

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES
November 24th, 2021
IN PERSON and
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Bert Dykstra

LIAISONS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison – Brian Horner
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Liaison Officer – Olga Yudina
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Intern – Grace Donnelly

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, Tim Cumming, Elizabeth Balfour

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Emily Vandermeulen – Risk Management Inspector, Wellington

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m., and welcomed the committee members to the first in-person meeting since 2019.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2021-11-01

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

Carried by Consensus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2021-11-02

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

“That the SPC minutes from May 26th, 2021 be approved as presented.”

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 Source Protection Committee (SPC) Chairs and Project Managers. He noted that the Phase II Director's Technical Rules were still under review by the province. The chairs participated in an education session on phosphorus and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs) in water. Matt will also be meeting with the new Director of the Source Water Protection Branch for a one-on-one meeting on November 25th, 2021. Chair Pearson congratulated the members of the SPC on the release of seven videos about Drinking Water Source Protection. These videos have been well received, and are an excellent platform for sector engagement by SPC members during the pandemic.

PROGRAM UPATE

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, acknowledged that the Phase II Director's Technical Rules (DTR) were delaying most Source Protection Committees. The majority of Source Protection Regions (SPRs) are trying to anticipate the wording of the Director's Technical Rules so that policies can be drafted in the interim by SPCs. Mary Lynn thanked Tim Cumming, Communications Specialist, for his help with the Source Protection videos. They have received almost 20,000 views. Mary Lynn has been promoting the Source Protection videos to the Nutrient Management branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Areas (OMAFRA), the Pesticide Certification Program at Ridgetown, the training company for Certified Crop Advisors, the Avon Maitland District School Board, and the Huron Perth Catholic School Board. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection website now has a videos tab where all the sector videos can be accessed.

Myles Murdock arrived to the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

PROVINCIAL ANNUAL REPORTING ROLL UP

Olga Yudina, MECP Liaison Officer, provided a summary of various aspects of policy and implementation across the Province of Ontario for Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP). Overall, 98 per cent of binding policies have been implemented and 97 per cent of non-binding policies. Some implementation of policies have been delayed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions. Source Protection Regions across Ontario are reporting that 83 percent of significant drinking water threats have been addressed with over 1,100 Risk Management Plans (RMPs) in place. Compliance for RMPs stands at 98 per cent. The Province continues to screen applications through Prescribed Instruments for significant drinking water threats across nine Ministries. The Province reports that 91 per cent of Source Protection Regions are reporting that they are Progressing Well with Source Protection.

BELGRAVE REPLACEMENT WELL AND AMENDMENT MAPPING CHANGES

Donna Clarkson, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, explained that one of the two municipal wells supplying Belgrave has been replaced, resulting in changes to the wellhead protection area (WHPA). Drilling was completed in the summer of 2021 and the Permit To Take Water (PTTW) has been renewed. R.J. Burnside and Associates Limited (Burnside) provided DWSP staff with a technical report. The report acknowledges that the wells are close together, in the same bedrock formation, and that the impact of shifting the WHPA-A is minimal. The actual pumping rates have increased, and Burnside has proposed that WHPAs B, C, and D be expanded based on ratios of current modelled rates. For more details see the staff report ‘Assessment Report Changes – Maps; Belgrave WHPA’ and Burnside’s report ‘New McCrea Well, Belgrave Water System’. As per requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA), staff issued the required s.48 notice to Morris-Turnberry on November 5th, 2021 following review by the ABMV Technical Team.

MOTION #SPC: 2021-11-03

**Moved by Philip Keightley
Seconded by Myles Murdock**

“That the SPC receives the proposed revisions to the Belgrave wellhead protection area and directs staff to include the changes in the upcoming Section 36 amendment to the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan and associated Assessment Report.”

Carried.

Donna also provided context on the number of maps included in the Maitland Valley and Ausable Bayfield Assessment Reports to which there are 239 maps in Chapter 4 alone. Staff have reviewed the requirements for maps under the CWA regulations, and have considered a number of ways to reduce future workload during updates while making it easier for readers to find information. Staff proposes retaining impervious surface, managed land and livestock density maps at the municipal scale while removing them from the well system scale. In addition, staff proposes merging the ground water vulnerability maps with the three threat maps: chemical, pathogen, and Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLs).

MOTION #SPC: 2021-11-04

**Moved by Allan Rothwell
Seconded by Dave Frayne**

“That the SPC approves the proposed restructuring of the maps in Chapter 4 of the Assessment Reports and directs staff to make the resultant edits as part of the upcoming amendment to the Source Protection Plans.”

Carried.

REPORT ON POLICY REVISION FOR SALT STORAGE

Donna Clarkson noted that proposed amendments to the Director’s Technical Rules (DTR) will result in significant threats in the ABMV region related to road salt storage. The DTR is proposing a reduction from 500 tonnes of salt to 20 kilograms uncovered and 100kilograms covered as a significant drinking water threat in a WHPA with a score of 10. Preliminary analysis by Donna and Mary Lynn determined that salt storage exists in high traffic public areas, and that an estimated 15-20 salt storage and application Risk Management Plans may be needed. The SPC discussed proposed policy changes that could include exempting residential, and setting a local threshold that is higher than the proposed new DTR. Staff suggested a threshold of 250 kg salt for RMPs be considered.

MOTION #SPC: 2021-11-05

**Moved by Alyssa Keller
Seconded by Jennette Walker**

“That the policy RAC.8.6 – *Risk Management Plan for Existing and Future Salt Handling and Storage* be approved and included in the upcoming amendment to the Source Protections Plans pending approval of the Director’s Technical Rules.”

Carried.

REPORT ON POLICY REVISION FOR SNOW STORAGE

Donna Clarkson noted that proposed amendments to the Director's Technical Rules (DTR) will result in significant threats in the ABMV region related to snow storage. Currently, the DTR considers snow storage a significant drinking water threat if it is stored below grade in an area that is at least 0.01 hectares or above grade and the area upon which it is stored is more than 1 hectare. The DTR, while unapproved, has suggested a smaller threshold where the snow pile may be no more than 200m² in size. The SPC discussed proposed policy changes that included distinguishing between residential and municipal applications, and prohibiting the storage of snow in a WHPA A or B with a score of 10 if that snow was trucked in from an offsite location. The SPC directed that staff examine and draft a snow storage policy that incorporated prohibition on future activities if snow was relocated.

REPORT ON POLICY REVISION FOR FUEL

Mary Lynn MacDonald explained that proposed amendments to the Director's Technical Rules (DTR) will result in additional significant threats in the ABMV region related to fuel storage. The DTR is proposing a reduction from 250L below grade and 2500L above grade to a new threshold of 250L regardless of grade. The new threshold will result in several properties being impacted such as those that require fuel for backup generators. Some regions allow future fuel storage for back-up generators. This is advisable for the ABMV region as well. The policy for existing fuel threats should be re-worded to remove the reference to seeking a demolition permit as this is hard to implement, and the deletion of the Education and Outreach policy for moderate and low fuel threats due to redundancy.

MOTION #SPC: 2021-11-06

**Moved by Rowland Howe
Seconded by Paul Heffer**

“That the revised fuel Policies R.A.C.2.1, R.A.C.2.2, and R.A.C.2.3 be included in the amended Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Plans and that Policy R.A.C.2.4-Education and Outreach Policy for Existing Fuel Handling and Storage (Moderate and Low Threats) be deleted.

Carried.

LIAISON UPDATES

Olga Yudina, MECP Liaison Officer, provided a brief update to the committee. She noted that the new Branch Director, Kirsten Corrigan, is from the Species at Risk Branch of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks. She also reported that the Director's Technical Rules are still being finalized. Olga thanked the committee for the opportunity to be a part of the SPC as a liaison. Chair Pearson thanked Olga for her service and wished her the best in her new position. Mary Wooding will be taking over as Liaison Officer on a temporary basis.

Brian Horner, liaison for Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority, spoke to the Phase I Regulations of the Conservation Authorities Act amendment. A Transition Plan was approved by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors on November 21st and will be submitted to the MECP and member municipalities by December 31st. Staff at the Ausable

Bayfield Conservation Authority are working on an Inventory of Programs, and this inventory will be completed by Feb 28th, 2022 as set out by the Province. The Conservation Authorities Act transition period will end on January 1st, 2024.

Emily Vandermeulen, Risk Management Inspector/Source Protection Coordinator, noted that her title at Wellington Source Water has changed, and that Wellington has hired a new colleague, Danielle Walker. Wellington has started re-engaging landowners for RMPs and conducting site visits now that COVID-19 restrictions have changed. Wellington Source Protection continues with development reviews in Centre Wellington, mostly for Elora and Fergus.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be set at a later date after release of the Director's Technical Rules, and will most likely be hosted over video conferencing.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Matt Pearson
Chair

Elizabeth Balfour
Recording Secretary