

MEETING NUMBER: #3-20 Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee
DATE: September 8, 2020
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
David Rodgers
Gavin Smuk
Dana Couture
Glenn Powell
Bert Andrews

Absent with Regrets:

Judy Partridge Proxy held by Gavin Smuk

Other Attendees:

SPC Liaisons:

Barb Veale, Conservation Halton
Tea Pesheva, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Absent with regrets:

Scott Peck, Hamilton Conservation Authority
Tony Colaco, The Regional Municipality of Halton

Conservation Authorities:

Chitra Gowda, Conservation Halton
Jacek Strakowski, Conservation Halton
Florentina Perju, Conservation Halton
Christa Stribbell, Conservation Halton

Municipalities:

Carmen Vega, City of Hamilton
Marco Silverio, City of Hamilton
Kyle Davis, Wellington Source Water Protection

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee meetings are audio recorded for the purpose of minute taking.

1. Roll call and welcome – Chair Bob Edmondson noted that Gavin Smuk held proxy for Judi Partridge.
2. Disclosures of conflict of interest - None
3. Review of agenda

Chair Bob Edmondson requested that agenda be accepted as amended with Other Business going before In Camera items and with the Halton Region Official Plan Review – Natural Heritage Discussion Paper being included under Correspondence.

Moved by Gavin Smuk, seconded by Glenn Powell

THAT the agenda be accepted as amended.

Carried

4. Approval of the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting of the Source Protection Committee

Moved by David Rodgers, seconded by Carla Coveart

THAT the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. Business arising from the June 16, 2020 minutes

- a. Daniel Banks to report back on status of risk management plans (RMPs) for agricultural properties in Halton Region;

Daniel spoke about two agricultural properties and two properties owned by Suncor near Burloak. It is confirmed one of the agricultural properties does not need a RMP. Halton Region is working with the other agricultural property owner to determine if a RMP is needed. Suncor has been provided a draft RMP and is reviewing it. There is no timeline for getting back to Halton Region.

- b. Carmen Vega will provide an update on the status of risk management plans in the City of Hamilton;

Carmen presented slides showing threats and site-specific schedules. There are seven RMPs on three properties. RMPs for two properties are in progress as Hamilton continues to negotiate the RMPs with the two property owners this fall. Hamilton is considering an extension for the RMPs for the one of the properties. Hamilton is considering new potential significant drinking water threats based on changes in land use and Section 59 screening process.

- c. Tea Pesheva to report back on direction from province on making risk management plans public. See Agenda Item #8.

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- d. Training materials: Smart About Salt does not allow participants to share their training material. Therefore, it will not be posted to the SharePoint site. Staff may provide a verbal update at the next meeting;

Glenn Powell asked what is proprietary about the Smart About Salt Program. Jacek Strakowski replied that the training material is proprietary. Jacek indicated that it is still possible to sign up for the online training for free for a limited time period.

- e. Manual: the new LID manual is not yet posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. Staff will keep the SPC informed.

6. Correspondence

Chitra Gowda provided information on the Halton Region Official Plan Review. There are a few discussion papers, one of which is the Natural Heritage Discussion Paper. There is a separate section on drinking water source protection program and the source protection policies. There is also a section on incorporating water resources. The challenges for Halton Region are that they are looking at multiple source protection plans, and some policies are not consistent with each other. Staff would like to provide suggestions and recommendations to the Region to help incorporate these policies into the Official Plan. Staff is developing draft comments on that section. Daniel Banks stated that input is welcome on the best way to bring in the relevant planning policies from the three different source protection plans as they are not the same.

7. Source Protection Committee Chair's Update – Robert (Bob) Edmondson

Chair Bob will be attending the Chair's conference call this Thursday and will provide an update at the next meeting.

As addressed in the program update report, it has been recommended that the replacement for Michael Kandravay will be Sarah McQuaig. Sarah will join the committee formally at the December meeting – Chair Bob welcomed Sarah to the committee.

Chair Bob advised the committee members that the reports are technical and to ask staff any questions they may have.

8. Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Liaison's Update - Tea Pesheva

Tea Pesheva provided an update on RMPs, stating that there are no legislative or regulatory requirements to make RMPs publicly available. There are always opportunities for someone to make a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the RMO. The RMP holder may choose to post it publicly on their own company website or share it with anyone else at their own discretion.

Tea provided updates on the annual progress reporting for 2020. Much of the reporting content is being retained. Reportable number 4 (about Part IV policies) offer a more merited type detail. This will provide an overview of inspection activities, results and insights. There is an option for SPAs to add visuals to accompany the reporting besides text, to make it more user friendly.

Tea spoke about supplemental forms, stating reportable 33 is being added to gain more insight about pending RMPs and include those that may yet to need to be finalized. There is an optional ask to describe time and effort spent negotiating RMPs. Inspections are conducted for part 4 policies. Seven separate reportables are being combined into one general overview question (reportable #60). Two reportables are being added for SPAs to directly provide the percentage of inspections that show conformity with prohibition and risk management policies and the percentage of inspections that show compliance with the contents of the risk management plan. Former reportable 230 is now removed. If SPAs do want to report any new education and outreach initiatives, they may do so under reportable 300.

Tea advised that the Technical Rules are posted for comments and the consultation closes November 9th. If there are any questions, they can be sent to Chitra by end of this week.

At the upcoming SPC Chair meeting, feedback will be provided on virtual meetings including some of the key challenges and successes.

9. Business/Reports

a. SPC-20-09-01 Source Water Protection Program Update

Chitra Gowda provided a program update including the priority matter of the proposed changes to the Technical Rules. These rules are important because they are scientific methods applied to delineate vulnerable areas and identify threats within them. The deadline to comment on proposed changes to technical rules is November 9, 2020. The date to pose questions to MECP is updated to September 11.

MECP plans to host a virtual session for program managers to answer common questions and discuss the proposed changes. The timing is unknown. SPR staff propose to host a “special short SPC meeting” to discuss staff analysis of what the changes mean to our region. Pending approval by MECP and timing of their session, staff suggest a 1-hour meeting.

Gavin Smuk pointed out the change in threshold for fuel storage above ground. Any farm that has bulk storage and it's on a vulnerability scoring of 10 will have a new significant threat. This will have an impact for existing RMP holders.

Chitra provided various other updates, as follows. Staff followed up with the MECP on annual progress report (2019): number of road signs on municipal roads. Chitra thanked all members for sharing the SPC member vacancy advertisement on social media; a few candidates mentioned that they noticed it on social media. Staff submitted comments on Registry #019-1340 Ontario’s water quantity management framework. A social media campaign is being planned to commemorate Walkerton, including profiling the SPC.

Moved by Daniel Banks; seconded by Glenn Powell

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information the Staff report “Source Water Protection Program Update”

Carried

b. SPC-20-09-02 Source Protection Committee Mission Statement Update

Chitra Gowda noted that the SPC mission statement developed in 2009 has served its purpose well and requested the SPC to consider the updated wording provided in the report to reflect the current and ongoing work of the SPC. Edits were discussed as follows: “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.” It was suggested that the guiding principles be discussed at the next SPC meeting.

Moved by Carla Coveart, seconded by Gavin Smuk

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee endorses the Staff report “Source Protection Committee Mission Statement Update” with the amended Mission Statement

Carried

c. SPC-20-09-03 S. 36 Updates: Reassessment of Vulnerability of Great Lakes Drinking Water Sources

Chitra Gowda provided an overview of staff work on reassessed source vulnerability factors (Vsf), redelineated IPZ-2s for Burlington, Burloak and Oakville, reassessed area vulnerability factor (Vaf), and the resulting vulnerability scores.

Chitra Gowda indicated that staff are using criteria based on older Michigan standards and Ontario Ministry of the Environment criteria. Should staff explore the revision of criteria for Vsf? Daniel Banks asked if there is any sense of what other regions are doing along Lake Ontario. Chitra indicated that she has reached out to neighbouring regions. The Essex Region SPC looking at is considering revised criteria for Vsf for their Lake Erie intakes. Chitra has had a brief discussion with Niagara Region and it appears that the SPC decided not to further pursue it. Chitra noted that it is important to think about what we want to achieve by increasing the Vsf and Vaf, and to see if perhaps significant threats are possible.

Carla Coveart commented that the current vulnerability assessment approach does not consider the age or condition of the assets. Daniel Banks asked as staff goes forward to consult with municipal staff especially the local municipalities that work with storm sewers. Chitra confirmed that staff will engage municipal and source protection region/area staff.

Carmen Vega suggested considering previous scenarios. Modelling was considered at one time. Perhaps now it's an opportunity to revise those. Chitra responded by confirming that a S. 36 task does speak to additional event-based intake protection zone-three, based on consultations with stakeholders. Staff will begin that task as well.

Moved by Dana Couture, seconded by Gavin Smuk

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receive for information the Staff report "S. 36 Updates: Reassessment of Vulnerability of Great Lakes Drinking Water Sources"

AND THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee direct staff to develop a modified source vulnerability factor decision matrix in discussion with municipalities and neighbouring source protection regions.

Carried

- d. SPC-20-09-04 S. 36 Updates: Assessment of Liquid Hydrocarbon Pipelines as a Prescribed Drinking Water Threat

Chitra Gowda provided the SPC with an overview of staff work completed on assessing liquid hydrocarbon pipelines as prescribed drinking water threats. Chitra also provided an overview of policy options and what other SPCs are considering, and asked how the committee feels about these considerations.

Daniel Banks asked staff about potential revision to the policy L-1-S: are there any other pipeline design measures that might be useful to discuss with pipeline operators particularly when they're upgrading and replacing pipelines? The Chair responded that the specifics can be discussed with the incoming SPC member (industrial-commercial sector).

Moved by Glenn Powell, seconded by Daniel Banks

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information the Staff report "S. 36 Updates: Assessment of Liquid Hydrocarbon Pipelines as a Prescribed Drinking Water Threat"

AND THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee direct staff to revise current policies and develop draft non-legally binding policies for areas of low and moderate risk levels

Carried

- e. SPC-20-09-05 S. 58 Risk Management Plans Policy Timeline Extension

Chitra Gowda indicated to the SPC that there are delays in establishing a small number of RMPs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors. She suggested that a letter of request be sent from staff to the MECP for a policy deadline extension to allow municipalities to complete negotiations.

Moved by Gavin Smuk, seconded by David Rodgers

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee endorses the Staff report "S. 58 Risk Management Plans Policy Timeline Extension"

AND THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee direct Staff to seek a one-year extension on the deadline for risk management plan completion

Carried

10. In Camera

The Chair advised that the Committee would be going In Camera to discuss reports that would be dealing with property matters.

Motion to go In Camera moved by Glenn Powell, seconded by Carmen Vega

Carried

Motion to go out of camera moved by Gavin Smuk, seconded by David Rodgers

Carried

- a. SPC-20-09-06 Assessment of Potential Transport Pathways from a proposed Ministry of Transportation Ontario stormwater management Project

Moved by Gavin Smuk, seconded by David Rodgers

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information the Staff report “Assessment of Potential Transport Pathways from a proposed Ministry of Transportation Ontario stormwater management project”

Carried

- b. SPC-20-09-07 S. 36 Updates: Identification of Wells Transport Pathways in Wellhead Protection Areas

Moved by Daniel Banks, seconded by Gavin Smuk

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee endorses the Staff report “S. 36 Updates: Identification of Wells Transport Pathways in Wellhead Protection Areas”

Carried

11. Other Business

12. Adjournment at 4:28 pm

Next meeting December 8, 2020.