



**SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES
November 25, 2020
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Kyle Davis – RMO Wellington

David Blaney

Chitra Gowda – Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection, Conservation Halton

LIAISONS PRESENT

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

Maitland Valley SPA Liaison – Phil Beard

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

LIAISONS ABSENT

Huron Perth Public Health Liaison – Lori Holmes

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Abigail Gutteridge, Mary Lynn MacDonald

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and welcomed new SPC member, Paul Heffer.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2020-11-01

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

Carried by Consensus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2020-11-02

“That the SPC minutes from September 30, 2020 be approved as presented.”

Carried by Consensus.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Chair Matt Pearson noted that a video had been produced featuring Alyssa Keller giving a virtual ‘Open Well tour of the Seaforth municipal water supply facility. This video has been very well received by the public, and was found to be good way to do engagement work during the pandemic. A second video with Rowland Howe talking about spills management in the Goderich Harbour/IPZ has also been recorded, and one with John Graham featuring the Goderich Intake is planned for next week.

Chair Pearson also noted that there was a guest speaker at the meeting, and welcomed Chitra Gowda to speak to the new Climate Change Assessment Tool.

PRESENTATION – CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Chitra Gowda, former Conservation Ontario Source Water Protection Lead, provided an update on the new Climate Change Assessment Tool. One of the pilot studies for this tool was the Seaforth municipal water supply system. The pilot studies helped to further refine the tool and the process for gathering data, and the Seaforth system provided a good groundwater example. Over the past several years there have been more concerns with events associated with climate change, such as flooding, extreme rainfall, droughts, water quality changes in both surface and ground water, as well as water quantity.

The Assessment Tool was a collaborative project between many organizations. It is recognized that it is difficult to quantify the impacts of climate change impacts on groundwater quality. The tool uses five steps to do this: climate change exposure, climate change sensitivity on the landscape, the impact of climate change (based on steps one and two), an adaptive capacity and vulnerability assessment, and applying a climate change lens to drinking water threat activities.

The MECP has yet to provide guidance on any policy involving this tool. However, any future policy would not be prescriptive. Conservation Ontario foresees that this tool could have other uses for climate change studies other than Drinking Water Source Protection.

PROGRAM UPDATE

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

SPC Membership

Paul Heffer has joined the SPC as the municipal representative for the Central grouping of North Huron, Morris-Turnberry and Huron East. Paul currently sits as a Municipal Councilor in North Huron. Paul replaces long time member David Blaney.

2020-2021 Drinking Water Source Protection Work plan and Budget

The Interim Report for the 2020-2021 DWSP work plan and budget was submitted to the MECP on October 29, 2020. Expenditures and tasks are on track, with some savings due to holding virtual meetings.

Comments on Phase II Director's Technical Rules Change

On October 27, 2020 staff participated in regional meetings with the MECP Source Protection Branch to discuss concerns and questions regarding the proposed changes. Staff also submitted comments to the MECP following the review of the proposed changes with the SPC. These comments were circulated to impacted municipalities. Provincial approval of the proposed changes is anticipated in spring/summer of 2021. It is anticipated that a significant number of policies in the Source Protection Plans will require revision to reflect the new threat circumstances.

Risk Management Activities

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority has confirmed the renewal of a three-year agreement to provide risk management services on behalf of eight municipalities.

Communications

The new Seaforth "Virtual Open Well" video was released on October 23, 2020. This video, featuring Alyssa Keller, ABMV SPC Environmental member, provides a virtual tour inside the Seaforth water treatment facility and water tower. This video was promoted by an e-newsletter in October, has been shared on social media platforms, and was circulated to local media, Conservation Ontario and local conservation authorities.

Plans are underway to produce two more videos featuring SPC members. John Graham will give a virtual tour of the Goderich intake water treatment plant, and Rowland Howe will describe the work done by the Goderich Port Management Corporation to protect the water in the harbour, on the shore and nearby the Goderich water intake.

changes to the Director's Technical Rules became available. The issue of concern is for future storage of DNAPLs, and challenges with this threat policy include:

- Capturing changes in ownership, with new owners unaware of prohibition
- Municipalities do not require business licenses to track activities changes, so RMO may be unaware of potential new DNAPL activities
- Difficulty in identifying where DNAPL threats will apply due to the complicated nature of this threat activity
- DNAPL storage is a significant threat in a large area (WHPA A, B and C)

Staff explored other source protection regions' approaches to policies dealing with future DNAPL storage and results fell into three categories: prohibition in WHPA's A to C (ABMV current policy), prohibition based on WHPA zone (e.g. prohibit future storage in WHPA A, or A and B), or prohibition based on vulnerability score (e.g. prohibit where the vulnerability score is 10).

Dave Frayne asked if residential properties should be excluded from the policy. Staff noted that the 25 L threshold for this threat already filters out most residential properties. However, as there are sometimes small businesses on residential properties, excluding them would cause those businesses to be overlooked.

Staff presented two options for considerations:

- Option 1 is to prohibit future use of DNAPLs in the WHPA A, and use a Risk Management Plan (RMP) in WHPAs B and C for future use, and WHPAs A, B and C for existing use.
- Option 2 is to prohibit future use of DNAPLs in WHPA A and B with a vulnerability score of 10, and use a RMP for WHPAs B and C with a score of less than 10 for future use, and WHPAs A, B and C for existing use.

MOTION #SPC 2020-11-05

Moved by Jennette Walker

Seconded by Dave Frayne

“That Policy RAC.6.1 – Section 57 Prohibition for Future Handling and Storage of Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLs) be revised to prohibit future use of DNAPLs in a WHPA-A. Policy RAC.6.2 will be revised, requiring a Risk Management Plan in a WHPA A, B and C for existing use of DNAPLs and in a WHPA B or C for future uses.”

Carried.

LIAISON UPDATES

Brian Horner, liaison for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, informed the Committee that the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act in Schedule 6 of Budget Bill 229 had passed their second reading and were approved to go to the standing committee. Conservation Ontario was lobbying to be a delegation to the standing committee to speak to the changes.

Olda Yudina, MECP Liaison Officer, provided a brief update. She noted that the MECP are actively working on the Transfer Payment Agreements for Source Protection, but have not been given a date on when they can be expected. She also commented on the proposed Conservation Authorities Act changes, noting that the Source Protection Branch has responsibility for the Act. The branch has now become the Conservation and Source Protection Branch. Bill 108 amended the Conservation Authorities Act to define several categories of mandatory programs and services, including Conservation Authorities' roles as Source Protection Authorities under the Clean Water Act. The details will be spelled out in regulation. However, Olga noted that the intent is to align with the Clean Water Act, and that there will be consultation on regulations in the new year. Finally, Olga commented that funding will continue to the Source Protection Authorities in 2021. She indicated that although the province has made Source Protection a core mandate of the Conservation Authorities that does not mean that the money required to run the program needs to come from levies.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 2021. This will be the final meeting for the fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Matt Pearson
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Recording Secretary