

MINUTES

HALTON-HAMILTON SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING #1-11

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee
Auditorium, Conservation Halton
2596 Britannia Road West, Burlington
February 22, 2011 2:00pm to 5:00pm

SPC Attendees:			
Dave Braden	Susan Fielding	Adam Kuehnbaum	Peter Ashenhurst
Gavin Smuk	Barry Lee	Chris Shrive	
Doug Cuthbert	Teri Yamada	David Simpson	
Regrets SPC/Other Regrets:			
Paul Attack	Kathy Menyes	Melanie Horton	Turlough Finan
Glenn Powell	Nick DiGirolamo	Judi Partridge	
Other Attendees:			
Diane Bloomfield Project Manager HHSPR	Bob Edmondson, Conservation Halton	John Westlake, MOE Liaison	
Virginia Bancur Project Assistant HHSPR	David King, Health Liaison	Roy Maxwell, Communications Consultant	
Nicole Mathews, Halton Region Health	Ruth Victor, Ruth Victor and Associates	Jean Williams, Conservation Halton	
Ken Phillips, Conservation Halton	Steve McKinnon, Halton Region		

ITEM	TOPIC/DISCUSSION	ACTION REQUIRED
	Working Group meetings, in reference to threats, were included in the Committee Members' meeting package.	
8.	<p>Presentation by Steve McKinnon, Halton Region on Road Salt</p> <p>The Region of Halton Salt Management Plan was just updated. The Plan is updated every 5 years. It includes vulnerable area mapping where less salt, alternative products or the latest technologies should be used. Halton Region is investigating new technologies and better management. The concern of road salt impacting water quality covers all of Halton Region and particularly the Campbellville area in the source protection region. Steve has met with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to discuss the Campbellville area and possible collaboration to reduce impacts on water quality in this area.</p> <p>Q. The discussion has mainly been about road salt, what about industry's use of salt for dust control?</p> <p>A. Nothing is in place to monitor industry's or the homeowner's use of salt for dust control or in water softeners.</p> <p>It was agreed that Steve return in about 6 months to present the Committee with Halton Region's progress on the Salt Management Plan. The storage and handling of road salt are not existing significant threats in our region; however, we will have to include policies for future threats in the Source Protection Plans.</p>	
9.	<p>Ontario Drinking Water Early Response Program – Diane Bloomfield</p> <p>Diane presented the breakdown on projects and funds for the Early Response Program. The Stewardship program received \$76,470 to address priority threats. Stewardship and source protection staff will meet to discuss what properties should be targeted for inclusion in the program. The program is in effect until December 2012</p>	
10.	<p>Ministry of Environment Liaison Update - John Westlake</p> <p>John reported on the Source Protection Planning Bulletins produced by the Ministry of the Environment. They cover specific topics to assist the Source Protection Committees with development of policies and plans. More bulletins will be released in the spring and the rest by the end of the year. Copies of the issued bulletins were included in the committee members' meeting package.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <p>Bulletins have been produced on geothermal systems. They are a significant concern. There was discussion of geothermal systems at the Planners' Working Group meeting and Ruth will present the recommendations. Some systems are legislated some are not. If not installed properly, they could impact both ground water quality and quantity. This subject needs to be addressed in the Plans.</p> <p>John informed the Committee the formal review by the MOE of the proposed Assessment Reports is taking up to 6 months. If the reviewers come across anything that is a critical issue they will notify Diane and Doug during the review. We should receive MOE comments likely in May or June.</p>	

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11.	<p>Communications Update – Roy Maxwell</p> <p>Roy reported that he will be drafting a letter regarding notification of the commencement of plan development, to be sent to stakeholders such as municipalities, and landowners. The communications subcommittee will review it and it will be tabled at the April 12 Source Protection Committee meeting. The mail out will be June 15. The municipalities will receive a sample letter two weeks before the mail out to provide time to notify councillors.</p> <p>Roy updated the committee on CIELAP’s stewardship project. It is primarily a Burlington project to raise public awareness to local residents, and small and large businesses about Lake Ontario water. This will be accomplished through printed materials, the media, and at public and special events. World Water Day will be utilized in March. The project material will be used by Halton Region and staff to promote source protection within the other urban areas using Lake Ontario water. The program deadline of April 1st has been extended to May 1st. Source Protection will have a booth and Diane will speak at a water awareness event on March 23rd.</p>	
12.	<p>Context for Planning under the <i>Clean Water Act</i> – Diane Bloomfield</p> <p>The objectives of the Source Protection Plan are set out in Regulation 287/07 under the Clean Water Act and must be met. The scope of the plans and the criteria to be used to assess proposed policies were reviewed. These were defined by the Source Protection Committee at previous meetings.</p>	
13.	<p>Policy Approaches Summary –Ruth Victor</p> <p>Ruth presented an overview of the discussion that occurred at the Planners’ Working Group meetings about the 21 threats and possible strategic policies. Due to time constraints discussion only occurred on the first 13 threats. The discussions are summarized below.</p> <p><u>Threat #1 Waste Disposal Sites</u> Q. Can’t we endorse the existing Environmental Assessment process? A. The Clean Water Act connects with other legislation, however, the other legislation may not have been written to specifically protect drinking water sources. There may be gaps to fill. It is good to have requirements in local documents such as the Official Plans or in the Niagara Escarpment Plan because these are referred to at an Ontario Municipal Board Hearing. This offers another level of protection.</p> <p><u>Threat #2 Sewage Systems</u> Small Septics – mandatory inspections are not intrusive. Some Source Protection Regions are including expanded requirements of an inspection to make them open the septic tank, etc. Some members agree a non-intrusive inspection is not sufficient to detect issues. Financial assistance for homeowner’s whose septic system has failed the inspection was discussed. Suggested messaging was that the repairs/upgrades are protecting their own water supply and they do not pay water and sewage rates. It was suggested that a policy support and encourage municipal relief funding where the municipality loans the money required for the work and recoups it through taxation. There is a precedent for this in Hamilton for replacement of lead pipes. This funding cannot be a municipal affordability issue. It is necessary to protect the municipal supplies. The municipalities must enforce health issues diplomatically with</p>	<p>Staff is to send a .pdf of the presentation to the committee members for review and comments about the preferred policy options.</p>

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	<p>the science to back it up.</p> <p><u>Lots of record</u> Holding tanks are a last resort because they must be maintained. Tertiary systems have problems as they do not reduce nitrate concentrations and they require maintenance.</p> <p>Large septic – No discussion Holding tanks – No discussion</p> <p><u>Application of hauled septage to land</u> Halton Region and Hamilton wastewater treatment plants accept septage for treatment and it is not applied to lands in our region. The province has banned new applications.</p> <p><u>Industrial Effluent Discharges</u> We should not prohibit industrial land use because the threat is the discharge. A wind farm or solar farm would not have discharge and should be permitted. The wording of the policy must be specific such as “industrial uses that could be a significant threat are prohibited”.</p> <p>Combined Sewer Overflows – No discussion Stormwater Ponds – No discussion Water Treatment Plants – No discussion</p> <p><u>Threats #3 and #4 Agricultural source materials (ASM) application and storage</u> No discussion</p> <p><u>Threats #6 and #7 Non-agricultural source materials (NASM) application and storage</u> Public wants more screening/monitoring of NASM than ASM. Monitoring policy to report back is good.</p> <p><u>Threats #8 and #9 Commercial Fertilizers application and storage</u> Restricted land use and a risk management plan would be better than prohibition. Q. Do we need more than the Audubon Program? A. This is the best program available.</p> <p><u>Threats #10 and #11 Pesticides application and storage</u> Restricted land use and a risk management plan would be better than prohibition.</p> <p><u>Threats #12 and #13 Road Salt application and storage</u> The committee supports the move to better technologies and management practices such as indoor handling of salt.</p> <p><u>Threat #21 Livestock</u> Q. Can livestock densities for grazing be controlled through zoning? A. No, if the property is zoned agricultural then agricultural activities may occur.</p>	<p>Committee members to review Planners’ Working Group minutes and binder information and send editorial comments to Diane by March 9, 2011</p>
14.	<p>Work Plan and Schedule to August 2012 – Diane Bloomfield</p> <p>The meeting schedule for 2011 and 2012 was reviewed along with the work schedule for plan completion. There is not much flexibility in the schedule. The schedule includes more public review time than what was legislated. The background document (rationale) will be posted on the website for public review.</p>	

ITEM	TOPIC/DISCUSSION	ACTION REQUIRED
	<p>HHSPC 11-03 Moved by: Peter Ashenhurst Seconded by: Gavin Smuk</p> <p>THAT the Source Protection Committee meeting schedule for 2011 and 2012 be accepted in Principle as presented, subject to approval of non-attending members.</p>	
15.	<p>Other Business - All</p> <p>Hugh Simpson of the University of Waterloo Source Protection Opinion Survey The Source Protection Committee will support the survey and participate in the survey if they wish.</p> <p>CTC Issue Contributing Area Work The CTC identified sodium and chloride as issues at two Georgetown well fields. Issue contributing areas have been delineated and they extend into the Halton Region Source Protection Area. Significant threats within these areas need to be assessed and policies need to be drafted. The CTC has offered to complete this work for our review. It was agreed to have them complete the threats assessment and develop draft policies for members' review.</p> <p>Letter and two motions received from Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee This item is tabled until the next meeting. Gavin Smuk will check into the feedback from the agricultural sector.</p> <p>Transportation of nuclear materials through the Great Lakes This was taken off the table due to time constraint.</p>	<p>Diane Bloomfield to inform CTC of the committee's acceptance of their proposed plan.</p> <p>The letter and motions from Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee are to be added to the April 12, 2011 agenda. Gavin Smuk to check into the feedback from the agricultural sector.</p>
16.	<p>Comments from Attending Public None</p>	
17.	<p>Adjournment – Doug Cuthbert</p> <p>HHSPC 11-04 Moved by: Dave Braden Seconded by: Peter Ashenhurst</p> <p>THAT, in Principle, the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee meeting be adjourned.</p>	

Minutes prepared by: Virginia Bancur