enjoy year-round nature-based recreation and education experiences while respecting the unique environmental features."

Management Principles

In support of achieving the vision for the CCA, management principles have been added to the updated management plan:

1. A natural environment management philosophy shall be paramount at the CCA.
2. The CCA shall maintain its primary function to store water, control downstream flooding and regulate summer flow.
3. Land management activities shall implement sustainable best practices and strive to eliminate, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to natural and cultural heritage features, functions and linkages.
4. Land uses shall respect the unique natural heritage attributes of the CCA and conform to land management zone criteria and targets.
5. The CCA shall be integrated into the environmental, social and cultural fabric of the City of Brampton, City of Toronto, Region of Peel and neighbouring municipalities.
6. Residents, local community groups, municipalities, businesses and other agencies shall have opportunities to assist in the planning and stewardship of the CCA.

Management Recommendations

Management recommendations provide actions to achieve the vision and principles, and support the updated management zone delineations. The key management recommendations include the following:

General Land Management

- Focus high intensity public uses south of Steeles Avenue in order to limit the impact on natural and cultural heritage. Limited low to moderate impact public uses may be permitted north of Steeles Avenue.

Terrestrial Resources

- Implement the Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy in the CCA by protecting the land base and restoring and/or enhancing habitat wherever possible.

Aquatic Resources

- Assess populations of priority species and implement appropriate species recovery strategies, in particular that of the Redside Dace.

Cultural Heritage Resources

- Preserve the heritage attributes of the McVean farm site and other archaeological, built heritage and heritage landscapes.
- Develop a conservation, restoration and adaptive re-use plan for the McVean double English Wheat Barn and former Robinson house.

Nature-based Public Use

- Implement the inter-regional trail as per the alignment and features proposed in the updated management plan in conjunction with the City of Brampton and the City of Toronto.
- Develop a comprehensive master plan for a formal trail system that complements the inter-regional trail route at the CCA.

Conservation Education

- Maintain the lease agreement with the Toronto District School Board for the Etobicoke Field Studies Centre.

Stewardship and Outreach

- Continue to maintain, support and increase opportunities for effective community and partner stewardship of the CCA.

Operations and Conservation Area Management,

- Adhere to the management criteria related to the parks and greenspaces criteria of the Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program.
- Follow and enforce all TRCA policies, including the TRCA Policy and Operational Procedures for Managing Domestic Animals, the TRCA Policy for Managing Hazard Trees and the TRCA Pest Management Policy.

Conservation Land Use and Management

- Maintain residential leases near the Claireville Dam and the Claireville Ranch.
- Decommission structures on former rental properties.
- Investigate potential uses for the former Robinson house, which has been identified to have some heritage value.
- Undertake regular patrols to stop illegal poaching and garbage dumping on the property.

Implementation, Monitoring and Review of the Management Plan

- Monitor all land management zones regularly using terrestrial natural heritage and public use indicators.
- Review and update the plan as necessary.

Land Management Zones

The land management zone classes and definitions have been updated to be consistent with land management zone classification system used for all other TRCA management and master plans. The CCA has been divided into nine land management zones: Nature Reserve, Natural Environment, Primary Restoration, Public Use, Special Management, Residential Lease, Operations, Heritage Preserve and Agricultural Reserve. This includes the addition of three new zones (Heritage Preserve, Agricultural Reserve and Special Management), and the slight modification of some of the 1997 land management zone definitions. The Public Use, Public Use /Commercial: high intensity, and Public Use: low - moderate intensity zones have been changed to Public Use Zone. The Commercial/Office Node zone has been removed. Management recommendations have been developed based on these zones and information from relevant plans and policies. See Attachments 1 and 2.

A greater portion of the CCA is zoned as Primary Restoration, going from 28 per cent in 1997 to 42 per cent in 2011, thereby reflecting the intent to improve the natural habitat of the area. Lands dedicated to public use (the Public Use land management zone) increased from 10 per cent of the land base in 1997 to 14 per cent in 2011 to accommodate the space for public facilities and programming associated with increasing recreation and City of Brampton outdoor education programs.

Areas dedicated to the preservation of the natural environment (Nature Reserve, Natural Environment and Primary Restoration land management zones) experienced a decrease from 88 per cent of the CCA in 1997 to 82 per cent in 2011. This six per cent shift occurs because three per cent of these lands are now dedicated to near-urban agriculture, slightly less than one per cent are dedicated to heritage preservation (the McVean farm site), slightly less than one per cent for the easement for the City of Brampton's stormwater management pond and the outstanding amount has been assigned for public uses.

There are no lands within the CCA designated as surplus to TRCA needs nor are there lands designated for commercial development in this update to the management plan. A house rental and operational area for Indian Line Campground constitute the remaining land management zone allocations.

The updated management plan includes one Public Use land management zone, as opposed to the range of zones in the previous management plan. This was done to make the management zones of the updated CCA management plan consistent with all other TRCA land management and master plans. To this end, the updated management plan includes a table with the standard TRCA land management types and examples of permitted uses (Table 3.2). It should be noted that not all permitted uses listed in the table are appropriate at all TRCA properties and that appropriate permitted uses are determined on a site-by-site basis through the land management planning process. As such, further definition of the uses appropriate for the CCA are provided in the Public Use Land Management Zone management recommendations section of the updated management plan (Section 3.3.1.4). This section indicates that the high intensity uses at the CCA are concentrated south of Steeles Avenue so as to reduce the impact on the higher quality terrestrial habitat in the northern section of the property. The existing uses of Wild Water Kingdom and Indian Line Campground are maintained in the updated management plan. There is no intention to develop major commercial and office facilities, such as low rise conference centre, nature interpretation centre, banquet facility, restaurant, accommodation (bed and breakfast), corporate centre, office buildings, institutions, retail establishments and service shops, at the CCA. This direction is supported by the replacement of a Commercial Land Management Zone north of Regional Road 107 with Agricultural Reserve land management zone for additional farm plots and a Primary Restoration land management zone to provide natural buffers to the terrestrial habitat in the Ebenezer Resource Management Tract.

No new high intensity uses have been introduced at the CCA since the 1997 management plan and future high intensity activities are not supported outside of the Indian Line Campground and Wild Water Kingdom sites south of Steeles Avenue. Other public uses for parts of the CCA, including low to moderate intensity, will be evaluated against the updated management plan as they are proposed to TRCA.

Low to moderate intensity public uses are permitted in the central section of the CCA between Steeles Avenue and Regional Road 107 (Queen Street East). This includes the maintenance of the playing fields for day camps and the outdoor education centre, picnic areas, washroom facilities and supporting parking lots. The Claireville horse ranch, day camp activities on the former rugby fields, an expanded area around the washroom buildings near the Regional Road 50 entrance which act as a drop off and meeting area for City of Toronto and City of Brampton day camp operations continue to be appropriate for this section of the property.

Public uses of the Ebenezer Resource Management Tract (the CCA section north of Regional Road 107) will only be low intensity activities associated with the near-urban agriculture project zoned as Agricultural Reserve, the Heritage Preserve which includes the McVean barn and laneway, and the inter-regional trail. These may include trail heads, interpretive signs and education opportunities.

Inter-regional Trail

One of the major components of this management plan update is defining an inter-regional trail route that will form the centerpiece of the trail system at the CCA. The 12 kilometres of multi-use trail will be a part of the western branch of the Humber River Inter-regional Trail system that currently extends to the southern boundary of the CCA in the City of Toronto. The trail supports TRCA strategies for inter-regional trail connections through its watersheds, as well as the City of Brampton's *Pathways Master Plan* (2002). The trail alignment was subject to archaeological and internal environmental reviews and has been approved by TRCA and City of Brampton staff. The site assessments have concluded that there will be no detrimental impact on the environment by the construction of the inter-regional trail. The trail will be designed to meet both TRCA and City of Brampton trail design standards and requirements. The Ministry of Natural Resources has confirmed the trail route is within the limits of the protected reddsides dace fish habitat. Staff is waiting for the permit and recommended actions from the Ministry of Natural Resources to enhance the local fish habitat of the West Humber at this location.

Most of the inter-regional trail alignment south of Queen Street follows the CCA's existing gravel roads (Attachment 2). Some sections are close to the West Humber River or in the valleylands but are located in places where environmental studies have indicated that there will be no major long term impact on the environment from the construction and maintenance of the inter-regional trail. In the Ebenezer Resource Management Tract, most of the trail route will follow the valley land to provide a valuable user experience away from traffic and the built environment.

Plan Implementation

Implementation of the updated management plan will begin immediately with recommended projects scheduled for 2011 and continue for the next 10 years subject to budget approvals. TRCA will partner with the cities of Brampton and Toronto, the Regional Municipality of Peel, Humber Watershed Alliance and private partners to fully implement the updated management plan. TRCA will continue to cooperate with other groups on funding applications to private organizations and provincial and federal governments.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The successful implementation of the updated management plan for the CCA will require the efforts of TRCA and its partners.

TRCA will take the following actions:

- TRCA staff to publish and distribute the updated management plan.
- TRCA staff to send copies of the updated management plan to elected representatives and staff of the Regional Municipality of Peel, City of Brampton and City of Toronto
- TRCA to request that the City of Brampton, City of Toronto and Regional Municipality of Peel include the updated Management Plan in their land use planning policies and practices for this area.
- Humber Watershed Alliance to be asked to assist with the implementation of the updated management plan.
- TRCA to utilize the updated management plan to assist with land stewardship and to respond to land use planning initiatives related to the area

TRCA will work with the City of Brampton to ensure that the CCA is incorporated into the fabric of the city by taking the following measures:

- TRCA will establish appropriate roles and responsibilities for the City of Brampton regarding operational, maintenance and enforcement programs at the CCA to address issues such as trails, prohibiting dogs off-leash and other encroachments.
- TRCA will seek opportunities for environmental and outdoor environmental education programs with the City of Brampton that respect the unique natural heritage attributes of the CCA.
- TRCA will seek support from the City of Brampton for heritage preservation and management.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Management plan implementation details were developed in 2010 and capital budgets have been prepared and submitted for some initial works starting in 2011.

The 2011 budget for TRCA Conservation Land Care Program in Peel Region includes \$66,000 for implementation of the updated management plan, including public newsletters, structural repairs to the McVean barn, and development of a detailed trail plan for the CCA. Other operational costs will be covered in the Claireville Community Greenspace budget (\$75,000).

City of Brampton staff has agreed to fund the construction of the inter-regional trail north of Queen Street (3.3 kilometres). The 2011 City of Brampton budget includes \$500,000 for its construction.

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Date: March 17, 2011

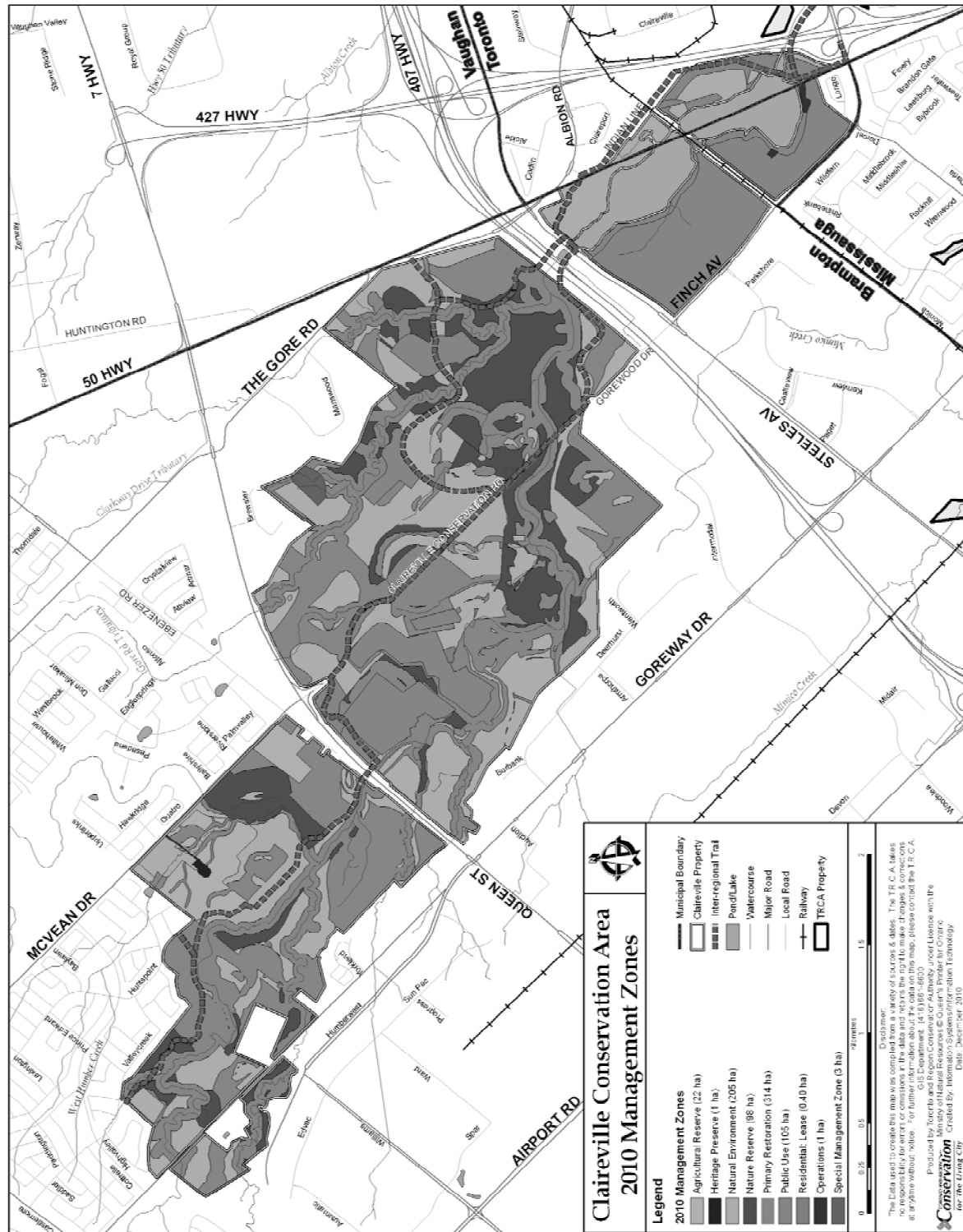
Attachments: 2 (Claireville Conservation Area Management Plan Update, March 2011, available upon request)

