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 DATE: February 14, 2011

 REPORT TITLE: **MEMBER APPOINTMENTS TO PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP FOR THE 2011-2014 TERM OF COUNCIL**

 FROM: Norma Trim, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services
 

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the members of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group identified in the report of the Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services, dated February 14, 2011, titled "Member Appointments to Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group for the 2011-2014 Term of Council", be appointed for a term ending November 30, 2014, or until a successor is appointed by Regional Council;**

**And further, that the members be advised of their appointment.**

**REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- In November 2010 current appointments to the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) for the 2007-2010 term expired.
- Through Regional Council Resolution 2010-963, Regional Chair Kolb (ex-officio) and Councillors Foley and Thompson were appointed to the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group, for a term ending November 30, 2014.
- This report recommends appointment of the remaining citizen-at-large members of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group for the 2011-2014 term in accordance with the Terms of Reference for PAAWG.
- Members are required to be appointed by Regional Council.

**DISCUSSION**
**1. Background**

The Peel Agriculture Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) was established in 1997 under Resolution 97-249 to create a closer link between the agricultural community and the Region of Peel. PAAWG assists the Region of Peel in its efforts to protect agricultural lands and promote the agricultural industry as a natural resource of major importance to the economic viability of the Region.

Twelve volunteer members are appointed to the working group for a term of four years and represent Council, agricultural organizations and rural special interest groups within the community. Under Regional Council Resolution 2010-963, Regional Chair Kolb (ex-officio) and Councillors Foley and Thompson have been appointed to the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group, for a term ending November 30, 2014, or until their successors are appointed by Regional Council.

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The Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP) represents a partnership between the Region of Peel, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). By providing technical and financial support, the PRWQP promotes the proactive efforts taken by Peel's agricultural community to implement best management practices on their land. The program also aims to increase public awareness of potential rural pollution sources and environmentally sustainable land management practices to protect surface and subsurface water. PAAWG reviews and recommends approval of project applications for grant assistance made under the program. The PRWQP Approvals Sub-Committee members consist of the same membership as PAAWG, as this group is familiar with the beneficial management practices eligible for grant assistance under the Program.

In January 2011, Planning staff advertised for PAAWG membership in local newspapers and through emails to agricultural interest groups in Peel for the 2011-2014 term. Planning staff also contacted past members of PAAWG and invited them to submit application forms to be re-appointed to PAAWG. Planning staff reviewed the membership applications with input from the current Chair and Co-Chair of PAAWG, and Rural Water Quality Program staff from CVC and TRCA.

Staff representatives from the Region will continue to provide secretariat and research support to PAAWG.

## **2. Proposed Members**

As mandated by the PAAWG Terms of Reference (attached as Appendix I), PAAWG consists of three Regional or area municipal Councillors plus nine additional members who are appointed by Regional Council for a term of four years or until a successor is appointed by Regional Council. In addition to the Council representation, membership includes: two members from the Peel Federation of Agriculture, one member from the Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association, two members from Caledon Agricultural Societies or other agricultural interest groups, three citizen-at-large members and one youth member.

It is recommended that for the 2011-2014 term the following eight members be appointed to PAAWG:

- Peel Federation of Agriculture
  - Nick Ferri
  - Heather Laidlaw
- Caledon Agricultural Societies/ Special Agricultural Interest Groups
  - Karen Hutchinson
  - Gary Mountain
- Peel Soil and Crop Association
  - Randall McLeod
- Citizens-at-Large
  - Brian Ellsworth
  - Abu Taher
  - Ludwik Lipowski

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The recommended members of PAAWG all have special rural and/or agricultural qualifications, interests and abilities as well as the ability and willingness to devote the necessary time to PAAWG. The citizens-at-large possess expertise, experience and willingness to liaise with a range of agencies, organizations and interest groups represented on PAAWG and represent the interests of the broader community of Peel Region. These individuals are enthusiastic regarding the role that they will fulfill in the future.

At this time, there have been no applications received for the youth member representative. Regional staff will continue to recruit for a youth members through PAAWG and agricultural youth groups in Peel (e.g. 4H and Peel Junior Farmers). In the meantime, the current member, Brent Piercey, will be requested to attend meetings until a successor is appointed.

**CONCLUSION**

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group continues to facilitate and enhance the relationship between the Region, agricultural groups and community members within Peel. The recommended members meet the eligibility requirements to sit on PAAWG and have membership support from Region of Peel staff. The recommended membership effectively represents the interests of the agricultural and rural communities within the Region of Peel. Member appointments are recommended in accordance with the Terms of Reference for PAAWG.



