



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL
PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP

MINUTES

PAAWG 2011-01

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group met on April 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the 1st Floor Mississauga Room, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton.

Members Present: Nick Ferri (Chair, Representative for Peel Federation of Agriculture); Randy McLeod (Caledon Agricultural Advisory Committee Delegate); Regional Councillor Allan Thompson; Gary Mountain (Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association Delegate); Brian Ellsworth (Citizen-at-large); Karen Hutchinson (Caledon Countryside Alliance Delegate); Heather Laidlaw (Vice-Chair, Representative for Peel Federation of Agriculture); Taher Abu (Citizen-at-large); Ludwik Lipowski (Citizen-at-large).

Members Absent: Region of Peel Chair Emil Kolb (Ex-Officio); Regional Councillor Patti Foley.

Also Present: Darlene Downey (Youth Member Representative Candidate); Robert Nimmo (Landowner); Mark Head (Planning Manager, Region of Peel); Melanie Williams (Principal Planner, Region of Peel); Jelena Baker (Junior Planner, Region of Peel); Mark Eastman (Program Coordinator, Credit Valley Conservation); Nadine Abrams (Rural Clean Water Program Coordinator, Toronto and Region Conservation); Andrea Warren (Planning Manager, Region of Peel).

1) Opening remarks and introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:43pm by Mark Head, Region of Peel, followed by round-table introductions and a welcome to the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) to all members.

2) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2011-2014 term of PAAWG

All offices of PAAWG for the 2011-2014 term were declared vacant. Mark Head acting as election chair, called the election to order and opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chair.

Nomination made for Nick Ferri for Chair. No other nominations were made. Nick Ferri agreed to stand for the nomination.

Moved by Randy McLeod,
Seconded by Allan Thompson;

That Nick Ferri be appointed Chair of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group for the term ending November 30, 2014 or until a successor is appointed.

Carried PAAWG 2011-001

Mark Head opened the floor to nominations for the position of Vice-Chair. Nomination made for Heather Laidlaw for Vice-Chair. No other nominations were made. Heather Laidlaw agreed to stand for the nomination.

Moved by Brian Ellsworth,
Seconded by Gary Mountain;

That Heather Laidlaw be appointed Vice-Chair of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group for the term ending November 30, 2014 or until a successor is appointed.

Carried PAAWG 2011-002

3) Review and approval of 2011-01 Agenda

Moved by Brian Ellsworth,
Seconded by Heather Laidlaw;

That the agenda of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting held on April 28, 2011 be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2011-003

4) Review and approval and 2010-05 Minutes

Moved by Heather Laidlaw,
Seconded by Gary Mountain;

That the minutes of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting held on November 18, 2010 be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2011-004

5) Presentation: Norval Quarry – Update

Andrea Warren, Planning Manager, Region of Peel

Andrea Warren, Planning Manager with the Region of Peel, presented information from the Brampton Brick Public Information Session on November 30, 2010 for its Brampton Brick Norval Quarry application. In December 2008, Brampton Brick filed a re-zoning application with the City of Brampton. This rezoning would remove the holding zone designation on the 84 acre (34 ha) property and rezone the property to permit aggregates extraction. Then, subject to an Aggregate Resources Act (ARA)

permit, 6 million tonnes of shale would be extracted from below the water table, over a period of 30 years.

The applicant appealed the rezoning application and the rezoning application is now in front of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

The lands are in the urban system designation within the Northwest Brampton Policy Area, as well as within a Transportation Corridor Protection Area. Lands are not planned for urban uses because they are in the Greenbelt. Andrea Warren pointed out that these lands are within provincial Greenbelt lands and subject to the Protected Countryside policies which permit aggregate extraction.

Regional issues that have been identified with this application include the presence of a tributary of the Credit River, groundwater resources serving private wells and the adequacy of existing roads to handle truck traffic. Regional staff has filed a letter of objection to the ARA licence to the Ministry of Natural Resources because of outstanding technical studies that need to be completed. No formal position will be taken by the Region until these studies have been evaluated. The Region's role is to ensure that impacts to regional water services are addressed to the satisfaction of the Region.

Andrea Warren provided members with a package of materials provided by the applicant at the public information session and also advised members that all information about the application can be found on the Brampton Brick website.

6) **Peel Rural Water Quality Program Applications**

a) **16-CVC-10 Appeal of Decision on Silage Storage**

Presenters: Robert Nimmo, Landowner and Mark Eastman, CVC

Mark Head reviewed the appeal process for Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP) projects outlined in the PAAWG Terms of Reference with members.

