

Date: January 20, 2022	Originator's files: PO.10.GRE
To: Chair and Members of General Committee	
From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer	Meeting date: February 9, 2022

Subject

Authorization to enter into a Greenlands Securement Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Mississauga and The Regional Municipality of Peel

Recommendation

1. That the Commissioner of Community Services and the City Clerk, be authorized to execute a Greenlands Securement Agreement (the "Agreement"), including all ancillary documents and subsequent amending and extension agreements, between The Corporation of the City of Mississauga (the "City") and The Regional Municipality of Peel (the "Region"), on terms detailed herein and in a form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor as outlined in the corporate report dated January 20, 2022 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer entitled "Authorization to enter into a Greenlands Securement Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Mississauga and The Regional Municipality of Peel".
2. That all necessary By-laws be enacted.

Executive Summary

- Greenlands Securement Program (the "Program") supports the goals and objectives of the Regional Municipality of Peel's Strategic Plan and Official Plan to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment and resources.
- The Program runs in accordance with Region of Peel Greenlands Program Implementation Guidelines (the "Guidelines") which provide protocols and standards to Regional staff and local municipalities, conservation authorities and Member Land Trust.
- Each year, subject to budget approval, the Region reserves up to \$750,000 from its budget to contribute to the reserve fund for this program.
- Lands acquired by the City pursuant to the Program may be subject to restrictions on the use of the property and/or restrictions on disposing of all or a portion of the property.

Background

The Program supports the goals and objectives of the Regional Municipality of Peel's Strategic Plan and Official Plan to preserve, protect and enhance the natural environment and resources of Peel. The program protects land, in perpetuity, through either direct acquisition of fee simple, a conservation easement or other restrictions placed on title for the sole purpose of conservation and cultural heritage protection.

The Program is a reserve fund that was introduced by Regional Council in 2005. The Region reserves Greenlands Securement funds from its own budget that is funded solely through the Region's property tax account. Each year, subject to budget approval, the Region reserves up to \$750,000 from its budget to contribute to the reserve fund for this Program. The Program runs in accordance with Region of Peel Greenlands Program Implementation Guidelines (the "Guidelines"). The Guidelines, which are protocols and standards for Regional staff, Member Local Municipalities, Member Conservation Authorities and Member Land Trusts, in preparing, receiving, reviewing and making recommendations regarding land securement funding request applications submitted to the Region. The Guidelines are reviewed periodically and circulated to all stakeholders before approved by Regional Council. The current Guidelines were approved by the Region in June 2018.

Originally, the program offered a means of additional funding to partner conservation authorities and land trusts. In June 2016, the Bruce Trail Conservancy and local municipalities were added as conservation partners under Resolution 2016-497. Under this resolution, Regional Council directed new partners to enter into funding agreements with the Region. To date, Bruce Trail Conservancy, The Corporation of the City of Brampton, and The Corporation of the Town of Caledon have successfully negotiated and executed agreements with the Region for a five-year term.

A Securement Stakeholder Working Group (the "Group") was established to administer the Program and the Group meets bi-annually to confidentially discuss priority lands for securement in accordance with the Program.

Comments

The proposed Agreement between the City and the Region is based on the following terms:

- The term is for a period of 5 years, commencing from the date of execution of the Agreement. The City and the Region shall have the ability to renew the Agreement for a further term of 5 years, in substantially the same form but will be permitted to make minor amendments, to be negotiated within 6 months of the expiration of the term
- The City will be responsible for obtaining all surveys, appraisals, environmental assessments, etc. required to carry out land acquisitions
- The Region is to keep confidential any information shared between the City and the Region pursuant to this Agreement or the Program

- Prior to commencing any land-related transaction where the City intends to request funding from the Region pursuant to the Program, consult with staff from the Region
- The City will be required to undertake its best efforts and, to the extent possible, to use Regional funding from the Program to leverage funding from other agencies to make up for any remaining balance required to complete a land acquisition, and when funding cannot be leveraged from other agencies, provide Regional staff with justification for why additional funding cannot be leveraged

The Region may require restrictions on the use of the property and/or restrictions on disposing of all or a portion of the property acquired by the City pursuant to the Program, and the lands will be subject to a covenant and/or conservation easement, which may include one or more of the following:

- the lands be retained in perpetuity for the purposes of protecting significant natural heritage features and areas, and their ecological functions
- allow for passive environmental education and recreation, where appropriate
- allow for infrastructure approved through a Federal, Provincial, municipal, or conservation authority environmental assessment process
- Peel to be notified if the lands acquired pursuant to the Program are to be disposed of
- If all or any part of the lands acquired pursuant to the Program is disposed of by the City, the Region will be reimbursed a portion of the sale proceeds that is equal to the Region's contribution towards the purchase cost of the lands, from the Program.

Community Services and Legal Services staff have reviewed the terms of the Agreement and have expressed no concerns with the terms outlined therein.

Financial Impact

There is no current financial impacts with this report.

Conclusion

It is appropriate to enter into a Greenlands Securement Agreement with the Region to achieve the City's goals to protect and enhance the natural environment and resources within the City of Mississauga.



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Financial Officer

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