Attachment 1

Table 1: Land Management Zones at Claireville Conservation Area, 1997 and 2011 Management Plans

Revised Management Zone (2011)			Previous Land Management Zones (1997)		
Zone Name	Area (hectares)	Portion of Property (%)*	Zone Name	Area (hectares)	Portion of Property (%)*
Nature Reserve	98.3	13.1	Natural Reserve	190	22.4
Natural Environment	205.0	27.4	Natural Environment	320	37.7
Primary Restoration	313.8	41.9	Primary Restoration	240	28.3
Public Use	105.5	14.1	Public Use; Public Use / Commercial	25; 55 (total 80)	2.9; 6.5 (total 9.4)
Special Management	2.5	0.3		n/a	n/a
Heritage Preserve	0.7	0.1		n/a	n/a
Agricultural Reserve	21.5	2.9		n/a	n/a
Operations	0.8	0.1		n/a	n/a
Residential Lease	0.4	0.1		n/a	n/a
Surplus Lands	n/a	n/a		10	1.2
Commercial/Office Node	n/a	n/a		8	1.0

* 2011 land base is 749 hectares; 1997 land base is 848 hectares.



RES.#A48/11 -

RIVERSTONE GOLF COURSE

Reporting back on the City of Brampton approved Official Plan Amendment (City No. 298-2009), which designated portions of the West Humber River Valley (within the Study Area) as "Special Policy Area - 10", which may be used for golf course expansion.

Moved by: Michael Di Biase
Seconded by: Bryan Bertie

WHEREAS on July 16, 2008, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) responded to the City of Brampton proposed Official Plan Amendment (OPA) and supporting Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the Riverstone Golf Course expansion that staff could not support the expansion as envisioned within the West Humber River valley;

AND WHEREAS on October 7, 2009, City of Brampton Council approved and adopted an OPA (City File No. 298-2009), which designates a portion of the West Humber River Valley (within the Study Area) as "Special Policy Area 10", which may be used for golf course expansion subject to a number of requirements, including the preparation of an updated EIS;

AND WHEREAS the EIS shall include recommendations that will demonstrate to the satisfaction of TRCA and City of Brampton:

- (a) how the golf course expansion will have no negative impacts on the West Humber River Tributary valley corridor natural features and their ecological functions; and,**
- (b) how a net gain in natural features and functions can be achieved through site design and environmental management;**

AND WHEREAS on November 27, 2009 at Authority Meeting #9/09, Amendment Resolution #203/09 was approved that required TRCA staff to report back on the Riverstone Golf Course application prior to providing the City of Brampton with TRCA's comments;

AND WHEREAS TRCA staff received an updated EIS dated May 31, 2010 in support of the proposed golf course expansion entirely within the West Humber River Valley, which is proposed to occur north of an existing nine-hole golf course;

AND WHEREAS Region of Peel Council passed on September 9, 2010 (Resolution No. 2010-765) a recommendation that states that prior to the release of a technical response to the EIS, that TRCA coordinate its review with Region of Peel staff, and City of Brampton Council passed on September 15, 2010 a similar recommendation that prior to the release of a technical response to the EIS, TRCA staff is to coordinate our review of the study with City of Brampton staff;

AND WHEREAS TRCA staff met with City of Brampton staff on December 14, 2010 and Region of Peel staff on February 1, 2011 in order to fulfill the requirements of the Resolutions;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT TRCA staff reiterate its position that the potential for a golf course expansion in the West Humber River Valley (within the Study Area) cannot be supported as currently proposed as the updated EIS has not demonstrated that the required "tests" of no negative impacts and a net gain have been met;

AND FURTHER THAT should the City of Brampton and the owner of the Riverstone Golf Course elect to pursue this matter further, the recommendations in the Future Directions Section identified in this report be incorporated into the design of the golf course expansion.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

At Authority Meeting #1/09, held on September 25, 2009, Mr. Peter Orphanos, Chair, Sierra Club of Peel Region, made a deputation in regard to his concerns that Peel Region's Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) 21 does not adequately protect significant valleylands from active recreational uses such as golf courses or other incompatible uses. Based upon this delegation, Resolution #A143/09 was approved at that meeting, as follows:

THAT above-noted delegation (a) be heard and referred to staff for consideration when preparing a report to Authority Meeting #9/09, to be held on November 27, 2009.

TRCA staff brought forward a report to the November 27, 2009 Authority meeting, which provided staff's position on proposed ROPA 21, and included staff's comments on the delegation made by Mr. Orphanos. The report also identified that the proponents for the Riverstone Golf Course were completing an EIS, in addition to other materials in support of the proposed golf course expansion. Resolution #A203/09 was approved by the Authority at that meeting, as follows:

THAT staff report back on the Riverstone Golf Course application prior to providing the City of Brampton with TRCA's comments.

TRCA staff is in receipt of the EIS (May 31, 2010), and have discussed our comments with City of Brampton and Region of Peel staff. TRCA staff is now reporting back to the Authority prior to providing formal written comments to the City of Brampton.

Overview

The Riverstone Golf Course is an existing, semi-private, golf course located adjacent to Claireville Conservation Area, within the valley corridor of the West Branch of the Humber River, between McVean Drive and Cottrelle Boulevard, in the City of Brampton. This course operated as an 18 hole course, with an additional pitch and put area, until approximately 2005. This course was partially located within the West Humber valley, and partially located on adjacent tablelands. In 2005, the owners of the Riverstone Golf Course sold the tableland areas for residential development, and the course was reduced to nine holes. The owners of the Riverstone Golf Course have subsequently pursued approvals to expand the golf course within the West Humber valley system, north of Cottrelle Boulevard, to attain an additional nine holes.

TRCA staff has previously indicated that any proposed expansion to the golf course would need to be partially located on tablelands, as insufficient space exists within the valley corridor to allow for expanded golf course uses, while maintaining and enhancing the natural heritage system in accordance with TRCA's objectives. The valley corridor is generally narrow and the West Humber River meanders through it and there are very few mature stands of trees that exist on the valley walls or bottomland. Development subsequently proceeded on the adjacent tablelands, without the lands being pursued for golf course uses, which eliminated the option for any tableland components. Through the development process, the valleylands directly upstream of the existing course were conveyed to the City of Brampton, and were designated in an Official Plan category and Zoning By-law designation that precluded golf course uses. At the request of the owners of the Riverstone Golf Course, the City initiated an Official Plan Amendment (in 2009) to allow this use to be further considered.

Background Information

The following is a brief chronology of the Riverstone Golf Course proposal.

- In 2006, City of Brampton Council passed a resolution which supported, in principle, the expansion of the Riverstone Golf Course.
- An Environmental Review Report, prepared by Aquafor Beech Limited, dated 2007, was subsequently prepared in support of an OPA, which was required to permit golf course uses within the valleylands.
- TRCA staff provided comments on this OPA on July 16, 2008, as well as previous comments on July 4, 2006, July 14, 2006 and April 17, 2007 for the tableland subdivision application (City File #21T-05016B).
- In our correspondence, it was identified that a golf course expansion could only be contemplated by TRCA, if it was built on the tablelands as well as the valleylands to allow for a significant amount of the valley corridor to be preserved in a naturalized, enhanced state.
- Negotiations through the tableland residential development (Port Mark Investments/Nu-land Management subdivision) were premised on this requirement and specified the valleylands be zoned in a category, which would only allow for passive recreational uses, and would not include golf course uses. Buffers were also attained for this purpose. Numerous discussions occurred at that time, which culminated in agreements with respect to the valleyland zoning and buffers. Allowing tableland development to proceed without consideration for tableland golf course uses precluded the opportunity to construct a golf course expansion at that time.
- A Recommendation Report, dated August 15, 2008 was approved by the City of Brampton Planning, Design and Development Committee on September 3, 2008 and the OPA (City No. 298-2009) was adopted on October 7, 2009.

- OPA 298-2009 designated the West Humber River Valley (within the Study Area) as "Special Policy Area 10", which may allow for a golf course expansion subject to the preparation of an EIS. The approved OPA specifies the scope of the EIS to demonstrate to the satisfaction of TRCA and City of Brampton:
 1. **How the golf course expansion will have no negative impacts on the West Humber River Tributary valley corridor natural features and their ecological functions; and,**
 2. **How a net gain in natural features and functions can be achieved through site design and environmental management.**
- TRCA staff met with the applicant's team of consultants on September 11, 2009 to discuss the fundamental understanding on which the entire EIS would be premised. Our discussions identified the need for the EIS to also consider the following planning hierarchy, which is beyond the conditions identified in the approved OPA:
 - compliance with significant valleyland and natural heritage policies of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), 2005;
 - Urban Linkage policies of the Provincial Greenbelt Plan, 2005;
 - Restoration Opportunities identified in the West Humber Subwatershed Study;
 - Core Area policies of the Greenlands System of the Region of Peel Official Plan;
 - City of Brampton Official Plan natural heritage and environmental management policies;
 - TRCA's Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy (TNHSS) as refined as part of the Humber Watershed Plan; and,
 - TRCA's Valley and Stream Corridor Management Program (VSCMP) policies and Ontario Regulation 166/06.
- The City of Brampton Council passed on September 15, 2010 a recommendation that prior to the release of a technical response to the EIS, TRCA staff is to coordinate their review of the Study with City of Brampton staff, such that coordinated and comprehensive comments can be provided that have evaluated the full technical submission in context with the Region of Peel Official Plan, the City of Brampton Official Plan and the applicable Bram East Secondary Plan policies. Additionally, Region of Peel Council (Resolution No. 2010-765) on September 9, 2009 passed a recommendation that also states that prior to the release of a technical response to the EIS, TRCA coordinate their review with Region of Peel staff.
- TRCA staff is in receipt of an updated EIS, dated May 31, 2010, prepared by Aquafor Beech Limited, in support of the proposed Riverstone Golf and Country Club course expansion. TRCA staff has been in discussions with City of Brampton and Region of Peel staff since receipt of the updated EIS.

Environmental Impact Study (EIS) Key Issues

The owners of the Riverstone Golf Course propose a natural system that they claim provides the following enhancements:

- a net increase in the area of the forested habitat;
- a reduction in the area covered by non-native species such as Manitoba maple and buckthorn;
- provision of large wetland areas (approximately 3.1 ha) that are contiguous with the river channel/riparian area;

- a corridor consisting of a river channel with 15 metre woody riparian communities on either bank that achieves a total corridor width in the order of 40 metres (with river channel);
- a series of vernal pools within the wooded riparian zone to enhance amphibian habitat;
- buffering of natural areas from area of active golf course use by placing golf "roughs" adjacent to the natural heritage features to the extent possible.

The following is a brief explanation of TRCA's key issues of the proposal:

- The proposal involves nine additional holes incorporated into an area of approximately 28 hectares.
- There is a thicket/woodland vegetation unit in a wider area of the corridor (approximately 120 m wide) which accounts for 26% (4.5 ha) of the existing natural areas in the study area. The proposed golf course expansion will result in the loss of this feature, which based on site inspection is expected to provide for migratory bird habitat, stability to the river channel and a core area that can provide an anchor for future restoration.
- The study area currently is meadow and thicket vegetation and provides a linkage to natural areas to the north, and to Claireville Conservation Area to the south.
- The proposed large wetlands that are contiguous with the river channel are to be used for irrigation of the golf course and only provide a "secondary ecological" function.
- The design results in a minimum 15 metre buffer along the river corridor; however the seven crossings and 10 flyovers result in the corridor being significantly fragmented and will result in management of the buffer for low growing vegetation to maintain sightlines.
- The golf course layout (i.e., tee blocks, fairways, and greens) involves an area of approximately 10 to 11 ha and the irrigation ponds/wetland features occupy an area of approximately 3.1 ha, which is approximately 50% of the study area. The EIS identifies buffering of natural areas from areas of the active golf course by placing golf "roughs" adjacent to the natural features. These areas should be included as part of the active area. Therefore, the total golf course operations/play area is greater than 50% noted above.

TRCA Staff Review of the EIS

The design of the golf course and its associated activities/operations should protect the existing natural heritage and hazard features, functions and linkages of the local landscape and subwatershed area in a self-sustaining state. Proposals should also seek opportunities to restore and enhance lands that have been ecologically degraded through past extensive and/or intensive land uses (i.e., agriculture). The principle for which is to set aside and not fragment the natural system, excluding natural areas from the active recreational use.

