



THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

INDEX TO

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BOARD #7/04

Friday, February 4, 2005

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THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BOARD #1/05
April 8, 2005**

The Sustainable Communities Board Meeting #1/05, was held in the South Theatre, Black Creek Pioneer Village, on Friday, April 8, 2005. The Chair Michael Di Biase, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

PRESENT

Michael Di Biase	Chair
Suzan Hall	Vice Chair
Colleen Jordan	Member
Glenn Mason	Member
Elaine Moore	Member
Dick O'Brien	Chair, Authority
Gerri Lynn O'Connor	Member
Linda Pabst	Member
Andrew Schulz	Member
John Sprovieri	Member

REGRETS

Maria Augimeri	Member
Glenn De Baeremaeker	Member

RES.#E1/05 - MINUTES

Moved by: Linda Pabst
Seconded by: Suzan Hall

THAT the Minutes of Meeting #7/04, held on February 4, 2005, be approved.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

- (a) A presentation by Ed Mallett, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA) in regards to item 7.1 - Sustainable Initiatives in Vaughan.

RES.#E2/05 - PRESENTATIONS

Moved by: Linda Pabst
Seconded by: Andrew Schulz

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

CARRIED

SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION

RES.#E3/05 - SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES IN VAUGHAN

Two collaborative initiatives with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City of Vaughan: the efforts by TRCA, Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA) and the City of Vaughan to develop the Vaughan Manufacturer's Sustainability Program to engage small and medium manufacturing enterprises; and the application of sustainable community design principles in a proposed subdivision development currently under review.

Moved by: Linda Pabst
Seconded by: Andrew Schulz

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT staff be directed to enter into an agreement between the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the City of Vaughan, and the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA) to develop the Vaughan Manufacturer's Sustainability Program to engage small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Vaughan under the Toronto Region Sustainability Program;

THAT staff be directed to develop similar agreements with municipalities across the Toronto region;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to collaborate with Vaughan in exploring opportunities for applying sustainable community design principles to a proposed subdivision development off Pine Valley Drive, across from The Kortright Centre for Conservation.

AMENDMENT

RES.#E4/05

Moved by: Linda Pabst
Seconded by: Andrew Schulz

THAT the following replace the second paragraph of the main motion:

THAT staff send a letter to the municipalities in TRCA's jurisdiction requesting support for the TRCA/OCETA sustainability initiatives in an effort to develop similar agreements with these municipalities;

THE AMENDMENT WAS

CARRIED

THE MAIN MOTION, AS AMENDED, WAS

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

TRCA has been collaborating with the City of Vaughan under two initiatives:

1. TRCA, OCETA and the City of Vaughan are developing the Vaughan Manufacturer's Sustainability Program to engage small and medium manufacturing enterprises; and
2. The application of sustainable community design principles in a proposed development in the City Vaughan.

1. Partnership with OCETA and Environment Canada

The proposed Vaughan Manufacturer's Sustainability Program is based on the Toronto Region Sustainability Program (TRSP). TRSP was initiated in February 2000 with funding from Environment Canada - Ontario Region and the City of Toronto. The Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement has been the delivery agent for the program since its inception. This program provides small and medium manufacturing enterprises in the Toronto region with a 50% cost-share funding incentive (up to a maximum of \$4,000) for pollution prevention planning. The objectives of the program is to create an action and results oriented program in Toronto to advance the performance of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and manufacturing operations in the City of Toronto in areas of sustainable development and environmental performance.

In 2004, the TRCA entered into an agreement with Environment Canada to administer the program on behalf of Environment Canada and take a lead role in expanding the program. Under the agreement, OCETA continues to be the delivery agent for TRSP. In 2004, TRCA watershed specialists worked to initiate support for OCETA by engaging local manufacturers; TRCA and OCETA staff worked together to promote Toronto Region Sustainability Program through conferences and workshops; and TRCA worked to gain municipal support by developing a framework for shared action.

