

DATE: February 15, 2019

REPORT TITLE: **PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP 2018 UPDATE AND REVISIONS TO THE PEEL RURAL WATER QUALITY PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

FROM: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Public Works

RECOMMENDATION

That the recommended revisions to the Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines attached as Appendix II in the report of the Commissioner of Public Works titled “Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group 2018 Update and Revisions to the Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines” be approved.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2018 the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group:
 - Reviewed and commented on the Region of Peel Official Plan Review.
 - Approved Peel Rural Water Quality Program grants, allocating approximately \$104,817 to 15 projects.
- From 2004 to 2018, the Peel Rural Water Quality Program has allocated a total of \$847,872 in funding towards 174 rural water quality projects that have a total value of just over \$4.25 million in on-farm stewardship enhancements in Peel.
- Regional and Conservation Authority Staff in consultation with the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group have completed a five-year review of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines (the Guidelines). Implementing revisions to the Guidelines are summarized in the report and are recommended for Council approval.
- The Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (the Alliance) and the Region of Peel continue to collaborate on agriculture and agri-food initiatives relevant to the Region. Information on Alliance activities is provided in the report.

DISCUSSION

1. Background

The Region of Peel recognizes the contribution of the agricultural sector to the local economy and cultural heritage of the Region. In 1997, the Region established the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (the Working Group) to support agricultural interests and planning in the Region. The Working Group consists of three Regional or Area

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Municipal Councillors and ten additional members representing a range of agricultural interests in Peel.

The Working Group assists the Region in protecting agricultural lands and promoting the agricultural industry in Peel. Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) became partners with the Working Group in 2004 to support the delivery of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program in accordance with Council approved guidelines. The Working Group is the approval body for Peel Rural Water Quality Program projects.

The Region conducts a review of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines every five years and renews appointments to the Working Group for each new term of Council. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group activities undertaken in 2018, to request Council's approval of revisions to the Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines endorsed by the Working Group, and to request renewal of member appointments to the Working Group.

The Region is also a member and funding partner of the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance ("the Alliance"), an organization that supports broader collaboration among regional agricultural interests. A summary update on the Alliance's initiatives is included in this report.

2. Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group

a) 2018 Programs and Projects

i. Peel Rural Water Quality Program

The Region, in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation and Toronto and Region Conservation, has implemented the Peel Rural Water Quality Program (the Program) since 2004. The Program provides technical and financial resources to farmers to encourage stewardship focused on protecting and enhancing water quality and the natural environment. The Working Group is the approval authority for grant applications submitted under the Program. The Region of Peel provides capital funding to the conservation authorities for the delivery of the program and administration of the grants.

In 2018, the Working Group approved approximately \$104,817 in grants to support the implementation of 15 projects. An additional \$67,124 was leveraged from other project proponents and funders to help complete these projects.

A detailed performance summary of the Program is attached as Appendix I.

ii. Grown in Peel Local Food Guide

The Grown in Peel Local Food Guide (the Guide) has been published by the Region since 2006. The Guide promotes local farms, retailers and farmers' markets in Peel.

Approximately 25,080 copies of the 2018 edition were distributed across Peel with the help of over 100 community partners including local municipalities, Regional Councillors,

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educational institutions and agricultural associations. An expanded version of the Guide also continues to be available online at GrownInPeel.ca.

iii. Special Topics

The Working Group was consulted on a variety of special topics, including:

- Provincial Agricultural System mapping for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the corresponding mapping requirements for the Region of Peel
- Draft Provincial Agricultural Impact Assessment Guidelines
- Peel 2041: Region of Peel Official Plan Review
- TRCA's Urban Agriculture Program and Regulation Mapping Updates
- The Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guideline Review
- Development of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group Work Plan

b) 2019 Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group Work Plan

An inaugural meeting will be held in early 2019 to orient members on their role as an advisory body to the Region and approval body for Peel Rural Water Quality Program projects. A key focus of the Working Group in 2019 will be the Peel 2041: Regional Official Plan Review including the Agricultural Resources, Greenlands System, and Growth Management Focus Areas. The Regional Official Plan will need to refine and include provincial agricultural system mapping and corresponding policies, therefore, staff will be seeking advice from the Working Group on policies that will support the viability of farming and protect agricultural lands.

The following action items remain as priorities in the work plan for 2019:

Policy, Research and Development

- Peel 2041: Regional Official Plan Review – Agricultural Resources Focus Area
- Review and provide feedback on the development of agricultural and natural heritage system mapping for the Region
- Review and provide feedback on growth management planning including planning for Regional settlement boundary expansion areas
- Review and provide feedback to the development of the TRCA Regulation Mapping update
- Ensure agricultural interests, where necessary, are considered in the planning of Regional capital projects

Peel Rural Water Quality Program

- Review and approval of Program funding applications to support stewardship on farms

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Support Agri-Food Business and Food Security Initiatives

- Provide feedback and direction on the Grown in Peel guide
- Investigate alignments that support Peel Food Charter initiatives
- Review and provide advice on Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Initiatives

c) Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group 2018 – 2022 Member Appointments

In accordance with the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group Terms of Reference, which was revised and approved by Regional Council under Resolution 2015-113, membership consists of the Regional Chair (ex-officio), three Regional or Area Municipal Councillors and ten additional members who are appointed by Regional Council for a term of four years or until successors are appointed by Regional Council.

Under Regional Council Resolution 2018-887, Regional Chair Iannicca (ex-officio), Councillor Innis, Councillor Dasko and Councillor Palleschi have been appointed to the Working Group, for a four-year term ending November 14, 2022. The recommended non-elected appointments for the 2018- 2022 term of Council are provided to Council in a supplementary in camera report.

3. Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guideline Five Year Review

The Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines (the Guidelines) are reviewed every five years by Regional and Conservation Authority staff. In consultation with the Working Group, minor amendments to four existing grant categories are recommended. These amendments, summarized in Appendix II, improve interpretation of grant categories to ensure that projects address rural water quality and environmental enhancement objectives and clarify that applicants are eligible to reapply for project funding under each category with some exceptions.

A copy of the revised Guidelines is available in the Office of the Regional Clerk for viewing.

4. Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance

In 2012, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (the Alliance) was formed to implement the 'Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Action Plan: 2021' (the Action Plan). The Action Plan is posted on the Alliance's webpage at foodandfarming.ca/food-and-farming-action-plan/.

The Alliance is comprised of a Council representative from each of the Golden Horseshoe Regions, and the Cities of Hamilton and Toronto. There is also representation from agriculture-related industry associations, non-profits and other stakeholders. Mayor Thompson and Councillor Downey are the Regional Council's representatives to the Alliance. This multiple partner approach enables the Region to share resources and respond to agricultural issues.

Information on the Alliance's projects, initiatives and advocacy undertaken in 2018 is summarized in Appendix III.

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CONCLUSION

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group continues to facilitate and enhance relationships between the Region and agricultural groups within Peel, the Golden Horseshoe and the Province. The Working Group remains a valuable contributor to achieving the agricultural goals and policies of the Region.



Janette Smith, Commissioner of Public Works

Approved for Submission:



D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Peel Rural Water Quality Program 2018 Status Report

Appendix II – Summary of Revisions to the Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines

Appendix III – Summary of Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Activities

For further information regarding this report, please contact Steve Jacques, Director, Regional Planning and Growth Management and Chief Planner, extension 4625, Steve.Jacques@peelregion.ca.

Authored By: Ricardo Razao

Memo

To: Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group

From: Mark Eastman, Credit Valley Conservation
Nadine Abrams, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Date: January 19, 2019

Re: Peel Rural Water Quality Program – 2018 Status Report

The year 2018 marked the fourteenth complete program year for the Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP). This status report summarizes the program's accomplishments over the past fourteen years, with an emphasis placed on the 2018 program year.

Number of projects approved in 2018: 15

Types of projects approved in 2018:

