

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: March 27, 2012

MOVED BY COUNCILLORB. McHATTIE

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Funding Agreement with the Hamilton Conservation Authority for the purpose of supporting the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park area

Whereas, Hamilton City Council has endorsed the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park Strategy and the City of Hamilton has a seat on the project steering committee, and;

And Whereas, the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park area from Dundas to Burlington connecting the Cootes Paradise Marsh and the Grindstone Creek Estuary to the Niagara Escarpment is one of the richest biological areas in Canada, and represents the only location on the north side of Lake Ontario where the Niagara Escarpment is connected to the Great Lakes without being interrupted by a 400 series highway, and;

And Whereas, this corridor faces intense pressures from the surrounding urbanized portions of Hamilton and Burlington, and major transportation arteries such as Highways 403 and 6, and;

And Whereas, since 2009, the City of Hamilton has supported the concept of acquisition of natural areas through the establishment of a Natural Areas Acquisition Fund.

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton enter into a funding agreement with the Hamilton Conservation Authority for the purpose of supporting land acquisition in the Cootes to Escarpment Eco-Park area;
- (b) That said funding agreement total \$250,000 for 2012 and be funded from the following sources:

- (i) \$50,000 from the Unallocated Capital Reserve (108020) that was approved through the 2012 capital budget process for the purpose of the Cootes Paradise to Escarpment land acquisition project
- (ii) \$100,000 through closing and transferring the uncommitted and unspent funding from capital project 8121159100 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund; and
- (iii) \$100,000 through the 2011 tax supported operating surplus.