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Background

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), also known as the Authority, is a non-share corporation, established as a body corporate under Section 3(4) of the Conservation Authorities Act, with the objects to provide, in the area over which it has jurisdiction, programs and services designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, oil, coal and minerals. In addition to the many further provincial laws that reference a ‘conservation authority’ in a manner applicable to TRCA, the organization is governed by supplemented legislation, including the Ontario Corporations Act and the imminent Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

Under the Act, municipalities within a common watershed are enabled to petition the Province of Ontario to establish a conservation authority. The purpose of the Act is to provide for the organization and delivery of programs and services that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in watersheds in Ontario. TRCA’s Board of Directors is comprised of Board Members appointed as representatives by the participating municipalities, which include:

- Township of Adjala-Tosorontio/Town of Mono
- Regional Municipality of Durham
- Regional Municipality of Peel
- City of Toronto
- Regional Municipality of York

The Board of Directors must always act within the scope of its powers outlined in the Act. The powers of a conservation authority to accomplish its objects are set out in the Conservation Authorities Act, including those identified under subsection 21(1) as outlined in Appendix 10.

TRCA believes in diversity and values the benefits that diversity can bring to its Board of Directors. Diversity promotes the inclusion of different perspectives and ideas, mitigates against groupthink and ensures that TRCA has the opportunity to benefit from all available talent. The promotion of a diverse Board of Directors makes prudent business sense and makes for better corporate governance.

TRCA aspires to have a Board of Directors comprised of talented and dedicated Board Members with a diverse mix of expertise, experience, skills and backgrounds. The skills and backgrounds collectively represented on the Board of Directors should reflect the diverse nature of the business environment in which TRCA operates. For purposes of Board of Directors composition, diversity includes, but is not limited to, environmental and business experience, geography, age, gender, and ethnicity and aboriginal status.
TRCA ideally seeks a merit based system for Board of Directors composition within a diverse and inclusive culture which solicits multiple perspectives and views and is free of conscious or unconscious bias and discrimination. When assessing Board of Directors composition or identifying suitable candidates for appointment to the Board of Directors, TRCA requests its participating municipalities consider candidates on merit against objective criteria having due regard to the benefits of diversity and the importance of the Board Member’s role for TRCA.

A. Definitions

“Act” means the Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990, chapter C.27, as amended.

“Absence” means to fail to attend a scheduled meeting.

“Appendix” (plural being “Appendices”) means accompanying material to the Board of Directors Administrative By-law that may be approved by the Board of Directors or designate without change to the Board of Directors Administrative By-law itself.

“Board Members” shall mean the individuals appointed to the Authority’s Board of Directors by the participating municipalities in TRCA’s area of jurisdiction. Board Members have the responsibilities of Directors of the corporation that is TRCA.

“Board of Directors” means the general membership, and as such is all of the Board Members collectively appointed by participating municipalities as per the requirements of the Conservation Authorities Act.

“Chair” means the Chairperson as referenced in the Act as elected by the Board of Directors.

“Chief Executive Officer” (also referred to as “CEO”) means the top ranking employee of TRCA, which includes the responsibilities of the Secretary-Treasurer.

“Clerk” means the recording secretary for a meeting, who shall be TRCA’s Clerk or designate.

“Fiscal Year” means the period from January 1 through December 31.

“Levy” means the amount of costs apportioned to participating municipalities in accordance with the Act and Regulations under the Act.

“Majority” means on any matter, assuming quorum is present, one half of the votes of those Board Members present and voting on the matter, plus one.
“Minister” means the Minister responsible for administration of the Act.

“Non-matching Levy” means that portion of TRCA’s levy that meets the definition of non-matching levy as found in Ontario Regulation 139/96.

“Officer” means the officers of TRCA empowered to sign contracts, agreements and other documents on behalf of TRCA in accordance with Section 19.1 of the Act, which shall include, but not be limited to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Chief Executive Officer.

“Participating Municipality” means a municipality that is designated by or under the Act as a participating municipality, such that it shall appoint Board Members to each conservation authority, and may be a regional or local municipality;

“Pecuniary Interest” includes the direct or indirect financial interests of a Board Member and that of a member of the Board Member’s immediate family, as outlined in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

“Staff” means employees of TRCA as provided for under Section 18(1) of the Act.

“Toronto and Region Conservation Authority” (also referred to as “TRCA” or the “Authority” herein) means the corporation of this conservation authority established under Section 5 of the Act.

“Vacancy” means a position that is no longer filled due to resignation or other means.

“Vice-Chair” means the Vice-Chair person as elected by the Board of Directors. If a first and second Vice-Chair is elected, they shall be called First Vice-Chair and Second Vice-Chair.

“Weighted Majority” means the votes of 51 per cent of those represented after the votes are weighted by the percentage that applies under Ontario Regulation 139/96 for Municipal Levies.
B. Governance

1. Board Members

   a) Appointments

   Subject to any agreement under Section 14(2.1) of the Conservation Authorities Act, participating municipalities within the jurisdiction of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority may appoint Board Members in accordance with Section 14 of the Conservation Authorities Act. Membership numbers may be determined based on the population figures outlined in Section 2(2) in the Act, or by agreement that is confirmed by resolutions passed by the councils of all of the participating municipalities; the number of Board Members appointed by the City of Toronto shall at all times be equal to the total number appointed by the other participating municipalities. Appointed Board Members must reside in a participating municipality within TRCA’s area of jurisdiction and may include citizens as well as elected members of municipal councils. The current membership of 28 Board Members is a result of Authority resolution on June 27, 1984, Order in Council dated September 4, 1985 and the subsequent elimination of provincial appointees effective January 10, 1996.

Collectively, the appointed Board Members comprise the Board of Directors.

   b) Term of Member Appointments

   In accordance with Section 14 of the Act, a Board Member shall be appointed for a term of up to four years and until their successor is appointed, at the discretion of the appointing municipal council; such term beginning at the first meeting of the Board of Directors following their appointment and ending immediately before the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the appointment of their replacement. The CEO or designate shall notify the appropriate municipality in advance of the expiration date of any Board Member’s term, unless notified by the municipality of the Board Member’s reappointment or the appointment of their replacement. A Board Member is eligible for reappointment as per the appointment terms of the participating municipality. A participating municipality may replace its representative Board Member at its discretion at any time prior to the end of their term.

   c) Powers of the Board of Directors

   Subject to the Act and other applicable legislation, the Board of Directors is empowered without restriction to exercise all of the powers of TRCA set forth in the Act. In addition to the powers of a conservation authority under Section 21 of the Act for the purposes of accomplishing its objects, the powers of the Board of Directors, include but are not limited to, the powers outlined in Appendix 4 – Board of Directors Terms of Reference.
The Board of Directors may appoint an Executive Committee and delegate to the Committee any or all of its powers except the following, as per Section 19.1 (1)(d) of the Act:

i. The termination of the services of the Secretary-Treasurer,
ii. The power to raise money, and
iii. The power to enter into contracts or agreements other than those contracts or agreements as are necessarily incidental to the works approved by the Board of Directors.

**d) Board Member Accountability**

Participating municipalities appoint Board Members to the Board of Directors as their representatives. Board Members have the responsibilities of Directors of the corporation that is TRCA. While staff is responsible for the day-to-day operations, the Board of Directors is responsible for TRCA’s strategic direction, matters of governance, ensuring compliance with applicable legislation, ensuring appropriate policies are in place, for the financial soundness of TRCA, and for the proper exercise of the powers of TRCA.

Board Members owe a fiduciary duty to TRCA and not their Member Municipalities, when acting as a Board Member of the organization (Appendix 11).

All Board Members have the responsibility to be guided by and adhere to the Code of Conduct for Board Members (Appendix 1) and Conflict of Interest for Board Members (Appendix 2), as adopted by the Board of Directors.

Board Members are responsible for:

i. Attending all meetings of the Board of Directors and any briefing or training sessions provided by staff or solicitor;
ii. Understanding the purpose, function and responsibilities of TRCA;
iii. Being familiar with TRCA’s statutory and other legal obligations, including but not limited to the roles of conservation authorities in the areas of municipal planning, plan review, and Conservation Authorities Act Section 28 permitting related to development activity and natural hazard prevention and management and the protection of environmental interests, in accordance with the: Policies and Procedures for Conservation Authority Plan Review And Permitting Activities (MNRF, 2010);
iv. All matters outlined in the accompanying Terms of Reference (Appendix 4).
e) **Applicable Legislation**
In addition to the Act, the Board Members are subject to other legislation, including but not limited to, the following:
- **Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**;
- **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**.

If any part of the Board of Directors Administrative By-law conflicts with any provision of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act or the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or a provision of a Regulation made under one of those Acts, the provision of that Act or Regulation prevails.

f) **Relationship Between Board Members and Staff**
The Board of Directors relies on the Chief Executive Officer to manage the operations of the organization, including all staff of TRCA. The Chief Executive Officer is accountable to the Board of Directors, working cooperatively to achieve the goals established by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors will ensure that a process exists for regular performance evaluations of the Chief Executive Officer.

2. **Officers**
The Officers of TRCA, and their respective responsibilities, shall be:

a) **Chair**
- Is a Board Member of TRCA;
- Is an elected municipal representative;
- Presides at all meetings of the Board of Directors (and Executive Committee, and if applicable in terms of reference, presides over advisory boards and other committees);
- Calls special meetings if necessary;
- Acts as a public spokesperson on behalf of the Board of Directors;
- Serves as a signing officer for TRCA;
- Ensures relevant information and policies are brought to the Board of Directors attention;
- Keeps Board Members apprised of significant issues in a timely fashion;
- Performs other duties when directed to do so by resolution of the Board of Directors.
b) **Vice-Chair**
   - Is a *Board Member* of TRCA;
   - Is an elected municipal representative;
   - Attends at all meetings of the *Board of Directors* and Executive Committee, and performs the duties of the *Vice-Chair* at such meetings;
   - Carries out assignments as requested by the *Chair*;
   - Understands the responsibilities of the *Chair* and acts as *Chair* immediately upon the death, incapacity to act, absence or vacancy of the *Chair* until such time as a new *Chair* is elected or until the *Chair* resumes his/her duties;
   - Serves as a signing officer for *TRCA*.

c) **Chief Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer (CEO)**
The duties of the *Chief Executive Officer* and Secretary-Treasurer are combined and assigned to a single position. Responsibilities of the *CEO* as assigned by the *Board of Directors* include, but are not limited to the following:
   - Is an employee of *TRCA*;
   - Fulfills the requirements of the Secretary-Treasurer as defined in the *Act*;
   - Attends all meetings of the *Board of Directors* (and Executive Committee, advisory boards and other committees if applicable);
   - May designate an acting *CEO* to act in their stead when required;
   - Give or cause to be given all notices required by this By-law;
   - Ensure the *Clerk* keeps accurate records of meetings and accounts of the *Board of Directors* (and Executive Committee advisory boards and other committees if applicable);
   - Works in close collaboration with the *Chair* and *Vice-Chair* and keeps them apprised of relevant information and significant issues in a timely fashion;
   - Develops a strategic plan for approval by the *Board of Directors* and implements short and long-range goals and objectives;
   - Is responsible for the management of the operations of *TRCA*, including all staff and programs of *TRCA*;
   - Ensures resolutions of the *Board of Directors* are implemented in a timely fashion;
   - Develops and maintains effective relationships and ensures good communications with stakeholders, including participating municipalities, federal and provincial government ministries/agencies, indigenous communities, other conservation authorities, Conservation Ontario, and community groups and associations;
   - Carry out or cause to be carried out required financial transactions on behalf of the *Board of Directors*;
• Is the custodian of the Corporate Seal;
  Serves as a signing officer for TRCA.

d) Clerk
• Is an employee of TRCA;
• Is an Officer of the organization for the purposes of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

e) Staff
• Other TRCA staff delegated signing authority as per TRCA’s Signing Officers policy.

3. Absence of Chair and Vice-Chair
In the event of the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair from any meeting, the Board Members shall appoint an Acting Chair who, for the purposes of that meeting has all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the Chair.

4. Representatives to Conservation Ontario Council
The Board of Directors may appoint up to three representatives to the Conservation Ontario Council (“Council”), designated as Voting Delegate and Alternate(s). The Council will consist of the Voting Delegates appointed by each member conservation authority. TRCA shall appoint the following annually, without Resolution of the Board of Directors:
  b) Voting Delegate – Chair
  c) First Alternate – Vice-Chair
  d) Second Alternate – Chief Executive Officer

The Voting Delegate and Alternates shall be registered by the Clerk with Conservation Ontario annually.

5. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
The election of the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be held at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors biennially. Should a vacancy of either position arise between the scheduled elections, election for such positions will be held at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors. All elections shall be in accordance with the Board of Directors Procedures for Election of Officials (Appendix 3)

The Board of Directors shall receive and approve the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor annually for the previous year.
The Board of Directors shall forward copies of the Audited Financial Statements and Report of the Auditor to participating municipalities and the Minister and will make them available to the public by posting on the TRCA website in the Board of Directors agenda or minutes.

7. Borrowing Resolution
If required, the Board of Directors shall establish a borrowing resolution and such resolution shall be in force until it is superseded by another borrowing resolution.

8. Levy Notice
The levy due to TRCA from participating municipalities shall be communicated to those municipalities in accordance with the Act and any applicable Regulations.

9. Signing Officers
All deeds, transfers, assignments, contracts and obligations entered into by TRCA shall be signed by the signing officers of TRCA, or designate, as outlined in the TRCA policy on Signing Officers.

10. Executive Committee
The Board of Directors may elect or appoint an Executive Committee every two years at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, in accordance with Section 19 of the Act and this By-law. The membership of the Executive Committee is outlined in Appendix 5 – Executive Committee Terms of Reference.

Should a vacancy on the Executive Committee arise between Annual meetings, election for such positions will be held at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors. All elections shall be in accordance with the Board of Directors Procedures for Election of Officials (Appendix 3).

The Executive Committee shall have the powers outlined in the Executive Committee Terms of Reference (Appendix 5), and any other powers so delegated to it by the Board of Directors, in keeping with this By-law.

Rules and procedures governing Board of Directors shall be observed by all committee Members.

11. Advisory Boards and Other Committees
In accordance with Section 18(2) of the Act, the Board of Directors shall establish such advisory boards as required by Regulation and may establish such other advisory boards or committees as it considers appropriate to study and report on specific matters.
The Board of Directors shall approve the terms of reference for all such advisory boards and committees, which shall include the role, the frequency of meetings and the number of Members required.

Rules and procedures governing Board of Directors shall be observed by all advisory board members.

Elections or appointment to advisory boards may happen at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors. Appointment shall be by way of resolution of the Board of Directors, whereas all elections shall be in accordance with the Board of Directors Procedures for Election of Officials (Appendix 3) and may happen at an advisory board meeting.

Each advisory board or committee shall report to the Board of Directors, presenting any recommendations made by the advisory board or committee. Each advisory board or committee shall submit meeting minutes to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.

The dates of all advisory board and committee meetings shall be made available to all Board Members of the Board of Directors by means of TRCA’s website.

The Terms of Reference for advisory boards and committees are outlined in the appendices to this By-law.

The Board of Directors may from time to time establish by resolution special advisory boards and committees to deal with particular matters specified by the Board of Directors. The members of the special body shall be appointed by resolution of the Board of Directors and shall include at least one Board Member of the Board of Directors and may in addition appoint other persons to the special body. Such body shall follow the rules and procedures outlined in this By-law.

12. Remuneration of Board Members
Subject to compliance with applicable governing Acts, rules and regulations, remuneration may be afforded to Board Members. Should payment by TRCA of remuneration be deemed to be allowable under such law at any period in time, the Board of Directors shall establish by Resolution a per diem rate to be paid to Board Members for attendance at Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings, and at such other business functions as may be from time to time requested by the Chair, through the CEO, and as approved by the Ontario Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT). In addition, an honorarium that is authorized by the PGT may be approved by the Board of Directors for the Chair and/or Vice-Chair as compensation for their additional responsibilities. A single per diem will be paid for attendance at more than one meeting if they occur consecutively on the same day. Should payment by TRCA of remuneration
be deemed not to be allowable under such law at any period in time, the Clerk shall report to the Board of Directors in this regard.

Remuneration shall be paid on a semi-annual basis in accordance with TRCA’s payroll procedures.

The Board of Directors shall reimburse Board Members’ and advisory board members’ reasonable travel expenses incurred commuting from home or place of work for the purpose of attending meetings and/or functions on behalf of the Board of Directors or advisory board. These expenses shall include:

- a per-kilometre rate for use of a personal vehicle, with the per-kilometre rate to be paid at the same rate as approved for TRCA staff.
- public transportation (e.g., transit fare) or rented transportation costs (e.g., taxi/Uber/Lyft fare), not to exceed the cost of the per-kilometre rate that would be applied based on the distance travelled.
- 407 ETR toll fees (with the exception of video toll charges/camera charges).

Requests for such reimbursements shall be submitted to the Clerk in a timely fashion and shall be consistent with TRCA guidelines. A Board Member must be present for a half of the meeting in order to qualify for a reimbursement.

13. Records Retention

TRCA shall keep, retain and protect full and accurate records in accordance with Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA), other applicable laws and regulations and TRCA’s policies, as approved by the Chief Executive Officer from time-to-time.

14. Records Available to Public

Subject to requirements of the MFIPPA, TRCA shall maintain and adhere to policies that determine which TRCA information and data are made available to the public.

Pursuant to Section 3 and Subsection 49(1) of MFIPPA, the Board of Directors, as head under MFIPPA, hereby delegates all the powers and duties granted and vested in the head to the Clerk.

In accordance with the Act, the Board of Directors shall make the Board of Directors Administrative By-law available to the public on TRCA’s open webpage, including written and alternative formats in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) if requested by a member of the public.
15. By-law Review
The Board of Directors Administrative By-law shall be reviewed by staff at the earlier of every five years or when circumstances arise requiring modifications. Changes will be brought as required to the Board of Directors for approval.

16. Enforcement of By-law and Policies
The Board Members shall respect and adhere to all applicable by-laws and policies (for example, the Code of Conduct for Board Members and Conflict of Interest for Board Members – Appendices 1 and 2, respectively). TRCA may take reasonable measures to enforce its by-laws and policies, including the enforcement mechanisms under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. The procedure for enforcement shall be as follows:

16.1 Board Members are encouraged to resolve disagreements and conflicts through one-on-one discussion in order to remedy a behaviour or activity contrary to the TRCA Policies. However, it is not a precondition or a prerequisite that this discussion be initiated or completed prior to pursuing the Formal Complaint Procedure as described below.

16.2 The Formal Complaint Procedure shall be as follows:

a) A dated signed written complaint detailing the relevant particulars shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer.

b) Upon receipt of the complaint, the Chief Executive Officer or designate shall prepare an information package that shall include the following:
   i. The Complaint;
   ii. A copy of the Policies that are relevant;
   iii. Such other information or documentation that the Chief Executive Officer deems relevant.

c) A Special Committee made up of two Members of the Executive Committee not directly involved in the complaint shall be formed by the Chair to address the complaint. In the case where the Chair is involved in the complaint, the Vice-Chair will form the Special Committee.

d) The information package referred to above shall be provided to the Board Member alleged to be in contravention forthwith and to the Special Committee on appointment.

e) The Chief Executive Officer shall submit a brief report to the Executive Committee in a closed session at a regularly scheduled meeting advising that a complaint was received, providing the following information, subject to any requests to maintain privacy which shall be administered according to applicable privacy legislation:
   i. Name of Alleged Offender;
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ii. Name of Complainant;

iii. The provision of the Policies allegedly contravened;

iv. A summary of the facts constituting the alleged contravention;

v. The date of request.

f) The Chief Executive Officer shall forward the report to the integrity commissioner of the Board Member's appointing municipality to appraise them of the complaint.

g) The Special Committee shall complete an investigation of the complaint (which shall include an opportunity for the affected Board Member to respond to the allegation) within 30 days of receipt of the information package or such longer period as it may require not to exceed 60 days, and provide a report to the Chair (or Vice-Chair as the case may be) on the matter as to the validity of the complaint and its written recommendations as to the appropriate measures to be taken by the Executive Committee. The report shall be tabled in closed session at the next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting.

h) The Executive Committee shall receive the report and recommendations from the Special Committee and may determine the appropriate action(s) to be taken, if any. Following such determination by the Executive Committee the appointing municipality shall be notified of such determination and recommendations for action.

17. Indemnification of Board Members, Officers and Employees
TRCA shall maintain an Indemnification policy with respect to Board Members, Officers and employees which shall be reviewed by staff at minimum every five years.
C. Meeting Procedures
The Meeting Procedures below governing the procedures of the Board of Directors shall also be observed in Executive Committee and advisory board meetings unless otherwise specified in their terms of reference, as far as they are applicable, and the words Executive Committee or advisory board shall be substituted for the words Board of Directors as applicable.

1. Rules of Procedure
In all matters of procedure not specifically dealt with under the Act and this By-law, the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order or other generally accepted rules of procedure shall be binding.

The Board of Directors may choose to conduct its business as a committee of the whole.

2. Notice of Meeting
The Board of Directors shall approve a schedule for regular meetings in advance, following the requirements of Frequency of Meetings outlined in the Appendices. The Chief Executive Officer shall send Notice of regular meetings to all Board Members at least seven calendar days in advance of a meeting. Notice of all regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors or its committees shall be made available to the public as soon as possible after its delivery to Board of Directors.

Notice of any meeting shall indicate the time and place of that meeting and the agenda for the meeting. Posting of the agenda on TRCA’s website is deemed to meet the notice requirement.

All material and correspondence to be dealt with by the Board of Directors at a meeting will be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate nine days in advance of the meeting to be included in the regular agenda, three days in advance of the meeting to be included with the added agenda, and one day in advance of the meeting if it is to be introduced at the meeting. The cut-off time shall be 12:00 p.m. in each instance.

The Chair may, at their pleasure or at the request of a Board Member, call a special meeting of the Board of Directors on seven days’ notice, in writing, or as is necessary. The Chair shall not refuse the calling of a special meeting with majority support. The notice shall state the business of the special meeting and only that business shall be considered at that special meeting. The agenda for special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be prepared as the Chair may direct.

The Chair or the Chief Executive Officer may, by notice in writing, delivered to the Board Members at least 12 hours before the hour appointed for the meeting, postpone or cancel any meeting of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, an advisory board
or other committee until the next scheduled date, when they become aware in advance that a quorum for the meeting cannot be reached or for any other valid reason.

The Chair or the Chief Executive Officer may, if it appears that a weather event or like occurrence will prevent the Board Members from attending a meeting, postpone that meeting by advising as many Board Members as can be reached. Postponement shall not be for any longer than the next regularly scheduled meeting date.

3. Meetings Open to Public
All meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee shall be open to the public.

A meeting or a part of a meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter meets the criteria for a closed meeting as defined in Section C.4 of this By-law.

All meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee will be webcast and be made publicly available for both live streaming and later viewing or be made similarly available using the best available technological systems, except in times of technological failure.

4. Meetings with Closed “In Camera” Sessions
Every meeting shall be open to the public as per Section 15(3) of the Act, subject to the exceptions set out below.

Meetings may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to:

a) The security of the property of TRCA;

b) Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including staff of TRCA;

c) A proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by TRCA;

d) Labour relations or employee negotiations;

e) Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals (e.g. Local Planning Appeal Tribunal), affecting TRCA;

f) Consideration of the issuance or refusal to issue permissions pursuant to section 28 (or 28.1) of the Act;

g) Advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege;

h) A matter in respect of which the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, advisory board or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act;

i) Information explicitly supplied in confidence to TRCA by the Government of Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;

j) A trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to TRCA, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly
with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;

k) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to TRCA and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or

l) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of TRCA.

The Board of Directors shall close a meeting if the subject matter relates to the consideration of a request under MFIPPA.

A meeting of the Board of Directors may also be closed to the public if:

a) the meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the Board Members; and

b) at such a meeting, no Board Member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the Board of Directors.

If the requirement for a closed meeting or part of a meeting is known when the agenda or added agenda is produced, the subject matter being considered and the criteria for closed session shall be identified on the agenda.

Before holding a meeting or part of a meeting that is to be closed to the public, the Board Members shall state by resolution during the open session of the meeting that there will be a meeting closed to the public and the general nature of the matter to be considered at the closed meeting. Once matters have been dealt with in a closed meeting, the Board of Directors shall reconvene in an open session.

The Board of Directors shall not vote during a meeting that is closed to the public, unless:

a) the meeting meets the criteria outlined in this By-law to be closed to the public;

b) the vote is for a procedural matter or for giving directions or instructions to Officers, staff or agents of TRCA;

c) a vote is called in connection with a decision to allow (with or without conditions) or refuse, permission following a hearing pursuant to section 28 (or 28.1) of the Act.

At such time as the items considered in camera can be made public, the relevant resolution(s) will be included as part of a regular Board of Directors agenda for information.
The Clerk shall implement the following procedures for handling of confidential matters:

a) A public report with as much detail as is publicly available shall be circulated to Board Members where possible, and the confidential material shall be verbally reported in closed session. Should there be an extensive amount of confidential material for consideration, that circulation shall be by hard copy couriered or emailed in a secure digital form to the Board Members.

b) Each confidential report shall contain a watermark with the name of the individual receiving it as a unique identifier, and hard copies shall be printed on coloured paper.

c) Any materials presented to the Board of Directors during a closed meeting shall be returned to the Clerk prior to departing from the meeting and shall be treated in accordance with the Board of Directors procedures for handling confidential material.

d) Confidential minutes will be produced for all discussions which are held in closed session where a resolution is approved. Confidential minutes will only be available to Board Members, eligible staff or legal counsel upon request or when required to be dealt with as part of a Board of Directors agenda, and when circulated shall be watermarked with a unique identifier.

e) The Clerk shall maintain a log of who confidential items are circulated to, at any time it is circulated, and who returns confidential items to the Clerk.

f) Notes will be taken of discussions of all closed session discussions, in keeping with MFIPPA requirements, and such notes shall only be provided to the Information and Privacy Commissioner or designate, if requested, as evidence of the confidential nature of the closed session.

Discussion notes and where applicable, confidential minutes will be produced by the Clerk for all in camera meetings and maintained as a corporate record. If the Clerk is not present in a closed session, a designate shall take notes of any direction provided and the nature of the discussion.

5. Agenda for Board of Directors Meetings

The Clerk, under the supervision of the Chief Executive Officer, shall prepare an agenda for all regular meetings of the Board of Directors that shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following headings: Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory; Minutes; Disclosure of Pecuniary interest and General Nature Thereof; Delegations; Presentations; Correspondence; Items for Action or Information; Material from Executive Committee or advisory boards; Ontario Regulation 166/06, as amended; Closed Session; New Business.
The agenda for special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be prepared as directed by the Chair.

Agendas for meetings shall be forwarded to all Board Members at least seven calendar days in advance of the meeting, except in unforeseen circumstances preventing timely circulation. In special circumstances an amended agenda may be circulated at least 2 days in advance of the meeting. Such agendas shall be made available to the public on TRCA’s website at the same time, unless the meeting is closed to the public in accordance with this By-law. Such agendas shall also be available in alternative formats, in accordance with AODA, if requested by interested parties.

Staff members may request to add a walk-on item to the agenda on the day of the meeting. Addition of a walk-on item requires a motion to amend the agenda and requires support of two thirds of Board Members present at the meeting.

6. Quorum
At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a quorum consists of one-half of the Members appointed by the participating municipalities, except where there are fewer than six such Board Members, in which case three such Board Members constitute a quorum. At any Executive Committee or advisory board meeting, a quorum consists of one-half of the Members, unless specified differently in the Terms of Reference.

If there is no quorum within one half hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the Chair for the meeting shall declare the meeting adjourned due to a lack of a quorum, or shall recess until quorum arrives, and the Clerk shall record the names of the Board Members present and absent.

If during a Board of Directors meeting a quorum is lost, then the Chair shall declare that the meeting shall stand recessed or adjourned, until the date of the next regular meeting or other meeting called in accordance with the provisions of this By-law. Agenda items including delegations and presentations may be covered and presented and issues discussed, but no formal decisions may be taken by the remaining Board Members which do not constitute a quorum.

Where the number of Board Members who are unable to participate in a meeting due to the declaration of a conflict of interest as per Appendix 2 is such that at that meeting the remaining Board Members are not of sufficient number to constitute a quorum, the remaining number of Board Members shall be deemed to constitute a quorum, provided such number is not less than two.
7. Order of Business

When quorum is first present after the time fixed for the meeting, the Chair shall take the chair and call the meeting to order. The first order of business shall be the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory, which shall be read by the Chair at the start of each meeting.

The Board of Directors shall use a consent agenda procedure to expedite agenda items for which no discussion is required. The business of the Board of Directors shall be taken up in the order in which it stands on the agenda, with the exception that delegations and presentations shall be handled after the Chair conducts the consent agenda as follows:

(a) Following any disclosure of pecuniary interest and excluding closed session and new business agenda items, the Chair shall call the remaining agenda items, by section and ask if any member wishes to hold an item for discussion.

(b) If a member requests to hold an item, the Clerk shall make note of the member’s request.

(c) At the completion of each section of the agenda, the Chair shall call for a mover and seconder to adopt the un-held items in that section. Debate and voting shall be conducted as per this By-law.

(d) Once all agenda items have been addressed, the Chair will call the delegations and presentations, then any held agenda items in order of appearance on the agenda.

Delegations shall follow the rules outlined in Section C.13. Presentations are typically delivered by staff as allowed by the Chief Executive Officer and shall be allotted a maximum of 10 minutes to address the Board of Directors, except by leave of the Chair.

No Board Member shall present any matter to the Board of Directors for its consideration unless the matter appears on the agenda for the meeting of the Board of Directors or the matter is related to an item on the agenda and leave is granted by the Chair to present the matter under New Business.

A Board Member who wishes to discuss a matter that does not appear on the agenda may put forward a Notice of Motion under New Business to request staff to prepare a report back at the next meeting.

8. Notice of Motion

Written notice of motion to be made at a Board of Directors meeting may be given to the Clerk by any Member of the Board of Directors not less than nine days prior to the date and time of the meeting and shall be forthwith placed on the agenda of the next meeting. Such notice of motion shall be included in full in the agenda for the meeting concerned.
Recommendations included in reports of advisory boards that have been included in an agenda for a meeting of the Board of Directors, shall constitute notice of motion for that meeting.

Recommendations included in staff reports that have been included in an agenda for a meeting of the Board of Directors, shall constitute notice of motion for that meeting.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any motion or other business may be introduced for consideration of the Board of Directors provided that it is made clear that to the matter is time-sensitive and that to delay discussion of the matter would not be in the best interest of the Board of Directors.

To be added to an agenda, a Notice of Motion requires a mover, seconder and an affirmative vote of the two-thirds majority of the Board Members of the Board of Directors present.

### 9. Debate

The Board of Directors shall observe the following procedures for discussion/debate on any matter coming before it:

(a) A Board Member shall be recognized by the Chair prior to speaking;

(b) Where two or more Board Members address the Chair to speak, the Chair shall designate the Member who has the floor, who shall be the Board Member who in the opinion of the Chair was first recognized;

(c) Before speaking every Board Member shall address the Chair, and all questions and points of discussion shall be directed through the Chair;

(d) Where a motion is presented, either orally or in writing, it shall be moved and seconded before debate;

(e) No Board Member shall speak at any time for more than three minutes without leave of the Chair;

(f) Any Board Member may ask a question of the previous speaker through the Chair;

(g) The Board Member who has presented a motion, other than a motion to amend or dispose of a motion, may speak again to the motion immediately before the Chair puts the motion to a vote;

(h) When a motion is under debate, no motion shall be received other than a motion to amend, to defer action, to refer the question, to call the question, to adjourn, or to extend the hour of closing the proceedings;

(i) When a motion is under consideration, only one amendment is permitted at a time.
10. Matters of Precedence
The following matters shall have precedence over the usual order of business:
(a) a point of order;
(b) matter of privilege;
(c) a matter of clarification;
(d) a motion to suspend a rule of procedure or to request compliance with the rules of procedure;
(e) a motion that the question be put to a vote (motion to call the question), which shall adhere to the following rules:
   i. This motion requires a seconder.
   ii. This motion cannot be discussed or debated. As soon as the Chair hears a seconder, the vote is immediately taken.
   iii. It takes two-thirds majority of the present and voting Board Members in favor to cut off debate.
   iv. If two-thirds of the group want to stop debate and vote, then the Chair immediately takes the vote on the pending motion – the motion that the group is considering at this time. No further discussion is allowed.
(f) a motion to adjourn.

On a point of order, the Board Member shall ask leave of the Chair to raise it and after leave is granted the Board Member shall state the point of order to the Chair and remain silent and seated until the Chair rules. No Board Member shall address the Chair on the point of order except for the purpose of appealing the Chair’s ruling.

A motion to adjourn or call the question (put a question to the vote) shall be put to a vote immediately without debate, except that such vote shall not be taken:
   (a) while a Board Member is in possession of the floor or has previously indicated to the Chair the desire to speak on the matter; or
   (b) after it has been decided to put a motion to the vote and that vote is not carried or completed.

The ruling of the Chair shall be final except where there is an appeal the Members shall decide without debate and such decision is final.

11. Board Members’ Attendance
Board Members are expected to attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and, if applicable, of the Executive Committee. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings without a sufficient reason provided shall cause notice to the Board Member and participating municipality. Failure to attend three consecutive meetings without a sufficient reason will cause a formal request to reappoint.
The Clerk shall provide a listing of Board Members’ attendance at scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors to the participating municipalities at least annually, such that the municipal treasurers may comply with the Municipal Act.

Upon a Board Member’s vacancy due to death, incapacity or resignation occurring in any office of the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall request the participating municipality that was represented by that Board Member to appoint a replacement. In cases of incapacity or under a requirement of the participating municipality, a Board Member may take a temporary leave of absence and advise the Chief Executive Officer and participating municipality of the leave. The Clerk shall record this leave of absence in attendance of meetings until the leave is either ended or the Board Member is replaced by the participating municipality.

If a Board Member is unable to attend a meeting and wishes to bring any additional information or opinion pertaining to an agenda item to the Board of Directors, the Board Member shall address in writing to the Clerk such correspondence a minimum of two hours prior to the start of the meeting. The correspondence shall be circulated by the Clerk to Board Members in attendance.

12. Electronic Participation

A Board Member shall not participate electronically in any Board of Directors, Executive Committee or advisory board meeting.

Staff is never permitted to participate in a meeting electronically. Should the public wish to address the Board of Directors they may not participate by electronic means, except by special permission of the Chair to meet AODA requirements.

All meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and other meetings as directed by the Chair, will be webcast except in times of technological failure (e.g., internet outage). Meeting recordings shall be made publicly available for later viewing. Failure to webcast or produce a recording does not call meeting into question.

13. Delegations

Any person or organization who wishes to address the Board of Directors may make a request in writing by such means as designated by the Clerk. The request should include a brief statement of the issue or matter involved, the position to be taken, and indicate the name, title (if applicable) and contact information of the proposed speaker(s). If such request is received nine days in advance of a scheduled meeting, the delegation shall be listed on the regular agenda and if received three days in advance shall be listed on the added agenda. The cut-off time shall be 12:00 p.m. in each instance.
Any person or organization requesting an opportunity to address the Board of Directors but not having made a written request to do so in the timelines specified above, may appear before a meeting of the Board of Directors but will be heard only if such motion is made by a Board Member at the meeting and the motion passes by the majority in attendance. If such motion passes, the Chair may immediately rule that the hearing of the delegation would be unfair or prejudicial to Board Members or other persons not present because of lack of advance notice and that the hearing of the delegation be deferred to the next meeting and listed on that agenda. The Chair’s ruling may be immediately appealed by proper motion and the ruling of the meeting shall then govern.

Delegations are limited to one meeting of either the Board of Directors, Executive Committee or advisory board, except by approval of the Chair to be heard at an additional meeting(s). This may not be applied if there is a material change in the direction of recommendations related to the item. Further, delegations will be afforded the opportunity to speak at the meeting when the decision is being made, even if they were previously allowed to speak at another meeting.

Delegations shall confine their remarks to the matters on the agenda before the Board of Directors. Should the request for a delegation be in regard to a matter not currently before the Board of Directors, the Chief Executive Officer may defer hearing the matter until such time as it is before the Board of Directors or deem the delegation frivolous.

Except by leave of the Chair, each delegation shall be limited to not more than two speakers, with a total time allotment limited to five minutes, for each delegation. Leave for extension may be requested in advance through the Clerk or at the meeting.

When a number of people are to appear representing one interest group, it is expected that the group be represented by a maximum of two spokespersons as indicated above and be allotted a total time of a maximum of five minutes, and/or submit written submissions.

When the Chair believes that a large number of delegations will request an opportunity to address the Board of Directors with respect to a particular matter or matters, the Chair may summon a special meeting of the Board of Directors to deal with the particular matter or matters.

If the number of delegations present wishing to address a particular matter or matters is such that the meeting will not be able to deal with its agenda properly, then, on proper motion, the particular matter or matters may be adjourned to a special meeting and, if the time, date and place of the special meeting is included in the motion, no further notice of such meeting will be required.
Delegations may submit written submissions for consideration at a meeting up to the start of any meeting on which they have been approved to speak.

14. Annual Meeting
One meeting of the Board of Directors in each year shall be designated as the Annual Board of Directors Meeting and may include the Election of Officers on the agenda as required, in addition to the normal course of business.

15. Voting
In accordance with Section 16 of the Act:

(a) each Board Member, including the Chair, is entitled to one vote; and
(b) a majority vote of the Board Members present at any meeting is required upon all matters coming before the meeting.

If any Board Member abstains from voting, they shall be deemed to have voted neither in favour nor opposed to the question.

If a vote results in a tie, the motion fails.

Interrelated motions shall be voted on in the order specified in Robert’s Rules of Order, or other generally accepted rules of procedure.

Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Unless a Board Member requests a recorded vote, a vote shall be by a show of hands or such other means as the Chair may call. No question shall be voted upon more than once at any meeting, unless a recorded vote is requested, or a Board Member states immediately following the Chair’s declaration of the results their disagreement with the Chair’s declaration. Recorded votes shall be prohibited in Executive Committee except by ruling of the Chair.

If a Board Member present at a meeting at the time of the vote requests immediately before or after the taking of the vote that the vote be recorded, each Board Member present, as called by the Clerk in alphabetical order by surname, with the Chair voting last, except a Board Member who is disqualified from voting by any Act, shall announce their vote openly answering “yes” or “no” to the question, and the Clerk shall record each vote.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors at which the Non-Matching Levy is to be approved, the Clerk shall conduct the vote to approve the Non-Matching Levy by a
Weighted Majority of the Members present and eligible to vote, in accordance with applicable Regulation.

Where a question under consideration contains more than one item, upon the request of any Board Member, a vote upon each item shall be taken separately.

No vote shall be taken by ballot or by any other method of secret voting, and every vote so taken is of no effect.

While the Chair is putting a question to the vote, all Board Members shall remain seated and not make any disturbance until the result is declared.

16. Motion to Reconsider
If a matter has been previously decided upon, it shall not be reconsidered by the Board of Directors within the next four (4) regular meetings after the meeting at which it was originally considered, without the consent of at least a two-thirds majority vote of the Board Members present.

17. Duties of the Meeting Chair
It shall be the duty of the Chair, with respect to any meetings over which they preside, to:

(a) Preserve order and decide all questions of order, subject to appeal, and without argument or comment, state the rule applicable to any point of order if called upon to do so;

(b) Ensure that the public in attendance does not in any way interfere or disrupt the proceedings of the Board Members;

(c) Receive and submit to a vote all motions presented by the Board Members, which do not contravene the rules of order or Regulations of the Board of Directors;

(d) Announce the results of the vote on any motions so presented;

(e) Adjourn the meeting when business is concluded.

18. Conduct of Board Members
Board Members shall maintain a high standard of conduct and at all times comply with applicable laws and the Code of Conduct for Board Members (Appendix 1).

No Board Member at any meeting of the Board of Directors shall:

(a) Speak in a manner that is discriminatory in nature based on an individual’s race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical or mental disabilities, age, ancestry, place of origin, citizenship, creed, marital status, source or level of income, family status or sexual orientation;
(b) Leave their seat or make any disturbance while a vote is being taken or until the result is declared;
(c) Interrupt a speaker, except to raise a point of order or a question of privilege;
(d) Speak disrespectfully or use offensive words against TRCA, Board Members, staff, or any individual;
(e) Speak beyond the question(s) under debate, such that discussion shall be limited to the matters under the jurisdiction, rules and Regulations of TRCA;
(f) Resist the rules of order or disobey the decision of the Chair on the questions or order or practices or upon the interpretation of the By-laws.

The Chair shall preserve order and decide all questions of order.

The Chair shall have the power to eject an offending Board Member from a meeting and the Board Member shall not return to the meeting unless the remaining Board Members permit such return by resolution.

When a Board Member is speaking no other Board Member shall pass between the speaker and the Chair or interrupt the speaker except on a point of order.

Any Board Member may require a question or motion under debate to be read at any time except while another Board Member is speaking. Any Board Member may require a question or motion under debate to be displayed on screen at any time.

19. Minutes of Meetings
The Chief Executive Officer shall undertake to have a Clerk in attendance at meetings of the Board of Directors to act as the recording secretary. The Clerk shall make a record in the form of minutes of the meeting proceedings and in particular shall record all motions considered at the meeting.

Minutes of all meetings shall include the time and place of the meeting and a list of those Board Members present, including their arrival and departure times if between call to order and adjournment, and shall state all motions presented together with the mover and seconder and voting results.

Procedures for minutes of meetings closed to the public are outlined in Section C.4. of this By-law.

The minutes of the previous meeting shall be posted on the TRCA website as soon as they are approved by the Chief Executive Officer and within 30 days of the meeting, which shall constitute meeting the requirement of Section 15(2) of the Act to provide minutes of meetings to Board Members within 30 days after any meeting of the Board of
Directors. The minutes are then ratified at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

After the minutes have been approved by resolution, original copies may be signed by the Chief Executive Officer and Chair. All non-confidential minutes shall be available on TRCA’s website in perpetuity. Such minutes shall also be available for review by any member of the public at TRCA’s Head Office or provided in alternative formats in accordance with the AODA, if requested by interested parties.
D. Approval of *Board of Directors* Administrative By-law and Revocation of the Administration Regulation and Rules of Conduct

Administrative Regulation dated February 2, 1992 is hereby repealed;

Rules of Conduct dated June 24, 2016 is hereby repealed;

*Board of Directors* Administrative By-law v.1.0, dated September 26, 2018 is hereby repealed;

*Board of Directors* Administrative By-law v.2.0 shall come into force on the 25 day of October 2019.

1. Accountability

The *Chair, Chief Executive Officer* and *Clerk* are responsible for monitoring and maintaining compliance to the By-law and dealing with any non-compliance issues.
E. Appendices - Board of Directors

Appendix 1 - Code of Conduct for Board Members

The Code of Conduct for Board Members rules below governing the conduct of the Board of Directors shall also be observed in Executive Committee and advisory board meetings, as far as they are applicable, and the words Executive Committee or advisory board shall be substituted for the word Board of Directors as applicable.

1. **Background**

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) demands a high level of integrity and ethical conduct from its Board Members. TRCA’s reputation relies upon the good judgement of individual Board Members. A written code of conduct helps to ensure that all Board Members share a common basis for acceptable conduct. Formalized standards help to provide a reference guide and a supplement to legislative parameters within which Board Members must operate. Further, they enhance public confidence that Board Members operate from a base of integrity, justice and courtesy.

The Code of Conduct for Board Members is a general standard. It augments the laws which govern the behaviour of Board Members, and it is not intended to replace personal ethics.

This Code of Conduct for Board Members will also assist Board Members in dealing with confronting situations not adequately addressed or that may be ambiguous in Board of Directors resolutions, regulations, or TRCA policies and procedures.

2. **General**

All Board Members, whether municipal councillors or citizen representatives of a municipality, are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on TRCA.

All Members shall serve in a conscientious and diligent manner. No Board Member shall use the influence of the office for any purpose other than for the exercise of his/her official duties.

It is expected that Board Members adhere to a code of conduct that:
(a) upholds the purpose of the Act, mandate, vision, mission, rules and regulations of TRCA;
(b) considers TRCA’s jurisdiction in its entirety, including their appointing municipality;
(c) respects confidentiality;
(d) approaches all TRCA issues with an open mind, with consideration for the organization as a whole;
(e) while Board Members may have interests contrary to TRCA interests, when acting as Board Members they shall adhere to their fiduciary duty to consider TRCA interests and issues at hand above other interests and issues;

(f) exercises the powers of a Board Member when acting in a Board of Directors meeting;

(g) only represents the position of the Board of Directors at any time outside of Board of Directors meetings, and shall not present their individual opinion as a position of TRCA;

(h) respects the democratic process and respects decisions of the Board of Directors;

(i) declares any direct or indirect pecuniary interest or conflict of interest when one exists or may exist, as defined in the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act; and

(j) conducts oneself in a manner which reflects respect and professional courtesy and does not use offensive language in or against TRCA, Board Members, staff or any individual.

3. Gifts and Benefits

Board Members shall not accept fees, gifts, hospitality or personal benefits that are connected directly or indirectly with the performance of duties, except compensation authorized by law.

4. Confidentiality

The Board Members shall be governed at all times by the provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA).

All information, documentation or deliberations received, reviewed or taken in a closed meeting are confidential.

Board Members shall not disclose or release by any means to any member of the public, in verbal, written or other form, any confidential information acquired by virtue of their office, except when required by law to do so.

Board Members shall not permit any persons, other than those who are entitled thereto, to have access to information which is confidential.

In the instance where a Board Member vacates their position on the Board of Directors, they will continue to be bound by MFIPPA requirements.

Particular care should be exercised in protecting information, including but not limited to, the following:

(a) Human Resources matters;

(b) Matters relating to the legal affairs of TRCA;

(c) Sources of complaints where the identity of the complainant is given in confidence;
(d) Items under negotiation;
(e) Information about suppliers provided for evaluation that might be useful to other suppliers;
(f) Schedules of prices in tenders or requests for proposals;
(g) Appraised or estimated values with respect to TRCA’s proposed property acquisitions or dispositions;
(h) Information deemed to be “personal information” under MFIPPA.

All Board Members are expected to sign an oath of confidentiality upon assuming the office.

5. **Use of TRCA Property**

No Board Member shall use for personal purposes any TRCA property, equipment, supplies or services of consequence other than for purposes connected with the discharge of TRCA duties or associated community activities of which TRCA has been advised, or as allowable by TRCA policies, guidelines and fee schedules.

6. **Work of a Political Nature**

All Board Members must be familiar with and act in accordance to the Use of Resources During an Election policy and procedures (Attachment 1 to Code of Conduct for Board Members) as approved from time-to-time. No Board Member shall use TRCA resources or act in any manner contrary to said policy and procedures.

7. **Conduct at Board of Directors Meetings**

During meetings of the Board of Directors, Board Members shall conduct themselves with decorum. Respect for delegations, presenters, staff and for fellow Board Members requires that all Board Members show courtesy and not distract from the business of the Board of Directors at any time during meetings. Board Members should be familiar with Section C.18 – Conduct of Board Members, of the Board of Directors Administrative By-law.

8. **Interactions with TRCA Staff**

Board Members shall be respectful of the fact that staff work for TRCA as a whole and are charged with making recommendations that reflect their professional expertise and corporate perspective, without undue influence.

When a Board Member requires further information related to the items on the agenda or has a question related to the TRCA mandate, they may direct their inquiry to an appropriate divisional Director. Board Members shall direct all other correspondence through the Clerk or Chief Executive Officer.
9. Apprehension of Bias
As decisions makers, no Board Member shall enter into discussions with any party outside of TRCA that may result in either a real or perceived bias of their position on matters that may come before staff and/or the Board of Directors.

Executive Committee Members may act as a decision-making tribunal in the form of Hearing Board on matters related to Regulations issued under the Conservation Authorities Act, and in particular Section 28 (1) (or section 28.1 when in force). Executive Committee Members shall not enter into discussions outside the Hearing on such matters that may result in either a real or perceived bias of their position on the matters under the Hearing, with the exception of the TRCA solicitor. The Chair of the Executive Committee may receive a briefing from TRCA staff on procedural matters prior to the Hearing Board convening.

Executive Committee and Board of Directors Members shall not enter into discussions on the merits of a Planning Act application and/or an appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (formerly Ontario Municipal Board) that may be associated with a current or likely permit application under the Act, that may result in either a real or perceived bias of their position on the permit application.

10. Media Inquiries
The Chair and the Chief Executive Officer shall represent TRCA in media appearances and releases. Should a Board Member be approached by the media to provide comments, the Board Member shall direct the media to the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate.

11. Business Relations
No Board Member shall borrow money from any person who regularly does business with TRCA unless such person is an institution or company whose shares are publicly traded and who is regularly in the business of lending money.

No Member shall act as a paid agent before the Board of Directors, except in compliance with the terms of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

12. Encouragement of Respect for TRCA and its Regulations
Board Members shall represent TRCA in a respectful way and encourage public respect for TRCA.

13. Harassment
It is the policy of TRCA that all persons be treated fairly in the workplace in an environment free of workplace harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination. Harassment of another Board Member, staff or any member of the public is misconduct and shall not be tolerated. Board Members shall follow TRCA’s Workplace Harassment policy as approved
from time-to-time. The policy applies to any activities on or off of TRCA premises which could reasonably be associated with TRCA.

Examples of harassment that will not be tolerated include: verbal or physical abuse, threats, derogatory remarks, jokes, innuendo or taunts related to an individual’s race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, physical or mental disabilities, age, ancestry, place of origin, citizenship, creed, marital status, source or level of income, family status or sexual orientation. TRCA will also not tolerate the display of pornographic, racist or offensive signs or images; practical jokes that result in awkwardness or embarrassment; unwelcome invitations or requests, whether indirect or explicit and any other prohibited grounds under the provisions of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Any breach, or alleged breach, of the Code of Conduct for Board Members shall be investigated in accordance with Section B.16. - Enforcement of By-laws and Policies outlined in the Board of Directors Administrative By-law.
Attachment 1 - Use of Resources During an Election Policy

1. PURPOSE

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA, also known as the Authority) policy on "Use of Resources During an Election" provides a consistent approach and direction to TRCA employees on how TRCA resources can and cannot be used during municipal, school board, provincial and federal election campaigns or campaigns on a question on a ballot.

This policy and accompanying procedures establish guidelines on the appropriate use of resources during an election period, in order to:

- protect the interests of Board Members, candidates, staff and TRCA, and
- ensure accountable and transparent election practices.

2. BACKGROUND

TRCA employees may be approached by candidates to use TRCA resources for the purposes of campaigning. A clear policy is required to guide the action of TRCA employees and help determine which requests can be accommodated and which should be denied.

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 specifies that a municipality or local board cannot make a contribution to a municipal election candidate (Section 70(4)). A “contribution” includes money, goods and services given to and accepted by or on behalf of a person for their election campaign (Section 66 (1)).

Since a “contribution” may take the form of money, goods or services, any use of TRCA’s resources for an election campaign by any candidate, may be considered a contribution by TRCA. Where a candidate pays the regular rate for goods and services as any other individual, it is not considered a contribution. If a discounted rate or free goods and services were procured, that would be considered a contribution.

