Appointment of Public Members to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Date: June 24, 2019
To: Civic Appointments Committee
From: City Clerk
Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

SUMMARY

The Civic Appointments Committee will conduct interviews and recommend seven public members to City Council for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Civic Appointments Committee recommend seven candidates for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending July 16, 2023, and until successors are appointed.

2. City Council direct that the confidential information contained in Confidential Attachments 1 - 3 remain confidential in its entirety as it relates to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.
DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held June 4, 2019, the Civic Appointments Committee selected eleven candidates for interview at its July 3, 2019 meeting: http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.CA1.4.

At its meeting held April 16 and 19, 2019, City Council adopted item CC6.1, Composition of Council’s appointments to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority: http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.CC6.1.

COMMENTS

Composition of the TRCA
The TRCA consists of 28 members and is composed of:

- 14 representatives from the City of Toronto appointed by City Council of which 7 are Members of Council and 7 are public members
- 14 members representing the Regional Municipalities of Peel, Durham, and York, the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, and the Town of Mono

Public members should meet certain qualifications
In addition to the general eligibility requirements in the Public Appointments Policy, public members of the TRCA must demonstrate:

- broad interest in, and knowledge of, conservation and the management of natural resources
- knowledge of the natural resources in the regions under the TRCA’s jurisdiction
- flexible schedules for attendance at meetings, tours, special events, and other activities relating to the Authority’s work
- ability to actively participate in the decision-making process
- interest in, and ability to, be an advocate of the Authority’s programs, goals, and objectives

The term of office for new appointees is four years
The term of office for public appointees to the TRCA is governed by the Conservation Authorities Act. Previously, the Act set the term of office as three years but under amendments made in 2017, public members are now appointed for a term of up to four years, as may be determined by the council that appoints the member.
Public appointments staff have consulted with the TRCA

In preparation for this process, Public Appointments staff consulted with the TRCA in June 2018 to discuss the TRCA's strategic direction, changes to the board, emerging challenges and opportunities, and how they relate to the work of the board.

In addition to the Council-approved board qualifications, TRCA staff suggested that ideal candidates would have:

- previous board governance experience to uphold the fiduciary duties of the board
- knowledge of or interest in environmental matters within TRCA’s mandate
- experience working with diverse groups of stakeholders including private sector and public sector agencies
- a working knowledge of the municipal and provincial approvals process and relevant legislation including the Conservation Authorities Act, Planning Act, Environmental Assessment Act, Source Water Protection Act, and Municipal Act
- Strong communication skills and comfort with public engagement

Public release of names of recommended candidates

The names of the seven recommended candidates will be publicly reported once the Civic Appointments Committee forwards its recommendations to City Council.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Ulli S. Watkiss
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 – List of candidates, qualifications, confidential diversity information summary, and applications for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (previously distributed with Item CA7.6)
Confidential Attachment 2 - Interview questions for July 3, 2019 (to be circulated under separate cover)
Confidential Attachment 3 - Interview schedule for July 3, 2019 (to be circulated under separate cover)