



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Planning Division

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	August 10, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Biodiversity Action Plan – Execution of Agreement with the Hamilton Naturalists' Club (PED21065(a)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Lauren Vraets (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2634
SUBMITTED BY:	Steve Robichaud Director, Planning and Chief Planner Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the Municipal Contribution Agreement, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED21065(a)), between the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Naturalists' Club for a one-time funding contribution towards hiring a project coordinator for the development of a Biodiversity Action Plan, be approved; and,
- (b) That the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development (or their designate) and the General Manager of Public Works (or their designate) be authorized and directed to sign the Municipal Contribution Agreement, attached as Appendix "A" to Report PED21065(a), on behalf of the City of Hamilton.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff from the City of Hamilton's Planning and Economic Development Department and Public Works Department have been working with local environmental organizations and Conservation Authorities to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The development of the BAP requires a project coordinator position to be funded at a local environmental organization. The Hamilton Naturalists' Club (HNC) will be the lead organization responsible for hiring and managing a BAP project coordinator. The BAP coordinator position at the HNC will require external funding.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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City Council, at its meeting of April 14, 2021, approved a recommendation that the City of Hamilton commit a total combined one-time financial contribution of \$40,000 towards the BAP coordinator position from the Planning Division and Hamilton Water Division budgets. Staff were directed to prepare an Agreement between the City and the HNC for the disbursement of the funds, and to present the draft Agreement back to Committee and Council for final approval. Legal Services staff have been involved in the drafting of the recommended agreement.

The purpose of this Report is to present the draft Municipal Contribution Agreement (‘Agreement’) between the City and the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED21065(a) to the Planning Committee and Council, and to seek authorization and direction for the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development (or their designate) and the General Manager of Public Works (or their designate) to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 4

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The Planning and Economic Development Department, Planning Division, will contribute \$20,000 from the annual 2021 Data Management for Natural Areas account (812020-54378).

Hamilton Water, Public Works Department has identified a potential one-time contribution of \$20,000 from account 510360-55916.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: The Municipal Contribution Agreement has been prepared by the City’s Legal Services Division to ensure that the City’s funds are used appropriately for the fulfilment of the roles and responsibilities of the BAP Coordinator.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On April 7, 2021, Planning Division staff presented Report PED21065 to the General Issues Committee, outlining the feasibility of developing a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) for Hamilton in partnership with local environmental organizations. The Report noted the timely development of a BAP for Hamilton requires a project coordinator position be funded at a local environmental organization.

As a result of Report PED21065, the City’s General Issues Committee approved a recommendation authorizing a one-time financial contribution of \$20,000 from the Planning and Economic Development and \$20,000 from the Public Works Department / Hamilton Water Division.

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City staff were also authorized to prepare an Agreement between the City and the HNC to ensure the \$40,000 in one-time funding would be used appropriately for the required roles and responsibilities of the BAP coordinator. City staff were directed to report back to the General Issues Committee and Council with the draft Agreement between the City and the HNC. On June 9, 2021, Council approved a motion from the General Issues Committee (Item 13.1.c) to have the BAP draft funding agreement report, and all future reports regarding the BAP, referred to the Planning Committee.

Appendix “A” to Report PED21065(a) is the draft Agreement recommended for approval between the City of Hamilton and the HNC.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Planning Division staff have consulted with staff from Legal and Risk Management Services, Corporate Services Division with regard to the Agreement. Legal Services staff have prepared the draft Agreement attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED21065(a).

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The term ‘biodiversity’ refers to the variety of life on earth. It includes all living things, such as bacteria, fungi, insects, plants, fish and wildlife, and humans. Biodiversity is the variety of living organisms that form an interconnected web of life that make up a healthy and resilient environment.

At a local and global scale biodiversity is in a state of decline. To protect and rehabilitate Hamilton’s unique biodiversity assets, a coordinated approach is needed between the City of Hamilton and local community environmental partners. A Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) will assist in ensuring that there are clear goals, and actionable strategies for protecting, enhancing and restoring biodiversity in Hamilton. To develop a BAP for Hamilton in a timely manner (approximately 12 months), a project coordinator at a local environmental organization is needed. The BAP coordinator would be responsible for writing and researching related to the BAP, assisting in developing the proposed areas of focus and subsequent actions, leadership of, and administration for, the multi-organizational working group, communicating about the BAP to the public, and preparing the final BAP report.

Appendix “A” to Report PED21065(a) presents the draft Municipal Contribution Agreement between the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club. The Agreement is required to ensure that the funding from the City is used appropriately to

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assist in funding the BAP Coordinator position and any additional staff or sub-contracted staff to carry out the deliverables of developing the BAP.

Staff recommend that the Committee and Council endorse the Agreement and authorize and direct the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development Department (or his designate) and the General Manager of Public Works Department (or his designate) to sign the Agreement with the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club on behalf of the City.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Do not endorse the Municipal Contribution Agreement between the City and the Hamilton Naturalists’ Club. This alternative is not recommended, as the timely development of the BAP is dependent on the HNC hiring a staff person to lead the project.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: No financial implications for the City, however financial implications for the HNC who will need to find alternative funding to assist with hiring the BAP Coordinator.

Staffing: The HNC will not be able to hire a contract staff person for the BAP. City Staff may need to take on more responsibility for BAP development if a project coordinator cannot be hired by the HNC.

Legal: N/A

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

Clean and Green

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

Community Engagement and Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix "A" – Draft Municipal Contribution Agreement between the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Naturalists' Club