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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

MINUTES
PAAWG 2019-03

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) met on May 23, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Peel Centre Conference Room, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: Gary Mountain, Chair, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Manjari Mehta, Citizen-at-Large
Paul Risebrough, Citizen-at-Large
Merissa Nudelman, Ecosource
Tom Dolson, Peel Federation of Agriculture
Ed Russell, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Members Absent: Nando Ianicca, Region of Peel Chair
Michael Palleschi, Regional Councillor
Stephen Dasko, Regional Councillor
Kristen Carberry, Peel Federation of Agriculture
Jennifer Innis, Regional Councillor
Brian Wannamaker, Citizen-at-Large
Karen Hutchinson, Caledon Countryside Alliance

Staff: Nadine Abrams, Rural Clean Water Program Coordinator, Toronto and Region Conservation
Mark Eastman, Senior Coordinator, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation
Jordan Graham, Program Coordinator, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation
Mark Head, Manager, Region of Peel
Ricardo Razao, Junior Planner, Region of Peel
Don Campbell, Principal Planner, Region of Peel

1) Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Gary Mountain, Chair.

2) Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group Member declared a conflict of interest.

3) Approval of 2019-03 Agenda

Moved by Paul Risebrough;

That the agenda for the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting held on May 23, 2019, be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2019-01

4) Approval of 2019-02 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Paul Risebrough;

That the Minutes from the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting 2019-02, held on April 25, 2019, be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2019-02

5) Peel Rural Water Quality Program

*Nadine Abrams, Toronto & Region Conservation
Mark Eastman, Credit Valley Conservation
Jordan Graham, Credit Valley Conservation*

a) 2019 PRWQP Budget Overview

TRCA and CVC staff provided an annual summary of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program project approvals and status of the budget. Unspent carryover funds from 2018 totalled \$7,000. The annual Regional funding contribution is \$75,000 plus an additional contribution from TRCA for \$20,000 in April totalling \$102,000. Currently, \$65,201.35 has been allotted to approved projects. If the 05-CVC-19 – Cover Crop project is approved today the total expenditures would be \$70,201.35 leaving a new balance of \$31,789.61.

6) PRWQP Applications

*Nadine Abrams, Toronto & Region Conservation
Mark Eastman, Credit Valley Conservation
Jordan Graham, Credit Valley Conservation*

a) 05-CVC-19 – Cover Crop

Moved by Ed Russell;

That CVC project 05-CVC-19 be approved for funding in the amount of \$5,000 under the category of “Cover Crops.”

Carried PAAWG 2019-03

7) Peel Food Council Presentation

Britt McKee, Ecosource

Britt McKee provided update on status of the formation of the Peel Food Action Council. The multi-stakeholder working group is leading the Action Council’s formation with support from Regional Public Health and Human Services staff. The Peel Food

Charter was endorsed by Council in November 2017 and provided direction to form a Peel Food Action Council. Britt McKee noted that the characteristics of successful food councils include membership that has broad representation from various stakeholder groups. They are looking to launch the Food Council before the end of 2019. More information will be provided in the next few months on how and when recruitment will be taking place. Those interested are to contact Britt McKee at Ecosource.

8) Agricultural/Rural System Peel 2041 Official Plan Review Presentation

Don Campbell, Region of Peel

Don Campbell provided an introductory overview of the draft discussion paper and policies dealing with agricultural and rural system policies. Copies of these discussion paper had been distributed to PAAWG members on arrival at the meeting.

Don Campbell indicated that the key elements in the provincial policy context addressed in the review: the Provincial Policy Statement (2014); A Place to Grow, the 2019 provincial Growth Plan; other provincial plans; and the provincial food and organic waste policy statement. He noted that conformity with the other provincial plans, such as the Greenbelt Plan, will be dealt with in another component of the Official Plan Review. Key Regional drivers in the development of agricultural and rural system policy are: the joint Region/Town of Caledon studies respecting LEAR, MDS and edge planning; the review of agricultural mapping; the Peel Food Charter; and the ongoing work on urban agriculture and access to local and healthy food.

Significant features of the draft policies include:

- Introduction of agricultural system policies addressing not only prime agricultural areas and farm operations but also the network of suppliers, services, infrastructure and markets that agricultural operations rely on;
- Support for the Agricultural System both in prime agricultural areas and on rural lands;
- Updated prime agricultural area mapping, through refinement of provincial mapping;
- Greater scope and flexibility for agriculture-related and on-farm diversified uses;
- Increased protection from the impacts of non-farm development including requirements for Agricultural Impact Assessments (AIAs);
- Support for urban agriculture and access to local food;
- Measures to support the reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste; and
- Policies to build on rural character and enhance rural communities.

The documents are being circulated to public agencies and stakeholders to provide an early opportunity for input. At the August 2019 PAAWG meeting there will be opportunity for members to discuss and comment on the draft documents and

consider a motion in support of the proposals. Staff also would be interested in meeting with the Peel Federation of Agriculture. Opportunities for broader public comment will follow in the coming months.

9) Agricultural Mapping Refinement Methodology and Mapping Presentation
Ricardo Razao, Region of Peel

Regional staff have undertaken a comparative analysis of the Provincial and Regional prime agricultural area mapping studies, in accordance with the Provincial Implementation Procedures, to understand the differences and similarities between the two as part of the Peel 2041 Official Plan review. This enabled the Region to analyse provincially recommended prime agricultural areas, that are outside of the lands identified by the Region-Town LEAR study, for inclusion as prime agricultural area. The analysis identified 32 areas of difference which were examined on an area by area as well as parcel by parcel basis.

Natural heritage feature constraints and prior approved land use designations that will not be rehabilitated back to prime agricultural areas were examined as factors to refine the recommended prime agriculture area mapping. The draft mapping presented has been distributed to the Province and local municipalities for comments. The next steps are to consult with neighbouring municipalities, specifically the County of Wellington, where an opportunity to align prime agriculture area boundaries is evident, as well as address feedback from stakeholders, the Province and local municipalities.

10) Communication and Information Items
Mark Head, Region of Peel
Ricardo Razao, Region of Peel

- Reducing Red Tape to Support Agri-food Businesses PAAWG member comments

PAAWG members recommended more online certification training, the amalgamation of similar courses (e.g. Pesticide courses), extended certification timelines, streamlining and combining environment/natural heritage approvals (e.g. conservation authority permits, and endangered species act permits in one permit process), and having one location to obtain all certifications.

- Bill 108 – More Homes, More Choices Act
- A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe
- CTC Source Protection Committee

Adjourn Meeting / Next Meeting

Moved by Ed Russell;

That the May 23, 2019, Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting be adjourned.

Carried PAAWG 2019-04

The meeting stood adjourned at 8:54 p.m. The next Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting will be on August 22, 2019.