Discussion:

Mark Eastman, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), provided background on the appealed project. This silage storage project was originally presented at the September 2010-04 meeting of PAAWG as an 'Innovative Project' category. It was denied based on its overall benefit for protecting water quality. The applicant modified the project by adding walls to the silage storage. It was re-presented by CVC at the November 2010-05 meeting where it was indicated that additional funding for the project was not available from the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). While identified as an environmental action item in the EFP, which recognize the water quality benefits of silage storage best management practices, the EFP does not provide a corresponding funding category. Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association staff confirmed with CVC that this is because of the ability to convert silage storage pads into other on-farm uses in the future. The project was denied again based on its overall benefit for protecting the water quality and that the project was considered an expansion of the operation.

Robert Nimmo, the applicant, appealed the decision of PAAWG to not approve the application.

Mark Eastman presented a proposed decision making process for the project to the members and opened the floor to Robert Nimmo for his appeal.

Robert Nimmo presented the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Factsheet 04-031 'How to Handle Seepage from Farm Silos' to PAAWG. He quoted the potential water quality impacts of silage storage and why silage seepage is an environmental issue that should be addressed on farms.

Robert Nimmo stated that he has worked with CVC on other PRWQP projects on his property. Mr. Nimmo noted that CVC staff suggested that he consider relocating his silage storage to improve the water quality of the wetland and watercourse on his property. Mark Eastman confirmed that while CVC staff did recommend relocating the silage storage, the new location was chosen without consultation with the CVC.

The new capacity on the relocated silage storage is for 70 acres (28 ha) of corn. Members asked Robert Nimmo why the location of the new silage storage was selected. Robert Nimmo answered that he located the storage area close to the cattle barn to reduce the distance for the transportation of feed on the property. As well, the new location will direct silage seepage from the silage storage into a previously constructed bioswale to intercept leachate flowing to the watercourse. The intent of this bioswale is to improve on-farm surface runoff before entering into the watercourse on the property.

Members were concerned that if walls were funded that this storage pad could be turned into another on-farm structure later. Mark Eastman informed members that every landowner signs a PRWQP Water Quality Improvement Plan which binds the landowner to maintaining the funded project as is, for a period of five years.

The original silage storage area accommodated a 40 cow-calf operation. Robert Nimmo's application stated that the operation had expanded to a 70 cow-calf operation. Members were concerned that the silage storage was built to accommodate a larger amount of silage than necessary for the 70 cattle. The number of livestock existing on the property currently, was questioned by the members. Robert Nimmo did not provide an explanation regarding the members' concern of the size of the storage area.

Members asked Mark Eastman to explain the environmental benefit of the new location and silage storage design. Mark Eastman explained that the slope of the new storage directs silage seepage into the bioswail, the new location of the storage increases the length that the silage seepage would go through in the bioswail before entering the watercourse on the property and the addition of the walls and tarp will prevent additional seepage generation.

Members utilized the following decision making procedure, presented by Mark Eastman, for the vote:

1. Is there an environmental improvement as a result of constructing this project (with or without walls)?
 - On the first question, five members voted in favour, three opposed and one abstained
2. Should this project be considered for funding under the 'Innovative Projects' category?
 - On the second question, five members voted in favour, three opposed and one abstained
3. Is the project associated with an expansion of the operation? If yes, define the 'original' number of cattle and the 'expanded' cattle number. From this, determine silage storage requirements for 'original' number of cattle.
 - All PAAWG members were in agreement that the project was associated with an expansion of the original operation.
 - All members were in agreement that the new silage storage should be pro-rated on the number of cattle (40 cow/calf) existing prior to the construction of the new silage storage.
4. Are there conditions that should be attached to the project approval?
 - Members were in agreement that conditions should be added to the project to be eligible for funding.

Motion:

Nick Ferri moved that application 16-CVC-10 be approved with the conditions of:

1. A minimum 1 foot wall (concrete or clay) be constructed on 3 sides of the new silage storage to contain silage seepage;
2. That the new silage storage be checked annually for cracks and resealed if necessary, at owners expense;
3. That the new silage storage be pro-rated to the capacity size required for the number of cattle (40 cow-calf) existing prior to the construction of the new silage storage; and
4. That the cost-share funding for this alternative category be based on the grant ceiling for manure storage (50% up to a maximum \$15,000).

Nick Ferri called and restated the motion.

On this motion, five members voted in favour, three members opposed and one member abstained.

Carried PAAWG 2011-005

PAAWG members requested that the procedures for the appeal process be reviewed by Regional, CVC and TRCA staff.

Karen Hutchinson requested that continued eligibility of 'silage storage' as an 'Innovative Projects' project of the PRWQP be reviewed at the next meeting of PAAWG.

b) 01,02,03-CVC-11 Fuel Storage, Clean Water Diversion and Well Upgrade

Mark Eastman presented applications for Fuel Storage, Clean Water Diversion and Well Upgrade. All 3 projects have the same landowner.

The purpose of these projects are to prevent contamination of ground and surface water by fertilizers, farm chemicals, and fuel products, reduce the amount of contaminated runoff from manure storages and exercise yards and to reduce the risk of contamination of well water.

The project proposal includes replacing an existing single-walled fuel tank with a double-walled fuel tank, installing 30' of eavestroughing on a barn roof to divert clean rainwater away from the barnyard and installing a pitless adapter on a well and extend the well casing 16" above grade.

EFP funding has been received for the fuel storage and clean water diversion projects however, funding was no longer available through the EFP for the well upgrade.

That application 01-CVC-11 in the amount of \$1,267.50 be approved.
That application 02-CVC-11 in the amount of \$ 50.00 be approved.
That application 03-CVC-11 in the amount of \$ 1,000.00 be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2011-006, 007, 008

c) 04-CVC-11 Education and Training

Allan Thompson, Gary Mountain and Randy McLeod declared conflict of interest for this project and abstained from voting.

Mark Eastman presented an application from the Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association (PSCIA) under the Education and Training category. Currently PSCIA are in the third year of a 3 year study funded by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association Regional Partner Grant.

The purpose of this project is to support educational initiatives that promote the protection and/or improvement of surface and/or groundwater quality as promoted by the PRWQP. The project costs applied for include soil sampling, and NH₃ (ammonia) measurement.

That application 04-CVC-11 in the amount of \$500.00 be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2011-009

d) 01-TRCA-11 Private Well Upgrade

Nadine Abrams, Toronto and Region Conservation, presented the application for a private well upgrade to eliminate the potential for contaminants to enter groundwater. The purpose of this project is to reduce the risk of contamination of well water by implementing proper construction and maintenance practices and safeguards for existing wells and to protect drinking water sources from potential groundwater contamination through proper maintenance.

The landowner hired a licensed well driller to inspect the well. Inspection revealed that the steel casing has holes in various locations. Holes within the casing have allowed sediment to enter the well. The landowner would like to hire a licensed well driller to re-inspect the well and determine whether the well can be salvaged by installing a plastic lining. If the well cannot be salvaged, the well will be decommissioned.

That the application 01-TRCA-11 in the amount of \$1,000.00 be approved.

Carried PAAWG 2011-010

7) Discussion Items

a) 2011-2012 PAAWG Work Plan Priorities

Mark Head presented the PAAWG work plan priorities for 2011 and 2012 to the members. Following the meeting the work plan will be brought to Regional Council in a report summarizing the 2010 activities of PAAWG and attaching the 2011/2012 PAAWG work plan.

PAAWG members requested clarification of the urban agriculture project. Mark Head clarified that the project is focused on developing planning and program guidelines for urban agriculture programs in urban areas and is not focused on commercial agriculture. The intent of a guide for urban agriculture is to support agricultural opportunities within urban areas.

The work plan for PAAWG is considered to be a living document. Members agreed that the work plan can be presented to Regional Council with the above change. Additional comments or revisions can be emailed to Region of Peel staff.

Carried PAAWG 2011-011

b) PAAWG Terms of Reference

Mark Head presented the revised Terms of Reference (ToR) to members. There was discussion on the current membership. Although the ToR states that there are 3 Regional/Municipal Councillors only 2 were appointed to PAAWG. An application has been made by Darlene Downey for the open position of youth representative.

Moved by Allan Thompson,
Seconded by Heather Laidlaw;

That the PAAWG revised Terms of Reference be adopted.

Carried PAAWG 2011-011

c) Peel Region Official Plan Review ROPA 21B, Agricultural Modifications

Mark Head presented the Province's draft decision on ROPA 21B. This decision and Regional staff responses preserves the intent of the adopted policies. Staff indicated that Regional staff responses will be presented to Regional Council for endorsement.

Members asked if the term 'existing' was changed. Mark Head explained that the term 'existing' continues to be used within the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS).

d) Speaker Requests for 2011-2012

Jelena Baker, Region of Peel, asked members if they had any speakers in mind for 2011-2012. The following is a list of suggested potential speakers:

- Region of Peel Public Works – Topic: Roundabouts, box curbs and rollover curbs
- OPG, Cooperative Group etc – Topic: Renewable sources of energy (solar, wind, biomass)

Jelena Baker will follow-up with arranging these speakers for future meetings.

8) Communication Items

a) Peel Rural Water Quality Program

i. 5 Year Strategic Review Final Report

Mark Eastman presented the results of the PRWQP 5 year strategic review. This 2004-09 review included a summary of the funding provided, overall cost value of projects, changes made to the program and results of a questionnaire administered to PAAWG members.

Some highlights of the report include:

- Since the start of the program, the PRWQP has provided \$238,757.66 in funding to fifty projects. This leveraged \$1.3 million in project dollars.
- 2008 saw the highest amount of PRWQP grants disbursed at approximately \$70,000.
- Grants provided in 2009 were low relative to the number of projects completed. This was due to fewer large project grants being applied for, i.e., one manure storage project funded in 2009 compared to four in 2008 and three in 2007.
- In late 2010 the farm business registration number requirement this requirement was removed from the guidelines to make the program more accessible to new farmers.
- Program staff has consistently attended the Peel EFP workshops to advertise the PRWQP.

ii. 2010 Peel Rural Water Quality Program Status Report Memorandum

Mark Eastman presented the 2010 Status Report Memorandum. The memorandum summarizes the accomplishments of the PRWQP in 2010.

Members asked what happens to the projects that receive approval but do not move forward. Mark E. explained that the approval is then revoked and the funding goes back into the program for grants.

iii. Guideline Changes

Mark Eastman briefly presented the updated PRWQP Guidelines based on the changes approved at the 2010-01 and 2010-04 meetings. He encouraged members to review the document.

iv. Past Participant Recognition Event – 2011

Mark Eastman presented the idea of a recognition event for past PRWQP participants. He proposed that the event take place in late summer and include a barbecue and awards ceremony. A token of appreciation would be presented. This would be an opportunity for the general agricultural community see what environmental improvements are being made and to increase participation levels.

b) Canadian Heritage River Designation

Mark Head provided members with a brief update of the Canadian Heritage River Designation (CHRD) that CVC is pursuing for the Credit River. Concern had been raised about the implication that this designation could have for agricultural land use practices.

The CHRD has no regulatory authority that the Region is aware of. Staff will continue to monitor the issue and let members know of any changes. Members asked if the designation applies to the tributaries as well. Staff will follow-up and provide members with information on the scope of the designation.

c) Alton-Caledon Village Water Supply Environmental Assessment

This information item outlined an Environmental Assessment (EA) that is being undertaken to explore the possibility of new municipal wells to supply the Alton-Caledon Village areas. Staff are monitoring the EA for effects to agricultural land uses. Members are encouraged to attend Public Information Centres that will be held.

d) Golden Horseshoe Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy and Action Plan

Nick Ferri provided an update from the GTA Agricultural Action Committee (GTA AAC) and the Golden Horseshoe Agriculture and Agri-Food Strategy and Action Plan. Consultations have and continue to be held. The consultant, PlanScope, is three-quarters of the way through the development of the final phase. It is expected that a draft will be released for comment the first week of June. The final release may not be until late fall 2011 to coincide with the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in November. Currently the GTA AAC is looking to hire a communications/public relations firm to promote the strategy.

e) Day of the Honey Bee Proclamation, May 29 2011

Correspondence was received from Clinton Shane Ekdahl requesting that Regional Council proclaim May 29, 2011 the 'Day of the Honey Bee'. It is a Regional Council policy that it does not endorse declarations by third parties.

f) Environmental Bill of Rights

Melanie Williams, Region of Peel presented the update for the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Agriculture-Wildlife Conflict Strategy posting. The posting concluded a three year consultation process. It expands the list of livestock/poultry species eligible for compensation when killed or injured by wildlife and dogs. It will also increase the amount farmers are compensated for their losses.

Melanie Williams presented a new EBR posting for establishment of an advisory group to develop a long-term approach for Bobolink songbird recovery. The Bobolink is a threatened bird species that nests in natural grasslands, hayfields and pastures. The Ministry of Natural Resources is seeking advisory group members to work on the recovery strategy. Deadline to comment is May 16th, 2011.

Allan Thompson suggested sending the link to the posting to the Peel Federation of Agriculture (PFA). Staff will send the posting to the PFA and bring any new information back to PAAWG.

g) Grown in Peel 2011 Update

As the Region's Co-Chair of 'Grown in Peel', Jelena Baker provided updates for the 2011 Grown in Peel guide. The guide has been sent to print and will arrive the first week of May. 40,000 copies have been printed and with the help of the Grown in Peel Advisory Group, new graphics and content were created. Also, to continue with Grown in Peel education initiatives, activities have been created based on the Grown in Peel guide for the Peel Children's Water Festival, running from May 26th-June 1st, to teach children about local food.

h) 2011 Meeting Dates

Jelena Baker distributed a calendar with new meeting dates for 2011. Upcoming meeting dates are:

- Thursday June 23, 2011
- Thursday September 8, 2011
- Thursday November 24, 2011

Meetings are held at Region of Peel (10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton) from 7pm-9pm, unless otherwise noted.

9) Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting stood adjourned at 10:11pm. The next Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting will be held on Thursday June 23, 2011 at 7pm.