



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL:
PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

PAAWG 2025-02 Meeting Minutes

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) met on May 15, 2025, 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
- Karen Hutchinson, Vice-Chair, Caledon Countryside Alliance
- Dwight Matson, Peel Federation of Agriculture
- Britt McKee, EcoSource
- Gary Mountain, Chair, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- Ed Russell, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- Mark Vanderwees, Citizen-at-Large (Left at 7:45pm)
- Brian Wannamaker, Citizen-at-Large

Members Absent:

- Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton
- Pat Fortini, Regional Councillor, Peel Region
- Manjari Mehta, Citizen-at-Large
- Mario Russo, Regional Councillor, Peel Region

Staff:

- Tara Buonpensiero, Director, Peel Region
- Tyra Krapp, Co-op Student, Peel Region
- Marsha Paley, Principal Planner, Peel Region
- Melanie Williams, Advisor, Peel Region
- Karen Buckle, Agricultural Extension, Credit Valley Conservation
- Holly Shipclark, Sr, Co-Ordinator Agricultural Extension, Credit Valley Conservation
- Patrick Esson, Sr. Project Manager, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Fallon Hayes, Project Co-Ordinator, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Jessie Spasov, Project Manager, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

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Guests:

- Rebecca Pearce-Cameron, ALUS National
- Namrata Shrestha, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
- Elizabeth Speller, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

1) Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) was called to order with quorum at 7:01 pm by Chair Gary Mountain. Attendance was called and quorum confirmed.

2) Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were identified by members in attendance.

3) Review and Approval of May 15, 2025 Agenda

Moved by Karen Hutchinson, seconded by Britt McKee.

That the Agenda for the May 15, 2025, meeting of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2025-12

4) Review and Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2025 Meeting

Moved by Ed Russell, seconded by Karen Hutchinson.

That the Minutes of Meeting 2025-01 of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group, held on February 20, 2025, be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2025-13

5) Humber River Watershed Plan Update

Namrata Shrestha and Elizabeth Speller, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) is updating the Humber River Watershed Plan. TRCA has completed the Watershed Characterization Report and is developing the framework to develop program, policies, targets, priority actions and key indicators for TRCA to undertake its role in the protection and enhancement of the water resource system, natural heritage system, water quality, and natural hazards. TRCA presented the Management Framework process to PAAWG.

Questions/Discussion:

None

6) Credit Valley Conservation Discussion Paper for the Golden Horseshoe Food & Farming Alliance

Holly Shipclark, Credit Valley Conservation

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is preparing a proposal for the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance (GHFFA), for a best practices manual for the on-farm management of stormwater from farm buildings/structures, including buildings that support on-farm diversified uses. PAAWG was requested to provide guidance on what should be scoped into the document that would be beneficial to farmers. The proposal will be presented to the GHFFA Board at an upcoming meeting. From there the timeline to develop the project will be determined.

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG identified that there was a need for this type of information. They indicated it should include ways farmers could work with municipal partners to learn to manage stormwater. PAAWG noted by showcasing, to both farmers and municipalities, the practices/tools farmers can use as green infrastructure through demonstration sites would be helpful in increasing adoption of beneficial practices. PAAWG encouraged continued grants to support demonstrations and early adopters.

7) PAAWG Terms of Reference

Melanie Williams, Peel Region

The PAAWG Terms of Reference (TofR) was approved in 1997 and has undergone revisions since then to align with PAAWG's and the Region's changing roles and responsibilities. The proposed revisions are being undertaken to:

- align the TofR with changes to Peel's Regional roles and responsibilities
- change ALUS Peel from a pilot to permanent role of PAAWG
- undertake housekeeping amendments to recognize common practices that are in place

None of the proposed revisions add new roles or responsibilities to PAAWG. Any revisions to the TofR are to be endorsed by PAAWG and approved by Regional Council through a staff recommendation report to Council.

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG acknowledged that local municipal staff attend PAAWG meetings depending on agenda items, requests to delegate, etc. PAAWG requested if there is an opportunity to strengthen the tie to the local municipal planning division(s) or appoint a representative(s) to PAAWG. Peel Region staff will take this feedback for further consideration. PAAWG requested that the role of PAAWG to 'protect agricultural and rural lands as a natural resource of major

importance to the economic viability of the Region', remain versus the proposed revision to 'support', though recognizing the Peel Regional Official Plan is now implemented through the local municipalities.

