



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL:
PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

PAAWG 2025-03 Meeting Minutes

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) met on August 21, 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:

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

Members Absent:

Raphael Adegboye, Representative of the Agricultural Community
Patrick Brown, Mayor, City of Brampton
Manjari Mehta, Citizen-at-Large
Britt McKee, EcoSource
Mario Russo, Regional Councillor, Peel Region
Mark Vanderwees, Citizen-at-Large
Brian Wannamaker, Citizen-at-Large

Staff:

Heather Hewitt, Intermediate Planner, Peel Region
Tyra Krapp, Co-op Student, Peel Region
Learie Miller, Manager, Peel Region
Melanie Williams, Advisor, Peel Region
Karen Buckle, Agricultural Extension, Credit Valley Conservation
Holly Shipclark, Sr. Co-Ordinator Agricultural Extension, Credit Valley Conservation
Kristian Stephens, 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

Guests:

Rebecca Pearce-Cameron, ALUS National
Ben Roberts, Economic Development, Town of Caledon

1) Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) was called to order with quorum at 7:02pm by Chair Gary Mountain. Attendance was called and quorum confirmed.

2) Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Holly Shipclark declared a conflict of interest with 05-CVC-25. No other conflicts of interest were identified by members in attendance.

3) Review and Approval of August 21, 2025 Agenda

Moved by Tom Dolson, seconded by Councillor Fortini.

That the Agenda for the August 21, 2025, meeting of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2025-17

4) Review and Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2025 Meeting

Moved by Ed Russell, seconded by Tom Dolson.

That the Minutes of Meeting 2025-02 of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group, held on May 15, 2025, be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2025-18

5) Credit Valley Conservation Hotspot Identification Tool for Soil Erosion and Integrated Soil Health Programming

Kristian Stephens, Credit Valley Conservation

Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) is piloting an ArcGIS tool in Halton Region that identifies areas in subwatersheds that are highly susceptible to erosion due to soil type, topography, cover and overland flow. This is leading to high levels of sediment and nutrient loss into the watershed. Priority areas have been identified to increase the uptake of voluntary beneficial management practices for farm and rural non-farm landowners. CVC inquired if this was a tool that would be beneficial to the farmers in Peel Region.

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG felt that the tool was complimentary to the PRWQP and could be beneficial to Peel farmers. PAAWG discussed if the use of a drone to support the project field scouting could be an additional benefit to the project and Peel farmers.

6) Peel Rural Water Quality Program and ALUS Peel**a) ALUS Peel Update**

Rebecca Pearce-Cameron, Associate Hub Manager, ALUS National

ALUS National provided an update to PAAWG on the initiatives, outcomes and goals of ALUS across Canada, Ontario and in the Eastern Hub area that ALUS Peel is situated.

ALUS National will be holding an Eastern Hub workshop in Chatham-Kent on October 7-8, 2025. The workshop consists of a full day field tour to highlight projects, and a half day in the classroom learning about topics such as the HITS Modelling Tool. The workshop is free for PAAWG members to attend but additional costs such as mileage and accommodations are not included.

Questions/Discussion:

None

b) Financial Report

Holly Shipclark, Credit Valley Conservation

The 2025 Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP) year has a budget of \$73,000, with additional cost-share funds of \$11,751 through Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), from other funding partners for the three projects within TRCA's jurisdiction. As presented, pending approval, the total remaining PRWQP budget balance for 2025 is \$42,178.

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 \$4,867.50 for projects approved by PAAWG in 2024 and 2025, which are still subject to funding confirmation from ALUS National.

c) Proposed 2025 PRWQP and ALUS Peel Twilight Farm Tour

Karen Buckle & Holly Shipclark, Credit Valley Conservation

The annual PRWQP and ALUS Peel farm tour will be a twilight tour on September 24, 2025, 4:30pm-7:00pm, at Whole Village, Caledon. The tour will highlight PRWQP and ALUS Peel projects completed at the farm over the past 20 years. Peel Region source water protection staff will be keynote speakers. PAAWG was requested to provide feedback on the date, time and theme.