Based on our review, the EIS submitted does not sufficiently address the OPA conditions and does not evaluate the proposed golf course expansion in the context of the above-noted planning hierarchy.

The EIS concludes that the introduction of the golf course in the valley system will represent an overall environmental benefit. Based on the current design, TRCA staff cannot agree with this statement as the long-term function of the natural heritage system is tied to the protection of the land base. The existing valley corridor exhibits the impacts of the historic agricultural land uses, however, it is naturally regenerating and is already providing important habitat for a number of fauna species. The functions can be improved/accelerated through stewardship and active restoration that is not dependant on having a golf course. As the EIS notes, the restoration would not be functional for 50 to 100 years a timeline that would be expected if left to regenerate naturally.

The EIS does not consider important landscape ecology principles. The size and shape of the habitat patches are critically important, especially where there is limited natural cover in the landscape such as this area. The urbanization of the tablelands means that the only opportunity to maintain the natural heritage system is within the valley. There is one cultural thicket/woodland identified in the EIS and this accounts for approximately 26% (4.5 ha) of the existing natural areas within the study area lands. The proposed golf course expansion will result in the loss of this feature, which appears to be the only remaining natural area of any size between Claireville Conservation Area and further upstream areas.

The proposed golf course will occupy and require the manipulation of almost the entire floodplain and valley bottom of this section of the West Humber River; approximately 50% of the study area. The nine holes will require seven pedestrian bridge crossings of the river. In addition, seven of the holes will play across the river and result in ten "lines of sight" necessary for play. This means that the riparian zone in these areas cannot support the woody vegetation the EIS recommends due to the need to maintain the sight lines. The report indicates that a number of crossings and fly-overs and the size of the fairways, greens and tees have been "minimized". However, the active play areas and irrigation ponds occupy almost the entire floodplain. Two large ponds are proposed. The EIS identifies that both these ponds are to be used for irrigation of the golf course and will provide a "secondary ecological" function. This means that while wildlife will use these areas, habitat values may be compromised in order to maintain them for irrigation (i.e., activities like pumping them down during dry weather and adding chemicals or aeration devices to prevent algal growth, etc.).

The EIS report indicates that the existing natural cover is approximately 17 ha. This area only includes the meadow habitats within 15 metres of the river. The EIS notes that the open field/meadow habitats (not calculated with the existing natural cover total) occupy an additional 12.6 ha and that there is another 2.8 ha of land adjacent to the golf course expansion. Therefore, the existing natural cover is approximately 32 ha, which is 10 ha larger than the 22 ha indicated in the report that will remain post-development.

The extensive amount of fill necessary to construct the golf course raises several key issues related to general impacts such as changes to stream water balance and drainage patterns within the valley, the amount of vehicular traffic within the valleylands and through the neighbourhoods to build such a facility, and the management of erosion and sediment controls.

In conclusion, it remains the opinion of TRCA staff that the updated EIS has not demonstrated "no negative impact" and has not demonstrated an environmental gain in either the short or long-term.

- A golf course expansion as proposed will further reduce and fragment the natural heritage system and it will introduce anthropogenic uses throughout the valley and at a time of year that is coincident with the breeding season.
- Restoration and stewardship of small remnant strips of habitat will need to be able to provide the habitat function of larger patches with less edge. The proposed restoration/stewardship will have a large amount of edge that would be exposed to negative edge effects. The existing valley, despite its past agricultural impacts, is providing large habitat areas and over time will represent a larger, better configured system than could be achieved with the golf course. This is particularly important given the surrounding tablelands are being converted to urban uses. The current proposal does not meet the intent/objectives of the Humber Watershed Plan, TRCA's TNHSS and VSCMP in terms of improving and expanding the natural heritage system of the valley corridor.

As noted in TRCA's July 18, 2008 letter, our position identified that the potential for a golf course expansion in this valley corridor was abandoned through the approval of the adjacent subdivisions, which provided the only opportunity to consider the golf course on both the tablelands and valleylands. TRCA's position identified that sufficient opportunities did exist, however, no longer exist for a golf course expansion exclusively within the valley corridor to allow the valley corridor to provide the intended and envisioned linkage function. As such, we identified that TRCA staff cannot support the expansion of the golf course exclusively within the West Humber Valley, as it was being explored. Based on our review of the updated EIS document, our position remains the same.

To summarize our review of the updated EIS, we provide the following:

- The design should protect the existing natural heritage and hazard features, functions and linkages of the local landscape and subwatershed area in a self-sustaining state.
- The EIS does not sufficiently address the OPA conditions or the above-noted planning hierarchy.
- The existing valley land is regenerating.
- The EIS does not address important ecology principles, such as size and shape of habitat patches.
- The golf course design operationally limits the extent of woody vegetation that can be provided within the riparian zone and therefore does not support the conclusions of the EIS.
- The EIS identifies Bobolink, a species which has been recently included as endangered under the *Endangered Species Act* (Ministry of Natural Resources) and evaluation has not been provided as to the acceptability of this proposal from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Natural Hazards

The EIS does not address the natural hazards associated with the existing valleylands and the implications for the proposed golf course expansion and long term operations.

While the assessment of erosion rates performed in tandem with the updated EIS suggests that the fairways, greens and cart paths on the proposed plan are located outside of the immediate erosion hazard, there are additional conditions to consider when assessing the impact of the golf course on erosion and vice-versa. First, the upstream portion of the West Humber River watershed continues to develop at a rapid rate, which is profoundly altering the hydrologic regime of the river and will exacerbate rates of lateral channel movement and widening the course over time. Second, it is likely that the golf course construction will result in the damage or removal of riparian vegetation, particularly at the location of the cart path bridges and sight line crossings, reducing bank integrity and further increasing erosion rates in impacted areas. Therefore, because the entire golf course is proposed within the valley, the majority of the holes are located in proximity to the river, it can be expected that these accelerated erosion conditions will impact course features over its lifetime. Further, the erosion exacerbated by the construction and long-term existence of the golf course will degrade aquatic and riparian habitat.

Based on our site reconnaissance, it appears that significant slope erosion is occurring along the outer portions of the valley walls (i.e., proposed hole 13). The potential for remediation to the slopes will be inhibited in the future if the golf course expansion is constructed as currently proposed.

The situation of the entire proposed golf course in the floodplain of the West Humber River creates significant concern in that large portions of the course can be expected to flood regularly. The construction of the course would therefore create significant new risks to life and property (i.e., to users and to the infrastructure of the course) which TRCA policy generally seeks to avoid. The landscaping of the course unless designed to keep alterations to existing grades to an absolute minimum, may impact the flood conveyance and storage characteristics and exacerbate flooding impacts downstream.

Future Direction

In the event that the City of Brampton elects to pursue this matter further, TRCA provides the following comments for consideration:

- TRCA staff suggest that the City of Brampton consider a consolidated nine hole golf course that utilizes both the existing golf course lands and the proposed valley. It may be possible for an EIS that involves a consolidated nine hole golf course approach to meet the OPA conditions noted above.
- A public trail should be incorporated into the existing golf course as well as any expansion area. This is a key connectivity piece to link Claireville Conservation Area and upstream valleyland areas through Brampton (which will all be in public ownership) to Caledon.
- It is suggested that the proposed expansion be re-configured in order to protect the cultural thicket/woodland feature which comprises approximately 26% of the natural area within the study limit and appears to be the only substantial natural cover remaining between Claireville Conservation Area and upstream reaches.

- The EIS in support of either the proposed additional nine holes and/or a consolidated nine hole golf course needs to provide greater connectivity on-site. In order to achieve this, it is suggested that the study consider a broader scope of the area studied. It is our opinion that the current study area (i.e., existing and proposed lands) inhibits the ability to achieve the OPA conditions. It is TRCA staff's opinion that by expanding the study area and considering potential improvements to upstream and/or downstream reaches of the West Humber Valley, the feasibility to achieve the environmental tests is improved.

Based on discussions with City of Brampton staff, should the golf course expansion not proceed, it is the City's objective to introduce a public trail system (also an objective with the golf course expansion). The valleylands would be left to naturally regenerate with opportunities for regeneration activities as part of the trail design.

Summary

As approved at TRCA Authority Meeting #9/09, Amendment Resolution #203/09 required TRCA staff to report back on the Riverstone Golf Course application prior to providing the City of Brampton with TRCA's comments. It is the intent of this report to provide an update at this point only. It is anticipated that a separate report from TRCA staff will be brought forward in the future, which provides a finalized TRCA staff position. As such, it is recommended that this Authority report be provided to City of Brampton and Region of Peel staff as formal comments to the updated EIS Report for the Riverstone Golf Course proposal. Also, it is recommended that this report be provided to the owners of the Riverstone Golf Course to provide them with the opportunity to respond to our formal comments and recommended future directions. As suggested, it is recommended that TRCA staff report back to this Authority once further coordination occurs between City of Brampton and Region of Peel staff, as well as the owners of the Riverstone Golf Course, whereby TRCA staff can provide an updated/finalized position.

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Date: March 17, 2011

RES.#A49/11 -

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS

Management Strategy for 2011. Management of Double-crested Cormorants at Tommy Thompson Park.

Moved by: Dave Ryan

Seconded by: Maria Augimeri

THAT staff be directed to continue to work with the cormorant advisory group to assist Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in addressing management concerns regarding colonial waterbirds at Tommy Thompson Park (TTP);

THAT staff be directed to work with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Canadian Wildlife Service, and any other required regulatory agency to seek approval for the 2011 management strategy for colonial waterbirds at TTP;

THAT staff be directed to implement the proposed management strategy for 2011;

THAT staff be directed to continue to actively participate in local, regional and binational committees/working groups addressing the management and protection of colonial waterbirds;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back to the Authority annually regarding the management of Double-crested Cormorants at Tommy Thompson Park.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

At Authority Meeting #2/10, held on March 26, 2010, Resolution #A23/10 was approved, in part, as follows:

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back to the Authority annually regarding the management of Double-crested Cormorants at Tommy Thompson Park.

In addition to the largest Double-crested Cormorant (DCCO) colony in the lower Great Lakes basin, Tommy Thompson Park supports diverse communities of bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, mammal and vegetation species. It has been formally designated as a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA) and an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA #120). The Tommy Thompson Park Master Plan that guides the development of TTP includes the goal of conserving and managing the natural resources and environmentally significant areas of the park. While the DCCO colony adds to the diversity of the park and is environmentally significant, there are concerns about the impacts of DCCO on tree health and biodiversity in other areas at TTP.

Double-crested Cormorants have been nesting at TTP since 1990. The colony started with six nests in trees on the tip of Peninsula B, and has since expanded to 9,434 nests, as recorded in 2010, on three of the four peninsulas at TTP. In 1990, the four peninsulas were cottonwood forest habitat, however due to DCCO colonization on Peninsulas A, B and C, the forest canopy has been significantly reduced: no forest is left on Peninsula A; only a portion of forest remains on Peninsulas B and is in very poor health and the forest on Peninsula C is in declining health.

Monitoring of DCCO colony growth and expansion, impacts on vegetation cover, and the dynamic interactions with other colonial bird nesting species have occurred since 1990.

Conclusions drawn from the data included:

- DCCO nesting has resulted in the loss or degradation of approximately 24 per cent of the forest habitat available at TTP, although this loss has stabilized since DCCO have not occupied any additional forest areas since management began in 2008.
- Peninsula A has been devoid of living forest since 2004. Only two standing trees remained in 2010, one was dead and the other was in very poor health.
- Peninsula B has lost all the trees at the tip and most of the remaining nest trees inland were in poor health and are expected to die within the next few years.

- Tree health has significantly declined in the core DCCO nest area on Peninsula C, but new areas have not been occupied.
- The average annual DCCO population increase was 16.3 per cent between 1998 and 2010.
- The expansion of DCCO have displaced Black-crowned Night-Herons (BCNH) from their primary nesting areas into marginal areas that are more prone to disturbance.
- Based on the rapid growth of the DCCO colony, management measures were undertaken beginning in 2008 to keep the DCCO population from expanding their nesting areas into new areas such as Peninsula D.

To ensure the TTP Master Plan goals and objectives are maintained and the concerns are addressed, TRCA initiated the involvement of stakeholders and the public, including an advisory group, to create a management strategy for DCCO at TTP. The process guiding the management strategy started in November 2007 with the establishment of the Cormorant Advisory Group. This group is comprised of various stakeholders and experts from across the spectrum whose mandate is to provide input and advice, to ensure that all perspectives are considered, and to provide linkages with other stakeholders. Since establishment the Advisory Group has met ten times, including a public meeting in April 2008. 2011 is the fourth consecutive year of cormorant management at TTP, however little management occurred in spring 2008 due to timing. The Cormorant Strategy Timeline (Attachment 1) summarizes the consultation process, including the development of the strategic approach of the management strategy undertaken in 2008 as per Resolution #A110/08, in 2009 as per Resolution #A22/09, and in 2010 as per Resolution #A23/10.

The goal of the 2011 management strategy has not changed from the goal developed in 2008. It is to achieve a balance between the continued existence of a healthy, thriving DCCO colony and the other ecological, educational, scientific and recreational values of TTP. The specific objectives of the strategy are to:

- a) increase public knowledge, awareness and appreciation of colonial waterbirds;
- b) deter DCCO from nesting on Peninsula D;
- c) limit further loss of tree canopy on the peninsulas beyond the existing DCCO colonies;
- d) continue research on colonial waterbirds in an urban wilderness context.

