



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL:
PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP
PAAWG 2024-03 Meeting Minutes

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) met on August 15, 2024, 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
Pat Fortini, Regional Councillor, Peel Region
Karen Hutchinson, Vice-Chair, Caledon Countryside Alliance
Dwight Matson, Peel Federation of Agriculture
Gary Mountain, Chair, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Ed Russell, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association
Mario Russo, Regional Councillor, Peel Region
Brian Wannamaker, Citizen-at-Large

Members Absent:

Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton
Britt McKee, EcoSource
Manjari Mehta, Citizen-at-Large
Mark Vanderwees, Citizen-at-Large

Staff:

Heather Hewitt, Intermediate Planner, Peel Region
Learie Miller, Manager, Peel Region
Danial Salari, Intern Student, Peel Region
Melanie Williams, Advisor, Peel Region
Duncan Ivany, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation
Sarah Lindsay, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation
Holly Shipclark, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation
Patrick Esson, Sr. Project Manager, Toronto and Region Conservation
Fallon Hayes, Project Co-Ordinator, Toronto and Region Conservation

Guests:

Jo-Anne Rzadki, Conservation Ontario
Jenna Salvatore, Conservation Ontario
Olivia Sparrow, City of Brampton

1) Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair, Gary Mountain.

Gary Mountain recognized and welcomed guests including:

- Olivia Sparrow, Manager, Stormwater Programs, City of Brampton
- Jo-Anne Rzedki and Jenna Salvatore, Conservation Ontario
- Danial Salari, Intern Student, Region of Peel

2) Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Holly Shipclark declared a conflict of interest on Peel Rural Water Quality Program application 07-CVC-24 Cover Crop. No other conflicts of interest were identified.

3) Review and Approval of August 15, 2024 Agenda

Moved by Councillor Russo, seconded by Karen Hutchinson

That the Agenda for the August 15, 2024, meeting of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group be approved as amended.

Carried PAAWG 2024-18

4) Review and Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2024 Meeting

Moved by Tom Dolson, seconded by Dwight Matson

That the Minutes of Meeting 2024-02 of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group, held on May 16, 2024, be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2024-19

5) Update on City of Brampton Stormwater Management and Agricultural Charges/Credits

Olivia Sparrow, City of Brampton

The City of Brampton will be releasing its proposed Stormwater Credit Program for public comment in September 2024. There are 116 farms that have been identified as having buildings, driveways and hard surfaces that would be eligible for enrollment. City of Brampton staff will circulate the link to the draft once released.

Questions/Discussion:

1. PAAWG inquired if the credit program would be a one-time enrollment or an annual enrollment. PAAWG was informed that enrollment will consist of a

form with a precalculated credit back dated to June 1, 2020. This credit would be in place and effective until the property is no longer farmed. A farmer can update their credit if they increase the stormwater storage capacity on their property.

2. PAAWG was concerned of the burden this charge will place on the agricultural community and inquired what happens when a property is sold for future, non-farm development. PAAWG was informed that there are 103 of the 209 farms in Brampton that have no hard surfaces and will not have any stormwater charges until hard surfaces are built. The credit is based on holding back stormwater on the property, with the goal of maximizing the credit, in some cases up to a 90% credit.
3. PAAWG inquired as to how the City of Brampton is enforcing stormwater management on urban hardscapes. PAAWG was informed that It is a priority for the City of Brampton to engage residential homeowners in outreach programs to increase awareness of the impacts property changes have on the stormwater system. This program currently has a 30-50% success rate in avoiding stormwater challenges on private property.

The City of Brampton has a 20-year forecasting for how its stormwater management system will perform. This includes options for designing a system that forecasts an increase in impervious surfaces as areas continue to expand with development and the building of more residential areas.

City of Brampton staff will report back on mechanisms for by-law compliance of property owners introducing hardscape surfaces that fall outside of zoning by-laws.

4. PAAWG commented that the percent of hard surfaces relative to overall permeable surface/property size to manage the stormwater, should be looked at for the credit (e.g., a building envelope on 80 acres compared to 20 acres).
5. PAAWG commented that rural culverts have been used in the City to manage stormwater and is not a new services being provided.
6. PAAWG inquired if the City of Brampton has undertaken any modelling of stormwater management from the increase of hard surfaces in adjacent, upstream municipalities. PAAWG was informed that Conservation Authorities have undertaken stormwater modelling through the subwatershed planning process. Watershed plans and environmental servicing plans provide the City with information on how much stormwater to prepare for downstream. The Province sets out groundwater recharge and pollution targets for each development.

6) Grown in Peel Reels

Melanie Williams, Peel Region

The communication plan for Grown in Peel has expanded for 2024. Electronic billboards for Grown in Peel for the strawberries and apple seasons are displayed along 400 highways in Peel Region.

The Region will be producing a series of 1 minute 'reels' promoting Grown in Peel farm and farmer market listings, across the growing seasons.

The Grown in Peel information poster will be at the CNE Farm Building at a booth promoting local farms and farmers markets.

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG inquired if the number of listings in the 2024 Grown in Peel guide is average to previous years. PAAWG was informed that the last two years has had the highest number of listings, especially for small operations producing honey. There are 36 listings in the 2024 guide from farms and farmers markets.

