



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL**  
**PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP**  
**MINUTES**  
**PAAWG 2023-01 Inaugural and Orientation Meeting**

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) met on March 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Peel Conference Centre located at 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite B, Brampton, Ontario. The meeting was also available through virtual participation via Microsoft Teams.

**Members Present:** Raphael Adegboye, Representative of the Agricultural Community  
Tom Dolson, Peel Federation of Agriculture  
Annette Groves, Mayor, Town of Caledon  
Karen Hutchinson, Caledon Countryside Alliance  
Dwight Matson, Peel Federation of Agriculture  
Manjari Mehta, Citizen-at-Large  
Gary Mountain, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
Mark Vanderwees, Citizen-at-Large  
Brian Wannamaker, Citizen-at-Large

**Members Absent:** Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton  
Pat Fortini, Regional Councillor, Region of Peel  
Britt McKee, Ecosource  
Ed Russell, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association

**Staff:** Charmaine Dos Santos, Council and Community Relations Officer, Region of Peel  
Mark Head, Manager, Planning & Development Services, Region of Peel  
Petrele Francois, Co-op Student, Region of Peel  
Yathartha Singh, Intermediate Planner, Region of Peel  
Melanie Williams, Principal Planner, Region of Peel  
Duncan Ivany, Co-ordinator, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation  
Holly Shipclark, Senior Co-ordinator, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation  
Patrick Esson, Senior Project Manager, Toronto & Region Conservation

**Guests:** Ben Roberts, Economic Development Officer, Town of Caledon

**1) Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) was called to order at 7:05pm by Mark Head. Melanie Williams acted as Chair until the appointment of the PAAWG Chair and Vice-Chair. Melanie Williams read the Indigenous Land Acknowledgment and provided an overview of the meeting.

**2) Round Table Introductions**

Each PAAWG member and staff introduced themselves and their connection to PAAWG.

**3) Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Melanie Williams acting as Election Chair, called the election to order and opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chair. Nomination of Gary Mountain for Chair was made. No other nominations were brought forward. Gary Mountain agreed to stand for nomination.

Moved by Karen Hutchinson

*That Gary Mountain be appointed Chair of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group for the term ending November 16, 2023, or until a successor is appointed.*

Carried PAAWG 2023-01

The floor was opened to nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Nomination of Karen Hutchinson for Vice-Chair was made. No other nominations were brought forward. Karen Hutchinson agreed to stand for nomination.

Moved by Gary Mountain

*That Karen Hutchinson be appointed Vice-Chair of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group for the term ending November 16, 2023, or until a successor is appointed.*

Carried PAAWG 2023-02

The meeting was then turned over to Gary Mountain as Chair to approve the agenda.

**4) Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

None identified.

**5) Review and Approval of March 2, 2023 Agenda**

Moved by Mayor Groves

*That the Agenda for the March 2, 2023, meeting of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group be approved.*

Carried PAAWG 2023-03

**6) Review and Approval of Minutes from November 24, 2022 Meeting**

Moved by Tom Dolson

*That the Minutes of Meeting 2022-04 of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group, held on November 24, 2022, be approved.*

Carried PAAWG 2023-04

**7) Orientation and Overview of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group**

*Melanie Williams, Region of Peel*

The presentation provided an overview of PAAWG's roles, responsibilities, procedures and practices. The presentation outlined PAAWG's membership, Terms of Reference, 2023 work plan, and support staff details. The presentation also described some of the key roles, responsibilities and activities of PAAWG, including approving Peel Rural Water Quality Program and ALUS Peel Pilot projects, providing input on programs and emerging issues of interest to the agricultural community, and facilitating collaboration and knowledge-sharing among members. Finally, the presentation outlined the importance of the PAAWG's work in supporting the continued growth and sustainability of the agricultural sector in the Region.

**Questions/Discussion**

- No questions

**8) Orientation and Overview of Grown in Peel Local Food Guide**

*Melanie Williams, Region of Peel*

The presentation provided an overview of the "Grown in Peel Local Food Guide" initiative and PAAWG's role. Grown in Peel promotes local agriculture, connecting producers with consumers. It also supports the Region of Peel's goal to increase residents' access to safe, healthy and affordable locally grown food.

**Questions/Discussion:**

PAAWG inquired on how to increase the number of local farms at Peel's farmers' markets. Mayor Groves indicated a high level of interest by residents to purchase locally grown food at local markets and whether it was possible to encourage a higher level of participation by local farm vendors at the Bolton Farmers' Market. The Bolton BIA is looking for opportunities to engage the agricultural community in the new market to be held at the forthcoming Humber River Centre community hub.

Ben Roberts indicated that a number of market factors influence local farm vendor participation at farmers markets including a recent shift in preference to focus their sales operations to farm gate sales to reduce staffing and logistical challenges that come with selling at a farmers' market. The Grown in Peel program could be an opportunity to inform listings of the opportunity to participate at Peel's farmers' markets, and to learn from existing markets in Brampton and Mississauga. Karen Hutchinson, Ben Roberts

and Melanie Williams will discuss further and report back on opportunities to encourage or support local farms in attending Peel's farmers' markets.

**9) Orientation and Overview of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP) and ALUS Peel Pilot**

*Holly Shipclark, Credit Valley Conservation  
Patrick Esson, Toronto & Region Conservation*

The presentation provided an overview of (PRWQP) and ALUS Peel Pilot Program. This included the program history and goals, program delivery, the range of projects that the programs support, and PAAWG's role as the approval body. PAAWG was also walked through a sample application.

**Questions/Discussions**

- No questions

**10) Communication and For Information Items**

*Melanie Williams, Region of Peel*

The 'Peel Rural Water Quality Program and ALUS Peel Pilot 2022 Status Report' was received.

**11) Adjournment**

Moved by Karen Hutchinson

*That the March 2, 2023, meeting of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group be adjourned.*

Carried PAAWG 2023-05

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm. The next PAAWG meeting will be held on March 23, 2023.