

SPC MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 15, 2018  
Meeting #71

The Source Protection Committee Chair, Dean Edwardson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on June 15, 2018 at the St. Clair Conservation Authority Boardroom. The following members and staff were in attendance;

**Members**

Murray Blackie  
Brent Clutterbuck  
Pat Donnelly  
Dean Edwardson  
Pat Feryn  
Paul Hymus  
Brian Lima  
George Marr  
Gary Martin

David Mayberry  
Hugh Moran  
Mike Mortimer  
Earl Morwood  
Darrell Randell  
Nich Seebach  
John Trudgen  
John Van Dorp  
Darlene Whitecalf  
Fatih Sekercioglu (HU Liaison)  
Olga Yudina, MOECC

**Regrets:**

Kennon Johnson  
Carl Kennes  
Joe Kerr  
Valerie M'Garry

**Staff:**

Jenna Allain  
Donna Blue  
Steve Clark  
Emily De Cloet  
Deb Kirk  
Brian McDougall  
Mark Peacock  
Jessica Schnaithmann

**Others:**

Denise Shephard, Mike Hentz,  
Wallaceburg Area Wind Concern

1) Chair's Welcome

Dean Edwardson welcomed the committee and acknowledged a quorum was achieved. The newest SPC members Gary Martin (public sector representative), Nich Seeabach (public sector representative) and Brian Lima (municipal representative for London-Middlesex) were introduced. Round table introductions for all members were given and members re-appointed were acknowledged; John Van Dorp, Hugh Moran, Brent Clutterbuck and Earl Morwood. Donna Blue, Manager of Communications and Emily De Cloet, Water Resources Technician from St. Clair Conservation were also introduced.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

The June 15, 2018 agenda was approved.

Moved by Pat Donnelly -seconded by George Marr

*“RESOLVED that the June 15, 2018 agenda be approved.”*

CARRIED.

3) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the March 23, 2018 meeting were approved.

Moved by George Marr -seconded by John Trudgen

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

CARRIED.

Minutes of the April 5, 2018 teleconference meeting were approved.

Moved by David Mayberry -seconded by Earl Morwood

*“RESOLVED that the April 5, 2018 teleconference meeting meetings be approved.”*

CARRIED.

- 4) Delegations- None.
- 5) Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- 6) No conflict of interest was identified.
- 7) Business Arising from the minutes

None.

- 7) a) Wind Turbines and Private Wells

A discussion paper was circulated outlining the various aspects of the wind turbine and private well water quality concerns as they relate to source protection. This issue was first brought forward by a delegation (Wallaceburg Wind Concerns Group) at the previous SPC meeting in March, where they presented concerns about water quality problems being experienced by private wells near the North Kent wind project. Concerns were further expressed about the potential impacts to private wells in the Wallaceburg area should the proposed Otter Creek wind project be approved. A teleconference was held on April 5 to discuss this issue further and several committee members shared the delegation's concerns. Limitations of the CWA were outlined with the main barrier of private wells not being included in the SP program. Source Protection can expand to include private wells but only if direction is given by a municipality through council resolution, or by order from the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change. Wind turbines are not identified as one of the 21 prescribed threats but SPCs can request the addition of local drinking water threats which also requires MOECC approval. The Committee agreed during the teleconference that a letter be sent to the Minister on behalf of the SPC outlining their concerns. The response letter back from the Minister highlighted that the Ministry takes concerns about groundwater quality very seriously, and is actively holding North Kent Wind accountable for addressing complaints relating to changes in well water quality and /or quantity. They noted that SP was considered as part of the review of the North Kent Wind Project. Using a science-based approach to evaluate well interference claims and analysis, the Ministry has concluded that the results showed no evidence of any ongoing or permanent impact to water quality related to the vibration from off-site pile driving. The Ministry is undertaking a technical review of the Otter Creek Wind Farm and SP is being considered.

