



THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY #8/03
October 31, 2003**

The Authority Meeting #8/03, was held in the South Theatre, Black Creek Pioneer Village, on Friday, October 31, 2003. The Chair Dick O'Brien, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

PRESENT

Maria Augimeri	Member
David Barrow	Member
Lorna Bissell	Member
Ila Bossons	Member
Raymond Cho	Member
Michael Di Biase	Member
Irene Jones	Member
Anthony Ketchum	Member
Jim McMaster	Vice Chair
Dick O'Brien	Chair
Bill O'Donnell	Member
Joe Pantalone	Member
Dave Ryan	Member
Frank Scarpitti	Member
Ian Sinclair	Member
Tanny Wells	Member

REGRETS

Bas Balkissoon	Member
Susan DiMarco	Member
Rob Ford	Member
Cliff Gyles	Member
Suzan Hall	Member
Pam McConnell	Member
Peter Milczyn	Member
Ron Moeser	Member
Gerri Lynn O'Connor	Member
Linda Pabst	Member
Maja Prentice	Member
Sherene Shaw	Member

RES.#A211/03 - MINUTES

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Jim McMaster

THAT the Minutes of Meeting #7/03, held on September 26, 2003, be approved.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

- (a) Fred Degasperis, Metrus Development Inc., speaking in regards to item 9.1 - Proposed Administration Fees for Planning Services and Permitting.

RES.#A212/03 - DELEGATIONS

Moved by: Bill O'Donnell
Seconded by: David Barrow

THAT delegation (a) be added to the agenda.

CARRIED

RES.#A213/03 - DELEGATIONS

Moved by: Lorna Bissell
Seconded by: Ila Bossons

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

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) An email dated October 29, 2003, from Madeleine McDowell, Chair, Humber Heritage Committee, in regards to items 8.6 - Cold Creek Fluvial Geomorphology Study - Award of Contract and 8.7 - Centreville Creek Erosion Analysis - Award of Contract.
- (b) A letter dated October 31, 2003, from Fraser Nelson, General Manager, Metrus Development Inc., in regards to item 9.1 - Proposed Administration Fees for Planning Services and Permitting.

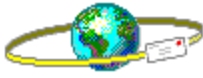
RES.#A214/03 - CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by: Lorna Bissell
Seconded by: Ila Bossons

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

CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE (A)



"Madeleine McDowell" <m.mcdowell@sympatico.ca> on 10/29/2003
07:23:57 PM

Please respond to "Madeleine McDowell" <m.mcdowell@sympatico.ca>

To: Kathy Stranks/MTRCA@MTRCA
cc:

Subject: Friday agenda

The Chair and Members,
October 28th 2003
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
5 Shoreham Drive,
Downsview, Ontario M3N 1S4

Dear Chairman O'Brien:

The Humber Heritage Committee is pleased that the Authority is proceeding with contracts for the Cold Creek fluvial geomorphology study and Centerville Creek erosion analysis.

We anticipate their future usefulness in the monitoring, maintenance and encouragement of ground water recharge. Also the element of water quality control, in an increasingly urban environment, is an aspect of wet weather flow for which these streams need protection.

Even more important, they add to the knowledge base which could assist in future protection of base flow, with the ability to anticipate and prevent both its loss and its fluctuation. This has long been a matter of serious concern to us.

All best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Madeleine McDowell
Chair, Humber Heritage Committee

CORRESPONDENCE (B)



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31 October, 2003

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
5 Shoreham Drive,
Downsview, On.,
M3N 1S4

Attention: Mr. Dick O'Brien
Chair

Reference: Proposed Administration Fees for Planning Services and Permitting

Dear Sir;

We would like to take this opportunity to provide our comments on the proposed fee increase. Staff correctly point out that the service level is suffering because of underfunding. They also clearly state that improvements to the development review level of service are to occur in tandem with a major overhaul of TRCA's plan review and permitting fee collection process.

We agree with the reports linking of service delivery and adequate funding. The recommendations however, call for an immediate increase in the fee with the plan review overhaul to occur later. We believe the fee increase and implementation of the new plan review process must be concurrent in order to have acceptance by all stakeholders.

It is our request that the fee increase be effective at the same time as the new plan review is implemented. We would be glad to participate with other stakeholders, in particular the local municipalities and UDI, to finalize the plan review process. We estimate this would require approximately 2 months time. It would be time well spent to ensure stakeholder acceptance of both the additional costs and approval process.

Yours truly,
METRUS DEVELOPMENT INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fraser Nelson", is written over the typed name.

Fraser Nelson,
General Manager
FN/File:TRCA



SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION

RES.#A215/03 - CENTREVILLE CREEK SUBWATERSHED PLAN

Completion of Phase 1 of the subwatershed planning process for Centreville Creek, with the formation of a Stakeholders Focus Group and status of the Centreville Creek Subwatershed Plan.

Moved by: Jim McMaster

Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT staff proceed with Centreville Creek Subwatershed Plan Phase 2 (Analysis and Integration), and Phase 3 (Development of the Plan) in consultation with the Steering Committee and Stakeholder Focus Group;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back on the completion of the draft plan in Spring 2004.
CARRIED

BACKGROUND

At Authority Meeting #11/02, held on January 10, 2003, resolution #A288/03 was approved as follows:

THAT staff proceed with the preparation of the Centreville Creek Subwatershed Plan in consultation with the Steering Committee, according to the schedule set out in the work program;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back on the completion of Phase 1 in Spring 2003.

Technical studies and field data collection to fill information gaps and develop predictive modeling tools were initiated during the spring and summer of 2002. A draft Phase 1 report providing a summary of existing conditions in the Centreville Creek subwatershed was completed in June 2003. A steering committee meeting was held on June 18th, 2003 to review the draft Phase 1 report and set the direction for Phase 2 of the subwatershed planning process. The draft Phase 1 report is scheduled to be finalized in January 2004 in the interest of incorporating new baseline data in the characterization of current conditions and to capitalize on new information and modeling tools being generated through concurrent studies (i.e., Region of Peel Groundwater Studies, York-Peel-Durham Groundwater Management Study).

A stakeholder focus group has been formed, bringing together elected officials, municipal staff and representatives of local businesses and special interest groups to provide an effective forum for their involvement in developing the subwatershed plan. Two stakeholder focus group workshops have been held (August 13th and September 30th, 2003), during which participants helped to identify local watershed management issues and opportunities, define the goals and objectives of the plan and define the alternative resource use scenarios that will be examined in Phase 2 of the planning process. Each workshop was attended by fifteen or more enthusiastic stakeholders.

Based on Stakeholder Focus Group input, the goals and objectives of the Centreville Creek Subwatershed Plan will be grouped into the themes of Water, Habitat, Landform, and Society. The objectives of the Humber Watershed Strategy, *Legacy: A Strategy for a Healthy Humber*, that are relevant to the watershed management issues and opportunities that exist in Centreville Creek subwatershed will provide the basis for subwatershed plan objectives relating to these four broad themes. Stakeholders have indicated that the subwatershed plan should be action-oriented, and provide direction for management and stewardship action over a five to ten year implementation time frame.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The Centreville Creek Subwatershed Plan is now entering Phase 2 of the process.

Phase 2 - Analysis and Integration July 2003 to December 2003

This phase focuses on examining the effects that anticipated changes to land and water use could have on the health of the subwatershed. Computer modeling techniques and expert analysis will be utilized to predict the response of the natural system to alternative scenarios of resource use and management approaches. At least three scenarios will be examined; 1) Existing conditions; 2) Anticipated new development and water use to 2021 with the current management approach; and, 3) Anticipated new development and water use to 2021 with an enhanced management approach.

Based on an integrated examination of these scenarios and input from steering committee members and stakeholder focus group participants, preferred management strategies will be identified and specific targets for key indicators of watershed health will be established.

Phase 3 - Developing the Plan January 2004 to May 2004

This phase of the study involves building consensus among all participants in the planning process on a set of preferred management strategies, and preparing the final subwatershed plan which integrates and communicates the outcome of the process. Input from steering committee members, stakeholder focus group participants and the public will be solicited through meetings, workshops, public open house events and a technical peer review process.

Key components of the final subwatershed plan will include:

1. A description of existing conditions;
2. Subwatershed-specific goals, objectives and targets related to the protection, rehabilitation and enhancement of the features, functions and linkages of the natural system;
3. Evaluations of the predicted response of the natural system to implementing municipal official plans and alternative management approaches;
4. Recommendations for best management practices and stewardship opportunities;
5. Strategies for implementing the recommendations of the plan; and,
6. A monitoring program to assess whether the goals, objectives and targets are being achieved by all stakeholders.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Development of the Centreville Creek Subwatershed Plan has been granted funding approval from the Regional Municipality of Peel through the Peel Water Management Project.

Report prepared by: Dean Young, extension 5662
For information contact: Dean Young, extension 5662
Date: October 6, 2003

RES.#A216/03 - **ETOBICOKE CREEK HEADWATERS SUBWATERSHED PLAN**
Initiation of Phase 1 of the subwatershed planning process for the Etobicoke Creek Headwaters, development of the work program, and formation of the steering committee.

Moved by: Jim McMaster
Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT staff proceed with formation of the Steering Committee and initiation of Phase 1 of the Etobicoke Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Plan;

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back on the completion of Phase 1 in Winter 2004.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

As part of the Region of Peel Water Management Project, a subwatershed planning process for the Etobicoke Creek Headwaters is scheduled to be undertaken by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in 2003, in partnership with the Region of Peel, the Town of Caledon and the City of Brampton.

The Etobicoke Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Plan will provide enhanced direction to municipalities and private landowners with regard to environmental protection, conservation and restoration within the contexts of existing land and water use, and the planning of future development, to ensure long-term ecological sustainability of the natural features and functions of the subwatershed. The Etobicoke Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Plan will support the broad goals and objectives of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watershed Strategy, *Greening Our Watersheds*, completed in 2002, and will provide the opportunity for detailed scoping and examination of local watershed management concerns.

RATIONALE

The headwaters of Etobicoke Creek has been identified as an important area to focus watershed planning efforts based on anticipated changes to land and water use associated with implementation of municipal official plans, and expansion of areas serviced by the Region of Peel's water supply infrastructure.

Specifically, the subwatershed planning process has been initiated to provide guidance with regards to:

- on-going implementation of the environmental policies of the Region of Peel, Town of Caledon and City of Brampton;
- planning future development in urban and rural settlement areas;
- reviewing and updating official plans for the Region of Peel, Town of Caledon and City of Brampton;
- on-going implementation of the recommendations of *Greening Our Watersheds*, the watershed strategy for the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks;
- the Region of Peel's plans to extend the water supply feedermain north of Mayfield Road along Kennedy Road to service new settlement areas in the Mayfield West Rural Service Centre; and,
- Complaints from local residents that their private groundwater wells are drying up.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The Etobicoke Creek Headwaters subwatershed planning process will involve three phases that will occur over a two year time frame. Progress reports will be prepared during each phase of the planning process:

Phase 1 - Subwatershed Characterization

The purpose of this phase of the planning process is to establish current conditions on the subwatershed through a review of existing information and the initiation of technical studies that address critical information needs. Technical studies will be conducted to fill information gaps and to develop new modelling tools or refine existing models that will be used to predict the response of the natural system to future resource use scenarios.

Phase 2 - Analysis and Integration

This phase focuses on examining the potential effects that anticipated changes to land and water use could have on the health of the subwatershed. Computer modelling techniques and expert analysis will be utilized to predict the response of the natural system to alternative scenarios of resource use and management. Based on an integrated examination of alternative scenarios and input from steering committee members and stakeholder focus group participants, management strategies will be identified and specific targets for key indicators of watershed health will be established.

Phase 3 - Developing the Plan

This phase of the study involves building consensus among all participants in the planning process on a set of preferred management strategies, and preparing the final subwatershed plan which integrates and communicates the outcome of the process. Input from steering committee members, stakeholder focus group participants and the public will be solicited through meetings, workshops, and public open house events.

Key components of the final subwatershed plan will include:

1. A description of existing conditions;
2. Subwatershed-specific goals, objectives and targets related to the protection, rehabilitation and enhancement of the features, functions and linkages of the natural system;
3. Evaluations of the predicted response of the natural system to implementing municipal official plans and alternative management approaches;

4. Recommendations for best management practices and stewardship opportunities;
5. Strategies for implementing the recommendations of the plan; and,
6. A monitoring program to assess whether the goals, objectives and targets are being achieved by all stakeholders.

A steering committee will be established to direct the organization and management of the subwatershed planning process. The steering committee will be made up of representatives from the Public Works and Planning Departments of the Region of Peel, Town of Caledon and City of Brampton, the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition, and the TRCA. Representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of Natural Resources will also be invited to take part in the steering committee. The TRCA will act as the coordinating agency for the study. A work program will be prepared that provides a breakdown of the work to be undertaken and a schedule for completing all phases of the planning process.

Subwatersheds represent a scale that is well-suited for enhanced public involvement in watershed planning initiatives. Several approaches will be used to inform local residents and stakeholder groups about the subwatershed planning process and to seek input on identifying key issues and opportunities, preparing subwatershed goal and objective statements that reflect local management concerns and developing management strategies. A stakeholder focus group will be established to provide an effective forum for local residents, elected representatives, agency representatives and special interest groups to become involved in shaping the subwatershed plan. Planning workshops will be held to solicit input at key points during each phase of the subwatershed planning process. Information updates will be made available to all interested parties through special mailings, articles in *CreekTime* (the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watersheds newsletter), postings on the TRCA website and public information sessions.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Development of the Etobicoke Creek Headwaters Subwatershed Plan has been granted funding approval from the Regional Municipality of Peel through the Peel Water Management Project.

Report prepared by: Dean Young, extension 5662
For Information contact: Dean Young, extension 5662
Date: October 06, 2003

RES.#A217/03 -

REGIONAL WATERSHED MONITORING PROGRAM

Update on the TRCA's Regional Watershed Monitoring Program.

Moved by: Jim McMaster
Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT staff be directed to continue with the implementation of monitoring activities associated with the ongoing Regional Watershed Monitoring Program, as well as to continue to pursue and foster partnerships under the Regional Watershed Monitoring Network.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Regional Watershed Monitoring Program is an ongoing program that has been developed by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to provide a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach to environmental monitoring in the Greater Toronto Area. The program includes the establishment of a Monitoring Network that endeavors to bring together a group of like-minded, cooperative agencies and organizations to collect, store, distribute and report on environmental monitoring data that furthers the interests of all involved parties. This Monitoring Network builds on the existing local and project-specific monitoring efforts of its partners.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To develop a program that provides the necessary information to assess the health of the watersheds, subwatersheds, waterfront ecosystems and RAP area, spatially and temporally;
- To identify a set of indicators that reflect ecosystem condition, integrate the monitoring requirements of the RAP with report cards for individual watersheds, and are compatible with municipal state of the environment reporting and other broad programs like State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC), for the Great Lakes basin, and the provincial policy performance indicators;
- To develop an efficient program that builds upon existing monitoring activities, avoids duplication between agencies, municipalities and organizations, is cost effective in allocating the best use of resources and informs management decisions;
- To identify ways to engage and involve the public, interest, and school groups in meaningful monitoring activities;
- To develop and obtain agreement from stakeholders on a set of monitoring protocols for the collection, analysis, storage and distribution of data on the indicators that are identified.

The Regional Watershed Monitoring Program was initiated in 2001 and has focused on four components; Aquatic Habitat and Species, Surface Water Quality, Flow and Precipitation, and Terrestrial Natural Heritage. The monitoring activities supporting the regional program are implemented through the TRCA and a network of partners. The network is comprised of agencies that collectively carry out environmental monitoring activities (Table 1).

Table 1 - Regional Watershed Monitoring Network

MONITORING COMPONENT	AGENCY / PARTNER
<i>Aquatic Habitat & Species</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Benthos ● Fish Community & Habitat ● Fluvial Geomorphology ● Algae 	TRCA / MOE / Community TRCA / MNR / TRCA / City of Toronto TRCA / City of Toronto
<i>Surface Water Quality</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Routine Stream Sampling ● Routine Waterfront Water Chemistry ● Tributary Toxics Monitoring ● Fish Biomonitoring ● Lake Partner Program ● Aesthetics Monitoring 	City of Toronto /TRCA City of Toronto MOE / TRCA MOE MOE TRCA
<i>Flow & Precipitation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stream Flow Gauges ● Base Flow Monitoring ● Precipitation Gauges ● Snow Course Monitoring 	TRCA / Environment Canada / Municipalities TRCA TRCA / Environment Canada TRCA
<i>Terrestrial Natural Heritage</i>	TRCA

The 2003 field season marks the completion of the third year of the monitoring program. This is significant in that several of the monitoring components (fish community and habitat, and fluvial geomorphology) have been designed to be implemented on a three year cycle, and in this respect the 2003 season completes the first full cycle of these components in all nine watersheds. Data can now be analyzed and used to report on watershed health on a regional scale, in addition to the watershed scale.

2003 MONITORING ACTIVITIES

The following highlights some of the monitoring activities carried out during 2003:

Aquatic Habitat and Species

Aquatic organisms live, for the most part, their entire lives within the water. As a result, they are subjected to the many interacting physical, chemical and biological factors which surround them, and are dependent upon these factors for the maintenance of their health. Such factors include water temperature, water flow, nutrients, sediment or contaminants carried in water, channel form and types of in-stream cover, to report a few. If an environment becomes degraded, often the first clue is a change in the biotic community.

The monitoring activities undertaken under the Aquatic Species and Habitat component are summarized as follows:

- ***Benthic Invertebrates*** were monitored at a total of 143 sites throughout the TRCA's nine watersheds (Humber, Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek, Don, Highland, Rouge, Petticoat Creek, Duffins and Carruthers) in 2003. Samples of the invertebrate communities were obtained at each site using a modified kick and sweep netting technique. Samples were submitted to a qualified consultant for identification services and were identified to species.

Based on the data collected in 2001-03 and in future years, a variety of multi-metric and multi-variate approaches will be used to assess water quality and habitat conditions within the sample sites. Future use of the data will also include the identification of Regional Reference Sites that can be used to characterize the ecological integrity of various streams within the region.

In 2003, TRCA became a partner in the Ontario Biomonitoring Network, a provincially-led initiative towards standardization of benthic macroinvertebrate community monitoring and data sharing. The 2003 activities include participating in training and workshop sessions designed to launch the program, the provision of data collected through the Regional Watershed Monitoring Program, the selection and monitoring of reference sites from within the TRCA's watersheds, and participation in research designed to compare various collection protocols. This participation in the biomonitoring network is consistent with one of Conservation Ontario's recommendations outlined in their WRIP III report, released in July of 2003.

- ***Fish Species and Habitat***

Fishes and their community structure are often used as indicators of the health of an aquatic system for a number of reasons: 1) fish communities usually encompass all of the trophic levels present in a system from primary consumers (herbivores) to top predators (piscivores); 2) fish are generally easy to sample and identify; 3) there is a wealth of information available on their life-histories and various sensitivities to environmental degradation; 4) historical data exists regarding fish communities in many areas; 5) fishing is an important industry with economic value; and, 6) the general public and policy makers can relate more to fish than other aquatic organisms.

In order to gain a regional understanding of fish species and habitat on a watershed basis, the monitoring program has targeted 150 sites throughout the nine watersheds within the TRCA jurisdiction. In 2003, a total of 49 of these sites (25 Rouge, 21 Duffins, 3 Carruthers) were monitored using the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol. The goal of the program is to monitor all of the 150 sites identified within a 3-year period. With the completion of the 2003 field work, this goal has been achieved, and it is expected that the Humber and Etobicoke Creek sites monitored in 2001 will be re-surveyed next year to continue the 3-year cycle.

- ***Fluvial Geomorphology***

Information on physical habitat is needed at fixed sites within each watershed in order to understand the normal variation that occurs in habitat and associated changes in the fish and benthic invertebrate community. The data is also needed to identify any long term trends in habitat that might affect stream health and productive capacity. Therefore, it has been recommended that a long-term monitoring program be established in partnership with interested agencies and organizations to track changes in physical habitat at the sites where fish and benthic invertebrate communities are surveyed.

The physical component of aquatic habitat in a stream is closely related to the fluvial geomorphology. Studies of fluvial geomorphology are important components of works in and around watercourses and are often undertaken in association with these works. Previously, there have been few on-going monitoring activities associated with tracking changes in fluvial geomorphology, spatially and temporally. The importance of fluvial geomorphology in understanding the association between flow in a stream and the aquatic habitat present cannot be overstated. For this reason, it has been recommended that several aspects of fluvial geomorphological assessments (eg. long profiles, cross sections, pebble counts, bank full width and depth, etc.) be incorporated into the Regional Watershed Monitoring Program that has been developed and is currently being implemented by the TRCA.

A total of 150 stations across the nine watersheds within the TRCA's jurisdiction have been targeted as part of the Regional Watershed Monitoring Program. For the 2003 field season, a total of 50 of these stations were selected in the Duffins, Carruthers and Petticoat Creek watersheds and will be surveyed using standard fluvial geomorphology measurement techniques. The goal is to have all of the sites identified and surveyed within a 3-year period. With the completion of the 2003 field work, this goal will be achieved, and it is expected that follow-up monitoring of the sites previously set-up will continue.

- ***Algae***

Marianne Douglas, an Assistant Professor of Geology from the University of Toronto outlined a case for algae as biomonitors at the 1999 International Joint Commission (IJC) Water Quality Board workshop (Toronto and Region RAP 1999). In her presentation she identified that algae can be excellent biomonitors for environmental assessments because they are common and widespread throughout all watersheds; they form the base of the food chain; there are hundreds of different species; and, they are sensitive to environmental conditions, especially water chemistry. Algae have been successfully used to monitor such things as nutrient surplus (ie. eutrophication), turbidity and siltation, organic enrichment, high salinity, contamination by metals and acidification. At present, there are several programs throughout the world that have utilized algae monitoring. The benefit of using algae as a biomonitor is that it is low cost relative to other traditional methods as well as the non-destructive collection methods of algae sampling. In addition, algae are often the first group of organisms to be impacted by shifts in physical and chemical conditions in a watercourse, including the introduction of pollutants at relatively low concentrations because of their strong connection to basic water chemistry and their short life cycles. Thus algae can be an important component of an early warning system of change in a watershed.

Algae sampling was conducted during the 2003 field season at 143 sites in the Humber, Etobicoke, Mimico, Don, Highland and Rouge watersheds, as well as at the stream water quality monitoring sites surveyed by the City of Toronto. These samples will provide some of the data necessary to further evaluate the use of algae as a biomonitor for the GTA watersheds.

