



REPORT FOR ACTION

Composition of Council's appointments to Toronto Regional Conservation Authority

Date: April 1, 2019

To: City Council

From: City Manager

Wards: All

SUMMARY

In December 2018, Toronto City Council considered a report from the City Manager and City Clerk with recommendations that recalibrate the City's governance system given the change in City Council size from 45 to 26 Members. In that report, the City Manager and City Clerk recommended that City Council convert four Council member appointments to the Board of the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority to public members such that Council would appoint five Council Members and nine public members.

City Council requested the City Manager and the City Clerk to have discussions with the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority on the timing of implementing change to Toronto's appointments and any other considerations. City Council continued the appointment of the existing City of Toronto representatives to Toronto Regional Conservation Authority from the prior Council term in the interim.

The City Manager and City Clerk has consulted with the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority and recommend that City Council convert two Council member appointments to public members. This ensures that Toronto's fourteen legislatively required appointments to the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority are balanced seven and seven between Council members and public members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Manager recommends that:

1. City Council establish the composition of the City's fourteen appointees to the Board of Directors of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority as seven Council members and seven public members.

2. City Council direct the City Clerk:

- a. to canvass Members of Council for their interest in appointment to the Board of the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority and report the results to the Striking Committee for recommendation to City Council.
- b. to proceed to fill the public members of the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority Board through the Civic Appointments Committee for recommendation to City Council.
- c. to carry out these instructions such that the next recommendations for Member and public appointments are considered by City Council at the same meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of the recommendations in this report.

The Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On August 14, 2018 the Province of Ontario passed Bill 5, the *Better Local Government Act, 2018*, reducing the number of Toronto City wards from 47 to 25 with the boundaries aligning with current federal and provincial electoral ridings.

<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-5>

On Dec 13, 2018 City Council amended Council Member appointments to City agency, corporation and other Boards when considering the report on Recalibrating City Council's Governance System for 26 Members.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.CC1.1>

COMMENTS

The Toronto Regional Conservation Authority was established in 1957 to develop and deliver programs to further conservation, restoration, development and management of the natural resources within the nine watersheds in its jurisdiction.

The Toronto Regional Conservation Authority is established under section 5(1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. It is a partnered agency with membership from six municipalities, including the City of Toronto, Regional Municipality of Durham, Regional Municipality of Peel, Regional Municipality of York, Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, and Town of Mono.

Section 5(4) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* states "the number of members appointed to the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority Board ("Board") by the City of Toronto, shall at all times, be equal to the total members appointed by other participating municipalities." The current size of the Board is 28 members; as such, Toronto must appoint 14 members to the Board.

Previously, City Council had established the appointments of nine Council Members and five public members to the Board. In December 2018, Council was reduced from 45 to 26 members. At that time, the City Manager and City Clerk recommended that the appointments change so that five Council Members and nine public members be appointed to achieve the requisite fourteen from Toronto. This recommended reduction in Council member appointments is consistent with adjustments made for other Boards.

City Council asked the City Manager to consult with Toronto Regional Conservation Authority on the proposed changes and timing prior to making a change in appointments. The appointees from the previous term of Council have carried on in the interim.

Consultations with Toronto Regional Conservation Authority confirmed that Board members from partner GTA municipalities are Members of municipal Councils. In most cases, the municipality appoints one or two Members. Toronto appoints a combination of members of the public and Council Members to make up its 14 required appointees.

Toronto has a practice of appointing both Council and public members to City and non-City boards. Toronto has a robust public appointments policy and process and public members have a strong record of contributions to the Boards to which they are appointed.

The City Manager, in consultation with the City Clerk, recommends that City Council establish that seven Council members and seven public appointees make up the fourteen appointees to the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority Board which ensures that at least 50% of Toronto's appointees to the Board are Members of Council.

CONTACT

Sonali Chakraborti, Senior Corporate Management & Policy Consultant, Strategic & Corporate Policy, City Manager's Office, 416.392.3834, sonali.chakraborti@toronto.ca

John D. Elvidge, Deputy City Clerk, Secretariat, City Clerk's Office, 416.392.8641, John.Elvidge@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Chris Murray
City Manager