

## SPC MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2018

Meeting #69

The Source Protection Committee Chair, Dean Edwardson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on March 23, 2018 at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority Boardroom. The following members and staff were in attendance;

### **Members**

Murray Blackie  
Brent Clutterbuck  
Pat Donnelly  
Dean Edwardson  
Pat Feryn  
Paul Hymus  
Carl Kennes  
Joe Kerr  
George Marr

David Mayberry  
Mike Mortimer  
Earl Morwood  
Darrell Randell  
John Van Dorp  
Darlene Whitecalf  
Fatih Sekercioglu (HU Liaison)  
Brian Wright, MOECC  
Olga Yudina, MOECC

### **Regrets:**

Kennon Johnson  
Hugh Moran  
John Trudgen  
Valerie M'Garry

### **Staff:**

Jenna Allain  
Deb Kirk  
Bonnie Carey  
Linda Nicks  
Girish Sankar  
Brian McDougall  
Mark Peacock  
Ian Wilcox  
Steve Clark  
Katie Ebel  
Jessica Schnaithmann

### **Others:**

Violet Towell & Denise Shephard,  
Wallaceburg Area Wind Concerns

1) Chair's Welcome

Dean Edwardson welcomed the committee and acknowledged a quorum was achieved.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Moved by George Marr -seconded by Earl Morwood

*“RESOLVED that the March 23, 2018 agenda be approved.”*

CARRIED.

Minutes of the October 20, 2017 meeting were approved.

Moved by John Van Dorp -seconded by Brent Clutterbuck

*“RESOLVED that the October 20, 2017 meeting meetings be approved.”*

CARRIED.

3) Delegations

Violet Towel and Denise Shephard from the group *Wallaceburg Area Wind Concerns* gave a presentation to highlight the group's concerns about wind turbines having a significant impact in the Wallaceburg area on the private drinking water wells there. Examples of what is occurring in the community were outlined. The group has requested the Committee identify wind turbine projects as a threat to highly vulnerable aquifers and significant groundwater recharge areas or consider elevating private systems in the areas of concern into the source protection program. After the presentation Dean Edwardson indicated that a teleconference will be scheduled with the Committee in the next few weeks to discuss this concern further.

4) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was identified.

5) Business Arising from the minutes

None.

6) a) 2017 Annual Report Submission

Jenna Allain gave a presentation on the annual report submission for the TSR which is due May 1, 2018 that covers the first two years of implementation (2016 & 2017). SPAs are responsible for preparing the reports using templates provided by the MOECC. All policy implementers were required to report to the SPA by February 1. The information collected in those reports were used to populate the MOECC templates which were included in the SPC meeting packages. The SPC has the opportunity to provide comments on the annual report which will be presented to each of the three Source Protection Authorities boards prior to submission to the Minister.

Jenna Allain gave a review of each of the areas within the report showing the results for each category. Areas reviewed were:

- The implementation status of policies that address significant drinking water threats, moderate and low drinking water threats and other permitted policies. General education & outreach efforts.
- Activities related to the duties of Risk Management Officials and Inspectors.
- Implementation efforts made by various Provincial Ministries.
- The status of Official Plan and zoning by-law conformity exercises.
- The total number of SP road signs erected. 115 signs have been installed mostly by the municipalities. Brian Wright will enquire about the status of the provincial signs through the Ministry of Transportation.
- Septic inspections.
- The status of drinking water issues.
- Municipal integration of source protection knowledge and information.
- The status of significant drinking water threats enumerated at the time of SPP approval.
- Inspections completed by Risk Management Officials and Inspectors were noted as being difficult to assess due to the definition of an inspection being quite broad. In some cases the RMO's have had multiple site visits to establish who the owner/operator is, threat verification and to negotiate risk management measures. More criteria will be set for next year's reporting. Education packages for septic systems were developed and circulated across the region to municipal staff responsible for conducting mandatory inspections.

Overall, there has been significant progress and the SPC has been pleased with the implementation efforts to date, including municipal efforts to ensure the implementation of mandatory septic inspections. Additionally RMOs have done considerable work in negotiating RMPs and confirming the presence or absence of drinking water threats.

Staff recommended the following motion,

Moved by George Marr -seconded by Brent Clutterbuck

*“RESOLVED that the Source Protection Committee approve the SPC comments on the annual report as drafted and direct staff to submit those comments to the Source Protection Authorities for inclusion in the Thames-Sydenham and Region Annual Progress Report submission”.*

CARRIED.

#### b) Section 36 Workplan Engagement and Submission Process

A discussion paper “Section 36 Workplan Engagement and Submission process was circulated in the SPC package. Jenna Allain outlined the timeline for Section 36 Workplan development as follows;

- June 2018 - SPC to meet and identify what needs review in the Assessment/SPP reports.
- May-October 2018 Consultation Sessions with Municipal working group and other stakeholder groups. SPC Review of Draft Section 36 Workplan and provide final comment.
- November 2018 Final Section 36 Workplan to SPAs for submission endorsement
- November 30, 2018 Submission of Section 36 Workplan to MOECC.

