



THE TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Watershed Management Advisory Board Meeting #6/04

Chair:	Dave Ryan
Vice Chair:	Nancy Stewart
Members:	Gay Cowbourne
	Frank Dale
	Pamela Gough
	Cliff Jenkins
	Shelley Petrie
	Michael Thompson
	Dick O'Brien - Chair, Authority

**October 15, 2004
10:30 A.M.**

SOUTH THEATRE, BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE

AGENDA

- | | | <u>Pages</u> |
|------------|---|--------------|
| 1. | MINUTES OF MEETING #5/03
(Enclosed herewith on Blue) | |
| 2. | BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES | |
| 3. | DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF | |
| 4. | DELEGATIONS | |
| 5. | PRESENTATIONS | |
| 5.1 | A presentation by Joe Puopolo, Partner, Dillon Consulting Limited on item 7.1 - Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project. | |
| 5.2 | A presentation by Gary Bowen, Specialist, Duffins/Carruthers, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) on oblique low level aerial photography of TRCA watersheds and waterfront. | |

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 6.1** A letter dated October 4, 2004 from Lelio C. Angelantoni of 76 Kiloran Avenue, Woodbridge, in regards to Humber Alliance - Policy in choosing members' representation. 3-4

7. SECTION I - ITEMS FOR AUTHORITY ACTION

- 7.1 LOWER DON RIVER WEST REMEDIAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**
Transition Planning 5-7
- 7.2 DON WATERSHED PLAN UPDATE STUDY**
Workplan 8-12
- 7.3 SPILLS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE** 13-15
- 7.4 HIGHLAND CREEK ECOACTION PROGRESS REPORT** 16-18

8. NEW BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING OF THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE #7/04
DECEMBER 10, 2004, IN THE HUMBER ROOM, HEAD OFFICE

Brian Denney
Chief Administrative Officer

/ks

CORRESPONDENCE 6.1

L.C. Angelantoni
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October 4, 2004

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
5 Shoreham Drive, Downsview, Ontario, M3N 1S4

Via Fax

Attention : Chairman Dick O'Brien, Members of the Executive Committee
and Advisory Board Members

Re: Humber Alliance - Policy in choosing members' representation.

Chair O'Brien and Members of the Executive Committee and Advisory Board.

Last April I applied for a position advertised in the newspaper as a volunteer to the Humber Alliance.

During the interview carried out by TRCA'S acting director, Adele Freeman, when asked my reasons for volunteering, I explained that the subdivision in which I reside, Wycliffe Subdivision, parallels Islington Ave. and the Humber river, from Rutherford Rd to Willis Ave., along side Boyd Park.

During the last ten years the subdivision's residents have witnessed the ravaging of this section of Boyd Park, from Rutherford Rd. south to Langstaff Ave. and the raping of the banks of the Humber River down to Woodbridge Ave. The TRCA and the Humber Alliance not only did not object to the damage being done to the Park and the forest, but actually helped in the destruction by selling a piece of Boyd Park (Islington near Rutherford) to a developer. That portion of Boyd park is now the Arista Gate Subdivision.

Most of the Pine Valley forest at the South East corner of Islington and Rutherford has been transformed into the "Pinewood subdivision" and the banks of the Humber River at Islington and Willis, only a few feet from the river itself will soon sport a condominium built, (with special permission by the TRCA), on land located several meters below the regional flood guidelines or the one hundred year storm guidelines.

To our knowledge, while the community tried to mitigate the damage by appealing all the way to the OMB, in one case in conjunction with the Sierra Club, neither the Humber Alliance, not the TRCA appeared to be interested in the Humber River and Boyd Park south of Rutherford Rd. When I asked a member of the Humber Alliance why the lack of interest, I was told that they were not aware of these happenings.

I also explained to acting director Adele Freeman that during the recent Pine Valley Link class EA the recommended alternate to the preferred solution, the linkage of the Pine Valley Dr., was the widening of Rutherford Rd. Islington Ave, Langstaff Ave. and Weston Rd. to six lanes.

To make room for two extra lanes on Islington Ave., the study found that at least another 4 acres of Boyd Park south of Rutherford will be partly asphalted over, in addition to an undefined chunk at the southern tip of Boyd Park at Langstaff road, where Islington Ave will have to be realigned to cross the Park.

Senior members of your staff are on record that they do not care of what happens in this area of Boyd Park.

I volunteered because I thought that by becoming a member of the Humber Alliance I could at least advocate for this section of the Humber River and Boyd Park.

No surprisingly, neither myself, nor another resident of this community applying at the same time, was chosen to represent the community at the Humber Alliance.

It is our impression that despite the fact that the majority of the park is located south of Rutherford Road, volunteers are not normally chosen from this area. Volunteers living in Kleinburg and North. appear to be acceptable.

The area surrounding Boyd Park, both east and west of the Humber River, possibly has one of the largest concentrations of Canadians of Italian origin in Canada. It would seem advantageous to an organization and particularly to any governmental agency funded by our tax dollars, to seek members of this specific group to reach the community in which the agency operates.

My enquiries to date have yet to uncover a member of this ethnic group being accepted as a "volunteer" in the Humber Alliance, I cannot imagine that the lack of a volunteer of Canadian/Italian origin within the alliance is a matter of policy, but I would like to know what action you will be taking to remedy the situation.

Perhaps you will also be so kind as to direct me to a volunteer member within the Humber Alliance with whom I can discuss the south section of Boyd Park and the Humber River to Woodbridge Ave. in order to try to formulate an action-plan to safeguard this area. The vociferous members living north of us may not qualify. Some give the impression that it does not matter what happens to Boyd Park south of Major Mackenzie, so long as traffic is kept away from their area.

Please try to answer before October 30, 2004.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed By)

L.C. Angelantoni

A resident of Vaughan and a tax payer

cc. Hon. Greg Sorbara
Hon. Leona Dombrowsky
Mayor Di Biase and Members of City of Vaughan Council
Chair Bill Fisch and Members of York

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #6/04, October 15, 2004

FROM: Adele Freeman, Acting Director, Watershed Management Division

RE: **LOWER DON RIVER WEST REMEDIAL FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT**
Transition Planning

KEY ISSUE

Moving from the Environmental Assessment for the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project to implementation of the functional design.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT staff develop a detailed scope of work, schedule for work, operating budget, phasing plan and monitoring plan that will be required to implement the functional design for the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to expedite the required contracts or agreements with the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation (TWRC) necessary to implement all flood protection components identified under the functional design of the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project as per the above scope of work, schedule for work, operating budget, phasing plan and monitoring plan.

BACKGROUND

At Authority Meeting #7/03, held on September 26, 2003, Resolution #A179/04 was resolved in part as follows:

THAT the Consultant Team led by Dillon Consulting Limited be retained to work with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) staff to develop a functional design for the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project through a coordinated approach to address the provincial and federal Environmental Assessment requirements using a Conservation Authority Class Environmental Assessment and an Environmental Screening Report, respectively, at an upset cost of \$421,520.00, excluding GST;

The Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project (LDRW Project) is the first of two projects to proceed as part of the Naturalization and Flood Protection for the Lower Don River Delivery Agreement signed on December 6, 2002 between the TWRC and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The objective of the project is to provide a permanent flood protection solution that will remove 210 hectares of Toronto from the regulatory floodplain, west of the Don River.

Currently, a draft Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Screening Report for the LDRW Project is nearing completion for review. It is anticipated that the Class EA will be released for review between the end of October and mid-November, 2004. To maintain our current inertia, staff have initiated the development of a scope of work to detail the transition from the Environmental Assessment process through to implementation of the functional design.

Determining the Preferred Alternative and Functional Design

A long-list of flood protection alternatives were carried through a two-stage evaluation process to derive the preliminary preferred alternative. Key components of the preferred alternative include:

- a flood protection landform that extends up to 3.5 m high and more than 160 m wide along the west side of the Don River that is bounded by the Queen Street flyover in the north and CN's rail crossing over the Don River (Kingston Line) in the south. To convey the anticipated volume of water under the regulatory flood, this flood protection landform will require a 40 metre setback from the water's edge;
- a flood conveyance structure (a culvert system or bridge) will be constructed under the Kingston Line to convey flood flows in the Don River under the Kingston Line;
- a combination of dykes and a retaining wall will be constructed on private- and publicly-owned lands on the east side of the Don River, south of the Kingston Line to mitigate against increases in flooding that would result from the increased conveyance of floodwaters under the Kingston Line;
- a modification to the Eastern Avenue utility bridge to improve local flow conditions; and
- continued dredging of the Keating Channel to ensure that the desired flood protection is achieved and maintained.

Benefits of the preferred alternative include:

- low impacts on the natural environment during construction and operations;
- the least number of constraints on planning and land use issues;
- no intrusion into other parts of the valley nor will it act as a visual intrusion to the landscape;
- the provision of attractive greenspace, connections between the waterfront and Don watershed, and a wide range of recreational opportunities;
- low to moderate cost to build and maintain; and
- readily adaptable in the future as may be required due to the impacts of global warming.

Public Consultation

The evaluation process underwent public scrutiny at two public workshops: the first was on January 19, 2004 and the second on April 29, 2004. During workshop #1, the public was able to comment on the project objectives, the range of alternatives being considered and the criteria to be used to evaluate each alternative. At workshop #2, the public commented on the results of the evaluation and the components of the preferred alternative. Public feedback was supportive of the results. TRCA is confident that the results will provide flood protection, enhance recreation and aesthetic values in the area and generally improve the local environment in the City of Toronto.

An in-depth analysis of the preferred alternative was conducted to determine its environmental impacts during construction and long-term operation phases. The results of this analysis and details on the resulting preliminary functional design were presented to the general public for comment at the third public workshop on September 21, 2004. While numerous questions were raised regarding the details, the public is highly supportive of the project.

Looking Ahead

All public comments submitted to TRCA will receive consideration before the design becomes finalized. Once finalized, the functional design will be submitted to provincial and federal authorities in conjunction with the Class EA report and Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) Environmental Screening Report, respectively.

TRCA staff are currently in the process of developing a scope of work, schedule for work, operating budget, phasing plan and monitoring plan that will represent the basis for negotiations with the TWRC to develop a delivery agreement for the implementation of the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project functional design.

Detailed designs will be developed for the various flood protection components, and all necessary permits will be acquired during the winter, 2005.

Construction of the flood conveyance structure under the CN Kingston Line may commence by early summer, 2005. Construction of the flood protection landform to protect lands west of the Don River will be constructed when the flood conveyance structure is in place. Construction of all flood protection components should be completed by 2006-07.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Initial estimates provided in 1999 to implement the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project were \$14 million. Due to inflationary costs and other technical requirements arising through the Environmental Assessment project the actual cost to implement this project will likely be higher, and the TWRC has been so advised.

On this, the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel, staff and Joe Puopolo, project lead for Dillon Consulting, will be making a presentation on the Lower Don River West Remedial Flood Protection Project. This initiative is a significant step forward in addressing flooding concerns at the Mouth of the Don.

Report prepared by: Ken Dion, extension 5230
For Information contact: Ken Dion, extension 5230
Date: September 30, 2004

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board Meeting
#6/04, October 15, 2004

FROM: Adele Freeman, Acting Director, Watershed Management Division

RE: DON WATERSHED PLAN UPDATE STUDY
Workplan

KEY ISSUE

Initiation of consultations and workplan preparation for the Don Watershed Plan Update.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Don Watershed Plan Update Study be initiated and undertaken according to the general work program outlined in this report;

THAT public/stakeholder input to the development of a detailed work program be obtained through the Don Watershed Regeneration Council, meetings with municipal staff and a community open house;

THAT staff report back in early 2005 with a detailed work program and on the study progress;

AND FURTHER THAT staff work with Pollution Probe to undertake the Don River Retrospective/Prospective project and coordinate findings with the Don Watershed Plan Update Study.

BACKGROUND

In 1994, the Don Watershed Regeneration Strategy, *Forty Steps to a New Don*, was published, identifying watershed protection and regeneration priorities. Subsequently, three watershed report cards, *Turning the Corner (1997)*, *A Time for Bold Steps (2000)* and *Breathing New Life into the Don (2003)*, have tracked changes in conditions and progress at implementation of the strategy. Numerous efforts by municipal, industry and community partners have contributed toward addressing the key issues found in this very urbanized watershed, including stormwater management in new and existing developments, combined sewer overflow remediation, habitat regeneration and backyard stewardship, however, it is recognized that much remains to be done to achieve the vision for the Don watershed.

Recent policy initiatives, particularly the *Oak Ridges Moraine Act*, and the anticipated enactment of the *Drinking Water Source Protection Act*, necessitate a consolidated update of strategic planning direction for this watershed. The *Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) Act (2001)* and *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) Regulation (2002)* require the Region of York, City of Vaughan and Town of Richmond Hill to have a watershed plan completed by April 2007, and its recommendations incorporated into the municipal official plans before any major development can be approved. Although there are limited undeveloped/rural lands remaining in the ORM portion of the Don watershed, the watershed planning study will ensure ORMCP requirements are met for these lands.

Watershed-based source protection plans will likely become a legislated requirement within the next year, as the provincial government has indicated its intent to implement recommendations from the Walkerton Inquiry. At such time as the requirements become known, they will be incorporated into the ongoing workplan for this watershed planning study to the extent possible.

In 2003, the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) adopted The Living City vision and objectives, which are to be realized, in part, through watershed management programs. The updated Don watershed plan will provide an opportunity to identify the programs and actions necessary to fulfill The Living City objectives within the Don watershed.

New technical data for the Don watershed in the areas of terrestrial natural heritage, groundwater, baseflow, water use, water budget and climate change projections, to name a few, are now available and can be integrated with existing watershed information to update the management strategy and provide improved direction for implementation.

Given the policy requirements, new information and degree of previous work, the proposed Don Watershed Plan Update Study will adopt the following principles in its approach:

- focus on filling gaps and developing an updated, integrated plan;
- simple and user-focussed documentation; and
- implementation oriented.

The following study objectives have been identified:

- fulfill the municipalities obligations for watershed planning under the ORM Act and ORMCP;
- incorporate requirements for completing a source protection plan into the workplan to the extent possible, at such time as the requirements become known;
- guide the ongoing implementation of existing policies and programs of the watershed municipalities, TRCA, and other agencies, as they affect watershed management; and
- guide official plan updates of the Region of York, City of Toronto and the local municipalities within the watershed;
- guide stewardship and regeneration priorities of private landowners, agencies and community groups.

Key aspects of the analysis proposed in this study will address:

- hydrological benefits of implementing the targeted terrestrial natural heritage system;
- downstream benefits of implementing the stormwater management retrofit plans in the "905" part of the watershed, as a complement to the implementation of Toronto's Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan;
- implications of climate change;
- integration of the G. Ross Lord Dam break analysis study and the updated hydrology study results with watershed management recommendations;
- fluvial geomorphology and instream erosion study needs (scope of work to be determined);
- implications and opportunities associated with large scale development;
- public use pressures (e.g. over-use, user conflicts);
- opportunities for employing improved sustainability practices; and

- overall integration of all new and existing information to provide improved direction for achieving *The Living City* objectives through watershed management.

Based on this planning context, the final implementation-oriented products will provide:

- Model policy, databases and tools to guide the remaining urbanization and re-development, including the natural areas to be protected, stormwater management criteria (recharge, flood flow, low flow, water quality, erosion), sustainable community design concepts and targets to meet public use, cultural ecology, aquatic and terrestrial objectives.
- Priorities for stewardship and regeneration projects, including several key “concept site” blueprints, similar to those prepared for *Forty Steps to a New Don*. Implementation priorities will address stormwater retrofit needs, terrestrial natural heritage, aquatic habitat, public use, education and interpretive opportunities.
- Early products that can immediately contribute to decision-making, during ongoing development approvals and regeneration project implementation.

Further details of the workplan and final products will be developed in consultation with watershed partners.

Don River Retrospective/Prospective

Concurrent with the update of the Don Watershed Plan, Pollution Probe, in partnership with TRCA and others, has proposed to lead a retrospective review of the last 35 years of progress in the Don watershed. This initiative is timely in that 2004 marks the: 35th anniversary of Pollution Probe's "funeral" for the Don; 15th anniversary of Toronto's creation of its Task Force to Bring Back the Don; and 10th anniversary of TRCA's *Forty Steps to a New Don*. The retrospective project will produce a report which will summarize past progress, sketch a vision for the next 10-35 years and characterize a process for getting there. The report is to be developed with input from prominent players in the Don and written by a well-recognized writer. The report and/or parts of it could form a "forward" for the updated Don Watershed Plan, and generally contribute to its recommendations for priority implementation action. A joint funding program will be developed and provided to the Business Excellence Advisory Board as appropriate.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

Planning Process

The watershed planning process will consist of three phases, over two and a half years, consistent with the approach being followed by other TRCA watershed planning studies. The following is a summary of the activities and deliverables associated with each phase:

Phase 1A: Designing the Planning Framework (July 2004 - Dec. 2004)

- establish administrative structure;
- develop public involvement program; and
- prepare detailed work plan and budget.

Phase 1B: Characterization (by June 2005)

- review existing information;
- define key issues, concerns and opportunities;
- collect new information and set up modeling and evaluation tools;
- report on existing conditions; and
- define watershed management goals and objectives.

Phase 2: Analysis and Evaluation of Alternatives (by December 2005)

- define future scenarios (i.e. terrestrial natural heritage, stormwater retrofit, climate change, habitat regeneration etc.);
- predict system response to future scenarios;
- evaluate management alternatives and priorities; and
- report on analysis and evaluation work.

Phase 3: Developing the Watershed Plan (by June 2006)

- select the preferred management approach;
- develop watershed management priorities and implementation mechanisms;
- finalize targets;
- develop monitoring recommendations; and
- prepare the watershed plan.

Consultation

A detailed workplan will be developed in consultation with the Don Watershed Regeneration Council, municipal staff and the community during fall, 2004. The resulting workplan will recommend a process for involving partners throughout the study.

Sound, technical information arising from the update study will be shared with the Pollution Probe retrospective/prospective project, and findings from the retrospective project will be reviewed as part of the watershed planning process, to ensure that the vision and recommendations for priority implementation actions arising from both initiatives take advantage of the fullest range of partner input and perspectives.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Funding for the 2004 preliminary characterization studies was provided for in the TRCA's capital budgets from the Region of York and City of Toronto . The 2004 projects include:

- Watershed water budget model development.
- Water use assessment.
- Hydraulics study and floodplain mapping updates.
- Aquatic resource studies (riparian surveys, management plan update).
- Terrestrial natural heritage inventories.
- Public use (trail planning).
- Project planning and administration.

Funding proposals to cover the projected 2005 study costs are included in TRCA's 2005 Preliminary Capital Budget.

Report prepared by: Sonya Meek, extension 5253
For Information contact: Adele Freeman, extension 5238
Date: October 4, 2004

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #6/04, October 15, 2004

FROM: Adele Freeman, Acting Director, Watershed Management Division

RE: SPILLS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

KEY ISSUE

To provide an update on the spills management initiative which has been lead through the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan in partnership with the Etobicoke-Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT staff be directed to continue with the consultation process, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment Canada, regional and local municipalities within Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's (TRCA) jurisdiction and watershed groups through the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (Toronto RAP), to address spills prevention and management within TRCA's watersheds;

THAT staff be directed to seek the necessary funding to further the spills management consultative process and associated activities from the 2005/2006 Toronto RAP Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) budget;

AND FURTHER THAT staff bring back the final outcomes report and recommendations from the spills workshop for approval.

BACKGROUND

In October 2003, the Etobicoke-Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition initiated a project to address spills within their urbanized watercourses in order to meet the targets for water quality improvement as outlined in *Greening Our Watersheds: Revitalization Strategies for Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks*. The project terms of reference involved studying the state of spills in the watersheds and hosting an educational networking workshop.

It was recognized that spills are not only a concern for the Etobicoke and Mimico watersheds but are also issues for all the watersheds in TRCA's jurisdiction. The overall goal of this initiative is to raise awareness of spills management issues and ensure effective measures are implemented to monitor, control and prevent harmful substances from entering our watersheds and the waterfront. In January 2004, the Toronto RAP team endorsed and sponsored the spills management initiative. Resources were allocated through the Toronto RAP MOU budget to: prepare a background report, build a consultative process and host a workshop.

Project Objective

The workshop will produce an outcomes report with recommendations as well as the potential to further pursue implementation of spills management projects through the network opportunity afforded by the process. Information gathered throughout the process of this spills management initiative is expected to guide future recommendations for action at all levels of government, the community and other stakeholders. It is anticipated that specific recommendations could initiate the:

- improvement of spills information and communication;
- integration of spills data into TRCA's Regional Monitoring Network Program;
- facilitation of improved inter-agency coordination; and,
- determination of roles and projects for community-based watershed groups.