Water Quality

In 2002-03, the TRCA continued to liaise and expand partnerships with our key program delivery agencies, including the City of Toronto (stream and waterfront routine water chemistry monitoring); Ministry of the Environment (Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network, Tributary Toxics Monitoring; Young-of-the-Year Biomonitoring; Sport Fish Contaminant Monitoring; Lake Partner Program); and the City of Mississauga.

The following summarizes the surface water quality monitoring activities that were carried out in 2002-03 through these partnerships:

- Routine stream chemistry is tracked at 36 sites across TRCA watersheds, once per month (April through November) throughout 2002-03. Water samples are analysed for basic water chemistry parameters and metals using a combination of provincial, municipal and private laboratories.
- MOE's Tributary Toxics Monitoring (TTM) program monitors the full suite of water chemistry parameters (basic, metals and organics) in selected Lake Ontario tributaries. In 2003, TRCA partnered with the MOE to re-establish 10 monitoring stations that will be sampled over the next 3 years. Under this partnership, TRCA has provided sampling equipment and staff to collect samples at 2 of the sites.
- In 2002-03, all of the 31 proposed young-of-the-year biomonitoring sites were surveyed in MOE's fall survey.
- MOE continued with their ongoing Sport Fish Contaminant program in 2002-03. Of the five additional recreational sport fishing sites recommended under the Regional Watershed Monitoring Program, two have been monitored. Partnership arrangements are currently underway with MOE, including offering TRCA field staff to assist with collections if necessary, to ensure the additional sites are re-surveyed as required in the future.
- TRCA helped bring together community volunteers in the last 3 years to participate in MOE's Lake Partner Program to track lake nutrient conditions. Volunteers participated in the program at Seneca/Eaton Hall Lake, Palgrave Pond, Claireville Reservoir, Grenadier Pond, Heart Lake, Mary Lake, Gibson Lake and Professor's Lake. TRCA field centre staff monitored Lake St. George.
- In 2003, TRCA partnered with the City of Mississauga to install and monitor 3 automatic water sampling stations (2 Etobicoke Creek, 1 Mimico Creek) in order to monitor water quality related to storm events. This sampling will continue over the next two years.

Terrestrial Natural Heritage

Terrestrial natural heritage monitoring was undertaken in support of the development of TRCA's Terrestrial Natural Heritage Strategy. Natural cover (forest, wetlands and meadow) were inventoried by staff biologists throughout the TRCA jurisdiction. The surveys involved mapping and describing vegetation communities, and mapping flora and fauna species. To date, more than 50% of the natural cover in the TRCA jurisdiction has been digitized. This information has been combined into a regional inventory and will be used in the development of the Terrestrial Natural Heritage Strategy and in subsequent stages of its implementation.

The region's Natural Heritage System continues to be updated using 1999 and 2002 ortho photos and landscape analysis. Terrestrial inventories were undertaken, including the ecological land classification of approximately 8,000 ha. The volunteer monitoring component that continued in 2003 with the monitoring of 63 fixed sites within the TRCA jurisdiction.

Data Management

One of the key elements of the Regional Watershed Monitoring Program is the data that is collected on an annual basis. As such, the storage, security and retrieval of the data is extremely important. In 2001, the TRCA contracted a consultant to develop a relational database (TRCA Envirobase) to house all of the various environmental data collected through this and other programs of the TRCA. This relational database also has the ability to link various data sets that are currently available. Updates to the relational database have been completed in subsequent years including the addition of a sediment quality and fluvial geomorphology component. Additional customization of the TRCA's database structure along with data entry is on-going. Changes to the corporate IT/Network structure in the near future will enable more effective sharing and use of the relational database by staff.

In 2003, staff have entered into a partnership with York University and Seconsys on a project that focuses on the development of a web-based data assessment and reporting system to support the TRCA's Regional Watershed Monitoring Program. As a pilot project, its purpose is to demonstrate how biological monitoring and abiotic data can be presented in a geographic context to facilitate the sharing of watershed monitoring data with civic, scientific and political stakeholders. In this web-based environment, results can be viewed in attribute space (as line charts), and in a geographic context (via topographical maps). This will allow for a better appreciation of potential physical factors in catchment areas that may influence findings from in-stream monitoring activities. The geographic scope for this pilot project is the Humber watershed.

A suite of indices using region-specific criteria are used to provide "roll-up" or an aggregate evaluation for a specific monitoring site. For example, in another similar web-based application (Map Reflections), ten (10) indices have successfully been used to characterize the community composition and diversity of benthic macro invertebrates observed at a monitoring site. These indices include: Number of Taxa, Diversity, and Dominant Taxon. Results of this assessment method are reported as: impaired, potentially impaired, or unimpaired. While the results are not specific to the types of possible impacts, trends in the data may raise "red-flags", and prompt more intensive investigation.

Through a marriage of emerging internet mapping technology and reporting applications, community stakeholders can be engaged in more meaningful ways when watershed monitoring information is being disseminated. Stakeholders will have the option of searching and visualizing watershed monitoring information with greater ease, but also to contact existing community-based environmental organizations (e.g., Citizens Environment Watch - CEW) to consider participating in data collection, assessment and information sharing. The embodied energy of shared interests, identity and trust - what has been called "social capital" - is harnessed and focused to support the stewardship of the region's environment. This project represents a small but important step towards integrating and reinforcing programs.

This development of the pilot site is expected to be completed by the end of October 2003, and will be the focus of a future communication to the Watershed Management Advisory Board.

Products

To date there have been a number of reports that have been produced that describe components of the Regional Watershed Monitoring Program, along with applications of the data and information generated by the network. A partial list is as follows:

- Benthic Community Monitoring Program: Toronto Area Watersheds 2001;
- Regional Watershed Monitoring Program: Toronto Waterfront Benthic Community Evaluation 2001;
- Regional Watershed Monitoring Program 2001 - Status Report;
- The Visual Aesthetic Condition of Watercourses in the Toronto Region: The Results of a Pilot Community-based Visual Aesthetic Survey - July 2002;
- Regional Monitoring Program - Fluvial Geomorphology Component (Etobicoke Creek, Mimico Creek and Humber Watersheds) 2001;
- Regional Monitoring Program - Fluvial Geomorphology Component (Don River, Rouge River and Highland Creek Watersheds) 2002.

In July 2003, Conservation Ontario released their report on the third year of participation in the Water Resources Information Project (WRIP). In addition to outlining the various activities addressed by the WRIP process, the report identifies a number of specific recommendations for individual conservation authorities to collect, store and share water resources information. TRCA, through the Regional Watershed Monitoring Program has addressed and supported a number of these recommendations, including:

- TRCA staff participated in the development and review of Conservation Ontario's Water Quality Monitoring Discussion Paper;
- Staff have continued to develop a relational database for storage and management of water resources information;
- TRCA's Information Technology group has developed, and is implementing a corporate IT strategy to address day-to-day network maintenance needs and future information technology expansion;
- Staff are partnering with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in the newly developed Ontario Biomonitoring Network in order to standardize benthic invertebrate data collection, storage and analysis;
- Staff participated in a two-day water sampling and data analysis workshop, and participated in the review of a Sampling and Data Analysis Manual developed by the MOE and Conservation Ontario.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The 2004 field work and data collection will commence in the spring, and will include additional fish, habitat and water quality monitoring to be done in Region of Durham (Duffins Creek and Carruthers Creek) subject to funding approval. Monitoring work will include:

- Benthic invertebrate sampling at 150 watershed stations and 22 waterfront sites;
- Fish community and stream habitat will be re-surveyed at the 51 stations set-up in the Humber and Etobicoke watersheds in 2001, and at 22 sites along the waterfront;
- Monitoring of the fluvial geomorphology stations established in the Humber River, Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks will be continued;
- Water quality data will be collected from a total of 49 sites in the Toronto region through a network of partners.

Further updates to the TRCA's relational database will be forthcoming in the next few months as well as staff development and training on its use. Additional development of the web-based map and data server will be undertaken following review of the pilot web site and application scheduled for completion at the end of October 2003.

A more detailed report outlining the Regional Watershed Monitoring Program and a summary of the data collected in 2002 will be prepared by staff over the next several months. This report, along with the 2001 summary report will provide the basis for updating the TRCA's marketing information for the program, including display materials, literature and web page content. Analysis of the data collected in 2001-03 will be undertaken over the next few months in order to provide usable interpretation for the TRCA's watershed report card process and to share with municipal partners. This data from the first 3 years of the monitoring program will also contribute to the baseline data for the development of a Regional Report Card by the TRCA.

In addition, staff will continue to foster partnerships with community groups and other agencies involved in monitoring activities through the watershed monitoring network.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funding for the 2003 Regional Watershed Monitoring Program was made available from the following partners/sources:

	2003	2004
City of Toronto	\$200,000	\$200,000
Region of Peel	\$200,000	\$200,000
Region of York	\$200,000	\$200,000
Region of Durham	\$50,000	\$50,000
RAP MOU 2001/02	\$35,000	\$35,000
TOTAL	\$685,000	\$685,000

Subject to budget approval, funds to support this program will be available in account 124-01.

For Information contact: Scott Jarvie, extension 5312
Date: July 18, 2003

RES.#A218/03 -

CITY OF TORONTO BLUE FLAG PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

Provide assistance to the City of Toronto and Environment Defence Canada in receiving the Blue Flag accreditation.

Moved by: Jim McMaster
Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT Conservation Parks staff review the Blue Flag Program to evaluate its potential application to the Heart Lake beach and determine whether suggesting it as a pilot site, to aid the City of Toronto in receiving their Blue Flag accreditation, is an appropriate next step;

THAT relevant Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff be circulated information on the Blue Flag Program so that the objectives and criteria of this program are considered when embarking on future projects on the waterfront;

THAT TRCA Education staff further review the Blue Flag Program and consider it in the strategic planning of other programs done in cooperation with the City of Toronto;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA staff accept the invitation by City of Toronto staff and Environment Defense Canada to participate in a soon to be formed National Steering Committee for the program, at which time our level of participation in City initiatives will be explored further and evaluated.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto is seeking Blue Flag accreditation for its beaches and marinas. The Blue Flag Campaign is an exclusive eco-label which indicates that a beach or marina is clean, safe and well managed. The process to receive this accreditation is fairly intensive, taking two years to complete. This program will be situated as a part of the city's Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan.

The Blue Flag Program originates in Europe and is one of the Federation of Environmental Education's (FEE), based out of Denmark, keystone programs. FEE programs reflect two strands: understanding and action. The foundation states that "the relationship between human activity and the quality of the environment is understood by many but not by all and many are not prepared to act". Their mission is to provide information so that people understand and commit themselves and their organizations or communities to action.

The Blue Flag is currently awarded to more than 2800 beaches and marinas in 23 countries across Europe, Africa and the Caribbean. Because of this, it is recognized throughout the world as an indicator of high standards of water quality, beach maintenance, safety and environmental education/outreach. The award of a Blue Flag is based on the ability to meet 27 criteria in the areas of: Water Quality, Safety, Beach Maintenance and Environmental Education.

In order for the City of Toronto to apply for the Blue Flag Program, a recognized national, non-governmental organization needs to be assigned to administer the program. Environmental Defense Canada (EDC) was determined to meet the criteria of the program requirements and recruited by the city. The program is intended to be a national effort, therefore the city's initiation of the Blue Flag Program will lead to a campaign to launch it at a national level.

EDC, with support of the city, has applied for membership to the Blue Flag Program (as of May 1, 2003). The following steps must also be taken by EDC in conjunction with the city to launch the Blue Flag campaign:

- organize a Blue Flag workshop/meeting;
- establish a Blue Flag committee;
- carry out a Blue Flag feasibility phase and report by December 31, 2003/2004; and
- run a Blue Flag pilot phase (test compliance at pilot sites during the 2003/2004 swimming seasons).

On Friday, September 26, 2003 EDC held the initial Blue Flag workshop. Representatives from FEE, EDC, City of Toronto, Environment Canada, The Lifesaving Society, Toronto Environmental Alliance, Beaches Business and Professionals Association and TRCA attended.

Presentations were given by:

- Mike Price, City of Toronto
- Finn Bolding Thomsen, FEE (Denmark)
- Rick Smith, EDC
- Brian Craig, Environment Canada
- Ilze Andrzsans, City of Toronto
- Yafit Rokach, City of Toronto
- Ted Bowring, City of Toronto
- Sarah Winterton, EDC
- Peter Buechner, EDC

The workshop agenda focused on further defining the Blue Flag Program, along with addressing areas where the city is currently meeting or not meeting the 27 criteria. Since this is a European developed program, there was some discussion regarding the applicability of each criteria to Canadian beaches and suggestions were made as to how we could personalize this for Canada. From this workshop, it was clear that there are two predominant issues which will need to be addressed further at a later date:

1. The steps that need to be taken to bring this program into a national scope (as per the Blue Flag criteria) have to be carefully thought through. There has yet to be any effort made to achieve this. Currently Toronto beaches are the only areas that have been considered in the scoping phase of the application. It was recommended from the FEE representative at the workshop that another pilot be established outside of the City of Toronto, in Ontario. It was also discussed that National Parks could be approached as a means of initiating a program across the country.

2. A national criteria derived from the 27 European criteria needs to be developed in consultation with all the national players. In particular, criteria around water quality monitoring needs to be further addressed. Our standards in Ontario are higher than those used in the Blue Flag Program. The program will remove flags if the faecal coliforms exceed 2,000 counts per 100 ml. Their recommendation however, is to have beaches strive for 100 counts per ml, which is our provincial mandated (imperative) value. The issue with this arises when we examine this program at a national level. Each province has different provincially mandated regulations of which Ontario has the highest standard (most follow 200 counts per ml as a guideline). Advisors from the Blue Flag Program suggest that in order for this program to be implemented successfully, the Blue Flag should have one national standard set (meeting or exceeding Blue Flag Program standards) which will be used to evaluate a beaches ability to meet the programs criteria. Consultation with all the provinces (and possibly territories) will need to be done to determine how this situation can be addressed.

During the winter the City of Toronto and EDC will work on meeting the requirements for the pilot phase of the Blue Flag Program and develop a communications strategy for the public. The following activities need to be undertaken for the 2004 bathing season:

- monitoring of the 14 beaches to see if they are meeting the 27 requirements set in the program;
- creation of a public information display which could be placed in a mobile trailer;
- arrangements made to place Blue Flag signage on the beach;
- erection of flagpoles at the 14 beaches (2004); and
- completion of five environmental education activities.

Once the pilot phase is complete a National Jury (which will consist of relevant national stakeholders) will evaluate the candidate(s) on a national level and forward the approved candidate(s) to the International Jury (consisting of members from FEE, United Nations Environmental Programme and the European Union) for final approval. The Blue Flag award is only given for one year at a time. The application must be renewed and evaluated for each season. Yearly compliance is maintained by controlled visits by the National and International Jury, in addition to investigations into guests and visitors comments or complaints.

For further information on the Blue Flag Program, including a detailed listing of the 27 European criteria, contact the staff member listed below or visit <http://www.blueflag.org>.

Next Steps

- Since Toronto has been encouraged to establish a pilot site outside of the City of Toronto, there is opportunities for the TRCA to assist in this task by suggesting the use of Heart Lake as a site. Conservation Parks staff need to assess whether Heart Lake could reasonably meet the 27 criteria set out by the Blue Flag Program and whether this is a program the conservation area would be interested in adopting.

- TRCA staff should be aware of the Blue Flag Program and its objectives when initiating future projects on the waterfront. One of the 27 criteria in Europe for the Blue Flag Program is the establishment of an interpretive centre. All effort should be made to connect any possible plans at Tommy Thompson Park with plans the city may have to meet this requirement. Education staff should also consider the Blue Flag Program in the strategic planning of other programs done in cooperation with the City of Toronto.
- TRCA staff who attended the September 26th workshop indicated to EDC and the City of Toronto their interest of continuing to be involved in this process. EDC and City of Toronto staff intend to invite TRCA to sit on the National Steering Committee for the Blue Flag Program (to be formed in the near future). Once the City and EDC have further articulated their anticipated workplan and expectations from TRCA in the application process, TRCA staff will need to determine and manage our involvement accordingly.

Report prepared by: Lisa Turnbull, extension 5325
For Information contact: Lisa Turnbull, extension 5325
Date: September 22, 2003

RES.#A219/03 - PIONEER PARK STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PROJECT

To support and pursue funding towards the construction of the Pioneer Park Stormwater Management and Restoration Project.

Moved by: Jim McMaster
 Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT staff be directed to pursue funding totaling \$200,000 from Great Lakes Renewal Foundation to assist the Town of Richmond Hill in the retrofit of Pioneer Park.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Report of the Don River Task force entitled “Forty Steps to a New Don” (1994) set out a strategy aimed at restoring the health of the Don River watershed through the long term implementation of regeneration projects at various strategic sites within the watershed. One of such projects is the Pioneer Park Stormwater Management and Restoration Project.

Pioneer Park is located on the north side of Major Mackenzie Drive, mid-way between Yonge St. and Bathurst St. A branch of the Upper East Don River flows through the park containing an on-line pond stormwater pond that was constructed to provide flood protection from the Don Head Estates Subdivision located west of the pond. An assessment of the pond found that it was not constructed in accordance with the approved design and that increased sediment accumulation has resulted in a loss of storage volume, resulting in reduced flood protection. Consequently, the Town of Richmond Hill in conjunction with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (formally the Great Lakes Clean up Fund) retained Schollen and Company Inc. in association with Aquafor Beech Ltd. to provide consulting services for the design and restoration of Pioneer Park in the late 1990s. The following retrofit objectives were identified for the park:

- improve flood control and water quality,
- provide protection for the downstream Flood Vulnerable Area,
- mitigate erosion,
- enhance terrestrial and aquatic habitat,
- restore the natural form and function of the river corridor,
- improve aesthetics,
- provide recreational (trail) facilities,
- provide interpretation and education opportunities,
- reduce maintenance requirements, and
- provide opportunities to increase public awareness of, and participation in the restoration of the Don River Watershed.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) Screening report was completed in January 2000 that documented the selection of a preferred restoration design concept for Pioneer Park. Preliminary public consultation was a component of the report.

Recently, final design and restoration plans for Pioneer Park have been completed. The proposed Pioneer Stormwater Management and Restoration Project will retrofit the existing pond to provide level 1 quality and erosion control off-line for the entire 26 ha Don Head Estates Subdivision, restore the natural watercourse regime through the park and provide the required flood control for the upstream 700 ha catchment. In addition to stormwater management, natural heritage improvements including; additional woodlot trail and management works, a therapeutic garden trail, educational signage and outdoor education nodes have been incorporated into the final design. It is now the Town's intent to secure sufficient funds to proceed with construction of this project.

RATIONALE

The Pioneer Park Restoration Project is consistent with TRCA objectives to enhance and protect the natural features and functions of our watersheds. This project complies with the Forty Steps to a New Don and the 2003 Don Watershed Report Card by providing water quality/erosion control benefits, pond maintenance/aesthetic improvements, protection of wetland type conditions, fish barrier removal and natural heritage improvements.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

TRCA will pursue funding from the Great Lakes Renewal Foundation totaling \$200,000 to assist the Town of Richmond Hill complete the Pioneer Park Stormwater and Restoration Project. The proposed budget and funding (as prepared by the Town of Richmond Hill) for this project is as follows:

Budget

Stormwater Management Pond and Creek Works	\$948,762
Landscaping	\$69,000
Woodlot Trails and Management	\$56,178
Therapeutic Garden Trail	\$54,300
Educational Signage and Nodes	\$19,000
7% GST	\$80,306
Total	\$1,227,547

Funding

TRCA Partnership	\$200,000
Town of Richmond Hill	\$654,600
DFO Compensation	\$97,200
Great Lakes Sustainability Fund	\$140,000
Evergreen Partnership	\$85,000
York Central Hospital Partnership	\$55,000
Total	\$1,231,800

Report prepared by: Sameer Dhalla, extension 5350

For Information contact: Sameer Dhalla, extension 5350

Date: October 15, 2003

RES.#A220/03 -

LAKE ONTARIO WATERFRONT- FRENCHMAN'S BAY

Hydro One Cherrywood Transformer Station - Transformer Oil Spill Into Pine Creek On Wednesday, October 1, 2003, a spill of transformer fluid occurred at the Cherrywood Transfer Station (City of Pickering) and an undetermined amount of oil was released into the Frenchman's Bay watershed at Pine Creek. Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff have reviewed the clean up efforts, investigated the impacts to our property and have taken steps to monitor any long term impacts.

Moved by: Dave Ryan
Seconded by: Jim McMaster

THAT Mr. Tom Parkinson, President, CEO of Hydro One be advised of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's concerns about the spill of transformer oil into Pine Creek and be requested to provide all the resources necessary for full restoration of the impacted area;

THAT staff be directed to assist the City of Pickering and the Region of Durham in any monitoring and restoration activities;

AND FURTHER THAT staff continue their efforts to raise awareness about spills management issues and ensure effective measures are implemented to monitor, control and prevent harmful substances from entering our watersheds and waterfront.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

On Wednesday, October 1, 2003, a spill of transformer fluid occurred at the Cherrywood Transfer Station and an undetermined amount of oil was released into the Frenchman's Bay watershed at Pine Creek. The spill occurred when a large transformer failed at the transfer station. A large amount of transformer oil was contained on site and removed into tanker trucks. The spill contaminated a substantial section of the transfer yard. The affected soil has been removed and the immediate site has been restored. An undetermined amount of transformer oil escaped from the site and entered into the nearby sewer system and subsequently into Pine Creek. TRCA staff visited the site on Friday, October 3; Tuesday, October 7; and Thursday, October 9, 2003 to observe the containment effort, assess the impacts to our properties, and determine the significance of impacts to the Frenchman's Bay and Pine Creek ecosystem.

When the transformer ruptured, on-site containment systems failed. Transformer oil was released from the Cherrywood Station into a catch basin and entered into the local storm sewer system. The effected storm sewer discharged into Pine Creek at Dixie Road south of Finch Avenue and the primary containment area was located in Pine Creek Park (north of Glenanna Road). This was determined to be the furthest downstream that free floating oil travelled in the watercourse. Oil was effectively confined within the watercourse between Dixie Road and the park.

The primary containment site appeared to be functioning effectively, where a majority of the oil was collected, skimmed from the surface, and removed. Upstream from this location, oil was observed on riparian vegetation and in the sediments of the Creek. Downstream the oil was confined to small areas of surface deposits that consisted of a surface sheen. No floating oil was found or was evident in the riparian vegetation downstream of the primary containment site. Secondary collection points were located at Radom Street (south of Bayly Street) and in Douglas Park near where Pine Creek enters Frenchman's Bay on TRCA property. Oil was limited to light surface deposits in the collection points and no visible oil was seen within Frenchman's Bay.

