



Staff Report

Infrastructure and Public Works

Report To: Committee of the Whole
Meeting Date: January 14, 2019
Report Number: CSPW.19.010
Subject: Environmental Sustainability Fund Distribution
Prepared by: Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste and Special Projects

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report CSPW.19.010, "Environmental Sustainability Fund Distribution";

AND THAT Council approve the distribution of funds as outlined in the "TBM Sustainability Fund" Terms of Reference as follows:

Beaver River Watershed Initiative: \$3,000; and

Beaver Valley Outreach: \$2,000.

B. Overview

A Staff committee has reviewed and evaluated three applications made to the Town's Environmental Sustainability Fund. The evaluation has resulted in a recommendation to distribute a total of \$5,000 to the Thornbury Community Gardens project led by Beaver Valley Outreach and a project that will conduct a Health Check on the Little Beaver River led by the Beaver River Watershed Initiative in association with Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.

C. Background

Council approved the creation of a Sustainability Fund (Staff Report CSPW.17.090) to provide financial support to projects that advance sustainability in The Blue Mountains. A fund of \$5,000 to be distributed to local sustainable/environmental projects was created. A terms of reference guides the distribution of the funds.

D. Analysis

Three applications were received in November of 2018. The Staff Committee, consisting of Cameron Wilson, Public Works Maintenance and Compliance Coordinator, Denis Whaley, Planner II and Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste and Special Projects, reviewed and

evaluated the applications and based on the nature of the applications and the requested amounts concluded and recommend the following distribution of funds:

- Beaver River Watershed Initiative – Little Beaver Creek Health Check, sampling and surveys: \$3,000; and
- Beaver Valley Outreach – education and installation of protective fencing at the Thornbury Community Gardens: \$2,000.

An application was received from Elephant Thoughts related to the construction of an outdoor education centre located in Kimbercote which is outside of the Town. One of the mandatory criteria is for the Fund to support projects that are “implemented and physically located in Town of The Blue Mountains”. As such, the eligibility was not met and no funding will be distributed to this project.

The Committee decided on the above distribution of funds based on the scoring related to the terms of reference criteria. The applicants were scored in the following areas:

- Project description and articulation of benefits;
- People, partnerships and performance measurement;
- Level of impact;
- Project feasibility; and
- Planning.

E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan

Goal #1: Create Opportunities for Sustainability
Objective #5 Improved Visibility and Local Identity

F. Environmental Impacts

This fund will work to provide significant financial resources to meaningful projects and provide demonstrable, widespread and lasting environmental benefits in The Blue Mountains.

G. Financial Impact

Applicants will receive half the outlined funds immediately following Council approval and the remainder upon completion of the project. The applicants have one year to complete the project.

The distribution of funds to the Beaver Valley Outreach and the Thornbury Community Gardens project will be contingent on the land use agreement the Town had with Free Spirit Gardens being transferred or re-established with the Beaver Valley Outreach for use of the lands at the Beaver Valley Community Centre.

The total funds to be distributed from the 2018 budget will be \$5,000. The 2019 draft budget will carry \$5,000 for the distribution in late 2019.

H. In Consultation With

Ruth Prince, Director of Finance and IT

Aaron McMullen, Facility Manager

I. Public Engagement

The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Jeffery Fletcher, managersolidwaste@thebluemountains.ca.

J. Attached

None

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery Fletcher

Jeffery Fletcher,
Manager of Solid Waste and Special Projects

Reg Russwurm

Reg Russwurm, MBA, P.Eng
Director of Infrastructure and Public Works

For more information, please contact:

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