Background Report and Advisory Committee

A background report was developed in consultation with an advisory committee consisting of Regional Spills Action Centre staff, TRCA staff, Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and Environment Canada (EC) representatives. The report provides information on spills policy, prevention, management, response, agency coordination and potential effects on the environment. The report also provides a preliminary evaluation based on the advisory committee members opinions, of the current multi-agency spills management system in terms of spills prevention, response containment clean-up and restoration, the legal process and monitoring of spill impacts. The report achieved the objective of building relationships with Regional Spills Action Centres, MOE and EC, and also provided a contextual foundation for the next step in the process - the spills workshop. The report was circulated, along with an invitation to a spills workshop, to all watershed groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), municipalities and agencies interested in spills within the TRCA watersheds. A copy of the background report will be available at the Water Management Advisory Board meeting for interested members.

Spills Workshop

The spills workshop was held on September 29, 2004 and was well-attended by approximately 70 participants including: watershed councils representatives, local and regional municipal staff, provincial and federal staff involved with spills, representatives from the International Joint Commission (IJC), Ontario Environmental Commissioner's office and other non-government organizations. The audience heard presentations from the Region of Peel and City of Toronto Spills Action Centre, MOE and Professor James Li on different aspects of Peel Region/City of Toronto spills response, prevention, management, coordination and information exchange. The issues were then summarized into several questions by an independent workshop facilitator for the nine workshop groups to discuss. The outcomes and recommendations of the workshop will be further developed and refined by a voluntary committee struck at the workshop and will be circulated to participants for comment.

RATIONALE

Watershed councils and alliances are important advocates of healthy river systems. Addressing spills management has been identified as a key action in community-based watershed planning documents and strategies throughout TRCA's jurisdiction. All watershed strategies identify spills management as a priority for action, especially in the more urbanized, industrial and transportation corridor areas. Spills management is also a priority for the regions and lower-tier municipalities within TRCA's jurisdiction as they operate spills action centres and develop emergency plans. MOE and EC have regulatory jurisdiction over spills through a variety of agreements, policy, regulations, protocols and legislation.

TRCA's mission is to "*work with partners to ensure that The Living City is built upon a natural foundation of healthy rivers and shorelines, greenspace and biodiversity, and sustainable communities.*" Spills in our watersheds have the potential to seriously impact the Regional Monitoring Network Program indicators (water quality, benthos, etc.) which provide the baseline information to the watershed report cards. TRCA works in conjunction with RAP to restore beneficial uses in the Toronto and Region Area of Concern (AOC). *Clean Waters, Clear Choices*, the Stage 2 report for the Toronto RAP, identifies the "Improvement of Spills Response and Prevention" as an action item under the stormwater section.

The spills management initiative complements other consultative processes currently underway in Ontario. The Industrial Pollution Action Team (IPAT), a panel appointed by the Minister of Environment, released their Discussion Document with recommendations on spills and pollution prevention in the Sarnia area in August 2004. The Etobicoke-Mimico Creek Watersheds Coalition sent a letter supporting in principle the recommendations of the IPAT report after it was posted to the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry for public comment. Under the current review of the *Emergency Management Act*, municipalities and provincial ministries are reviewing their policies and protocols and producing emergency plans by December 2004.

DETAILS OF WORK TO BE DONE

- Produce an outcomes report with recommendations and circulate the report to the advisory committee and then to workshop participants for comment;
- present final outcomes report and recommendations to the board for approval;
- further discuss the spills initiative with the RAP team, specifically the MOE and EC to determine deliverables and funding for 2005; and,
- initiate collective action on key recommendations.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

The 2004 budget for sponsoring this project was \$5,000 from the Toronto RAP MOU. Discussion with RAP team members are currently underway regarding future commitments to this initiative.

Report prepared by: Lisa Turnbull, extension 5325

Paul Willms, extension 5316

For Information contact: Adele Freeman, extension 5238

Chandra Sharma, extension 5237

Date: October 06, 2004

TO: Chair and Members of the Watershed Management Advisory Board
Meeting #6/04, October 15, 2004

FROM: Adele Freeman, Acting Director, Watershed Management Division

RE: HIGHLAND CREEK ECOACTION PROGRESS REPORT

KEY ISSUE

An update on the Highland Creek EcoAction Progress Report and direction to seek additional funding.

