



Memo

To: Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group

From: Mark Eastman, Credit Valley Conservation
Patrick Esson, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Date: January 13, 2022

Re: Peel Rural Water Quality Program – 2021 Status Report

The year 2021 marked the seventeenth complete program year for the Peel Rural Water Quality Program (PRWQP). This status report summarizes the program's accomplishments over the past seventeen years, with an emphasis placed on the 2021 program year.

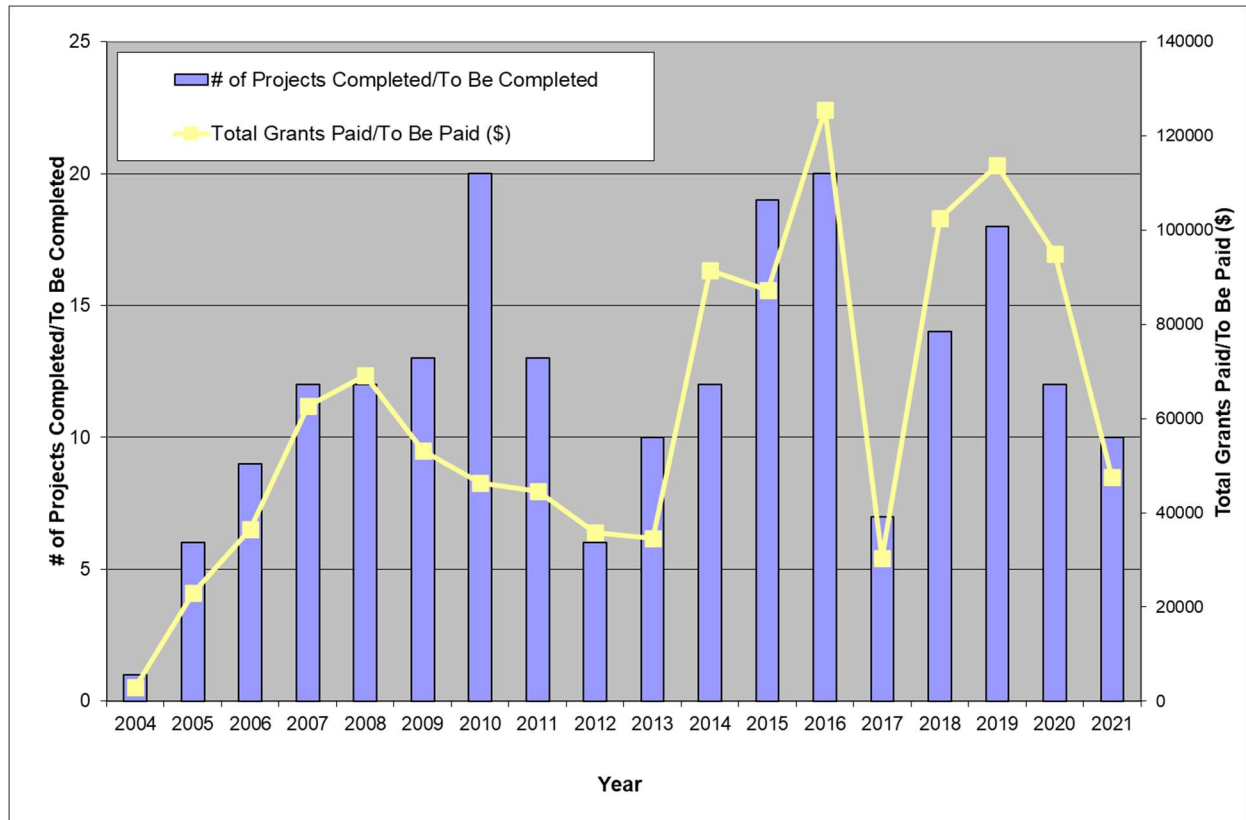
Types and Number of projects approved in 2021:

Cover Crop	1
Education and Training	3
Erosion Control Structure	1
Livestock Access Restriction	1
Nutrient Management Plan	1
Tree Planting	3
TOTAL PROJECTS APPROVED	10

Grants paid and/or to be paid on 2021 projects: \$47,592.36

Annual program activity:

In 2021, ten projects were approved, and three of these projects have been completed to date. Total grants paid/to be paid is \$47,592.36. This financial support has leveraged an additional \$94,910.88 from project proponents and other funders to assist with the completion of these ten 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, the number of completed/to be completed projects and total grants paid/to be paid were the lowest recorded since 2017. The 10 projects completed/to be completed in the 2021 program year fell just below the long-term average of 12 projects per year. The 2021 grants paid/to be paid was \$47,592.36 which was less than the long-term average of \$61,212.00.

Program stakeholders agreed that the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to increased farm business operational and financial stress, making it difficult for farmers to advance agri-environmental projects that are often seen as ancillary to the core operations of the farm business. In addition, any outreach that involved person-to-person contact such as workshops, farm tours, and/or door-to-door outreach were not possible due to government sanctioned pandemic restrictions. Despite these limitations, however, program staff remained accessible for program inquiries and site visits with interested applicants (site visits followed current COVID-19 Protocols).

Program accomplishments:

Between 2004 and 2021, the PRWQP has engaged 82 individual farm businesses and has paid/allocated a total of \$1,101,817.47 in funding towards 214 agri-environmental projects.

These funds have leveraged an additional \$3,693,145.88 to contribute to the completion of projects valued at \$4,794,963.35.

Environmental benefits of BMPs:

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

Safely store 377,290m³ of livestock manure to reduce the risk of nutrient, pathogen and bacteria contaminating drinking water, streams, and wetlands.



This equates to 47,161 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 69,370 trees and shrubs to restore degraded habitats, reduce erosion, and to sequester carbon dioxide.



Restore, protect and/or manage 393 ha of land to improve water, air, soil, and habitat quality.



This is an area equal to 707 football fields!

In 2021, program promotion included:

- a newspaper advertisement placed in the Caledon Enterprise newspaper
- a post-card promoting erosion control was distributed to farmers using Canada Post's Unaddressed Admail Service.
- two Rural Water Quality Program radio ad campaigns promoting the Rural Water Quality Program were run on Erin Radio (listenership in Peel); and,
- Over 10 social media posts were released throughout the year.

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. This is especially important given the arrival of the ALUS Peel Pilot. This Pilot has set ambitious acreage targets and staff need your help with promoting this limited opportunity.

If you have any questions regarding the 2021 program year, please contact Program staff.

Sincerely,



Mark Eastman

Credit Valley Conservation



Patrick Esson

Toronto and Region Conservation