

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES
March 31st, 2022
IN PERSON and
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matt Pearson, Dave Frayne, Paul Heffer, Ian Brebner, John Graham, Jennette Walker, Bert Dykstra, Myles Murdock, Mary Ellen Foran

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Alyssa Keller, Allan Rothwell

MEMBERS ABSENT

Phillip Keightley, Rowland Howe

LIAISONS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison – Brian Horner
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Liaison Officer – Catherine Eby

LIAISONS ABSENT

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

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Aaron Clarke, Elizabeth Balfour (via Video Conference)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Ed McGugan - Maitland Valley Conservation Authority

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m., and welcomed Catherine Eby, the new liaison from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), and Ed McGugan, the new Vice Chair of the Maitland Valley Board of Directors.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2022-03-01

“That the agenda for the March 31st, 2022 meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried by Consensus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2022-03-02

**Moved by Paul Heffer
Seconded by Ian Brebner**

“That the SPC minutes from November 24th, 2021 be approved as presented.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CHAIR’S UPDATE

Chair Matt Pearson welcomed Catherin Eby as the new liaison from the MECP. Matt mentioned that during the December Chairs Meeting, the Director’s Technical Rules (DTR) had not yet been released; however, they were released shortly after that. With the release of the DTR, the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Region (ABMV SPR) is nearing the final stages of the Section 36 amendment with public consultation being the next stage. Matt encouraged all Source Protection Committee (SPC) members to have other members from their respective groups attend the public consultation events.

PROGRAM UPATE

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, highlighted the Education and Outreach that the ABMV SPR participated in over the winter. The social media campaign, led by Conservation Ontario, was called #WinterWednesday and the campaign brought awareness to the importance of the watershed-based Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) program in Ontario. Mary Lynn acknowledged that DWSP staff presented a draft DWSP workplan and budget to the Joint Management Committee on December 21st and this workplan has been drafted based on two years of funding. The draft workplan will include the promotion of Best Practices released by MECP. Mary Lynn and Donna met with MECP staff to discuss the mapping changes for the Belgrave well. There was some confusion as to whether the changes to the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) were considered minor and the mapping could be included in the larger section 36 Amendment, or whether the expanded WHPA mapping would need to be approved separately under a section 34 Amendment. Following discussion with staff and MECP, the approval for water distribution from the new Belgrave well was granted and the new mapping will be included under the section 36 amendment.

DUNGANNON MUNICIPAL SUPPLY UPDATE

John Graham, Environmental representative, provided an update on the Dungannon municipal well and the ongoing efforts undertaken to lower arsenic levels in the municipal well. Water treatment operators will chlorinate the water and use filters to capture the residual. More room is needed for the filter inside the treatment area so a new diesel generator will be housed outdoors. A reservoir is being built on site as part of the new treatment process.

DIRECTORS TECHNICAL RULE CHANGES AND POLICY WORK

Mary Lynn confirmed that the Director's Technical Rules were released on December 3rd, 2021 with guidance being released later on February 15th by MECP. The DTR changes had two categories: amendments to the Assessment Report on various rules and guidelines which are not mandatory and changes to the Tables of Drinking Water Quality Threats which are mandatory. The SPC has completed many draft policy revisions over the last two years with three threat categories left to address at the current meeting: sewage, waste and snow. These policy revision will be incorporated into the section 36 amendment.

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Donna Clarkson, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, provided a summary on the implementation of Source Protection Plans (SPPs) for the 2021 reporting period. For each significant threat policy in the Source Protection Plans, there is a corresponding monitoring policy. Municipalities, provincial ministries, conservation authorities and source protection authorities must submit progress reports relating to policy implementation every the year. The Town of Minto continues to retain their Part IV authorities and delivers its risk management services through their Risk Management Officials. A summary of Minto's implementation milestones can be found in the Source Protection Plan Implementation – Progress Report. Education and Outreach policies were successfully completed in the first year of SPP implementation. Staff continue to promote source water protection via news releases, social media, print and broadcast media. The 2020-2021 SPC sector engagement video series has been a great success with over 19,000 views. Nine municipalities have updated their zoning by-laws and official plans to include source protection policies with the remaining four municipalities indicating that updates to planning documents are in progress. Across the ABMV region, 206 on-site septic systems require inspection. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 35% of septic systems were not inspected during the 2018-2022 inspection period. Municipalities have indicated they will make every effort to complete the remaining inspections in 2022. MECP continues to screen for Prescribed Instruments (PI) applications that pose a threat to drinking water. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) continues to screen Nutrient Management Strategies, but not Nutrient Management Plans (NMP), for Prescribed Instruments.

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Donna Clarkson presented the draft annual progress report for the ABMV SPR. As per the Clean Water Act, SPAs provide standardized annual reports to the MECP on the success of the source protection program and the implementation of local Source Protection Plans. The progress report is based on the information contained within the monitoring reports completed by the

implementing bodies. The SPC must provide written comments to the SPA about the extent to which the committee feels the objectives set out in the Source Protection Plan are being achieved. Progress is to be scored according to three possible grades: Progressing Well/On Target, Satisfactory, or Limited Progress.