3. SCOPE

This policy and accompanying procedures apply to all Board Members, candidates in a municipal, school board, provincial and federal election, and TRCA staff during an election period.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Procedures and guidelines pursuant to the "Use of Resources During an Election" policy shall be developed to ensure audit implementation compliance. All
5. **POLICY**

*TRCA* strives to recognize the need to balance freedom of expression and assembly of candidates with responsibilities while ensuring there is no unfair advantage, promotion or contributions to any one candidate, party, registrant or supporter of a ballot question.

*TRCA* cannot make a contribution (including money, goods and/or services) to any candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election.

*TRCA* resources cannot be used to promote one candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election over another candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election.

This policy is intended to enable continued public and media access to candidates or registrants for information and interviews. The policy distinguishes between unplanned media scrums or chance public encounters by candidates and the media, whether in-person or online, and actual planned media events or rallies.

The policy recognizes that *Board Members* are holders of their position until their successor is appointed and supports *Board Members* in continuing to fulfill their responsibilities as *Board Members*. In addition, it recognizes that *Board Members* have political interests outside of their duties on the *Board of Directors*. In this regard, the policy does not apply to *Board Members*’ using their personal resources for their own political interests, subject to this use in no way referencing *TRCA* or their capacity as a *Board Member*. Use of personal resources in this manner shall not be endorsed by *TRCA*.

The policy recognizes that Members of Council are holders of their office until the end of their term and supports *Board Members* in continuing to fulfill their responsibilities as Members of Council.

The *TRCA Clerk* shall ensure the policy contained herein and associated procedures are reviewed on a regular basis (not to exceed three years) and remain relevant to the needs of *TRCA*, in accordance with legislative requirements and good business practices.
6. DEFINITIONS

"Board Member" means any individual appointed to the Board of Directors of Toronto and Region Conservation Authority by a participating member municipality.

"Campaigning" means any activity by or on behalf of a candidate, political party or question on a ballot meant to elicit support during the election period. Campaigning does not include the appearance of elected officials, other candidates or their supporters, or registrants at an event in their personal capacity without the display of any signage or graphic which identifies the individual as a candidate or registrant and without the solicitation of votes.

"Campaign Materials" means any materials used to solicit votes for a candidate(s) or question in an election including but not limited to literature, banners, posters, pictures, buttons, clothing or other paraphernalia. Campaign materials include materials in all media, for example, print, displays, electronic radio or television, online including websites or social media.

"Candidate" means any person who has filed and not withdrawn a nomination for an elected office at the municipal, school board, provincial or federal level in an election or by-election.

"TRCA Resources" includes but is not limited to TRCA employees, TRCA events, TRCA facilities, TRCA funds, TRCA information and TRCA infrastructure. These are further defined as follows:

"TRCA employees" means for the purpose of this policy, TRCA employees, full time, part time and contract employees, as well as paid or unpaid interns and volunteers.

"TRCA events" means events funded or organized by TRCA or any Board Member, including events that may be jointly organized with community organizations and/or with external sponsors. TRCA events include but are not limited to: community meetings and consultations, parks, recreation or cultural facility openings or celebrations and other special events.

"TRCA facilities" means any facility or property which is owned or leased by TRCA and which is directly managed and operated by TRCA divisions or programs. TRCA facilities do not include public right-of-ways such as sidewalks, roads and boulevards and laneways.

"TRCA funds or monies" means funding support through TRCA’s annual operating or capital budgets, including but not limited to funds provided directly to TRCA programs and services, Board Members expenses and staffing budgets.

"TRCA information" means any information in the custody and control of TRCA, including databases that may be the repository of names, contact information, business records, financial information or other identifiers compiled and used by TRCA employees to conduct...
TRCA business. Examples of TRCA databases include but are not limited to: Contact Manager records, lists of event attendees, partners and TRCA tenants. Constituent information collected by TRCA Board Members are not under custody or control of TRCA and are not considered TRCA information for the purpose of this policy.

"TRCA infrastructure" means any physical or technology systems that support the operation of TRCA programs and services, including but not limited to TRCA’s fleet and marine vehicles, computer network, telecommunications and email system, wireless equipment, computer hardware, software and peripherals, internet and intranet. Excludes public right-of-way including sidewalks, roads, laneways and boulevards.

"Contribution" as defined in the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, as amended means "money, in-kind support, goods and services given to and accepted by or on behalf of a person for their election campaign".

"Election" means an election or by-election at the municipal, school board, provincial and federal level of government, or the submission of a question or by-law to the electors.

"Election Period" – for the purposes of TRCA, the election period is:

- For a municipal or school board election, the election period commences on June 30th and ends on voting day.
- For a provincial or federal election, the election period commences the day the writ for the election is issued and ends on voting day.
- For a by-election, the period commences when the by-election is called and ends on voting day.

"Elected Official" means an individual elected to the House of Commons, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, a municipal council or a school board.

"Glad-handing" means attending a TRCA event as a private individual and interacting with other event attendees without displaying signage or disseminating material which identifies the individual as a candidate and without encouraging votes for a candidate, a political party or a position on a question on a ballot.

"Media Event" means an event such as a press conference or photo opportunity to which the media is invited and the purpose of which is to promote a candidate, a political party or a position on a question on a ballot. Features of a media event can include but are not limited to, the issuing of a media advisory stating date, time and location of briefing/press conference, use of backdrops, podiums or public address systems, the distribution of media releases and/or
media kits and/or the display of signage and/or other materials to promote a candidate or a position on a question on a ballot.

"Media Scrum" means an unplanned encounter between a candidate, a registrant, their staff and/or a member or members of the media.

"News/Social Media" means online technologies and practices used to share opinions, insights, experiences and perspectives through words, pictures, music, videos and audio. Social media can take many different forms, including but not limited to internet forums, web logs (blogs), social blogs, messaging, wikis, podcasts, pictures, video, music sharing, rating and bookmarking.

"Political Party" – Political parties for provincial and federal elections are those registered with the Ontario Election Finances Act in the registry of parties referred to in section 374 of the Canada Elections Act. Political party for municipal, school board or question on a ballot means an organization whose fundamental purposes is to participate in public affairs by endorsing one or more of its members as candidates and supporting their election, or to promote the acceptance of a certain position on a question on a ballot.

"Question on a Ballot" means any question or by-law submitted to the electors by Council, a school board, an elected local board, or the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

"Registrant" means an individual, corporation or trade union described in paragraphs 1 to 3 of subsection 70(3) who has registered with the clerk regarding a question on a ballot under the Municipal Elections Act, 1996.

"Supporter" means a supporter of a yes or no response to a question on a ballot but not incurring expenses like a registrant.

"Voting Day" means the day on which the final vote is to be taken in an election.
Use of Resources During an Election Procedures

1. Activities Allowable during an Election Period

1.1 Board Members may directly book normally permitted space in a Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) facility at the approved rate identified in the fee schedule for public facilities and programming, and any other conditions normally imposed under such permit, shall apply.

1.2 All-candidate meetings can be held at TRCA facilities provided that all candidates for an office or all registrants are invited to attend such meetings. This clause is subject to all applicable TRCA policies and procedures.

1.3 Candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election are permitted to distribute campaign materials only in areas permitted as per Section 1.1 above, subject to the existing permitting policies and procedures for these facilities.

1.4 Informal media scrums are permitted in public or common areas at TRCA facilities provided that no apparatus, mechanism or device for the amplification of the human voice or any sounds is used, and that the activity is not disruptive to regular TRCA business in the vicinity. If the media scrum is disruptive, employees may ask the participants to find an alternative location. This clause is subject to all applicable TRCA policies and procedures.

1.5 A candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election is permitted to attend TRCA events, or events held at TRCA facilities, in either their capacity as an appointee to TRCA, an elected representative or as a private citizen to glad-hand with attendees and visitors, but may not solicit votes for themselves, a political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot. No election signs may be posted, and no campaign materials may be disseminated at TRCA events. This clause is subject to all applicable TRCA policies and procedures.

1.6 Permits for generic election-related purposes, such as teaching members of the public how to become a candidate or the knowledge to organize an election campaign, can be issued for TRCA facilities as long as no one particular candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election is promoted or endorsed at the event.

1.7 Elected officials are permitted to attend TRCA-organized events or events held on TRCA property and act as ceremonial participants in their capacity as elected officials, including speaking at the event and partaking in ceremonial activities. Once
the writ is issued for provincial or federal elections, MPPs and MPs are no longer elected officials and therefore should not be invited to attend TRCA events.

1.8 TRCA online information related to Board Members will continue to be accessible by the public.

1.9 TRCA databases already made available for public use may be used by candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election.

1.10 TRCA employees may work on a campaign or support a candidate outside of their work hours, as long as they abide by the Human Resources policy titled “Conflict of Interest - Employee Participation in Municipal, Provincial or Federal Elections” which defines permitted campaign activity. The policy also prohibits certain employees from participating in any campaign activity.

1.11 Information that is requested and/or provided by TRCA employees to one candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election shall be made available to all other candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot, at their request, either through posting of the information on the internet or through other mechanisms. The provision of information to a candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election will be coordinated through the Clerk.

1.12 Requests by a candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot for personal meetings with TRCA employees, and requests for tours of TRCA facilities may not always be accommodated due to resource and time constraints. If a meeting or a tour is organized for one candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election, TRCA staff would need to commit to organizing a similar meeting or tour for all other candidates, political parties, registrants or supporters of a question on a ballot, at their request.

1.13 A file photo of a candidate with a logo in the background may be used in campaign material.

2. Activities Not Allowable during an Election Period

2.1 TRCA resources, including but not necessarily limited to monies, facilities, equipment, supplies, services or other TRCA resources, may not be used at anytime to support, endorse or otherwise provide an unfair advantage to any candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot at any time, whether during an election period or not, except as described in sections 1.1 - 1.3.
2.2 TRCA monies may not be used to acquire any resources for any campaign or election related activities.

2.3 TRCA employees may not campaign or actively work in support of a municipal, school board, provincial or federal candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election during working hours, but may during non-working hours as described in the Human Resources policy titled “Conflict of Interest - Employee Participation in Municipal, Provincial or Federal Elections”.

2.4 TRCA facilities and TRCA infrastructure cannot be used for any election-related purposes by candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot, including for the display of any campaign-related signs in windows or on the facilities, as well as for any other form of campaigning on the facilities, including distribution of election-related material, except as described in sections 1.1 - 1.3.

2.5 For permits, licenses, leases, or any other agreement for the use of TRCA facilities for the promotion of a particular candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election, discounted rates shall not be provided.

2.6 Any candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election shall not distribute any campaign materials in TRCA facilities or at TRCA events, except as described in section 1.3 or during all-candidates meetings.

2.7 TRCA communications materials, whether for internal or for public distribution, must not be used to:

   a. Profile (name or photograph), make reference to and/or identify any individual as a candidate in any election or a registrant in a question on a ballot.

   b. Advocate for or against a particular candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election.

Communications materials include but are not limited to: media releases, media advisories, invitations for special events, flyers, posters, banners, brochures and newsletters.

2.8 Websites or domain names that are funded by TRCA must not include any campaign materials, make reference to and/or identify any individual as a candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election, or profile any slogan or symbol associated with a candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election.
2.9 News/social media sites, blogs and other new media created and managed by TRCA employees must not make reference to and/or identify any individual as a candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election.

2.10 Photographic or video materials which have been or may be created by TRCA employees or with TRCA resources must not be used in any campaign materials.

2.11 Any TRCA created and owned logo must not be placed specifically in any campaign materials, except as outlined in Section 1.13 above.

2.12 TRCA databases must not be used by any candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election, unless the database has already been released for public use as per section 1.9.

2.13 TRCA infrastructure cannot be used for any election purposes.

2.14 TRCA employees will not perform any service, offer any advice or provide any information solely for the use of one Board Member, candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election.

2.15 All printing, high speed photocopying and distribution of materials, including stationery and business cards, will be discontinued for a Board Member, candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election, unless authorized by the Board of Directors, except Agendas and Minutes of Board of Directors, committee and advisory board meetings are exempt from this provision. If a compelling corporate need arises during the election period, a Board Member who is a candidate may use corporate resources to advise or contact TRCA constituents, in keeping with the procedures contained herein, with the consent of the TRCA Chief Executive Officer.

2.16 On any material printed or distributed by TRCA, any Board Member, candidate, political party, registrant or a supporter of a question on a ballot during an election are not permitted to: illustrate that a person is a candidate registered in an election; identify where a person will be running for office; or profile or refer to candidates during an election.

2.17 Use of cell phones and PDA's that are funded by TRCA for any election-related campaign purpose is not permitted, unless TRCA is reimbursed.

2.18 Use of TRCA's voice mail system to record election related messages, and the computer network and related IT systems (including TRCA's email system) to distribute election related correspondence, is not permitted.
3. **Restrictions related to Services Provided to Board Members during an Election Year**

As *Board Members* may also be candidates in an election, after August 1 in the municipal or school board election year, or on the day the writ for election is issued for provincial or federal elections, *TRCA* employees will discontinue the following activities for *Board Members*. The same rule applies to all *Board of Directors Members*, irrespective of whether they are seeking election in the new term or not:

3.1 Advertising and other communications materials paid for by *TRCA* funds and distributed by *TRCA* will not reference the name of a *Board Member*.

3.2 Event signage, including banners and posters, will not reference the name of a *Board Member*.

3.3 Media releases issued by *TRCA* employees will not reference the name of a *Board Member*.

4. **Audit Compliance**

4.1 The *Clerk* is responsible for communication of this protocol to *Board Members*.

4.2 The *CEO*, Senior Leadership Team, Senior Management Team, Managers and Supervisors are responsible for communication of this protocol to their staff and to investigate reported contraventions to ensure that there is compliance. All reported contraventions are to be reported to the *Clerk* or designate.

4.3 *TRCA staff* shall consult with the *Clerk* prior to confirming a booking with a political client, to ensure the event booking is in compliance with the policy on Use of Resources During an Election.

4.3 *Board Members* and *TRCA staff* are accountable to comply with this protocol.

5. **Limitation**

5.1 Nothing in this policy shall preclude a *Board Member* from performing their job as a *Board Member*, nor inhibit them from representing the interests of the governing body who appointed them.
Appendix 2 - Conflict of Interest for Board Members

The Conflict of Interest rules below governing the Board of Directors shall also be observed in Executive Committee and advisory board meetings, as far as they are applicable, and the words Executive Committee or advisory board shall be substituted for the words Board of Directors as applicable.

1. **Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**
   Board Members commit themselves and TRCA to ethical, businesslike and lawful conduct when acting as the Board of Directors. TRCA is bound by the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. This By-law is intended to assist Board Members in understanding their obligations. Board Members are required to review the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act on a regular basis.

2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**
   Where a Board Member, either on their own behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any matter and is present at a meeting of the Board of Directors at which the matter is the subject of consideration, the Board Member shall:
   
   (a) prior to any consideration of the matter at the meeting, disclose the pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof to the Board of Directors;
   
   (b) not take part in the discussion of, or vote on any question in respect of the matter; and,
   
   (c) not attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on any such question.

3. **Chair’s Conflict of Interest or Pecuniary Interest**
   Where the Chair of a meeting discloses a conflict of interest with respect to a matter under consideration at a meeting, the Vice-Chair shall chair that portion of the meeting. In the absence of the Vice-Chair, another Board Member shall be appointed by resolution to chair that portion of the meeting.

4. **Closed Meetings**
   Where a meeting is not open to the public, a Board Member who has declared a conflict of interest shall leave the meeting for the part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration.

5. **Board Member Absent**
   Where the interest of a Board Member has not been disclosed by reason of their absence from the particular meeting, the Board Member shall disclose their interest and otherwise comply at the first meeting of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee,
advisory board or committee, as the case may be, attended by them after the particular meeting.

6. **Disclosure Recorded in Minutes**

The Clerk shall record in reasonable detail the particulars of any disclosure of conflict of interest or pecuniary interest made by Board Members and whether the Board Member withdrew from the discussion of the matter. Such record shall appear in the minutes of that particular meeting of the Board of Directors. The Clerk shall maintain a registry in which shall be kept:

(a) a copy of each disclosure filed with the Clerk;
(b) a copy of each declaration recorded in the open or closed session minutes.

The registry shall be available for public inspection in the manner and during the time that TRCA may determine.

7. **Breach of Conflict of Interest for Board Members**

Should a Board Member breach the Conflict of Interest for Board Members, they shall advise the Chair and Vice-Chair, with a copy to the Chief Executive Officer, as soon as possible after the breach.

Should a Board Member of the Board of Directors allege that another Board Member has breached the Conflict of Interest for Board Members, the said breach shall be communicated to the Chair, with a copy to the Chief Executive Officer, in writing. In the absence of the Chair, or if a Board Member alleges that the Chair has breached the Conflict of Interest for Board Members, the said breach shall be communicated to the Vice-Chair, with a copy to the Chief Executive Officer, in writing, following completion of the meeting at which the alleged breach occurred. The Chair shall not entertain discussions of an alleged breach during a meeting.

Any breach, or alleged breach, of the Conflict of Interest for Board Members shall be investigated in accordance with the Section B.16. - Enforcement of By-laws and Policies outlined in the Board of Directors Administrative By-law.
Appendix 3 - Procedures for Election of Officers

1. **Voting**
   All votes shall be conducted in public session by open vote and shall be recorded. Only current *Board Members* who are present may vote; no *Board Member* may vote by proxy.

2. **Acting Chair**
   The *Clerk* or designate shall be Acting *Chair* or Returning Officer, for the purpose of Election of Officers.

3. **Scrutineer(s)**
   The appointment of two scrutineers, along with the Acting *Chair*, is required by motion for the purpose of counting the show of hands, should an election be required. The Acting *Chair* shall call a motion for the appointment of two persons, who are not *Board Members*, in addition to themselves, to act as scrutineers. A *Board Member*, who will not stand for election, may be appointed as an additional scrutineer if requested. Due to the open voting, a *TRCA staff* member may be appointed as scrutineer(s).

4. **Election Procedures**
   The Acting *Chair* shall advise the *Board Members* that the election will be conducted in accordance with the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the *Board of Directors Administrative By-law* as follows:

   (a) The elections shall be conducted in the following order:
       i. Election of the *Chair*, who shall be a *Board Member*;
       ii. Election of the *Vice-Chair*, who shall be a *Board Member*;
       iii. Election of the remaining *Members* of the Executive Committee, if required.

   (b) The Acting *Chair* shall ask for nominations to each position;

   (c) Nominations shall be called three times and will only require a mover;

   (d) Each *Board Member* nominated shall be asked to accept the nomination. The *Board Member* must be present to accept the nomination unless the *Board Member* has advised the *Chief Executive Officer* in writing in advance of the election of their willingness to accept the nomination.

   (e) The closing of nominations shall require both a mover and a seconder;

   (f) Once voting commences, the only motion permitted will be a motion to recess.
If one Nominee:

(g) If only one Nominee, the individual shall be declared into the position by acclamation.

Two Nominees only:

(h) In the event of an election, each Nominee shall be permitted not more than three minutes to speak for the office, in the order of the alphabetical listing by surnames.

(i) Upon the acceptance by Nominees to stand for election to the position of office, the Acting Chair will list the names of all Nominees in alphabetical order of surnames and will conduct voting in that order. The Acting Chair will call for a vote on the first name, and Board Members will stand if they wish to vote for the Nominee. The Acting Chair will state the names of those standing and the Acting Chair and scrutineers will record the results.

(j) There shall be one Nominee vote per Board Member per round of voting. A Board Member’s first vote is deemed to be the Board Member’s vote. If a Board Member votes a second time in the same round of voting, the Acting Chair shall advise the Board Member and the Board Member’s vote shall not count. The exception is voting where multiple Nominees are to be elected for positions, as noted in Procedures (m) – (r) below.

(k) The Acting Chair shall confer with the scrutineers, count the votes and declare the Nominee who receives a majority of votes as elected to the position.

(l) If there is a tie vote, the Acting Chair shall declare a 10-minute recess to allow Board Members time to consider the matter, after which the vote shall be retaken. If the vote is again tied, the Acting Chair shall decide by lot the successful Nominee. The Acting Chair shall declare the person whose name is drawn as elected to the position.

Three or more Nominees:

(m) First and successive votes:

i. The Nominee who receives a majority of votes is appointed by resolution to the position.
ii. If no Nominee receives a majority of votes, the Nominee with the least number of votes shall be excluded from subsequent voting and the Board of Directors shall proceed with the next round of voting.

iii. If there is a tie vote with respect to the Nominees receiving the least number of votes, the Acting Chair shall recess the meeting for a period of 10 minutes, after which the Acting Chair shall conduct another vote, and if there is still an equality of votes, then a lot shall be conducted until there is one name not drawn, and the name (or names) drawn shall go forward to the next round of voting, and the name not drawn shall be excluded from subsequent rounds of voting.

iv. When there are only two Nominees remaining, the procedure for Two Nominees only [procedures (h) – (l)] shall apply.

Multiple Nominees to be elected:

(n) If there are more Nominees than the number of available positions, the Acting Chair will list the names of all Nominees in alphabetical order of surnames and will conduct voting in that order. The Acting Chair will call for a vote on the first name and Board Members will stand if they wish to vote for the Nominee. The Acting Chair will state the names of those standing, and the Acting Chair and scrutineers will record the results.

(o) Each Board Member may vote for a total number of nominees as positions available. A Board Member’s first vote(s) for the available positions is deemed to be the Board Member’s vote(s). If a Board Member votes more times than the number of positions available in the same round of voting, the Acting Chair shall advise the Board Member and these vote(s) shall not count.

(p) The Nominee(s) who receive a majority of votes for the number of available positions are appointed by resolution to the positions.

(q) If no Nominee receives a majority of votes for any of the positions remaining after those who have been elected as per clause (p) above, the Nominee with the least number of votes shall be excluded from subsequent voting and the Board of Directors shall proceed with the next round of voting if necessary.

(r) If there is a tie vote with respect to the Nominees receiving the least number of votes, the Acting Chair shall recess the meeting for a period of 10 minutes, after which the Acting Chair shall conduct another vote, and if there is still an equality
of votes, then a lot shall be conducted until there is one name not drawn, and the name (or names) drawn shall go forward to the next round of voting, and the name not drawn shall be excluded from subsequent rounds of voting.

The Acting Chair shall confer with the scrutineers and announce the results of the voting, naming the candidates and the number of votes cast for each candidate.
F. Appendices – Terms of Reference

Appendix 4 – Board of Directors Terms of Reference

Subject to the Conservation Authorities Act and other applicable legislation, the Board of Directors is a governance body empowered without restriction to exercise all of the powers of TRCA under the Act. In addition to the powers of a conservation authority under s.21 of the Act for the purposes of accomplishing its objects, as referenced in Section 1 of the By-law, the powers of the Board of Directors, include but are not limited to, the following. The administrative/operational powers of TRCA, including but not limited to the approval of those policies and procedures not specified herein, are delegated to the Chief Executive Officer or designate.

1. Oversight of TRCA

1.1. Setting the goals, strategies and vision of the organization.

1.2. Electing Officers, advising them and auditing their performance.

1.3. Safeguarding and approving changes in assets.

1.4. Approval of significant financial transactions as defined by TRCA policies and required reporting.

1.5. Delegating powers as permitted (i.e. signing, purchasing, investing, etc.).

1.6. Maintaining and adhering to the Board of Directors Administrative By-law.

1.7. Fulfilling fiduciary duties to the corporation, including ensuring adherence to all applicable legislation.

1.8. Direct staff to accomplish a Board directive or report back as required.

2. Staff and Legal

2.1. Appoint a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who shall act as a Secretary-Treasurer for the purposes of the Act. All hiring/termination must adhere to TRCA policies.

2.2. Terminate the services of the Chief Executive Officer.
2.3. Hearing of representations from staff or the Chief Executive Officer on any reported conflict of interest on the part of the Chief Executive Officer, as per the requirements of TRCA’s Code of Conduct for staff.

2.4. Approve the salary and wage schedules.

2.5. Instruct legal counsel on governance matters.

3. Financial

3.1. Management of financial assets, including but not limited to, the ability to raise funds.

3.2. Approve the method of financing for any new capital projects, if external funding is required.

3.3. Approve details on budget allocations on any new or existing capital projects.

3.4. Approve by weighted vote TRCA’s operating and capital budget (which inherently provides approval of the projects/programs to be funded) for the ensuing year and approve the non-matching levy to be paid by the participating municipalities subject to applicable regulations.

3.5. Receive and approve TRCA’s Audited Financial Statements for the preceding year and any program requiring such documentation under provincial direction or through contract compliance.

3.6. Authorize the borrowing of funds on promissory note(s) of TRCA in accordance with subsection 3(5) of the Act.

3.7. Approval of remuneration and expense rates for Board Members, as applicable.

3.8. Receipt of procurement summary and senior staff expenses for the preceding year.

4. Contractual and Purchasing/Disposal

4.1. Approve any proposed acquisition, expropriation or disposition of land, and entering into contracts or agreements for the acquisition, expropriation or disposition of land subject to the requirements under the Act.

4.2. Enter into management agreements with municipal partners for maintenance and development of TRCA-owned lands, and approval of development requests under such management agreements.
4.3. Enter into contracts or agreements which are either necessarily incidental to a project approved pursuant to the Act or necessarily incidental to the works approved by the Board of Directors, in accordance with the specific monetary limits set by the Board of Directors and in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors.

4.4. Enter into agreements with municipalities where TRCA is situated in whole or in part within its area of jurisdiction, in respect of programs and services that TRCA will provide on behalf of the municipality, in accordance with the specific monetary limits set by the Board of Directors and in accordance with the policies and procedures established by the Board of Directors. TRCA must make such documents available to the public in such manner and reviewed at such intervals as may be determined in the agreements, as required in Section 21.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act.

4.5. Enter into agreements with non-governmental organizations in accordance with the specific monetary limits set by the Board of Directors and in accordance with TRCA’s policies and procedures.

4.6. Authorize the purchase of goods, equipment or services necessary for carrying on the work of TRCA within the approved TRCA budget in accordance with the specific monetary limits set by the Board of Directors and in accordance with TRCA’s policies and procedures.

4.7. Authorize the disposal of TRCA assets in accordance with the specific monetary limits set by the Board of Directors and in accordance with TRCA’s policies and procedures.

5. Policy Approval

5.1. Approve all governance related policies impacting any of the Board of Directors responsibilities, including, but not limited to, those listed in these terms of reference.

5.2. Approve policies that provide staff with benefits in excess of those provided by the Employment Standards Act.

5.3. Approve the Investment and Reserve policies.

5.4. In accordance with the Act, approve policies and regularly review such policies with respect to fees that TRCA may charge, which shall include the preparation, maintenance and approval of fee schedules and the manner in which such fees are determined for programs and services for TRCA, together with the
circumstances in which a person may request that TRCA reconsider a fee that was charged to the person and the procedures applicable to the reconsideration, as per Section 21.2 of the Act and applicable Regulations.

6. General

6.1. Approve the minutes of a previous meeting of the Board of Directors. Receive minutes of advisory boards.

6.2. Approve the meeting schedule of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee annually for the upcoming meeting year.

6.3. Elect the Chair, Vice-Chair and the Executive Committee, and any other positions outlined in the Board of Directors Administrative By-law.

6.4. Approve Board Member representation on external committees.

6.5. Approve the creation of the Executive Committee and/or advisory boards, the members thereof and the terms of reference for the Executive Committee and/or advisory boards, and all matters relating to its governance.

6.6. Provide for the calling of the meetings, and the procedures to be followed at meetings, specifying which meetings, if any, may be closed to the public, through approval of the Board of Directors Administrative By-law or such similar document.

6.7. Approval of TRCA organizational strategy documents including but not limited to strategic plan; business plans; master plans; trail plans; asset management plans; asset management strategy and state of good repair reports; watershed or subwatershed plans and associated updates; and watershed report cards for TRCA’s jurisdiction.

6.8. Approval of proposed staff comments for external purposes on, but not limited to: Acts; Regulations; Environmental Bill of Rights postings; official plans and amendments; special policies areas; municipal master plans; planning and environmental assessment processes; or other projects and programs as so directed by the Chief Executive Officer. In the case where the timeline for submission of comments does not allow time for Board Approval, the Board of Directors shall approve comments in principle or after the fact.

6.9. Approval of branding of the organization and its distinct locations, programs and assets, including potential advertising for external organizations on TRCA locations and assets.
6.10. Hearing of representations from benefitting owners with regard to any aspect of the erosion control programs in accordance with procedures adopted by Authority Resolution #18/80. May occur at Executive Committee meetings if required due to timing constraints.

6.11. Receipt of summary of freedom of information requests responded to as per the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

6.12. Receipt of public complaints received in regard to TRCA and those received through TRCA’s whistleblower hotline.

6.13. Responsibility for risk management, including, but not limited to, adherence to legislation, accommodation, human rights, accessibility, harassment and indemnification, and receipt of annual reporting on TRCA’s risk management program.

6.14. The Board of Directors shall constitute itself as a separate entity named the Toronto and Region Source Protection Authority (TRSPA). Under the Clean Water Act, 2006 and its Regulations, TRCA has been designated as the lead source protection authority for the CTC Source Protection Region (Credit Valley-Toronto and Region-Central Lake Ontario conservation authorities) and therefore has additional powers delegated to the TRSPA.

6.15. All other such other matters as may be prescribed by regulation, policy or TRCA’s Chief Executive Officer.

7. Section 28(1) of the Act

6.1. Delegate any of the Board of Directors’ powers relating to the issuance or cancellation of permits under this Act or the regulations, to the Executive Committee or to any other person or body, subject to any limitations or requirements that may be prescribed by regulation.

6.2. Delegate positive permit approvals to designated staff subject to any limitations or requirements that may be prescribed by regulation.

6.3. Recommend to the Minister regulations for TRCA’s jurisdiction.

6.4. Delegate the Board of Directors’ powers or duties relating to holding of hearings in relation to the permits to the Executive Committee, subject to any limitations or requirements that may be prescribed by regulation.
8. Frequency of Meetings

As per Section 15(1) of the Act, the Board of Directors shall hold at least one meeting before the 1st day of March and at least one meeting after the 1st day of July and such other meetings as it considers necessary to effectively conduct the affairs of TRCA. The schedule shall be:

7.1. The Board of Directors shall meet at least six times per year.

7.2. There shall be no regularly meetings in the months of July and August to accommodate for summer vacation season.

7.3. The meetings shall be held at such date, time and place, within a participating municipality, as the Board of Directors shall adopt each year.

7.4. The Chair may call a special meeting of the Board of Directors as is necessary. Any Board Member, with majority support of the other Board Members, may also request the Chair to call a meeting of the Board of Directors and the Chair shall not refuse. Such special meeting shall be called on seven days’ notice, in writing. That notice shall state the business of the special meeting and only that business shall be considered at that special meeting.

8. Membership

Sections 2(2) and 14 of the Act set out the membership of the Board of Directors.
Appendix 5 – Executive Committee Terms of Reference

As per Sections B.10 and B.11 of the By-law, the Board of Directors shall approve the terms of reference for advisory boards and committees, which shall include the role, the frequency of meetings and the number of members required.

The Board of Directors may delegate to the Executive Committee any of its powers except the following, as per Section 19.1 (1)(d) of the Act:

i. The termination of the services of the Chief Executive Officer,
ii. The power to raise money, and
iii. The power to enter into contracts or agreements other than those contracts or agreements as are necessarily incidental to the works approved by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors delegates the following powers to the Executive Committee and reserves the right to delegate any other such powers as the Board of Directors determines appropriate, such that it is in keeping with the Board of Directors Administrative By-law and the Conservation Authorities Act.

Should the timing be such that staff is unable to report to the Executive Committee on the following matters, staff may report to the Board of Directors instead, with the exception of Section 28 and Hearing Board matters, covered under Section 5 below.

1. Contractual and Purchasing/Disposal

1.1. To award and enter into contracts or agreements which are not for the acquisition or disposition of land but which are either necessarily incidental to a project approved pursuant to the Act or necessarily incidental to the works approved by the Board of Directors, in accordance with the specific monetary limits set by the Board of Directors and in accordance with TRCA’s policies and procedures.

1.2. Review and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on: any proposed acquisition, expropriation or disposition of land, and entering into contracts or agreements for the acquisition, expropriation or disposition of land subject to the requirements under the Act.

1.3. Review and make recommendation to the Board of Directors on any requests for disposal of TRCA-owned land.

1.4. Authorize the purchase of goods, equipment or services necessary for carrying on the work of TRCA within the approved TRCA budget in accordance with the
specific monetary limits set by the *Board of Directors* and in accordance with *TRCA’s* policies and procedures.

1.5. Authorize the disposal of *TRCA* assets in accordance with the specific monetary limits set by the *Board of Directors* and in accordance with *TRCA’s* policies and procedures.

1.6. Termination of agricultural leases as designated in the *TRCA’s* policies.

2. **Staff and Legal**

2.1. Authorize *TRCA* participation in Local Planning Appeal Tribunals and other tribunals on planning and development matters, and receipt of updates on activities from such tribunals.

2.2. Direct the staff of *TRCA* to accomplish an Executive Committee directive or report back as required.

2.3. Enforce adherence to the TRCA Board of Directors Administrative By-law and applicable Policies and determine the appropriate response to the Formal Complaint Procedure.

3. **Financial**

3.1. Review and make recommendations to the *Board of Directors* on the investment and reserve policies.

3.2. Review and make recommendations to the *Board of Directors* on all matters relating to preliminary estimates, budget, financial statements and related matters, including but not limited to:

3.2.1. preliminary estimates;
3.2.2. budget guidelines;
3.2.3. annual and multi-year business plans;
3.2.4. banking;
3.2.5. audited financial statements from the preceding year;
3.2.6. financial progress and expenditure reports;
3.2.7. financial policy and procedural documents relating to, but not limited to, the above.

3.3. Perform the functions of an audit committee;

3.4. Approval for disposition of surplus project funds when a project is completed and *TRCA* is unable to make contact with the donor/grantor for approval to redistribute.
### 3.5. Approval to write-off receivables and other approval requirements of the Accounts Receivable policy, in accordance with specific dollar limits set by the *Board of Directors*.