2. Applying Sustainable Community Principles to a Development in Vaughan

Staff have been in conversation with the City of Vaughan about collaborating with them to apply principles of sustainable community design to a development, particularly to a property on Pine Valley Drive, across from Kortright Centre for Conservation. This initiative will complement projects already underway, such as the "Market Transformation of Green Community Design and Residential Housing" research, which is being done for Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation in the City of Vaughan, intended to develop an understanding of the marketplace for green community design and green homes construction. Results from this research will create an action plan for increasing the application of best practices in a local municipality.

The development will also learn from a number of communities in the GTA and across Canada which are in various stages of progress that are applying aspects of green home construction and community design.

RATIONALE

1. The Current Partnership with OCETA and Environment Canada

The Toronto Region Sustainability Program is the only pollution prevention technical assistance program in Canada where participating organizations have a forum for systematically achieving environmental outcomes that all three levels of government - federal, province and municipal - identify as being important. Initially the program was developed to be applied in the City of Toronto; however, Environment Canada authorized OCETA to expand it into adjacent municipalities (Mississauga, Brampton, Vaughan, Markham, Richmond Hill and Pickering).

The program is helpful in overcoming government barriers for SMEs in terms of support for priority industrial sectors, and in terms of addressing priority environmental issues (wastewater, air quality, waste) generated by industry. Downstream benefits to municipalities include helping to address provincial environmental priorities (smog, hazardous waste) and federal requirements (Canadian Environmental Protection Act) and highlighting of industry leaders through case studies.

The agreement between the City of Vaughan, TRCA and OCETA to develop the Vaughan Manufacturer's Sustainability Program is a positive, strategic step towards increased SME engagement. This framework can be tailored to meet the needs of other interested municipalities in collaboration with TRCA and OCETA.

2. Sustainable Community in Vaughan

The sustainable community in Vaughan will be a model for other developments in Vaughan and in other municipalities. The community will also be in close proximity to the green building projects being undertaken at The Living City Campus; namely The Living City Centre, the Vaughan/York Fire Hall and Emergency Medical Services building, The Environmental Services building, and the Earth Rangers building (already on site). The public awareness and educational opportunities created by these buildings will lead the way for positive change from current building practices to the adoption of innovative sustainable design across the market place.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

1. Vaughan Manufacturers Sustainability Program (VMSP)

The goal for 2005 is to formalize agreements with three more municipalities with whom TRCA and OCETA have been engaged through the Toronto Region Sustainability Program. Agreements with these municipalities will build on the framework developed with the City of Vaughan. The framework below outlines the activities that will be undertaken with the City of Vaughan in 2005.

The agreement for the Vaughan Manufacturers Sustainability Program establishes a framework for TRCA, OCETA and the City of Vaughan to launch the program. Implementation of all initiatives will be coordinated as a team effort to achieve greatest results and impact, with each organization exercising leadership on aspects of the Program as outlined below.

Joint Efforts

- Develop marketing and delivery strategies to bring the Program to the attention of the local SME manufacturing community, with appropriate delineation of responsibilities and costs for the production and distribution of material, follow-up contacts, and group presentations;
- Ensure the use of the logos of all the partners in all program materials, including future presentations that highlight examples involving Vaughan-based companies;
- Refer local manufacturers to the other partners on issues within the areas of interest and expertise of the other partners; and
- Discuss the renewal of this agreement no later than January 15, 2006.

The City of Vaughan

- Provide \$5,000 to TRCA/OCETA for the delivery of the program in Vaughan from March 1, 2005, to February 28, 2006;
- Utilize City databases, with input from TRCA/OCETA, to develop a list of target sectors and companies for the distribution of program information that may include mailings, newsletters, website postings, etc.;
- Provide a letter of introduction from the Mayor / Environmental Task Force supporting the initiative, to be included in introductory material on the program;
- Provide in-kind staff support to participate in marketing and delivery strategy discussions and to participate in introductory meetings or presentations to groups of businesses; and
- Highlight the VMSP in contacts with local businesses

OCETA

- Develop and deliver customized marketing and presentation materials for manufacturers located in Vaughan;
- Deliver the Program in Vaughan, including: the management of the roster of P2 consultants, the delivery of marketing, presentation, and workshop efforts, the provision of facility assessments, the management of cost-share subsidies and the development and posting of case studies on the Toronto Region Sustainability Program website; and
- Deliver monthly milestone reports and a year-end status report consistent with the performance metrics and reporting format that are standard for TRCA and Environment Canada. The year-end report will include case studies, which can be used by the City of Vaughan. In addition, at year-end, provide the City of Vaughan with a summary statement of numbers of: presentations, participating companies, and P2 assessments, and the aggregated value of P2 assessment subsidies received by Vaughan-based manufacturers.

TRCA

- Provide marketing and design support for Program development
- Include the VMSP in presentations to municipal leaders on The Living City Program, the Natural Heritage Strategy, and Development Services initiatives
- Coordinate funding support between the City of Vaughan and OCETA.

2. Sustainable Community Collaborative

Staff will continue the discussion with the City of Vaughan about the sustainable community initiative located across from Kortright off of Pine Valley Drive. A letter will be sent to the City of Vaughan from TRCA confirming our support of the project. We will continue to collaborate with the City, helping to engage the necessary stakeholders and building on previous and existing work to apply principles of sustainable communities to the development.

Report prepared by: Anne Reesor, extension 5202

For Information contact: Andrew Bowerbank, extension 5343

Date: March 18, 2005

RES.#E5/05 -

SEATON COMMUNITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT

City of Pickering. Status of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff involvement in the ongoing preparation of the local regional and provincial development plan for the Seaton Community in the City of Pickering.

Moved by: Suzan Hall
Seconded by: Glenn Mason

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT the status report on the Seaton Community Development Plan be received for information;

THAT staff be directed to continue working with the City of Pickering, the Regional Municipality of Durham, the Province of Ontario and other participating groups towards the completion of a Natural Heritage System for the Seaton Lands;

AND FURTHER THAT as a component of the planning process that a Management Plan be implemented for the protected Natural Heritage System within Seaton.

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

The Seaton Lands are lands generally bounded by Brock Road to the East, Highway 7 and the Green River Community to the north, the West Duffins Creek to the west, and the CP Rail Corridor to the south. The lands are currently within the City of Pickering's Urban Expansion Boundary as identified in the current local and regional Official Plans. The lands are owned by the Province of Ontario. The lands are the subject of an Environmental Assessment process which if approved, will allow for the transfer of developable areas within Seaton in exchange for lands within Richmond Hill.

For the past several months TRCA staff have attended field visits and meetings to assist in the Provincial and City of Pickering initiatives to develop an Structural Plan/Growth Management Plan for the Seaton Lands. TRCA staff were initially involved in two separate processes, one initiated through the Pickering Growth Management Study, and the second through the Provincial Ontario Planning and Development Act Process. Both processes with some overlap, aimed to identify and secure a natural heritage system for Seaton. In recent weeks through a series of joint discussions with Municipal and Provincial staff, TRCA staff have been instrumental in the preparation at a staff level, of a common natural heritage system for the Seaton lands. We are also involved in the creation of environmental policies which would be incorporated in local and regional Official Plan Amendments and, in the Provincial Plan. TRCA staff are also involved in weekly meetings to finalize the process and sequence by which the various technical requirements will unfold through the planning and approval process.

The natural heritage system proposed is significant. The system encompasses approximately two thirds of the lands within Seaton, and incorporates all meaningful features including watercourses, wetlands, forest blocks and hedgerows. The system also incorporates buffers from the protected features and, tableland corridors which would link key natural heritage features. The minimum buffer from all defined features would be 30 metres. The natural heritage system lands will remain in public ownership and uses will be restricted to those which are related to passive recreation, cultural heritage and occasionally servicing (i.e., road crossings and stormwater management facilities). Where services are required criteria is being developed to ensure that impacts to the system including fragmentation, is minimized. Given the size of the community and natural heritage system, road crossings will occur. However, in order to reduce ecological impacts through future design stages, we have incorporated design criteria and recommended policy inclusions such as span bridges and tunnelling for servicing where feasible. We are also establishing the engineering criteria to ensure that the water management objectives are maintained through the development process, as this is critical to the continued health of the Duffins Watershed.