By consensus, the following comments from the SPC members will be included in the annual report:

We acknowledge and thank the local municipalities, stakeholders, and other implementing bodies for their contribution to this annual progress report, and for their ongoing efforts to implement the Source Protection Plan.

Following approval of the SPPs in 2015, the Committee has focused on tasks related to implementation and amendments. This includes assessing progress made by stakeholders in implementing the SPP policies, identifying areas for improvement, and overseeing technical updates and amendments.

The Source Protection Committee for the ABMV Source Protection Region reviewed the recent implementation results, noting that significant progress has been made since the SPPs came into effect in 2015. Although the Covid-19 pandemic has created daunting challenges, implementing bodies continued their efforts to ensure that municipal drinking water is well protected. The majority of the SPP policies have been implemented and 98% of significant drinking water threats have been addressed. For these reasons, the SPC feels confident in their assessment that implementation of the Source Protection Plans is progressing well or on target.

MOTION #SPC: 2022-03-03

**Moved by Jennette Walker
Seconded by Myles Murdock**

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

Carried.

POLICY CHANGES SEWAGE

All significant drinking water threats (SDWT) in the ABMV SPR related to sewage are covered either under the building code or by an Environment Compliance Approval (ECA). Proposed amendments to the Director’s Technical Rules (DTR) include changes to the circumstances for sewage. As such, a review of the current SPP policy was warranted. For a detailed description of the deletions and revisions to the sewage policies refer to the report Policy Review: Sewage Policies.

MOTION #SPC: 2022-03-04

**Moved by Dave Frayne
Seconded by Bert Dykstra**

“That Sewage Policies RAC 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9 be deleted, Sewage Policies RAC 4.1, 4.5, 4.10 and 4.11 be revised, and Sewage Policy 4.3 be amended as presented and approved to be included in the upcoming amendment to the Source Protection Plans.”

Carried.

Allan Rothwell left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Brian Horner left the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

POLICY CHANGES SNOW

There are currently no significant drinking water threats (SDWT) in the ABMV SPR related to snow storage. The new 2021 Director’s Technical Rules include changes to the circumstances for snow storage that will result in significant threats for this activity. As such, a review and revision of the current SPP policy was needed. For a detailed outline of the proposed policies and their wording, refer to the report Policy Review: Snow Storage.

MOTION #SPC: 2022-03-05

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

“That the above policies revisions for Snow Storage AC.10.1 and 10.2 Option 2 be approved and included in the upcoming amendment to the Source Protection Plans.”

Carried.

POLICY CHANGES WASTE

Current policy tools used to address hazardous waste include Prescribed Instrument (PI), CWA ‘Part IV’ Prohibition and Risk Management Plans (RMP) plus Education & Outreach. The 2021 amendments to the Director’s Technical Rules (DTR) include changes to the circumstances for Hazardous Waste. As such, a review of the current SPP policies was warranted. For a detailed description of the deletions and revisions to waste policies refer to the report Proposed Revisions to SPP Waste Policies.

MOTION #SPC: 2022-03-06

**Moved by Ian Brebner
Seconded by Mary Ellen Foran**

“That the above Waste policies be approved as revised, and included in the upcoming amendment to the Source Protection Plans.”

Carried.

SUMMARY OF SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN AMENDMENT AND CONSULTATION

There are significant policy changes to the SPP, Explanatory Document, and Assessment Report specifically the Chapter 4 maps. The pipeline and DNAPL policy changes are required per the ‘Section 36’ review and resultant MECP Order. Additional policy changes stem from the amendments made to the Tables of Drinking Water Threats with the release of the 2021 Director’s Technical Rules (DTR). These changes will be incorporated into the SPP through Section 36 of the Clean Water Act. As part of the amendment process, consultation is required. There are three stages to the consultation process: Early Engagement, Pre-consultation, and Public consultation.

MOTION #SPC: 2022-03-07

**Moved by Jennette Walker
Seconded by John Graham**

“That staff be directed to add the policy revisions approved today to the SPP and that staff be directed to submit the draft Source Protection Plans and associated documents to MECP for ‘Early Engagement’ review.”

Carried.

LIAISON UPDATES

Catherine Eby, the new liaison from MECP, introduced herself. Catherine has more than 20 years working within the Ministry. Catherine discussed MECP’s online tool for Best Practices. She acknowledge that all DWSP workplans have been received and Transfer Payment Agreements are being drafted. The Source Protection Branch is working on reviewing Section 34 and Section 36 amendments. The MECP is working on and will release Best Management Practices for salt.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be set at the call of the Chair when early engagement review of the section 36 amendment by MECP has been received.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Matt Pearson
Chair

Abbie Gutteridge
Recording Secretary