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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

MINUTES
PAAWG 2019-04

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) met on August 22, 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
Karen Hutchinson, Caledon Countryside Alliance
Brian Wannamaker, Citizen-at-Large
Paul Risebrough, Citizen-at-Large
Merissa Nudelman, Ecosource
Tom Dolson, Peel Federation of Agriculture
Kristen Carberry, 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
Jennifer Innis, Regional Councillor
Manjari Mehta, Citizen-at-Large

Staff: Mark Eastman, Senior Coordinator, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation
Jordan Graham, Program Coordinator, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation
Adaoma Patterson, Region of Peel
Mark Head, Manager, Region of Peel
Heather Hewitt, Intermediate Planner, Region of Peel
Don Campbell, Principal Planner, Region of Peel

1) Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 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 2019-04 Agenda

Moved by Paul Risebrough;

That the agenda for the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting held on August 22, 2019, be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2019-01

4) Approval of 2019-03 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Tom Dolson;

That the Minutes from the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting 2019-03, held on May 23, 2019, be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2019-02

5) Agricultural/Rural System Peel 2041 Official Plan Review – Discussion and Recommendation

Don Campbell, Principal Planner, Region of Peel

Don Campbell summarized the purpose and content of the Agricultural and Rural System discussion paper and draft policies and provided an overview of the consultation undertaken to date and the general feedback received so far. The discussion paper and policies were circulated to PAAWG in May 2019 and to the Peel Federation of Agriculture at the beginning of August 2019. PAAWG members were asked to provide comments and indicate whether members supported the policy options and directions presented in the review to date. PAAWG was asked to consider a resolution endorsing the discussion paper and draft policies for further consultation.

Tom Dolson requested further clarification on whether the proposed Regional Official Plan policies would permit on-farm retail. Mark Head responded that the draft policies implement the policy direction in the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) for prime agricultural areas and rural lands, which provides greater flexibility for agriculture-related and on-farm diversified uses including on-farm retail uses. The draft Regional Official Plan policies direct the Town of Caledon to incorporate these policies in its Official Plan. The detailed criteria to be met by these uses will be provided in the Town's Official Plan as authority for the regulation of land uses has been delegated to the local municipal level in Peel. On-farm retail sales of produce grown on the farm are permitted as-of-right as a use accessory to a farm operation.

Moved by Tom Dolson;

That the discussion paper and draft policies be referred to the November 2019 PAAWG meeting for further consideration.

Carried PAAWG 2019-03

6) Agricultural Mapping Refinement Methodology and Mapping – Discussion and Recommendation

Mark Head, Manager, Region of Peel

Mark Head explained that, as part of the Peel 2041 Official Plan review, 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. This enabled the Region to analyse provincially recommended prime agricultural areas that are outside of the lands identified by the Region-Town of Caledon LEAR study 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 comment.

Mark Head indicated that the Province has recommended that 5 of the 32 areas of difference be included in the prime Agricultural Area. Regional staff are prepared to consider adding these lands to the recommended Prime Agricultural Area provided they are included on the basis of consistently applied criteria that are justified and supportable.

Moved by Karen Hutchinson;

That the recommendations contained in the Draft Peel 2041 Agricultural Mapping Refinement Report including the addition to the Prime Agricultural Area of the additional lands recommended by the Province as shown on the August 2019 version of Map 8 be referred to the November 2019 meeting of PAAWG for further consideration.

Carried PAAWG 2019-04

7) Peel Region Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Study

Mark Head, Manager, Region of Peel

Mark Head gave a presentation on the Region's Settlement Area Expansion Study which will identify the appropriate locations for future residential and employment development in the Region to accommodate growth between 2031 to 2041.

The Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Study is to be undertaken in 4 phases as follows and is expected to be complete by mid 2021.

- A. Background Report and Identification of Focus Areas
- B. Technical Studies on Focused Study Areas
- C. Identification of Settlement Boundary Expansion Areas and Draft Regional Official Plan Amendment
- D. Recommendations and Final Regional Official Plan Amendment

An Agricultural Impact Assessment is one of 10 technical studies that will be undertaken to provide input into the selection of areas for settlement expansion.

PAAWG will be given further updates on the overall study as well as on the Agricultural Impact Assessment.

Moved by Tom Dolson;

That the staff presentation of the Peel Region Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Study be received.

Carried PAAWG 2019-05

8) Peel Food Action Council

Adaoma Patterson, Manager, Poverty Reduction Initiatives, Region of Peel

Adaoma Patterson provided an update on the formation of the Peel Food Action Council. The Peel Food Charter endorsed by Council in November 2017 provided direction to form a Peel Food Action Council. A multi-stakeholder working group is leading the Action Council's formation with support from Regional Public Health and Human Services staff.

The Food Council is seeking members representing a broad range of stakeholder groups to serve for a two year term. Ms. Patterson noted that the draft terms of reference for the Steering Committee has been circulated to PAAWG members. The Council will be led by a Steering Committee with two co-chairs, one of whom will be Britt McKee from EcoSource. The Steering Committee, once formed, will decide what the Council's priorities will be, how often it will meet and how the community will be engaged. Adaoma shared that the Food Council plans to apply to the United Way for a grant to support the development of a strategic plan with funding provided by General Mills. Ms. Patterson requested a PAAWG appointment to this Steering Committee.