TRCA staff are also promoting the inclusion of sustainable development technologies in the design of the community. The Province is committed to this innovation while the City of Pickering has committed to a sustainable development forum to set the specific requirements which could be incorporated in the community design.

Finally, staff are promoting the development of an Environmental Management Plan for the protected natural heritage system. This plan should identify the mechanisms by which the natural heritage system will be protected and enhanced as Seaton develops. Among other issues, the plan should outline an ecological enhancement strategy, the pedestrian access system, any safety and security requirements, and set out a monitoring program to ensure that the features and their functions continue to flourish.

It is expected that the City of Pickering, the Region of Durham and the Province will finalize policy documents (Pickering and Durham Official Plan Amendments and a Provincial Plan) in the coming months which will set the stage for future development and will outline the natural heritage system as a schedule. These documents will also outline the land uses which will occur on areas beyond the natural heritage system and give a general indication of the road pattern for the developing community. Finally the documents will define the requirements for the protection of the defined natural heritage system through the community design and the criteria for the content of additional technical reports (i.e., Master Environmental Servicing Plan (MESP) and Functional Servicing Studies (FSS)) to support future development.

Staff will continue to work with the Province, the Region of Durham and the City of Pickering to finalize the development plan for Seaton in the coming months. We will provide an update as the provincial and municipal initiatives for the development of Seaton are furthered.

Report prepared by: Russel White, extension 5306
For Information contact: Russel White, extension 5306
Date: March 30, 2005

RES.#E6/05 - **DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) TO EXPAND THE GREEN BUILDING PARTNERSHIP**
Expand the membership of the Green Buildings Partnership to include Sustainable Buildings Canada and the Canadian Urban Institute.

Moved by: Gerri Lynn O'Connor
Seconded by: Andrew Schulz

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT staff develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to begin collaborative efforts with Sustainable Buildings Canada (SBC) and the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) in an effort to expand the membership of the Green Building Partnership (GBP).

CARRIED

BACKGROUND

On June 25, 2004 a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was established between the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Toronto Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC). The MOU was the beginning of collaborative efforts (titled the Green Building Partnership) to advocate for green building design in the Toronto region and engage municipalities and building developers in the adoption of green technologies and practices.

On January 26, 2005 a formal invitation was given to TRCA by the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) and Sustainable Buildings Canada (SBC) to support Canada's bid to have Toronto host the 2008 Global Conference on Sustainable Building and Construction. The winning bid will be announced at the 2005 Global Conference in Tokyo.

A proposal plan to deliver a green buildings conference in the fall of 2005 was presented to SBC, CaGBC National Office and the CaGBC Toronto Chapter. TRCA is participating in this proposal and will work to ensure the success of the conference .

RATIONALE

The actions and initiatives that are being conducted by a variety of organizations in support of green buildings is increasing in profile and in complexity. TRCA is uniquely placed through collaborative partnerships and working relationships with these organizations to take on the leadership role of bringing all parties together under a common goal. Each organization identified has unique strengths and expertise that, through joint efforts, would greatly enhance the promotion of green building design within our communities. Each organization would continue with their current mandates and day to day activities but come together under the Green Building Partnership to achieve initiatives that are large in scale or broad in scope to affect market transformation beyond the individual organizations capabilities and resources. As new members, SBC and CUI will work with TRCA and CaGBC -Toronto Chapter to develop a strategy that will increase the adoption of green building development across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Report prepared by: Andrew Bowerbank, extension 5343
For Information contact: Andrew Bowerbank, extension 5343
Date: March 23, 2005

TERMINATION

ON MOTION, the meeting terminated at 11:44 a.m., on Friday, April 8, 2005.

Michael Di Biase
Chair

Brian Denney
Secretary-Treasurer

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