Questions/Discussion:

None

d) Project Applications

Karen Buckle, Credit Valley Conservation

I. 03-CVC-25 Livestock Fencing from Environmentally Sensitive Features

Application 03-CVC-25 proposes \$14,600.00 in Peel Rural Water Quality Program grants to install new livestock restriction fencing to reduce erosion from cattle in a WHPA-C and WHPA-D.

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG inquired if a source water protection risk management plan is required for the property and/or project. CVC confirmed that a risk management plan is not required.

Moved by Tom Dolson, seconded by Ed Russell.

That application 03-CVC-25 be approved and that Peel Rural Water Quality Program funding be provided in the amount of \$14,600.00 under the category "Livestock Fencing from Environmentally Sensitive Features"

Carried PAAWG 2025-19

II. 04-CVC-25 Irrigation

The application 04-CVC-25 proposes \$9,023.00 in Peel Rural Water Quality Program grants to reduce overland nutrient runoff into adjacent ditches and watercourses by moving from a tanker to dripline irrigation system.

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG requested clarification on components of the irrigation system and how they are used to implement the project.

Moved by Dwight Matson, seconded by Karen Hutchison.

That application 04-CVC-25 be approved and that Peel Rural Water Quality Program funding be provided in the amount of \$9,023.00, under the category "Irrigation" on the conditions of:

- That the applicant first meets the conditions of 04-TRCA-25 which stated that Program Staff be provided with an estimation of water usage pre and post installation of the drip irrigation. This quantitative analysis should be used to inform 04-CVC-25, to ensure a reduction in post installation water usage; and,
- The applicant is encouraged to contact Program Staff on the Peel Rural Water Quality Program's private well upgrade project category or Peel

Region's private well abandonment program, regarding the 1960's drilled well with a 4 ft diameter well pit and a precarious cover.

Carried PAAWG 2025-20

III. 05-CVC-25 Tree Planting

Holly Shipclark declared a conflict of interest and left at 8:13pm for the duration of project 05-CVC-25.

The application 05-CVC-25 proposes \$987.50 in Peel Rural Water Quality Program grants to infill and enhance natural areas and pasture for the restoration of marginal farmland in a WHPA-D and WHPA-E.

Questions/Discussion:

Moved by Tom Dolson, seconded by Dwight Matson.

That application 05-CVC-25 be approved and that Peel Rural Water Quality Program funding be provided in the amount of \$987.50 under the category "Tree Planting".

Carried PAAWG 2025-21

IV. 06-CVC-25 Tree Planting

The application 06-CVC-25 proposes \$1,211.59 in Peel Rural Water Quality Program grants to infill and enhance natural areas that were lost to drought, in a WHPA-D.

Questions/Discussion:

PAAWG inquired about the use of seedlings and the viability of the planting during another drought season. CVC staff provided additional detail on the planting time and nursery stock being selected based on the seasonal conditions so that the planting can be more successful.

Moved by Ed Russell, seconded by Tom Dolson.

That application 06-CVC-25 be approved and that Peel Rural Water Quality Program funding be provided in the amount of \$1,211.59 under the category "Tree Planting".

Carried PAAWG 2025-22

7) For Information

Melanie Williams, Peel Region

a) Grown in Peel 2025

Grown in Peel has released two reels for the summer, one on strawberries and the other on sweet corn. There has also been a strong marketing campaign including electronic highway and municipal boards, promotion at the Canadian National Exhibition and public events.

8) Round Table and Other Business

City of Brampton sent correspondence updating PAAWG on the City's stormwater program and proposed farm credit program. The City is currently undertaking public consultation on the proposed farm credit program. The commenting period has been extended to September 29, 2024.

9) Adjournment

Moved by Ed Russell.

That the August 21, 2025, meeting of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group be adjourned.

Carried PAAWG 2025-23

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm. The next PAAWG meeting will be held in-person at the Peel Conference and online via Microsoft Teams on November 20, 2025, at 7:00 pm.