



REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Minutes from the Grants & Programs Committee Meeting held October 2, 2020

Date: October 23, 2020

To: Toronto Atmospheric Fund Board of Directors

From: Grants Manager

MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome, introductions, acknowledgements

The Committee Chair, Antoine Belaieff, welcomed Committee members and attendees and called the meeting to order.

2. Review of Agenda

(September 23, 2020) Meeting Agenda, submitted by Ryan O'Connor, Grants Manager.

Agenda approved.

3. Declarations of Interest pursuant to the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*

Corey Diamond declared a conflict of interest with Item 5d and 5i.

4. Review of Grants and Programs Budget

(September 23, 2020) TAF grants budget and internal programs budget, submitted by Ryan O'Connor, Grants Manager.

Ryan O'Connor presented an update on the grants budget and internal programs budget for 2020.

5. Grant requests (for recommendation)

(September 23, 2020) Package of Grant Proposals, submitted by Ryan O'Connor, Grants Manager.

a. Building Up – Building a Green Construction Workforce in Toronto

The Committee recommended funding of \$300,000 over 26 months to support the development and implementation of a recurring 16-week green building training program designed for individuals who face barriers to employment in the trades industry. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following conditions:

- i. The training curriculum and train-the-trainer module will be open-source and shared with other training programs and institutions across the GTHA.
- ii. Building Up will commit to collaborating with the Workforce 2030 Coalition and its members to advance policy and programs that will increase training opportunities in the green building industry.

b. City of Mississauga – Building the Business Case for District Energy in Mississauga's Downtown

The Committee recommended funding of \$125,000 over 12 months to the City of Mississauga to assess the feasibility of creating a district energy system in downtown Mississauga. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following conditions:

- i. If the proposed district energy system is built with private or commercial participation, City of Mississauga will commit to facilitating reimbursement of up to the full value of TAF's grant.
- ii. Renewable sources of energy for the district energy system are prioritized, and the business case will include a robust analysis of scenarios in which renewable sources comprise between 50-100% of the energy used for the district energy system.
- iii. City of Mississauga will not consider the business case for a district energy system that is wholly reliant on non-renewable energy sources.
- iv. Submit a stakeholder engagement strategy for TAF approval outlining how and when building owners, municipal staff, councilmembers, residents and other key stakeholders will be consulted throughout the process.
- v. Submit a knowledge transfer strategy for TAF approval describing actions that will be taken to share lessons from this project with staff in other GTHA municipalities.

c. Clean Air Partnership – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

The Committee recommended funding of \$122,000 over 12 months to Clean Air Partnership to undertake a study to support the cost-effective design and implementation of EV charging stations in new multi-unit residential buildings in the GTHA, and to promote the business case for "EV Ready" parking requirements to local governments and industry members through a series of stakeholder consultations. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following condition:

- i. Commit to consulting and sharing project outcomes with stakeholders in the development industry and municipal staff across the GTHA to support the inclusion of EV charging infrastructure requirements in new and updated municipal building standards as well as voluntary building standards.

d. Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI) – Overcoming Implementation Barriers to HVAC-led Building Retrofits

The Committee recommended funding of \$32,800 over 4 months to HRAI to identify the training and support tools needed to enable heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) contractors to drive demand for and implementation of home energy retrofits by engaging industry members and stakeholders through a series of focus groups, interviews, and surveys. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following conditions:

- i. Consult with large employers in the HVAC industry, equipment manufacturers, and other stakeholders with a vested interest in project outcomes to inform the research findings and build support for future phases of work.
- ii. Engage with Enbridge to incorporate the lessons from its previous contractor training program focused on selling energy efficiency solutions to homeowners.

e. Harbord Village Residents' Association – HVRA Electric Vehicle Project: Phase 1

The Committee recommended funding of \$16,050 over 12 months to Harbord Village Residents' Association to develop a neighbourhood-based education campaign and electric vehicle (EV) bulk purchase program, as well as a strategy to install a public EV charger in the Harbord Village neighbourhood. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following condition:

- i. Engage stakeholders who can support the scale-up and knowledge transfer of project outcomes beyond the Harbord Village neighbourhood, including the City of Toronto, Plug 'n Drive, and at least one energy utility company.

f. Mohawk College – Home Energy Retrofit Delivery Centre for the Hamilton-Burlington Region

The Committee recommended funding of \$27,450 over 12 months to Mohawk College to develop a business plan for a regional retrofit delivery centre which will support homeowners in undertaking energy retrofits. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following conditions:

- i. Eliminate the home energy audit activities and associated budget from the TAF funding request.
- ii. Submit an analysis regarding the feasibility of completing this project in less than 12 months, including a revised project timeline (if feasible) or an explanation for maintaining the initial timeline (if not feasible)
- iii. Incorporate into the business plan an analysis of local building industry capacity to deliver energy retrofit targets.

