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TO: Chair and Members of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

DESTINATAIRE : Président et membre du Comité de l'agriculture et des affaires rurales

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**SUBJECT: Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program – 2018 Annual Report**

**OBJET : Programme municipal de subventions pour l'assainissement de l'eau en milieu rural – rapport annuel 2018**

## **PURPOSE**

This memorandum provides the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee with the 2018 annual report for the Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program (ORCWP).

## **BACKGROUND**

The ORCWP provides cost-sharing grants to farmers and other rural property owners to adopt best management practices that protect Ottawa's streams, rivers, wetlands and groundwater. The 2016-2020 program was approved by Council in September 2015, based on a review of the 2011-2015 Program [[ACS2015-COS-ESD-0016](#)]. The program is required to report annually to the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

In 2018 grants were available to support best management practices in five categories:

- Nutrient management
- Soil protection
- Water management
- Land stewardship
- Education and innovation

This included several new grant types and other supports introduced in 2016 such as:

- Cover crops
- Development of forest or wetland management plans
- Repairs of septic systems close to watercourses
- Demonstration projects and other innovative projects that protect water quality
- Increased funding for tile drain control structures
- Site visit to discuss options on your property
- Support from a Conservation Authority to plan and undertake shoreline plantings

The program is delivered in partnership with the three local Conservation Authorities: South Nation, Rideau Valley and Mississippi Valley. It is funded through a special levy to South Nation Conservation, who provides overall program coordination. Interested farmers and rural property owners submit an application through the Landowner Resource Centre.

The Program Committee provides direction and advice to staff. Committee members also serve on watershed Review Committees to review and approve projects. The 2018 Program Committee consisted of representatives from the following groups:

- Arnprior Region Federation of Agriculture
- Canadian Organic Growers – Ottawa Chapter
- City of Ottawa
- Conservation Authorities
- Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ottawa-Carleton Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- Ottawa Chapter of the Ontario Woodlot Association
- Ottawa Federation of Agriculture
- Ottawa Septic System Office
- Ottawa Stewardship Council
- Members at Large

Further program details can be found on [ottawa.ca/cleanwater](http://ottawa.ca/cleanwater)

## **DISCUSSION**

The ORCWP helps farmers and other rural landowners with cost-sharing grants to undertake projects that improve surface water and groundwater quality. Applications were accepted starting in May and throughout the summer and fall of 2018.

The 2018 program was promoted through online and community newspaper advertisements, social media, e-newsletters and through contractors and partner agencies. Conservation Authority staff and ORCWP partners attended agricultural and rural fairs, meetings and events, including the Ottawa Valley Farm Show and the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference. Post cards were available at rural community centres and libraries, and sent to homes in the Cody, Jock and McKinnon Creek subwatersheds

to coincide with City Stream Watch activities in these areas. A bilingual display was available for Program Committee members to bring to their events.

Two videos were produced in 2018 and linked on Ottawa.ca and Conservation Authority websites. One showcases a farmer's experience with [controlled tile drainage](#). The second provides an overview of a [hay buffer and erosion control demonstration project](#) along the South Castor Drain. Project profiles were prepared for well decommissioning and erosion control projects to share landowner experience and benefits. These are available on [Ottawa.ca](#).

### **Summary of 2018 Grants**

In 2018, 42 projects were approved worth a total of \$105,141 in grants. Of these, 28 projects were completed in 2018, receiving \$57,851. An additional 21 projects that were approved in 2017 were completed in 2018, receiving \$94,483 in grants for a total of 49 projects completed and \$152,354 in grants (Table 1). Twenty-three projects approved in 2017 and 2018 will be completed in 2019, worth a total of \$94,146 in grants (see Supporting Documentation Table 3).