RECOMMENDATION

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS TO THE AUTHORITY THAT staff be directed to pursue funding sources to support the continuation of the Highland Creek Environmental Stewardship Program in future years.

BACKGROUND

The Highland Creek Environmental Stewardship Program (HCESP) was launched in March of 2003 as a partnership initiative between the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City of Toronto. The program was granted \$137,800 in financial support over a two year period. The EcoACTION Community Funding Program granted \$85,000, the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan (Toronto RAP) Regeneration fund provided \$46,800 and the combined efforts of three community groups contributed \$6,000. To date, the HCESP has also received in-kind contributions from the City of Toronto and various community groups, businesses and schools totalling \$103, 500.

The purpose of the program is to raise environmental awareness in the Highland Creek watershed and initiate the regeneration of three priority community action sites: Brimley Woods, Knob Hill and Dean Parks. Birkdale Ravine Park was adopted as an additional action site in the Spring of 2004.

To date, the HCESP has successfully engaged participation from local residents, businesses, schools and the diverse communities that make up the watershed. More than 20 schools and post-secondary institutions have been involved with the program in various capacities and over 15 local community associations, ratepayer groups and service organizations have participated in and promoted program events and activities. Scarborough politicians have supported the program and made use of its outreach and education services to help facilitate special events and community consultation processes. In addition, many local businesses including Owens Corning, Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., Fuji Graphic Systems, IBM and Rohm & Haas have co-hosted and participated in various planting and clean up events and made numerous in kind contributions to the program. The HCESP is also involved with "StandUP Scarborough", a community pride campaign whose mandate is to celebrate and promote the best in Scarborough's people, places and events.

As a result of over 3,500 volunteer hours, hands-on accomplishments to date include:

- over 3,000 native trees and shrubs planted at four community action sites;
- over 50 songbird, waterfowl and bat boxes installed in various locations throughout the watershed; and

- over 18,000 kg of garbage collected at the four action sites and in local parks and natural areas.

Additional community successes resulting from HCESP capacity building initiatives include the completion of a school native wildflower garden. Initiated by a local resident and parent, this project was the result of a collaborative effort between TRCA, Edgewood Public School and the City of Toronto Parks & Recreation and Forestry Departments, with funding support from TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation. Over 400 students and their teachers participated in this project which will serve as a demonstration model to the community and neighbouring schools.

Ongoing HCESP support for environmental initiatives at Centennial College include bi-annual shoreline restoration and clean up events at its Progress Campus, outreach through annual Enviro Fairs and presentations to the Centennial College Student Association Board highlighting the HCESP and other TRCA stewardship initiatives. As a result, HCESP has been successful in engaging students as volunteers and providing opportunities for learning skills sought by potential employers. The experience of two of these volunteers has led to their employment with TRCA.

The HCESP also supports the City of Toronto Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan (WWFMMP). The program provides venues for informing the public about stormwater management issues (e.g. at our resident information seminars) and HCESP staff promote the Downspout Disconnection Program and distribute rain barrels and water efficiency kits as prizes at community events.

In addition to working with key stakeholders, the HCESP continues to support internal initiatives such as Port Union projects, including the creation of pike spawning habitat and development of an environmental management plan for the lower Highland Creek.

An informal steering committee has guided the HCESP since its inception. The committee supports the implementation of core program deliverables, provides a framework for collaboration and facilitates community capacity building opportunities. Committee members represent a cross section of the community, with representatives from local businesses, a post secondary institution, community organizations and youth groups. Members have promoted the program to the Scarborough Chamber of Commerce and local business associations, and will provide promotional support to the Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement (OCETA) Pollution Prevention (P2) initiative within the watershed.

Most recently, the HCESP steering committee hosted an open house where 38 participants (23 representatives from local community associations, schools, businesses and politicians and 15 core steering committee members) provided valuable input on how our stewardship efforts can best serve the Highland Creek community. The ideas generated from this meeting will help direct planning for future stewardship projects and will form part of the basis for an upcoming Trillium funding application to sustain the Highland Creek Environmental Stewardship Program over the next 3-5 years. Based on the 2005 deadline for this submission we are well positioned to move forward with a comprehensive and strategic community supported proposal in line with The Living City objective for Sustainable Communities.

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