

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: #2-22 Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

DATE: June 7, 2022

TIME: 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting held on Zoom

Source Protection Committee (SPC) Attendees:

Robert (Bob) Edmondson, Chair

Carla Coveart

Christopher (Chris) Murray

Dana Couture

Daniel (Dan) Banks

David Rodgers

Gavin Smuk

Councillor Judi Partridge (left at 3pm, provided proxy to Gavin Smuk)

Sarah Lock

Scott Stewart

SPC Liaisons:

Elizabeth (Beth) Forrest, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Barbara Veale, Conservation Halton

Scott Peck, Conservation Hamilton

Richard MacDonald, City of Hamilton Public Health Services

Conservation Authorities:

Chitra Gowda, Conservation Halton

Jacek Strakowski, Conservation Halton

Christa Stribbell, Conservation Halton

Mardi Bergen, Conservation Halton

Municipalities:

Marco Silverio, City of Hamilton

Carmen Vega, City of Hamilton

Jon Clark, Halton Region

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Hayley Pankhurst, Halton Region
Jocelyn Williams, Niagara Region

Presenters:

Deborah Balika, Conservation Ontario
Paddy Enright, Health Canada

MINUTES

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1	Roll call and welcome
2	Disclosures of conflict of interest None
3	Review of agenda Moved by Judi Partridge and seconded by David Rodgers. THAT the agenda be accepted as distributed. Carried
4	Approval of the minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting of the Source Protection Committee Moved by Carla Coveart and seconded by Gavin Smuk. THAT the minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee be approved. Carried
5	Business arising from the March 15, 2022 minutes Chitra Gowda provided a summery of the business arising from the previous meeting and action items. 1. Deborah Balika provided Chitra with recent source water quality climate change vulnerability assessments undertaken. 2. Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region (HHSPR) staff will provide materials to the Agricultural Warehousing Standards Association, that are customized to HHSPR. For the 3 specific sites in the HHSPR, plain language messaging can be developed. This is in progress and anticipated to be completed for the September 2022 SPC meeting. 3. As a follow up to Chair Bob’s question about an article in the Hamilton Spectator about increasing temperatures in Lake Ontario and the need to

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	<p>increase the chlorine levels in the water intakes, Dan Banks indicated that the data suggests that there has not been an increasing trend in water temperatures at the Burlington intake, over the past several years. Follow up from Carmen Vega anticipated at the September 2022 SPC meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. This work is being carried out by HHSPR as part of the 2022-24 program. See SPC Business Report #22-06-02: “Technical Rules 2021” for information collected thus far from other program managers. 5. See SPC Business Report #22-06-02: “Technical Rules 2021” for implication analysis carried out thus far under the 2022-24 workplan. 6. a) Beth Forrest will find out if the intent of removing the list of chemicals of concern was to broaden the chemicals associated with a threat activity. b) Beth will follow up to see if the MECP chemical hazard ratings can be shared with HHSPR. To be provided at the next SPC meeting. 7. Chitra indicated that upon discussion with other program managers, it was found that typically one policy approach would apply to chemicals of concern listed in the 2017 Technical Rules for specific threat activities; rather than separate policy tools based on hazard rating of each chemical. 8. Policy T-52 – Beth Forrest to follow up to see if MECP can provide the ECA changes details and if relevant terms and conditions in ECAs can be released externally. This discussion will continue through future SPC meetings. 9. Policy O-6-S – Beth Forrest recommended applying a “have regard to” policy to all env. compliance approvals for sewage threats in the area of Hamilton Harbour. This discussion will continue through future SPC meetings.
6	<p>Presentations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate. Paddy Enright, Health Canada Paddy presented on identifying what health risks Canada may face due to climate change on water quality, quantity, and security. Councillor Judi Partridge asked about contamination to the drinking water for livestock and if there is any research being done on that or included in some studies. Paddy confirmed there is a need for more work on this, and that researchers are increasingly noticing this. It has a trickle-down effect

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	<p>to the entire community. Judi would like to see the studies integrated more. Judi encouraged Paddy to raise this topic in discussions with his colleagues.</p> <p>Paddy advised the Government of Canada is working to develop Canada’s first national adaptation strategy meant to be a whole approach to how Canadians adapt to climate change. There is a portal called letstalkadaptation.ca where anyone can contribute ideas for what they think should be part of adaptation in Canada.</p> <p>Chitra confirmed Paddy’s slide deck will be posted on the public website and the URL to reports mentioned are in the slide deck, including for “Health of Canadians in a Changing Climate” report: https://changingclimate.ca/health-in-a-changing-climate/</p> <p>Chair Bob asked if there were any cases of the brain eating amoeba in Canada and Paddy indicated that there are none at this time. The most northerly case was in Minnesota.</p> <p>b) Supporting the Drinking Water Source Protection Program through Collaborative Provincial Awareness Campaigns. Deborah Balika, Conservation Ontario (CO)</p> <p>Deborah provided a presentation on activities at CO supporting and leading source protection authorities (SPAs) through provincial awareness campaigns. She highlighted the contributions of HHSPR and HHSPC.</p> <p>David Rodgers asked how relationships with First Nations are supported by CO. Deborah advised that it varies from SPA to SPA and that she mentioned the Indigenous Nations. They will continue to work on their relationship building. Conservation Ontario is working on a strategy and will share the strategy with the SPAs.</p> <p>c) Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool – Seaforth Groundwater Wells Pilot. Chitra Gowda</p> <p>Chitra Gowda provided a schematic of the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment tool. Chitra presented the Seaforth Wells Pilot Study (right now it is a research study).</p> <p>Chitra shared the climate atlas of Canada, where you can find and display locally relevant climate data, and walked the SPC through the steps of the assessment leading the application of a climate change lens to drinking water threat activities.</p> <p>The committee took a break from 3 to 3:10 pm.</p>

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	<p>Judi Partridge had to leave the meeting at 3pm and Gavin Smuk acted as her proxy.</p>
7	<p>Business Reports</p> <p>a) 22-06-01: Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Workplan Summary 2022-24 Moved by Dana Couture and seconded by Carla Coveart. Carried</p> <p>Chitra Gowda provided an overview of the approved workplan for April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024. Gavin Smuk asked when the 2021 technical rule changes would impact the property owners, given that certain moderate risk activities may become significant risk level through the application of the 2021 rules.</p> <p>Chitra advised that through the section 34 updates planned for 2022-24, the technical rules 2021 will be applied in the technical studies being carried out. The relevant policies will not be implemented until there is an approval by the MECP of each of those section 34 updates (and until those updates are in effect on dates specified by the MECP). Chitra noted that Section 34 updates under the <i>Clean Water Act, 2006</i> refer to those initiated by SPAs. Section 36 update refers to updates carried out per the MECP Minister’s order.</p> <p>b) 22-06-02: Technical Rules 2021 Moved by Christopher Murray and seconded by Gavin Smuk. Carried</p> <p>Chitra Gowda advised that the Section 34 updates will happen over the 2022 – 2024 timeframe and early engagement with MECP will begin in January 2024. Therefore there is a “time lapse” for the actual implementation of the Technical Rules 2021, before impacts occur to property owners through policy implementation.</p> <p>Chitra provided a brief overview of the implication analysis conducted so far by staff. Mardi Bergen gave a brief overview of the exploratory methods being used to calculate the total impervious surface methodology.</p> <p>Chair Bob asked if we will look at other examples for livestock density methods. Chitra advised all of the program managers were contacted and most carried out the same method as HHSPR in the past, while the Trent</p>

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	<p>Conservation Coalition used agricultural census data which aligns with the recommendation from HHSPC member Scott Stewart.</p> <p>c) 22-06-03: Maintenance of the Source Protection Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moved by Carla Coveart and seconded by Sarah Lock.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carried</p> <p>SPC Meeting Format Options</p> <p>Chitra presented meeting format options to the committee including virtual, in-person and hybrid approaches. The committee discussed the options.</p> <p>Gavin Smuk indicated he prefers in-person meetings, but a hybrid option would be acceptable. A hybrid approach is where in-person meetings are planned for with the option for members to also join virtually.</p> <p>Daniel Banks advised there are benefits to both approaches and suggested limiting in-person meetings to the better weather months.</p> <p>Scott Peck advised that the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) Board Meetings are going to a hybrid meeting option and have been doing it for a couple of months.</p> <p>Action: Scott will check if the HCA is suited to host the SPC meetings.</p> <p>Barb Veale confirmed that by September 2022, Conservation Halton will have the same capabilities as the HCA.</p> <p>Bob reiterated that if it is known in advance through weather forecasts that inclement weather is then virtual meetings can be held.</p> <p>Chitra raised the question about only a small number of members confirmed to attend in person, then should the meeting be changed to a virtual meeting? Chair Bob discussed the need to have the meeting open to the public. Chitra noted that if the hybrid option is provided to the committee members, it should be an option for the public as well. She noted that there are some logistics that CA staff will have to work out.</p> <p>Scott Peck advised that the public can attend the HCA Board meetings virtually, and the same would apply to SPC meetings held at the HCA.</p> <p>By consensus the committee agreed to try the hybrid approach.</p>

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	<p>Election of an Acting Chair</p> <p>Chitra laid out the steps in the report to elect an acting Chair from the SPC membership, and clarified the term as only being up to the point that the MECP appoints a Chair to the HHSPC. The steps are based on an in-person meeting only. Chair Bob indicated that everyone should be at the September 2022 meeting in person in order to elect an acting Chair.</p> <p>Dave asked if the current SPC Chair would be able to be the acting Chair. Beth responded by indicating that an acting Chair can only be elected from the SPC membership, which does not include the Chair. Beth also indicated that MECP is preparing responses to questions received about the acting Chair's per diems, etc. and will share with HHSPR once finalized.</p>
8	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>a) Receipt Acknowledgement of the Annual Progress Report 2021 by MECP</p> <p>Bob noted the acknowledgement from MECP of the receipt and hard work of staff in developing and submitting the Annual Progress Report 2021 within the legislated deadline of May 1. Bob also updated the SPC about a recent acknowledgement by MECP of the submission of the Section 36 comprehensive updates by HHSPR staff.</p> <p>Action: Chitra to send the recent email from MECP out as part of the minutes – DONE through email sent on June 8, 2022 to the SPC.</p> <p>b) Comments on the Section 36 policy updates by MECP</p> <p>MECP provided comments on two policies in the Section 36 proposed updates: policy G-5 and policy O-6-S. Policy G-5 is directed to MECP and refers to Section 97 of the Clean Water Act to ensure continued funding for education and awareness and incentive programs to help address risks to drinking water sources. MECP suggested to remove the reference to the Act and noted that leaving it in may limit the options to have multiple funding sources.</p> <p>Chitra Gowda asked Beth Forrest if leaving in the reference to Section 97 would actually result in limiting the HHSPR to not being able to avail of other funding sources.</p> <p>Beth Forrest advised that the Section 97 was considered implemented by MECP, when they funded the stewardship program. By including reference</p>

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	<p>to section 97, it may limit the policy to a fund that was completed in the past.</p> <p>Chitra also asked if the Section 97 is truly considered complete, as the wording does not seem to indicate an end and SPAs hope for continued funding for landowner incentives and education and outreach. Beth will take Chitra's questions back to her program analysts and report back at the September 2022 meeting.</p> <p>MECP suggested minor edits to Policy O-6-S (which addresses spills near the Hamilton Harbour). Chitra indicated to the SPC that there were no concerns with the suggested edits.</p>
9	<p>Source Protection Committee Chair's Update by Bob Edmondson</p> <p>SPC Chairs Meeting</p> <p>Chair Bob spoke about the SPC Chairs Meeting held by MECP in April 2022 where they discussed the end of the Chair's term. They talked about the end of the transfer payments, best practices, and status updates on section 34 and 36. Action: When the meeting notes are received from MECP, Chair Bob will be forward them to the committee.</p> <p>SPC Sector Engagement</p> <p>Chair Bob mentioned the Blooms and Bubbles festival through Conservation Halton. He noted that SPC members are considering setting up a booth to be involved in community outreach.</p> <p>Chair Bob thanked Chitra and staff for meeting the deadline for the Section 36 comprehensive updates.</p>
10	<p>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Liaison Officer's Update by Elizabeth Forrest</p> <p>With the writ period, there have not been any recent decisions. Work has been focussed on reviewing section 34 and 36 packages and answering day to day questions.</p> <p>Dave Rodgers asked if it is possible for the present Chair to be appointed as the acting Chair. Beth advised it is not possible as the acting Chair must be elected from the SPC membership.</p>
11	Other Business

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	<p>Chair Bob spoke about Chitra Gowda’s new position as CAO with the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority and he presented Chitra with a gift from the SPC and staff.</p> <p>Chitra Gowda thanked the HHSPC and the staff for a great work experience, with the SPC being interactive and engaged and the staff working hard to contribute to the team effort.</p>
12	<p>Adjournment</p> <p>4:30 pm</p>

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