

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES

March 1st, 2023

IN PERSON and

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matt Pearson, Doug Hocking, Allan Rothwell, Jennette Walker, Bert Dykstra, Philip Keightley, John Thompson, Mary Ellen Foran, Rowland Howe

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dave Frayne, John Graham, Alyssa Keller

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Heffer

LIAISONS PRESENT

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

LIAISONS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Liaison Officer – Beth Forrest

LIAISONS ABSENT

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

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tim Cumming, Abigail Gutteridge

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Deb Balika – Conservation Ontario
Lisa Courtney – BM Ross

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m., and welcomed members and liaisons to the meeting. Introductions were made for: Doug Hocking (Property Owner), John Thompson (Municipal North Representative), Deb Balika (Conservation Ontario), and Patrick Landry (Huron Perth Public Health).

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2023-03-01

“That the agenda for the March 1, 2023 meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried by Consensus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2023-03-02

**Moved by Jennette Walker
Seconded by Rowland Howe**

“That the SPC minutes from November 30th, 2022 be approved as presented.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CHAIR’S UPDATE

Chair Matt Pearson reported that 12 out of 19 Chairs for the Source Protection Regions have been reappointed. March 31, 2023 will mark the end of the first year of funding under the current two-year agreement.

PROGRAM UPATE

SPC Vacancies

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, provided an update on the Source Protection Committee vacancies. With the retirement of Ian Brebner, the Property Owner position became vacant. Advertisements for the position were posted in local newspapers in December 2022, as well as, the Source Protection website, social media, and newsletters. The application period was extended until January 23 after no applications were received by the original posting deadline. Advertisements were re-posted and two applications were received. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Joint Management Committee (JMC) met to interview candidates on January 31, 2023. The Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (ABMV SPCA) received the JMC's recommendation, and appointed Doug Hocking to the SPC as the Property Owner representative on February 16, 2023.

In addition to the Property Owner vacancy, re-appointment of municipal representatives was also required following the October 2022 municipal elections. DWSP staff sent emails to clerks in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region (ABMV SPR) informing them that a municipal representative would need to be chosen for their designated municipal grouping (*i.e.*, Central, East, North or South West). Resolutions were passed to re-appoint Paul Heffer (Central), Allan Rothwell (East), and Dave Frayne (South-West). The North grouping required the appointing of a new representative, as Myles Murdoch stepped down from the SPC due to his appointment to the Maitland Valley SPA. On February 21, 2023 John Thompson was appointed as the North representative.

Future Wellhead Protection Areas and SPP Changes

Mary Lynn also provided an update on future changes to the Wellhead Protection Areas that are not a part of the current Section 36 amendment. Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh (ACW) is adding another well to the Century Heights water supply system in Saltford because of a new residential development. A consultant retained by ACW is completing a technical report and mapping delineation which is expected in March 2023. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Technical Team will review the report and determine if the technical work is complete, although the province must issue final approval of the technical work. The Source Protection Plan for Century Heights will be updated via a Section 34 amendment. The Township of Huron-Kinloss has submitted an application to the province to increase their permit-to-take-water (PTTW) for the Lucknow water supply. BM Ross and Matrix are assessing the data to determine if the Lucknow WHPA requires re-modelling. Changes to the WHPA would also require a Section 34

amendment. The Municipality of Bluewater plans to decommission the Zurich well in 2023 after their switch to the Lake Huron Water Supply. The SPP for Zurich is an administrative change, and can be amended through a Section 51. SPC Environment representative, Jennette Walker, reported that the switch to lake water in Zurich took place in February.

Best Practices – Non-municipal Water Systems

In 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) released ‘Best Practices for Source Water Protection’ this document is for properties not serviced by municipal wells, and therefore, protected under the Clean Water Act. It provides guidance, tools, and tips for protecting private drinking water systems. Conservation Ontario has been developing a ‘tool kit’ to assist with this initiative, and the 2023 approved workplan for ABMV includes promotion of these ‘best practices.’

SPP CONSULTATION SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

Donna Clarkson, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, provided an update on the consultation process for the current Section 36 underway. Early Engagement occurred from April to June 2022 with the proposed updates to the Source Protection Plans and associated documents being submitted to MECP for preliminary review. Comments were received in July and further revisions were made. Pre-consultation occurred from August to October 2022 with the draft updated documents being uploaded to ABMV’s Source Protection website, and circulated to municipalities and other implementing bodies. A few written comments were received during pre-consultation, and minor policy revisions were made in November 2022 by the SPC. Public Consultation began on January 3 with the comment period open until February 10, 2023. Notices of consultation were posted online and in print. Municipalities, ministries, and implementing bodies were notified of the public consultation. Notices were mailed to affected property owners. A webinar was hosted on January 11 and two open houses, January 18 (Wingham) and January 25 (Clinton), were held.

