



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Community Program for Stormwater Management – Update Report

Date:	May 31, 2010
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From:	General Manager, Toronto Water
Wards:	All Wards
Reference Number:	P:\2010\Cluster B\TW\pw10016

SUMMARY

The Community Program for Stormwater Management (CPSWM) was initiated in 2004 to provide funding to a maximum of \$25,000 to non-profit groups and organizations to undertake projects which help advance the goals and objective of the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan (WWFMP). The program is funded by Toronto Water and has been administered by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of all projects funded under the CPSWM to date and to recommend that the administration of the grant program be transferred from the TRCA to the City of Toronto's Environment Office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Toronto Water recommends that:

1. City Council grant authority to the Toronto Environment Office to administer the Community Program for Stormwater Management, beginning in 2010;
2. City Council direct the General Manager of Toronto Water and the Director of the Toronto Environment Office to use the Community Program for Stormwater Management Selection Committee to continue to review applications submitted and recommend projects for funding;

3. City Council delegate authority to the General Manager, Toronto Water and the Director, Toronto Environment Office, to award funds under the Community Program for Stormwater Management, beginning in 2010;
4. City Council direct the General Manager, Toronto Water and the Director, Toronto Environment Office to report annually to the Executive Committee on any proposed changes deemed necessary to the process of selecting projects and awarding funds under the Community Program for Stormwater Management.

Financial Impact

Funding in the amount of \$250,000 per year for this program is included in the approved 2010 Toronto Water Capital Budget and 2011 – 2019 Capital Plan in CWW447-03 – WWFMP Public Education. The Program has been administered by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), wherein approximately 10% of the available funding has been paid to the TRCA for administration of the program. By adopting the recommendations of this report, the administration of the Program will be through the Toronto Environment Office, and funded through the Office's approved Operating Budget. By reducing administrative costs, funding available for grants is increased without any additional financial impact on approved Capital or Operating Budgets.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at its meeting of September 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2003 approved the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan and accompanying 25-Year Implementation Schedule that included a Community Outreach Program, funded by Toronto Water and administered by the TRCA.

A copy of the Council Decision Document associated with the approval of the Plan can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2003/agendas/council/cc030922/pof9rpt/cl042.pdf>

A copy of the Council Decision document authorizing the Agreement with TRCA to administer the Community Program for Stormwater Management program can be found at:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2005/agendas/council/cc050517/wks5rpt/cl014.pdf>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Community Program for Stormwater Management (CPSWM) provides grants to community organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to carry out projects that advance the goals and objectives of the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan (WWFMP). Grant applications are usually reviewed two times per year by the CPSWM Selection Committee, who recommends a list of grants for approval by City Council.

The program was initiated in 2004 and has been administered by the TRCA under an agreement executed between the City of Toronto and TRCA. Under this agreement, TRCA receives an administrative fee of 10% of the grants awarded each year. This represents an upset limit of \$22,727.27 should the full annual budget allocation of \$250,000.00 be committed. The TRCA has requested that changes be made to the agreement to increase the administrative fee to a flat rate of \$35,000 per calendar year.

In the first five years of the program, 55 projects have been approved for a total amount of \$1,069,956. The TRCA received a fee equivalent to 10% of the grants awarded to cover their administrative costs, bringing the total monies spent to \$1,176,951. The type of projects funded include: creating educational websites; tree planting; mall displays; educational information targeting specific ethnic communities; and green roofs. The full list of funded projects is included as Attachment 1.

A summary of the Program deliverables is as follows:

- 4,348 native trees planted
- 3,710 native shrubs planted
- 17,990 native plants planted
- 3,718 m² of school yard asphalt removed and naturalized
- 91 workshops/seminars reaching an estimated 15,000 members of the public
- over 3.1 tonnes of garbage collected from ravines and watercourses
- 17,600 educational brochures produced and distributed
- 30 bird boxes built and installed
- 2 km of riparian vegetation established
- 149 educational information kits distributed
- 10 storm drain filters installed and analyzed for effectiveness
- six interpretive signs developed and installed
- two green roofs, three rainwater collection systems and one bioswale installed
- two interactive educational websites developed

Grant applications are reviewed by the CPSWM Selection Committee, which is chaired by Irene Jones, and includes two TRCA staff representatives, one Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan Team member from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and five City staff representatives from: Toronto Water (2), Communications (1), Parks, Forestry and Recreation (1) and Toronto Public Health (1). Applications are reviewed and prioritized based upon how well the project helps to meet the goals and objective of the WWFMP.

The projects should be on public lands; demonstrate that there will be a community participation component to the project and be of a maximum length of 1 year. The minimum grant is \$1,000 and the maximum is \$25,000 per project. Funding may be provided to non-profit groups and organizations, which are not part of the federal, provincial, territorial or municipal government. Examples of eligible groups include:

- community groups (e.g. associations, service clubs, youth and senior groups);
- environmental groups; and
- “Green Groups” associated with business enterprises could be considered depending on project applicability.

The CPSWM Selection Committee forwards a list of projects to the General Manager, Toronto Water, who prepares a report to Public Works and Infrastructure Committee recommending approval of the individual grants.

COMMENTS

The City of Toronto’s Environment Office presently manages two community based environmental grant programs which are similar to the CPSWM, namely the “Live Green Community Investment Program” (CIP) and the “Live Green Toronto Capital Projects Fund”. The “Community Investment Programs” awards grants to a maximum for any one project of \$25,000 and the “Capital Projects Fund” awards grants to a maximum for any one project of \$250,000.

The Toronto Environment Office targets community projects which address issues of “climate change, clean air and sustainable energy use” whereas the CPSWM targets community projects which specifically address stormwater quality and quantity issues. However, all three programs have funded similar types of projects such as green roofs; bio-swales; tree planting and education. In addition, some of the community groups have received funding from both Toronto Water and the Toronto Environmental Office.

Therefore, because an “in-house” mechanism to administer community based environmental projects already exists, it is proposed that, beginning in 2010, for efficiency of administration, all three of these environmental community grant programs administered through the “one window” of the Toronto Environment Office. This would also better allow the City to monitor and manage projects for which City funding is provided and help eliminate confusion for the community groups which are seeking funding from the City.

Toronto Water would still provide the funding for the program, and the CPSWM Selection Committee would continue to assist in the grant selection process. The approval of individual grants would cease to be directly approved through City Council, but would be awarded by Toronto Environment Office staff in accordance with the established eligibility criteria.

The administrative changes proposed have been discussed with the TRCA staff and they have confirmed that this will not negatively impact their operation, as the administration fees charged under the CPSWM were directed at supporting this program exclusively.

