



## **SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**September 25, 2019**

**White Carnation, Holmesville**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Ellen Foran, Jennette Walker, Keith Black, Dave Frayne, Allan Rothwell, David Blaney, Philip Keightley, Ian Brebner, John Graham, Myles Murdock, Bert Dykstra, Bruce Godkin

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Gerry Rupke, Kerri Ann O'Rourke, Karen Galbraith

### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Matt Pearson

### **LIAISONS PRESENT**

MECP Liaison Officer – Olga Yudina

Maitland Valley Source Protection Authority (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

### **APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIR**

MOTION #SPC: 2019-09-01

Moved by Keith Black  
Seconded by Philip Keightley

**“That David Blaney be appointed acting chair for this meeting.”**

Carried by Consensus.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chair David Blaney called the meeting to order at 9:33am.

**AGENDA**

MOTION #SPC: 2019-09-02

Moved by Jennette Walker  
Seconded by Ian Brebner

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

Carried by Consensus.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION #SPC: 2019-09-03

Moved by Ian Brebner  
Seconded by Philip Keightley

**“That the SPC minutes from July 31, 2019 be approved as presented.”**

Carried by Consensus.

**BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES**

None

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None

**CHAIR’S UPDATE**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**PROGRAM UPDATE**

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

**SPC Renewal**

Following the July 31 SPC meeting, in which the majority of the committee agreed that, with seven positions renewing, the time was appropriate to consider size reduction, Chair Matt Pearson sent a letter to this effect to the Maitland Valley and Ausable Bayfield SPAs. Maitland Valley also commented on the proposed reduction and provided its recommendations to Ausable Bayfield, the lead SPA. As the lead SPA, Ausable Bayfield approved the motion to reduce the SPC from 15 to 12 members commencing in January 2020. To accommodate this the South and West Municipal groupings will be combined; in the Economic sector three agricultural

representatives will reduce to two; and in the “Other” sector the two Public-at-Large positions will reduce to one. The full Ausable Bayfield SPA motion reads **“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority reduce the size of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee from 15 to 12 members plus a Chair, with equal sectoral composition, and set the term of appointment for three years, effective January 1, 2020.”**

Tim Cummings, Communications Specialist, will be posting advertisements for the committee vacancies through print media and on the sourcewaterinfo.on.ca website within the next week. Committee members may reapply for their sector, but can also consider applying for a different sector if they meet the qualifications. As part of the SPC reduction, Mary Lynn recommends that the SPC update their Rules of Procedure, Code of Conduct and Conflict so that this document be current and up to date for the appointment of new members in 2020.

MOTION #SPC: 2019-09-04

Moved by Myles Murdock  
Seconded by Dave Frayne

**“That Drinking Water Source Protection staff revise and update the Rules of Procedure, Code of Conduct and Conflict document with a draft version to be circulated to the SPC members for review in advance of the November 22, 2019 meeting.”**

Carried by Consensus.

#### Phase II Technical Rules Update

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has initiated Phase II of the proposed amendments to the Director’s Technical Rules. This amendment will look at surface water vulnerability, drinking water issues, alternative approaches, local activity and threat requests, climate change risk assessments, and clarification of threats. The Source Protection Planning Branch will be engaging municipalities and Source Protection Authorities this fall to seek input and feedback on these changes prior to public consultation. Three in-person regional meetings will be held in the east, southwest, and central region. A webinar will be hosted for the north and any member who was unable to attend in person. SPC members are allowed to attend with time and mileage being covered.

#### Risk Management Activities

Donna Clarkson, Co-Program Supervisor, presented at a session for realtors which also included presentations from Maitland Valley Conservation Authority and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority staff on shoreline management. Great feedback was received from the realtors at the session. Future Education and Outreach may be needed for landowners in a wellhead protection area, in addition to the work that is being done with realtors. Mary Lynn was approached by Thompsons Ltd who was gathering information on Source Water Protection policies that may apply in the areas that the company serves. Currently the company is conducting a 4-R Nutrient Audit, and Thompsons would like to ensure that all its staff are compliant with source water regulations.

#### Liquid Hydrocarbon Pipeline Threat Teleconference

A teleconference will occur on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 2019 with the TSSA and Ontario Energy Board to help Source Protection staff understand the liquid hydrocarbon threat and write policies that are applicable.

Jennette Walker, Committee Member, provided information on the Zurich water supply. The Municipality of Bluewater is considering switching from their municipal well to the Lake Huron Water Supply. A survey is available for municipal residents to provide their opinions on the proposed changes. The survey is available via social media i.e., Facebook and the Municipality of Bluewater's website. Print copies of the survey are not available.

A Chairs Meeting is scheduled via teleconference for Oct 1, 2019. In the event that the ABMV Chair, Matt Pearson, is not reappointed before the meeting, Acting Chair David Blaney will attend.

#### **LIQUID HYDROCARBON PIPELINE POLICY DISCUSSION**

Donna Clarkson, Co-Program Supervisor, provided a review of the liquid hydrocarbon pipeline threat and policy development. The liquid hydrocarbon pipeline exists in the southern portion of the Ausable watershed and is not located near existing wellheads due to the prevalence of the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply pipeline servicing most of this area. No policy for existing threats is required. At the July 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 meeting, a recommendation was made to draft a policy for future liquid hydrocarbon threats in the event that a new well was located near the pipeline. SPC members suggested that DWSP staff look into including a clause that would require municipalities to not site a future well next to a liquid hydrocarbon pipeline threat. Donna engaged in various conversations with MECP to determine if the new future liquid hydrocarbon policy could include such wording. After discussions with various MECP staff, it was determined that the policy could not include wording that would directly restrict municipalities. A future non-legally binding policy or comments made through a Class Environmental Assessment/ the planning process could restrict the siting of a new well next to a liquid hydrocarbon pipeline. A clause that would require municipalities to restrict new wells next to liquid hydrocarbon pipelines was not included in the draft policy and the policy will now read:

**Relevant owners and regulating authorities of liquid hydrocarbon pipelines within the meaning of O.Reg 287/07 under the Clean Water Act, 2006 should ensure that appropriate design standards plus monitoring and maintenance practices are in place to reduce the risk to drinking water sources, and to ensure that this activity does not become a significant drinking water threat.**

The Explanatory Document will be updated to include the following information on liquid hydrocarbon pipelines:

**In 2018, this activity was added to the Clean Water Act as a new prescribed drinking water threat, so was not included in earlier versions of the SPP. The new threat category captures large pipelines that are designated for transmitting or distributing oil to terminals and distribution centres. It does not capture pipelines that move liquefied natural gas or liquid petroleum gas.**

**There are hydrocarbon pipelines (oil) in the most southern end of Ausable watershed but they do not intersect any vulnerable areas as the majority of the drinking water for this area is supplied from the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply. Therefore, the pipelines do not qualify as a drinking water threat. As such, a policy to address existing threats was unnecessary. The SPC chose to include a policy to address future threats posed by this activity. This policy was created as a recommendation to regulating authorities that the appropriate standards and monitoring practices are in place to manage threats to drinking water. Regulating authorities include the National Energy Board, Ontario Energy Board and Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA). As pipelines are regulated by federally, municipal land use planning could not be used to address this threat.**

MOTION #SPC: 2019-09-05

Moved by Jennette Walker  
Seconded by Bruce Godkin

**“That the above draft policy wording and draft rational for the Explanatory Document be accepted as presented.”**

Carried by Consensus.

### **DUNGANNON WELL UPDATE**

John Graham provided an update on the Dungannon well. No final report has been released on the findings and outcomes of the different tests conducted to reduce the naturally occurring arsenic in the well water. As of July 2019, Experiment 7 had concluded. Preliminary results show that Experiment 4 and Experiment 5 reduced the arsenic level to between two-three micrograms per litre and Experiment 6 and Experiment 7 reduced the level to five ug/L. Results varied because the different experiments used different micro filters. The longevity and replacement cost of the filters will be investigated to determine an accurate cost for treating the well water. A flow meter will be installed at the Dungannon well to automate the treatment process and to reduce the cost of staff time. The flow meter will allow chlorine to be applied to the water based on the amount of water being pumped through the well. Through this process it was also determined that a foot valve at the bottom of the Dungannon well is not working, and therefore will be replaced in the near future. The well will be offline for maintenance, and during that time Dungannon residents will be supplied with water by tanker from Goderich.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE IN HURON AND PERTH**

A presentation by Lily Hamlin, Huron County Climate Change & Energy Speciality, and Rebecca Garlick, Perth County Climate Change Co-ordinator, was given to SPC members and DWSP staff to highlight the work that Huron County and Perth County will be doing in the next two years on climate change. Both counties will be preparing climate change plans that focus on mitigation and/or adaption. Huron County will examine the effects of climate change on the services delivered by the County and which departments are the most vulnerable. This will lead to a corporate plan which could include a community component at a later date. Perth County will be focusing on community based plans that reduced greenhouse gas emissions. In the presentation, nine environmental parameters were discussed with each one being affected by climate change in a different way. The environmental parameters discussed included: mean, maximum and minimum temperatures to be expected, the expected increase in the number of days above 30°C, total precipitation amount, maximum 1-day precipitation amounts, the number of wet days where 10mm and 20mm of rain are expected, the average number of frost days per year, the number of cooling degree days where temperatures are above 18°C and would require air conditioners to operate, the number of heating degree days where the temperatures are below 17°C and furnaces may be used to heat areas, and finally, the number of growing degree days per year. The extent to which these changes will occur is based on emissions predictions and whether or not these emissions will increase or decrease. Data for climate plans will be based on global models that have been scaled to the local area. This data can be viewed at [climatedata.ca](http://climatedata.ca).

### **HURON COUNTY SENTINEL WELL GROUNDWATER PROJECT**

Davin Heinbuck, Water Resource Coordinator with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, gave a presentation to SPC members on the Huron County Sentinel Groundwater Well Program. The program began in 2000 after the Walkerton e. coli outbreak. Initially, as part of the program, 177 private wells were sampled. This included examining well records and conducting interviews. Following this sampling, a recommendation was made to look at clusters where one well would be used to represent the aquifer in that area. In 2003, monitoring focused on six well clusters and samples were taken seasonally with no significant trends/changes being noted over the year. In 2004, a recommendation was made to reduce the seasonal samples to annual samples. Since 2004, staff have sampled the sentinel wells every August with additional parameters being measured every five years. Reports from the Huron County Sentinel Well Program are provided to the Huron County Planning Department and the Huron County Health Unit. The sentinel well clusters can be divided into two aquifer categories: overburden and bedrock. Overburden wells are more likely to be higher in chloride, nitrate, VOC, pesticides, DOC and bacteria. Bedrock wells are more likely to have higher sulphates, sodium, and iron due to their contact with minerals contained within the rock. The goal of the sentinel well study is to gather and monitor long-term groundwater trends. In 2016, an enhanced study that focused on arsenic levels was triggered after data showed an increasing trend in levels.

### **LIAISON UPDATES**

Phil Beard, liaison for Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, noted that a meeting between Conservation Authorities and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks had taken place and that mandatory and non-mandatory services were discussed. The Ministry has agreed to further consultations with the Conservation Authorities and municipalities.

Olga Yudina, liaison for Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, also noted that consultations between the Ministry and Conservation Authorities will take place. Chair appointments and re-appointments for SPCs are still in progress with 16 of 19 chairs being appointed. Twelve chairs were reappointed and four were newly appointed. Olga noted that consultations for the Phase II Technical Review will begin in early November.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday November 22<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the White Carnation, Holmesville. The next meeting will be a full day event combined with the Huron Water Protection Steering Committee. An information session will take place in the morning on Nuclear Waste Deep Repository and the SPC will meet in the afternoon.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

---

David Blaney  
Acting Chair

Elizabeth Balfour  
Alternate Recording Secretary