

Council Member Appointments to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Date: March 31, 2022

To: Striking Committee

From: City Clerk

Wards: All

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend the appointment of Members of Council to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. Striking Committee consider Members' preferences and recommend to City Council the appointment of Council Members to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority as follows:

- a. one Member of Council for a term ending November 14, 2022 and until a successor is appointed; and
- b. one Member of Council for a term starting on July 1, 2022 and ending November 14, 2022 and until a successor is appointed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

This report has no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at its meeting held on April 16 and 17, 2019, established 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:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.CC6.1>

City Council at its meeting held on December 16, 17 and 18, 2020, appointed Members of Council to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for a term ending November 14, 2022 and until successors are appointed. City Council also requested the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to allow the City of Toronto to maintain its current composition of appointees to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority at 50 percent Council Members, and 50 percent public members:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.ST7.1>

City Council at its meeting held on December 15, 16 and 17, 2021 appointed a public member to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, pending Ministerial approval of an exemption from the composition requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.CA26.2>

COMMENTS

City Council appoints half its Members on the Authority from the public

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board is composed of 28 Members, including 14 Members from the City of Toronto. City Council has established its composition as seven Council Members and seven Members of the public.

The Province has changed membership requirements for Conservation Authorities

In December 2020, Bill 229, the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures) amended the Conservation Authorities Act, which, among other things, now requires that at least 70 percent of municipal appointees to a conservation authority be Members of Council. In February 2021, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks provided guidance on submitting requests for Minister's 'exceptions' under the Conservation Authorities Act, including this requirement.

When City Council made its midterm appointments to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority in December 2020, it also requested the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to allow the City of Toronto to maintain its current composition of appointees to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority at 50 percent Council Members, and 50 percent public members.

The City was subsequently advised by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to wait to apply for an exception until it had a vacancy on the board.

The City requested an exception to fill a vacancy

In December 2021, City Council appointed a public Member to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The appointment was subject to approval of a composition exception request made to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks at that time.

In March 2022, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks denied the City's request for an exception. The Ministry also advised that the City can reapply with additional information.

The City should take steps to comply with the Act while it reapplies for an exception

The City will reapply for the exception from the composition requirements of Conservation Authorities Act. In the interim, City Council should take steps to comply with the Act by appointing Members of Council to fill the vacancies on the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority Board to the end of the term. Should the exception be granted, new appointments can be made in the new term.

There is currently one vacancy on the Board. Another vacancy will arise effective July 1, 2022. The City Clerk has canvassed Members for their interest in being appointed to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. To date, no Members have expressed interest in this appointment.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Members' preferences for appointment to the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority