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REMUNERATION - MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND LOCAL BOARDS

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide a statement, required by legislation, of the remuneration and expenses paid in the preceding year to each member of council in respect of his or her services as a member of council, and to a member of council or other person who has been appointed by the Council to serve as a member of a local board.

3. BACKGROUND

Section 284(1) of the Municipal Act requires the Treasurer of every municipality to submit to Council on or before the 31st day of March in each year, a statement of remuneration and expenses for the preceding year paid to members of council and local boards.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

Attachment 1 sets out remuneration and expenses for Members of Council for 2003. Remuneration to the Regional Chair and Members of Regional Council is paid under the authority of By-law A-215(a)-2000-001. Expenses are paid from funds approved in the 2003 Regional Budget adopted on February 20, 2003.

Effective January 1, 2003, the Region entered into an agreement with each of the local municipalities to administer a single payer system for councillor remuneration at the local municipality level. Under the terms of the agreements, the municipalities pay their respective members of Regional Council on behalf of the Region. The remuneration is paid pursuant to the terms of By-law A-215(a)-2000-001. The Region on a cost recovery basis for salary, OMERS pension contributions and any additional costs that may occur, reimburses the municipalities. Insured benefits, such as life and disability are provided at the local level and the Region reimburses incremental costs incurred by the municipality as a result of the single payer arrangement. Because benefit coverage varies from municipality to municipality, the costs incurred by the Region for each member of council also varies.

Following the provincial and municipal elections in the fall of 2003, several councillors did not return to serve on Regional Council. The affected councillors are entitled to

severance payments under the authority of By-law A-214(a)-2000-002. The payments were expensed in 2003 and are included in the remuneration reported in Attachment 1.

Also, attached are letters from the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (attachments 2 and 3 respectively) listing payments made by the Authority to Members of Regional Council or other persons appointed by Council to serve as a member of the authority.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Annual remuneration and expenses for Members of Council are included in the annual operating budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The local municipalities pay their respective Regional Councillors on behalf of the Region. The municipalities invoice the Region for the Region's portion of salaries and associated benefits. The single payer arrangement between the Region and the local municipalities does not result in any increased costs to the local municipalities.

(A copy of the attachment referred to in the foregoing is included with this report and is also on file in the Office of the Regional Clerk.)