The 2010 Strategic Approach was formulated based upon the 2008 and 2009 strategic approaches and the comments and views expressed at the Advisory Group meetings. The 2010 Strategic Approach was adopted at Authority Meeting #2/10, held on March 26, 2010, as part of Resolution # A23/10.

Throughout 2010 staff engaged academic groups, naturalist groups, researchers, media and interested members of the public through various interpretive tours and presentations. This included a presentation at the International Association of Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) conference and an interpretive tour of TTP, including the DCCO colony, for IAGLR participants.

As anticipated, DCCO nests continued to increase in 2010, totalling 9,434 nests compared to 7,564 nests in 2009. The increase in nest numbers was mainly due to ground nesting on Peninsula B increasing from 1,957 nests to 3,310 nests in 2010, a 69 per cent increase from 2009. This is a positive trend showing that ground nest enhancements are working to help achieve the goal of the continued existence of a healthy, thriving DCCO colony. The significant increase in the number of ground nests means that 35 per cent of the TTP DCCO colony now nests on the ground, so their nests are not affecting the tree canopy. Tree nests on Peninsula A and B decreased by 119 nests and tree nests on Peninsula C increased by 636 nests; however, the number of trees containing nests in this area increased by just 25. This increase in tree nesting on Peninsula C was sustained with denser nests (more nests per tree); the nesting area did not expand into any new areas.

As a deterrent technique, simple human presence (researchers and the public) on Peninsula D was successful at deterring DCCO from nesting and escalating the level of deterrence beyond human presence was not required. DCCO were documented on Peninsula D a total of six times during spring 2010, but no nesting attempts were witnessed.

Ongoing research by York University is helping inform staff about DCCO behaviours at TTP. The research has shown that nesting success is higher in the ground nesting subcolony compared to tree nesting DCCO. Ground nest productivity in 2010 was 95.5 per cent for the study nests compared to 26 per cent productivity for Peninsula B tree nests and 64 per cent productivity for Peninsula C tree nests. Research also found that in the Peninsula A ground nest enhancement area there were 59 instances of DCCO loafing in the area compared to just three instances of loafing in 2009. There were also 13 cases of nest building, six Ring-billed Gull nest takeovers, three courtship displays and eight cases of DCCO sitting near the nests in the study plot. Additionally visitations to the enhanced ground nesting area increased from 0.63 per hour in 2009 to 1.1 visits per hour in 2010. The study also showed that 70 per cent of DCCO prefer tires that resemble nests and/or straw over the wood stakes.

In summary:

- Overall the DCCO population continues to rise at TTP. Most of the increase occurred in the ground nesting colony on Peninsula B, which is a main target of the strategic approach.
- Ground nesting accounted for 72 per cent of the increase in the population.
- Now 35 per cent of the entire DCCO colony is sustained through ground nesting. Prior to management only 15 per cent of the DCCO colony nested on the ground.
- The number of trees cormorants occupied increased by eight trees in 2010.
- 2010 management was successful at preventing DCCO nesting on Peninsula D.
- DCCO productivity is significantly higher for ground nesting birds than tree nesting birds.
- DCCO show increasing interest in the ground nest enhancement area on Peninsula A, which illustrates that the enhancement techniques undertaken by staff and researchers are effective at attracting DCCO to the site.

RATIONALE

An extremely high level of concern has been expressed regarding DCCO populations and their management. Concerns have been raised from both sides, on the one hand calling for management and the preservation of forest canopy, and on the other hand for protection of the birds and their nesting colonies. TRCA has an obligation to manage Tommy Thompson Park as directed by the Master Plan for Tommy Thompson Park as approved under the Environmental Assessment Act. To meet the intent of the Master Plan, TRCA staff feel that there is a strong rationale for undertaking a balanced strategic approach to the management of Double-crested Cormorants at Tommy Thompson Park.

Since November 2007, TRCA has involved stakeholders and the public in assessing the need for management and developing a strategy for DCCO at TTP. Generally, throughout the process there has been agreement that some form of management is appropriate, providing that the methods are humane to cormorants and do not affect other wildlife.

Based on the success of the 2009 and 2010 strategic approaches, as well as York University study findings, ground nest enhancements and pre- and post-nesting deterrents will continue. The natural ground nesting area continues to expand and more DCCO frequented the ground nest enhancement area. Peninsula C is the traditional nesting area to most of the BCNH colony and is part of the park's largest forest block. The forest health in the nesting areas continues to decline, although staff has been successful at preventing DCCO nesting at the tip of Peninsula C. TRCA therefore, has developed the following strategic approach to the management of DCCO at TTP for the 2011 season.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

As in previous years, the goal of the management strategy is to achieve a balance between the continued existence of a healthy, thriving cormorant colony and the other ecological, educational, scientific and recreational values of Tommy Thompson Park, with the same strategic objectives as outlined above.

Increasing Public Knowledge, Awareness and Appreciation

TRCA will seek all opportunities to increase public awareness and appreciation of Double-crested Cormorants and other colonial waterbirds at TTP. A varied approach will be used including, but not limited to:

- TRCA website;
- annual Spring Bird Festival (May 14, 2011);
- improving opportunities to view colonial waterbirds using viewing blinds and platforms;
- conducting tours with school and interest groups;
- presenting information at conferences and forums;
- participation in working groups on colonial waterbirds;
- installation of a remote camera in the ground nesting area that will upload images of DCCO daily to the TRCA website.

Informational signs at strategic locations that request people to refrain from entering the colonial waterbird colonies during the nesting season are already in place to discourage the public from disturbing the bird colonies. Two temporary viewing blinds will be installed at the edge of the Peninsula B and C colonies to allow visitors to view the birds without disturbance. The blinds will also include information about TTP colonial waterbirds. Researcher disturbance associated with TRCA and partner research programs will be controlled to reduce overall disruption.

A remote camera will be installed at the ground nesting area on Peninsula B that will transmit sequential still images of the colony to the website so appreciation of DCCO is fostered. The camera will automatically upload images to the website on a daily basis at regular intervals. Visitors to the website will view DCCO in their natural habitat, and the images will be used by TRCA staff and researchers to monitor the ground nesting colony. A second remote camera will be installed in the enhanced ground nesting area on Peninsula A, and should DCCO begin nesting in this area, images will also be regularly uploaded to the website. Researchers monitoring the enhanced ground nesting area have also offered to film DCCO nesting activities, which can also be uploaded to the website. The website will be linked to the current TTP DCCO website: www.trca.on.ca/cormorants. Staff is also investigating the feasibility of establishing a live webcam to stream video of ground nesting DCCO.

In order to provide more information about DCCO and the TTP Strategic Approach, as well as to solicit additional input from the public, staff will hold an interpretive colonial bird walk for the Spring Bird Festival held on May 14, 2011. Park users will have the opportunity to view the DCCO colonies and learn more about DCCO at TTP from TRCA staff. Staff will also continue to engage academic groups, naturalist groups, researchers and the media, informing them about DCCO at TTP.

Proposed 2011 Strategic Approach

As with the 2010 strategy, TRCA proposes to utilize a variety of techniques in an integrated adaptive management approach to achieve the goals and objectives for the 2011 strategy. The 2011 Strategic Approach matrix (Attachment 2) outlines the techniques and strategies at specific locations of the site, and will help provide insight regarding the interactions of the different techniques. Management techniques do not include lethal culling.

The TTP DCCO colony currently occupies three of the four peninsulas of the park comprising three DCCO sub-colonies (Attachment 3). Peninsula A and the current nesting area of Peninsula B are considered Cormorant Conservation Zones where cormorant nesting and roosting is encouraged and enhanced. Within the Cormorant Conservation Zones efforts will be made to minimize disturbances so that DCCO will continue to use the areas and nesting remains productive. Peninsula C is the most recently colonized area containing the largest DCCO sub-colony and the largest Black-crowned Night-Heron population at the site. Peninsula D is the only forested peninsula not occupied by colonial waterbird species.

As depicted in Attachments 2 and 3, the 2011 Strategic Approach will focus on pre-nesting deterrents in the forested areas of Peninsulas B, C and D to reduce stress on the trees and encourage ground nesting on Peninsulas A and B. Post-breeding deterrents in the forested areas of Peninsulas C and D will be used to reduce stress on living trees; and ground nest enhancements on Peninsulas A and B will encourage DCCO to nest on the ground instead of in trees. Habitat restoration efforts will continue to delineate and buffer the colonies from other park uses, as well as provide habitat for other bird and wildlife species. Finally, continued research will be encouraged and will focus on raccoon predation on DCCO and BCNH nests; effects of deterrents on non-target areas/species; and the use of social attraction techniques to persuade DCCO to nest on the ground.

Cormorant Conservation Zones

Peninsula A and the current nest area of Peninsula B are considered cormorant conservation zones where DCCO will be encouraged to nest, loaf and roost. Efforts will be made to minimize disturbances so that cormorants will continue to use these areas and nesting remains productive.

Inactive Nest Removal

Inactive nest removal will continue for the 2011 season, and will be completed in winter and early spring of 2011, prior to the return of the nesting DCCO. Inactive nest removal will take place in the Primary Deterrent Areas as indicated in Attachment 3, primarily targeting trees in fair health. Since almost all old nests will be removed from the Primary Deterrent Area prior to the 2011 breeding season, any new nests started in 2011 will be obvious and newly placed material will be promptly removed before it becomes an active nest.

Pre-Nesting Deterrents

Cormorants will be discouraged from expanding their tree colonies onto Peninsula D, further onto the tip and base of Peninsula C and the base of Peninsula B. Cormorant pre-nesting deterrents will be used to target areas with healthier trees as depicted in Attachment 3, and will only be implemented if necessary and in response to cormorant nesting attempts in 2011. Cormorant deterrence at the base of Peninsula B and C may be conducted where the BCNH have nested in recent years. Deterrents will only be used in these areas given that they do not adversely impact BCNH nesting.

By discouraging DCCO from nesting in trees in these areas staff anticipate that the stress on forest health and tree canopy will be reduced, further expansion into new trees will be limited, and the enhanced ground nesting areas at the tips of Peninsulas A and B will be more attractive to breeding cormorants. A potential secondary benefit is reduced competition for nest sites and nest material with BCNH and Great Egrets. Deterrents will not occur on Peninsula A or on the majority of Peninsula B. Displaced tree nesting DCCO will be encouraged to ground nest on Peninsulas A and B.

Pre-Nesting Deterrent Methodology

Methods that achieve the goal of deterring cormorants while minimizing disturbance to other species will be utilized. Staff will use targeted techniques that are humane for cormorants and minimize disturbance to other wildlife. The techniques used will be employed on an increasing scale of activity, with preference given to the least intrusive means needed (Attachment 4).

Detailed colony observations will take place prior to implementing any deterrent technique, as well as during and post deterrent implementation. These will be conducted to document behavior, locations and densities of DCCO, BCNH, egrets, or other bird and wildlife species. These observations, combined with nesting locations data from recent years, will provide a baseline to help quantify targeted cormorant movement and non-targeted species activity.

Effective DCCO deterrence requires the use of a suite of techniques. Deterrent techniques are depicted in the 2011 Deterrent Escalation diagram (Attachment 4). Staff presence and increasing human activity in appropriate areas is favoured over the other techniques, however, human activity and presence alone has not proven to be completely effective in preventing nesting expansion in all deterrent areas. It is therefore expected that deterrent techniques will escalate in 2011 as they did in previous years. Deterrent activity will only progress to the next level when staff determine that DCCO are no longer responding to that given technique. Progression to the next level will occur based on documentation that at least two attempts in one day when a given technique fails to flush DCCO.

Deterrents beyond simple human presence would first progress to active techniques including whistling, arm waving, followed by running and shouting. Activity would be further increased to carrying three metre poles and waving the poles without tree contact progressing to moving low tree branches and tapping on trees. Poles would not contact DCCO. If nesting attempts persist, then artificial predators and decoys, including raccoons and scarecrows, will be placed in the trees in and near the nesting locations. If nesting attempts still persist, additional sections may be added to the poles, increasing their length and used to remove newly placed nesting material. Poles will not be used on nests where chicks may be present or where nesting status is not completely documented, and poles will not be used to make direct contact with DCCO. In a situation where DCCO continue to utilize trees within the deterrence area, deterrents will again escalate to utilize noise bangers, in conjunction with the previously described techniques. Noise bangers are not a preferred option and will only be used when non-target species are not present, or will not be affected.

In the event that nesting deterrents progress through the methodology depicted in Attachment 4, and escalate to the use of noise makers (Level 7), and DCCO still refuse to leave newly created nests, deterrents will escalate to the final level, active nest removal. Active nest removal is not a preferred option and will only be used in the Primary Deterrence Areas on recently created nests (i.e., less than 10 days old). Active nest removal will not be utilized as a population control technique, and it is not the intent to disturb active nests containing eggs or nestlings. Active nest removal was undertaken in 2010 when 32 known-age nests were removed.

Active nest removal will not be utilized in the following situations:

1. nestlings (chicks) are present or adult behavior suggests nestlings are present;
2. there is a possibility of nestlings being present or the age of the active nest is not documented;
3. there are eggs present that could be greater than 10 days old;
4. there is a possibility that eggs are present or adult behavior suggests the presence of eggs, and the nest age is unknown or is greater than 10 days old;
5. nests are outside the Primary Deterrent Areas.