The Township of St. Clair sent a letter to the SPC outlining a council motion that passed asking the SPC and Ministry to elevate the status of private wells in the 4 most southerly concessions of the township as a cluster and include them in the next round of the Assessment Reports. Chatham-Kent also forwarded a council resolution that indicates

their support for ensuring that all water wells receive baseline testing prior to construction of industrial wind turbines and that wells are protected.

The Committee had asked that MOECC technical staff attend the June SPC meeting and speak to the issue. However, due to the recent change in government, that request could not be accommodated at this time. Any concerns that the Committee may have can be forwarded to Shawn Morrison the new District Manager at the Sarnia-Windsor District office who is replacing Michael Moroney, who has recently retired.

Mapping outlining the Proposed Otter Creek Wind Turbine locations and the designated vulnerable areas were shown.

Potential SPC actions to address the issue were outlined in the report provided and discussed. It is difficult for wind turbines to be identified as a local threat at this time since there is not enough evidence to indicate that they present either a chemical or pathogen hazard. The SPC therefore, made the following motion;

Moved by David Mayberry -seconded by Pat Donnelly

*“RESOLVED that the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee accept the St. Clair Township resolution and identify the private systems included in the resolution as systems to be added to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan within the Section 36 workplan and*

*That the Thames-Sydenham Source Protection Committee wait for further information about the hazard that wind turbines present to drinking water before requesting that they be added as a local threat. This could be identified in the Section 36 workplan as an area that requires further review.”*

**CARRIED.**

#### Discussion:

- A question was asked about whether there has been any contamination of wells during gas well drilling. Hugh Moran from the oil/gas industry reported Ontario has been drilling natural gas wells for over 160 years and there has never been a report on any water being contaminated. Seismic exploration was discussed and whether it affects water quality. Seismic exploration does not require a “blast” rather equipment is used along the road to read vibrations in the ground and this equipment would not affect the water.
- The issue of the shale sediment that is being found in the water in the Chatham-Kent area is not a pathogen or chemical hazard, and therefore does not fit under the SPCs jurisdiction, under the current technical rules at this time.

## b) Section 36 Workplan Content

A big task for 2018 is the development of the Section 36 workplan which is due on November 30, 2018. This includes the detailed steps of the comprehensive review and updates to the Assessment Reports and the SPP. The 3 main components of the S.36 process are: an analysis of various factors, consultation/stakeholder engagement and the workplan.

Each of the 9 required updates outlined in the report were reviewed.

### Highlights of discussion included:

- To consider changing the timelines to when RMPs are completed especially due to this committee choosing to manage risks vs prohibiting, also being able to be flexible while working with people as well.
- To reviewing agricultural policies for the Town of St. Marys.
- A question was asked about #4 relating to above grade fuel storage now posing a significant risk in IPZs and WHPA-E scoring 9 or higher. This region does not have any WHPEs with a score of 9 or higher. WHPA-E is a GUDI designation. The committee would only be looking at IPZs with a score of 9 or higher and the only one is Wallaceburg.
- A number of wells within the region are being decommissioned this year which includes the Highgate well in Chatham-Kent and all wells in the City of London. These changes are not included in the list of updates since they can now be removed through an minor amendment to the Source Protection Plans known as a Section 51 amendment. A Section 51 amendment can be completed quickly without having to undertake consultation and receive Minister approval.

The committee agreed to the following motion.

### Moved by Paul Hymus -seconded by Pat Donnelly

*“RESOLVED that the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee endorse the list of proposed updates to the Assessment Reports to go out for consultation with municipalities.”*

*CARRIED.*

Break: 11:00- 11:10 a.m

### c) Section 36 Workplan Consultation

A discussion paper was circulated outlining the details for the Section 36 Workplan Consultation. The purpose of consultation is to discuss the proposed workplan and receive comments and feedback. A table within the report outlined the consultation schedule. Three municipal workshops were highlighted to ensure members were aware of the dates to be able to attend if they chose to. Workshops are scheduled for:

- June 25 at LTVCA office in Chatham-Kent,
- June 26 in Plympton-Wyoming, at the municipal office and;
- June 28 in St. Marys at the Pyramid Community Centre.

