



**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL**  
**PEEL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY WORKING GROUP**

**MINUTES**  
**PAAWG 2021-03**

The Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group (PAAWG) met on August 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, only the Chair of PAAWG and Regional staff were in attendance at the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Boardroom, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite B, Brampton, Ontario. Others participated in the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

**Members Present:** Gary Mountain, Chair, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
Ed Russell, Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association  
Tom Dolson, Peel Federation of Agriculture  
Jennifer Innis, Regional Councillor  
Brian Wannamaker, Citizen-at-Large  
Kristen Carberry, Peel Federation of Agriculture  
Paul Risebrough, Citizen-at-Large  
Michael Palleschi, Regional Councillor  
Karen Hutchinson, Caledon Countryside Alliance

**Members Absent:** Stephen Dasko, Regional Councillor  
Manjari Mehta, Citizen-at-Large  
Merissa Nudelman, Ecosource

**Staff:** Mark Head, Manager, Research and Analysis, Region of Peel  
Don Campbell, Principal Planner, Region of Peel  
Melanie Williams, Principal Planner, Region of Peel  
Marco Di Nizio, Junior Planner, Region of Peel  
Marsha Paley, Principal Planner, Region of Peel  
Brent Kuefler, Junior Planner, Region of Peel  
Stefania Mirza, Council and Community Relations Officer, Region of Peel  
Ben Roberts, Economic Development Officer, Town of Caledon  
Mark Eastman, Senior Coordinator, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation  
Holly Shipclark, Coordinator, Agricultural Outreach, Credit Valley Conservation  
Nadine Abrams, Coordinator, Trail Design and Development, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority  
Patrick Esson, Rural Clean Water Program Coordinator, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

**Guests:** Jovanie Miller, MVP Clinic Operations Support, Region of Peel

**1) Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Gary Mountain who began with a roll call.

**2) Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

Gary Mountain declared a conflict of interest in relation to one of the Peel Rural Water Quality Program projects on the agenda. Ed Russell inquired if the Peel Soil and Crop Association (PSCA) benefits from the education and training PRWQP applications. Gary Mountain stated that there is no benefit.

**3) Review and Approval of August 26, 2021 Agenda**

Moved by Paul Risebrough

*That the agenda for the August 26, 2021 meeting of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group be approved.*

Carried PAAWG 2021-12

**4) Review and Approval of Minutes from May 2021 Meeting**

Amendment: 01-TRCA-21- Mark Eastman mentioned that the grant was \$30,000 not \$7,070. Marco Di Nizio assured the amount would be changed in the minutes for the May 20 meeting.

Moved by Tom Dolson

*That the Minutes of Meeting 2021-02 of the Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group, held on May 20, 2021, be approved as amended.*

Carried PAAWG 2021-13

**5) Peel 2051 Regional Official Plan Review Update**

*Mark Head, Region of Peel*

Mark Head mentioned that PAAWG will continue to be updated on more details about current projects and studies. The Official Plan Review has multiple focus areas. A Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) in the form of an Official Plan Amendment will be brought to Council in 2022. The Aggregates Focus Area will be a staged amendment that will be followed shortly after.

Mr. Head mentioned that tonight's presentation will be focused on the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion (SABE). Some of the emerging policy themes include encouraging active transportation and increasing affordable housing which reflect the past consultations. There have been informal consultations in the summer and that staff will be seeking direction in September to initiate the statutory consultation process as outlined in the Planning Act. Mr. Head further mentioned that a council workshop, public open houses, and a formal public meeting will occur this Fall. A staff recommendation report to adopt the Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) is being targeted for early 2022.

### **Questions/Discussion**

No questions.

## **6) Peel 2051 Settlement Area Boundary Expansion Study (SABE) and Scoped Subwatershed Study Update**

*Marsha Paley, Region of Peel*

Marsha Paley began by stating the SABE will accommodate growth to 2051 and that Peel's Land Needs Assessment (LNA) is identifying additional growth requirements on greenfield lands. The presentation will be focused primarily on the natural environment, agricultural and rural systems, and climate change. Ms. Paley further mentioned that the SABE project webpage includes all available technical studies.

