

SPC MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2019
Meeting #73

The Source Protection Committee Chair, Dean Edwardson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on March 22, 2019 at the St. Clair Conservation Authority Boardroom. The following members and staff were in attendance;

Members

Murray Blackie
Brent Clutterbuck
Dean Edwardson
Pat Feryn
Paul Hymus
Carl Kennes
George Marr
Gary Martin
Mike Mortimer

Earl Morwood
Darrell Randell
Carlos Reyes
Nich Seebach
John Van Dorp
Joe Salter (Liaison)
Fatih Sekercioglu (HU Liaison)
Beth Forrest, MOECP (for Olga Yudina)

Regrets:

Hugh Moran
David Mayberry
John Trudgen
Darlene Whitecalf

Staff:

Julie Welker
Deb Kirk
Brian McDougall
Steve Clark
Linda Nicks
Jessica Schnaithmann
Jason Wintermute

Others:

Cassandra Banting, Oxford County
Karen Maaskant, UTRCA

1) Chair's Welcome

Dean Edwardson welcomed the committee and acknowledged a quorum was achieved. Introductions were given for Julie Welker who is replacing Jenna Allain who is on maternity leave. The new representative for London/Middlesex County, Carlos Reyes was introduced as well as Joe Salter the new UTRCA liaison for Murray Blackie and Cassandra Banting will be replacing David Mayberry for Oxford County. Round the table introductions were also given.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Moved by George Marr -seconded by Paul Hymus

“RESOLVED that the March 22, 2019 agenda be approved.”

CARRIED.

3) Approval of October 19, 2018 SPC minutes

Minutes of the October 19, 2018 meeting were approved with a minor amendment to page 5 under *Update #12* the word *we* changed to *where* the existing threats can be applied.

Moved by Earl Morwood -seconded by Mike Mortimer

“RESOLVED that the October 19, 2018 meeting meetings be approved with the minor amendment as noted.”

CARRIED.

4) Delegations

None.

5) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was identified

6) Business Arising from the minutes –none.

7) Business

a) Presentation on Phosphorous

Karen Maaskant, the Water Quality Specialist at Upper Thames River Conservation Authority gave a presentation on phosphorous that included the algae issue, plans and targets and some examples of what is being done in agriculture, urban areas, and research and monitoring. Historic information was provided dating back to the 1970s when major algae blooms were a problem and improving wastewater treatment was one of the main solutions. Phosphorus loads and Lake Erie conditions improved through the following years but major algae blooms returned in the late 1990's and 2000's. New lower phosphorus targets were established in 2016 to address algae blooms in Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair including toxic algae (microcystin). In 2015 a phosphorous study was completed for the Thames River watershed to determine where phosphorous loading is coming from. Various plans are in place to improve water quality including: the Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan 2018, and local watershed plans. A number of programs are being implemented in the Lake Erie basin, such as the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program, Ontario Cover Crops: Outreach and Engagement Strategy, the Lake Erie Agriculture Demonstrating Sustainability (LEADS) cost-share program, Nutrient Management Program (Ontario Nutrient Management Act), and Conservation Authority Stewardship programs to reduce phosphorus loading. In urban areas programs are underway such as the City of London's Sewer Separation Program and Enhanced Wastewater Treatment projects, and Low Impact Development work. Much research and demonstration work is ongoing on best management practices related to phosphorus management. Subwatershed projects, such as the Upper Medway Subwatershed, are testing the impact of agricultural BMP's on water quality and have found that most phosphorus loss to the river is in the winter-spring/non-growing season. The increase of extreme rain and runoff events is a factor. Questions/comments during the presentation:

- Run off has been a main focus, it was noted tile drains increase flow and can cause phosphorous loading as well.
- What strategies have worked? Good results have come from local cover crop trials with findings of 25%-60% improvement where there were cover crops used.
- Making small improvements everywhere will make a difference.
- Does the US have targets? The US has very similar targets and programs are being implemented. The Maumee River watershed is a main contributor of phosphorus to Lake Erie.