7) 20th Anniversary Peel Farm Tour

Holly Shipclark, Credit Valley Conservation

Invitations have been sent out for the 20th anniversary Peel Rural Water Quality Program and ALUS Peel farm tour being held Wednesday, October 2, 2024, from 11AM-3PM, at Spirit Tree Estate Cidery, Caledon. There will be a keynote address from the Honourable Rob Black, Senator (Ontario) and Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. The Senator will be speaking on the Senate's report on soil health in Canada. Lunch will be provided. Four projects located on two properties will be showcased.

Questions/Discussion:

Administration details of the event was confirmed with PAAWG members. PAAWG encouraged a media release and/or invitation be extended to local media outlets to attend the event. ALUS National will also be providing a photographer.

8) ALUS Peel Pilot Evaluation

Holly Shipclark, Credit Valley Conservation

The 3-year pilot of the ALUS Peel program will end February 2025. An evaluation of the program is required for the program partners to determine if the program will be adopted. The evaluation will begin this October to look at the achievement of milestones and feedback from ALUS Peel Pilot participants. Results and recommendations will be presented to PAAWG at the November meeting for feedback and endorsement.

Questions/Discussion:

There were no questions or discussion topics.

9) Peel Rural Water Quality Program Guidelines

Holly Shipclark and Duncan Ivany, Credit Valley Conservation

a) Financial Report

The 2024 PRWQP program year has a budget of \$70,000.00. With additional contributions through other funding partnerships for specific projects, this budget has been augmented to \$95,253. Pending the approval of the August 15, 2024, projects, as presented, the total remaining balance is \$8,871.

The 2024 ALUS Peel Pilot contribution for annual payments for new projects is \$6,532.50 (pending).

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG inquired if this year's budget spending was on track and comparable to previous budget years. Program staff clarified that the amount of grants allocated can vary by year based on available partner funding and the type of projects that are being applied for. Compared to 2023, spending on projects for 2024 is lower however, it is average with previous years prior to 2023.

PAAWG discussed that the current interest rates may also influence program participation and ensuring that the agricultural community is aware of the available funding is important.

Program staff will be doing targeted outreach to potential farms, especially row crop farmers, as well as attending local fairs.

b) Project Applications

Duncan Ivany, Credit Valley Conservation

I. 05-CVC-24 Erosion Control Structures – Machinery Crossing (PRWQP)

Application 05-CVC-24 proposes \$700.00 to replace and install a new machinery crossing to reduce erosion and sediment into the watercourse.

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG inquired if the bridge is wide enough to move farm machinery across. Program staff clarified that the bridge was designed for the farm's equipment consisting of small tractors and ATVs.

PAAWG inquired into the classification of tributaries (e.g., warm, cool, cold). Program staff described how the different temperatures influenced the habitat

downstream for fish species. This tributary is warm and contributes to the cool or cold water downstream, impacting the Brook Trout habitat.

Moved by Karen Hutchinson, seconded by Councillor Russo

That application 05-CVC-24 be approved and that Peel Rural Water Quality Program funding be provided in the amount of \$700 under the category "Erosion Control".

Carried PAAWG 2024-20

II. 06-CVC-24 Cover Crop (PRWQP)

Application 05 -CVC-24 proposes \$1,880.00 for 47 acres (19 ha) of cover crops. This project helps the establishment and overwintering of cover crops, contributing to the reduction of erosion, enhancement of area conditions, and reduced risks related to wind erosion in a highly vulnerable aquifer.

Questions/Discussion:

There were no questions or discussion.

Moved by Tom Dolson, seconded by Raphael Adegboye

That application 06-CVC-24 be approved and that Peel Rural Water Quality Program funding be provided in the amount of \$1,880.00 under the category "Cover Crop".

Carried PAAWG 2024-21

III. 07-CVC- Cover Crop (PRWQP)

The application 07 -CVC-24 proposes \$970.00 for 9.7 acres (4 ha) of cover crops. This project helps the establishment and overwintering of cover crops, contributing to the reduction of erosion, enhancement of area conditions, and reduced risks related to wind erosion in a source water protection wellhead protection area D.

Questions/Discussion:

Holly Shipclark stepped out for this application. There were no questions or discussion.

Moved by Brian Wannamaker, seconded by Tom Dolson

That application 07-CVC-24 be approved and that Peel Rural Water Quality Program funding be provided in the amount of \$970.00 under the category "Cover Crop".

Carried PAAWG 2024-22

10) For Information

Melanie Williams, Peel Region

- 1) Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Summer Newsletter available online
- 2) Peel Region Submission to ERO 019- 8364 Proposed amendments to development permit exemptions under R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 828 for lands in the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area
- 3) ERO 019-8075, Proposed changes to how verification certificates are issued for incinerators regulated under the Nutrient Management Act, 2002

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG inquired into the proposed amendments for permitting of routine projects under the development permit exemptions for the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area. The Niagara Escarpment Commission is proposing to introduce an online, self-reporting process to streamline common projects that are deemed to have no or little environmental impacts such as farmgate stands and culvert maintenance, in order to make it a more timely process.

11) Round Table and Other Business

No other business stated.

12) Adjournment

Moved by Tom Dolson

That the August 15, 2024, meeting of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group be adjourned.

Carried PAAWG 2024-23

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm. The next PAAWG meeting will be held in-person at the Peel Conference and online via Microsoft Teams on November 21, 2024, at 7:00pm.