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November 16, 2023

By Email: [clerks@brantford.ca](mailto:clerks@brantford.ca); [kdavis@brantford.ca](mailto:kdavis@brantford.ca)  
copy: [bhutchings@brantford.ca](mailto:bhutchings@brantford.ca)

City of Brantford Office of the Mayor and Council  
100 Wellington Square  
Brantford ON N3T 5R7

Dear Mayor Davis and City of Brantford Council,

**Re: Funding Agreement Request – Outdoor Environmental Education Program and Apps' Mill Nature Centre**

At a meeting of the General Membership of the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) on October 27, 2023, staff were directed to contact the County of Brant and the City of Brantford to inquire about their interest in entering into agreements to provide funding toward the operating and capital costs for the Outdoor Environmental Education Program and the Apps' Mill Nature Centre facility and grounds. The total amount of funding requested is \$265,000, which includes \$70,000 to cover the operating deficit and \$195,000 in capital maintenance and project support costs for continuing to operate this Program at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre.

The projected operating deficit for the overall Program is estimated to be \$312,000 in 2024, of which \$70,000 represents the deficit associated with continuing to operate at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre and includes costs for cleaning and routine maintenance, and additional capital maintenance project and staff support.

In 2022, a condition assessment was conducted by a consultant at the Apps Mill NC property. That assessment identified several capital maintenance projects, some of which have been completed since that time. The recommended capital maintenance projects for the 2022-2024 period that have not been completed to date and are not currently budgeted for in the Outdoor Environmental Education Program amount to approximately \$185,000. Between 2025 and 2042, there are an additional \$1,838,500 (in 2022 dollars) of capital maintenance projects recommended, and additional related capital maintenance project support costs would also be incurred.

If your municipality is interested in discussing this further, please contact me at [slawson@grandriver.ca](mailto:slawson@grandriver.ca) or 519-621-2763, ext.2210 by January 19, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Lawson".

Samantha Lawson  
Chief Administrative Officer