- Capturing phosphorus in runoff and containment is one approach being tested with slag material etc. used to remove it but the challenge is practicality and the ability to treat high volumes of water when flow is high.
- Lake St. Clair nearshore algae is a priority and phosphorus loads from the Thames and Sydenham rivers contribute to that.

b) SPC Reappointments/Replacement Update for 2019

On June 1, 2019 the terms of appointments for eight SPC members will expire, and will need to be re-appointed or replaced. Julie Welker reminded the members of the reappointment process. Members appointed in 2019 will have a term that extends until June 2023. After these appointments all terms will be for 4 years, with half of the members terms expiring every other year. The members were asked to consider whether they would like to remain on the committee or to step down and to advise Julie Welker before the closing date of April 15, 2019. All non-municipal positions must be advertised regardless of existing members intentions. Liaison positions do not expire; Joe Salter has replaced Murray Blackie. Cassandra Banting will be replacing David Mayberry. Paul Hymus reported the Ontario Sand & Gravel industry has representatives across the province however this industry has little impact on Source Water. He inquired about any interest and has not heard from anyone at this point. The same process will take place as in the previous year; notices will be advertised online and municipalities will be consulted.

c) Annual Report

A presentation was given by Julie Welker. The SPA is responsible to prepare an annual progress report and submit it to the Director and the SPC. The deadline for the submission of the 3rd annual progress report for the TSR is May 1st, 2019 and will cover progress toward implementation cumulatively from October 1, 2015 (effect date) to December 31, 2018.

Items required in the report are:

- Measures that have been taken to implement the SPP.
- Results of any monitoring programs undertaken as a result of monitoring policies in the SPP.
- The extent to which the objectives set out in the SPP are being achieved.
- SPP Monitoring policies require policy implementers to report to SPA by February 1st, annually.
- Implementation status was outlined for the Thames, Sydenham and Region and Oxford County for significant and moderate to low drinking water threats.
- Risk Management Plans that are complete and Inspections for Prohibition and RMPs.
- 18 municipalities within the TSR are required to complete an Official Plan conformity exercise, and 22 are required to complete a Zoning By-Law conformity exercise.

- Road sign totals were given and status of septic systems inspections.
- A table outline drinking water issues was shown for Wheatley, Chatham-South Kent intakes (microcystin), Wallaceburg (nitrate-is a non-issue) and Woodstock (nitrate issue but not enough info).

Recommendation to the members:

Overall, significant progress in the Thames-Sydenham and Region has been made since the Source Protection Plan came into effect. During the last three years of plan implementation, 83% of the policies that address significant drinking water threats have been implemented or are in progress. Of the 1,055 existing threats that were enumerated at the time of Plan approval, over half are considered addressed because the Plan policies have been implemented, or have been confirmed to no longer exist.

The Committee has been pleased with the actions taken by municipalities within the Thames-Sydenham and Region. All 24 municipalities with source protection implementation responsibilities have incorporated source protection considerations into municipal business processes. Municipalities have also made considerable progress in the implementation of mandatory septic inspections, with 85% of the first mandatory inspections now complete. Local Risk Management Officials have made substantial efforts to confirm the presence or absence of significant drinking water threats, and negotiate Risk Management Plans where required.

For the reasons outlined above, the Source Protection Committee feels confident in their assessment that implementation of the Source Protection Plans is progressing well/on target.

Staff recommended the following motion:

Moved by Darrell Randell -seconded by George Marr

“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.

Discussion: a question was asked about whether signs will be erected in Oxford County. Cassandra Banting reported the focus to date has been to deal with significant threats and that the signs will be put up.

d) LAWSS Risk Management Services

Julie Welker reported that Lambton Area Water Supply System (LAWSS) came forward asking the Thames, Sydenham and Region to complete Risk Management Services for Lambton County and agreements are being finalized with Township of St. Clair, Lambton Shores, Village of Point Edward and Plympton-Wyoming. Steve Clark will be the main contact.

8) Information

a) Source Water videos

Two videos were shown to the committee one from Conservation Ontario titled “*Do you know where your drinking water comes from*” and “*Indigenous Water Protection: Chippewa, Munsee, Oneida and the Thames River.*” The first video will be put out on social media platforms, in offices such as dental offices and will be featured in movie theatres.