Hydro One has been very aggressive with the removal and containment of the transformer oil, multiple suction trucks were deployed within the three primary areas, to remove contaminated material. Floating absorbent mats and booms have been placed throughout the watercourse between the principal collection points. The booms have been checked every three hours, twenty four hours a day since the spill occurred. Security staff, environmental contractors and Hydro One staff are on site to ensure no further contamination occurs and removal efforts are working effectively.

Although the clean up effort is comprehensive and should succeed in removing the majority of oil, Hydro One is under criticism for not notifying the proper municipal and provincial authorities in the early stages of the transformer failure. This lack of early communication may have contributed to the release of the transformer oil into Pine Creek. It is possible that a coordinated response between Hydro One, the City of Pickering, the Region of Durham and the Province, could have prevented the spill. To prevent this incident from happening again in this location, Hydro One has installed a large scale oil interceptor tank at the drainage outfall from the Cherrywood Transfer station.

Based on staff assessment the immediate impacts to the TRCA properties along Pine Creek are nominal and are limited to impacts associated with the movement of people, materials and equipment through the site. Some minor restoration of access points should be considered and discussed with Hydro One at the conclusion of this spill recovery effort. Staff at present, are concerned with short and long term aquatic impacts that may be associated with the transformer oil.

Transformers are cooled with mineral oil and historically, transformer oil contained high levels of Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). PCBs are mixtures of 209 similar chemicals, and prior to the 1980's PCBs were used in a variety of industrial applications due to their excellent insulating and non flammable characteristics. The transformer that failed at the Cherrywood Station was a newer variety and Hydro One classified the transformer oil as non-PCB. This suggests the transformer fluid has PCB concentrations less than 50 parts per million (ppm). Hydro One has not disclosed the actual level of PCBs in the transformer oil. It was widely reported in the media that the oil contained 2 ppm PCBs.

TRCA staff are concerned that the PCB guidelines for the protection of aquatic ecosystems are much lower than the guidelines used for the classification of transformer oil. Until the PCB levels in the oil has been determined accurately and disclosed, there is potential concern for PCB levels in the aquatic ecosystem and the short and long term aquatic health of the Pine Creek ecosystem.

Further investigations by Hydro One will determine the mass balance of oil lost from this transformer failure. This consists of determining the oil capacity of the transformer before failure, minus the volume that was recovered on site, the volume adsorbed into the ground, the volume collected at the principal collection points, and the oil collected in absorbent materials to determine the remainder of oil that was released into the Pine Creek watercourse. Quantifying the volume of oil not recovered from the watercourse and the PCB concentrations will provide a better understanding of the total PCB loadings to the Pine Creek ecosystem.

Frenchman's Bay and Pine Creek are of great importance to the TRCA. The Frenchman's Bay Watershed Rehabilitation project has engaged many residents of Pickering over the years. A number of community plantings and clean up efforts have taken place and volunteers monitor the health of Pine Creek. The Regional Watershed Monitoring Program conducts intensive aquatic surveys of each watercourse that flows into Frenchman's Bay. Sampling under this program was conducted in Pine Creek the week before this spill and TRCA staff will revisit the site again to determine any changes in the aquatic communities. In addition, the TRCA Durham Waterfront Monitoring Program has been actively investigating the health of Frenchman's Bay. Studies under this Program include fish, sediment and wildlife surveys and will be useful to determine any impacts.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Staff will continue dialogue with Hydro One to ensure TRCA concerns are addressed. They will undertake an analysis of the spill and the effects of the spill on Pine Creek. Existing environmental information on Pine Creek will be made available to the regulatory agencies and Hydro One. Staff will also work with other agencies to determine if our current or additional TRCA monitoring efforts would help assess the short/long term impacts of this spill event.

Under the umbrella of the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (RAP) TRCA staff have also recently compiled a Spills Management Work Plan . The overall goal of this initiative will be to raise awareness about spills management issues and ensure effective measures are implemented to monitor, control and prevent harmful substances from entering our watersheds and waterfront. In addition, this initiative will help determine issues the RAP and/or TRCA should be advocating for in this area. The Work Plan identifies the need to create a background report which summarizes existing information, providing a basis for discussion on key issues. Representatives from federal, provincial, and municipal sectors have been invited to sit on an advisory committee to aid in the preparation of the report. The first meeting of this group is scheduled for early November, 2003. The background report will be used as a supporting document for a public workshop in early 2004. Information collected through these two processes will be used to:

- identify potential bridging or solutions to current gaps in processes;
- confirm data collection accessibility;
- develop a framework to guide future monitoring activities through the Regional Monitoring Program;
- identify current actions being undertaken by municipalities and businesses;
- address the information needed to ensure small and medium businesses report spills to the appropriate agencies;
- facilitate efficient inter-agency coordination;
- determine roles and projects for community-based groups and others; and
- develop TRCA recommendations for action in partnership with the various stakeholders.

It is anticipated that final recommendations from this initiative will be available mid 2004.

Report prepared by: Gord MacPherson, extension 5246
For Information contact: Gord MacPherson, extension 5246
Date: October 08, 2003

RES.#A221/03 - TERRESTRIAL BIOLOGICAL INVENTORIES

Approval of the process to enter onto private lands.

Moved by: Michael Di Biase
Seconded by: Ian Sinclair

THAT the process for notifying and requesting permission to enter onto private lands for the purpose of terrestrial biological inventories be approved.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

Since the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) first embarked on the Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA) Study in the late 1970's, staff have been collecting natural heritage inventory information throughout the watersheds. This data includes information on vegetation communities and flora and fauna species. In recent years, to support the development of the TRCA's Terrestrial Natural Heritage Strategy, staff have been conducting inventories on about 7,000 hectares a year. This information is critical to identifying and understanding the terrestrial natural heritage system in our watersheds and is required when developing strategies for protection and restoration, or when reviewing proposed changes in land use. Frequently these inventories are undertaken on privately owned lands. In 1994, under the ESA program, the TRCA approved a process for notifying landowners that staff would be entering onto their lands to undertake terrestrial field inventories. This process involved sending a letter to affected landowners outlining the program and inventory work, indicating that staff would be undertaking work on their lands and provided a staff contact should they have any questions or concerns. Generally only a small percentage of the landowners contacted called in with questions or concerns. If staff did not receive a response it was assumed that the landowner did not object to the inventory on their property.

It has been recognized that this assumption was not appropriate and that staff should endeavor to get more formal approval (verbal or written) before entering onto private lands. To resolve this issue, a new landowner contact letter has been developed that clearly requests permission to enter. It is proposed that this letter be accompanied by a Permission to Enter form which we are asking landowners to sign and return.

If landowners do not respond to the mailed request, staff will attempt to contact the owners by knocking on their doors. Staff will not enter onto private lands if permission is not received. In situations where the field inventory work is being done to support the development of a subwatershed plan, a notice to the landowners in the area will be placed in the local paper in addition to sending the letter.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

An email was sent to internal staff requesting their lists for sites that need a terrestrial biological inventory. These sites will be finalized by mid November 2003 and staff will begin obtaining landowner information from the various registry offices by the last week of November. The landowner contact letter will be mailed out at the beginning of December with the aim of getting a response by mid January 2004.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

To assist in getting landowners to return the permission to enter it is proposed that this year a postage paid return envelope will be included with the letter. The locations for the 2004 field inventories have not been finalized yet, therefore we do not know exactly what the cost will be. The average number of landowners that have been contacted each season has generally been 500.

Report prepared by: Sue Hayes, extension 5356

For Information contact: Sue Hayes, extension 5356 or Dena Lewis, extension 5225

Date: October 06, 2003

RES.#A222/03 - 2003 DON WATERSHED REPORT CARD

The release of the 2003 Don Watershed Report Card - "Breathing New Life into the Don".

Moved by: Jim McMaster

Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT the 2003 Don Watershed Report Card - "Breathing New Life into the Don" be received;

THAT the Don Watershed Regeneration Council be thanked for its hard work and dedication in bringing the 2003 Don Watershed Report Card to completion;

THAT the report card be circulated to federal governments, provincial ministries, Don watershed municipalities, MPs and MPPs, councillors, community groups, universities, schools, libraries and the public throughout the Don watershed;

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority staff continue to work with the members of the Don Watershed Regeneration Council, federal, provincial, and municipal staff, the business community, Don watershed resident groups and others to address the Bold Steps needed to Breath New Life into the Don;

AND FURTHER THAT the Don Council continue to work towards implementing the Bold Steps identified in the 2003 Don Watershed Report Card that will help protect, restore and celebrate the watershed.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The 2003 Don Watershed Report Card - "*Breathing New Life into the Don*" is based on the indicators developed and used for the first two report cards - "*Turning the Corner*" (1997) and "*A Time for Bold Steps*" (2000). The 2003 report card has been compressed into a succinct yet comprehensive report providing progress to date along with a trend and a grade for each indicator. The grading scheme is a new addition to the 2003 report card, which provides tangible measures of the state of the watershed, and prompts for future action. While a number of grades found throughout the report are poor, they are balanced by the numerous upward trends, showing that the groundwork has been laid for significant improvements in the future.

A list of Bold Steps necessary to further improve the quality of the Don watershed is also found within the report, urging commitment and action from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, as well as businesses, community groups and individual residents. A special edition of the "*On the Don*" newsletter is planned for distribution with the Report Card that will highlight a number of stories associated with the Bold Steps outlined in the report, and provide a tangible link to individual and community action.

The 2003 Don Watershed Report Card - "*Breathing New Life into the Don*" was officially launched at the 10 Years On the Don Celebration on September 14, 2003 at the Don Valley Brick Works.

Report prepared by: Alex Blasko, extension 5280

For Information contact: Alex Blasko, extension 5280

Date: September 30, 2003

RES.#A223/03 - ROUGE WATERSHED TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND STUDY WORKPLAN

Formation, membership and mandate of a Rouge Watershed Task Force and watershed planning study work plan.

Moved by: Jim McMaster

Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT the Rouge Watershed Task Force Terms of Reference be approved, pending approval by the Rouge Park Alliance;

THAT staff report back to the Authority for final approval of the Task Force Terms of Reference if any substantive changes are requested by the Rouge Park Alliance;

THAT staff proceed to send a joint letter from the Rouge Park Alliance and the TRCA to regional and local municipalities requesting them to appoint an elected representative and an alternate to the Rouge Watershed Task Force;

THAT staff include with the advertisements for the November 2003 community open houses an invitation for interested watershed residents to apply for citizen positions on the Rouge Watershed Task Force;

THAT upon approval of the Terms of Reference, a joint letter from the Rouge Park Alliance and the TRCA be sent to all groups and agencies listed in the proposed Task Force membership inviting them to appoint a representative and an alternate to the Task Force;

THAT the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority serve as the TRCA's representative and alternate on the Task Force;

THAT the first meeting of the Rouge Watershed Task Force be convened in February 2004;

AND FURTHER THAT staff proceed to undertake the watershed planning study, as summarized in this report, subject to available funding.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

At Authority Meeting #5/03, held on June 27, 2003, Resolution #A129/03 was passed:

THAT the Rouge River Watershed Planning Study be initiated and undertaken in three phases according to the general work program outlined in this report;

THAT in 2003 public/stakeholder input to the work program be obtained via reports to the Rouge Park Alliance, meetings with municipal staff, and a community open house in the fall and that the public/stakeholder involvement program for the remainder of the study be confirmed at the end of Phase 1 (February 2004);

AND FURTHER THAT staff report back in fall, 2003 with a detailed work program and on Phase 1 progress.