The Active Nest Removal Situation and Action Flow Chart (Attachment 5) indicates the typical situations and actions that are anticipated at the site.

In all situations, it is the intent that nests without eggs are removed. Monitoring will include behaviour observations, timeline establishment, spatial nest mapping and tree tagging to provide the highest level of confidence that eggs are not present in a nest, and that nest age is documented. The 10 day incubation used is a conservative estimate based on current scientific literature on embryo development for altricial waterbirds (Humane Society of the United States, 2009. Canada Goose Egg Addling Protocol).

Active nest removal is being used as a deterrence tactic and is complimented with ground nesting enhancements and the other deterrent techniques. This will be conducted to prevent the expansion of tree nesting into new areas, and to protect healthier trees in the Primary Deterrent Areas. In the event that eggs older than 10 days in age or nestlings are discovered, deterrent activities focusing on that nest will stop.

Pre-Nesting Deterrent Monitoring

During deterrent activities observers will be stationed near the BCNH colonies, within view of the ground nesting areas on Peninsulas A and B and on Peninsula D to determine where the disturbed DCCO go and to monitor behaviours of non-target species, specifically BCNH and egrets. Should staff determine that deterrent activities cause an increase of DCCO moving into BCNH nesting locations or causes non-target species disturbance, deterrent activities will stop. Pre-nesting deterrent activities will commence as soon as DCCO are observed in the deterrent areas in early spring 2011.

Post-Breeding Deterrents

Upon completion of DCCO nesting, DCCO will be deterred from roosting in trees on Peninsulas C and D using the least intrusive methods. By discouraging roosting activity the impact of guano on trees is reduced and prospecting for future nest sites in these areas by younger birds is decreased. After the nesting season has ended and fledgling DCCO are feeding independently, post-breeding deterrents will be employed on the tip of Peninsula C and on Peninsula D to reduce the effects of DCCO loafing, or resting on trees. Deterrents will not be used on Peninsulas A and B, displaced DCCO will be encouraged to loaf in the Conservation Zones of Peninsulas A and B. To help achieve this, disturbance to Peninsulas A and B will be minimized and closely monitored by staff. Since these areas already support DCCO colonies and field data indicates large loafing areas are currently available, staff anticipate that DCCO will readily use these peninsulas for post-breeding loafing.

A variety of deterrent methods will be utilized that are humane for DCCO and minimize disturbance to other wildlife. The techniques utilized will be employed on an increasing scale of activity, with preference given to the least intrusive means needed. The scale will follow the same order as the pre-nesting deterrents and as illustrated in Attachment 4, with the exception of nest removal, which will not be undertaken. Human presence is the most favoured technique, however, if presence alone does not deter loafing activities, deterrence would progress to active techniques as stated above in the techniques for pre-nesting deterrents. In all cases deterrents would be humane and minimize the impact to other wildlife. If loafing still persists, deterrent methods will progress to the use of auditory techniques. Noise bangers are the least preferred technique for post-breeding deterrence and if needed will be used sparingly and with caution in a consistent manner. Staff will monitor the effectiveness of the auditory techniques, as well as their effects on other species and may discontinue use if undesirable effects are documented.

Enhanced Ground Nesting

In addition to encouraging post-breeding loafing on Peninsulas A and B, these areas will also be targeted for enhanced ground nesting for the 2011 breeding season. The Strategic Approach includes enhancement of ground nesting opportunities through the placement of woody nest material, as well as the use of non-traditional nest materials to simulate established natural nests. Further ground nest enhancements will also include the use of DCCO decoys and auditory breeding calls to attract DCCO to the ground nesting area. Predator exclosures may also be created to ensure ground nesting success in certain areas until the establishment of the ground nesting colony. Work will be completed during the winter of 2011 to increase the ground nesting DCCO population in 2011.

Restoration

Habitat restoration activities will occur in areas of the peninsulas that are not currently occupied by colonial nesting waterbirds. The base of the peninsulas, and areas within the peninsulas that are not occupied by colonial birds, will be restored using site appropriate vegetation and soil amendments where necessary. Habitat restoration and enhancement activities will also help delineate the extent of the current DCCO colonies and buffer the colonies from disturbance. Targeted improvements also include the addition of native shrubs along the Embayment B back shoreline area to encourage BCNH nesting. Habitat restoration activities will occur in early spring 2011, so the bird colonies are not disturbed.

Monitoring, Research, and Reporting

Annual nest census data for DCCO, BCNH and other colonial waterbirds will be undertaken in late May using a combination of staff and volunteers. As in past years, the census will identify the nesting populations of DCCO and other waterbirds, as well as their spatial nesting distribution within the peninsulas at TTP. Nest counts of the ground nest areas will occur at night in late May; nest counts of tree nest areas will occur during the day in late May. Only the minimum number of staff required to complete nest counts will be present in the colonies in order to minimize disturbance. Staff will also enter the colonies via water or along the shoreline to minimize disturbance when feasible.

Annual tree health surveys will be undertaken in late August/early September to document changes in the health and condition of nest trees within the three peninsulas at TTP. Additionally a control plot will be established on Peninsula D so that health ratings can be compared to non-colonial waterbird nest areas.

An annual summary report of all components of the strategic approach will be completed and circulated to all regulatory agencies and the advisory group, and will be posted for public review upon completion of the 2011 season. This report will outline all approaches employed in the 2011 season including the methods used, their relative effectiveness, and the results of the annual monitoring program. This information will provide a basis for the development of the 2012 strategy using an integrated adaptive management approach.

The next meeting of the DCCO advisory group will be held in late fall 2011, after the completion of the 2011 summary report. This meeting will provide an opportunity to review the results of the 2011 season and discuss whether any changes are needed for 2012.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funds are identified in the Tommy Thompson Park Interim Management account 210-19 in the 2011 Preliminary Capital Budget from the City of Toronto.

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Date: March 18, 2010

Attachments 5:

Attachment 1

Cormorant Strategy Timeline

Advisory Group Meeting #1	January 24, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values and interests of TTP • Conditions and concerns of DCCO colony • Need for management • Strategies to address concerns
Advisory Group Meeting #2	February 19, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate management options • Propose alternative approaches
Cormorant Webpage Launched	March 3, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes background materials, Advisory Group meeting notes and presentations, Public Meeting workbook and meeting notes, relevant links
Public Meeting	April 3, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertised in Toronto Star, The Mirror, TRCA website, TTP information board, TRCA distribution lists, some Advisory Group member websites • Canada Newswire press release, Global TV coverage • Presentations, facilitated round table discussion, individual workbooks for commenting
Advisory Group Meeting #3	April 23, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review public response • Discuss 2008 strategy
TTP Spring Bird Festival	May 10, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided tours of cormorant colony • Public survey on TTP cormorants
Authority Board	May 23, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present 2008 strategy for Authority action
Advisory Group Meeting #4	December 10, 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the 2008 population data, and monitoring program • Review 2008 strategy and preliminary research results • Review the completion of the 2008 Cormorant Management Strategy • Begin discussions on a strategic approach for 2009
Advisory Group Meeting #5	February 4, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the 2009 strategy
Authority Board	March 27, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the 2009 strategy for TRCA Authority action
TTP Spring Bird Festival	May 23, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided tours of cormorant colony • Public survey on TTP cormorants
Advisory Group Meeting #6	December 15, 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the 2009 population data and monitoring program • Review 2009 strategy and preliminary research results • Begin discussions on a strategic approach for 2010
Advisory Group Meeting #7	February 11, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the 2010 strategy

Colonial Waterbird Interpretation and Presentations	April – November, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • York University, Centennial College, University of Toronto, International Association of Great Lakes Research, City of Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation • Society of Conservation Biology speaker series (Toronto Chapter), Institutes of Journalism and Natural Resources • Toronto Field Naturalists walks, LEAF Tree Tour, Humber Valley Heritage Trail Association, Citizens Coalition for the Future of the Etobicoke Waterfront, Toronto Ornithological Club
Advisory Group Meeting #8	December 9, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the 2010 population data and monitoring program • Review 2010 strategy and preliminary research results • Being discussions on a strategic approach for 2011
Advisory Group Meeting #9	February 3, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the 2011 Strategy

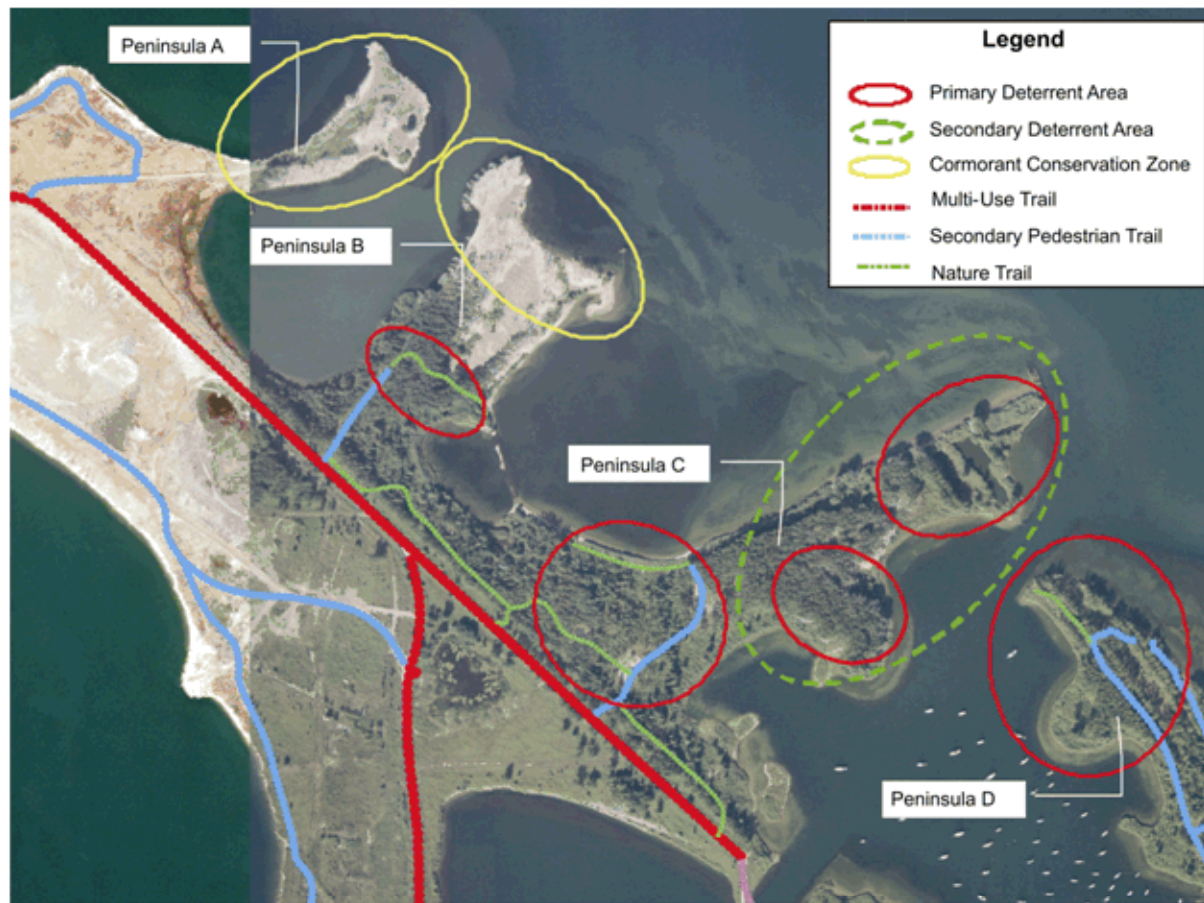
Attachment 2

2011 Strategic Approach

Method	Peninsula A	Peninsula B	Peninsula C	Peninsula D
Inactive Nest Removal (prior to 2010 breeding season)			*	
Pre-nesting Deterrents		*	*	*
Post-Breeding Deterrents			*	*
Enhanced Ground Nesting	*	*		
Habitat Restoration	*	*	*	*