It was noted that today is *World Water Day*. A rally in London’s Victoria Park will mark World Water Day by raising awareness about the lack of unsafe drinking water in First Nation communities.

b) Made in Ontario Environment Plan

A document was circulated “*Made in Ontario Environment Plan*” that the province has put out to address environmental issues both on land and on water, highlighting the climate change issue. Throughout the paper highlights and connects Source Water planning work and the main point of it is to hold polluters accountable. Dean Edwardson noted he participated in a recent Chairs teleconference and was advised that the new government is committed to continuing the Source Protection Program.

c) Paper: Integrated Water Management Document

A white paper titled “*Understanding the Legal Complexities Involved in Integrated Water Resources Management*” was circulated. The paper outlines potential solutions to coordinating and addressing complexities with transboundary water issues and help reduce conflict over which the use of water management industries. It notes supporting local needs and having an ecosystem or watershed approach to water management will also help.

d) Outgoing members presentations

Dean Edwardson thanked members Darrell Randell, Murray Blackie, Paul Hymus for their participation on the committee over the past 12 years. David Mayberry was absent and also acknowledged.

9) In Camera Session

None.

10) Other Business

None.

11) MOE Liaison Report

Beth Forrest reiterated that the video *Do you know where your drinking water comes from?* will be shown at various movie theatres. She advised the committee of the new SP Branch Director, Susan Ecclestone who is replacing Heather Malcomson.

Beth reported that Source Protection funding is well positioned and that the Ministry has been working on the reviews for Section 34 and 36 workplan amendments to the SPPs, including our regions. She noted the Source Protection Information Atlas Mapping tool is now available showing vulnerable areas and can be found on the Ontario.ca website. The water quantity information is now being used for Permits to Take Water. The Made of Ontario Environment Plan paper was open for comments and they received 1400, it is now closed and being reviewed. The announcement has been made that funding will be going ahead and the workplan has been received and negotiations will happen.

12) Members Report

Mike Mortimer-wanted to recognize World Water Day, March 22 which happens each year. This year's theme is *Water for All* which includes our indigenous communities.

John Van Dorp- reported he is working with Ag Solutions this year and will be looking at products that can be used on the farm to stimulate the production of nitrogen and phosphorous in the soils when the plant is growing, reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous. The agricultural field is changing to not only considering the chemistry but the biological component of the soil. He will be conducting side by side trials and hoping to get

some positive results. John was part of the Soil Water Environment Enhancement Program in the 80s studying phosphorous loading in the Great Lakes.

Paul Hymus- noted being on the committee has been a learning and enjoyable experience right from the start with the tours and education on Source Water. In terms of industry's point of view the aggregate industry has very little impact or adverse impact on SWP and he thanked everyone for their assistance.

Darrell Randell- echoed Pauls' comments of being happy to have been a part of the committee and SW in this part of Ontario is in good hands.

Joe Salter-commented he is glad to be back and that there is still progress going on and still work to do.

George Marr-noted he has enjoyed working with the outgoing members and appreciates the work they have done together.

Carlos Reyes- noted his excitement to be part of the committee.

Pat Feryn-asked what the committee's role will be going forward on the phosphorous loading.

Jason Wintermute reported there is one outstanding issue of microcystins for Lake St. Clair intakes. Phosphorous is the key nutrient that causes the blooms. When delineating the Issues Contributing Area this is based on phosphorous and as the intakes are monitored phosphorous is what is being looked at, as that is feeding the microcystin. Anything to clean up the lake in reducing the loads of phosphorus is how this will tie into the technical SW work being done. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Murray Blackie-reported being on the committee has been a great experience. He thanked staff and the committee for all the work done on the SPPs and that implementation is going quite well, with future work continuing. He said he has appreciated the fellowship over the many years, being a worthwhile experience.

Earl Morwood- relayed it was a pleasure to work with outgoing members.

Nich Seebach –noted as a teacher it is disheartening that youth have to go to a movie theatre to learn where their drinking water comes from as opposed to learning it in school.

13) Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned **at 11:45 a.m.**. PLEASE NOTE: The next SPC meeting is scheduled for the fall, meeting date undetermined and the 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.