### 3.6. Approval of annual report regarding Senior Leadership Team travel expenses in accordance with the specific monetary limits and travel expenses policy(s) and procedures set by the *Chief Executive Officer*.

### 4. General

**4.1.** Approve the minutes of a previous meeting of the Executive Committee.

**4.2.** Exercise such additional powers, excluding those powers set out in Section B.1.c) of the By-law and noted above in the Terms of Reference, as may be assigned to it by the *Board of Directors*, provided that a report be given to the Board of Directors for receipt at the first meeting of the *Board of Directors* thereafter.

**4.3.** The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committees from among the *Board Members* to study, consider and report back to the Executive Committee on any subject over which the Executive Committee has jurisdiction.

**4.4.** Hearing of representations from benefitting owners with regard to any aspect of the erosion control programs in accordance with procedures adopted by Authority Resolution #18/80. May occur at *Board of Directors* meetings if required due to timing constraints.

**4.5.** Recommend and report to the *Board of Directors* on all matters not within the jurisdiction of an advisory board or which may be assigned to it by the *Board of Directors*.

**4.6.** All other such other matters as may be prescribed by regulation, policy or *TRCA’s Chief Executive Officer*.

### 5. Section 28(1)

**5.1.** Positive permit approvals subject to any limitations or requirements that may be prescribed by regulation.

**5.2.** Appointment of Enforcement Officers for the purposes of ensuring compliance with the *Act* and the regulations.

**5.3.** Review and recommend to the *Board of Directors* regulations for the *TRCA* jurisdiction.
5.4. Act as a Hearing Board, subject to any limitations or requirements that may be prescribed by regulation or other law. TRCA shall use the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry/Conservation Ontario Hearing Guidelines (October 2005, Amended 2018) as outlined in Attachment 1 to the Executive Committee Terms of Reference, as a guideline for conducting hearings.

6. Frequency of Meetings

The meeting schedule of the Executive Committee shall be approved annually by the Board of Directors for the upcoming year. The Committee shall meet at a minimum of six times per year.

There shall be no regularly meetings in the months of July, August and December to accommodate for summer vacations and holiday season. The Director, Development and Engineering Services shall be delegated the approval of all major development and infrastructure permits within the TRCA’s regulatory jurisdiction and report back to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The Committee may act as a Hearing Board as noted in Section 5.4., and in this capacity shall meet as required.

7. Membership

7.1. the Chair of the Board of Directors (elected biennially);
7.2. the Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors (elected biennially);
7.3. two Board Members appointed by the Region of Durham, who may or may not be the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors;
7.4. two Board Members appointed by the Region of Peel, who may or may not be the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors;
7.5. two Board Members appointed by the Region of York, who may or may not be the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors;
7.6. six Board Members appointed by The City of Toronto, who may or may not be the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors.

If the Board Member appointed by the Township of Adjala/Tosorontio and Town of Mono is elected or appointed as Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors then such Board Member shall be a member of the Executive Committee in addition to those members set out in paragraphs 7.1 – 7.6, inclusive, resulting in a 13 Member Executive Committee.
**Attachment 1 to Executive Committee Terms of Reference**

**Hearing Guidelines – October 2005, Amended 2018**

May, 2018

**Re: Interim Update to the SECTION 28 (3) CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT HEARING GUIDELINES**

Subsection 28(15) of the Conservation Authorities Act provides that a person who has been refused permission or who objects to conditions imposed on a permission may, within 30 days of receiving the reasons may appeal to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. Further to the passage of the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017 effective April 3, 2018 this appeal has been assigned to the Mining and Lands Tribunal through Order in Council 332/2018. The Mining and Lands Tribunal is now a part of the Environment and Land Tribunal Cluster (ELTO) of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

By law, the appeal made under subsection 28(15) should be filed directly with the Mining and Lands Tribunal. A copy of the appeal letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry is unnecessary and can be treated as optional. Conservation authorities should notify appellants that they must file their appeals with the Tribunal within 30 days of their receipt of notice. An appeal may be invalidated if it is not filed with the proper office within that time period. The appellants should also be instructed to copy the conservation authority in their appeal letter.

Further to this updated information, an amendment has been made to Appendix D “Notice of Decision – Model” to incorporate the revised contact information for the appeal. Conservation authorities are advised to review their internal Hearing Procedures to incorporate this update. It is anticipated that this “Interim Update to the Section 28(3) Conservation Authorities Act Hearing Guidelines” will provide guidance to conservation authorities related to Section 28 hearings until such time as a new Section 28 regulation is created by the province.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY**

Leslie Rich  
Policy and Planning Liaison  
Conservation Ontario
1.0 PURPOSE OF HEARING GUIDELINES:

The purpose of the Hearing Guidelines is to reflect the changes to the 1998 Conservation Authorities Act. The Act requires that the applicant be party to a hearing by the local Conservation Authority Board, or Executive Committee (sitting as a Hearing Board) as the case may be, for an application to be refused or approved with contentious conditions. Further, a permit may be refused if in the opinion of the Authority the proposal adversely affects the control of flooding, pollution or conservation of land, and additional erosion and dynamic beaches. The Hearing Board is empowered by law to make a decision, governed by the Statutory Powers Procedures Act. It is the purpose of the Hearing Board to evaluate the information presented at the hearing by both the Conservation Authority staff and the applicant and to decide whether the application will be approved with or without conditions or refused.

These guidelines have been prepared as an update to the October 1992 hearing guidelines and are intended to provide a step-by-step process to conducting hearings required under Section 28 (12), (13), (14) of the Conservation Authorities Act. Similar to the 1992 guidelines, it is hoped that the guidelines will promote the necessary consistency across the Province and ensure that hearings meet the legal requirements of the Statutory Powers Procedures Act without being unduly legalistic or intimidating to the participants.

2.1 PREHEARING PROCEDURES

2.2 Apprehension of Bias

In considering the application, the Hearing Board is acting as a decision-making tribunal. The tribunal is to act fairly. Under general principles of administrative law relating to the duty of fairness, the tribunal is obliged not only to avoid any bias but also to avoid the appearance or apprehension of bias. The following are three examples of steps to be taken to avoid apprehension of bias where it is likely to arise.

(a) No member of the Board of Directors taking part in the hearing should be involved, either through participation in committee or intervention on behalf of the applicant or other interested parties with the matter, prior to the hearing. Otherwise, there is a danger of an apprehension of bias which could jeopardize the hearing.

(b) If material relating to the merits of an application that is the subject of a hearing is distributed to Board members before the hearing, the material shall be distributed to the applicant at the same time. The applicant may be afforded an opportunity to distribute similar pre-hearing material.

(c) In instances where the Board of Directors (or Executive Committee) requires a hearing
to help it reach a determination as to whether to give permission with or without conditions or refuse a permit application, a final decision shall not be made until such time as a hearing is held. The applicant will be given an opportunity to attend the hearing before a decision is made; however, the applicant does not have to be present for a decision to be made.

Individual Conservation Authorities shall develop a document outlining their own practices and procedures relating to the review and reporting of Section 28 applications, including the role of staff, the applicant and the Board of Directors or Executive Committee as well as, the procedures for the hearing itself. Such policy and procedures manual shall be available to the members of the public upon request. These procedures shall have regard for the above information and should be approved by the Conservation Authority Board of Directors.

2.3 Application

The right to a hearing is required where staff is recommending refusal of an application or where there is some indication that the Board of Directors or Executive Committee may not follow staff’s recommendation to approve a permit or the applicant objects to the conditions of approval. The applicant is entitled to reasonable notice of the hearing pursuant to the Statutory Powers Procedures Act.

2.4 Notice of Hearing

The Notice of Hearing shall be sent to the applicant within sufficient time to allow the applicant to prepare for the hearing. To ensure that reasonable notice is given, it is recommended that prior to sending the Notice of Hearing, the applicant be consulted to determine an agreeable date and time based on the local Conservation Authority’s regular meeting schedule.

The Notice of Hearing must contain the following:

(a) Reference to the applicable legislation under which the hearing is to be held (i.e., the Conservation Authorities Act).

(b) The time, place and the purpose of the hearing.

(c) Particulars to identify the applicant, property and the nature of the application which are the subject of the hearing.

Note: If the applicant is not the landowner but the prospective owner, the applicant must have written authorization from the registered landowner.
(d) The reasons for the proposed refusal or conditions of approval shall be specifically stated. This should contain sufficient detail to enable the applicant to understand the issues so he or she can be adequately prepared for the hearing.

It is sufficient to reference in the Notice of Hearing that the recommendation for refusal or conditions of approval is based on the reasons outlined in previous correspondence or a hearing report that will follow.

(e) A statement notifying the applicant that the hearing may proceed in the applicant’s absence and that the applicant will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings.

Except in extreme circumstances, it is recommended that the hearing not proceed in the absence of the applicant.

(f) Reminder that the applicant is entitled to be represented at the hearing by counsel, if desired.

It is recommended that the Notice of Hearing be directed to the applicant and/or landowner by registered mail. Please refer to Appendix A [not included] for an example Notice of Hearing.

2.5 Pre-submission of Reports

If it is the practice of the local Conservation Authority to submit reports to the Board members in advance of the hearing (i.e., inclusion on an Board of Directors/Executive Committee agenda), the applicant shall be provided with the same opportunity. The applicant shall be given two weeks to prepare a report once the reasons for the staff recommendations have been received. Subsequently, this may affect the timing and scheduling of the staff hearing reports.

2.6 Hearing Information

Prior to the hearing, the applicant shall be advised of the local Conservation Authority’s hearing procedures upon request.

3.1 HEARING

3.2 Public Hearing

Pursuant to the Statutory Powers Procedure Act, hearings are required to be held in public. The exception is in very rare cases where public interest in public hearings is outweighed by the fact that intimate financial, personal or other matters would be disclosed at hearings.
3.3 Hearing Participants

The Conservation Authorities Act does not provide for third party status at the local hearing. While others may be advised of the local hearing, any information that they provide should be incorporated within the presentation of information by, or on behalf of, the applicant or Authority staff.

3.4 Attendance of Hearing Board Members

In accordance with case law relating to the conduct of hearings, those members of the Board of Directors who will decide whether to grant or refuse the application must be present during the full course of the hearing. If it is necessary for a member to leave, the hearing must be adjourned and resumed when either the member returns or if the hearing proceeds, even in the event of an adjournment, only those members who were present after the member left can sit to the conclusion of the hearing.

3.5 Adjournments

The Board may adjourn a hearing on its own motion or that of the applicant or Authority staff where it is satisfied that an adjournment is necessary for an adequate hearing to be held.

Any adjournments form part of the hearing record.

3.6 Orders and Directions

The Authority is entitled to make orders or directions to maintain order and prevent the abuse of its hearing processes. A hearing procedures example has been included as Appendix B.

3.7 Information Presented at Hearings

(a) The Statutory Powers Procedure Act, requires that a witness be informed of his right to object pursuant to the Canada Evidence Act. The Canada Evidence Act indicates that a witness shall be excused from answering questions on the basis that the answer may be incriminating. Further, answers provided during the hearing are not admissible against the witness in any criminal trial or proceeding. This information should be provided to the applicant as part of the Notice of Hearing.

(b) It is the decision of the hearing members as to whether information is presented under oath or affirmation. It is not a legal requirement. The applicant must be informed of the above, prior to or at the start of the hearing.
(c) The Board may authorize receiving a copy rather than the original document. However, the Board can request certified copies of the document if required.

(d) Privileged information, such as solicitor/client correspondence, cannot be heard. Information that is not directly within the knowledge of the speaker (hearsay), if relevant to the issues of the hearing, can be heard.

(e) The Board may take into account matters of common knowledge such as geographic or historic facts, times measures, weights, etc or generally recognized scientific or technical facts, information or opinions within its specialized knowledge without hearing specific information to establish their truth.

3.8 Conduct of Hearing

3.8.1 Record of Attending Hearing Board Members

A record shall be made of the members of the Hearing Board.

3.8.2 Opening Remarks

The Chairman shall convene the hearing with opening remarks which generally; identify the applicant, the nature of the application, and the property location; outline the hearing procedures; and advise on requirements of the Canada Evidence Act. Please reference Appendix C for the Opening Remarks model [staff note: Appendix C not included in the Board of Directors Administrative By-law as it is not relevant to the Board of Directors].

3.8.3 Presentation of Authority Staff Information

Staff of the Authority presents the reasons supporting the recommendation for the refusal or conditions of approval of the application. Any reports, documents or plans that form part of the presentation shall be properly indexed and received.

Staff of the Authority should not submit new information at the hearing as the applicant will not have had time to review and provide a professional opinion to the Hearing Board.

Consideration should be given to the designation of one staff member or legal counsel who coordinates the presentation of information on behalf of Authority staff and who asks questions on behalf of Authority staff.
3.8.4 Presentation of Applicant Information

The applicant has the opportunity to present information at the conclusion of the Authority staff presentation. Any reports, documents or plans which form part of the submission should be properly indexed and received.

The applicant shall present information as it applies to the permit application in question. For instance, does the requested activity affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beach or conservation of land or pollution? The hearing does not address the merits of the activity or appropriateness of such a use in terms of planning.

- The applicant may be represented by legal counsel or agent, if desired
- The applicant may present information to the Board and/or have invited advisors to present information to the Board
- The applicant(s) presentation may include technical witnesses, such as an engineer, ecologist, hydrogeologist etc.

The applicant should not submit new information at the hearing as the Staff of the Authority will not have had time to review and provide a professional opinion to the Hearing Board.

3.8.5 Questions

Members of the Hearing Board may direct questions to each speaker as the information is being heard. The applicant and/or agent can make any comments or questions on the staff report.

Pursuant to the Statutory Powers Procedure Act, the Board can limit questioning where it is satisfied that there has been full and fair disclosure of the facts presented. Please note that the courts have been particularly sensitive to the issue of limiting questions and there is a tendency to allow limiting of questions only where it has clearly gone beyond reasonable or proper bounds.

3.8.6 Deliberation

After all the information is presented, the Board may adjourn the hearing and retire in private to confer. The Board may reconvene on the same date or at some later date to advise of the Board’s decision. The Board members shall not discuss the hearing with others prior to the decision of the Board being finalized.
4.0. DECISION

The applicant must receive written notice of the decision. The applicant shall be informed of the right to appeal the decision within 30 days upon receipt of the written decision to the Minister of Natural Resources.

It is important that the hearing participants have a clear understanding of why the application was refused or approved. The Board shall itemize and record information of particular significance which led to their decision.

4.1 Notice of Decision

The decision notice should include the following information:

(a) The identification of the applicant, property and the nature of the application that was the subject of the hearing.

(b) The decision to refuse or approve the application. A copy of the Hearing Board resolution should be attached.

It is recommended that the written Notice of Decision be forwarded to the applicant by registered mail. A sample Notice of Decision and cover letter has been included as Appendix D [staff note: Appendix D not included in the Board of Directors Administrative By-law as it is not relevant to the Board of Directors].

4.2 Adoption

A resolution advising of the Board’s decision and particulars of the decision should be adopted.

5.0 RECORD

The Authority shall compile a record of the hearing. In the event of an appeal, a copy of the record should be forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry/Mining and Lands Commissioner. The record must include the following:

(a) The application for the permit.
(b) The Notice of Hearing.
(c) Any orders made by the Board (e.g., for adjournments).
(d) All information received by the Board.
(e) The minutes of the meeting made at the hearing.
(f) The decision and reasons for decision of the Board.
(g) The Notice of Decision sent to the applicant.
Appendix B

Hearing Procedures

1. Motion to sit as Hearing Board.

2. Roll Call followed by the Chair’s opening remarks.

3. Staff will introduce to the Hearing Board the applicant/owner, his/her agent and others wishing to speak.

4. Staff will indicate the nature and location of the subject application and the conclusions.

5. Staff will present the staff report included in the Board of Directors/Executive Committee agenda.

6. The applicant and/or his/her agent will speak and also make any comments on the staff report, if he/she so desires.

7. The Hearing Board is open to the public and therefore, the Hearing Board will allow others to speak, and, if necessary, the applicant in rebuttal.

8. The Hearing Board will question, if necessary, both the staff and the applicant/agent.

9. The Hearing Board will move into camera.

10. Members of the Hearing Board will move and second a motion.

11. A motion will be carried which will culminate in the decision.

12. The Hearing Board will move out of camera.

13. The Chairman or Acting Chairman will advise the owner/applicant of the Hearing Board decision.

14. If decision is "to refuse", the Chairman or Acting Chairman shall notify the owner/applicant of his/her right to appeal the decision to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry within 30 days of receipt of the reasons for the decision.

15. Motion to move out of Hearing Board and sit as Executive Committee.
Appendix 6 – Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee, Performance Committees, and Service Centres 2016-2018 Terms of Reference

The Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee is considered an advisory board of TRCA.

2019-2023 Terms of Reference: Partners in Project Green Executive Management Committee

1. Background

Partners in Project Green: A Pearson Eco-Business Zone was launched in 2008 by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA), with support from the regional municipalities of Peel and York, City of Toronto, and from the business community to create North America’s largest eco-business zone focused on driving environmental action and economic prosperity.

