

November 14, 2013

Sent via e-mail
bill.hughes@york.ca

Mr. Bill Hughes
Commissioner of Finance
Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Re: Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Budget- Priority Enhancements

As requested by Ms. Strueby in her letter dated October 21, 2013, TRCA is submitting a request for funding that is additional to the core operating and capital request included in the budget submissions to York Region staff.

TRCA has worked with regional staff to bring in a core budget that respects the regional guidelines. TRCA's 2014 submission results in a total funding increase of \$269,000 over 2013. Detailed information on TRCA's core capital programs and projects has been submitted to Regional staff for review and discussion.

The support from the Region allows TRCA to provide key regional investments in watershed management; however, there are a number of areas of unmet needs that TRCA has presented to staff for their consideration and will be presenting to the Committee of the Whole on December 12, 2013. The Authority, at its October meeting, approved the preliminary estimates as submitted to the Region, including a request for funding of projects that are not within the budget guideline.

The four unfunded priority areas, presented in order of importance are:

- 1) Integrated Infrastructure Protection Works
- 2) Emerald Ash Borer Response
- 3) Kortright Servicing
- 4) BCPV North Property Development

Each project is briefly summarized below. Business cases were provided to the Region with the detailed capital budget submission.



2014 Unfunded Priorities

1. Integrated Infrastructure Protection Works (\$270,000)

York Region has previously provided funding to allow TRCA to monitor existing erosion sites and control structures within York Region to expand TRCA's Stream Erosion and Infrastructure Database. This database identifies new erosion sites and the infrastructure potentially affected or being affected. Through this work to date, TRCA has identified several erosion sites where regional infrastructure is vulnerable. The database allows us to develop an annual priority list for remedial and maintenance works. While a small capital amount is allocated to the repair of erosion sites, it is not sufficient to address the backlog of sites that are being identified. This funding will allow TRCA to carry out maintenance of protective works as required to maintain existing infrastructure and conduct Class Environmental Assessments for priority erosion sites to develop a preferred remedial measure of erosion control, and initiate repairs in concert with other municipal departments to achieve efficient and effective solutions. Major projects identified through this process will be done in concert with the appropriate Division(s) and funding will be provided in the Division(s) multi-year work program.

2. Emerald Ash Borer Response (\$200,000)

This project addresses the threat posed by emerald ash borer (EAB) to the natural heritage system and users of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) owned and managed lands within the TRCA watershed jurisdiction. Specifically, this project addresses the first four elements of TRCA's EAB Management Approach including:

- 1) detection and risk assessment;
- 2) communications and public outreach;
- 3) insecticide treatment of key ash trees;
- 4) EAB tree mortality abatement.

As with TRCA's municipal partners, the responsibility to provide safe public spaces necessitates the inventory, management and removal of affected ash trees on TRCA-owned lands. If the project is delayed, it could result in the loss of all ash tree species as a component of the natural heritage system across the landscape. There would be a need to close significant sections of trails and programmed lands on TRCA's properties due to liability associated with the dead trees.

Other resources could be redirected to this need but then replacement tree planting would not be able to keep pace with the reductions anticipated by the infestation by this beetle resulting in an overall reduction in tree cover in the Region.

3. Kortright Servicing (\$1,000,000)

TRCA plans to continue development and partnerships to make The Living City Campus the premiere destination for sustainable solutions. A key TRCA strategy to the success of The Living City Campus is the development of an Innovation Park, in partnership with Building Research Establishment (BRE) based out of Britain.

One of the most limiting factors in the success of this future development is the outdated water infrastructure system. The current well water system is costly to maintain, requires constant monitoring and upkeep, and is limited by its capacity for any future expansion on the property. With the anticipation of future growth in infrastructure and a predicted attendance growth of 50% over the next 10 years, a water supply which meets or exceeds current provincial and municipal water supply requirements for potable, fire suppression and other water uses is an essential retrofit for existing and proposed future uses at The Living City Campus at Kortright.

WORK TO BE DONE

Water Main

- 75mm (3 in.) PVC watermain at a minimum of 1km to the Visitors Centre;
- valve chamber at street line with connection to the municipal main;
- internal plumbing upgrades to the Visitors Centre;
- fire hydrants;
- water service connections to the other building structures that are noted in the business plan;

Sanitary

- Minimum of 1km service lines for the watermain and sanitary forcemain;
- Pine Valley to the Visitor Centre with servicing to the Archetype Sustainable House and adjacent parking lot;
- 3"-6" diameter watermain with valve chambers and approximately five hydrants providing domestic water and fire suppression;
- 4"-6" diameter sanitary forcemain (estimate) with pumping stations and maintenance holes;
- both will need municipal street connections, which means bringing the services to TRCA property line off Pine Valley Drive;
- upgrades to the building plumbing that is deteriorating.

4. Black Creek Pioneer Village North (\$500,000)

The Black Creek North Lands (adjacent to Black Creek Pioneer Village) have been closed since 1984. It is a unique heritage area that once functioned as part of the Village but was closed for financial reasons. The area of 16 hectares contains five heritage buildings, some of the last historic farmland in the region, woodland, Black Creek and its floodplain. It is the intention of TRCA to work toward reintegrating the Black Creek North Lands with the Village and reopen it for public and private use with the following improvements:

- infrastructure improvements to existing heritage buildings and agricultural lands;
- reintegrate the North Lands into Black Creek Pioneer Village programming and open it for public and private use;
- create a "Country" setting on the Black Creek North property that will complement the "Town" of Black Creek Pioneer Village;
- preserve land and historic buildings for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations;
- develop revenue through agricultural, cultural and educational programming;
- celebrate the agricultural heritage of southern Ontario and promote community-based urban agriculture, organic farming, and agricultural research and education.

The North Lands would once again become a vibrant part of the Village and add to the opportunities for enjoyment of the heritage and natural areas in the region. The capital budget would be used primarily for infrastructure improvements to restore the heritage buildings and natural areas and improve services so that the North Lands could be opened to the public. The North Lands would become an active part of the Village which attracts more than 130,000 visitors annually.

TRCA requests that these additional unfunded priorities be presented to the Committee of the Whole as part of the 2014 budget process. TRCA staff is available to provide additional information or clarification as may be required. Staff will be presenting TRCA's operating, capital and priority enhancements at the December 12th Committee meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Denney, P. Eng
Chief Executive Officer

- cc. Mayor David Barrow, Town of Richmond Hill
- Regional Councillor Michael Di Biase, City of Vaughan
- Deputy Mayor & Regional Councillor, Gino Rosati, City of Vaughan
- Regional Councillor Deborah Schulte, City of Vaughan
- Deputy Mayor & Regional Councillor, Jack Heath, City of Markham
- Deputy Mayor & Councillor Linda Pabst, Township of King