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SIGNATURE

Lou Di Gironimo
General Manager, Toronto Water

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Summary of CPSWM Projects

ATTACHMENT 1 SUMMARY OF CPSWM PROJECTS

Year	Applicant	Project Sector	Total Cost of Project	CPSWM Funding
2004	Citizen's Environment Watch	Education/Outreach	\$17,105	\$8,924
2004	Toronto Environmental Alliance	Education/Outreach	\$49,040	\$19,690
2004	Riversides Stewardship Alliance	Education/Outreach	\$22,500	\$22,500
2004	Black Creek Conservation Project of Toronto	Tree Planting/Ecology	\$116,300	\$10,000
2005	North American Native Plant Society	Planting/Outreach	\$15,910	\$12,395
2005	Task Force to Bring Back the Don	Outreach/Planting	\$33,145	\$19,990
2005	Friends of Mimico Creek	Outreach/Ecology/Planting	\$66,490	\$21,700
2005	Toronto Chinese for Ecological Living	Education/Outreach	\$11,025	\$6,050
2005	Canada – China Environmental Cooperative Council	Education/Outreach	\$60,100	\$24,300
2005	North Toronto Green Community	Education/Outreach	\$92,220	\$25,000
2005	Canadian Centre for Pollution Prevention	Education/Outreach	\$38,147	\$24,988
2006	North Toronto Green Community	Education/Outreach	\$98,758	\$24,935
2006	Toronto Chinese for Ecological Living	Education/Outreach	\$43,175	\$19,565
2006	Centennial College	Education/Outreach	\$49,790	\$24,900
2006	Evergreen	Planting/Ecology/Outreach	\$30,000	\$15,000
2006	Centennial Community and Recreation Association	Education/Outreach	\$79,176	\$22,761
2006	Friends of the Don East (FODE)	Planting/Ecology/Outreach	\$194,646	\$24,895
2006	University of Toronto	Infrastructure	\$20,825	\$12,125
2006	Task Force to Bring Back the Don	Education/Infrastructure	\$7,000	\$5,100
2006	North American Native Plant Society (NANPS)	Education/Outreach	\$29,580	\$25,000
2006	Toronto Bay Initiative (Citizen's Environmental Watch)	Education/Outreach	\$52,030	\$24,140
2006	Black Creek Project	Planting/Ecology/Education	\$103,700	\$10,000
2006	Greenroof – Central Technical School	Infrastructure	\$5,047	\$4,539
2006	Hugh Garner Housing Co- Op Green Roof	Infrastructure	\$1,189,558	\$25,000
2007	Toronto Public Space Committee	Education/Outreach	\$24,024	\$15,584
2007	Evergreen	Planting/Outreach	\$41,635	\$22,000
2007	Toronto Chinese for Ecological Living	Education/Outreach	\$40,029	\$17,245
2007	East Don Parkland Partners	Planting	\$19,000	\$14,800

Year	Applicant	Project Sector	Total Cost of Project	CPSWM Funding
2007	Toronto Artscape	Infrastructure	\$374,000	\$25,000
2007	Black Creek Steep Slope Interception Initiative	Planting/Outreach	\$135,700	\$25,000
2007	Toronto Green Community	Education/Outreach	\$117,730	\$9,750
2007	Riversides Stewardship Alliance	Education/Outreach	\$26,058	\$9,750
2007	Covenant House	Infrastructure/Education	\$277,300	\$25,000
2007	Dupont Improvement Group: Improving Neighbourhoods	Planting/Infrastructure	\$51,000	\$17,000
2007	Citizen's Environment Watch	Education/Outreach	\$48,683	\$24,000
2007	Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests	Education/Outreach	\$78,590	\$20,000
2008	Evergreen	Infrastructure/Outreach	\$29,941	\$24,750
2008	Toronto Chinese for Ecological Living	Education/Outreach	\$57,115	\$24,871
2008	Black Creek Conservation Project	Planting/Outreach	\$231,590	\$25,000
2008	North American Native Plant Society	Planting/Outreach	\$12,660	\$11,780
2008	Friends of the Rouge	Planting/Ecology	\$90,300	\$25,000
2008	Ontario Food Terminal	Infrastructure/Planting	\$60,000	\$25,000
2008	Toronto District Catholic School Board	Infrastructure/Outreach	\$68,253	\$25,000
2008	Friends of the Don East	Planting/Ecology	\$53,375	\$25,000
2008	Mountain Equipment Coop (MEC)	Infrastructure/Outreach	\$9,604	\$9,604
2008	Garden Green	Planting/Outreach	\$5,950	\$4,650
2008	Toronto District School Board	Infrastructure/Outreach	\$49,608	\$25,000
2009	Black Creek Project	Planting/Outreach	\$266,640	\$25,000
2009	Partners in Project Green	Infrastructure/Outreach	\$44,250	\$25,000
2009	Toronto Chinese for Ecological Living	Education/Outreach	\$17,236	\$12,816
2009	Pollution Probe	Education/Outreach	\$24,609	\$24,109
2009	Evergreen	Infrastructure/Outreach	\$38,745	\$23,750
2009	The North Garden Expansion Project	Infrastructure/Outreach	\$29,237	\$25,000
2009	Citizens for a Safe Environment	Education/Outreach	\$27,640	\$25,000
2009	Green Here	Infrastructure/Outreach	\$210,670	\$25,000
Total			\$4,986,439	\$1,069,956