Effective involvement of all stakeholders is fundamental to the practice of watershed planning and is vital for implementation to succeed. The TRCA's task force model has been demonstrated over the past decade to be an effective and accountable means of bringing watershed stakeholders together to develop watershed plans. The goal in establishing a watershed task force is to provide a venue for all stakeholder groups to work together in directing and having input to the development of a watershed plan.

Rouge Watershed Task Force Structure

In the case of the Rouge watershed, two options were considered for the Task Force model: 1) use of the existing Rouge Park Alliance; or 2) establishment of a new Task Force committee with a relationship to both the Rouge Park Alliance and the TRCA's Full Authority. Use of the existing Rouge Park Alliance has advantages in that a number of partners are already represented and a parallel process might be avoided. However, as the existing mandate of the Rouge Park Alliance is limited to the Rouge Park, their scope would need to be expanded to address the full watershed study area. The membership of the Rouge Park Alliance does not include representation from all stakeholder groups, such as industry (e.g. agriculture, urban development, water users), or the general public, and therefore would have to be expanded to allow each group to have equal opportunity to represent its issues. The development of a watershed plan will require a significant dedication of time for a thorough discussion of issues, and functionally this is likely to occur at a sub-committee level of the Alliance, due to inadequate time available on current agendas and the need to engage a broader group of stakeholders.

Based on these considerations, it is recommended that a separate Task Force be established with reporting relationships to both the Rouge Park Alliance and the TRCA's Full Authority. A draft terms of reference for this Task Force is attached. It is recognized that some of the Task Force members (e.g. municipal elected representatives) may be the same representatives as those on the Rouge Park Alliance. Efforts will be made to coordinate meetings and streamline activities to avoid excessive demands on time and duplication of presentations and discussion between the two groups.

It is also recognized that there is a potential overlap of issues between the Rouge Watershed Task Force and the current Heritage Committee of the Alliance. Efforts will also be made to coordinate these meetings and agendas.

Solicitation for Task Force Members

In anticipation of the formation of a more formal committee to guide the watershed planning study, the Rouge Park Alliance passed the following resolutions at its June 20, 2003 meeting:

AND THAT a joint letter from the Rouge Park Alliance and TRCA be sent to the local, regional and aboriginal governments found within the Rouge River watershed to inform them of the initiation of the process and request them to be prepared to provide a representative to participate on the Task Force;

AND THAT staff be prepared to invite local citizens and citizen groups to participate in the watershed planning process in the autumn.

During a series of scoping sessions, municipal staff advised that letters be sent to municipal clerks by the end of November, 2003, such that the requests for appointments to the Task Force could be coordinated with all appointments to agencies, boards and commissions, following the municipal election. Staff will proceed to have a joint letter sent to each municipality requesting a Task Force member and an alternate, as per the above-noted resolution.

A series of Community Open Houses are planned throughout the watershed at the end of November, with the objectives of raising awareness about the watershed planning study, seeking input on local issues and desired outcomes of the plan, and informing the public as to how they can become involved in the process. Watershed citizens will be invited to apply to be considered for the citizen positions on the Task Force.

Watershed Planning Study Workplan

During June to October, 2003, scoping sessions have been held with staff from the watershed municipalities to discuss a draft workplan. Meetings were held with: the Towns of Markham, Richmond Hill, and Whitchurch-Stouffville, the Regions of York and Durham, City of Toronto, and City of Pickering. Input from the municipal partners, Rouge Park members, and technical staff have been incorporated into a revised, detailed work program. The following is a summary of the proposed work:

Workplan Summary

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in partnership with Rouge Park, York Region, Durham Region, City of Toronto, City of Pickering, Town of Markham, Town of Richmond Hill, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, and other watershed stakeholders is undertaking a watershed planning process to develop an integrated, strategic plan for the Rouge Watershed. This watershed planning process has been initiated in response to a number of recent policy and planning developments, including the need to: provide a watershed context for implementing the Rouge Park Management Plans; fulfill the watershed planning requirements of the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP)*; address information gaps, and update the original *Rouge River Comprehensive Basin Management Strategy (1990)*.

The goal of this watershed planning study is to recommend effective management strategies that will guide land and water use decisions, such that the overall health of the Rouge Watershed is protected and enhanced. Consistent with an ecosystem approach to planning, the study must also take into account the broader picture and ensure that the Rouge Watershed functions and role in the landscape are preserved. Recognizing the wealth of available monitoring information and the need to ensure consistency with the Rouge Park and Rouge Park North Plans and other previous work, this watershed planning study will focus efforts by applying the following principles:

1. Focus on filling information gaps (ie. water use, groundwater-surface water interactions, fluvial geomorphology and stream stability, chlorides) and developing improved management direction for these issues.
2. Shift the emphasis of study time from data collection to development of the management strategy. Provide more detailed implementation direction, especially for private lands, and for the application of existing policy where suitable.
3. Don't let study delay action. Foster implementation projects that can demonstrate and test innovative approaches.
4. Keep reports concise and user-focused.

The study area will include the entire watershed of the Rouge River, as it extends from the Oak Ridges Moraine to Lake Ontario and the near shore environment. It will also address all the lands within the boundaries of Rouge Park, which extend to the east of the Rouge watershed into the Petticoat Creek watershed. The regional context will be established, such that linkages between the Rouge Watershed and neighbouring areas are understood to the extent possible.

The overall study will be co-directed by the TRCA and the Rouge Park, in cooperation with a multi-stakeholder Watershed Task Force. The Watershed Task Force will report to the Rouge Park Alliance and ultimately to the TRCA's Full Authority, through the Watershed Management Advisory Board. Municipal staff and other key stakeholders will be circulated with draft documents from each phase in the planning study, and meetings will be convened as needed. A partner involvement program, including stakeholder focus group meetings, community open houses, and web site postings, will provide a variety of means for all stakeholders to participate in the planning study.

The watershed planning process will be divided into three main phases:

Phase 1 - Scoping and Characterization (March 2003 - February 2004)

Phase 2 - Analysis and Evaluation of Alternatives (January 2004 - September 2004)

Phase 3 - Plan Development (June 2004 to February 2005).

Individual studies will cover a comprehensive range of watershed management issues and will evaluate the interdependencies and interactions among natural systems and human activities. Reports will address the following topics in a level of detail appropriate to the watershed scale of issues: climate, air quality, surface water quality and quantity, groundwater quality and quantity, fluvial geomorphology, aquatic and terrestrial systems, human heritage, and human use of the watershed. More detail may be provided for subwatersheds on the Oak Ridges Moraine, as needed to fulfill the ORMCP.

The final products of the plan will establish an updated information base and management strategy for use in understanding the watershed's natural systems and making informed decisions regarding human activities in the watershed. A State of the Watershed (SOW) Report and Baseline Report Card will define a framework of Rouge watershed management objectives, indicators, and targets, and current watershed conditions. This can be used to guide decisions in the interim, as the final plan is being prepared. The SOW Report will also review the lessons learned from over a decade of experience implementing the original *Comprehensive Basin Management Strategy*, and use this knowledge to re-direct the updated plan, if necessary.

The Watershed Plan will recommend an effective management strategy for the watershed and include a user-focused implementation framework, with specific attention given to the preparation of a consolidated set of watershed policies and criteria, water conservation plan, stewardship and regeneration priorities, and maintenance issues. Strategic directions will be provided for that portion of the Rouge Park in the Petticoat Creek watershed, with an emphasis on natural system and public use linkages. Demonstration projects will be pursued during the planning process, as a means of accelerating in-the-ground implementation action.

This study will continue to advance the science of integrated watershed planning in an urbanizing environment, and will recommend state-of-the-art approaches for the sustainable management of the Rouge Watershed and Rouge Park.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

The terms of reference for the Task Force will be submitted to the Rouge Park Alliance for approval at its meeting on November 21, 2003. Any substantive changes requested by the Alliance will be brought back to the Authority for approval at its December meeting.

Formal requests for Task Force appointments will be made to all stakeholder groups, such that the Task Force could be established in February 2004.

The revised draft workplan will be circulated to municipal staff for review and any additional comments.

Report prepared by: Sonya Meek, extension 5253

For information contact: Sonya Meek extension 5253 or Lewis Yeager 905-713-7374

October 24, 2003

Attachments: 1

Attachment 1



THE ROUGE WATERSHED TASK FORCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Draft - October 24, 2003

THE ROUGE WATERSHED TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 GOAL

The goal of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Rouge Park Alliance in establishing the Rouge Watershed Task Force is to provide a venue for all stakeholder groups to work together in directing and having input to the development of a strategic plan for the Rouge River Watershed. Task Force members will be sought from municipal and agency politicians and staff; community groups; business and industry; watershed residents; and the general public.

Development of the Rouge Watershed Plan will raise awareness of watershed issues and determine an effective, proactive strategy for managing the watershed. It will also promote stewardship activities by bringing together communities and their watersheds. Through participation in the development of this plan, all watershed stakeholders should share a sense of responsibility for its implementation.

Figure 1 outlines the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Watershed Planning Process and the roles served by a watershed task force.

2.0 TASK FORCE MANDATE

The mandate of the Task Force is to focus on developing a watershed management plan and ensuring the interests of all watershed stakeholders are considered. The goal of the plan is to recommend effective management strategies that will guide land use and resource use decisions, such that the overall health of the Rouge Watershed is protected and enhanced. A draft workplan (October, 2003) outlines a proposed scope of work for this initiative. The Task Force mandate does not include formal commenting on ongoing activities and development proposals in the watersheds.

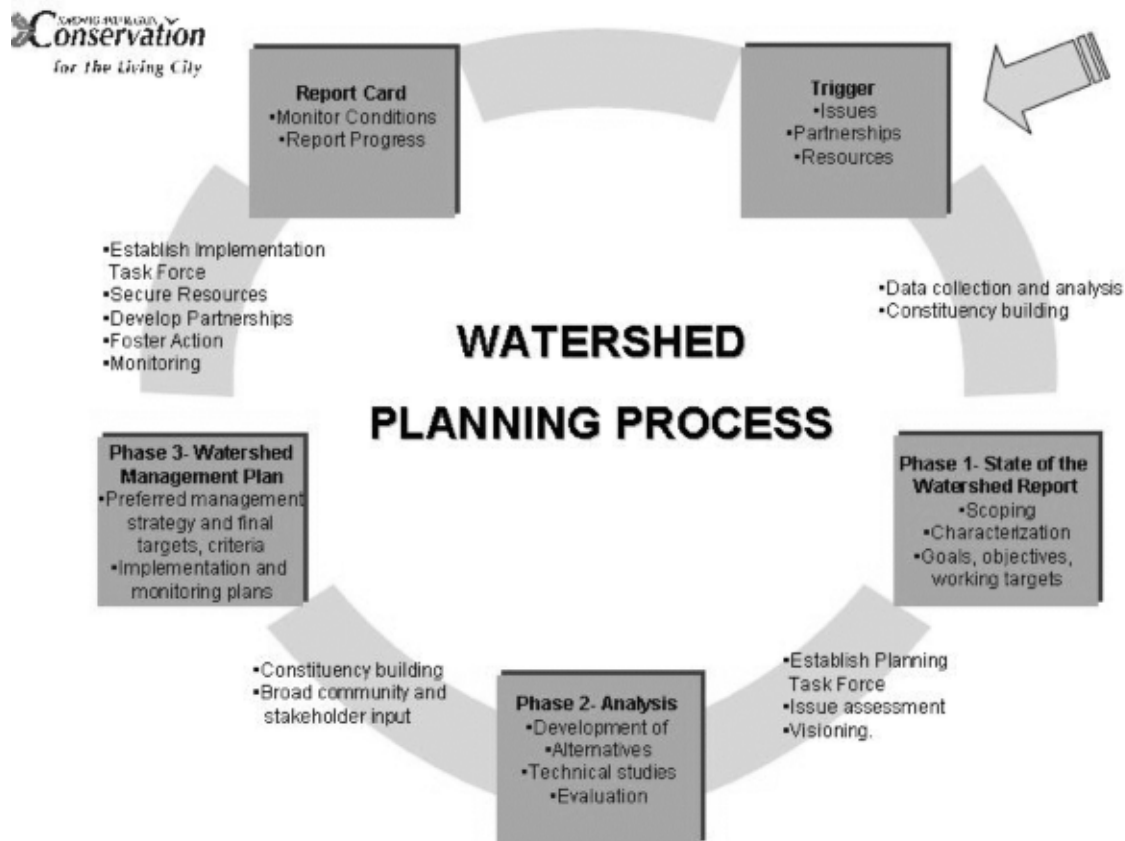
To develop the watershed plan, the Task Force will:

