



Memo

To: Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group

From: Mark Eastman, Credit Valley Conservation
Nadine Abrams, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Date: January 22, 2021

Re: Peel Rural Water Quality Program – 2020 Status Report

The year 2020 marked the sixteenth complete program year for the Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP). This status report summarizes the program's accomplishments over the past sixteen years, with an emphasis placed on the 2020 program year.

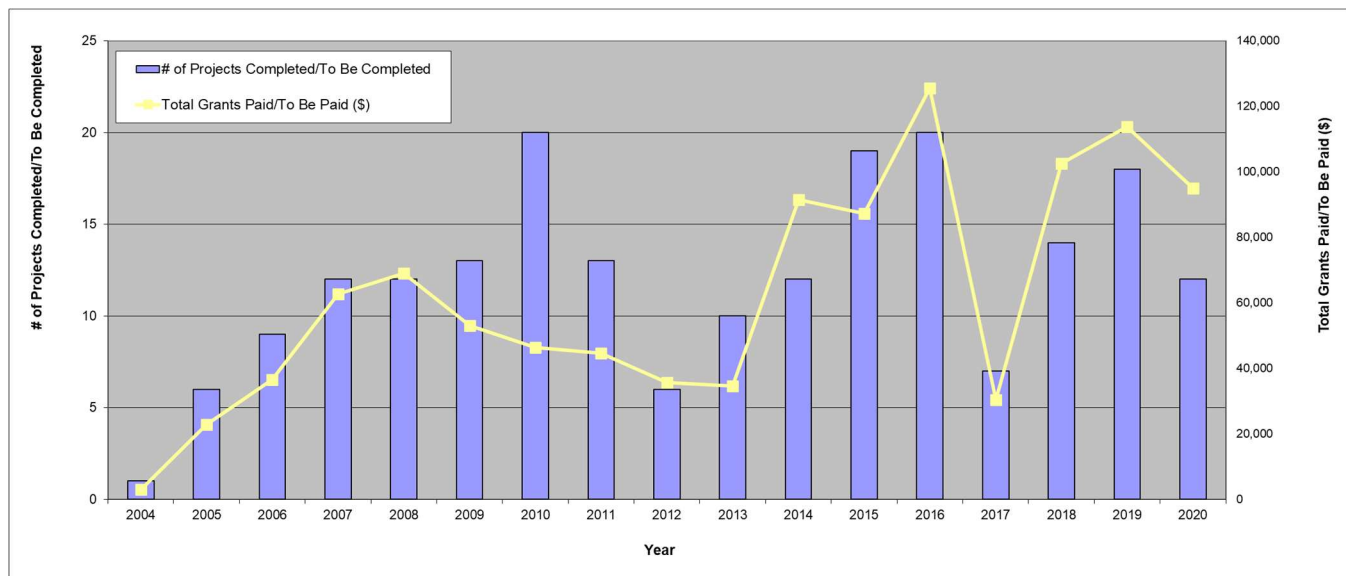
Types and Number of projects approved in 2020:

Private Well Upgrade	1
Livestock Access Restriction	3
Tree Planting	4
Chemical Storage	2
Cover Crop	2
TOTAL PROJECTS APPROVED	12

Grants paid and/or to be paid on 2020 projects: \$94,922.37

Annual program activity:

In 2020, twelve projects were approved, and seven projects have been completed to date. Total grants paid/to be paid is \$94,922.37. This financial support has leveraged an additional \$88,902.97 from project proponents and other funders to assist with the completion of these twelve projects. The graph below illustrates the programs performance for each year since 2004.



Notes:

- 2004 was not a complete program year.
- Statistical discrepancies between annual status reports are a result of approved projects not proceeding with construction, therefore resulting in a withdrawal of applications.

As illustrated by the graph, program uptake increased in 2018 and 2019, however, the program was unable to sustain the momentum through 2020; this was likely in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the number of projects completed/to be completed and grants paid/to be paid in 2020 did not surpass 2018/2019 numbers, the twelve projects match the long-term program average and the grants paid/to be paid finished stronger than the long-term average of approximately \$62,000 per year.

Program accomplishments:

Between 2004 and 2020, the PRWQP has engaged 78 individual farm businesses and has paid/allocated a total of \$1,054,225.11 in funding towards 204 agri-environmental projects. These funds have leveraged an additional \$3,589,921.13 to contribute to the completion of projects valued at \$4,644,146.24.

Environmental benefits of BMPs:

Over the past sixteen years, agri-environmental projects completed with technical and financial assistance from the PRWQP have helped to:

Safely store 349,011 m³ of livestock manure to reduce the risk of nutrient, pathogen and bacteria contaminating drinking water, streams and wetlands.



This equates to 43,626 dump trucks of manure!

Install 21.97 km of livestock fencing to improve the habitat quality of our streams, wetlands and woodlots and to reduce water quality impacts caused by sediment, nutrient and pathogen/bacteria.



Plant 59,055 trees and shrubs to restore degraded habitats, reduce erosion and to sequester carbon dioxide.



Restore, protect and/or manage 327 ha of land to improve water, air, soil and habitat quality.



This is an area equal to 327 football fields!

In 2020, advertisements for the program were run in the Caledon Enterprise. In addition, our social media presence was increased with numerous tweets and Facebook posts published.

Due to Covid-19, in-person promotion of the program was more limited than previous years and was restricted to the Peel Soil and Crop Improvement Association Annual General Meeting, the Build Resilience in Your Soil Workshop and site visits.

Program staff will continue to advertise the program in local media, by attending events and meetings and by hosting and participating in workshops. Staff encourage Peel Agriculture Advisory Working Group members to continue promoting the program to friends, neighbours, and peers. Peer to peer promotion of the program is the best form of advertisement, and we depend on you to help spread the word.

If you have any questions regarding the 2020 program year, please contact Program staff.

Sincerely,



Mark Eastman

Credit Valley Conservation



Nadine Abrams

Toronto and Region Conservation