g. Ontario Geothermal Association – Geothermal Drilling and Aquifer Protection Guideline

The Committee recommended funding of \$26,050 over 10 months to the Ontario Geothermal to develop a guideline document that can be used by municipal staff to advance building projects that involve geothermal drilling within their jurisdiction while

ensuring the protection of ground water supply systems. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following condition:

- i. The Guideline will provide a summary of the other barriers, beyond concerns about aquifer protection, to scaling up geo-exchange systems in the GTHA.

h. Passive Buildings Canada – Benchmarking Materials Emissions for Low-Rise Housing

The Committee recommended funding of \$90,325 over 12 months to Passive Buildings Canada to conduct a benchmarking study and develop a report that includes a comprehensive data set of the emissions embedded in the building materials for residential homes in the GTHA, with a view towards promoting lower carbon material selection in the future. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following condition:

- i. Engage the Independent Electricity System Operator, local utilities and GTHA municipalities outside of Toronto to promote the incorporation of embodied carbon considerations into municipal building codes.

i. Sustainable Buildings Canada – Compass Energy Modelling Reviews for Municipalities

The Committee recommended funding of \$114,824 over 12 months to Sustainable Buildings Canada to develop a software tool, with input from key stakeholders, that enables non-technical users to review building energy models for compliance with municipal energy performance requirements. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following conditions:

- i. Engage with provincial building code officials to collect insights on how this software can be coordinated with provincial requirements.
- ii. Sustainable Buildings Canada provide written confirmation that the software tool developed through this project will be made available in perpetuity to the target markets on a cost-recovery basis.

j. Town of Halton Hills – Halton Hills Green Development Standards Training Workshops

The Committee recommended funding of \$25,000 over 6 months to the Town of Halton Hills to host a series of workshops for local development industry professionals to increase their awareness of the Town's updated Green Development Standards and to provide guidance on how to comply with the new standards. The Committee's recommendation is subject to the following condition:

- i. Develop and implement a knowledge transfer strategy, which outlines specific actions that will be taken to share the workshop curriculum and project outcomes with representatives from at least one municipality in Durham, Halton, York, and Peel Regions as well as the City of Toronto and City of Hamilton.

k. Grant requests not recommended for funding

The Committee recommended that the TAF Board not approve funding to five requests with a total value of \$542,486.

6. Internal Program Allocation Requests

(September 23, 2020) Package of Internal Program Allocation Requests, submitted by Ryan O'Connor, Grants Manager

a. Climate Action Skills Fund

The Committee recommended funding of \$181,200 over 24 months to enhance the capacity of community practitioners, TAF grantees, and TAF staff leading internal programs by providing access to professional coaches and mentors and training opportunities in targeted skills areas such as program design, developmental evaluation, policy advocacy, and partnership brokering.

b. Enhancing GHG Quantification in the GTHA

The Committee recommended funding of \$74,311 over 12 months to support strategic greenhouse gas-related research in the areas of industrial emissions, co-benefits of climate actions, and the potential roles of natural gas and related infrastructure in the pathway to decarbonize, and also to enable TAF's engagement with and advisory support for both local quantification practitioners as well as the Low Carbon Cities network.

c. TowerWise: Scaling Deep Energy Retrofits

The Committee recommended funding of \$600,000 over 12 months to launch and operate a Retrofit Delivery Centre, which is dedicated to delivering high-quality energy retrofits in the multi-unit residential building sector at scale by standardizing and optimizing administrative work, leveraging economies of scale, reducing transaction costs, and building up needed industry capacity by creating demand and sending market signals needed to drive investment.

7. Internal Program Allocation Requests and Reports

(September 23, 2020) Package of Internal Program Reports, submitted by Ryan O'Connor, Grants Manager

Julia Langer, CEO, provided a verbal report on the internal program, *Attracting Funds for GTHA Climate Solutions*. All hiring for new positions was paused in spring, and so instead TAF staff began exploring opportunities and approaches to attract funds for climate solutions in the GTHA. Staff concluded that the planned and prospective internal work to develop a retrofit delivery centre and to advance deployment of EV charging infrastructure would accomplish the objectives of attracting and mobilizing considerable funds for low-carbon solutions across the region. None of the funds approved was spent and the project will be rescinded.

The Committee received the reports for information.

Attendance and Meeting Sessions

| Date and Time | Quorum | Members |
|--|---------|---|
| 2020-10-02 8:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. (Public Session) | Present | <i>Present:</i> Antoine Belaiieff (Chair), Corey Diamond, Tamar Heisler, Councillor Mike Layton, Erika Lontoc, Ryan Ness, Sandra Odendahl, Parminder Sandhu <i>Not Present:</i> Nicola Crawhall, Andrew Dooner |

CONTACT

Ryan O'Connor, Grants Manager, roconnor@taf.ca