- set watershed management goals, objectives, and targets
- define issues and management approaches for analysis
- evaluate alternative management approaches
- recommend effective management approaches and set priorities for protection, enhancement, and regeneration
- review and comment on draft Task Force documents (e.g. State of the Watershed Report including a baseline Report Card on watershed health, technical analysis summaries, watershed plan, implementation plan and model policy)
- participate on subcommittees, or working groups, of the Task Force to discuss specific issues in more detail
- follow the Authority's Policies and Procedures with respect to purchasing
- provide a draft watershed plan to the Authority by June 30, 2005.

To ensure the interests of all stakeholders are considered and to foster the plan's implementation, Task Force members will, throughout the process:

- keep members of the broader group that he/she represents (e.g. municipal council, industry, environmental group, etc.) informed of the study progress and solicit input from the broader group
- in addition to representing their own constituency, the individual Task Force member must be committed to achieving a consensus in the development of a management plan that is in the best interests of the overall watershed
- attend community group/service club meetings with TRCA and Rouge Park staff and make presentations on behalf of the Task Force
- attend community open houses and focus group meetings to assist in consulting and involving individuals, technical experts, interest groups, business and industry.

Figure 1: TRCA's Watershed Planning Process



3.0 TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Membership and Term

Members of the Task Force will be appointed by the Authority for a term beginning in February, 2004 and ending December 30, 2005. With the exception of the watershed residents, each of the following stakeholder groups will be invited to identify one representative and one alternate to form the Task Force membership:

Municipal government

One elected representative and one alternate (elected or senior staff) from each of the four local and three regional municipalities within the watershed, including:

1. Town of Markham
2. Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
3. Town of Richmond Hill
4. City of Pickering
5. City of Toronto
6. York Region
7. Durham Region

Other government

8. Aboriginal community
9. Toronto Zoo
10. Rouge Park Alliance
11. TRCA

Environmental Groups

12. Save the Rouge Valley System
13. Friends of the Rouge
14. Richmond Hill Naturalists
15. Rouge Valley Foundation
16. Milne Park Conservation Assoc.

Industry

17. Urban Development Institute (UDI)
18. Agricultural sector
19. Golf Courses
20. Greater Toronto Airports Authority
21. Aggregate industry

Federal and Provincial Government

22. Transport Canada
23. Environment Canada
24. Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans
25. MNR
26. MOE
27. MMAH
28. OMAF
29. MTO

Watershed residents

30. ___ from Toronto
31. ___ from Markham
32. ___ from Richmond Hill
33. ___ from Whitchurch-Stouffville
34. ___ from Pickering

Task Force meetings will be held approximately every 4-6 weeks, at a mutually agreed upon time, and will be held at locations within the watershed.

3.2 Selection, Appointment, and Replacement Process

Except for the citizen members, a letter will be sent to each of the stakeholder groups requesting the appointment of a Task Force representative. Citizen members will be selected through an application and interview process. Advertisements for citizen applicants will be posted in local newspapers and distributed at the November Community Open House meetings. A selection committee, consisting of the Rouge Park Alliance Chair, Rouge Park General Manager, a TRCA Board Member, and a TRCA staff person will review the applications and conduct interviews. Selection criteria will include consideration for: residency within the Rouge watershed, demonstrated interest in watershed management, and previous volunteer experience, with an attempt to ensure geographic representation from throughout the watershed study area from among the citizen members.

Resignations may be filled by the Authority and Rouge Park on the recommendation of the selection committee, described above, and the Task Force.

Task Force members or their alternates are required to attend all Task Force meetings on a regular basis. Members unable to fulfill this commitment will be replaced after missing three consecutive meetings to ensure broad and effective representation on watershed issues.

4.0 TASK FORCE REPORTING RELATIONSHIP

The Task Force will report to the Rouge Park Alliance and ultimately to the TRCA's Full Authority through the Watershed Management Advisory Board, according to the reporting relationship shown in Figure 2. It is the intent of the TRCA and the Rouge Park Alliance that a consensus position be developed to the extent possible among all stakeholders on all decisions, before a report is taken to the Full Authority. The Task Force will report at least semi-annually on its progress.

Municipal Task Force members are responsible for taking reports of the Rouge Watershed Task Force back to their respective municipal councils. Likewise, provincial and federal government members are responsible for taking reports to senior Ministry officials. Authority staff will assist in providing information for reports. Municipal, provincial and federal staff will be invited to attend all meetings, and may effectively participate on working group committees.

The Task Force may establish sub-committees, or "working groups", as issues dictate to allow for more in-depth discussion than time would allow at Task Force meetings and to engage additional expertise. The Chair of each working group will be a Task Force member.

At such time as provincial source protection planning legislation is introduced, the Task Force's reporting relationship with any designated source protection planning committee will be clarified and amended, as necessary.

5.0 RULES OF CONDUCT

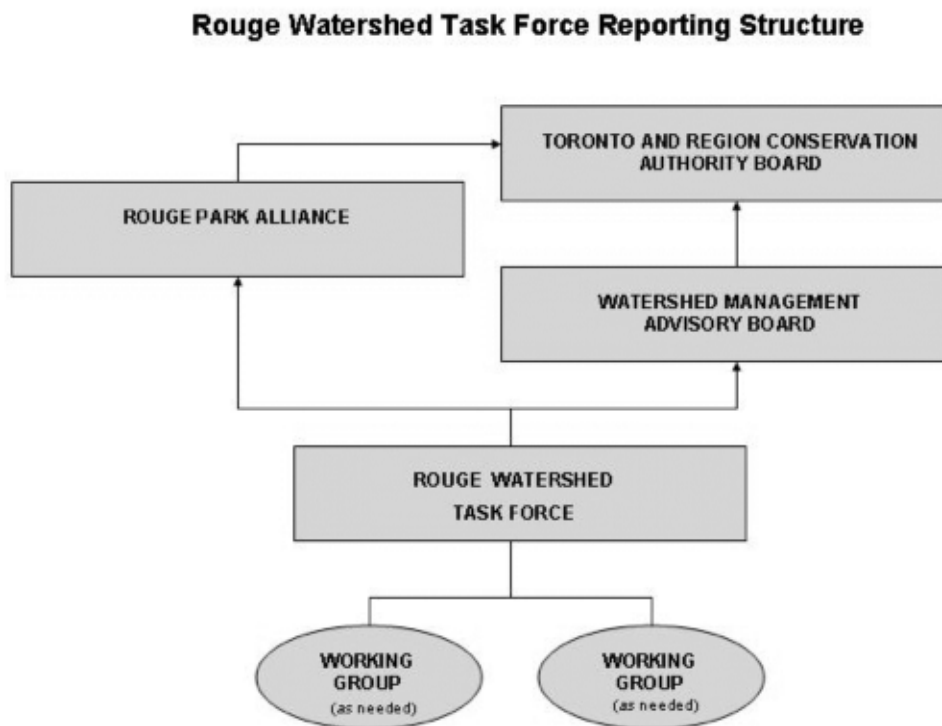
The Task Force will follow the Rules of Conduct of the Authority (The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority), as adopted by Resolution #3 of the Authority Meeting #2/86, or as may be amended. A quorum will consist of a majority of the members of the Task Force. Under the Authority's Rules of Conduct, final decisions are made by vote. Only Task Force members or alternates can vote. It is the intent that adequate time will be provided for a thorough discussion of issues and development of a consensus position, to the extent possible, before any vote is called. Depending on the subject at hand, the services of a professional facilitator may be contracted to assist in meetings and workshops.

A Chair and Vice Chair of the Task Force will be nominated from among the Task Force membership, and will be elected by the Task Force at their second meeting. The TRCA Chair will chair the first two Task Force meetings, until a Task Force Chair is elected. All subsequent meetings will be chaired by the Task Force Chair or Vice Chair. All meeting agendas will be set by TRCA and Rouge Park staff, with input and approval of the Task Force Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair will be ex-officio members of all working groups.

Municipal Task Force members are responsible for keeping their alternate municipal representatives informed of Task Force business, and for ensuring the alternate attends meetings in the Task Force member's absence.

Task Force meetings are open to the public. Members of the public may make depositions to the Task Force, but only based upon a prior written request that is approved by the Chair.

Figure 2



6.0 RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE TASK FORCE

The Task Force are charged with creating a Watershed Plan by June of 2005. In order to assist in meeting this deadline, the following resources are available.

6.1 Project Management Team and Support Staff

A Project Management Team consisting of a TRCA senior staff person, a project manager, and the Rouge Park General Manager will meet regularly, in consultation with the Task Force Chair, to ensure the planning process is fulfilling the agreed-upon objectives.

Administrative assistance and communications expertise will be available to assist in Task Force meeting arrangements, record keeping, and consultation.

6.2 Technical Study Coordination

TRCA staff will be responsible for coordination of the integrated watershed planning process and supporting technical studies, under the direction of the Task Force. Individual technical studies will be either be conducted by in-house staff at the TRCA, partner municipalities, or consultants.

6.3 Funding

A number of funding sources have been pursued. The primary funding requests for plan development have been made by the Authority to their regional municipal members, namely York Region and the City of Toronto.

Funding needs are also being discussed with local municipal governments as well as provincial and federal agencies. These funds would be used to undertake project specific work, and may be pursued to initiate priority projects that are identified as the plan is developed.

RES.#A224/03 - NATURAL HERITAGE LANDS PROTECTION AND ACQUISITION PROJECT 2001-2005

Flood Plain and Conservation Component / Don River Watershed Fairbrook Developments Inc., CFN 34593. Purchase of property located on the north side of Rutherford Road, west of Greenock Drive (Maple), City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, under the "Natural Heritage Lands Protection and Acquisition Project 2001-2005" Flood Plain and Conservation Component, Don River Watershed. (*Executive Res.#B137/03*)

Moved by: Ian Sinclair
Seconded by: Lorna Bissell

THAT 3.80 hectares (9.39 acres), more or less, of vacant land be purchased from Fairbrook Developments Inc., being Part of Lots 16 and 17, Concession 4 and designated as Block 42 on a draft Plan of Subdivision prepared by Guido Papa Surveying Ltd., Ontario Land Surveyor under their Reference No. 02-413, dated August 12, 2003, City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, located on the north side of Rutherford Road, west of Greenock Drive;

THAT the purchase price be \$2.00;

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

THAT Gardiner Roberts LLP, Barristers and 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 the appropriate TRCA officials be authorized and directed to execute all necessary documentation required.