SPC members are welcome to participate in the consultation sessions

#### c) SPC Communications Plan

MOECC has offered the SPC Chairs an opportunity to execute a local SPC communications plan due to the limited involvement they have had in the program since the plans have been approved. Funding has been provided for the SPC to engage with municipal staff, new municipal councilors, business, and agriculture and industry sectors. Communicating on general source water information, section 36 Workplan information and plan implementation are some of the key areas of focus. The value of municipal drinking water and tapping into events such as World Water Day were some examples noted. Conservation Ontario is developing new communication products including videos and photos to help with local messaging.

#### d) IPZ Vulnerability Scoring – Re-Evaluation

The first phase of amendments to the Technical Rules was approved March 2017, which included the option to re-evaluate the scoring of intake protection zones through an adjustment to the source vulnerability factor (SVF). The Essex Region Conservation Authority staff has proposed a new scoring matrix for the source vulnerability factor to be applied to all intakes in the Essex Region. When this new scoring was applied to the Wheatley Intake, which is a shared system between the Essex Region and TSR, the results show an increase to the vulnerability scores for the Wheatley Emergency Intake and significant drinking water threats could be identified. Jenna Allain gave a presentation outlining the proposed scoring changes to intake protection zones if the TSR adopted the same methodology used by the Essex Region. The results included increased scores for the Wheatley, West Elgin, Wallaceburg and LAWSS intakes. There is limited land that would be impacted and further discussion on the methodology is needed. Consultation with municipalities and landowners will be important.

It was recommended that updates to the Technical Rules for vulnerability scoring in Intake Protection Zones will be considered in the TSR Section 36 Workplan.

Moved by Pat Donnelly -seconded by Earl Morwood

*“RESOLVED that the updates to the technical rules with respect to vulnerability scoring of Intake Protection Zones be considered in the TSR Section 36 Workplan”.*

CARRIED.

#### e) EBR postings for Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act

On December 22, 2017 two proposals were posted on the EBR. The first was a proposed amendment to the general regulation under the Clean Water Act to broaden the scope of administrative amendments to the AR and SPPs to include the removal of systems that have been decommissioned without having to undertake public consultation and receive Minister approval. This posting also proposes the addition of the establishment and operation of a liquid hydrocarbon pipeline to the list of prescribed drinking water threats, and an exemption from including future policies where there are no existing or forecasted threats. Under the Safe Drinking Water Act the proposed regulation amendment is to ensure sources of drinking water for new or expanding drinking water systems are

protected before providing water to the public. Operators would be required to ensure work required under the CWA to delineate and score vulnerable areas be completed and approved by council before applying for drinking water works permits. Both of these proposals received general support through the consultation process. Jenna Allain, Dean Edwardson and John Van Dorp attended a workshop to understand the regulation and provide comment in January.

#### f) SPC Reappointment/Replacement Process Update

The Source Protection Committee member expiry date for a few of the members is coming up in June. Ads will be posted on the SP website as well as the three Conservation Authority websites. The Striking Committee consisting of the UTRCA, LTVCA and St. Clair Board Chairs and Vice-Chairs will be meeting to discuss potential candidates and participate in the interviewing process. All current committee members are invited to the June 15 SPC meeting.

#### 7) Information

There were two articles circulated to the committee “*Tiny Canada Town defeats oil firm in court fight over drinking water*” from the Guardian, and “*University of Windsor prof brings analytical eye to Chatham-Kent well water issue*” from Chatham-Kent.

Pat Donnelly made note of the recent news reports on Cape Town, South Africa running out of water. The news reports outline this being due to the worst drought they have had in more than a century, the metro area's population of 4 million and growing quickly, and a rapidly changing climate. Municipalities everywhere are watching their conservation efforts closely.

#### 8) In Camera Session

None.

#### 9) Other Business

None.

## 10) MOE Liaison Report

Brian Wright introduced Olga Yudina as the new MOECC Liaison Officer for the Thames Sydenham and Region. He relayed that Olga comes from SP Programs branch and is quite familiar with the SP program.

Brian noted the SP Programs Branch went through a re-organization in September and the SP Programs Branch has moved into the Policies & Program Division which is a better fit; the operations of the unit remain the same.

Brian also reported the SP Programs Branch of the Ministry attended the training for First Nations about SWP in Orillia on March 3-4, 2017. The lead agency the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (OFNTSC) invited all the chiefs and it was well attended. A share point website was developed for the First Nations to be able to share ideas. Another follow up training session is scheduled for June for those who attended in March and there will be a session in the fall for new participants.

## 11) Members Report

*Dean Edwardson*-introduced Mark Peacock, the new General Manager from the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority. Mark, a water resources engineer spoke to experience working at various Conservation Authorities and his experience in SP over the years.

*Pat Donnelly*- relayed the City of London has hired a hydrogeologist, Jeff Hachey. He noted the upcoming conference, *Focus on the Thames* being held at the Lamplighter Inn on March 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> hosted by UTRCA and the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation's biennial conference being held in Grand Bend, Ontario, from May 10 - 11, 2018. The keynote speaker for day one is a meteorologist and day 2 a scuba diver who video tapes his dives on shipwrecks; information can be found at: <https://www.lakehuron.ca/conference>

## 12) Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned **at 1:30 p.m.** PLEASE NOTE: The next SPC meeting is scheduled for **June 15, 2018** and meeting location is to be at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority office. Staff will confirm the date and time in advance of the meeting.