Norma Trim  
Chief Financial Officer  
and Commissioner of Corporate Services


**Approved for Submission:**



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D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

*For further information regarding this report, please contact Arvin Prasad at extension 4251 or via email at [arvin.prasad@peelregion.ca](mailto:arvin.prasad@peelregion.ca)*

Authored By: Jelena Baker 

c. Legislative Services

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**MEMBER APPOINTMENTS TO PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP FOR THE 2011-2014 TERM OF COUNCIL****TERMS OF REFERENCE****PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP****Background**

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) is a voluntary Working Group established in partnership by Regional Council, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The Working Group has been established by Council, CVC and TRCA in accordance with the adopted Terms of Reference. Members are bound by the Terms of Reference and are ultimately responsible to Regional Council, CVC and TRCA. Minutes shall be reported to Regional Council, and the CVC and TRCA Boards of Directors through communication items and meeting minutes.

**Goals**

To assist the Region of Peel, CVC and TRCA in their efforts to:

- protect agricultural lands as a natural resource of major importance to the economic viability of the Region;
- support Region of Peel farmers and agricultural organizations as valuable contributors to the community and the economy of Peel;
- promote healthy rural communities that contain living, working and recreational opportunities that respect the natural environment and resources;
- increase awareness of and mitigate rural pollution sources by promoting environmentally sound land management practices to protect surface and subsurface water; and
- deliver the Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP).

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Working Group is to:

- a) solicit issues and concerns and provide a forum for the exchange of information for Peel's farming industry, agricultural organizations, community groups and rural citizenry and to advise the Region of Peel, CVC and TRCA, and make appropriate recommendations to Regional Council;
- b) assist Regional Council in implementing Regional and area municipal official plan policies and programs and provide input on how agricultural and rural issues can be incorporated into goals and objectives in the review of Regional and area municipal official plan policies;

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- c) assist Regional Council in the implementation of provincial legislation related to farm practices and act as interim arbitrator on local nuisance complaints;
- d) encourage public awareness and education of agricultural and rural issues and facilitate communication of the PRWQP to agricultural and rural groups, agencies and/or organizations, and the public at large;
- e) review studies, plans, proposals, and provide comments and recommendations on legislation, programs, funding, alternative solutions, approaches, plans or studies dealing with agricultural and rural issues which are within the responsibilities and financial capabilities of the Region of Peel, as required by provincial legislation, or as referred by Regional Council;
- f) provide guidance to CVC and TRCA staff on the development and implementation of the CVC and TRCA jointly administered PRWQP, including but not limited to:
  - Eligible Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) for grant compensation;
  - Grant rate and ceiling for each BMP;
  - PRWQP and project eligibility guidelines;
  - Application and project approval process;
  - PRWQP delivery;
  - Marketing and promotional strategy of the PRWQP; and
  - Areas of improvement.
- g) assist CVC and TRCA in ensuring that the PRWQP funds are administered on a priority basis in accordance with the PRWQP guidelines, as amended;
- h) review and approve eligible PRWQP Water Quality Improvement Plans and project funding proposals for grant assistance for the PRWQP;
- i) resolve appeals on decisions of Water Quality Improvement Plans and PRWQP project funding; and
- j) assist CVC and TRCA to conduct a strategic review of the PRWQP as required (i.e. every 5 years).

**Membership**

- 1) The Working Group consists of three Regional or area municipal Councillors and 9 additional members. Elected officials who are members are appointed

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for a term of four years, or until successors are appointed by Regional Council. Non-elected members may be appointed for a term of up to eight years.

2) Members are appointed as follows:

- Regional Chair (ex-officio) (1)
- Regional or area municipal Councillors (3)
- Peel Federation of Agriculture (2; plus 1 alternate)
- Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association (1; plus 1 alternate)
- Peel Agricultural Societies, other special agricultural interest groups (2; plus 2 alternates)
- Three citizens-at-large (3)
- Youth member (1)

3) The representatives of agricultural organizations or agencies should have special rural and agricultural qualifications, interests and abilities as well as the capacity and willingness to devote the necessary time to the Working Group.

4) Members are expected to attend all meetings. Should they be unable to so, it is the responsibility of the member to make arrangements for an alternate where applicable to attend the meeting in their place.

5) The citizens-at-large should possess expertise, experience and willingness to liaise with the range of agencies, organizations and interest groups represented and represent the interests of the broader community rather than a specific interest group.

6) The Youth member should have an interest in rural and agricultural issues and possess a considerable level of experience or knowledge attained through working or volunteering in the farming community. Youth membership is limited to individuals between the ages of 17 and 29 years old.

7) Openings for membership shall be publicly advertised in accordance with the Region of Peel Public Notice Policy. All citizens of Peel Region and any representatives of organizations involved in agricultural and rural issues in Peel Region are invited to apply. Applicants shall submit the required application form to the Region of Peel Clerk's Office. Membership applications shall be reviewed by Region of Peel ETPS, CVC and TRCA staff and the Chair of the Working Group. Recommendations for membership shall be made to Regional General Committee via a joint Planning, CVC and TRCA report. Members shall be formally appointed by Regional Council.

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- 8) A Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected at the first meeting annually and shall serve for the remainder of the calendar year. The Chair and Vice-Chair may be re-appointed for subsequent years. The Chair/Vice-Chair should be prepared to devote time between meetings for related business and to occasionally make presentations at other meetings.
- 9) Alternates have the power to vote only in the absence of regular Working Group members.

**Quorum**

Quorum constitutes of a majority of the total number of Working Group members, and the Regional Chair shall be counted in determining quorum.

**Pecuniary or Conflicts of Interest**

Members shall declare applicable pecuniary or conflicts of interest before agenda items are presented including the approval or appeal of PRWQP project applications.

**Meetings**

The Working Group shall meet generally on a quarterly basis or more frequently as required.

Agenda items should be forwarded to Region of Peel support staff or to the Chair at least one week in advance of meetings. Agendas shall be made available to the public on the Region of Peel website and in hard copy at the Region of Peel ETPS Department one week prior to the meeting, and materials shall be circulated two days in advance of the scheduled meeting by e-mail or mail to members. Public materials shall be available from the Region of Peel ETPS Department (Planning, Policy and Research Division, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton). Confidential materials shall be circulated to members only in accordance with section 239 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Decisions of the Working Group on PRWQP applications and water quality improvement plans shall be decided by a majority vote of those members present at a meeting. Where a decision cannot be obtained at the approval stage, CVC and TRCA staff shall consider the opinions of the arguments both in favour of and opposed to the application or water quality improvement plans when recommending final projects to the funding agencies.

The Chair may invite or receive an individual, interest group, agency or consultant to appear as a delegation in an advisory capacity, and/or to submit or

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present information which shall assist the Working Group in carrying out its mandate.

Meetings shall be open to the public unless determined by the Working Group that an in-camera meeting is required. Section 239 of the *Municipal Act* must be adhered to, in that matters discussed in-camera be restricted to the exceptions outlined in section 239. One week's notice shall be given to the public via the agenda including justification for going in-camera. The committee may move in camera to discuss items during the meeting as necessary.

**Minutes**

The Working Group meeting minutes are public including the approval of PRWQP project applications. However, specific details which could supersede the privacy of PRWQP project application such as personal information, shall be kept anonymous and confidential. The release of these details shall be in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

**Role and Responsibility of Support Staff**

Staff representatives from the Region of Peel ETPS Department shall provide administrative and research support to the Working Group. This includes, but is not limited to the preparation and distribution of agendas and supporting documentation; and the taking, preparation and correcting of minutes.

Staff representatives from CVC and TRCA shall provide community outreach and technical support to the Working Group for the PRWQP. This includes, but is not limited to the completion, circulation, review and presentation of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program's Water Quality Improvement Plans and projects; distribution of approved project grants; and program promotion at special events.

**Funding Agencies**

Conservation authority staff is responsible for the delivery of the PRWQP and the distribution of grants to potential funding agencies, namely the Region of Peel and the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund. Conservation staff may be required to seek final approval by their funding agencies for the overall PRWQP principles, framework and funding requirements. Following any required approval by funding agencies, any significant change to the program principles and concepts shall be presented to the Working Group for comment and/or approval if required.



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The PRWQP is a co-operative partnership between the Working Group, funding agencies and Councils. Should the funding agencies not agree with the Working Group direction/decisions, staff shall endeavour to have agency decisions deferred and the issue brought back to the Working Group for review.

**Approval Process of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program**

If required, project applications may be circulated to area municipal, Regional and/or Provincial staff for technical comments.

The Working Group shall approve, deny or defer the PRWQ Program's Water Quality Improvement Plans and project applications.

**Appeals of Application Decisions of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program**

Where requested by PRWQP applicants, the Working Group shall hear and decide on appeals of individual PRWQP applications. Applicants must make a request to appeal in writing to the Chair of the Working Group.

The appellant shall be allotted five minutes to present their appeal and members may then ask the appellant questions.

Decisions on appeals shall be based on a majority vote of the members present at the time the appeal is heard. Quorum must be met for a decision to be made on an appeal. Voting during appeal hearings shall be done in open session by a show of hands.

**Annual Reports and Work Plan**

An Annual Report summarizing the activities completed by the Working Group shall be prepared by Region of Peel ETPS, CVC and TRCA staff representatives. The Annual Report shall be provided to the Regional General Committee as well as CVC and TRCA's respective Board of Directors. An annual work plan shall be prepared by the Working Group outlining the direction for the upcoming year. The work plan shall be submitted to the Regional General Committee as well as CVC and TRCA's respective Board of Directors after the first Working Group meeting of the year.