



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Authority for TRCA as Sole Source provider on Parks Forestry and Recreation Natural Environment Projects

Date:	February 20, 2007
To:	Budget Committee
From:	Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer and General Manager, Park Forestry and Recreation
Wards:	Wards 6, 10, 11, 25, 26, 28, 29, 31 and 3 City Wide projects
Reference Number:	P:\2007\Internal Services\Fp\bc07008Fp – wo (AFS #4220)

SUMMARY

This report seeks permission from City Council to enter into sole source purchase orders with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for natural environment projects.

The City of Toronto has a long history of working with TRCA on natural environment projects. This request for Sole source authority is consistent with past practice and facilitates a number of projects, many of which are on TRCA lands for which the City is responsible. TRCA is able to provide cost-effective management of natural environment projects using their highly specialized expertise and ability to expedite required approvals, facilitate community involvement and meet tight time lines. This report recommends Sole source authority with TRCA for projects totalling \$5 million in the 2007 Parks Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer and the General Manager, Parks Forestry and Recreation recommend that:

1. Council authorizes the General Manager of Parks Forestry and Recreation to enter into sole source purchase orders totalling up to \$5 million for 2007, including all taxes and charges, with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), to expedite and complete various natural environment projects included in the

2007 Parks, Forestry and Recreation 2007 Capital Budget , as listed in Table 1 of this report; and

2. Council authorizes the appropriate City of Toronto officials to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.

Financial Impact

Authority for sole source purchase orders to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is limited to only those projects included in the 2007 Council Approved Capital Budget for Parks Forestry and Recreation.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on February 16, 2007, the Budget Committee requested a report from the Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer and the General Manager of Parks Forestry and Recreation on the request to enter into sole source purchase orders with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority not to exceed \$5 million to expedite and complete various approved natural environment capital projects.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The City of Toronto has a long history of working closely with the TRCA on natural environment projects. The TRCA is able to provide cost-effective management of natural environment projects, many of which are on TRCA lands, using their highly specialized expertise and to expedite the necessary approvals, facilitate community involvement, and meet tight timelines. In recent years a separate report has been submitted subsequent to Capital Budget approval to seek this authority. This report seeks to expedite project completion by obtaining sole source authority for these natural environment projects at the same time as Capital Budget approval.

COMMENTS

A number of natural environment projects on parklands are included in the 2007 Recommended Parks Forestry and Recreation Capital Budget. Experience has shown that in the case of these natural environment projects, which may include other funding partners, and often are on TRCA land, that this practice may mean that many of these projects cannot be completed within the short seasonal window available for such work. Council policy recommends that each of these projects be awarded through a competitive bidding process.

In many of these projects, the TRCA is a funding partner either through contributions, or the in-kind services of their specialized engineering and environmental staff, thereby adding value to the projects. The direct involvement of the TRCA in such projects expedites the work by obtaining the necessary approvals and enhances public

involvement, where appropriate, through their outreach programs. Many of the projects take place in parklands, the majority of which are owned by the TRCA but managed by the City. As such, the TRCA has a significant interest in the project deliverables. Further, as a highly skilled, not-for-profit corporation which has worked closely with the City for many years, the TRCA has proven its ability to provide cost-effective, innovative and time-sensitive solutions and management of natural environment projects. As a result of this experience, sole source approval for TRCA to deliver natural environment projects is being sought at the same time as Capital Budget approval, as it will move these projects forward earlier in the season and allow staff to turn their attention to other projects.

In recent years, Parks, Forestry and Recreation has written a report annually seeking Council approval to enter into sole source contracts with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. Over the previous 7 years, an average of \$0.227 million has been contracted to TRCA on a sole source basis, with higher amounts in years including special projects related to TRCA expertise. This request for sole source approval is significantly higher for the 2007 Capital Budget due to \$3.5 million for repairs to bridges and other structures which were damaged in the August 2005 storm. The following table provides specific details of the projects.

TABLE 1 - List of 2007 Sub-Projects for TRCA Sole-Sourcing:

LOCATION & FEATURE	Cost	COMMENTS
STORM DAMAGE PROJECT		
Bridges in Valley Lands - City-Wide	\$1,955,000	102 bridges & stream edges in 48 different parks need work
G. Ross Lord Park	\$50,000	Main entrance road unstable
Asphalt Work	\$600,000	168 sections of Valley trails require repair
Edwards Gardens	\$900,000	Vehicle bridge, abutments and path repairs, extensive stream bank stabilization
subtotal	\$3,505,000	
STAND ALONE PROJECTS		
Eglinton Pond	\$200,000	Approved 2006 Projects with 2007 Construction cash flow, these projects are awaiting approval to move forward, TRCA has produced working drawings.
Taylor Creek- wetland /erosion control	\$300,000	Approved 2006 Projects with 2007 Construction cash flow, these projects are awaiting approval to move forward, TRCA has produced working drawings.
subtotal	\$500,000	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS		
Island Sand Dunes	\$45,000	Bioengineering, Toronto habitat features, trail and access improvements.

LOCATION & FEATURE	Cost	COMMENTS
Don Valley Brick Works	\$40,000	Trail rehabilitation and improvement; closure fencing; habitat protection; sign installation and replacement.
Humber Bay Shores	\$30,000	fence installation; installation of habitat features; shrub bed installation.
Eglinton Flats	\$25,000	Fence installation, habitat enhancements and installation of features
Toronto Bird Flyways Project	\$30,000	Various habitat enhancements at three project sites; trail rehabilitation; Interpretive features installed
Todmorden Mills	\$100,000	Installation of granular trails adjacent to wildflower preserve and historic buildings
Valley Trail Management and Forest Restoration	\$300,000	Continuing efforts with TRCA to install granular trails as needed, dismantling of trails in sensitive areas, develop re-naturalized areas as required
subtotal	\$570,000	
Sub Grand Total	\$4,575,000	
Allowance for other projects	\$425,000	Additional Capital Budget sub-projects which might be identified as related to TRCA, as work to execute 2007 Capital Budget proceeds.
Sole Source Request	\$5,000,000	TRCA limit

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SIGNATURE

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