

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

Mission Statement

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 Minutes

MEETING NUMBER: #4-22
DATE: December 6, 2022
TIME: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm
LOCATION: Virtual Meeting conducted via Zoom

Source Protection Committee (SPC) Attendees:

Robert (Bob) Edmondson, Chair, Carla Coveart, Christopher (Chris) Murray, Dana Couture
David Rodgers, Daniel (Dan) Banks, Gavin Smuk, Scott Stewart, Sarah Lock

SPC Liaisons:

Elizabeth (Beth) Forrest, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
Barbara Veale, Conservation Halton
Scott Peck, Conservation Hamilton

Conservation Authorities:

Martin Keller, Conservation Halton
Mardi Bergen, Conservation Halton
Lorraine Newell, Conservation Halton

Municipalities:

Carmen Vega, City of Hamilton
David Twigg, Town of Halton Hills
Jocelyn Williams, Niagara Region
Jon Clark, Halton Region
Marco Silverio, City of Hamilton

Absent with regrets:

Richard MacDonald, City of Hamilton Public Health Services
Councillor Judi Partridge (proxy given to Gavin Smuk)

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1	Call to Order and Welcome
2	Roll Call and Certification of Quorum – 6 Members Constitute Quorum (2/3 of Members plus Chair) The Chair and eight members are in attendance and therefore quorum is reached.
3	Declaration of Pecuniary Interest None
4	Review of Agenda THAT the agenda of December 6, 2022 be accepted as distributed. Moved by Sarah Lock and seconded by Gavin Smuk Carried
5	Minutes of the Previous Meeting THAT the minutes of the September 13, 2022 meeting of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee be approved as circulated. Moved by Dana Couture and seconded by Carla Coveart Carried
6	Business arising from the September 13, 2022 meeting No. 1 – Martin Keller will provide an update on his follow up with Dr. Taylor at the March 2023 meeting. No. 2 – Carmen Vega, City of Hamilton provided an update on the studies the city has conducted on impacts on drinking water as a result of warming lake temperatures. The City’s intake in Lake Ontario experiences seasonal temperature variations. Maintaining residual chlorine levels in the far end of the distribution system is more challenging, specifically in early fall when demand drops but lake water temperatures are still elevated. Lake water temperatures are higher later in the fall compared to past years, resulting in warmer water staying in the distribution system for longer as a result of lower demand. The issue for Hamilton Water is more about the design of the City’s distribution system then related to climate change at this point. However, the findings of the study will make the City’s system more resilient to increasing temperatures as a result of climate change.

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	<p>The first study was the water age study that assessed how water age contributes to conditions that favours nitrification and corrosion in the distribution system. The study’s finding included short term (1-2 years) recommendations focusing on monitoring practices and chlorinereformation and boosting chlorine residuals. Medium term (3-5 years) measures related to upgrades and operational changes to reduce water age. The second study follows on the first study and focuses on chlorination. The Terms of Reference has been drafted and the study is expected to take 18 months to complete starting in 2023. The city would be happy to speak to the SPC on this topic.</p> <p>Carmen emphasized that the studies relate mainly to the distribution systems rather than the intake itself. Higher water temperatures have a direct impact on how the city operates the distribution system. Chair Bob Edmondson expressed an interest to hear an update from the city in the future.</p> <p>No. 3 – Chemicals of Concern removed from 2021 Tables of Drinking Water. Chair Bob Edmondson asked whether receiving the chemicals of concern would be of value to staff and the committee, as the MECP said that they would be available upon request. Martin Keller advised that staff consider a request once detailed assessments are being undertaken on specific threat circumstances.</p> <p>No. 4 – Beth Forrest provided clarification on why chemicals of concern were removed from the 2021 Tables of Drinking Water Threats and emphasized that the hazard rating calculations are not designed to be communicated broadly. Source protection policies are intended to address the risk as a whole regardless of what chemicals constitute the risk. The SPC can use different policy tools for the same threat activity based on the circumstances that would make the activity a threat, e.g., quantity thresholds, the vulnerable area the activity is in, and the vulnerability score. Gavin Smuk requested confirmation that the SPC could write different policies for each of the thresholds in the threat activity circumstances. Beth Forrest confirmed that this is the case.</p> <p>No. 5 – Martin Keller advised that the meeting format for the Halton-Hamilton SPC can be either hybrid (at the Hamilton CA office) or an all virtual or in person meeting at either location, as the Conservation Halton board room is currently not equipped for hybrid meetings.</p> <p>No. 6 – Closed</p> <p>No. 7 – Closed</p>