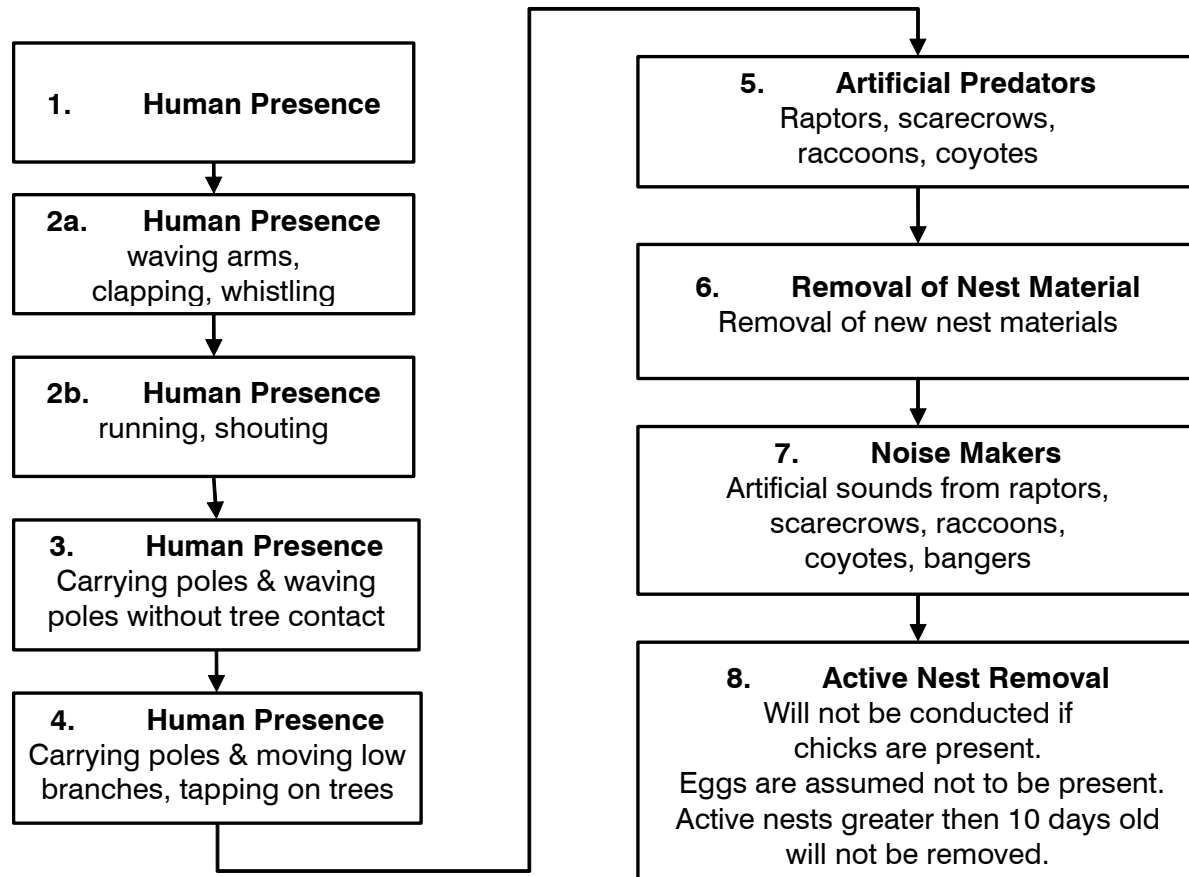
Attachment 3

Cormorant Conservation Zones and 2011 Pre-Nesting Deterrent Locations



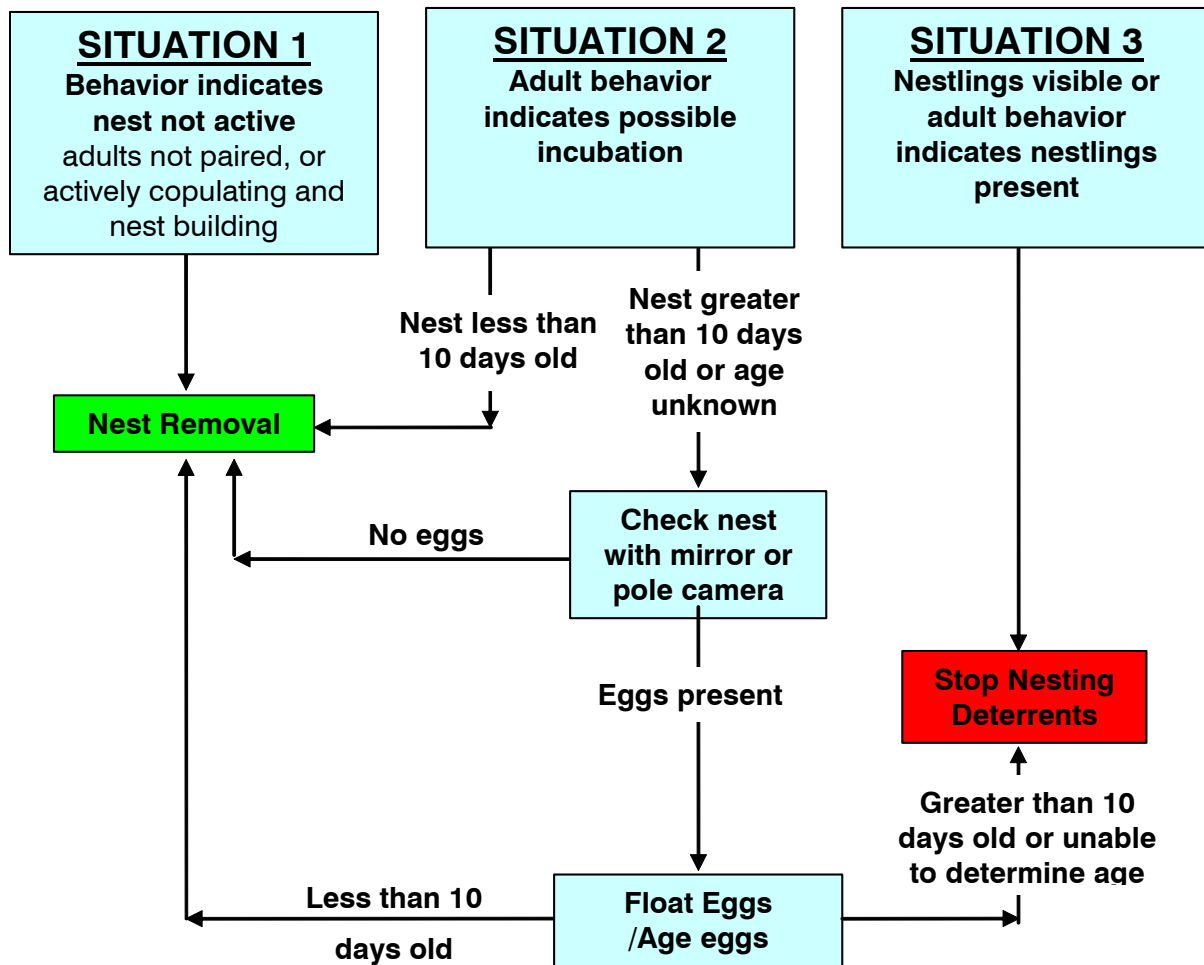
Attachment 4

2011 Deterrent Escalation



Attachment 5

2011 Active nest removal situation and action flow chart



RES.#A50/11 -

ACOUSTIC TELEMETRY FOR FISH POPULATION AND HABITAT USE MONITORING

Approval for Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to enter into a three year agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Carleton University and Environment Canada to conduct a study using acoustic telemetry for fish population and habitat use monitoring.

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Maria Augimeri

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has initiated planning and discussions to enter into a three year agreement with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Carleton University to initiate a study using acoustic telemetry for fish population and habitat use monitoring;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT a partnership between TRCA, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Carleton University be created to implement an acoustic telemetry and monitoring project at a cost not to exceed \$495,000.00 (\$165,000.00 per calendar year), plus HST, for the period March 2011 to December 31, 2013;

THAT contingent upon securing appropriate external funding TRCA transfers funds obtained from external funding to DFO not to exceed \$85,000.00 per calendar year to hire a post-doctoral associate who is an expert in the field of acoustic telemetry and to hire a biologist to model the available fish habitat in the Toronto Harbour;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take the necessary action to implement the agreement including the signing and execution of documents.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

A pilot study was undertaken in 2010 to test acoustic fish monitoring equipment in the Toronto Harbour. Acoustic receivers were successfully deployed into the harbour and 51 fish were implanted with transmitters (VEMCO V13 transmitters). The fish tagged were largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), northern pike (*Esox lucius*) and common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Restoration efforts in Toronto Harbour target the creation of habitat for largemouth bass and northern pike as these fish are native, top predators fish whose existence will help to sustain a healthy fish community in the harbour. Common carp are an invasive fish that has detrimental effects on the native fish community as it destroys habitat required by native species.

The acoustic telemetry and monitoring project will assist with the restoration of beneficial uses in the Toronto Region. Habitat improvement and creation are major considerations of the waterfront revitalization effort, hopefully resulting in significant gains in fish and wildlife habitat. The relative gains for fish populations are unclear according to the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Stage 2 document because of other ongoing stressors. Therefore data connecting the habitat changes over time to changes in fish distributions and detailed knowledge of seasonal and diurnal habitat usage is invaluable to functional ecosystem restoration.

The technology for acoustic telemetry of fishes has recently improved and it is now possible to track small fishes and their movement while collecting environmental information in three-dimensional space passively through a network of in situ receivers. Several key hypotheses about fish-habitat linkages can be addressed as well as testing the short-term effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts. This information is not only helpful for the Toronto Area but for all RAPs where habitat is impaired or other places where groups are undertaking habitat restoration initiatives.

Habitat gains and losses will be tracked as the habitats are constructed and the local environment is monitored over time by the project partners (TRCA/DFO/Carleton University). Tracking fish usage before and after construction provides data to quantify restored habitat usage relative to the prior degraded habitat condition and to adjacent habitats. This comparison provides a relative gauge of quality and can determine time lags in fish usage of restored habitats. Time series information regarding the environmental changes (both direct and indirect) associated with habitat construction can be correlated with fish usage of those habitats for different purposes (i.e. for refuge or feeding habitat usage). Detailed knowledge of fish movements also puts other fish community monitoring data in context because it helps determine home range sizes for species of interest and changes in habitat usage at finer timescales than is possible to sample (e.g. hourly, diurnal) or when sampling is not an option (e.g. overwinter).

RATIONALE

Aquatic Habitat Toronto (a committee consisting of representatives from TRCA, the City of Toronto, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada and Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC)) has facilitated successful research projects between DFO and TRCA to assess the fish community and habitat usage of fishes in the Toronto region. Scientific research and monitoring projects undertaken by DFO and TRCA to date have included young of the year fish research, fish population dynamics research, and supplementing TRCA's normal annual monitoring with alternative methods such as trawling. DFO has hired a post doctoral associate who is an expert in the field of acoustic tracking to undertake the more scientifically rigorous portion of the project. Dr. Steven Cooke, a Canada Research Chair at Carleton University is assisting in the supervision of the Post-Doctoral Associate and lending his immense expertise in the area of acoustic telemetry to the planning of the project and to the analysis of data collected.

The partnership will result in:

- pre- and post-data during major habitat rehabilitation projects providing needed benchmarks for projects such as the rehabilitation of habitat in Tommy Thompson Park (TTP), the Toronto waterfront and the Lower Don revitalization;
- input from both academia and industry on the success of rehabilitation efforts;
- the acquisition of the necessary equipment to undertake the acoustic tagging project.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Each partner organization has committed substantial funding for each year of the project to ensure the success of this project. DFO has committed \$40,000 cash and 'in kind' support, and Carleton University has committed \$5,000 cash and 'in kind' support. TRCA base funding will be provided from Toronto Waterfront Monitoring, account # 240-01 (\$5 000), and TTP Embayment Enhancement, account # 216-80 (\$10 000). In 2011 the funding for the financial commitment of TRCA to DFO for this project will be obtained from successful grant applications to the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (\$85,000) and the RAP (\$20,000). The \$15,000 investment from TRCA base funding will thus enable the implementation of a project with an overall annual value of \$165,000. Future year budgets will be dependent upon securing appropriate external funding. The Great Lakes Sustainability Fund has already committed \$25,000 for 2012 and both DFO and Carleton University are committed to the continuation of this project. Additionally, in order to ensure the longevity of this project, additional funding is being pursued from grants such as the Natural Sciences and Engineering Strategic Grant and an Ontario Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

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Date: March 07, 2011

RES.#A51/11 - KORTRIGHT VISITOR CENTRE RETROFIT PHASE 1 PROJECT
Award of Contract. Recommends award of contract for Phase 1 of the Kortright Visitor Centre Retrofit Project.

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Maria Augimeri

THAT the contract for the Kortright Visitor Centre Retrofit Phase 1 Project be awarded to Struct-Con Construction Ltd., at a cost not to exceed \$961,598.00, plus 10% contingency, plus HST, it being the lowest bid meeting Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) specifications;

THAT award of tender be subject to terms and conditions satisfactory to TRCA staff and legal advisers (if necessary), including but not limited to determination of the final contract cost not to exceed the approved amount;

THAT should staff be unable to negotiate a mutually acceptable tender agreement with the above-mentioned contractor, staff be authorized to enter into contract negotiations with other contractors, beginning with the next lowest bidder meeting TRCA specifications;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take such actions as is necessary to implement the tender including obtaining any needed approvals and the signing and execution of documents.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Situated just north of Toronto, on 325 hectares of pristine woodlands, Kortright Centre for Conservation (KCC) combines a natural oasis with some of the most leading edge sustainable education programs and events in Canada. KCC hosts 135,000 visitors annually and offers over 50 environmental education programs for schools and 30 sustainable technology workshops for the public, trade and professionals. It is also a popular location for green weddings and corporate functions.

The Kortright Visitor Centre is a 30,000 square foot, three level post and beam structure, with a 140 seat theatre, eight classrooms, a cafe and gift shop. The Visitor Centre is the hub of all educational and recreational programs and activities that provide avenues to nature based adventures such as hiking, skiing, orienteering, geocaching, birding, dogsledding and a natural classroom.

The Kortright Visitor Centre was constructed in 1979 and over the past 30 plus years staff has noted significant deficiencies in the mechanical system and the overall energy efficiency of the building. In more recent years, the HVAC mechanical equipment has deteriorated beyond its life expectancy resulting in increased ongoing maintenance cost, excessive energy bills and constant equipment failures which significantly impact daily programming. In order to continue as Ontario's premier environmental and renewable energy education and demonstration centre, TRCA plans to retrofit the Kortright Visitor Centre focusing on reducing the buildings overall energy/carbon footprint.

On March 8, 2010 Request for Proposal (RFP) documentation was publically advertised for consulting services for the Kortright Visitor Centre Retrofit Project. After evaluating the submitted proposals, staff concluded that Levitt Goodman Architects Ltd. met all requirements set out in the Request for Proposal. Due to proposal methodology and approach to the project, relevant sustainable project experience, strong references and fee proposal, staff concluded that Levitt Goodman Architects submission to be superior to the other submissions. Therefore, in September 2010, staff received CAO's approval as follows:

That the contract for Consulting Services for the Kortright Visitor Centre Retrofit Project be awarded to Levitt Goodman Architects, at a cost not to exceed \$85,000, plus applicable taxes, plus 10% contingency.

Over the last few months staff worked closely with Levitt Goodman Architects Ltd. to prepare and refine detailed design and construction drawings required to move forward with the tendering and building permit process. The scope of work for the Kortright Visitor Centre Retrofit Phase 1 project includes:

1. replace the existing HVAC system with a geothermal ground source heat pump system;
2. replace clerestory windows on the mezzanine level;
3. installation of an Energy Recovery Ventilation unit;
4. all work related to the Designated Substance Survey report completed December, 2010.

RATIONALE

Request for Pre-qualification (RFPQ) documentation was publically advertised on February 1st, 2011. The following twenty-five (25) firms submitted pre-qualification documentation:

- Struct-Con Construction Ltd.;
- Elite Construction Inc.;
- J.D. Strachan Construction Ltd.;
- JJM McGuire General Contractors;
- Ledcor Construction Ltd.;
- Compass Construction Resources Ltd.;
- Garritano Bros. Ltd.;
- Percon Construction Inc.;
- Rutherford Contracting Ltd.;
- Geo-Energy Solutions;
- Quest Geothermal;
- Newgen Construction Corp.;
- Quad Pro Construction;
- APlus General Contractor Corp.;
- Arguson Projects Inc.;
- Berkim Construction Inc.;
- HN Construction Ltd.;
- KMA Contracting Inc.;
- Bemocon Construction Group Ltd.;
- Jeviso Construction Corp.;
- BECC Construction;
- Arc General Contracting;
- Spectre Construction & Management Inc.;
- Scott Builders Inc.;
- MJ Dixon Construction Ltd.

Staff evaluated the Pre-qualification documentation based on criteria that included:

1. CCDC 11 requirements and completion;
2. company experience and background;
3. personnel experience;
4. project record over the past five years;
5. references focusing on firms history of project control and experience.

Based on the evaluation process Request for Tender documentation was made available to nine (9) pre-qualified General Contractors on February 18, 2011. The following firms obtained documents:

- Struct-Con Construction Ltd.;
- Elite Construction Inc.;
- J.D. Strachan Construction Ltd.;
- JJM McGuire General Contractors;
- Ledcor Construction Ltd.;
- Compass Construction Resources Ltd.;
- Garritano Bros. Ltd.;
- Percon Construction Inc.;
- Rutherford Contracting Ltd.

All pre-qualified companies, except Ledcor Construction who declined to submit a bid due to unavailable resources, attended a mandatory site meeting on Tuesday March 1, 2011.

Tenders closed on March 11, 2011 at 12:00 noon and were opened at Tender Opening Committee Meeting #2/11 held on Friday, March 11, 2011 with the following results:

FIRM	BASE QUOTATION PRICE (plus HST)
Percon Construction Inc.	\$1,675,000.00
Compass Construction Resources Ltd.	\$1,251,440.00
Rutherford Contracting Ltd.	\$1,069,640.00
JJM McGuire General Contractors	\$998,000.00
Struct-Con Construction Ltd.	\$961,598.00
J.D. Strachan Construction Ltd.	Disqualified
Elite Construction Inc.	Disqualified
Garritano Bros. Ltd.	Disqualified

Staff and the design team evaluated bids based on submission criteria outlined in TRCA's Purchasing Policy and Request for Tender documents. Staff noted that the submissions received from J.D. Strachan Construction Ltd., Elite Construction Inc. and Garritano Bros. Ltd. contained significant irregularities. Upon review, staff noted that J.D. Strachan Construction Ltd. and Garritano Bros. Ltd. neglected to complete the quotation form and to provide itemized pricing for the scope of work. In addition, Elite Construction did not provide the required 50% Labour and Material Payment Bond as requested in the tender documents. As a result, bid submissions received from J.D. Strachan Construction Ltd., Elite Construction Inc. and Garritano Bros. Ltd. were disqualified due to incomplete bid submissions.

In the event that TRCA receives a donation to the project in lieu of tendered goods and/or services, TRCA reserves the right to award the work in whole or in part. As a result, the tender specifications are itemized such that aspects of the work can be removed to achieve cost savings for the project:

1. line item deletions: the project's scope of work to be altered by directly deleting line items from the list of itemized prices in the tender form;
2. revisions using submitted unit prices: the project's scope of work to be altered by revising the quantity of selected items (revised prices shall be calculated by applying the unit prices for addition and deletion of items submitted by the contractor on the tender form).

Based on evaluation of the bids received, staff recommends that the contract for construction of the Kortright Visitor Centre Retrofit Phase 1 Project be awarded to Struct-Con Construction Ltd. at a total cost not to exceed \$961,598.00, plus 10% contingency, plus HST, it being the lowest bid meeting all requirements set out in the Request for Tender and TRCA's Purchasing Policy and specifications.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funds required to complete this project are available through TRCA's municipal funding partners and Earth Rangers lease revenue and are identified in the preliminary 2011 Kortright Retrofit capital budget account #418-22.

Report prepared by: Cindy Maw, extension 6413

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Date: March 08, 2011

RES.#A52/11 -

PROJECT FOR ACQUISITION OF OFFICE SPACE

Purchase of 1235 Ormont Drive, City of Toronto. Recommends that Toronto and Region Conservation Authority not proceed with the purchase and sale agreement for the property at 1235 Ormont Drive, City of Toronto

Moved by: Glenn De Baeremaeker

Seconded by: Glenn Mason

WHEREAS the purchase and sale agreement for 1235 Ormont Drive, City of Toronto, dated January 19, 2011, between Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and SREIT(LP3B) LTD. as amended, provides, if by March 29, 2011, the Purchaser's Members Approval or Conditional Approval is not given the agreement shall terminate;

AND WHEREAS complete funding for the project is not available;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the purchase and sale agreement with SREIT(LP3B) LTD. not be approved;

THAT no Approval Notice or Conditional Approval as stated in the purchase and sale agreement shall be given;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized officials be directed to take the action necessary to terminate the agreement and obtain refund of deposits.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

At Authority Meeting #9/10, held on November 26, 2010 Resolution #A197/10 was approved as follows:

THAT the Project for Acquisition of Office Space be approved;

THAT total funding for the Project of \$14,000,000 be levied from Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) participating municipalities on the basis of the modified current value assessment formula;

THAT staff be directed to finalize an acceptable purchase and sale agreement with representatives of ING Inc. for acquisition of the property at 1235 Ormont Drive, City of Toronto, on terms and conditions acceptable to TRCA and its solicitors, perform such due diligence as is required and report to the Authority no later than March 25, 2011, with a recommendation on the purchase and sale agreement;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take action necessary to implement the project including obtaining any necessary approvals and the signing and execution of documents.

The Chair and Members received a briefing from the Director, Finance and Business Services at the meeting of the Authority held February 25, 2011. The Authority was advised that staff was continuing to meet the requirements of the purchase and sale agreement and were completing due diligence with respect to the property. Also, the Authority was advised of the status of approvals by the participating municipalities. In particular, staff advised that the City of Toronto Executive Committee would be considering the matter at its meeting to be held March 21, 2011.

RATIONALE

Since the February 25th Authority meeting, the Region of York Finance and Administration Committee has recommended to York Region Council that the TRCA office project be approved. York Region Council will consider the matter on March 24th. The Region of Durham Council approved the project as part of the budget approval at its meeting on March 9, 2011. Peel Region Council had approved the project in February as part of its budget approval process. Staff has been advised that the respective Councils of the Town of Mono and the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio have approved the project and their share of the funding.

The Chief Administrative Officer and the Director, Finance and Business Services, attended the meeting of the City of Toronto Executive Committee on March 21, 2011, and responded to questions at some length. After some discussion, Mayor Ford called for a vote on the motion and the Executive Committee approved unanimously a motion that the TRCA request be "deferred indefinitely". This means that the matter does not go to Council and that the matter can be reopened at Executive Committee only by a two thirds vote. Effectively, the City has decided not to support the project.

The project is conditional on all participating municipalities approving the project and their respective shares of the funding. The City of Toronto is required to provide the largest share, \$9.21 million (65.8%). Without the City's commitment, staff must recommend that the purchase and sale agreement for 1235 Ormont Drive, City of Toronto, not proceed.

The Purchase and Sale Agreement with the vendor provides under section 3.2 that if the "Purchaser's Members Approval" is not given by the Purchaser prior to March 29, 2011, the agreement shall terminate and be null and void. "Purchaser's Members Approval" is entirely at the discretion of TRCA.

Implications of Not Acquiring 1235 Ormont Drive

Short Term

Staff is proceeding to take the following actions to deal with office accommodation issues in the short term:

1. Complete the lease amending agreement with Parc Downsview Park for TRCA at its option to retain the office space at 70 Canuck Drive for a further five years (about three years remaining on the lease).
2. Complete the building condition assessment of the TRCA property at Swan Lake in Richmond Hill with a view to retrofitting the existing 6,000 sq. ft. residential dwelling for use as office space.
3. Investigate the availability of additional leased space at the Earth Rangers building at Kortright (TRCA currently leases 2,200 sq. ft.).
4. Investigate the cost to renovate the Restoration Services Centre in Woodbridge to accommodate additional office space.
5. Continue to invest in 5 Shoreham Drive to ensure the building provides safe and adequate work space.

Long Term

TRCA remains committed to a long term solution to its office accommodation needs. As noted in previous reports, in terms of geographical location, the existing site in the vicinity of 5 Shoreham Drive best meets TRCA's needs. There are two options which staff will be assessing:

- A. Redevelopment of the Black Creek Pioneer Village parking lot lands with a view to a joint public/private partnership that will achieve TRCA's goal of adequate, "green" office space and generate opportunities for improved facilities for Black Creek Pioneer Village.
- B. Potential partnership with the Regional Municipality of York in the development of their property adjacent to the new subway station on Steeles Avenue with a view to TRCA securing office space as part of a proposed York Region office on the site.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The purchase and sale agreement for 1235 Ormont Drive has provisions for payment of deposits of \$200,000 on acceptance and \$325,000 on waiver of building conditions. Both deposits have been made and are fully refundable.

TRCA incurred due diligence costs including completing a building condition report, an environmental review and legal fees. At this time, direct costs are estimated at about \$45,000. Funding for this is available in the major facilities retrofit account from TRCA's municipal funding partners.

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Date: March 22, 2011

RES.#A53/11 -

GREENLANDS ACQUISITION PROJECT FOR 2011-2015

Flood Plain and Conservation Component, Humber River Watershed
Maribel Dos Santos and Joao Defaria, CFN 45379. Purchase of property located on the east side of Pine Valley Drive, south of Major Mackenzie Drive (municipally known as 9839 Pine Valley Drive), City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, under the "Greenlands Acquisition Project for 2011-2015", Flood Plain and Conservation Component, Humber River watershed.

(Executive Res.#B21/11)

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Maria Augimeri

THAT 2.32 hectares (5.73 acres), more or less, of vacant land being Part of Lot 19, Concession 6 and designated as Parts 8, 10 and 12 on Plan 65R-32685, City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, located on the east side of Pine Valley Drive, south of Major Mackenzie Drive (municipally known as 9839 Pine Valley Drive), be purchased from Maribel Dos Santos and Joao Defaria;

THAT the purchase price be \$2.00;

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) receive conveyance of the land free from encumbrance, subject to existing service easements;

THAT the firm of Gardiner Roberts LLP, Barristers & Solicitors, be instructed to complete the transaction at the earliest possible date. All reasonable expenses incurred incidental to the closing for land transfer tax, legal costs, and disbursements are to be paid;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take the necessary action to finalize the transaction including obtaining needed approvals and execution of documentation.

CARRIED

RES.#A54/11 -

GREENLANDS ACQUISITION PROJECT FOR 2011-2015

Flood Plain and Conservation Component, Humber River Watershed
Queens Drive Facility Inc., CFN 45380. Purchase of property located on the south side of Queens Drive, east of Jane Street (between 265 and 303 Queens Drive), City of Toronto (Etobicoke York Community Council Area, under the "Greenlands Acquisition Project for 2011-2015", Flood Plain and Conservation Component, Humber River watershed.

(Executive Res.#B22/11)

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Maria Augimeri

THAT 0.47 hectares (1.15 acres), more or less, of vacant land being Lot 35 and Part of Lots 37 and 39, Plan 1557 and designated as Parts 2, 3 and 4 on a Plan of Survey prepared by MMM Geomatics Ontario Ltd., Ontario Land Surveyors, under their Job No. 2010308-001-001, City of Toronto (Etobicoke York Community Council Area, located on the south side of Queens Drive, east of Jane Street (between 265 and 303 Queens Drive), be purchased from Queens Drive Facility Inc.;

THAT the purchase price be \$2.00;

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) receive conveyance of the land free from encumbrance, subject to existing service easements;

THAT the firm of Gardiner Roberts LLP, Barristers & Solicitors, be instructed to complete the transaction at the earliest possible date. All reasonable expenses incurred incidental to the closing for land transfer tax, legal costs, and disbursements are to be paid;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take the necessary action to finalize the transaction including obtaining needed approvals and execution of documentation.

