
To: UTRCA Board of Directors
From: Tracy Annett
Date: June 12, 2023
Agenda #: 8.3
Subject: Quarterly Progress Report #5 - Inventory of Programs and Services

Recommendation

THAT the UTRCA Board of Directors receive the report for information.

Background

As a requirement under Ontario Regulation 687/21, the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) developed and approved a Transition Plan (December 17, 2021) and Inventory of Programs and Services (February 28, 2022). The Inventory of Programs and Services is based on the three categories identified in the Regulation. These categories include (1) Mandatory, (2) Municipally requested, and (3) Other (Authority determines are advisable).

As required under Ontario Regulation 687/21 and identified in UTRCA's Transition Plan, the UTRCA is providing its fifth Progress Report. Under the regulation the progress reports must include the following;

- Any comments or other feedback submitted by a municipality regarding the inventory
- A summary of any changes that the Authority has made to the inventory to address comments or other feedback, including a copy of the amended inventory and description of changes
- An update on the progress of negotiations on cost apportioning agreements with participating municipalities
- Any difficulties that the Authority is experiencing might affect the ability of the Authority to enter into cost apportioning agreements with participating municipalities by the transition date.

Discussion:

Progress made since the first quarterly report are summarized below:

- 1. Municipal Comments and Feedback**
 - a. No additional comments have been provided.
- 2. Summary of Changes to Inventory of Programs and Services:**

- a. No revisions to the Inventory of Programs and Services have been made since the last report. It is anticipated that the Inventory will be revised when a mid-year budget update is completed.
- 3. Update on Progress of Negotiations with Participating Municipalities on Category 2 and 3 Programs and Services:**
 - a. UTRCA staff have worked collaboratively with the Southwest Conservation Authorities on finalizing a Cost Apportionment Agreement for Category 2 and 3 Programs and Services. Feedback is being sought from municipal staff.
 - b. Staff have been collaborating with neighbouring CA's (where feasible) to schedule further discussions with participating municipalities.
- 4. Difficulties Reaching Transition Plan Date:**
 - a. As noted in the previous reports, discussions have been initially delayed due to the municipal elections and more recently delayed as a result of uncertainty raised by the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and regulations.
 - b. For these reasons the UTRCA may request an extension from the Ministry to the deadlines stipulated in O.Reg. 687 later this year. We are hopeful an extension will not be necessary.

The quarterly progress report will be posted on the UTRCA website and submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in accordance with Ontario Regulation 687/21.

Prepared by:

Tracy Annett, General Manager