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7	<p>Presentations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">None</p>
8	<p>Reports</p> <p>a) SPC 22-12-01: Source Protection Program Updates</p> <p>Martin Keller and Mardi Bergen presented the program update report. With respect to the S.36 Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan approval, Bob Edmondson asked whether the Ministry had any further comments that needed to be addressed in a future plan update. Beth Forrest explained that as a result of the detailed update process including early engagement, pre-consultation and public consultation, the Ministry has the opportunity to review the updates multiple times and typically does not have any further comments following final submission of the plan update. Bob Edmondson asked about the frequency the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) has been commenting on how the implementation of the Walkerton’s recommendation is progressing. Martin Keller did not know off hand but would follow up. [Note following the meeting: CELA regularly reports on the Clean Water Act and drinking water issues, and these reports can be found on CELA’s website]. In regard to Bill 23, Bob Edmondson asked whether conservation authority staff would be commenting on proposals on the ERO, specifically as more specific regulations are being put forward. Barb Veale confirmed that staff will be monitoring postings very closely and added that it will be hard to look at the implications until staff see the regulations. For conservation authorities it is business as usual until staff know otherwise. Scott Peck confirmed that Hamilton Conservation Authority is in the same position and that staff are waiting to see what it means.</p> <p>THAT report SPC 22-12-01 Update – Source Protection Program Update be received for information.</p> <p>Moved by Gavin Smuk and seconded by Carla Coveart.</p> <p>Carried</p> <p>b) SPC 22-12-02: Update – 2021 Technical Rules Implications</p> <p>Martin Keller presented the 2021 Technical Rules Implications report. Gavin Smuk noted that he was still unhappy about the livestock density calculations but was okay with moving forward and asked to put a bookmark on policy discussions for fertilizer application based on updated threats verification information. Martin</p>

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	<p>Keller confirmed that source protection policies can always be reviewed and updated if necessary. Bob Edmondson asked about the status of the Guelph-Guelph/Eramosa water quantity policy development study. Martin Keller explained that Lake Erie Region is in the process of developing water quantity policies for the Wellhead Protection Area – Quantity (WHPA-Q) for Guelph and Guelph/Eramosa and that once a full suite of policies are presented to the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee it would make sense to bring these to the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee to consider what policies would be appropriate for the area of WHPA-Q that overlaps into the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region.</p> <p>THAT report SPC 22-12-02 Update – 2021 Technical Rules Implications be received for information.</p> <p>Moved by Dan Banks and seconded by Sarah Lock.</p> <p>Carried</p>
9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Letter from Minister Piccini regarding approval of S.36 Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan update (received November 4, 2022)</p>
10	<p>Source Protection Committee Chair’s Update by Bob Edmondson</p> <p>a) SPC 22-12-03: Halton-Hamilton SPC Chair Update</p> <p>Bob Edmondson presented the chairs update report, including speaking about the recent chairs meeting with the eleven other re-appointed chairs across the province. Topics of discussion included staffing changes at the branch; the conservation authority section moving back to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry while the mandate relating to source protection remains with MECP; roles and responsibilities of chairs; conflict of interest; best practices for systems that are not covered under the Clean Water Act; and Bill 23.</p>
11	<p>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Liaison Officer’s Update by Beth Forrest</p> <p>Beth Forrest informed the Committee that there is now a new section in the branch; five staff have joined the branch that were previously with Ontario Parks that deal with policies surrounding protected areas. The new section is unrelated to the source protection program. Beth Forrest also mentioned the work Quinte Conservation is undertaking through a dedicated staffing position on the Best</p>

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	<p>Practices file, as well as the work the Ministry branch is doing engaging with seven First Nation communities, most of them in Northern Ontario. Beth also offered to present to the Committee the highlights of the previous Annual Progress Reporting from a provincial perspective at a future meeting and hoped there will be a SPC Chairs meeting sometime in the New Year once the remaining seven chairs have been appointed by the Minister. Martin Keller confirmed that Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region does have funding in the Transfer Payment Agreement for 2022-24 for SPC committee member per diems and travel costs and invited SPC members to reach out the Bob Edmondson or Martin Keller with any ideas. Martin offered to have discussions with municipal staff and that this topic could be brought back for discussion to the March 7, 2023 SPC meeting.</p>
12	<p>Other Business</p> <p>a) City of Hamilton update on sewer spill in East Hamilton (Burlington/Wentworth streets)</p> <p>Carmen Vega provided an update on the sewage spill that was discovered on November 22, 2022 in East Hamilton and shared a link to a Hamilton Water Public Works presentation to Hamilton City Council from November 28, 2022.</p> <p>b) Conservation Ontario update</p> <p>Debbie Balika shared a couple of initiatives that are ongoing right now:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Salt Responsibly Campaign: Social media campaign with posts every Wednesday until March 8, 2023 about how residents can salt responsibly, giving tips and tricks and connecting road salt use to impacts on drinking water sources, together with a new story map that includes an interacting mapping interface. 2) Conservation Ontario has a new partnership with Lakehead University in Orillia to develop programming for source protection for grade 8 and 10 school children. This work will start in January 2023 and is expected to be completed by April 2023. <p>c) Barb Veale introduced Lorraine Newell as the new Administrative Coordinator. Lorraine will support the Source Protection Committee and source protection program administratively.</p>
13	<p>Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm</p>



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

Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection: Martin Keller, mkeller@hrca.on.ca

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