Developed to achieve watershed protection and aquatic ecosystem health within industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) lands, a major land use in TRCA’s urbanized watersheds, Partners in Project Green was intended to facilitate the engagement of partner municipalities and important IC&I stakeholders, acting as a catalyst to mobilize business communities within employment areas. Municipalities and businesses were not only encouraged to implement environmental projects in their own facilities but also to set community targets, overcome common challenges, and take on collective initiatives in the public and private realm at varying scales.

In 2008, the TRCA Board of Directors (then called the TRCA Authority) approved the implementation of Partners in Project Green: A Pearson Eco-Business Zone and the draft Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee, which included that the Steering Committee be a subcommittee of the TCRA Board of Director.

At the TRCA Authority Meeting #6/08, held on July 25, 2008, Resolution #A184/08 was approved, in part, as follows:

“WHEREAS “Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change: TRCA Action Plan for the Living City” identifies the establishment of North America’s largest eco-business zone as a major climate change mitigation initiative;
WHEREAS Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is committed to taking immediate action to support communities and partners in dealing with the climate change issue;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the key priorities contained in the draft Partners in Project Green Strategy, being eco-efficiency, resource re-utilization, renewable energy and green business development, be approved, in principle;

THAT the attached draft Terms of Reference for the Partners in Project Green Steering Committee be approved, and staff be authorized to establish the Steering Committee to begin the implementation of key priorities; …

AND FURTHER THAT the partners and supporters be formally recognized at the official project launch in early October 2008 at the Toronto Pearson International Airport.”

Since 2008, Partners in Project Green (PPG) has engaged hundreds of businesses around the Pearson Airport – one of Canada’s largest employment hubs with the second highest concentrations of jobs in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area – and across TRCA’s partner municipalities’ employment lands.

The PPG Executive Management Committee was established in response to a recommendation in the approved Partners in Project Green: Strategy in 2008 and later updated in 2013. The previous governance committees have been effective in driving meaningful actions and innovation throughout the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond. The governance structure as outlined in these Terms of Reference and Partners in Project Green: Strategy Refresh 2019-2023 allows for continuous improvement, flexibility, increased membership engagement and effective committee management.
2. Vision

The vision of Partners in Project Green is to grow the Pearson Eco-Business Zone model as an internationally recognized community of leaders advancing environmental action and economic prosperity across the Greater Toronto Area.

Executive Management Committee

2.1 Mandate

Reporting to the TRCA Board of Directors, the Executive Management Committee (EMC) is established as a subcommittee to the TRCA Board of Directors with the purpose of:

- assisting businesses in the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond to help improve their environmental performance while at the same time as improving costs;
- retaining and attracting clean and more environmentally friendly investments in the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond; and,
- acting as a catalyst for new ideas, innovation, excellence and improvement in the employment lands, with a focus on reducing environmental impacts, encompassed by the Pearson Eco-Business Zone and beyond.

2.2 Roles & Responsibilities

Specifically, the Executive Management Committee will be primarily responsible for:

- providing leadership and communication among Partners in Project Green members and supporters;
- acting as an ambassador for Partners in Project Green;
- reviewing and approving the Partners in Project Green strategy and programs as required;
- reviewing and approving the Partners in Project Green budget;
- monitoring overall Partners in Project Green priorities and performance;
- publishing an annual report; providing legal, governance and issue-resolution guidance relating to Partners in Project Green activities; and,
- reporting to the TRCA Board of Directors on budget and program performance and new strategic direction of PPG.
Secondary responsibilities shall include:

- facilitating access to strategic partners and advisors;
- where appropriate, serving as a resource and contact for media and government relations inquiries;
- appointing Chairs to any Subcommittees; and
- facilitating, initiating and directing resources to Subcommittees.

### 2.3 Structure

Supported by the Partners in Project Green Secretariat (Section 6), the PPG Executive Management Committee will have a Chair and Vice-Chair (or two Co-Chairs at the discretion of the Committee) and will be comprised of fourteen (14) Voting and as many as five (5) Advisory Members.

#### 2.3.1 PPG Executive Management Committee Voting Members

The Executive Management Committee will consist of fourteen (14) Voting Members including the Chair and Vice-Chair, senior-level representatives of the founding agencies (TRCA, GTAA, regional municipalities of Peel and York and the City of Toronto), strategic partners, members of the business community and a number of government representatives as follows:

- **GTAA** (one (1) voting representative and is Chair or Co-Chair of the Executive Management Committee)
  - One voting member will be selected from the executive leadership team at the GTAA.

- **Business Community Leaders** (Maximum of eight (8) voting representatives)
  - Seven members drawn from representatives of the Pearson Eco-Business Zone business community.

- **TRCA** (one (1) voting representative)
  - Chief Executive Officer or the Director of Community Engagement and Outreach.
• **Municipality Leaders** (Four (4) voting representatives)
  o Two representatives (Councillor or Designate) from the Region of Peel and one each from the municipalities financially supporting PPG programming (City of Toronto and the Regional Municipality of York).

2.3.2 **Executive Management Committee Advisory Members** (Maximum of five (5) non-voting representatives)

In addition to Voting Members, Advisory Members can be invited to join the Executive Management Committee and support its activities.

• **Federal, Provincial and/or Municipal Governments**
  o Member of Provincial Parliament, Member of Parliament, local municipal representative, and/or senior staff representatives from all levels of government may be invited to participate.

• **Business Community**
  o Sector-based expert advisors may be drawn from the Pearson Eco-Business Zone, representatives of the business community, and/or industry associations.

2.4 **Appointment Process**

Membership on the PPG Executive Management Committee will be drawn from organizations with connections to the Pearson Eco-Business Zone based on the following criteria:

• *Involvement with Partners in Project Green* – the organization must be a formal member of Partners in Project Green; and,

• *Sector* – whether the organization represents a critical sector within the Pearson Eco-Business Zone; or

• *Organizational leadership on sustainability* – whether the organization has shown sustainability leadership; or

• *Location* – whether the organization is operating and/or has a connection to the Pearson Eco-Business Zone.
PPG Executive Management Committee members will be appointed for a two-year, renewable term by the TRCA Board of Directors.

Municipalities and other levels of governments will be formally requested to make appointments and all proposed voting appointments will be presented to the TRCA Board of Directors for formal approval. The PPG Executive Management Committee may invite up to five Advisory Members at their discretion.

The Co-chair or Vice-Chair will be elected by the members of the PPG Executive Management Committee when the position becomes vacant.

Delegation of Committee roles & responsibilities shall not be encouraged, and managed by exception.

2.5 Chair and Vice-Chair

The Executive Management Committee Chair and Vice-Chair (or Co-Chairs) will provide leadership in building a shared vision and community commitment for moving forward with a blueprint for action. The Chair will have the following additional responsibilities:

- being the primary spokesperson for Partners in Project Green at public and official functions;
- presiding over Executive Management Committee meetings, setting the agenda and generally ensuring the effectiveness of meetings;
- recruiting Subcommittee members and sector-specific cluster, working group or consortium members; and
- facilitating progress on Partners in Project Green initiatives in collaboration with sector-specific cluster, working group or consortium chairs.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will perform the above functions.

2.6 Meetings

The Executive Management Committee will meet at least four (4) times per year, roughly every three (3) months. Meetings are anticipated to be approximately two (2) hours in length – at the discretion of the Executive Management Committee – and an agenda will be distributed in advance of meetings.

Members commit to attending scheduled Executive Management Committee meetings.
It is anticipated that members will commit at least four (4) days per year to prepare for and attend Executive Management Committee meetings. The Chair will have the discretion to call additional conference call meetings, if required.

2.7 Reporting

The PPG Executive Management Committee is responsible for reporting to the TRCA Board of Directors on PPG budget and program performance and new strategic direction of PPG.

The PPG Executive Management Committee is a subcommittee of the TRCA Board of Directors and will update the TRCA Board of Directors on the status of Partners in Project Green initiatives at least once a year or more, and provide updates to municipal councils and the GTAA board as requested.

2.8 Quorum & Governance

A quorum will consist of voting members in numbers greater than or equal to one-third of the total number of voting members on the Executive Management Committee, including at least one of the Chair/Vice-Chair or Co-Chairs.

Consensus-based decision making will be the preferred procedure. Formal decisions will be based on a simple majority vote. In the event of a tie, the presiding Chair/Vice-Chair or Co-Chair of the meeting will cast the deciding vote.

TRCA Code of Conduct and the Procurement Policy will be adhered to.

3. Subcommittees

3.1 Mandate

Subcommittees may be established by the Executive Management Committee. Subcommittees will be task-oriented and formed based on PPG Executive Management Committee priorities to:

- Contribute to the realization of the Partners in Project Green vision and Executive Management Committee mandate;
- Provide strategic guidance on PPG activities as a whole;
• Contribute to the successful development and implementation of new and existing Partners in Project Green programs and initiatives;

The Subcommittee Chair and Vice-Chair will be each from the business community and/or municipal representatives taken from the PPG Executive Management Committee.

Roles and responsibilities of Subcommittees will be determined by the PPG Executive Management Committee.

4. Sector-specific Clusters, Working Groups and Consortiums

4.1 Mandate

Sector-specific Clusters, Working Groups and Consortiums are formed by PPG staff to respond to strategic direction from the Executive Management Committee, Partners in Project Green members and/or to support the Partners in Project Green performance areas (e.g. energy, water, waste). These Sector-Specific Clusters, Working Groups and Consortiums would be time bound, have flexible structures and allow for a wide range of participants from the PPG community. The roles and responsibilities of these groups would be developed by staff and are designed to:

• provide value and engagement opportunities for our broader membership;

• advance the objectives of our performance areas related to reducing impacts on the natural environment;

• identify potential new performance areas; and

• result in collective action that advance new technologies or project implementation that lead to improvements to the natural environment.

5. PPG Secretariat

The PPG Executive Management Committee, Subcommittees and their Chairs, and Sector-specific Clusters, Working Groups and Consortiums will be supported by a secretariat led by TRCA staff. The PPG Secretariat will provide facilitation, project and program development and implementation, research and policy analysis, administrative and recruitment support, financial program stability and communications.
6. **Funding**

PPG Executive Management Committee and Subcommittee members will contribute their expertise as in-kind services. Compensation for transportation will be provided for attendance at meetings according to TRCA policy where these are not covered by their agency or other source. Core funding for Partners in Project Green will come from both public and private sector organizations, with specific funding for programs and projects being sought from a variety of funding sources. Grants from senior levels of government will be pursued by PPG Secretariat through the TRCA Grant Centre. Volunteers to support program delivery may also be pursued through TRCA’s Volunteer Policy.
APPENDIX A – Governance Structure and Delivery Chain

The following figure illustrate Partners in Project Green governance structure.
Appendix 7 – Regional Watershed Alliance Terms of Reference

The Regional Watershed Alliance (RWA) is considered an advisory board of TRCA.

1.0 Background
Since the 1980s, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority’s (TRCA, also known as the Authority) watershed and waterfront committees and task forces have been instrumental in supporting the development and implementation of TRCA’s watershed management activities. The Rouge Comprehensive Basin Management Strategy (1988), was TRCA’s first initiative supported by a citizen based “public committee.” The 1989 Greenspace Strategy committed to a program of watershed strategy development for each of TRCA’s watersheds in cooperation with a public advisory committee for each watershed. Over the past two decades, the Duffins-Carruthers Watershed Resource Group, Rouge Park Alliance, Don Watershed Regeneration Council, Humber Watershed Alliance and Etobicoke-Mimico Watersheds Coalition have played a significant role in building community stewardship capacity to help TRCA deliver on priorities of watersheds and waterfront. Watershed and waterfront residents and stakeholders are also engaged through Conservation Lands stewardship committees and integrated/multi-objective or sector-based programs such as Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plans (SNAP) and Partners in Project Green: A Pearson Eco-Business Zone (PPG).

TRCA’s 2013-2022 Strategic Plan highlights regional sustainability challenges of increasing scope and scale - such as preparing for the impacts of climate change, transitioning to a low carbon economy, managing urbanization and growth pressures. The Plan also calls for regional engagement of a broad cross-section of the population at both local and regional scales within TRCA’s jurisdiction. As such, in 2015, upon the completion of the existing terms for the Don, Humber and Etobicoke-Mimico watershed committees, the Authority directed staff to update TRCA’s community-focused engagement model in light of new trends and opportunities in civic engagement and to facilitate the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

On June 23, 2017, at Authority Meeting #5/17, the Community Engagement Strategy along with a new citizen governance model was adopted. The new citizen governance model includes the Regional Watershed Alliance, and its subcommittees; Youth Council, RWA Groups. An Indigenous Liaison Committee to the Board of Directors has also been approved as part of the proposed governance model (Figure 1). The RWA is a formal
advisory board of TRCA which will report to the Board of Directors on regular basis. Terms of Reference for the RWA were adopted at the October 27, 2017 Authority Meeting #8/17 (RES.#A178/17).

2.0 Mission and Mandate

**Mission:** Create healthy watersheds and waterfront that achieve The Living City Vision of sustainable communities, regional biodiversity and healthy rivers and shorelines through advocacy, knowledge sharing and collective action.

**Mandate:** Reporting to the Board of Directors (Figure 1) and working closely with Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation, the RWA will be established as an advisory board to TRCA with the purpose of:

- **Advocacy**
  - Advocacy for awareness, policy innovation and action within members’ sectors, communities and jurisdictions on regional and local environmental and sustainability issues.

- **Advisory**
  - Input on TRCA initiatives, act as a sounding board to TRCA staff, and advise the Board of Directors on matters of community interest.

- **Collective Action**
  - Priority setting and collective investment in key sustainability and environmental issues for cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral actions. Support and leadership to the development of platform and campaigns to bring actors and stakeholders together to drive solutions through collective action and resource sharing.

- **Reporting**
  - Reporting on collective outcomes on regional sustainability to the public, TRCA municipal partners and stakeholders. Reporting to the Board of Directors on its work.

3.0 Roles and Responsibilities

The Regional Watershed Alliance shall:

1) Adhere to the basic principles of sound ecosystem management and sustainability that recognizes the interrelationships between cultural heritage, physical characteristics, biological conditions and economic needs, and the integration of conservation, restoration, social and economic activities necessary for the health of
2) Forge partnerships and collaborations that build our collective capacity to advance the goals of TRCA’s Strategic Plan: Building The Living City 2013-2022 and TRCA Strategic Plan – Five Year Update, and provide a platform for collective action on cross-jurisdictional and cross-sectoral priorities;

3) Work with staff in setting regional and local priorities that help advance TRCA’s and its municipal partners objectives of sustainable communities, recommendations of TRCA’s 2017 Community Engagement Strategy, watershed plans, watershed report cards and The Living City Report Card;

4) Advocate on regional and local environmental policy issues through discussion papers, briefs and comments etc. and providing advice and comments to staff and the Board of Directors on relevant programs and policies impacting TRCA watersheds and communities. Examples include: TRCA’s Terrestrial Natural Heritage System Strategy; Sustainable Near-urban Agriculture Policy; watershed plans; TRCA Trails Strategy; and TRCA Greenspace Strategy;

5) Implement the recommendations of the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan as they pertain to the TRCA waterfront and watersheds;

6) Work collaboratively with TRCA staff and partners to develop state of the watershed reports and The Living City Report Card which will address jurisdiction-wide sustainability issues;

7) Through watershed forums, events and on-line engagement, provide a forum for watershed communication by maintaining and enhancing contacts within the community. Mobilize and empower networks of local communities to build capacity and influence people’s behavior;

8) Act as a resource to TRCA, TRCA’s municipal partners and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation by providing advice on matters of community interest;

9) Work with TRCA and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation to identify priorities, seek new partnerships, public sector investment and other sources of funding;
10) Establish subcommittees/working groups or standing committees as needed, the Watershed/Waterfront Working Groups and Youth Council, and collaborate with the Indigenous Liaison Committee as needed;

11) Seek political support at all levels of government;

12) Collaborate with other conservation authorities, municipalities, environmental non-government organizations (ENGO) and groups on opportunities that transcend TRCA jurisdictional boundaries;

13) Maximize the collective impact of TRCA and other environmental and sustainability champions in the region through resource and data sharing, measuring, and reporting on regional priorities; and

14) Report to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

4.0 Structure
Supported by TRCA staff, the RWA has a Chair, Vice-Chair, and is comprised of approximately 45 voting members.

4.1 Membership

4.1.1 Voting Members

The RWA members are recruited based on a diverse skill set, sector and community specific expertise, network connections, demonstrated leadership, experience, and knowledge of the watersheds within TRCA’s jurisdiction.

- **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority** (up to five voting representatives, Ex-officio)
  - Preferably one representative from each of TRCA’s appointing member municipalities from the Board of Directors or interested members.

- **Watershed Residents** (up to 20 voting representatives)
  - Up to 20 watershed residents selected from across TRCA’s nine watersheds and waterfront, aiming to have equal geographical and demographic
representation.

- **Sector Experts and Organizations** (up to 10 voting representatives)
  - Up to 10 members from non-government, think-tanks, business and special interest groups, representing diverse sectors including youth and Indigenous groups.

- **Municipal Representatives** (up to eight voting representatives, Ex-officio)
  - Representatives of municipalities within TRCA’s jurisdiction. These representatives could be political representatives representing the municipality or an Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) representative.

- **Provincial Representative** (up to one voting representative, Ex-officio)
  - Up to one political representative or senior staff from the Province of Ontario.

- **Federal Representative** (up to one voting representative, Ex-officio)
  - Up to one local political representative or senior staff from the Government of Canada.

### 4.1.2 Non-Voting Experts

In addition to voting members, one to two non-voting experts with extensive experience in public sector or subject matter expertise can be invited to join the RWA. These experts could be former TRCA or other conservation authority (CA) staff and are not required to be a resident of TRCA’s watersheds. Senior municipal staff liaison may also be invited to join.

### 4.1.3 Guests

The Regional Watershed Alliance meetings are open to the public. Municipal or other agency staff may be invited as guests to offer presentations or participate in discussions on relevant issues. Guests will not have voting privileges nor be eligible for travel expenses to and from meetings.

### 4.1.4 Chair or Vice-Chair

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the RWA will be elected from amongst its members for
a two-year term, following TRCA Administrative By-law election procedure. It is a responsibility of a nominated Member to ensure their eligibility for the entire term.

The RWA Chair and Vice-Chair will provide leadership in building a shared vision and commitment for moving forward with the Regional Watershed Alliance’s mission, mandate and responsibilities.

The Chair will have the following additional responsibilities:

- Presiding over RWA meetings, setting the agenda and generally ensuring the effectiveness of meetings; and
- Recruiting new members to the RWA when openings arise.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will perform the above functions.

4.2 Appointment Process

4.2.1 Board of Directors Representatives

Board Members will be appointed by the Board of Directors as Ex-officio voting representatives.

4.2.2 Watershed Residents

Applications from watershed residents will be solicited through direct recruitment, announcements in newsletters, local newspapers, web sites, volunteer networks, and through various social media platforms. A committee of TRCA staff and/or board members will select the RWA resident members through the application process using a set of criteria to ensure suitability and eligibility.

4.2.3 Sector Experts and Organizations

Select organizations and agencies will be requested by TRCA to appoint a representative.

4.2.4 Municipal Representatives

Formal request for appointment of municipal representatives will be made to
municipal councils. These representatives will be Ex-officio members.

4.2.5 Provincial and Federal Representatives

Federal and provincial representatives (member of Parliament or staff) with specific interest in TRCA’s work and jurisdiction may be invited to participate as Ex-officio members.

4.3 Term of Appointment

RWA Members will be appointed for a revolving two-year term with a possible extension of up to two more years. This will allow for a staggered replacement process maintaining a balance between new and experienced members. The membership will be reviewed on an annual basis. Members, excluding Ex-officio members, unable to fulfill their commitments may be replaced as per the Board of Directors Administrative By-law.

4.4 Meetings

Members are required to attend quarterly evening meetings of the Regional Watershed Alliance and one annual Watershed Forum. An agenda will be circulated in advance of meetings.

The Chair will have the discretion to call additional meetings, if required. Some meetings may be held during regular work hours depending on the preference and availability of members and staff or via conference call or online meetings.

4.5 Reporting

The RWA is considered an advisory board of TRCA. The RWA will report to the Board of Directors on membership, projects and progress through their meeting minutes or seek Board of Directors approval as necessary on specific initiatives.

The RWA is not a formal commenting body regarding review and approval of planning applications or permits.
4.6 Quorum and Governance

A quorum will consist of voting members in numbers greater than or equal to one-third of the total number of voting members on the RWA.

Consensus-based decision making will be the preferred procedure. Formal decisions will be based on a simple majority vote. In the event of a tie, the vote fails.

4.7 Rules of Conduct

The RWA will adhere to the Board of Directors Administrative By-law as adopted by Resolution #A141/18 & Resolution #A142/18 at Authority Meeting #7/18, held on September 28, 2018, and as amended periodically or superseded by any bylaws enacted as per the Conservation Authorities Act. Other policies and legislation may be applicable in regard to code of conduct, conflict of interest and policies on volunteers.

4.8 TRCA Staff Support

The RWA will be supported by a team of staff from Community Engagement and Outreach Division including:

- Director, Community Engagement and Outreach;
- Government and Community Relationship specialists;
- projects managers;
- administrative support staff;
- other TRCA staff, as required

Staff will provide the following support functions:

- Coordination of RWA meetings;
- Administrative and financial support;
- Strategic guidance on alignment of RWA work plan priorities with other strategic opportunities;
- Coordination of work with the Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation;
- Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation support for management of any
funds collectively raised by the RWA or any of its subcommittees that support the implementation of their work plans; and

- TRCA technical expertise on projects and initiatives of the Regional Watershed Alliance and its subcommittees.

4.9 Funding

Funding will be available for projects and activities of the RWA based on approved work plans and available TRCA budget. Members are encouraged to assist in securing other resources and partnerships for Regional Watershed Alliance projects and activities, whenever possible through collective public investment opportunities. In-kind or other support for the projects and activities of the Alliance are welcome from businesses, industries, government agencies, private foundations, educational institutions and others in accordance with TRCA policies. In-kind or other support will be coordinated with the assistance of Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation, where appropriate.

5.0 Compensation For Regional Watershed Alliance Members

At official RWA meetings, as well as RWA Working Groups, members will be eligible for travel expenses, according to TRCA Administrative By-law, where these are not covered by their agency or other source. Members shall not receive a per diem or honorarium for attendance at meetings and functions.

6.0 Regional Watershed Alliance Working Groups

The RWA working groups will be formed as deemed appropriate by the RWA. These working groups may solicit local community representatives or experts to participate as needed. Mandate of these working groups can be watershed-wide or specifically focused around projects such as watershed plans. The RWA Working Groups will report to the RWA. The supporting TRCA staff will coordinate regular reports to the RWA on the activities of these groups.

Items pertaining to the working groups will be a standing item on the agenda of RWA meetings.

7.0 Youth Council

The Youth Council will be comprised of community youth champions, existing youth group representatives and new recruits. The Youth Council reports to the Regional Watershed Alliance.
7.1 **Mission**: Build healthy communities through improved connection to greenspace and nature.

7.2 **Mandate**: Reporting to the Regional watershed Alliance (Figure 1) and working closely with TRCA and the RWA, the Youth Council will establish as a subcommittee to the RWA with the purpose of:

- 7.2.1 *Build Capacity and engage Youth* – provide youth across the Toronto region with learning opportunities;
- 7.2.2 *Build a Youth Network/ Strengthen Existing Networks* – create/enhance broad network of youth in the region who are interested in environmental and sustainability issues;
- 7.2.3 *Identify Youth Perspectives* – develop an understanding of youth opinion around current environmental issues and understand/investigate how these might be incorporated in the work of TRCA and its partners; and
- 7.2.4 *Create fun opportunities for youth* – provide entertaining and engaging learning opportunities.

**8.0 Indigenous Liaison Committee**

The Indigenous Liaison Committee will be comprised of members and experts from different Indigenous communities in TRCA’s jurisdiction. They will liaise on Indigenous interests and help build stronger relationships between TRCA and the larger Indigenous population in the jurisdiction. This Committee will advise the Board of Directors and staff on matters of community interest and liaise with the Regional Watershed Alliance on mission-driven collective projects. The Committee will not have a reporting relationship with the Regional Watershed Alliance or the Board of Directors.

The member(s) of this Committee may have membership on the Regional Watershed Alliance. This Committee will have opportunities to work with the Watershed/Waterfront Working Groups and Youth Council. TRCA staff and relevant stakeholders will collaborate on the development of a Terms of Reference for this Committee.

The formation of the Indigenous Liaison Committee will be put on hold until further recommendation from the province through updates to the Conservation authorities Act as stated in RES.#RWA002/17 at the RWA meeting #1/17, held on November 15, 2017.
Figure 1: TRCA Citizen Governance Model
Appendix 8 – Toronto and Region Outdoor Education Task Force Terms of Reference

The Toronto and Region Outdoor Education Task Force is considered an advisory board of TRCA.

1. Context
   1.1. Establishment of a multi-stakeholder task force to develop and recommend strategic future directions related to out-of-class learning in the Toronto region.
   1.2. Meet the future needs of the student population in the Toronto region as it relates to outdoor education, and ensure equity of access to programs and services.

2. Objectives
   2.1. Develop and identify strategic priorities and make recommendations related to the long-term provision of out-of-class learning experiences that meet the needs of student populations in the Toronto region to the year 2040.
   2.2. Provide recommendations to strengthen and enable partnerships and collaboration between public sector agencies that maximize the use and value of public assets and infrastructure.
   2.3. Provide expertise and recommendations on strengthening experiential connections between the urban and natural environments, with consideration for the impact of urban intensity on student access to greenspace and natural systems.
   2.4. Provide recommendations related to long-term financial sustainability, including, but not limited to:
      2.4.1. Government funding programs;
      2.4.2. Private grants, fundraising and endowments;
      2.4.3. Alternative business models (co-operatives, social enterprises, etc.);
      2.4.4. Other funding models.

3. Authority and Boundaries
   3.1. To study and make recommendations to the TRCA Board of Directors on improvements and future needs related to outdoor education in the Toronto region.
   3.2. The minutes of the Task Force will be received by the Board of Directors.
3.3. The work of the Task Force is to meet needs located wholly or partially within the school boards of TRCA’s municipalities.

4. Composition and Elections
4.1. Membership to consist of:
   4.1.1 School Board Trustee from each of the area school boards (11);
   4.1.2 Board Member representing each participating municipality (five) as appointed by the Board of Directors.

4.2. Term of appointment is 18 months.

4.3. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected from amongst its Members for the term of the Task Force. The Board of Directors may appoint an interim Chair until such time as an election can take place. The voting procedures used will be that outlined in the Board of Directors Administration By-law.

4.4. Establish subcommittees/working groups or standing committees as needed.

5. Resources and support
5.1 TRCA staff to act as Clerk, arranging meeting logistics, preparing the agenda, maintaining meeting minutes, tracking and delegating action items, with support from the Clerk’s Office.

5.2 Director, Education and Training to provide general support in regard to the activities and actions of the Task Force.

5.3 At regular Task Force meetings, Members will be eligible for travel expenses and any other expenses approved in advance by TRCA’s Director, Education and Training, according to TRCA policy, where these are not covered by their agency or other source. Members shall not receive a per diem or honorarium for attendance at meetings and functions.

6. Expectations of each member
6.1 Work collaboratively with Task Force Members to study and develop recommendations related to the mandate.

6.2 Represent their school board;
6.3 Board Members to represent the interest of TRCA and/or those of their participating municipality;

6.4 Attend meetings to be held bi-monthly, or more frequently as required;

6.5 Act as a resource to TRCA, TRCA’s municipal partners and Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation by providing advice on matters of community interest;

6.6 Collaborate with other conservation authorities and lower tier municipalities on opportunities that transcend TRCA jurisdictional boundaries;

6.7 Maximize the collective impact of the Task Force through resource and data sharing, measuring, and reporting on regional priorities;

6.8 Report to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

7. Roles of specific members

7.1 The Chair will have the following additional responsibilities:

7.1.1 Presiding over Task Force meetings, setting the agenda and generally ensuring the effectiveness of meetings;

7.2.1 In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair will perform the above functions.

8. Governance

8.1 Chair to set agenda for meetings.

8.2 Quorum to consist of one-half of the Members. If there is no quorum within one half hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the Chair for the meeting shall declare the meeting adjourned due to a lack of a quorum, or shall recess until quorum arrives, and the Clerk shall record the names of the Members present and absent. If during a meeting a quorum is lost, then the Chair shall declare that the meeting shall stand recessed or adjourned, until the date of the next regular meeting or other meeting called in accordance with the provisions of the Board of Directors Administrative By-law. Agenda items may be covered and presented and issues discussed, but no formal recommendation may be made by the remaining Members which do not constitute a quorum.

8.3 Task Force is an advisory board of the Board of Directors and as such does not have decision-making power, but shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors.
9. Communication

9.1 The Task Force makes recommendations to the Board of Directors.

9.2 Each member reports back to their appointing agency as required.
G. Appendices – Reference Documents

Appendix 9 – Related Documents

This By-law references the following TRCA policy documents:

1. Signing Officers
2. Records and Information Management
3. Open Information and Data
4. Indemnification
5. Use of Resources During an Election
6. Workplace Harassment
7. Conflict of Interest - Employee Participation in Municipal, Provincial or Federal Elections
8. Sustainable Near-urban Agriculture
9. Accounts Receivable
10. Employee Business Expenses, Travel and Conference Protocols
11. Volunteer
Appendix 10 – Sections of the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Section 19

By-laws

19.1 (1) An authority may make by-laws,

(a) respecting the meetings to be held by the authority, including providing for the calling of the meetings and the procedures to be followed at meetings, specifying which meetings, if any, may be closed to the public;

(b) prescribing the powers and duties of the secretary-treasurer;

(c) designating and empowering officers to sign contracts, agreements and other documents on behalf of the authority;

(d) delegating all or any of its powers to the executive committee except,

(i) the termination of the services of the secretary-treasurer,

(ii) the power to raise money, and

(iii) the power to enter into contracts or agreements other than those contracts or agreements as are necessarily incidental to the works approved by the authority;

(e) providing for the composition of its executive committee and for the establishment of other committees that it considers advisable and respecting any other matters relating to its governance;

(f) respecting the roles and responsibilities of the members of the authority and of its officers and senior staff;

(g) requiring accountability and transparency in the administration of the authority including,

(i) providing for the retention of records specified in the by-laws and for making the records available to the public,

(ii) establishing a code of conduct for the members of the authority, and
(iii) adopting conflict of interest guidelines for the members of the authority;

(h) respecting the management of the authority’s financial affairs, including auditing and reporting on the authority’s finances;

(i) respecting the by-law review required under subsection (3) and providing for the frequency of the reviews; and

(j) respecting such other matters as may be prescribed by Regulation.
Conflict with other laws

(2) If a by-law made by an authority conflicts with any provision of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act or the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or a provision of a regulation made under one of those Acts, the provision of the Act or regulation prevails.

Periodic review of by-laws

(3) At such regular intervals as may be determined by by-law, an authority shall undertake a review of all of its by-laws to ensure, amongst other things, that the by-laws are in compliance with any Act referred to in subsection (2) or any other relevant law.

By-laws available to public

(4) An authority shall make its by-laws available to the public in the manner it considers appropriate.

Transition

(5) An authority shall make such by-laws under this section as are required for its proper administration,

(a) in the case of an authority that was established on or before the day section 16 of Schedule 4 to the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017 comes into force, within one year of that day; and

(b) in the case of an authority that is established after the day section 16 of Schedule 4 to the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017 comes into force, within one year of the day the authority is established.

Same

(6) Despite the repeal of section 30 by section 28 of Schedule 4 to the Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017, a regulation that was made by an authority under that section continues in force after the repeal until the earlier of,
(a) the day that is one year after the day section 16 of Schedule 4 to the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017* comes into force; and

(b) the day the regulation is revoked by the authority.

**Direction by Minister**

(7) The Minister may give an authority a written direction to make or amend a by-law on any matter described in subsection (1), in accordance with the direction, within such period of time as may be specified in the direction.

**Compliance**

(8) The authority that receives a direction under subsection (7) shall comply with the direction within the time specified in the direction.

**Regulation where failure to comply**

(9) If an authority fails to adopt a by-law in accordance with the direction made under subsection (7), the Minister may make regulations in relation to the matters set out in the direction that are applicable in the area of jurisdiction of the authority.

**Same**

(10) Any regulation made by the Minister under subsection (9) prevails over any conflicting by-law that the authority may have adopted.
Section 21(1)

Programs and services

21.1 (1) The following are the programs and services that an authority is required or permitted to provide within its area of jurisdiction:

1. Mandatory programs and services that are required by regulation.

2. Municipal programs and services that the authority agrees to provide on behalf of municipalities situated in whole or in part within its area of jurisdiction under a memorandum of understanding referred to in subsection (3).

3. Such other programs and services as the authority may determine are advisable to further its objects. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (1).

Mandatory programs and services

(2) Programs and services referred to in paragraph 1 of subsection (1) shall be provided in accordance with such standards and requirements as may be set out in the regulations. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (1).

Memorandum of understanding with municipalities

(3) An authority may enter into a memorandum of understanding with a municipality situated in whole or in part within its area of jurisdiction in respect of programs and services that the authority will provide on behalf of the municipality. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (1).

Note: On a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, section 21.1 of the Act is amended by adding the following subsection: (See: 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (2))
Memorandum available to public

(3.1) An authority shall make a memorandum of understanding referred to in subsection (3) available to the public in such manner as may be determined in the memorandum. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (2).

Periodic review of memorandum

(4) An authority and a municipality who have entered into a memorandum of understanding described in subsection (3) shall review the memorandum at such regular intervals as may be determined by the memorandum. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (1).

Municipal programs and services

(5) Programs and services that an authority agrees to provide on behalf of a municipality shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the memorandum of understanding or in such other agreement as may be entered into by the authority and the municipality. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (1).

Consultation

(6) An authority shall carry out such consultations with respect to the programs and services it provides as may be required by regulation and shall do so in the manner specified by regulation. 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (1).

Section Amendments with date in force (d/m/y)

2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (1) - 12/12/2017; 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 20 (2) - not in force

Note: On a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor, the Act is amended by adding the following section: (See: 2017, c. 23, Sched. 4, s. 21)