

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: #2-23

DATE: June 13, 2023

TIME: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

LOCATION: **IN PERSON** Hamilton Conservation Authority + Virtual Meeting attendees via Zoom

Source Protection Committee (SPC) Attendees:

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

SPC Liaisons:

Scott Peck, Hamilton Conservation Authority
Barbara Veale, Conservation Halton

Conservation Authorities:

Mardi Bergen, Conservation Halton
Emily Peters, Conservation Halton
Martin Keller, Conservation Halton
Jacek Strakowski, Conservation Halton
Deborah Balika, Conservation Ontario

Municipalities:

Richard MacDonald, City of Hamilton Public Health Services
Marco Silverio, City of Hamilton
Carmen Vega, City of Hamilton
Hayley Pankhurst, Region of Halton
Keisha Segne, Region of Halton

Presenters

Terri Cox, Otonabee Region Conservation Authority
Natasha Mathieu, Quinte Conservation

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

Item No.	Item
1	<p>Call to Order and Welcome</p> <p>Chair Bob Edmondson called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.</p>
2	<p>Roll Call and Certification of Quorum – 6 Members Constitute Quorum (2/3 of Members plus Chair)</p> <p>The Chair and eight members are in attendance and therefore quorum is reached.</p>
3	<p>Declaration of Pecuniary Interest</p> <p>None</p>
4	<p>Review of Agenda</p> <p>THAT the agenda of June 13th meeting be accepted as distributed.</p> <p>Moved by Carla Coveart and seconded by Gavin Smuk.</p> <p>Carried</p>
5	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>THAT the minutes of the March 9th meeting of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee be approved as circulated.</p> <p>Moved by Dan Banks and seconded by Gavin Smuk.</p> <p>Carried</p>
6	<p>Business arising from the March 9th meeting.</p> <p>Martin Keller and Mardi Berger met with Dr. Taylor on March 23rd 2023 to discuss how the Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association (AWSA) could best advance and promote Source Protection.</p> <p>Martin and Mardi connected with Debbie Balika at Conservation Ontario to develop a provincial approach for potential AWSA initiatives to promote Source Protection. The work is currently in progress and includes developing and distributing material through AWSA's network. Longer term, opportunities exist when AWSA is updating their national protocol. The protocol is usually updated every 5 years.</p>
7	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Terri Cox, Risk Management Officer/Inspector, Otonabee Region Conservation Authority: A Risk Management Official's Experience as an</p>

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

Item No.	Item
	<p>Expert Witness at the Ontario Land Tribunal</p> <p>Question: When was the decision rendered and has there been any work done by the consultant for the developer? Answer: The decision was given in March 2023 and there have been no updates so far. Each of the previous appeals came forward at the eleventh hour and this latest appeal was no different. The appeal was for a blanket removal of all the conditions and in this case, the tribunal was solidly behind the municipality's position to err on the side of caution and exercise the precautionary principle.</p> <p>Question: Who would be initiating this enforcement of transport pathways, who would have the knowledge and sensitivity to understand whether there may be a transport pathway? Answer: Understanding of transport pathways varies across the province and policies in source protection plans vary in addressing transport pathways. Consultants are typically directed to technical rules, if the proposal increases the vulnerability score, it is a transport pathway; often this is a professional judgement. Sometimes it can be straight forward. When matters have come up here, it has been a discussion between the Risk Management Official (RMO), between the municipality and the developer, and at times between all three of them, to understand what changes to the landscape as a result of the development and how water flows. From this tribunal case, the decision will fall to applying the precautionary approach. There is no black and white definitive metric to decide whether a specific development is a transport pathway. Often this determination includes an iterative approach when it isn't straight forward.</p> <p>Natasha Mathieu, Source Protection Outreach Lead, Quinte Conservation: Quinte Conservation's Best Practice for Source Water Protection Efforts</p> <p>Question: For the events, do they charge a fee? Answer: Some charge a vendor fee, usually it is not too much, or it is free. Question: What percentage of people are on municipal water versus private wells? Answer: in Quinte it is a 50/50 split, representing about 63,000 residents on private systems. Bob Edmondson added that in Halton Hamilton, the split is 95/5, but that 5% on private systems represent about 50,000 residents. Question: What kind of audiences are you getting, is it mainly general public, or also business sectors and farmers? Answer: Depending on the event we get</p>

