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TO :	Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee	
DESTINATAIRE :	Comité de l'agriculture et des affaires rurales	
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DATE :	March 28, 2013 28 mars 2013	
REF N ^o :	ACS2013-COS-ESD-0007	
SUBJECT :	OTTAWA RURAL CLEAN WATER GRANTS PROGRAM – 2012 ANNUAL REPORT	
OBJET :	PROGRAMME MUNICIPAL DE SUBVENTIONS POUR L'ASSAINISSEMENT DE L'EAU EN MILIEU RURAL – RAPPORT ANNUEL 2012	

PURPOSE

This memorandum provides the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee and Council with the 2012 annual report for the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Grants Program.

BACKGROUND

The Ottawa Rural Clean Water Grants Program (ORCWGP) provides cost-sharing grants to farmers and other rural property owners to adopt best management practices that protect Ottawa's water resources. Grants are provided in three categories:

- Projects that provide direct environmental benefits (e.g. erosion control, livestock restrictions from watercourses, well decommissioning),
- Projects that demonstrate agricultural best management practices (e.g. precision farming and nutrient management plans), and
- Projects that educate and raise awareness.

Since the program's inception in 2000, a total of 986 projects have received almost \$1.5 million in funding support. The program was renewed in 2010 for five years and includes separate funds for urban well decommissioning [[ACS2010-ICS-PGM-0132](#)].

The program is delivered in partnership with the three local Conservation Authorities: South Nation, Rideau Valley and Mississippi Valley, and the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. It is funded through a special levy to South Nation Conservation, who provide

overall program coordination. Interested farmers and rural property owners submit an application through the Landowner Resource Centre or the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

The ORCWGP's Program Committee provides direction and advice to staff. Members of the Program Committee also serve on the respective watershed Review Committees to review and approve projects. The Program Committee consists of representatives from the following groups:

- Arnprior Federation of Agriculture
- Canadian Organic Growers – Ottawa Chapter
- Carleton Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- City of Ottawa
- Conservation Authorities
- Environmental Farm Plan
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre
- Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association/ Environmental Farm Plan
- Ottawa Federation of Agriculture
- Ottawa Stewardship Council
- Members-at-Large

Further program details can be found on ottawa.ca at [Ottawa's Rural Clean Water Program](#).

DISCUSSION

The ORCWGP, with its cost-sharing grants, helps farmers and other rural landowners undertake projects that improve surface water and groundwater quality. The 2012 program was promoted through advertisements, brochures and various partner agencies. The annual deadline for applications is May 1, with a second deadline in September if the grant funds are not fully allocated. In 2012, all funds were allocated in May.

Summary of 2012 Grants Awarded

In 2012, a total of 44 projects were completed with a total of \$132,563 in grants. Streambank stabilization and manure management projects received the most funds (\$65,390 or close to 50% of total funds awarded), whereas the most popular project types were precision farming (10 projects) and well decommissioning (10 projects including 2 in the urban area¹). Projects were implemented across the City's rural areas.

Table 1 summarizes the number of projects completed by project type, and total grants paid. An additional 14 approved projects were not completed by the end of the year, and these funds will be carried over to 2013. Of these projects, 5 landowners have already indicated their intent to re-apply and complete these projects in 2013 (valuing \$32,000). All applicants who did not complete their projects must re-apply.

Table 1: Ottawa Rural Clean Water Grant Program 2012 Summary

Project Type	Total Projects Completed	Total Grants Paid
Buffer strips	5	\$14,617.45
Clean water diversion and leachate seepage	2	\$2,259.92
Land retirement	3	\$3,643.55
Livestock restrictions from watercourses	2	\$14,751.79
Manure storage and treatment	2	\$30,000.00
Natural windbreaks	3	\$5,855.00
Precision farming	10	\$10,945.30
Streambank stabilization	5	\$35,389.98
Tile outlet protection	2	\$3,931.93
Well decommissioning	8	\$9,814.08
ORCWGP	42	\$131,209.00
Urban Well Decommissioning Grants	2	\$1,353.60
Grand Total	44	\$132,562.60

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association Partnership

The Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) administers the [Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program](#). The partnership agreement between the City of Ottawa and the OSCIA has proven to be a cost-effective and streamlined way to support Ottawa farm operators, with 'top-ups' for projects that improve Ottawa's water resources. The current Canada-Ontario Farm Stewardship Program funding envelope ends March 31, 2013 and renewal is under discussion. If funding is renewed, City staff and OSCIA will discuss the renewal of the ORCWGP program delivery partnership.

Financial Overview

The total available funding for 2012 was \$298,475. This included the \$200,000 special levy, the 2011 carry-over of \$51,112 and the remaining Urban Well Decommissioning funds of \$46,364. Total ORCWGP expenses were \$163,983, including grants and program delivery expenses. Total urban well decommissioning expenses were \$1,354. The 2012 unspent funds of approximately \$89,483 (ORCWGP) and \$45,010 (urban well decommissioning) will be carried forward to 2013. See Table 2 for details.

Table 2:

ORCWGP 2012 Budget

Revenue	Actual
Special Levy	\$200,000
2011 Carry-Over	\$52,112
Total Revenue	\$252,112
Expenses	
Grants	\$131,209
Program Coordination, Communication, Administration	\$31,420
Total Expenses	\$163,983
Balance	\$89,483

Urban Well Decommissioning 2012 Budget

Revenue	Actual
Carry-Over	\$46,364
Total Revenue	\$46,364
Expenses	
Grants	\$1,354
Total Expenses	\$1,354
Balance	\$45,010

CONCLUSION

The ORCWGP supports Council's Environmental Stewardship strategic priority benefiting rural property owners and the broader environmental interest. The program enables Ottawa farmers and other rural property owners to adopt best management practices that enhance water quality, improve stormwater management, and restore and protect Ottawa's waterways. The ORCWGP operates under the direction and advice of representatives of agricultural organizations, provincial agencies, local conservation authorities and various community members. Environmental Business Services Branch of Environmental Services Department will continue to work with program partners to deliver the Grants Program in 2013 and report again in 2014.

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ⁱ Separate funding is available for urban wellhead decommissioning projects, which is administered under the Rural Clean Water Program. These funds were added by the City in recognition that some urban areas also have well issues.