Moved by Raphael Adegboye, Seconded by Britt McKee.

That the revised Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group Terms of Reference, as brought forward, be endorsed and include a further revision of 2.1 as per the discussion following its further review by staff.

Carried PAAWG 2025-14

8) Peel Rural Water Quality Program and ALUS Peel Pilot

Holly Shipclark, Credit Valley Conservation

a) PRWQP and ALUS Peel Pilot 2024 Memorandum

The 2024 memorandum has been revised to confirm final numbers that have been updated since the previous circulation.

Questions/Discussion:

None

b) Financial Report

The 2025 Peel Rural Water Quality (PRWQP) program year has a budget of \$73,000.00. Additional cost-share funds of \$11,751 through TRCA, from other funding partners for the three projects within TRCA's jurisdiction, is also available pending the approval of the May 15, 2025, projects. As presented, pending approval, the total remaining PRWQP budget balance for 2025 is \$68,000.

The 2025 ALUS Peel contributions for new annual payments is still being confirmed by ALUS National. The requested new annual payment grant allocation is \$0. There is still \$4,635 for projects approved by PAAWG in 2024 and 2025, which are still subject to funding confirmation from ALUS National.

c) ALUS Peel Update

CVC noted there were no ALUS Peel projects at this meeting. ALUS National will be confirming its 2025 funding for the annual payments soon. More information should be available at the August PAAWG meeting.

d) Proposed 2025 PRWQP and ALUS Peel Twilight Farm Tour

TRCA and CVC are proposing to host a twilight tour instead of a farm tour this year. CVC provided a brief background on what the twilight farm tour could include and requested ideas be provided to the CA program staff, soon as possible. Potential dates were reviewed.

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e) Update on 08-CVC-24 Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association Cover Crop Education Program

Holly Shipclark, Credit Valley Conservation

Gary Mountain, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association

In 2024, PAAWG approved a PRWQP Education Grant for the Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association (PSCIA), to trail different cover crops as a demonstration project for the community. As a condition of funding, PAAWG requested that the PSCIA provide an update to PAAWG on the outcomes of the trail, to help inform the PRWQP Cover Crop project category. Gary Mountain presented on behalf of the PSCIA, providing information and photos of the eight different cover crops. The trial was used as a demonstration site for the 2024 Peel Farm Tour.

f) Project Applications

Karen Buckle Credit Valley Conservation

I. 02-CVC-25 Cover Crop

Application 02-CVC-25 proposes \$2,000.00 for 50 acres (20 ha) of cover crops. This project helps the establishment and overwintering of cover crops, contributing to the reduction of erosion and enhancement of area conditions.

Questions/Discussion:

None.

Moved by Tom Dolson, seconded by Dwight Matson.

That application 02-CVC-25 be approved and that Peel Rural Water Quality Program funding be provided in the amount of \$2,000.00 under the category "Cover Crop".

Carried PAAWG 2025-15

10) For Information

Melanie Williams, Peel Region

a) Grown in Peel 2025 Launch

There are 31 farms, six (6) farmers' markets, and one (1) teaching garden in the 2025 Grown In Peel local food guide. There is ongoing recruitment for new and returning listings. The program is being promoted using posters, and across social media through posts and reels, electronic boards in municipal buildings and major roads, and on road signs

b) Golden Horseshoe Food & Farming Alliance 2024 AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) date has changed to Tuesday May 20, 2025. The AGM will be held in-person at Country Heritage Park or virtual.

c) Town of Caledon Proposed Tree Preservation By-law

PAAWG has previously expressed interest and held discussions on significant woodlands policies in Peel Region and at the local municipalities. Based on that interest, Peel Region staff brought forward information on an open house hosted by Town of Caledon for its proposed Tree Preservation By-law.

11) Round Table and Other Business

None

12) Adjournment

Moved by Karen Hutchinson.

That the May 15, 2025, meeting of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group be adjourned.

Carried PAAWG 2025-16

The meeting adjourned at 8:27pm. The next PAAWG meeting will be held in-person at the Peel Conference and online via Microsoft Teams on August 21, 2025, at 7:00 pm.