Ms. Paley mentioned that the SABE Study is proceeding in four stages and is currently in the final stage. Twelve detailed technical studies have been completed based on an assessment of the draft conceptual SABE boundary identified in December 2020 and additional testing areas in response to direction received during the process. The assessment is now complete and the Region is bringing forward a staff recommended SABE boundary to start the statutory consultation.

Ms. Paley mentioned that the draft policies provide directions for the completion of detailed subwatershed studies and the staging and phasing of secondary plans. The overall direction for secondary planning is to protect and manage resources. Requirements for natural heritage will be specified in the policies including requirements that natural heritage system identification and protection implement the recommendations of broader scale watershed/subwatershed plans and meet criteria from the Region in consultation with the Conservation Authorities (CAs) and other relevant agencies.

Marsha Paley proceeded to discuss Agricultural Impact Assessments (AIAs) and mentioned secondary planning will provide an orderly transition and allow agricultural activity to continue for as long as practical. Marsha Paley further

discussed requirements for climate change emissions reduction and adaption planning with objectives for planning to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

Ms. Paley articulated the SWS Study and outlined that the Study area extends across multiple watersheds. Phase 1 of the SWS Study assists in refining a preliminary SABE boundary. Phase 2 of the SWS Study is divided into three parts: Part A- characterization of conditions, Part B- impact assessment and detailed studies, and Part C- an implementation plan that outlines water resources, targets for enhancement, and recommendations for implementation and monitoring. Key deliverables include natural heritage recommendations, identifying preliminary stormwater management strategies, and developing requirements for regional flood control by subwatershed. Marsha Paley further described the feature types and their respective targets for the Natural Heritage System (NHS). Marsha Paley also presented the NHS in six maps and their components which include key features, buffers, and other features.

All three reports that are being released for review and consultation were made available on August 27.

Marsha Paley summarized the presentation by mentioning the next steps will update and finalize the SWS Study. Staff will be providing draft policies and mapping to Council in September for direction to start a formal statutory consultation in the Fall.

### **Questions/Discussion**

Tom Dolson mentioned that the Peel Federation of Agriculture (PFA) has members with concerns about the mapping. Mr. Dolson expressed further concern with how this process moves forward with regards to refining the mapping before it is finalized in the Official Plan Amendment. Marsha Paley mentioned that the information that Mr. Dolson brought forward will be provided to the Wood Team conducting the Scoped Subwatershed Study and natural heritage planning for the SABE. Marsha Paley further mentioned that the work that has been done is science-based and that Tom Dolson's information would be relevant for more detailed planning conducted at the local level. Tom Dolson requested further discussion with Regional staff.

Mark Head added that Peel staff have done a great deal of work on the studies and that staff understand the planning needs for the large area (4,440 ha).. Mr. Head further mentioned that Staff are making sure that there is enough land to accommodate the NHS that will be resilient to urban development and additional pressures which include climate change. He mentioned that natural heritage mapping for Regional scale studies is based on a regional scope and is not informed by detailed field studies, however, detailed field studies and refinement will be needed in the local planning stages. If individual landowners are providing

mapping, Peel staff will review the mapping and log/note it in the study to provide a record that can be referenced when local refinement occurs. Mr. Head noted that minor changes to the boundaries of features and areas shown on the mapped schedules and figures do not require an amendment to the Regional Official Plan.

Gary Mountain mentioned the transportation problem where it is appropriate to encourage active transportation, but only if active transportation infrastructure is developed. Mr. Mountain further elaborated by saying many people do not like the transportation system since there are many transit stops and trips take too long as this deters people from using transit. Travel time is important and it is crucial to take into consideration rapid transit options and not to misspend taxpayer money. Mr. Mountain said sometimes localized and streamlined transportation modes are efficient, but larger scale transportation systems tend to be inefficient.

Mr. Mountain also mentioned affordable housing and that it should be further examined by Peel staff. Many people have to pool money to buy houses which creates a problem with parking as suburban houses cannot allocate for parking with multiple drivers living in one dwelling.

Mark Head mentioned to Tom Dolson that Regional staff are available to attend a PFA meeting and present the SABE material. Mr. Dolson asked for staff to reiterate the process of statutory meetings and what part does it play in the planning process. Mark Head said that statutory consultation and meetings enable stakeholders and the public to provide formal feedback and comments. Peel's Official Plan Review website provides information on the SABE and its planning process. Mark Head mentioned to Tom Dolson to flag what is important to clarify at a future PFA meeting. Tom Dolson agreed and will contact Mark Head on this matter in the future.

**7) ALUS Peel Pilot Project – Update**  
*Don Campbell, Region of Peel*

Don Campbell began the presentation by mentioning an important milestone in May 2021 occurred where Peel staff brought a Report to Council on the annual activity of PAAWG which included the ALUS-Peel Pilot project. Council endorsed the project and said the Commissioner of Public Works, Kealy Dedman, should execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding funding from ALUS. Mr. Campbell mentioned that a MOU is being developed. CA staff have been developing implementation plans which is dependent upon funding from ALUS. The goal is to have the ALUS project set up and underway this Fall. Don Campbell presented the idea of having a special meeting for PAAWG in October for ALUS questions. The potential date is October 13 or 14. This meeting can include topics such as types of categories or projects eligible for funding in Peel,

eligibility criteria and evaluating criteria, and the annual payments rates. Don Campbell concluded by saying that it is important for all staff to seek information from PAAWG on how to move forward with the ALUS-Peel Pilot project.

### **Questions/Discussion**

No questions identified.

Moved by Ed Russel

*That PAAWG have a special meeting on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 regarding the ALUS Peel Pilot Project.*

Carried- PAAWG 2021-14

Nadine Abrams inquired if Marco Di Nizio can set up the meeting. Marco Di Nizio confirmed that he will send out the meeting invite and details.

## **8) Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP)**

*Mark Eastman, Credit Valley Conservation*

*Holly Shipclark, Credit Valley Conservation*

### **1. Financial Update**

Mark Eastman mentioned that the total project budget is \$105,000 for the year. The PRWQP continues to hold just shy \$35,000 in grants. The total expenditures are \$35,274.

There are no TRCA projects for this meeting. The new balance in the program budget is \$57,535.64. Mark Eastman appreciates and encourages when PAAWG members promote the PRWQP projects.

### **Questions/Discussion**

None.

### **2. PRWQP Projects**

#### **04-CVC-21 – Education and Training**

Holly Shipclark mentioned that the applicant organization includes a PFA member. The purpose of this application is to profile good soil management techniques from farmers on their farms. The new app is called the Ontario Soil RoadTrip which shows QR codes on an interactive map. There is also a website that is easy to navigate.

Holly Shipclark further presented pictures of examples of profiles. Ms. Shipclark encouraged the promotion of this to other farmers. Another function of the system is that a user can safely scan the QR code and get information about participating farms.

The grant amount is \$900. Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) will give a contribution of \$600 to cover the remaining project cost for a total \$1,500.

### **Questions/Discussions**

None.

Moved by Ed Russell

*That the application 04-CVC-21 be approved and that funding be provided in the amount of \$900 under the category "Education and Training".*

Carried PAAWG 2021-15

### **05-CVC-21 – Nutrient Management**

Mark Eastman mentioned the applicant's farm is a 1,400 acre cash crop farm with typical rotation and tillage. The project proposed is on a 113 acre field which sits on a home farm. Crop yields vary significantly across farm.

The proposal is to hire an agronomy consultant to conduct enhanced soil sampling/coring to develop location-specific fertilizer and fungicide recommendations. Also, the goal is to use topography to guide the agronomist to drive a coring machine below surface to confirm the soil type/state of degradation.

Mr. Eastman described the soil on the property. The three soil types have different productivity potentials. The proposal is also looking to generate potential maps for each of the crops. Furthermore, Mr. Eastman mentioned the proposal seeks to compare a yield potential map to the actual yield data imagery and refine yield potential as necessary. There is also the need to develop fertilizer and fungicide prescriptions as well as tillage and cropping/cover recommendations for the complete crop rotation.

Environmental benefits of this project are improved nutrient use efficiency, less greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and less groundwater and surface water impacts. There is also improved carbon sequestration through improved crop growth, minimizing tillage, and including cover crops in the rotation.

Mr. Eastman mentioned that the project cost is \$5,085 and that the PRWQP grant is for \$3,000. The landowner is expected to cover the remaining balance.

Mr. Eastman referred to Peel staff to elaborate on the unique nature of this project. Don Campbell mentioned that it does not uniquely fit into nutrient category guidelines and suggests that it be considered in the nutrient management strategy subject area as an innovative project within eligibility program number six. Mr. Campbell elaborated by saying this project does not use nutrient management software, proposing that the applicant submit a nutrient management plan that is consistent with the intent and purpose of the nutrient management category.

### **Questions/Discussion**

Brian Wannamaker says the proposal is a great idea conceptually but wonders if it is practical to apply the fertilizers. Kristen Carberry mentioned the application of fertilizers is a normal farm practice and that the project offers the potential to reduce these inputs. Mark Eastman mentioned the applicant will be utilizing a computer application to adjust the rate of fertilizer application in the field. Mr. Eastman would also like to see more projects like this in the future. Mr. Wannamaker further asked if UAVs could be used to flyover and confirm field conditions. Mr. Eastman said satellite imagery will be used more in the future and that satellite imagery can be useful.

Kristen Carberry said Normalized Digital Vegetation Index (NDVI) data is available and can be used. Ms. Carberry would like to see more farmers use this technology.

Ms. Carberry asked if results include a variable rate application or if PAAWG members wanted to see this plan implemented. Mr. Eastman said CVC staff are comparing past and present practices and will apply an efficiency calculation to measure the benefits of implementing the project. Ms. Carberry mentioned that it is good to see that growers are taking the initiative to implement innovative projects. Nutrient management legislation does not require a grower to take a soil sample to assess its fertility. Ms. Carberry mentioned that the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) has soil sample values and that there needs to be a measurement tool to judge the success. Mr. Eastman added by saying an agronomic approach needs to be used. Ms. Carberry mentioned that there are different interpretations of this approach.

Mark Head mentioned that the ideas presented by Mr. Eastman and Ms. Carberry provide a foundation from which to support the project subject to regional staff recommendations. In the recommendation to report back on results of the project, the report should include background research, if there is published work, detailing soil sampling programs similar to this application and

whether they have resulted in water quality benefits and, if possible, to benchmark or measure the success of the project in terms of nutrient/fertilizer reduction and the environmental benefits. Kristen Carberry mentioned Western Canada has interesting projects related to this application. Ms. Carberry would like to see more promotion of similar projects. Gary Mountain concluded the discussion by expressing appreciation for all the ideas articulated by the PAAWG members and staff.

Moved by Tom Dolson

*That the application 05-CVC-21 be approved and that funding be provided in the amount of \$3,000 under the category "Nutrient Management" subject to the following conditions:*

- 1) that the project be considered under the Nutrient Management Strategy & Plan Project Category as an innovative project in accordance with the Peel Rural Water Quality Program Implementation Guideline, Project Eligibility Guideline #6 for innovative technologies and projects;
- 2) that the requirement that the applicant prepare a Nutrient Management Plan using OMAFRA's NMAN software be waived;
- 3) that the applicant submit a Nutrient Management Plan for the home farm field in a form that is satisfactory to CVC staff and that is consistent with the intent and purpose of the Nutrient Management Strategy & Plan Project Category;
- 4) that following grant funding and project implementation the applicant agree to share the results of the project with CVC staff; and
- 5) that CVC report back to PAAWG on the results of the project.

Carried PAAWG 2021-16

Tom Dolson would like Mark Head to ensure that this ties into PRWQP requirements. Brian Wannamaker mentioned this does not necessarily set a precedent.