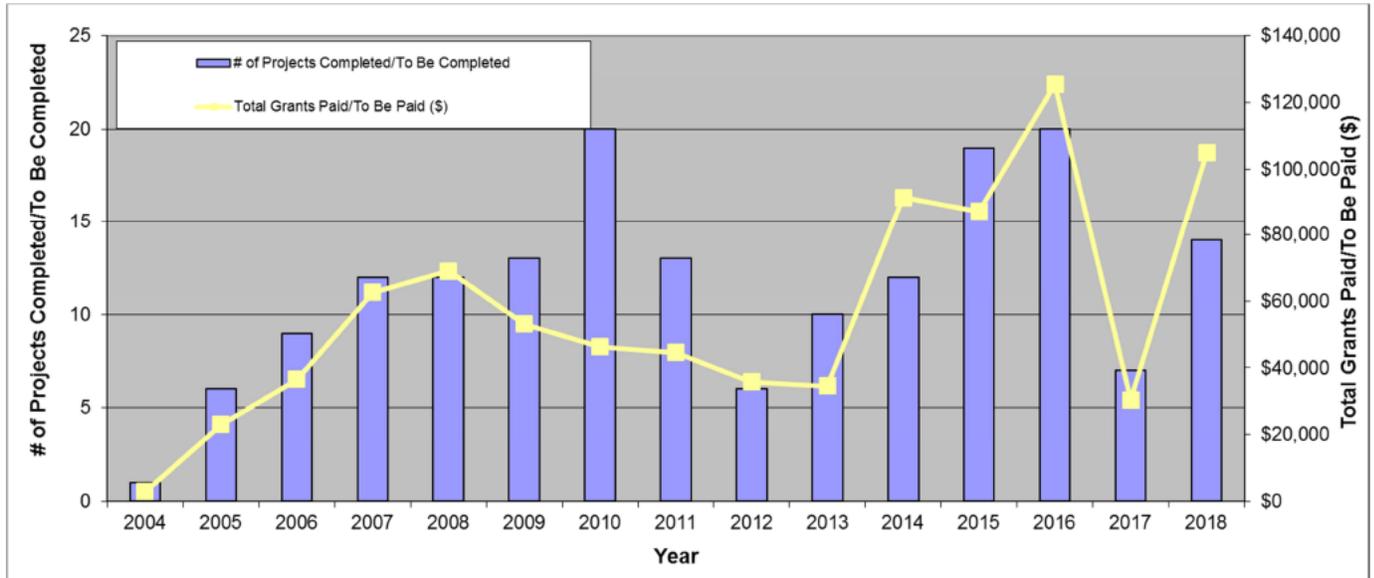
Manure Storage	0
Milkhouse Washwater	0
Barnyard Runoff Control	0
Nutrient Management Strategy	0
Nutrient Management Plan	0
Private Well Upgrade	1
Clean Water Diversion	0
Livestock Access Restriction	3
Erosion Control Structure	1
Tree Planting	4
Buffer Strip Planting	0
Education	1
Chemical Storage	0
Fuel Storage	0
Silage Storage Upgrade	0
Irrigation Management	0
Integrated Pest Management	0
Cover Crop	4*
Natural Area Enhancement and Creation	1
TOTAL	15

* four cover crop projects were approved, but one has been withdrawn. Therefore, it is anticipated that 14 projects will be completed.

Grants paid and/or to be paid on 2018 projects: \$104,817.53

Annual program activity:

In 2018, fifteen projects were approved and fourteen projects have been completed or are in progress. Total grants paid/to be paid is \$104,817.53. This financial support has leveraged an additional \$67,124.40 from project proponents and other funders to assist with the completion of these fourteen projects. The graph below illustrates the program’s performance for each year since 2004.



Notes:

- 2004 was not a complete program year.
- Statistical discrepancies between annual status reports are a result of approved projects not proceeding with construction, therefore resulting in a withdrawal of applications.

After a slower than normal year in 2017, both total projects completed/to be completed and grants paid/to be paid rebounded in 2018. The Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program was released in early 2018 and it is believed that this helped to motivate farmers to implement projects on their farms. Program staff are hopeful that this momentum continues over the next few years while the Canadian Agricultural Partnership Program becomes more familiar.

Program accomplishments:

Between 2004 and 2018, the PRWQP has paid/allocated a total of \$847,872 in funding towards 174 agri-environmental projects. These funds have leveraged an additional \$3,413,480 to contribute to the completion of projects valued at \$4,261,352.

Environmental benefits of BMPs:

Over the past thirteen years, agri-environmental projects completed with technical and financial assistance from the PRWQP have helped to:

Safely store 292,453 m³ of livestock manure to reduce the risk of nutrient, pathogen and bacteria contaminating drinking water, streams and wetlands.



This equates to 36,557 dump trucks of manure!

Install 15.95 km of livestock fencing to improve the habitat quality of our streams, wetlands and woodlots and to reduce water quality impacts caused by sediment, nutrient and pathogen/bacteria.



Plant 36,446 trees and shrubs to restore degraded habitats, reduce erosion and to sequester carbon dioxide.