Jenna Allain will be meeting with some of the municipalities individually who cannot attend the meetings in June for feedback on the content of workplan. A *draft* workplan will be completed and circulated to all the municipalities and to the SPC in August with comments due by mid- September. At the October 19 SPC meeting the workplan will be finalized based on comments received and endorsed by the SPC to then be submitted to the SPAs.

The committee endorsed the consultation plan.

Moved by Darrell Randell -seconded by Pat Feryn

*“RESOLVED that the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee endorse the proposed consultation schedule for the submission of the Section 36 workplan.”*

*CARRIED.*

### d) SPC Communications Plan Update

The SP Programs branch heard from SPC Chairs that SPC members are feeling disengaged from the program now that there are fewer meetings. SPC members still represent various sectors and the Ministry wanted to provide more opportunities for engagement. Dean Edwardson asked the committee to think about what opportunities there may be to engage stakeholder groups. Discussions at councils and specifically after elections occur was noted as being worthwhile in keeping everyone updated and informed. Other means of communicating could be way of newsletters and presentations at meetings. Staff are more than willing to attend meetings; and members were informed to contact staff if interested. There are lots of resources available. Two RMS videos are



available to use and can be found on the SP website; one video is geared to the general public and the other to business owners.

As in the past, Darlene Whitecalf asked that Steve Clark speak and provide an update to the First Nations due to the change in Chiefs. Some of the First Nations will be developing SP plans using the scientific data already done through SP. Engaging the First Nations in the S.36 workplan work is also an option.

#### e) Outgoing Member Presentation

The outgoing members were acknowledged and thanked for their years of service; Valerie M'Garry, Joe Kerr and Pat Donnelly.

### 8) Information

#### a) OOWA/FOCA's joint ECO Request for Review

As a *fyi* the members were circulated an Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association and Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association application calling for a comprehensive maintenance management strategy of on-site septic systems. It requests that the Province consider a shift in oversight from MMA to the MOECC. The exact number of systems is not being tracked and systems are not being managed proactively. There are concerns about impact of aging systems and environmental concerns. There are over 200 systems identified as a significant drinking water threat in this region.

#### b) Source Protection Implementation Article in Ontario Farmer

An SP article by Tom Van Dusen from Ontario Farmer was included in the members meeting package outlining the progress and *praising a job well done* for the Raisin-South Nation SP and the other SP regions.

9) In Camera

None.

10) Other Business

None.

11) MOE Liaison Report

No Report.

12) Members Reports

*John Van Dorp*- reported the agricultural sector holds a number of meetings over the year and questions some of the presentations and companies promoting test spots with high population corn and the application of varying amounts of nitrogen. He indicated he conveys the message that people need to pay attention to their nitrogen levels.

*Pat Feryn* -added to John Van Dorp's comment that farmers need to be environmentally careful, however they do not always know how much nitrogen their corn will require.

*Hugh Moran* –noted it will be interesting to see how the new government will influence various regulated programs.

*Pat Donnelly*-reported he went to a two-day Lake Huron Coastal Conference at the Oakwood Inn in May with 170 people in attendance. The Coastal Centre celebrated their 20th year anniversary. He noted the center has taken the opportunity to use SP information and created a graphic showing who is drinking the water from the Lake Huron from the Ontario and Michigan sides.

*Darrell Randell*-reassured members that St. Clair Township did not pass the motion on the wind turbines thinking it was a no-risk motion but was done specifically to try to prevent what happened to their neighbors in Chatham-Kent.

13) Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned **at 11:50 a.m.** PLEASE NOTE: The next SPC meeting is scheduled for **October 19, 2018** and meeting location is at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority office. Staff will confirm the date and time in advance of the meeting.