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

Item No.	Item
	<p>different audiences. At plowing matches we would be talking predominantly to farmers, at school outreach we are hoping that students will bring it back to their parents, often times at public events we reach a mix of the general public. Gavin Smuk commented that many of the regulatory provincial programs are based on best management practices, e.g., Nutrient Management Act, Technical Standards and Safety Authority – TSSA). Message should be that as long as people understand and follow best management practices activities can be conducted safely and water can be protected at the same time. Question: How is the outreach program funded? Answer: All of the funding is from the province through source protection and includes salary of Quinte’s full time position for supporting best practices. Barb Veale added that provincial funding allows conservation authorities to tap into existing authority outreach programs.</p>
8	<p>Reports</p> <p>a) SPC 23-03-01: Source Protection Program Updates</p> <p>Martin Keller informed the Committee that Beth Forrest from the Ministry has changed job positions. Due to this, other staff changes within the branch, and a high number of plan amendments, the Ministry are reallocating staff away from Source Protection Committee support to focus on plan amendments. This change should not be seen as a pull-back from the Committee and the hope is for liaison officers to return.</p> <p>Ted McMeekin has been appointed to the Committee for four years as of April 20, 2023 but was unable to join this week due to a conflict. Now that we have a full complement of committee members, we can reassess if Tuesdays work for the full group or if we should adjust the days we meet. Martin and Bob will be meeting with Ted for orientation in June.</p> <p>On the topic of drinking water threats, staff are moving through the identified threat categories and are proposing policy changes to address technical rule changes. Currently looking at high-level policy approaches to get the direction right. Approaches are first discussed at the working group level, then brought to the Source Protection Committee (SPC).</p> <p>Hamilton CA has done creek hydraulic modelling work that will allow refinements of Intake Protection Zone (IPZ-2) for the Woodward Drinking Water System. Stoney and Battlefield Creek modeling has been completed; the 2-year storm velocities</p>

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

Item No.	Item
	<p>can be used to develop and calculate the distance upstream that determines the protection zone. Staff are waiting for additional creek modelling work to be completed by Hamilton CA for full data review and undertaking IPZ refinements. Updates will be presented to the SPC at future meetings.</p> <p>Conservation Halton has submitted a funding proposal to the Ministry to use the Conservation Ontario developed tool to undertake a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for all systems in Halton and Hamilton and including the City's Lynden system. Conservation Halton has had discussions with the province but is still waiting for a response. The plan is to use in-house staff to complete the work in 3-4 months by the end of the fiscal year (March 2024). It is a qualitative assessment and can provide a steppingstone for further climate resiliency work by municipalities.</p> <p>The City of Hamilton is embarking on a mail-out campaign to 2,400 well owners that have submitted their private well samples to the City over the last two years. Conservation Halton can include information (such as a fact sheets or brochure) alongside this mail-out. A funding request for this mail-out has been submitted to the province for printing.</p> <p>Conservation Halton has reached out the Halton Region Public Health for opportunities to connect. There are no mail-outs planned, but there are other opportunities, such as web-based posts, to connect and promote best practices. Can do the same with the City of Hamilton through Richard MacDonald.</p> <p>Conservation Halton submitted the annual report following the March 9th SPC meeting. It was presented at Hamilton and Halton Source Protection Authority (SPA) meetings in April and May and electronically submitted to the province before the May 1st deadline. Typically, Beth Forrest would have presented a report to the SPC of the provincial rollup of the 2022 annual reporting, but it will not take place this year.</p> <p>We can have a discussion on the 5-year provincial rollup of annual reporting data that was provided by the Ministry under other business.</p> <p>Dan Banks asked whether Conservation Halton staff were part of broader discussions about timelines for developing risk-management plans in response to questions from the Ministry asking how they could support implementation efforts. Martin Keller responded that discussions were held at a number of working group meetings in this and other source protection regions to coordinate a common response to the province. Deborah Balika added that Conservation</p>

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

Item No.	Item
	<p>Ontario has extended an invitation to the Ministry to attend an RMO and Project Manager (PM) meeting on source water protection in the fall to better understand the local and practical perspective and barriers to developing Risk Management Plans (RMPs).</p> <p>THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives report SPC 23-06-01 Source Protection Program Update for information.</p> <p>Moved by Gavin Smuk and seconded by Carla Coveart.</p> <p>Carried</p> <p>b) SPC 23-06-02: Update – 2021 Technical Rules Implications</p> <p>Mardi Bergen presented an update on the 2021 Technical Rules Implications. Halton Hamilton’s recently approved Section 36 plan update did not follow the 2021 Technical Rules. Going forward, any assessment reports or source protection plan updates will be reviewed and updated to follow the 2021 Technical Rules. On April 6 and June 2, 2023 the Halton-Hamilton Municipal Working Group met to discuss options for policy changes.</p> <p>Decisions were made on potential approaches to Application of Road Salt, Storing and Handling Road Salt and Storage of Snow.</p> <p>For Application of Road Salt, impervious surface mapping was completed to identify areas for new or existing significant drinking water threats. The focus is to limit or reduce the amount of salt applied to impervious surfaces (e.g., roads, sidewalks and parking lots). Low-density, residential properties are proposed to be excluded from where policies would apply. High-density residential properties with 8 parking spaces or parking areas of 200 meters squared or more would be subject to a Risk Management Plan (RMP). Other Source Protection plans have implemented this process, providing consistency. Potential significant threat areas that include provincial roadways (e.g., Hwy 401) are proposed to be addressed through non-legally binding policies to encourage other ministries (Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)) to continue improving their salt application policies and programs.</p> <p>For Storing and Handling Road Salt, the 2021 Technical Rules categories for storage and handling were updated to the following three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exposed 2. Potentially Exposed

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

Item No.	Item
	<p>3. Not Exposed to Precipitation or Run-Off (Does result in a significant drinking water threat)</p> <p>The plan to prohibit fully exposed salt can shift to potentially exposed. Covering piles or quantities of salt with a tarp moves the risk to the potentially exposed category. These will be managed with RMPs. Creating new RMPs for these potential threats would not create much more work, municipal capacity for this approach is available. There are not very many areas within our vulnerable areas that have quantities of salt large enough to create significant threats. There is an exemption in place for personal residential use of salt, with education and outreach in lieu of RMPs the proposed approach.</p> <p>Storage of Snow</p> <p>There is a change in the threshold or size of the pile of snow, the size has been lowered and the type of drainage from the snow storage site have been specified. Snow melt is scoped to runoff from commercial and industrial sites.</p> <p>The largest storage of snow listed is 2000 metres squared. Conservation Halton has identified that such a large amount is unlikely to exist, so the intent is to prohibit this size of snow pile. All other sizes of snow piles are proposed to be managed through an RMP. In discussions with municipal staff, Conservation Halton's proposed is also to include policies to encourage land and property owners to be mindful and smart about managing piles of snow, e.g., shoveling/plowing the snow before salting to reduce salt runoff.</p> <p>In the context of addressing fuel and Dense Non-aqueous Phased Liquid (DNAPL) threats next, Bob Edmondson asked about upcoming workshops by Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA). Debbie Balika responded that TSSA is planning workshops but no dates have been set yet.</p> <p>ACTION: Debbie Balika to inquire about TSSA workshop dates.</p> <p>THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information the staff report SPC-23-06-02 Update – 2021 Technical Rules Implications.</p> <p>Moved by Chris Murray and seconded by Scott Stewart.</p> <p>Carried</p>
9	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>None</p>

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

Item No.	Item
10	<p>Source Protection Committee Chair's Update by Bob Edmondson</p> <p>a) SPC 23-06-13: Halton-Hamilton SPC Chair Update</p> <p>Bob Edmondson attended a meeting with the Rotary Club of Oakville-Trafalgar at the end of March. Bob met with Kirsten Service, the Director of the Conservation and Source Protection Branch, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to provide background on Halton Hamilton Source Protection Region's accomplishments and updates. Bob raised the challenges of long-term funding and has been asking for a 3-year term funding window for stability, though it may pose a challenge with the run over election period. Another item is that it is unclear whether there will be future S.36 plan update, and the committee may want to review where there are gaps and new information and what updates should be done in the future through a S.34 update so that could be proposed to the Halton Source Protection Authority. Related, Martin had discussions with Kirsten about streamlining the S.34 process to make it easier for all involved to update source protection plans.</p> <p>Bob identified that we should look at ways to use the SPC's local knowledge and expertise to keep the committee engaged, e.g., with regards to emerging chemicals. An idea would be to invite the Ministry to provide a presentation to the SPC on latest developments regarding emerging contaminants so that the committee is aware of and has a better understanding of these issues. Also of importance is to reach those on private systems, i.e., moving ahead with promotion of best practices for Source Water Protection.</p>
11	<p>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Liaison Officer's Update:</p> <p>None.</p>
12	<p>Conservation Ontario Update by Debbie Balika</p> <p>Debbie updated the group on the discussions and work Conservation Ontario is doing to support the work the AWSA can do. Debbie is working on a package for AWSA, but also a presentation for education and outreach with provincial and federal links.</p> <p>At the last Project Manager (PM) meeting, Carl Seider from Grey Sauble presented on a fire that took place on the edge of the IPZ 1. The SPA was not notified of the fire and was left out of all communications. As a result of the fire, the Drinking Water Treatment system was shut down. As a result of this discussion, Conservation Ontario has begun developing outreach material with information</p>

Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

Item No.	Item
	<p>packages for local fire departments that can be customized.</p> <p>Also, many conservation authorities have older brochures that can now be updated with active links to best practices/the story map through QR code stickers. Templates for these stickers have been sent to the PMs.</p> <p>Debbie Balika, in response to a question from Bob Edmondson, provided an update on the survey that ran as part of the Source Protection Back to the Basics campaign. The survey only had 43 respondents across the province. At the same time, the Great Lakes Office was offering to do something together. The plan is to develop a more comprehensive survey next year. Going forward, Conservation Ontario will also be reviewing social media reach and partnering with non-traditional partners (ex. Home Depot, Canadian Tire).</p>
13	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Bob has identified that the Hops & Harvest festival is coming up in October as an outreach opportunity. There are additional opportunities through fall fairs (e.g., Rockton World Fair), plowing matches, pop-up tents in Conservation Areas on weekends. Richard MacDonald offered to share a list of annual events that can be used for outreach.</p> <p>ACTION: Richard MacDonald to share list of annual events for outreach opportunities</p> <p>There are also opportunities for the province to renew their messages across the province as well as locally through businesses and universities e.g., McMaster University.</p> <p>Bob discussed the changes to the Planning Act by the province. The implications can be on well areas, lack of natural heritage policies, weakening of planning controls by the province. Next meeting, we will try to bring a report on implications of these items as they affect the Clean Water Act.</p>
14	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Chair Bob Edmondson adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.</p>

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