The most popular project types in 2018 were forest management plans (11 projects approved), erosion control (10 projects approved) and well decommissioning (11 projects approved). These projects received 91 per cent of the total grant funds awarded in 2018. Most projects approved in 2018 are located in the City's rural Wards (Figure 1), representing farm and non-farm properties of a range of sizes. All projects were identified and administered by the Conservation Authorities, with three projects approved in partnership with Green Acres, the City's rural tree planting program.

### **Promoting Innovative Practices**

The first controlled tile drainage project to receive support from the grant program was completed in 2018. A tile drain structure was installed on existing tile drains on a 100-acre cash cropping farm near Ashton. Controlled tile drainage structures let farmers manage water levels on their fields, which is particularly important in low water conditions. This is a relatively new technology in eastern Ontario. In 2017 the Program supported a workshop for farmers to learn about the technology. As mentioned above, a [video](#) produced by the Ontario Soil and Crop Association in association with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada showcases this practice on a farm just east of Ottawa.

**Table 1: Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program 2018 Summary**

Project Type	Grants approved in 2018*		Grants completed in 2018**	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Manure storage & treatment	0	0	3	\$45,000
Washwater treatment	0	0	1	\$2,141
Nutrient management / precision farming	1	1000	4	\$4,000
Watercourse fencing	0	0	0	\$0
Erosion control	10	\$75,000	9	\$67,500
Tile outlet erosion control	0	\$0	0	\$0
Cover crops	1	\$1,000	2	\$2,000
Clean water diversion	0	\$0	0	\$0
Tile drain control structures	0	\$0	1	\$2,500
Chemical or fuel storage	1	\$1,000	0	\$0
Well decommissioning	11	\$15,710	9	\$13,980
Septic system repair or replacement	2	\$2,000	2	\$2,000
Watercourse buffers & natural windbreaks	2	\$3,000	2	\$3,000
Land retirement incentive	3	\$1,350	2	\$1,200
Forest and wetland management plans	11	\$5,081	13	\$5,925
Educational initiatives	0	\$0	1	\$3,108
Innovative projects	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$105,141</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$152,354</b>

\* an additional 21 projects approved in 2017 were completed in 2018

\*\* includes grants that were approved in both 2017 and 2018

The second project to note is a hay buffer and erosion control project on a farm on the South Castor Drain. The landowner established a permanent grass buffer along the Municipal Drain to reduce runoff and erosion and protect his fields and the watercourse. Local high school students helped plant shrubs along the shoreline in the spring and learned about best environmental farm practices. A [video](#) on the project was produced through a partnership with ALUS (Alternate Land Use Services).

## **Program Outcomes**

As a result of the 49 projects completed in 2018:

- 382 metres of streambank were protected from erosion;
- 330 trees were planted along shorelines or in natural windbreaks;
- 2,253 hectares of farmland have improved nutrient management through the use of GPS precision farming techniques;
- 9 hectares of sensitive land have been retired from agricultural production;
- 16 hectares of farmland have been protected from erosion through cover crops;
- 184 hectares of forest were protected through a forest management plan;
- Approximately 593 kilograms of phosphorus are being kept out of waterways each year from improved manure storage and washwater treatment, and repair of faulty septic systems (based on calculations from South Nation Conservation's phosphorous trading program);
- The risks of surface and groundwater contamination at 11 sites have been reduced through repair of septic systems and well decommissioning.

In addition to the \$152,354 awarded in grants in 2018, landowners contributed an additional \$543,164 for a total of \$692,317 invested in rural land stewardship.

## **Financial Overview**

The budget for 2018 was \$256,382. This was funded by surplus funds from 2017 and a \$200,000 special levy request made by South Nation Conservation Authority (Table 2).

Total expenses in 2018 were \$186,764, including grants and program delivery expenses. The balance of \$69,618 is encumbered for approved projects to be completed in 2019.

Table 2: 2018 Budget

Revenue	
2017 Carry-forward	\$56,382
2018 Ottawa Special Levy	\$200,000
Total Revenue	\$256,382
Expenses	
ORCWP Grants – completed in 2018	\$152,354
Program Coordination, Communication, Administration	\$34,410
Total Expenses	\$186,764
Balance	\$69,618

## CONCLUSION

The Ottawa Rural Clean Water Program benefits rural property owners and the environment. The program enables Ottawa farmers and other rural property owners to adopt best management practices that protect Ottawa’s streams, rivers, wetlands and groundwater. ORCWP benefits from the advice of representatives of agricultural organizations, provincial agencies and community members through the Program Committee, as well as ongoing staff involvement.

A total of \$692,317 was invested in the stewardship of rural land and water in 2018, through \$152,354 awarded in grants and an additional \$543,164 invested by landowners. Economic Development and Long Range Planning will continue to work with program partners to deliver the Grant Program in 2019 and report in 2020. The next five-year program review will be undertaken in 2020.

*Original signed by*

Don Herweyer

Director, Economic Development and Long Range Planning, Planning

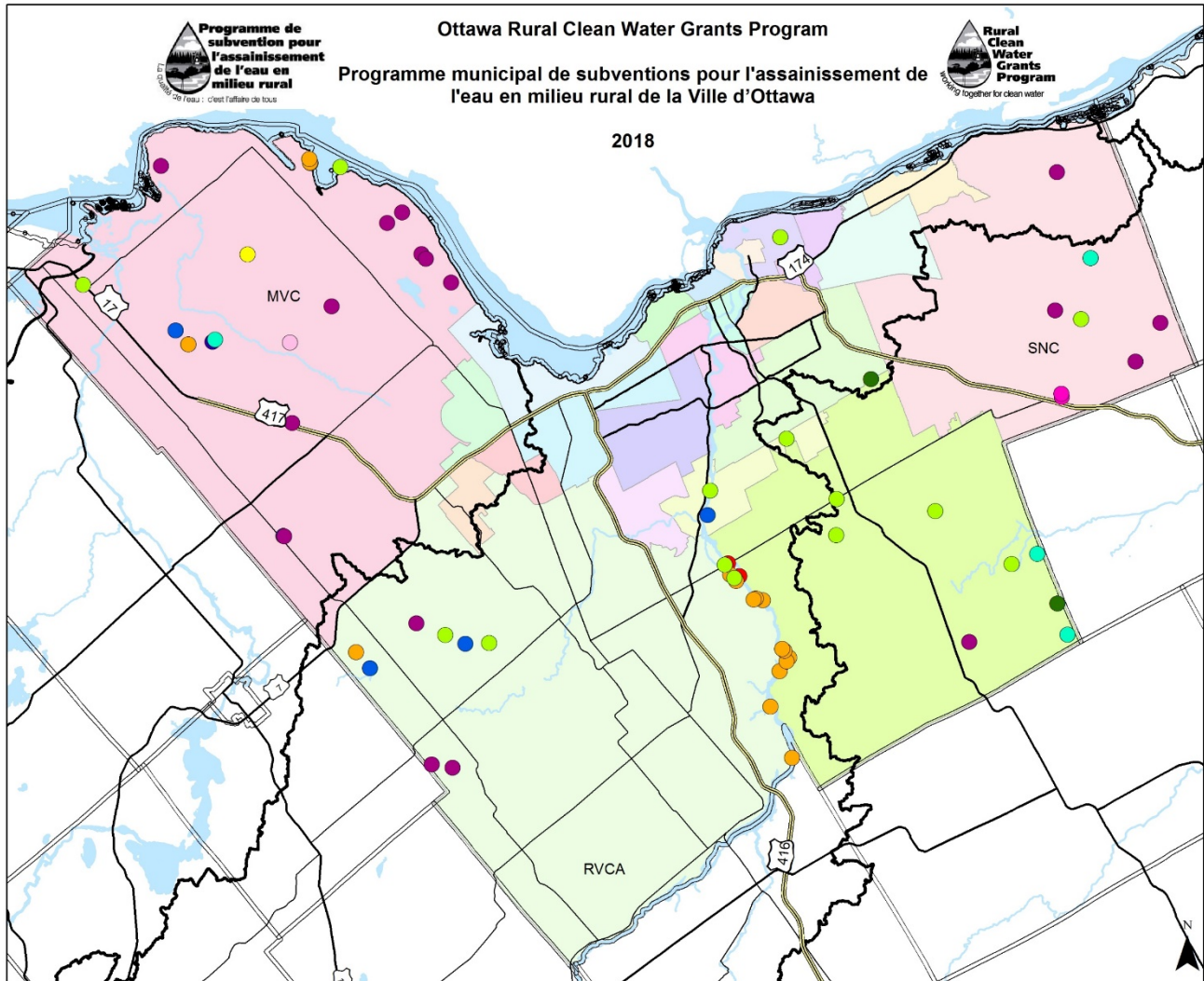
CC: Julia Robinson, Policy Planning and Resiliency Branch, PIED

