

**SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**July 31, 2019**

**White Carnation, Holmesville**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Ellen Foran, Jennette Walker, Keith Black, Kerri Ann O'Rourke, Dave Frayne, Matt Pearson, Karen Galbraith, Allan Rothwell, David Blaney, Philip Keightley, Ian Brebner, John Graham, Don Jones

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Myles Murdock, Bert Dykstra, Bruce Godkin, Gerry Rupke

**LIAISONS PRESENT**

MECP Liaison Officer – Olga Yudina  
Maitland Valley SPA Liaison – Phil Beard

**LIAISONS ABSENT**

Health Unit Liaison – Jean-Guy Albert  
Ausable Bayfield SPA Liaison - Brian Horner

**DWSP STAFF PRESENT**

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Donna Clarkson, Elizabeth Balfour, Kyle Davis (Wellington County)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Matt Pearson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:33am.

**RETIREMENT OF DON JONES**

Matt Pearson acknowledged Don for his many contributions to the Source Protection Committee since its inception. He was presented with a parting gift.

**AGENDA**

MOTION #SPC: 2019-07-01

Moved by Dave Frayne  
Seconded by David Blaney

**“That the agenda be approved as presented.”**

Carried by Consensus.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION #SPC: 2019-07-02

Moved by John Graham  
Seconded by Allan Rothwell

**“That the SPC minutes from March 22, 2019 be approved as presented.”**

Carried by Consensus.

**BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES**

None

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None

**CHAIR’S UPDATE**

Matt provided an update to the SPC on two items, the 2019-2020 budget and the Section 36 Workplan. MECF has recently approved the budget and issued an Order identifying which items of the Section 36 workplan are approved. This now gives the SPA and SPC direction to move forward with their workplan. Engagement by the SPC for the sectors they represent should be a focus this year as the budget allows for a half day per diem per person for SPC members to engage the public about Source Water Protection. There are toolkits such as presentations that members can utilize. Renewal of SPC members will begin in the fall with advertisements for positions being posted. All current members up for renewal will need to apply if they are interested. With seven positions needing filled, Matt broached the idea that it may be time for the committee to proactively and voluntarily consider reducing its membership from 15 to 12. A second reduction could occur in 2023 which would reduce the SPC membership from 12 to 9. A committee of 9 members is similar to other SPRs. Further information and discussion on the SPC reduction was deferred to Mary Lynn during her DWSP Program Update, Agenda Item #9.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**PROGRAM UPDATE**

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

**Budget**

The 2019-2020 workplan and budget was approved by the province on July 16<sup>th</sup>. A reduction of staff from 2.25 to 2 full time equivalents was approved. The budget for non-staff activities was reduced by 41% and 15% for the Source Protection Committee. The Committee will meet for two full days and two half day this year. Approval was granted for SPC members to engage with their sectors for a half day with mileage. The Ministers Order for the “Section 36” Draft Workplan was recently received and work can begin on items approved in the Order.

### SPC Renewal

Source Protection Committee members appointed prior to Oct 2015 need to indicate to DWSP staff by August 23<sup>rd</sup> if they are interested in reappointment. Advertisements in local papers and on the website will occur in September 2019. Mary Lynn followed up on Matt's initial suggestion of voluntarily reducing the size of the SPC. Mary Lynn told SPC members that appointments and determination of committee size is ultimately decided by the SPAs; however, Mary Lynn stressed that the SPA values the SPC member's opinion and input and would like some feedback on the reduction suggestion. Committee members discussed the issue and the majority agreed that reducing the committee from 15 to 12 was acceptable.

### Risk Management Activities

Mary Lynn attended the Zurich open house in regards to connecting onto the Lake Huron Water Supply. There was limited local opposition from the attendees, and the most likely connection will be to the Hensall line. It was decided that more engagement would be necessary before moving forward. A survey of the residents is being designed for distribution.

Donna attended a meeting on Nuclear Waste Deep Geological Repository in Huron-Kinloss and South Bruce, presented by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization.

Donna will also be presenting DWSP information and mapping to local Royal LePage agents on August 7 from 1-3pm at the FauxPop Station in Goderich along with Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley staff on shoreline regulations.

### Provincial Annual Reporting Results

The Annual report was approved and the province reports that 86% of Source Protection Committees are "progressing well" or are "on target" towards achieving objectives of their plans.

### Education and Outreach

Mail-outs were sent to residents of Varna and Blyth affected by the changes to the Source Protection Plans. A newsletter was circulated to municipalities and our electronic mailing list.

Conservation Ontario has developed drinking water source protection training materials that will become part of the mandatory training for real estate agents in Ontario.

Conservation Ontario has also circulated a Salt Map of Ontario indicating where contamination of municipal supplies is elevated.

### Possible SPC Meeting Dates & Agenda Topics

Tentative SPC meeting dates are Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Friday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 and March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Staff is waiting on confirmation of guest speakers from OMAFRA focusing on Nutrient Management for the September Meeting and November's meeting will once again be combined with the Huron Water Protection Steering Committee with an information session in the morning and SPC meeting in the afternoon probably on climate change.

## **DUNGANNON WELL UPDATE**

John Graham provided an update on the arsenic levels in the Dungannon well. As of January 2019 the allowable limit for arsenic in drinking water was reduced from 25 micrograms to 10. The Dungannon well averages about 10.5 according to weekly samples. A pilot project done through the Walkerton Clean Water Centre has shown that a high chlorine concentration treatment can reduce the arsenic level from 10 to 3. The chlorine takes the arsenic out of solution which then binds to filters. The high chlorine concentration is then removed from the water. Once detailed project results from a consulting firm are available they will be submitted to the municipality (Ashfield – Colborne-Wawanosh) and an update for the SPC will be provided at a later meeting.

## **DNAPL DISCUSSION**

Kyle Davis, RMO for Wellington County, gave a presentation on DNAPLs (Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids). DNAPLs are dense liquids that are not soluble in water. The province has listed five main DNAPLs with three being chloride based. However, as Kyle illustrated, there are more than five DNAPLs as any chemical that can degrade and become vinyl chloride is considered a DNAPL under the definition. Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons are also considered a group of DNAPLs and this adds more chemicals to the DNAPL list than the five listed by the province. In the field, RMOs could be looking up to 27 different chemicals on the DNAPL list. Provincial technical rules do not set a minimum volume limit for DNAPLs, but the ABMV SPR chose a threshold of 25L. In rural areas, most DNAPLs are found in retail stores, garages, metal fabricating shops, and manufacturing business where the cumulative amount of DNAPLs is usually between 20 and 25L. Most of these business are unaware of the chemical names of DNAPLs as they are used in chemical mixtures within a product. This can lead to landowners not understanding DNAPLs; however, they do understand the importance of protecting drinking water sources. RMPs for DNAPLs provide RMOs an opportunity to talk to landowners about spill response, spill kits, training and proper waste disposal. Prohibition of DNAPLs often leads to RMOs focusing on identifying chemicals and quantities from MSDS/SDS sheets which leads to a missed opportunity to engage with landowners on spill containment and response.

Donna Clarkson, Co-Program Supervisor, provided additional information on the current DNAPL policy within the ABMV SPR. For current DNAPL threats within a WHPA, activities are managed through a risk management plan in WHPA-A, WHPA-B, and WHPA-C. For future DNAPL threats that may arise due to land use changes or the construction of a new business, DNAPLs are prohibited in WHPA-A, WHPA-B, and WHPA-C. Due to the large geographical area that the WHPA-C occupies in ABMV, this prohibits new businesses in a large area. Without business licenses for tracking purposes, it is hard for RMOs to know of new business construction in the WHPA-C that may use DNAPLs. This leads to a DNAPL policy on future threats that is hard to implement and enforce. Donna opened the discussion to the SPC members for their input on the current DNAPL policy as there is an opportunity to reword the policy and change how future DNAPL threats are managed. Matt Pearson thought this would be a good policy to review and the committee agreed.

## **HYDROCARBON TRANSMISSION LINES POLICY**

In 2018 the province amended regulation 287/07 to include the establishment and operation of a liquid hydrocarbon pipeline as a prescribed drinking water threat. The assessment report and source protection plan must be amended to identify areas where pipelines would be a significant, moderate or low threat. Policy must be written if the liquid hydrocarbon pipeline is considered a significant threat (i.e., intersects with a WHPA or IPZ with a score of 9 or 10). The amended regulation provides an exemption from including policies if a prescribed threat activity does not exist and there is no likelihood that it could be located in a vulnerable area in the future. The SPC and SPA are to review available information to determine whether policies for existing and/or future pipelines are required. Enbridge pipelines 7, 8 and 9 extend through the southern portion of the Ausable watershed. The pipeline does not intersect with a WHPA or IPZ and is therefore not considered a significant drinking water threat so a policy dealing with an existing liquid hydrocarbon threat is not needed. To address future threats from liquid hydrocarbons, the SPC can write a policy or include a rationale in the Exploratory Document outlining why no policy was needed. Mary Lynn provided mapping of the area to help SPC members visualize if Enbridge's Line 7, 8, and 9 could be a potential threat in the future if a new drinking water supply was to come online. Mary Lynn theorized that any new water supplies to support a public population or public building that could fall under the Clean Water Act would be constructed next to main roadways for access. She then looked at areas where roads intersected or were adjacent to the Enbridge Right of Way. Of the potential locations that meet this criteria, most already had houses and barns or the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply line was in close proximity. Mary Lynn concluded that the potential for a new water supply next to the liquid hydrocarbon pipeline was minimal. Mary Lynn provided in the Hydrocarbon Pipeline Policy handout example wording for an excerpt in the Exploratory Document and two examples for a future threat policy. The one policy was modified from a Lake Erie example while the other mirrored the current Source Protection Plan policy for air craft deicing, also a threat unlikely to occur. Committee members discussed the possibilities and an agreement to start with a policy that was similar to the aircraft deicing one was made. Mary Lynn is to look into possible wording that could include the municipality and its planning process to restrict future water supplies from being built next to the pipeline.

## **LIAISON UPDATES**

Olga Yudina provided an update on the Minsters Order (approval) of the Section 36 Draft Workplan for the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Region (ABMV SPR) and the Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) with the AB Source Protection Authority. The workplans from all SPRs were reviewed by the minster and a consistent approach was taken. The Order approved all tasks that relate to the Clean Water Act, and those which need to be executed in order to keep Source Protection Policies up to date and relevant to the Act. Local tasks and interests were not approved in the Order. However, recognition of these local activities as important were recognized by the province. As such, monies were given to SPRs through the TPA to continue this work. There is no completion date included in the Order, only that the Section 36 must be submitted within six months of completing the last consultation. The Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act) is under review and the revised Act will specify that Source Water Protection is a

core mandatory activity. The wording contained within the CA Act will closely align with the Clean Water Act. The province recognizes that Source Protection is a priority and it will continue to be funded in near future. That being said, at this time there is no appetite amongst the ministry to expand the program to include legislation that will regulate vulnerable populations such as schools and nursing homes on private wells. The program is recognized as being in a “steady state” by the government and will be maintained as such.

Phil Beard noted that the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority was waiting on direction from the province for the future of the Drinking Water Source Protection program and how it would be impacted by the legislative changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the White Carnation, Holmesville.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

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Matt Pearson  
Chair

Elizabeth Balfour  
Alternate Recording Secretary