Moved by Tom Dolson;

That the staff presentation of the Peel Food Action Council be received and that Karen Hutchinson be appointed to the Peel Food Action Council Steering Committee to represent the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group.

Carried PAAWG 2019-06

9) Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP) Projects

Mark Eastman, Credit Valley Conservation

Mark Eastman provided a budget update on grants allocated and paid out. The new PRWQP balance is \$27,903.30. Mark also provided an update on the following projects:

a) 06-CVC-19 – Cover Crop

Moved by Karen Hutchinson;

That project 06-CVC-19 be approved for funding in the amount of \$5,000 under the category of "Cover Crop."

Carried PAAWG 2019-07

b) 07-CVC-18 - Manure Storage, Handling Systems and Composting Facilities, Nutrient Management Strategy and Plan

At the April 2019 PAAWG meeting funding for this project but directing program had been approved but staff had been approved to discuss options for the elimination of temporary field storage of turkey manure with the applicant and report back to the PAAWG. Mark Eastman reported that he had met with the applicant and that the applicant was unwilling to remove the temporary storage as he values the security this option provides in his approved nutrient management strategy if conditions temporarily prevent spreading of manure. This has only occurred once in the past three years.

10) 2019 Provincial Policy Statement Review – Summary of Changes

Mark Head, Manager, Region of Peel

Mark Head provided an information update on the status of the 2019 Provincial Policy Statement Review. On July 22, 2019, the Province of Ontario released proposed changes to the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) through an Environmental Registry Posting. The PPS is the primary provincial policy document in Ontario to guide land use planning. The PPS sets the policy foundation for regulating the development and use of land issued under Section 3 of the Planning Act.

The current PPS has been in force and effect since April 30, 2014. The Planning Act requires that decisions affecting planning matters "shall be consistent with" policy statements issued under the Act. The proposed changes to the PPS are meant to work together with the other provincial policy changes released earlier this year to support the Province's objectives to:

- encourage the development of an increased mix and supply of housing;
- protect the environment and public safety;
- reduce barriers and costs for development and provide greater predictability;
- support rural, northern and Indigenous communities;
- support the economy and jobs; and
- maintain protections for the Greenbelt.

The proposed 2019 updates to section 2.3 Agriculture do not propose changes to permitted uses within prime agricultural areas. Permitted uses continue to be agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses and on-farm diversified uses. There are proposed improvements to the PPS including:

- encouragement for planning authorities to use an agricultural system approach to maintain and enhance geographic continuity of the agricultural land base

- and the functional economic connections to the agri-food network. The proposed change reflects a similar requirement in the Growth Plan, 2019; and
- the requirement that impacts from any new or expanding non-agricultural uses on surrounding agricultural operations and lands are to be avoided, and where avoidance is not possible, minimized and mitigated to the extent feasible and informed by provincial guidelines. The proposed policy replaces the existing PPS requirement that impacts be mitigated to the extent feasible.

A staff report to Regional Council on the proposed changes to the PPS is planned for October 10, 2019. Mark Head can share the table and comments pertaining to the 2019 PPS.

11) Communication and Information Items

Mark Head, Region of Peel

Don Campbell, Region of Peel

Mark Head provided an update on the Grown in Peel Guide indicating that farm recruitment continued to be a challenge. The nominal listing fees currently charged to participating farm businesses were cited as a barrier that resulted in at least one farm not reapplying to list on the Guide. In further consideration of the nominal amount collected from listing fees and the internal staff cost to implement and track invoicing and payments, it will be recommended that the Region not charge a fee for the 2020 Guide production. PAAWG members were asked if they had any concerns or preferences with respect to the recommendation. PAAWG members were in general agreement with the intended direction.

Tom Dolson recommended that Peel and Caledon improve the marketing of the agricultural sector/land base in Caledon, suggested using the agricultural census bulletin to tell the Peel/Caledon story. The discussion led to a suggestion that staff consider how the farm sector can be marketed in conjunction with next year's food guide.

Mark Eastman recommended that we plan a farm tour and event next year.

Don Campbell shared the following communication items:

- Durham 2019 Farm Tour - Invitation
- Ontario Releases Local Food Report. OMAFRA, June 5, 2019.
- Ontario Celebrates Local Food Week. OMAFRA, June 3, 2019.
- Saving Time and Making Life Easier for Farmers. Governments Launch Enhanced Online Tool to Renew Environmental Farm Plans. OMAFRA, June 11, 2019.
- Growing Ontario's Agri-food Sector. New Place to Grow program to boost industry competitiveness and innovation. OMAFRA, June 12, 2019.
- Ontario Announces Excellence in Agriculture Award Recipient. OMAFRA, June 17, 2019.
- Message from OMAFRA on Agricultural System Implementation, June 6, 2019.

12) Adjourn Meeting / Next Meeting

Moved by Karen Hutchinson;

That the August 22, 2019, Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting be adjourned.

Carried PAAWG 2019-08

The meeting stood adjourned at 9:16 p.m. The next Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting will be on November 21, 2019.