Restore and/or protect 126 ha of land to improve water, air, soil and habitat quality.



This is an area equal to 126 football fields!

Program promotion:

In 2018, advertisements for the program were run in the Caledon Enterprise every other month. In addition, an article profiling cover crops and the Peel Rural Water Quality Program was published in the Golden Horseshoe Soil and Crop Improvement Association newsletter.

Program staff also promoted the program at the following events/workshops:

- Equine Workshop
- Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association Annual General Meeting
- Peel Dufferin Plowing Match
- Equine Manure and Pasture Management Twilight Tour
- Cover Crop Twilight Tour
- Door-to-Door Visits

Program staff will continue to advertise the program in local media, by attending events and meetings and by hosting and participating in workshops. Staff encourage Peel Agriculture Advisory Working Group members to continue promoting the program to friends, neighbours, and peers. Peer to peer promotion of the program is the best form of advertisement, and we depend on you to help spread the word.

If you have any questions regarding the 2018 program year, please contact Program staff.

Sincerely,



Mark Eastman

Credit Valley Conservation



Nadine Abrams

Toronto and Region Conservation

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PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP 2018 UPDATE AND REVISIONS TO THE PEEL RURAL WATER QUALITY PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Summary of Revisions to the Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines

Proposed Revision	Rationale
<p>Under “Grant Assistance” (Page 3), insert the following clarification:</p> <p><i>A single property may be eligible to receive grants under each category up to the category cap each calendar year (some exceptions apply). For large projects that are planned to be implemented in phases, applicants are encouraged to present the complete project as well as the immediate phase that is requesting funds. Each phase of the project must provide a demonstrable environmental improvement as determined by the Region of Peel and the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group. Applicants are encouraged to seek funding from other sources as grants may be combined.</i></p>	<p>The recommended revision clarifies that applicants are eligible to apply for grants under each project category up to to the grant cap for the category each calendar year with some exceptions. This permits an applicant to undertake additional beneficial projects in subsequent years or to phase large projects that require implementation over more than one year.</p> <p>Examples of project categories that are eligible for funding in each calendar year include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Erosion control structures - Natural area enhancement - Livestock fencing from environmentally sensitive features - Manure storage and handling systems - Tree planting
<p>Under “Table 1 – Eligible Projects” (Page 4), insert the following footnotes to clarify the grant rates and caps for manure storage and handling (footnote 4), nutrient management strategies (footnote 5) and nutrient management plans (footnote 6):</p> <p>4. <i>For first application – 50% up to \$25,000. For second and subsequent applications on the same property - 35% up to \$15,000</i></p> <p>5. <i>For first application – 70% up to \$3,000. For second and subsequent applications – 35% up to \$1,500 and only available to farms that are 1) not currently phased into nutrient management legislation or 2) required to update an existing strategy and/or plan as a result of a voluntary best management practice project.</i></p> <p>6. <i>For first application – 70% up to \$2,000. For second and subsequent applications – 35% up to \$1,000 and only available to farms that are 1) not currently phased into nutrient management legislation or 2) required to update an existing strategy and/or plan as a result of a voluntary best management practice project.</i></p>	<p>The revision is recommended to adjust the grant rate and cap if applicants request funding for additional projects in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manure Storage & Handling Systems and Composting Facilities • Nutrient Management Plan • Nutrient Management Strategy

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<p>Amend the “Cover Crop” category (Page 12), by inserting the following clarification under “Project Details”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Applicants are encouraged to consider planting multi-species cover crops to ensure adequate germination and residue coverage.</i> • <i>Applicants are encouraged to consider the use of winter killed cover crops to reduce the necessity for additional herbicide applications.</i> 	<p>The recommended revision encourages applicants to consider a broader range of cover crop types and the use of cover crops which require little to no herbicide applications.</p>
<p>Amend the “Livestock Fencing from Environmentally Sensitive Features” category (Page 24), by inserting the following clarification under “Purpose”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To restrict livestock from existing or created, environmentally sensitive features including but not limited to woodlands, wildlife corridors, buffer strips, watercourses, wetlands, ponds, meadows and prairies.</i> 	<p>The recommended revision clarifies the types of environmentally sensitive features that could be eligible for livestock fencing.</p>
<p>Amend the “Livestock Fencing from Environmentally Sensitive Features” category (Page 24), by inserting the following clarification under “Project Details”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wildlife corridors must be a minimum width of 5 metres to be considered eligible for funding under this category. For details on what constitutes a wildlife corridor, please refer to the Natural Area Enhancement and Creation category.</i> • <i>In some cases, it may be desirable to manage meadows and prairies through controlled livestock grazing. In such cases, a rotational grazing plan must be submitted with the application.</i> 	<p>The recommended revision provides further clarification on what constitutes a wildlife corridor and provides an exception to allow eligibility for funding for livestock fencing while still permitting livestock grazing in areas that are proposed to be managed as meadows or prairies.</p>

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<p>Amend the “Livestock Fencing from Environmentally Sensitive Features” category (Page 24), by inserting the following restriction under “Ineligible Costs”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fencing to restrict livestock from a windbreak.</i> 	<p>The recommended revision provides clarification that livestock fencing of windbreaks on pasture land is not eligible for funding. Windbreaks installed on pasture land where livestock fencing may be required do not provide a rural water quality benefit as pasture land typically has a permanent vegetative cover. Fencing of windbreaks adjacent to cultivated land to prevent soil erosion is eligible for funding.</p>
<p>Amend the “Manure Storage & Handling Systems and Composting Facilities” category (Page 27), by inserting the following footnote:</p> <p>Cost-Share Rate:</p> <p><i>* For first application – 50% up to \$25,000. For second and subsequent applications on the same property - 35% up to \$15,000</i></p>	<p>The recommended revision adjusts the grant rate and cap if an applicant requests funding for additional projects in the category.</p>
<p>Amend the “Manure Storage & Handling Systems and Composting Facilities” category (Page 27), by inserting the following clarification under “Eligible Projects”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Manure storage and handling systems for a new or expanding farm operation may be eligible subject to confirmation that the project will exceed minimum regulatory standards and provide a substantive water quality benefit.</i> 	<p>The revision is recommended to extend eligibility to new or expanding farms to encourage the installation of manure storage and handling systems that exceed minimum regulatory standards and that provide a substantive water quality benefit.</p>
<p>Amend the “Manure Storage & Handling Systems and Composting Facilities” category (Page 28), by inserting the following clarification under “Project Details”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pro-rating for funding eligibility for manure storage and handling systems to the volume of storage required for existing/previous conditions is not required in the following case:</i> 	<p>The recommended revision is a technical clarification for new or expanding farms that pro-rated funding is not necessary if the proposed project exceeds applicable minimum regulatory standards and provides a substantive water quality benefit.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The proposed manure storage and handling system exceeds a minimum regulatory standard required under the Nutrient Management Act;</i> ○ <i>The project will provide a substantive water quality benefit; and,</i> ○ <i>The Nutrient Management Strategy and Plan that is required for the farm operation is updated to ensure the project is subject to a regulatory requirement.</i> 	
<p>Amend the “Natural Area Enhancement & Creation” category (Page 33), by inserting the following clarification under “Eligible Projects”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Wildlife corridors and hedgerows.</i> 	<p>The recommended revision extends eligible projects under the category to wildlife corridors and hedgerows.</p>
<p>Amend the “Natural Area Enhancement & Creation” category (Page 33), by inserting the following clarification (underlined text) under “Project Details”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Livestock must be permanently excluded from the site; special considerations may be given for grassland, prairie and meadow restoration where sustainable rotational grazing is proposed. <u>The cost associated with fencing may be eligible for a grant. For details, please contact Program staff.</u></i> 	<p>The recommended revision informs applicants that required fencing could be eligible for a grant under the “Livestock Fencing from Environmentally Sensitive Features” category.</p>
<p>Amend the “Natural Area Enhancement & Creation” category (Page 34), by inserting the following clarification under “Project Details”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>For wildlife corridor and hedgerow projects:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Corridors and hedgerows must be a minimum of 5 metres and 1 metre wide, respectively and must contain a mix of native tree and/or shrub species (i.e. no mono-culture planting). Applicants are encouraged to increase the width as its length increases; and,</i> ○ <i>Applicants must demonstrate the project will provide a rural</i> 	<p>The recommended revision provides minimum standards for wildlife corridors and hedgerows and requires applicants to demonstrate that the project will provide rural water quality or ecological benefits.</p>

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<p><i>water quality or ecological benefit and provide details of the expected environmental improvements and the species that will benefit from the project. Program staff can assist with wildlife corridor and hedgerow design.</i></p>	
<p>Amend the “Nutrient Management Strategy & Plan” category (Page 37), by inserting the following footnote (underlined text):</p> <p>Nutrient management Strategy: 70% up to \$2,000* Nutrient management Plan: 70% up to \$3,000**</p> <p><u><i>* For first application – 70% up to \$2,000. For second and subsequent applications - 35% up to \$1,000</i></u></p> <p><u><i>** For first application – 70% up to \$3,000. For second and subsequent applications - 35% up to \$1,500</i></u></p>	<p>The recommended revision adjusts the grant rate and cap if an applicant requests funding for additional projects in the category.</p>
<p>Amend the “Nutrient Management Strategy & Plan” category (Page 37), by inserting the following clarification under “Eligible Projects”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>This project category is only available to farms that are 1) not currently phased into nutrient management legislation or 2) required to update an existing strategy and/or plan as a result of a voluntary best management practice project.</i> 	<p>The recommended revision clarifies the requirements necessary to be eligible for a grant.</p>
<p>Amend the “Tree Planting” category (Page 45), by inserting the following clarifications (underlined text) under “Purpose”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To <u><i>maintain</i></u> and increase forest cover throughout the Region of Peel. To <u><i>improve woodland biodiversity, resiliency, and wildlife habitat value.</i></u> 	<p>Minor amendments are recommended to clarify the project category purpose.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To re-establish stream banks <i>and wetland boundaries</i> with adequate vegetated buffer strips and provide a buffer to overland runoff. 	
<p>Amend the “Tree Planting” category (Page 45), by inserting the following clarification (underlined and strikethrough text) under “Eligible Projects”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent retirement of floodplains <i>fragile agricultural land</i>. 	<p>Minor amendment is recommended to clarify project eligibility. Project funding is not limited to only floodplains but may extend beyond floodplain limits.</p>
<p>Amend the “Tree Planting” category (Page 45), by inserting the following clarifications under “Project Details” (strikethrough and underlined text):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Livestock must be permanently excluded from the site <u>plantings</u>. <u>With the exception of windbreak projects, the cost associated with fencing may be eligible for a grant. For details, please contact Program staff.</u></i> <i><u>Understory plantings must include a mix of native tree and/or shrub species so as to increase biodiversity.</u></i> 	<p>Minor amendments are recommended to clarify project requirements.</p>
<p>Amend the “Tree Planting” category (Page 46), by inserting the following clarifications under “Project Details”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Applications for tree windbreak projects will only be considered eligible when the windbreak is adjacent to cultivated lands (i.e. not next to pastures, permanent hay fields, orchard, etc.).</i> 	<p>Minor amendments are recommended to clarify project requirements.</p>

APPENDIX III

PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP 2018 UPDATE AND REVISIONS TO THE PEEL RURAL WATER QUALITY PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance – Summary of Activities for 2018

Activities undertaken by the Alliance in 2018 include projects, outreach and engagement initiatives and communications.

Projects:

- **Food and Farming Asset Mapping:** An ongoing project to maintain a database and map agri-food supply chain assets across the Golden Horseshoe and other regions in Ontario to enable the use of this data for planning and economic development initiatives. During 2017-18, the Alliance has partnered with the Economic Developers of Ontario on a project to add manufacturing data to the database. This project was completed in December 2018.
- **Local Food Procurement in Long-Term Care Homes:** The Region of Peel continues to work with the Alliance and the Greenbelt Foundation to investigate implementation of the initiative “Serving Up Local” in all five of the Region’s long-term care homes. The goal is to increase the amount of local food offered in facilities and improve the nutritional health and well-being of residents. A three-year project with the Alliance and University of Guelph to study the economic benefits for Long Term Care homes has begun in January 2019. Peel will be participating in this project along with homes from Durham, Halton, Hamilton and Niagara.

Significant engagement initiatives:

- Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum
- Food and Farming Asset Mapping Training Workshops
- Small Plot Farming Workshop

Policy review and communication initiatives:

- Consulted with the Province and municipal partners on Provincial Agricultural System mapping, implementation procedures and methodology
- Published monthly online e-newsletters and stories showcasing agriculture in the Golden Horseshoe, including activities within Peel Region
- Consulted with municipal partners on the ongoing development of a report card to evaluate progress towards achieving the goals of the Action Plan