CARRIED

RES.#A55/11 -

GREENLANDS ACQUISITION PROJECT FOR 2011-2015

Flood Plain and Conservation Component, Humber River Watershed
Belmont Properties (Weston) Inc., CFN 45407. Purchase of property located north of Major Mackenzie Drive, east of Pine Valley Drive, City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, under the "Greenlands Acquisition Project for 2011-2015", Flood Plain and Conservation Component, Humber River watershed.
(Executive Res.#B23/11)

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Maria Augimeri

THAT 0.98 hectares (2.43 acres), more or less, of vacant land being Part of Lot 22, Concession 6 and designated as Block 233 on a Draft Plan of Subdivision prepared by KRCMAR Surveyors Limited, under their Job No. 00-183, dated February 3, 2011, City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, located north of Major Mackenzie Drive, east of Pine Valley Drive, be purchased from Belmont Properties (Weston) Inc.;

THAT the purchase price be \$2.00;

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) receive conveyance of the land free from encumbrance, subject to existing service easements;

THAT the firm of Gardiner Roberts LLP, Barristers & Solicitors, be instructed to complete the transaction at the earliest possible date. All reasonable expenses incurred incidental to the closing for land transfer tax, legal costs, and disbursements are to be paid;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take the necessary action to finalize the transaction including obtaining needed approvals and execution of documentation.

CARRIED

RES.#A56/11 -

HYDRO ONE NETWORKS INC.

Request for a Permanent Easement for an Overhead 115 Kilovolt Hydro Transmission line.

Don River Watershed, City of Toronto (Toronto and East York Community Council Area, CFN 45375. Receipt of a request from Hydro One Networks Inc. to provide a permanent easement for an overhead 115 kilovolt hydro transmission line, south of the Canadian Pacific Railway line, between Bayview Avenue and Millwood Road, Don River watershed, City of Toronto (Toronto and East York Community Council Area).
(Executive Res.#B24/11)

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Maria Augimeri

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is in receipt of a request from Hydro One Networks Inc. to provide a permanent easement for an overhead 115 kilovolt hydro transmission line, south of the Canadian Pacific Railway line, between Bayview Avenue and Millwood Road, Don River watershed, City of Toronto (Toronto and East York Community Council Area);

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interest of TRCA in furthering its objectives as set out in Section 20 of the Conservation Authorities Act to cooperate with Hydro One Networks Inc. in this instance;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT a permanent easement containing a total of 0.21 hectares (0.53 acres), more or less, be granted to Hydro One Networks Inc. for an overhead 115 kilovolt hydro transmission line, said land being Part of Lot 11, Concession 3, From The Bay, City of Toronto, as shown on a plan entitled: HYDRO ONE NETWORKS COMPILED PROPERTY SKETCH;

THAT TRCA grant the easement across the subject land on the following terms and conditions:

- (a) The easement price is to be the sum of \$340,000.00;**

- (b) Hydro One Networks Inc. is to pay all TRCA's legal, appraisal, survey and other costs incurred to complete the transaction;
- (c) Hydro One Networks Inc. is to fully indemnify TRCA from any and all claims for injuries, damages or costs of any nature, resulting in any way, either directly or indirectly, from the granting of this easement or carrying out construction;
- (d) Any additional conditions as deemed appropriate by TRCA's solicitor;

THAT although Hydro One Networks Inc. is exempt from approval pursuant to Ontario Regulation 166/06 due to its status as an agency of the Province of Ontario, Hydro One Networks Inc. is encouraged to work with TRCA staff to ensure that all requirements are met for infrastructure related projects as outlined in TRCA's Valley and Stream Corridor Management Program policies / development criteria;

THAT an archaeological investigation be completed, with any mitigative measures being carried out to the satisfaction of TRCA staff, at the expense of Hydro One Networks Inc.;

THAT said easement be subject to the approval of the Minister of Natural Resources in accordance with Section 21(2) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter C.27 as amended;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take whatever action may be required to give effect thereto, including the obtaining of necessary approvals and the signing and execution of any documents.

CARRIED

RES.#A57/11 -

SECURITY SERVICES

Award of Contract for Various Locations. Recommends award of contract for security services for various Toronto and Region Conservation Authority locations.
(Executive Res.#B25/11)

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Maria Augimeri

THAT a contract to provide security services for 5 Shoreham Drive, Black Creek Pioneer Village and other Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) facilities be awarded to Knights On Guard Protective Services, at the unit prices described in this report dated February 16th, 2011, this being the proposal that best meets TRCA specifications;

THAT the contract be on terms and conditions satisfactory to staff including performance satisfactory to staff at all times and a 30/15 day cancellation clause by TRCA for any reason;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized officials be directed to take the necessary action to implement the contract including the signing and execution of documents.

CARRIED

RES.#A58/11 -

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF DURHAM

Request for a Permanent Easement for a Public Alert Siren
Waterfront Pickering / Ajax Sector, CFN 34932. Receipt of a request from the Regional Municipality of Durham to provide a permanent easement for a public alert siren, north of Beachpoint Promenade, east of West Shore Boulevard, Waterfront Pickering / Ajax Sector.
(Executive Res.#B26/11)

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Maria Augimeri

WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is in receipt of a request from the Regional Municipality of Durham to provide a permanent easement for a public alert siren, north of Beachpoint Promenade, east of West Shore Boulevard, Waterfront Pickering / Ajax Sector;

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interest of TRCA in furthering its objectives as set out in Section 20 of the Conservation Authorities Act to cooperate with the Regional Municipality of Durham in this instance;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT a permanent easement containing a total of 0.001 hectares (0.003 acres), more or less, be granted to the Regional Municipality of Durham for a public alert siren, said land being Part of Lot 189, Registered Plan M-7, City of Pickering, as shown on a Plan of Survey prepared by Ivan B. Wallace, Ontario Land Surveyor Limited, under their Drawing 5-9284-R, dated January 10, 2011, together with an access easement across TRCA property (i.e. along Beachpoint Promenade) in order to access the site from West Shore Boulevard;

THAT consideration be the nominal sum of \$2.00, plus all legal, survey and other costs to be paid by the Regional Municipality of Durham;

THAT the Regional Municipality of Durham is to fully indemnify TRCA from any and all claims from injuries, damages or costs of any nature resulting in any way, either directly or indirectly, from the granting of this easement or the carrying out of construction;

THAT an archaeological investigation be completed, with any mitigative measures being carried out to the satisfaction of TRCA staff, at the expense of the Regional Municipality of Durham;

THAT all TRCA lands disturbed by the proposed works be revegetated/stabilized following construction and, where deemed appropriate by TRCA staff, a landscape plan be prepared for TRCA staff review and approval in accordance with existing TRCA landscaping guidelines;

THAT a permit pursuant to Ontario Regulation 166/06 be obtained prior to commencement of construction;

THAT said easement be subject to approval of the Minister of Natural Resources in accordance with Section 21(2) of the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter C.27, as amended;

AND FURTHER THAT authorized TRCA officials be directed to take whatever action may be required to give effect thereto, including the obtaining of necessary approvals and the signing and execution of any documents.

CARRIED

SECTION II - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY INFORMATION

RES.#A59/11 - SECTION II - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY INFORMATION

Moved by: John Sprovieri
Seconded by: Chin Lee

THAT Section II Items EX8.1 - EX8.10, inclusive, contained in Executive Committee Minutes #2/11, held on March 4, 2011, be received.

CARRIED

Section II Items EX8.1 - EX8.10, Inclusive

REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY LAND

(Executive Res.#B27/11)

GLEN ROUGE CAMPGROUND

(Executive Res.#B28/11)

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TRIBUNAL

(Executive Res.#B29/11)

PARTNERS IN PROJECT GREEN ENERGY

(Executive Res.#B30/11)

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION FRENCH TRANSLATION

(Executive Res.#B31/11)

CLIMATE CHANGE MODELLING

(Executive Res.#B32/11)

LOTUS NOTES DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION CONSULTING

(Executive Res.#B33/11)

APPOINTMENT OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

(Executive Res.#B34/11)

BOB HUNTER MEMORIAL PARK

(Executive Res.#B35/11)

BOB HUNTER MEMORIAL PARK

(Executive Res.#B36/11)

SECTION IV - ITEMS FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BOARD

RES.#A60/11 - 2011 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND STAND ALONE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION

City of Toronto. Advises of project implementation of various natural environment and stand alone projects within the City of Toronto.

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: Glenn Mason

THAT the report dated March 8, 2011, on implementation of various natural environment and stand alone projects as approved by the City of Toronto as part of the 2011 project list, be received.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has partnered with the City of Toronto for many years to provide project design, coordination of approvals and implementation services in support of City-led natural environment projects throughout the City and across the Toronto waterfront.

In 2006, the City formalized the process and requested TRCA to enter into an agreement which stipulated terms and conditions for the supply and delivery of projects and services in accordance with an approved list of projects. The agreement also provided a mechanism by which TRCA could invoice the City to recover costs for the services and materials supplied.

More recently, the City of Toronto adopted a Financial Control By-Law that stipulates payments for specific works can be processed without the need for a formal agreement provided the projects have been identified and have received prior approval by the City in accordance with their policies and procedures.

For 2011, the approved list of projects/works is as follows:

LOCATION & FEATURE	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	APPROVED PROJECT COST
STAND ALONE PROJECTS		
Cottonwood Flats	implement soil remediation in support of proposed wetland habitat development	\$225,000
Chorley Park Trail	design and construction of an at-grade pedestrian trail linking Chorley Park and Beltline Trail as part of Evergreen Brick Works access improvements	\$350,000
Dogs Off Leash Area Fencing - various sites including Kew Gardens, High Park, G. Ross Lord Park, Baird Park, Yonge/York Mills, Earl Bales, Viewmount, Glen Agar, Withrow Park, Ellis Avenue, Lameroux Park	install fencing and gates to protect natural environment areas	\$420,000

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS City Wide Environmental Initiatives		
Toronto Islands Dune Restoration	implement access improvements including boardwalk and fencing to protect dune ecosystem	\$50,000
Franklin Pond	increase water collection system to improve wetland habitat	\$50,000
Don Valley Brick Works	implementation of at grade pedestrian access improvements and Quarry Garden entry feature	\$220,000
Interpretive Program	install interpretative signage at various locations	\$7,000
Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat	provision of technical services related to habitat management and improvements	\$19,000
Chester Springs Marsh	design and construction of modifications to inlet/outlet weir to improve water catchment function and frequency	\$20,000
Milne Hollow (Charles Sauriol Reserve)	interim stabilization of historic Milne House, trail improvements and plantings	\$75,000
Burke Brook	design and construction of pedestrian trail and environmental improvements	\$300,000
Total Request - Stand Alone and Natural Environment projects		\$1,736,000

RATIONALE

TRCA and the City of Toronto have a long history of working together on a number of regeneration and habitat enhancement projects. Many of these projects are on TRCA-owned lands of which the City is responsible for management.

TRCA is recognized by the City of Toronto as being able to provide cost-effective management of watershed related projects while providing a specialized understanding of environmental issues and associated design requirements, proven restoration expertise, assurance of a comprehensive approval and permitting process, an ability to facilitate community involvement and meet tight timelines.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

All expenditures made in the delivery and management of these approved projects are fully reimbursable from the City of Toronto.

Tendering and purchases of goods and services will be conducted in accordance with TRCA's Purchasing Policy.

Report prepared by: Dave Rogalsky, extension 5378

Emails: drogalsky@trca.on.ca

For Information contact: Dave Rogalsky, extension 5378

Emails: drogalsky@trca.on.ca

Date: March 08, 2011

RES.#A61/11 - WATERSHED COMMITTEE MINUTES

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: Glenn Mason

THAT Section IV item AUTH8.2.1 in regard to Watershed Committee Minutes, be received.

CARRIED

Section IV Item AUTH8.2.1

HUMBER WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Minutes of Meeting #1/11, held on March 8, 2011

ONTARIO REGULATION 166/06

RES.#A62/11 - APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS PURSUANT TO ONTARIO REGULATION 166/06

Moved by: Pamela Gough
Seconded by: Jim Tovey

THAT Ontario Regulation 166/06 items EX10.1 - EX10.45, with the exception of EX10.29 - City of Toronto, contained in Executive Committee Minutes #2/11, held on March 4, 2011, be received.

CARRIED

RES.#A63/11 - APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS PURSUANT TO ONTARIO REGULATION 166/06

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: Michael Di Biase

THAT Ontario Regulation 166/06 item EX10.29 - City of Toronto, contained in Executive Committee Minutes #2/11, held on March 4, 2011, be received.

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS

RES.#A64/11

Moved by: Pamela Gough
Seconded by: Jim Tovey

THAT New Business item EX11 contained in Executive Committee Minutes #2/11, held on March 4, 2011, be received.

CARRIED

TERMINATION

ON MOTION, the meeting terminated at 1:32 p.m., on Friday, March 25, 2011.

Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Chair

Brian Denney
Secretary-Treasurer

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