SPP POLICY CHANGES

Upon completion of the successful consultation phase, staff suggested a few minor edits before forwarding to the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority for final submission of the amendment to the province for approval. One minor edit to Policy AC.9.10 will address a comment received from OMAFRA with other edits addressing comments from MECP.

MOTION #SPC: 2023-03-03

Moved by Dave Frayne

Seconded by Allan Rothwell

“That the Source Protection Committee supports noted changes to the Source Protection Plans and associated documents to address comments received;

And Further: That the Source Protection Committee directs staff to submit the proposed updates to the Source Protection Plans and associated documents to the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority for consideration prior to submission to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks”

Carried.

CONSERVATION ONTARIO SOURCE PROTECTION EDUCATION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

Deb Balika, from Conservation Ontario (CO), gave a presentation on the collaboration between the MECP, Source Protection Project Managers and staff and the campaigns being used to support the Drinking Water Source Protection program. Deb opened by explaining the role of Conservation Ontario which is the umbrella agency for Conservation Authorities; providing support and leadership for all 36 Conservation Authorities. Conservation Ontario supports DWSP through coordination of the 19 Source Protection Regions (SPR) at the regional and provincial level. CO also supports the DWSP Communications Working Group for Education and Outreach. Through this working group, social media campaigns, fact sheets, infographics, and videos are all created that the SPRs can use and adopt to their local areas. The education video featuring Matt and Buddy, Water Wednesday and Winter Wednesday on-going social media campaign, and the salt bin stickers development are all examples of products produced through the collaborative approach of the various working groups. CO has a goal to double its reach in 2023 with its information sharing campaigns.

A focus going forward will be promoting and sharing the Best Practices released by the province for private well systems. This campaign will include best practice infographics, social media posts, letters to municipalities, online resources such as videos, presentation slide decks, school contest templates, and more. Deb acknowledged the participation of the ABMV SPA through the Transport Pathway Working Group, Seaforth Well Case Study (Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool), Pesticide Working Group, and Salt Working Group.

CENTURY HEIGHTS EA UPDATE

Lisa Courtney, of BM Ross and Associates Ltd., presented on the Century Heights Water System upgrades and Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA). The environmental assessment is conducted to understand the existing water demands, project future demands, understand existing system constraints, and determine the mechanisms needed to ensure adequate pressure and water flow through the system. Municipalities must follow the prescribed MCEA process, and consultation is a key component of the process. The current Century Heights water supply is relatively small servicing about 85 properties/225 people, and the wells are considered GUDI (Groundwater Under Direct Influence). The wells currently do not have any fire protection or water storage capacity.

Future growth is estimated at 156 properties requiring servicing. Increasing water storage is not enough to meet the future growth demands. Increased water storage would not address the current system deficiencies: poor water pressure, and smaller watermains acting as “bottlenecks”. Infrastructure upgrades could address the water pressure and watermain issue; however, upgrades are not enough to resolve the water supply deficiency. Three alternative solutions were proposed: expand existing well; construct a new well; do nothing. Constructing a new well is the proposed solution, and, of the three sites suggested, site one located off Maitland Ave is the preferred location.

A test well was dug at the proposed site, and initial results demonstrate water quantity amounts to be sufficient for future development demands. Initial indications also show that the well is non-GUDI. Some existing Source Protection Plan policies will affect residents around the new well such as septic inspections, fuel storage, and storage and handling of DNAPLs. Also, as per existing policy, no new lot creation would be allowed in the 100m zone around the new well. Costs for the new well are expected to be paid through development charges, and upgrades that benefit existing users are expected to be paid through rate and reserves. Following completion of the EA, a design will occur in 2023, with expected construction in 2024.

LIAISON UPDATES

Beth Forrest, MECP Liaison, noted that the TSSA is trying to implement recommendations for private fuel outlets, and trying to find a way to pass this information onto SPAs and RMOs will be important. Beth also noted that for Chair appointments: 12 reappointments are confirmed, 7 are waiting reappointment, and 3 were recently appointed. There have been some staffing changes at the Source

Protection Branch and the Ministry is working through a list of Section 36s and Section 34s. There is an RMO training session coming up, as well as engagement with First Nations group in regards to the release of the 'Best Practices' document for private well systems.

Phil Beard, Maitland Valley SPA Liaison, noted that in regards to communication efforts that the Source Protection committee and staff may want to identify some outcomes that they would like to see and then evaluate.

Patrick Landry, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) Liaison, had no update at this time.

NEXT MEETING

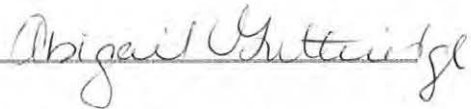
The next meeting will be March 29, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.



Matt Pearson
Chair



Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary