



**SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES
March 24, 2021
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ian Brebner, Bert Dykstra, Mary Ellen Foran, Dave Frayne, John Graham, Paul Heffer, Rowland Howe, Philip Keightley, Alyssa Keller, Matt Pearson, Allan Rothwell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jennette Walker, Myles Murdock

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Kyle Davis – Risk Management Official Wellington

Lee Gould – Executive Director, Smart About Salt

Andrew Henry – Regional Director, Lake Huron and Elgin Area Primary Water Supply Systems

LIAISONS PRESENT

Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison – Brian Horner

Maitland Valley SPA Liaison – Phil Beard

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Liaison Officer – Olga Yudina

LIAISONS ABSENT

Huron Perth Public Health Liaison – Lori Holmes

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Tim Cumming, Abigail Gutteridge, Mary Lynn MacDonald

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting. He made special note about Ian Brebner's health issues over the winter and gave him the SPC's best wishes on his continued recovery.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2021-03-01

“That the agenda for the March 24, 2021 meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried by Consensus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2021-03-02

“That the SPC minutes from November 25, 2020 be approved as corrected.”

Carried by Consensus.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Chair Matt Pearson gave the committee a brief update from the most recent virtual meeting for the SPC Chairs and Managers. He noted that there is a new director for the Conservation and Source Protection Branch of the MECP, Keley Katona, and that this meeting was a chance to meet her. The Source Protection Regions in Southwest Ontario did a joint presentation. Chair Pearson noted that they cover a wide variety of landscapes and represent 432 wells, 26 Great Lakes intakes, 12 river intakes and 162 municipalities. The overview showed what has been accomplished in this area to date, as well as gaps and concerns from these regions. The presentation noted that the Clean Water Act has been successful because it is a bottom up process with support from the Ministry. The Source Protection programs have relied on community engagement and continual feedback.

Chair Pearson and Rowland Howe presented to the Rotary Club of Grand Bend. This presentation was made to approximately 50-60 people, who all showed interest. The video with Rowland Howe regarding the Goderich Harbour spills prevention was also shown. Chair Pearson encouraged all SPC members to look for opportunities to engage the various sectors represented on the SPC.

PRESENTATION – UPDATE ON TRAIN DERAILMENT AT GODERICH PORT

Rowland Howe, Economic and Industry Representative on the SPC, presented an update on the train derailment that happened at Goderich on February 1, 2021. It is said that this derailment was only 30 seconds and 3 feet from disaster. The train engine stopped, but the train kept rolling for another 1.5 kilometers, taking the switch toward the elevators at the harbour. Two locomotives and four loaded cars ran off the end of the line at the pier. The train, which was carrying approximately 2600 tonnes of pulses, hit a tractor-trailer (the driver of which had just left the truck), squeezed a pickup against a chain link fence and demolished a historic fishing shanty.

Even though there were 4100 gallons of fuel on the train, there were no leaks and only a small amount of pulses entered the harbour but caused no environmental issues. This is attributed to the rapid response from local first responders, as well as Parrish & Heimbecker, Veolia, and GEXR Rail Co. staff. The train came to rest only 20 feet from the edge of the pier, so this could have been a very different story. Clean up was quick and efficient, and there were no major injuries.

There is no report yet on what caused the derailment; however, there have already been some orders from the Ministry of Transportation to help reduce risk in these situations. Locomotive engineers will now need to implement new procedures to prevent uncontrolled movement due to an unintended release of the train's air brakes, and amendments are proposed to the Railway Locomotive Inspection and Safety Rules and the Canadian Rail Operating Rules.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Co-Program Supervisor, provided a program update for SPC members. Information from her update is as follows:

2020-2021 Drinking Water Source Protection Work plan and Budget

The Final Draft Report for the 2020-2021 DWSP work plan and budget was submitted to the MECP on February 24, 2021. Expenditures and tasks were on track, with some savings due to holding virtual meetings.

Phase II Director's Technical Rules Change

Approval for the Phase II Director's Technical Rules Changes is anticipated in spring or summer 2021. It is likely that many policies in the Source Protection Plans will need to be updated to reflect the new threat circumstances.

Risk Management Activities

The three-year agreement to provide risk management services on behalf of eight municipalities has been finalized with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

Implementation Extension Report

In August 2020, MECP approved an extension for policy implementation, which will last until July 31, 2021. In February 2021, an update report was sent to the MECP outlining implementation progress. A number of municipalities and counties are working on updates to incorporate Source Protection into their official plans some of which will not be completed until fall 2021. Another extension to complete this work will most likely be needed.

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT

Chair Matt Pearson provided an update on engagement within the Source Protection Committee. He noted that one of the main roles of the SPC is to communicate with the various sectors that

are represented on the Committee, as well as the community at large. Due to the pandemic, this role has been somewhat put on hold.

Despite restrictions, three more engagement videos featuring SPC members have been created in the last few months. Chair Pearson recorded a short video introducing the various SPC engagement videos. John Graham recorded a video featuring the water treatment plant in Goderich, and explained the water intake located off the shore of Goderich. As well, Rowland Howe filmed a video about protecting drinking water sources near the Goderich intake in the commercial harbour. The views, reach and engagement of these various videos on social media have been very successful to date. Some other ideas for engagement might include technological advances in farm equipment, groundwater modelling, household dos and don'ts, high lake levels, signage and salt use. Chair Pearson encouraged other committee members to think of ways that they could do public engagement over the coming months. Chair Pearson thanked staff for their support and encouragement on public engagement.

Chair Pearson also noted that staff had a meeting with the Conservation Educators at the ABCA. It was agreed that source protection would be an excellent topic for school programs and that they hope to look for ways to incorporate messaging into their programs.

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE AND ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Donna Clarkson presented the Implementation Progress Report to the SPC. To complete this report, staff collect information from all implementing bodies, such as municipalities, counties, Risk Management Officials, and the Province. The report updates the SPC and Source Protection Authority (SPA) on meeting deadlines, engaging policies and identifying gaps. It also informs the standardized reports that must be submitted annually to the Province. It should be noted that the implementation deadline for Source Protection Plans was April 2020, but this was extended to July 31, 2021 due to the pandemic.

As of December 31, 2020, 106 Risk Management Plans have been completed, and 515 Section 59 Notices were issued. Overall, 88 percent of Risk Management Plans needed for the region have been completed, and 14 remain to be completed.

Education and outreach has been ongoing. Communications staff have been busy with social media posts, news releases, newsletters, web updates and school programming. Throughout 2020, the Source Protection website had more than 5500 unique views, with most people seemingly interested in mapping, documents and factsheets.

Of the 13 municipalities required to amend zoning by-laws and official plans to include Source Protection Plan policies, 8 have been completed and the rest are in progress. Additionally, across the region 215 on-site septic systems require inspection every five years, as per policy P.12.10 in the Source Protection Plans. 99 percent were completed within the initial five year period. The second round began in 2020 with 55 inspections being completed.

All prescribed instrument applications are screened by the appropriate ministry to determine if any activities associated with the prescribed instrument could be a drinking water threat. In 2020, 11 applications were reviewed and approved.

In general, the ABVMV Source Protection region has made good progress in addressing significant drinking water threats. To date, 349 threats have been identified, 333 have been addressed, and 16 remain to be addressed.

Staff have also prepared the Annual Progress Report, which is submitted each year to the province. This report requires approval from both the SPC and the SPA. The MECP use the reports to gauge success of the Drinking Water Source Protection program across Ontario. Staff drafted a brief message from the SPC for their approval regarding the Annual Report, stating that the SPC has reviewed the report and that implementation of the SPPs is progressing well and remains on target. Staff recommend that the SPC approve the report as prepared by staff, and direct them to present it to the SPAs for submission to the province.

MOTION #SPC 2021-03-03

Moved by Dave Frayne

Seconded by Ian Brebner

“That the Source Protection Committee approves the Annual Progress Report compiled by staff, and directs staff to present the Report to the Source Protection Authorities for submission to the Province.”

Carried.

LAKE HURON PRIMARY WATER INTAKE UPDATE

Andrew Henry, Regional Director of the Lake Huron and Elgin Area Primary Water Supply Systems, provided an update on the Shoreline Erosion Control Project. The shoreline near the water treatment plant for the water intake, which supplies drinking water to over 400,000 people, has experienced significant erosion due to the high water levels in Lake Huron. During the significant storm of November 2020 approximately 3-4 meters of bluff were lost and the access chamber located near the beach, had become exposed. There was some previous exposure of this chamber in 2019, but some temporary shore protection was installed. However, the November 2020 storm took out this protection and exposed the chlorine line as well.

To help this situation, shoreline revetment has been done, centered on the beach chamber. Stones of specific size and densities were selected to use in the revetment, and construction took place earlier this spring. Next steps include reshaping and stabilizing the bluffs, and planting native vegetation. They also plan to discourage the public from accessing the beach in this area, which could further destabilize the slope. Signage and public education will be key as they move forward.

SMART ABOUT SALT TRAINING PROGRAM

Lee Gould, Executive Director for the Smart About Salt Council, provided information to the SPC about the Smart About Salt training program. The overall mission of this not for profit organization is to protect freshwater from the application of winter salt. They offer training and certification programs for best management practices in winter salt application.

The “Essentials of Salt Management Course” is designed to help reduce costs of winter management, provide a defense against legal action, help reduce the impacts of salt on infrastructure, and support the environment and drinking water sources. A refresher course is also offered for those who are already certified members. This course is typically offered at a cost of \$375 per person. This is a training course; however, certification courses are also offered. In addition to training, the Smart About Salt program offers program verification to certified clients at no cost. This coaching tool helps them to evaluate their salt application programs.

Bert Dykstra noted that the cost of \$375 could be prohibitive to smaller salt application companies. However, Mr. Gould replied that this cost is less expensive than most salt application training courses and can be written off as a business expense. It was also noted, that the cost savings associated with proper salt application, along with potentially reduced insurance costs may make the course worthwhile to businesses.

Following his presentation, Lee Gould left the meeting.

LIAISON UPDATES

Olga Yudina, MECP Liaison Officer, provided a brief update to the committee. She noted that the MECP received over 360 comments on the Phase II Director’s Technical Rules. Many of the comments were technical in nature, but some were policy or funding related. The province is presently reviewing the comments, but no timeline has been established for the release of the Technical Rules. Olga also reported that the proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* were passed, and that the province is moving forward with a working group comprised of conservation authority representatives, representatives from both the MECP and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, as well as a number of experts to inform regulatory proposals. She noted that these changes will not affect funding to the Source Protection program. Finally, Olga reported that the work plans and budgets had been received by the province and that staff are working through them and drafting Transfer Payment Agreements. She noted that there has also been some interest about including non-municipal well systems as part of the *Clean Water Act*, but that there are no plans to expand the *Act* to include these systems.

Phil Beard, liaison for Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, noted that the Maitland Valley Source Protection Authority renewed the agreement with the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority.

Phil Beard left the meeting following his update.

Brian Horner, liaison for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, also noted the renewed agreement between the two SPAs, and congratulated the Source Protection Committee on their

successful outreach videos. He also reported that, due to confidentiality agreements, only those who are part of the *Conservation Authorities Act* working group are privy to the details of the working group discussions.

Kyle Davis, Risk Management Official for Wellington, noted that RMP implementation was continuing with some interruptions in engagement due to the pandemic.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Matt Pearson
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Recording Secretary