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION – Table 3: Projects approved and completed in 2018**

Project Type	Approved Grants (2018)		Approved Grants (2017)		Grants Paid (2018)		Grants to be Completed in 2019	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
<b>Nutrient Management</b>								
Manure storage & treatment	0	\$0	3	\$45,000	3	\$45,000	0	\$0
Washwater treatment	0	\$0	1	\$2,450	1	\$2,141	0	\$0
Nutrient management	1	\$1,000	4	\$4,000	4	\$4,000	1	\$1,000
Watercourse fencing	0	\$0	1	\$7,500	0	\$0	1	\$7,500
<b>Soil Protection</b>								
Erosion control	10	\$75,000	7	\$52,500	9	\$67,500	8	\$60,000
Tile outlet erosion control	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
Cover crops	1	\$1,000	1	\$1,000	2	\$2,000	0	\$0
<b>Water Management</b>								
Clean water diversion	0	\$0	1	\$5,000	0	\$0	1	\$5,000
Tile drain control structures	0	\$0	2	\$7,500	1	\$2,500	1	\$5,000
Chemical or fuel storage	1	\$1,000	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$1,000
Well decommissioning	11	\$15,710	3	\$6,192	9	\$13,980	5	\$7,921
Septic system repair or replacement	2	\$2,000	0	\$0	2	\$2,000	0	\$0
<b>Land Stewardship</b>								
Watercourse buffers & windbreaks	2	\$3,000	0	\$0	2	\$3,000	0	\$0
Land retirement incentive	3	\$1,350	0	\$0	2	\$1,200	1	\$150
Forest & wetland management plans	11	\$5,081	5	\$2,419	13	\$5,925	3	\$1,575
<b>Education and Innovation</b>								
Educational initiatives	0	\$0	2	\$9,000	1	\$3,108	1	\$5,000
Innovative projects	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$105,141</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$142,561</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>\$152,354</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>\$94,146</b>



Figure 1: Projects approved in 2018



Rideau Valley Conservation Authority / Office de protection de la nature de la vallée Rideau

SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION / DE LA NATION SUD

- Manure storage/ CWD/ Waste water treatment / Entreposage du fumier/ Dérivation de l'eau propre/ Traitement des eaux usées
- Livestock access restriction / Clôtures à bétail
- Chemical/ Fuel storage / Stockage de produits chimiques / Carburant
- Nutrient Management/ Precision farming / Plan de gestion des éléments nutritifs/ Agriculture de précision

- Erosion control / Lutte contre l'érosion
- Buffers/ Windbreaks / Bandes tampons/ Brise-vent naturels
- Education / éducation
- Well Decommission / Puits Fermeture
- Cover Crops / Cultures-abris
- Forest and Wetland Management Plans / Plan de gestion de forêts et de milieux humides

Ottawa

Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority / Office de protection de la nature de la vallée Mississippi