CARRIED

RES.#A225/03 - YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Request for release of any and all interest of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in a small parcel of land located on the south side of Rutherford Road, east of Islington Avenue, City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, Humber River Watershed, CFN 25850. The TRCA is in receipt of a request from the York Region District School Board, the owner of the property located on the south side of Rutherford Road, east of Islington Avenue, in the City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York, for the TRCA to release any and all interest in a small parcel of land to allow its sale to The Regional Municipality of York for the widening of Rutherford Road. (*Executive Res.#B138/03*)

Moved by: Ian Sinclair
Seconded by: Lorna Bissell

THAT WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is in receipt of a request from the York Region District School Board to release any and all interest in land located on the south side of Rutherford Road, east of Islington Avenue, in the City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York;

AND WHEREAS it is the opinion of the TRCA that it is in the best interest of the TRCA in furthering its objectives, as set out in Section 20 of the Conservation Authorities Act, to cooperate with the York Region District School Board in this instance;

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the TRCA release any and all interest in a small parcel of land containing 0.026 hectares (0.064 acres), more or less, to the York Region District School Board, said land being Part of Lot 15, Concession 7, further being described as Parts 1 and 2 on Reference Plan 65R-25496, City of Vaughan, Regional Municipality of York;

THAT consideration is to be the nominal sum of \$2.00, with the York Region District School Board being responsible for all legal and other costs involving the release of the interest of land;

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

AND FURTHER THAT the Region of York, as part of the road widening, consider an aggressive landscaping plan, including trees and shrubs.

CARRIED

RES.#A226/03 - LICENCE AGREEMENT WITH THE ONTARIO REALTY CORPORATION

Duffins Creek Watershed, CFN 33697. Entering into a licence agreement for a five year term with the Ontario Realty Corporation to facilitate the construction of a stream gauge located south of the 3rd Concession, west of Brock Road, City of Pickering, Regional Municipality of Durham.
(Executive Res.#B139/03)

Moved by: Ian Sinclair
Seconded by: Lorna Bissell

THAT the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) enter into a licence agreement with the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) for construction and use of a stream gauge, by TRCA on a parcel of land owned by ORC containing 0.001 hectares (0.002 acres), more or less, together with a footpath for access, said land being Part of Lot 20, Concession 3, City of Pickering, Regional Municipality of Durham;

THAT the term of the licence agreement be five years;

THAT the payment be \$100.00 plus GST payable monthly;

AND FURTHER THAT the appropriate TRCA officials be authorized and directed to execute all necessary documentation required.

CARRIED

RES.#A227/03 - PROPOSED ADMINISTRATION FEES FOR PLANNING SERVICES AND PERMITTING

Improvements to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) development review level of service are urgently needed, in tandem with a major overhaul of our plan review and permitting fee collection process to support an improved level of service.
(Business Excellence Res.#C18/03)

Moved by: Lorna Bissell
Seconded by: Ila Bossons

THAT the Planning fee Schedule and Permitting Fee Schedule as appended to this report be approved, effective November 1, 2003;

THAT staff be directed to advise Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's watershed municipalities of the planning and permitting fee changes immediately upon approval;

THAT the Urban Development Institute be advised of the planning and permitting fee changes immediately upon approval;

THAT all current applicants to which a change in fee structure will apply be advised within 30 days of approval of the fee structure changes;

THAT all current applicants who have not paid their application and technical fees will be required to pay this in addition to the revised clearance fees;

THAT the development industry be advised that application guidelines will be available on November 1, 2003 and input will be welcomed;

AND FURTHER THAT a preliminary target of \$1.8 million in revenue from planning and permitting activities be included in the 2004 preliminary operating budget.

AMENDMENT
RES.#A228/03

Moved by: Lorna Bissell
Seconded by: Ila Bossons

THAT the first paragraph of the main motion be replaced with the following:

THAT the Planning fee Schedule and Permitting Fee Schedule as appended to this report be approved, effective December 1, 2003, and joint meetings with appropriate organizations to discuss the implementation plan for improvements to the service delivery model commence on December 1, 2003.

THE AMENDMENT WAS

CARRIED

THE MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED, WAS

CARRIED

RES.#A229/03 - HEART LAKE CONSERVATION AREA MASTER PLAN
Commencing the Heart Lake Conservation Area Master Plan Process.
(Business Excellence Res.#C19/03)

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: David Barrow

THAT staff be authorized to develop a Heart Lake Conservation Area Master Plan;

THAT an Advisory Committee be established, which would include members of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Coalition, interested community groups, business representatives, community residents, agency staff, municipal staff and area councillors to assist with the development of the Master Plan and to facilitate the opportunity for public input;

AND FURTHER THAT the final Master Plan be brought to the Authority for approval.

CARRIED

RES.#A230/03 - EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY
Implementation of an annual Employee Engagement Survey and associated programs for continuous improvement.
(Business Excellence Res.#C20/03)

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: David Barrow

THAT staff be directed to report on the results of an annual Employee Engagement Survey with recommended measures for changes in processes and policies to pursue continuous improvement.

CARRIED

RES.#A231/03 - 2004 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES, CAPITAL AND OPERATING Overview. Presents an overview of the 2004 Capital and Operating Preliminary Estimates.
(Business Excellence Res.#C21/03)

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: David Barrow

THAT the 2004 Preliminary Estimates, Operating and Capital, be approved;

AND FURTHER THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff and officials be authorized and directed to make appropriate representation to the TRCA's funding partners about the 2004 Preliminary Estimates.

CARRIED

RES.#A232/03 - REVIEW OF RESERVES POLICY
Staff report on Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) reserves as requested at Business Excellence Advisory Board Meeting #5/03.
(Business Excellence Res.#C22/03 & Res.#C23/03)

Moved by: Maria Augimeri
Seconded by: David Barrow

THAT the staff report dated September 25, 2003 on reserves be received.

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back on a policy to develop and manage reserves.

CARRIED

RES.#A233/03 - GREATER TORONTO AIRPORTS AUTHORITY (GTAA)
Advocate for Sustainable Development Report on the GTAA's sustainability initiatives and partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

Moved by: Raymond Cho
Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT the Greater Toronto Airport Authority's sustainability initiatives, as outlined in the article titled, "Leading the Way to Sustainable Development" (GTAA's Environmental News, May/June 2003) as appended, be supported;

THAT TRCA staff continue to work with the GTAA to assist them in achieving sustainability objectives in their day-to-day operations at Lester B. Pearson Airport;

THAT TRCA staff work with the GTAA as they apply sustainability principles in planning for the proposed Pickering Airport in the Duffins Creek Watershed;

THAT the GTAA be encouraged to continue to work with the TRCA as a partner in the implementation of the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks and Duffins and Carruthers Creeks watershed plans to achieve the objectives of the TRCA's The Living City program;

AND FURTHER THAT TRCA staff report back on the progress of these partnership initiatives with the GTAA.

CARRIED

RES.#A234/03 - TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY ROLE IN AIR QUALITY AND THE CLEAN AIR PARTNERSHIP

Memorandum of Understanding between The Clean Air Partnership and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

Moved by: Raymond Cho

Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with The Clean Air Partnership to develop and implement GTA-wide clean air initiatives;

THAT the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority become a partner of the GTA Clean Air Council, and in so doing, submit the attached summary of TRCA clean air initiatives to the Clean Air Council to be incorporated into their next report on Government's Actions on Clean Air in the Greater Toronto Area;

AND FURTHER THAT the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority work with The Clean Air Partnership and GTA Clean Air Council to develop a regional scale clean air plan, as the first joint project of the partnership.

CARRIED

RES.#A235/03 - FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GREEN SPACE LANDS STUDY

Progress Report - Green Space Stewardship Advisory Committee. The progress of the Green Space Stewardship Advisory Committee (GSSAC) in developing a Green Space Master Plan.

Moved by: Raymond Cho

Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT Transport Canada staff involved in the Green Space Plan be invited to attend a future Sustainable Communities Advisory Board Meeting to present the draft Green Space Plan;

THAT Transport Canada be encouraged to seek input from the public, watershed stakeholders and tenants before finalizing a master plan for submission to the Minister;

THAT Transport Canada be requested to ensure the planning for Green Space Lands achieves the implementation of the Rouge North Management Plan, the Eastern Markham Strategic Review, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Duffins Creek Watershed Plan and the Duffins Creek Headwaters Management Plan;

THAT the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority support the decision taken by the federal government to protect surplus federal lands in the Rouge River and Duffins Creek watersheds;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to the Transport Canada Green Space Project Team and the Minister.

CARRIED

RES.#A236/03 - INTERIM ROUTE FOR THE DURHAM REGION TRANS CANADA TRAIL

Approval in principle of the interim route for the Durham Region Trans Canada Trail.

Moved by: Raymond Cho

Seconded by: Joe Pantalone

THAT the interim route for the Durham Region Trans Canada Trail through the Duffins Creek watershed be approved in principle;

THAT Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff inform the Town of Uxbridge, the City of Pickering, the Town of Ajax and the Trans Canada Trail Foundation of the approval;

AND FURTHER THAT a representative from TRCA work with the municipalities, the Durham Region School Board and community groups towards the implementation of the interim route.

CARRIED

SECTION II - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY INFORMATION

RES.#A237/03 - SECTION II - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY INFORMATION

Moved by: Irene Jones
Seconded by: Ila Bossons

THAT Ontario Regulation 158 items 8.4.1 - 8.4.46, contained in Section II of Executive Committee Minutes #9/03, held on October 3, 2003, be received.

CARRIED

RES.#A238/03 - SECTION II - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY INFORMATION

Moved by: Anthony Ketchum
Seconded by: Dave Ryan

THAT Section II items 8.5 - 8.8, contained in Executive Committee Minutes #9/03, held on October 3, 2003, be received.

CARRIED

Section II Items 8.5 - 8.8

REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF AUTHORITY-OWNED LAND

(Executive Res.#B142/03)

COLD CREEK FLUVIAL GEOMORPHOLOGY STUDY - AWARD OF CONTRACT

(Executive Res.#B143/03)

CENTREVILLE CREEK EROSION ANALYSIS - AWARD OF CONTRACT

(Executive Res.#B144/03)

ROUGE RIVER AND BEAVER CREEK FLOODPLAIN MAPPING EXTENSION - AWARD OF CONTRACT

(Executive Res.#B145/03)

SECTION IV - ITEMS FOR THE INFORMATION OF ANOTHER BOARD

RES.#A239/03 - SECTION IV - ITEMS FOR THE INFORMATION OF ANOTHER BOARD

Moved by: Tanny Wells
Seconded by: Bill O'Donnell

THAT Section IV item 9.6 - Financial Progress Report, contained in Business Excellence Advisory Board Minutes #6/03, held on October 3, 2003, be received.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS
RES.#A240/03

Moved by: Michael Di Biase
Seconded by: Dick O'Brien

THAT Dr. and Mrs. Robert MacMillan and family be thanked for their significant donation of valuable greenspace in the City of Vaughan to the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC);

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to continue to work with the MacMillan family, NCC and numerous other partners to manage the property for maximum environmental benefit and public enjoyment.

CARRIED

TERMINATION

ON MOTION, the meeting terminated at 11:07 a.m., on Friday, October 31, 2003.

Dick O'Brien
Chair

Brian Denney
Secretary-Treasurer

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