



Ausable Bayfield
Maitland Valley
Source Protection Region

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES

August 30, 2023

Government of Ontario Building, Clinton ON

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bert Dykstra, Mary Ellen Foran, Dave Frayne, Paul Heffer, Doug Hocking, Philip Keightley, Alyssa Keller, Matt Pearson, Allan Rothwell, John Thompson, Jennette Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Graham, Rowland Howe

LIAISONS PRESENT

Maitland Valley Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison – Phil Beard
Huron Perth Public Health Liaison – Patrick Landry

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Aaron Clarke, Abigail Gutteridge

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Evan Tummillo, *Bedrock Energy*
Zain Javed, *Bedrock Energy*
Leslie Greener, *Stantec*
Justine Lunt, *Stantec*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2023-08-01

“That the agenda for the August 30, 2023 meeting be approved.”

Carried by Consensus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2023-08-02

**Moved by Philip Keightley
Seconded by Allan Rothwell**

“That the SPC minutes from March 29, 2023 be approved as presented.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CHAIR’S UPDATE

Chair Matt Pearson reported that he and other Source Protection Committee (SPC) Chairs throughout the Province have been in contact with Kristen Service, Director of the Conservation and Source Protection Branch of the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP), who has been reaching out to continue to engage the Chairs. Chairs are discussing ways to keep the Source Protection Committees moving forward within the Source Protection program. He also noted that the majority of MECP Source Protection Liaisons have been pulled from their liaison duty to help with the review of Source Protection Plan (SPP) revisions that have been submitted to the MECP.

PROGRAM UPATE

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, reported that Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) staff were contacted by the MECP Section 36 review staff regarding First Nations consultation. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Region previously had a liaison from the Chippewas of Kettle & Stoney Point First Nation sit on the SPC. As a result of these discussions, 12 First Nations have been emailed consultation materials. To date, no comments have been received.

Mary Lynn also noted that a Stormwater Management Masterplan is underway for Grand Bend, and DWSP staff attended an open house in July as a portion of the new masterplan will encompass the current Intake Protection Zone – 2 (IPZ-2). The proposed plan will determine if the IPZ-2 will need to be adjusted in the Ausable Bayfield SPP. Additionally, The Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System (LHPWSS) updated staff that the preliminary design for the Huron Water Treatment Plant Storage and Disinfection project has begun. Finally, staff at the Municipality of Bluewater have confirmed that the former municipal wells in Zurich have yet to be decommissioned.

With respect to education and outreach, DWSP staff have been working on two new videos with SPC members Philip Keightley and Doug Hocking. One video intends to highlight the importance of a safe and plentiful source of water to local businesses and homeowners. The second video is intended to tie in with the Best Practices program by showing different types of wells and providing tips for well protection.

LUCKNOW WHPA UPDATE – SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN AMENDMENT

Donna Clarkson, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, provided an overview of the technical work complete for the updated Lucknow wellhead protection area (WHPA). The Township of Huron-Kinloss applied to the MECP for an increase in their Permit to Take Water (PTTW) for the Lucknow drinking water system. This increase in pumping rate has made some changes to the WHPA. The modelling work to determine the changes to the extent and vulnerability scores in the WHPA has been completed by Matrix Solution Inc.

The updated wellhead protection areas are similar to the original WHPAs; however, WHPAs C and D are now separated between the two wells. The new model has also created some zones in the WHPA B that score a 10 for vulnerability. This will only add two residential septic systems, one farm and a municipal sewage works as significant threats. No changes will be needed for Source Protection Plan policies; however, text and maps will need to be updated to reflect the changes.

MOTION #SPC: 2023-08-03

**Moved by Jennette Walker
Seconded by Dave Frayne**

“That the Source Protection Committee agree that the proposed amendments to the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report are advisable.”

Carried

COMPRESSED AIR ENERGY STORAGE

Evan Tummillio, Director of Research and External Relations for Bedrock Energy Corp., provided the SPC with a presentation about proposed compressed air storage in the Municipality of Bluewater. The energy produced by the compressed air is intended to alleviate the peaks and valleys in the current energy system. Energy is taken off the grid during low demand times and convert to compressed air which is then sequestered in natural underground storage reservoirs at 500m below ground. The reverse process returns stored energy – similar to an underground battery – when more energy is required on the grid. Two such reservoir areas are located in the Bayfield and Zurich area that were previously approved for the storage of natural gas but never used. The proposed storage would require wells to be drilled to access the reservoirs. The drilling would occur on an angle and be directed toward the bottom of the reservoir, located well below any aquifers or sources of water. The two reservoirs would be connected via a compressed air pipeline and would also require a transformer station located above ground, between the two sites. This proposed project could provide energy for 500,000 homes.

This venture will have no impact on Source Protection planning, as the reservoirs are not located in Wellhead Protection Areas or highly vulnerable aquifers so should not affect municipal sources of drinking water. Bedrock Energy uses the guidelines for well drilling set out by the Canadian Standards Association, and will have a robust decommissioning plan in place, as well as monitoring and maintenance. They are currently in the public consultation phase of the project.

“WATER WISE” EVENTS

Mary Lynn MacDonald reported on the “Water Wise” event on August 27, hosted by the Ashfield-Colborne Lakefront Association at the residence of John Thompson and Beth Ross at Mid-Huron Beach. Prior to the event, the hosts delivered drinking water testing bottles to 93 residences in the area (many of which were shared wells) along with event information. Information was available on well protection with questions answered by retired hydrogeologist, Joy Rutherford and Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh had a display about septic systems and the mandatory inspections starting in 2024. In total, 30 samples were returned and staff took them to the Health Unit to be analyzed. Several

more of these events are planned for the fall, including events hosted by the Goderich Lions on September 14, and events with the Monkton and Dublin Lions, also to be held the fall.

Mary Lynn asked the SPC members to break into groups and brainstorm about other partnerships and events that might be useful in promoting good practices for non-municipal sources of drinking water.

LIAISON UPDATES

Patrick Landry, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) Liaison, noted that HPPH has been busy over the summer with their usual beach water quality monitoring and West Nile monitoring programs. He also reported that the “Check What We Inspect” program has been resumed, so the community has access to inspection reports for food premises. He also commended the success of the “Water Wise” Event.

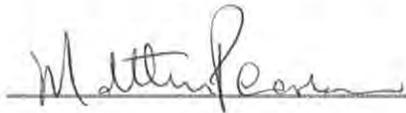
Phil Beard, Maitland Valley SPA Liaison, did not have an update at this time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be October 25, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.



Matt Pearson
Chair



Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary