

Mission Statement of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

To collaboratively develop and maintain a local watershed-based plan for the sustainable protection of municipal drinking water sources in the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region that is science-based and prevents, reduces or eliminates risks to Lake Ontario and groundwater sources of municipal drinking water.

MEETING NUMBER: #4-21 Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee
DATE: December 14, 2021
TIME: 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm
LOCATION: Virtual Meeting held on Zoom.

Minutes

Source Protection Committee (SPC) Attendees:

Bob Edmondson, Chair
Daniel Banks
Carla Coveart
Gavin Smuk
Sarah Lock
Chris Murray
Councillor Judi Partridge (left meeting at 3:40 pm, Proxy held by Gavin Smuk)
Scott Stewart
Dana Couture
David Rodgers

SPC Liaisons:

Elizabeth Forrest, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Barbara Veale, Conservation Halton
Richard MacDonald, City of Hamilton Public Health Services

Conservation Authorities:

Chita Gowda, Conservation Halton
Jacek Strakowski, Conservation Halton
Brad Rennick, Conservation Halton
Christa Stribbell, Conservation Halton
Jeff Lee, Conservation Halton

Municipalities:

Marco Silverio, City of Hamilton
Carmen Vega, City of Hamilton

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Danielle Walker, Wellington Source Water
Emily Vandermeulen, Wellington Source Water
Jon Clark, Halton Region
Therese Estephan, Peel Region

Absent with regrets:
Scott Peck, Hamilton Conservation Authority

Item No.	Item
1	Roll call and welcome Chair Bob welcomed everyone
2	Disclosures of conflict of interest None
3	Review of agenda <p style="text-align: center;">Moved by Sara Lock seconded by Judi Partridge</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carried</p>
4	Approval of the minutes of the October 5, 2021 meeting of the Source Protection Committee <p style="text-align: center;">Moved by Dave Rodgers, seconded by Gavin Smuk</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THAT the minutes of the October 5, 2021 meeting of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carried</p>
5	Business arising from the October 5, 2021 minutes Chitra Gowda spoke to the highlights from the business arising from the meeting on Oct. 5, 2021. Staff took a deeper dive into the excess soil regulation. From the October 2021 SPC meeting: “excess fill/excess soil including but not limited to contaminated soil” wording is now in Policy O-4-S and in Explanatory Document. The original intent of the policy is also explained in both documents, giving due consideration to the use of disposal of contaminated fill/excess soil. Staff arranged for the Agricultural Warehousing Standards Association presentation during this meeting.

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	<p>Nutrient Management Plans – OMAFRA does not report on NMPs, as they do not issue/approve these instruments. In 2020, MECP inspected only 2 farms in Halton Region source protection area – these do not have drinking water threat activities identified under the Clean Water Act. The data on NMPs in the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region remains a gap.</p> <p>PFAS – Currently, Ontario does not have a drinking water standard for PFAS, therefore this chemical is not considered under the Clean Water Act as a chemical of concern.</p>
6	<p>Presentations:</p> <p>a) “Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association”. Dr. Justine Taylor and Anthony Laylock</p> <p>Dr. Taylor and Anthony Laylock introduced themselves. Dr. Taylor gave a presentation on AWSA. CropLife was established in 1952. AWSA is a separate entity operated and funded by CropLife Canada. AWSA was founded in 1992.</p> <p>Options to address SPC concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send targeted information to sites in the source protection region • Create a general bulletin with best practices • Propose revisions to the audit protocols in the future. <p>The next date for releasing any new protocols will be in 2024.</p> <p>Chair Bob asked about how many auditors there are in Ontario. Dr. Taylor confirmed there are five and they have not been made aware of the Source Protection Plan. Providing updated bulletins with information about the source protection program would be beneficial to the auditors.</p> <p>Dr. Taylor suggested they could put out a general bulletin or they could do direct communication specific to Halton-Hamilton or all of Ontario with a general guidance. There are 19 regions across the province that would have similar concerns to those the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region (HHSPR) has raised. Dr. Taylor suggested they could work with HHSPR or Conservation Ontario to work with all SPRs across Ontario.</p> <p>Action: Chitra will make the connection amongst Dr. Taylor, HHSPR, and Conservation Ontario. HHSPR staff will provide materials to Dr. Taylor that are customized to the HHSPR.</p> <p>For the 3 specific sites in the HHSPR, plain language messaging can be developed.</p> <p>A long-term action would be to flag when the protocol is updated.</p>

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	<p>Scott Stewart asked what the three sites are. Dr. Taylor indicated that the information cannot be shared publicly. She indicated that one is located in an IPZ-2 while the rest are outside of vulnerable areas.</p> <p>b) “Climate change vulnerability assessments for source water quality”. Chitra Gowda.</p> <p>Chitra Gowda provided an overview of the guidance document and the climate change vulnerability assessment tool, indicating that it was a multi-year collaborative project she co-chaired while at Conservation Ontario, with MECP. A detailed walk-through of the Burlington intakes pilot study was provided. Chitra commended Dan Banks and his team on their collaborative work.</p> <p>Dan Banks noted there were some challenges in provided inputs to the tool. Some of the inputs seemed to be broad and need more details. It is challenging to identify the impacts from different climate change conditions.</p> <p>Dan would be interested in knowing where different results have been seen. Chitra worked on a few other pilot studies with results of medium and low climate change vulnerability ratings. She noted that when a medium rating (for climate change vulnerability) is combined with a significant drinking water threat activity, it results in a third level grouping which signifies to an SPC that there needs to be a closer look to address those climate change impacts.</p> <p>Action: Chitra will present the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley - Seaforth groundwater pilot study at the March meeting. She will find out vulnerability assessment results of newer pilot studies from Conservation Ontario.</p> <p>Generally, there is no need to complete these assessments for each drinking water system. Municipalities could help determine representative systems to apply the assessment tool.</p> <p>Chair Bob noted an article in the Hamilton Spectator about increasing temperatures in Lake Ontario and the need to increase the chlorine levels in the water intakes. He asked Hamilton and Halton if this has been going on for years.</p> <p>Action: Dan Banks and Carmen Vega will follow up with their water treatment colleagues and report back to the committee.</p>
7	<p>Business Reports</p> <p>a) SPC 21-12-01 Halton-Hamilton Section 36 Updates: Consultation and Policy Updates</p> <p>Moved by Carla Coveart and seconded by Sarah Lock</p> <p>THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee endorses the Staff Report “Halton-Hamilton Section 36 Updates: Consultation and Policy Updates”</p>

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	<p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p> <p>Chitra advised that public consultation is about to begin, and there are over 40 days for the period. The SPC can also have that time for a deep review and comments.</p> <p>Highlights of the updates since pre-consultation were provided. A proposed change to the definition of “existing threats” was presented in detail along with the rationale. Municipal working group members were invited to speak to it as well. Carmen advised they are supportive of the wording that has been proposed and it was discussed at great lengths at the municipal working group meetings hosted by HHSPR. Dan Banks indicated the same. Dave Rodgers received a note from Kyle Davis that there are no problems.</p> <p>Regarding the high water temperature at intake and adding additional chlorine, Carmen Vega advised that Hamilton Water is conducting two studies: Water Age Study and a Disinfection study.</p> <p>Two policy gaps from the original source protection plan (2015) are identified and addressed in the proposed updates. Chitra commended the municipal risk management officials and inspectors on completing all risk management plans from the first round of planning.</p> <p>Confirmation was received from the Ministry that staff can hold off on making the change to the implementing body for nutrient management plan policies, and address it in a future Section 34 amendment (this is an amendment initiated by the source protection authority).</p> <p>Gavin Smuk commented on using certified preparers for the Nutrient Management Plans. Planners can be accessed from all across the province, so they are not necessarily from within our watershed, and he thinks it is something that needs to be implemented province wide. Chitra agreed that this is a concern and is one of the reasons that HHSPR and the committee will work with the province on.</p> <p>Chitra shared the newly designed covers for the Source Protection Plan Explanatory Documents and the Assessment Reports. The SPC was agreeable to the cover changes. She noted that there is a detailed change log for each change to the reports. These are part of the source protection minutes and will be posted publicly for public consultation.</p> <p>b) SPC 21-12-02 Livestock Density Mapping Discussions Update</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By consensus the committee accepted the recommendation</p> <p>THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information</p>

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	<p>the Staff Report “Livestock Density Mapping Discussions Update”</p> <p>Action: Chitra to discuss with MECP and the other program managers if they will be undertaking a similar approach in areas where livestock densities are generally lower than assumed in the MECP guidance to estimate livestock density.</p> <p>Scott Stewart suggested reaching out to Stats Canada as they collect survey data about the number of animals on each farm.</p> <p>c) SPC 21-12-03 Potential IPZ-3 for Aged and Defective Stormwater and Wastewater Infrastructure</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moved by Christopher Murray and seconded by Gavin Smuk</p> <p>THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee endorses the Staff Report “Potential IPZ-3 for Aged and Defective Stormwater and Wastewater Infrastructure”</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carried</p> <p>Chitra Gowda acknowledged Carla Coveart’s encouragement and expertise on this matter. It is not a new issue but an emerging one due to the awareness that is being raised about it. Carla commented that this was part of an investigation on wastewater infrastructure ultimately to reduce the bacteria E. Coli in storm sewers.</p> <p>3:40 pm Judi Partridge had to leave. Gavin Smuk is her proxy.</p>
8	<p>Correspondence:</p> <p>a) Regional Municipality of Halton Report No. PW-31-21 re: Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Assessment Report and Plan Policy Amendments Under Section 36 of the Clean Water Act, 2006.</p> <p>b) Email from Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch, MECP re: Updated Technical Rules and policy decision on the Environmental Registry of Ontario https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2219</p>
9	<p>Source Protection Committee Chair’s Update by Bob Edmondson</p> <p>Chair Bob provided an update on his one-on-one meeting with the new Director of Conservation and Source Protection, Kirsten Corrigan. Chair Bob raised the issue of consistency with policies with Kirsten. They also talked about communication as Chair Bob would like to see the province more involved in a campaign to highlight the program. Additionally, they spoke about a need for a multi-year funding. Since their meeting, the province has advised that they will provide for 2-year funding that will take us into 2024. They have asked that proposals be submitted by January 14, 2022.</p> <p>There was a SPC Chairs’ conference call on Dec. 8, 2021 hosted by MECP. Funding was</p>

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	<p>mentioned and there was a session on the technical rules where a track changes version was provided. It will have an impact on our assessment report and policies. MECP is developing a guidance document. Chitra added that the technical rules are the overarching technical framework of the Clean Water Act. Preliminary assessment by staff indicate that there are implications related to road salt application and fuel storage.</p> <p>Chair Bob indicated that the SPC sector engagement continues. Chair Bob and industrial representative Sarah Lock have a meeting on February 24th the Hamilton Community Awareness Response Group.</p>
10	<p>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Liaison’s Update by Elizabeth Forrest</p> <p>The one-on-one meetings with Kirsten that Chair Bob spoke about have wrapped up. She has now met with all the Chairs, and she was very happy with those meetings.</p> <p>Elizabeth advised that they will be sending out guidance on the Director Technical Rules as soon as possible. MECP will be asking project managers to come up with a focus list of questions and they will have regional sessions to get at those local questions in the new year.</p> <p>They are developing a best practice guide document for source protection for other systems that are not currently included in source protection plans or cannot be included if they are not eligible. They are still working on developing this and getting it approved. They will be posted on Ontario.ca website but there is no firm date for this.</p> <p>Multi-year (2 years) funding has been approved for the transfer payment agreements.</p> <p>MECP continues to get more Section 36 and Section 34 updates and they continue to move those through.</p> <p>Gavin Smuk asked about when the excel spreadsheet with the table of threats will be updated. Beth confirmed it will be combined with the technical rules in one document which has been updated. He noted that the list of chemicals of concern has been removed.</p> <p>Action: Chitra Gowda will review the document and will follow up with the SPC by email.</p> <p>The list of chemicals of concern has been a long-standing discussion with the MECP. The intent of dropping the list was to broaden the chemicals associated with a threat activity.</p> <p>Action: Beth will find out if that was the intent of the discussion and will follow up with the SPC.</p> <p>Action: Chitra has an on-going list of what Section 34 updates are being made and will provide the list at the next SPC meeting.</p>
11	<p>Proposed dates for meetings of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee for fiscal year 2021-22 (all meetings to be held 1:30-4:30pm unless specified):</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 15, 2022 • June 7, 2022 • September 13, 2022 • December 6, 2022.
12	Other Business
13	Adjournment 4 pm

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee Chair: Bob Edmondson, spcchair@hrca.on.ca

Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection: Chitra Gowda, cgowda@hrca.on.ca