

4a-1

DATE: August 3, 2012

REPORT TITLE: **GREENLANDS SECUREMENT PROGRAM 2013 BUDGET**

FROM: Norma Trim, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the annual contribution to the Greenlands Securement Reserve R0221 remains unchanged at \$750 thousand for the 2013 Budget;

And further, that the \$250 thousand increase recommended for the 2013 Budget as part of the 2011 budget presentation, be deferred for consideration as part of the 2014 Budget.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- At the end of 2012, it is estimated that there may be about \$1.2 million uncommitted funding towards site specific projects in the Greenlands Securement Capital Project.
- In 2013, Conservation Partners anticipate a requested Regional commitment of about \$923 thousand for new site specific projects.
- No increase in contribution to the Greenlands Securement Reserve is required for 2013.

DISCUSSION

1. Background – Annual review of funding required

The Terms of Reference for the Greenlands Securement Subcommittee (GSSC) requires an annual review and recommendation on the appropriate level of funding for the Greenlands Securement Reserve and the Greenlands Securement Capital Project prior to Region of Peel annual budget process. The Conservation Authorities budget provides a transfer of funds to the Greenlands Securement Reserve. These funds are then transferred to the Greenlands Securement Capital Project on an annual basis. GSSC may approve Regional funding support towards new site specific projects, taking into consideration the amount in the Greenlands Securement Capital Project that has not been committed towards site specific projects.

The Greenlands Securement Program has four Conservation Partners: Credit Valley Conservation, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, and Bruce Trail Conservancy. These Conservation Partners identify properties that would achieve their land securement strategies and undertake the negotiations to bring forward a site specific project for funding from the Region. The Conservation Partners have had a

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very successful five years with 15 properties secured throughout the Region for a total area of 314 ha (779 ac).

2. Greenlands Securement Capital Project Status

An annual amount of \$500 thousand was budgeted from 2005 to 2010 for the Greenlands Securement Reserve. This was increased to \$750 thousand in 2011 and remained the same in 2012. The increase was identified as important to maintain the level of available funding to account for land costs and pressures. In 2010, it was also recommended that an increase to \$1 million be considered in subsequent years, which is in-line with other GTA municipalities with similar programs. This increase was deferred in 2011 for consideration during the 2013 budget process as additional funds were not required.

The commitment by the Region towards new site specific projects for each year has varied in the past from a low of \$38 thousand in 2008 to \$1.4 million in 2007. The amount available for new projects dipped to a low of \$117 thousand in 2007.

Since 2005, a total of \$4.5 million has been allocated to the Greenlands Securement Reserve. Based on commitments to the Conservation Partners, \$1.58 million is available in the Greenlands Securement Capital Project for new site specific projects as of July 2012. Of this amount, \$50 thousand is identified for site specific projects that may arise through the Landowner Outreach-Conservation Easements and Land Donations Program

Through discussions with the Conservation Partners, there may be four new site specific projects in 2012 for a Regional commitment estimated at \$320 thousand, leaving about \$1.25 million uncommitted at the end of 2012 in the Greenlands Securement Capital Project. In 2013, the Conservation Partners are anticipating being in a position to bring forward eleven new site specific projects with an estimated Regional commitment of \$923 thousand.

3. Proposed Direction

It is recommended that the annual budget contribution to the Greenlands Securement Reserve R0221 remain the same as 2012 at \$750 thousand and that discussions of a future increase of \$250 thousand be deferred to 2014 budget process. There are a number of key properties as well as properties in the urban area that are important to developing a network of connected and protected Greenlands. At this time the budget amount of \$750 thousand would provide sufficient funds for the 2013 budget year.

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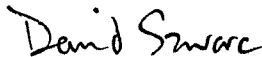
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications to the Region of Peel would result if GSSC recommends that the annual contribution to the Greenlands Securement Reserve R0221 remain the same as previous years at \$750 thousand for the 2013 Budget. Regional Council will have the opportunity to deliberate the amount during that budget process which will take place later this year.




Norma Trim
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Approved for Submission:



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