### **06-CVC-21 – Erosion Control Structures**

Holly Shipclark mentioned the applicant farm is a 185-acre cash crop farm with typical rotation and tillage. A seasonal water feature transects the crop fields. In order to access both sides of the crop field, the farmer must move machinery across a water feature. During wet periods, inundated soils are prone to erosion and cannot support machinery. The water feature interacts with natural heritage features based on the available mapping. Existing conditions of project areas include minor disturbances and it is not possible to cross a certain area when it is wet.

Ms. Shipclark added that the proposal is to construct a proper machinery crossing to prevent rutting and soil erosion on the wet area. The proposal seeks to re-establish a consistent grade. Furthermore, the plan is to excavate a trough

to accept the culvert, set the culvert in place, and to backfill the culvert with gravel up to the finished elevation, establishing a slope. Environmental benefits include reduced sediments in the watercourse, improved connectivity, less erosion of the banks, improved water quality, and increased number of Atlantic Salmon in the main river downstream of the project which will ultimately support native and recreational fish species. The PRWQP plans to cover the cost of \$2,345.

### **Questions/Discussion**

Brain Wannamaker mentioned that there could be better context in the photos provided as it is difficult to see that there are streams or ditches. Mr. Wannamaker added that it is also difficult to see the sight lines on the map. Holly Shipclark mentioned that the images accurately capture the condition of the drainage feature and that the context is sometimes hard to capture in photos. She indicated that future photos of projects will capture the intended context as recommended.

Mark Head asked if an alternative crossing design was available that would avoid placing a culvert and fill in the drainage feature. Nadine Abrams added that other crossing options will be very expensive. Holly Shipclark mentioned bed level crossings may be an option in certain situations which involves placing gravel in the drainage feature, however, the issue of tapering remains which may give way to a platform that is not wide enough to get machinery across. Mark Eastman mentioned that culverts are typically installed for equipment crossing erosion control in Peel. Mr. Eastman further said that bed levels are encouraged in stream areas because a culvert can dam up water in certain locations. This also depends on the habitat existing in the stream.

Moved by Brain Wannamaker

*That the application 06-CVC-21 be approved and that funding be provided in the amount of \$2,345 under the category "Erosion Control Structures".*

Carried PAAWG 2021-17

### **07-CVC-21 – Education and Training**

Holly Shipclark introduced the project as it is the same project area stated in 04-CVC-21. This project will cover an additional three sites for six sites in total. The cost for the PRWQP is \$900.

### **Questions/Discussion**

No questions identified

Moved by Ed Russell

*That the application 07-CVC-21 be approved and that funding be provided in the amount of \$900 under the category “Education and Training”.*

Carried PAAWG 2021-18

### **08-CVC-21 – Tree Planting**

Holly introduced the project as the applicant has a 61-acre mixed farm that produces hay, chickens, honey, agri-tourism, and sandy loam soils. There are many onsite natural heritage features with a nearby significant wildlife area. There is a 7.4-acre project area, rugged terrain, and there are some trees present.

Ms. Shipclark mentioned that the project area is in a predominantly cultural meadow with a limited tree cover established previously. The project area is also between a significant woodland area. The project’s mapping shows that the site is rugged with small trees that the landowner planted.

The proposal is to plant 300 potted trees and shrubs in clusters of 15-20 with multiple species. The rest of the project area will be planted with 3,000 bare root trees. The mapping also shows a larger cluster of trees in a spread-out area. The environmental benefits include increasing the canopy cover and linking significant woodlands. The PRWQP grant will be \$5,044.75 with a total project cost of \$12,392.23. The balance will be paid by a CVC forestry subsidy.

### **Questions/Discussion**

Tom Dolson asked if this proposal is contingent on an updated environmental farm plan and if there was a farm plan for the property.

Moved by Councillor Palleschi

*That the application 08-CVC-21 be approved and that funding be provided in the amount of \$5,044.75 under the category “Tree Planting”.*

Carried PAAWG 2021-19

## **9) Farm Etiquette Awareness Communication Campaign**

*Marco Di Nizio, Region of Peel*

Marco Di Nizio began the presentation by stating that the presentation serves as an update to the farm etiquette presentation at the May 20 PAAWG meeting. Mr. Di Nizio mentioned that communications have been initiated for the farm etiquette social media campaign. The communications include a notice in the Connect 2 Peel Newsletter, a newsletter story that was picked up by Town of Caledon Councillors, multiple tweets and Instagram posts, and a short video was created by the OFA and Central Region Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). All

social media messaging involved wording on the harms of trespassing, parking issues, and how to interact with farm animals and activities.

Mr. Di Nizio also updated PAAWG on signage issues that were raised during the May 20 meeting. Mr. Di Nizio mentioned that the OFA provides no trespassing signage to farmers on an as-needed basis as the current demand for signage is low. Furthermore, if signage or messaging is to be translated, it would be more effective if the messaging went to certain news outlets that cater to certain groups that receive non-English information such as cultural-oriented newspapers. Translation of messaging is costly and the Region of Peel only posts in English on their social media accounts.

Mr. Di Nizio further mentioned that other Regions have used signage to display information about agricultural stewardship.

Marco Di Nizio concluded the presentation by encouraging PAAWG members to provide feedback and to identify new issues pertaining to farm etiquette.

### **Questions/Discussions**

Councillor Palleschi mentioned that there is a concern from his farmer constituents as people have been picnicking on private farm property where crops are growing. Councillor Palleschi added that general or broad communication techniques using newspapers and social media may not work but mobile signs in strategic locations where incidents of trespassing have been reported may be effective. Councillor Palleschi inquired if there is any opportunity to talk to landowners on rural roads to discuss a strategy for mobile signs. Marco Di Nizio mentioned that Peel staff can work with Communications staff and specific farmers in Councillor Palleschi's Ward and other locations in Brampton.

Mark Head mentioned that Peel staff will work with communications staff to see if there is a wording limitation and if there is suitable farm etiquette messaging that would be effective on mobile signs. Peel staff may be able to pilot the request and follow-up. Mr. Head mentioned that the first step in this process is to determine if this tool is available.

## **10) Communication and Information Items**

The following items were attached to the agenda for information:

- [Video Message on Farm Trespassing](#). OPP Central Region Twitter. June 2, 2021.
- Dufferin County Meat Processing Facility – Invitation to Producers from Neighbouring Municipalities.

- Ben Roberts said the proponents in Dufferin County want producers in Peel to attend a meeting on September 21. During this meeting, producers may share information and seek other producers who may have interest in related matters. Mr. Roberts that it is important for this information to be sent to relevant people.
- [Natural gas expansion to rural, Northern and Indigenous communities will drive economic growth](#). OFA News Release, June 10, 2021.
- [Nutrient Management Act Further Burden Reduction Opportunities](#). Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Proposal, June 3, 2021.
- [OFA case studies illustrate economic and environmental benefits of farmland](#). OFA Viewpoint, June 8, 2021.
- [OFA vows to protect Ontario's farmland with new advocacy campaign](#). OFA News Release, May 17, 2021.
- [Submission to the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks regarding the Land Use Compatibility Guideline](#). OFA, July 12, 2021.

#### 11) Round Table – Other Business

Nadine Abrams announced that she has began a new position on the Trail Design and Development Team with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Patrick Esson will be taking over Nadine's role in PAAWG. Ms. Abrams mentioned that she will still be involved in PAAWG by attending the November 2021 meeting and working on the ALUS-Peel Pilot Project.

Tom Dolson expressed his appreciation with Councillor Palleschi's efforts in the stormwater by-law work. Councillor Palleschi did not have an update but has had conversations regarding water issues in the western portion of Brampton. Tom Dolson would like to continue stormwater by-law discussion with Councillor Palleschi when more information is available.

#### 12) Adjournment

Moved by Ed Russell

*That the August 26, 2021 Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting be adjourned.*

Carried PAAWG 2021-20

The meeting stood adjourned at 9:35 pm.

The next Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group meeting will be held on October 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.