

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: #1-24 Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee

DATE: March 19, 2024

TIME: 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Source Protection Committee (SPC) Attendees:

Robert (Bob) Edmondson (Chair), Carla Coveart, Chris Murray (proxy Sarah Lock), Jon Clark, David Rodgers, Emily Milligan, Gavin Smuk, Scott Stewart.

Absent with Regrets:

Ted McMeekin

SPC Liaisons:

Laura Collings, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Richard MacDonald, City of Hamilton Public Health Services
Scott Peck, Hamilton Conservation Authority

Conservation Authorities:

Mardi Bergen, Conservation Halton
Martin Keller, Conservation Halton
Emily Peters, Conservation Halton
Jacek Strakowski, Conservation Halton

Municipalities:

Kim Funk, Centre Wellington
Keisha Segne, Region of Halton
Marco Silverio, City of Hamilton
Carmen Vega, City of Hamilton

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| Item No. | Item |
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| 1 | <p>Call to Order and Welcome</p> <p>Chair Bob Edmondson called the meeting to order at 1:34 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 seven 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 March 19, 2024 be accepted as distributed.</p> <p>Accepted. Moved by G. Smuk and seconded by C. Murray. Carried.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>THAT the minutes of the December 5, 2023 meeting of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee be approved as circulated.</p> <p>There was an error: Laura Collings was omitted from the attendance list. She attended and provided an update from MECP.</p> <p>Approved as amended. Moved by C. Coveart and Seconded by E. Mulligan. Carried.</p> |
| 6 | <p>Business arising from the December 5, 2023 meeting:</p> <p>None.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Presentations:</p> <p>None.</p> |

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| 8 | <p>Reports</p> <p>a) SPC 24-03-01: Source Protection Program Updates</p> <p>M. Keller provided the 2024 Source Protection Program Updates.</p> <p>Annual reporting has been prepared for submission to the Province. Staff continue the 2021 Technical Rule review as outlined in the below updates.</p> <p>The Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association has distributed the primer to their members. Staff will be following up regarding any feedback and looking at opportunities for further engagement, e.g., webinars, going forward.</p> <p>There has been a focus on developing and updating communication products for Source Protection outreach and engagement events.</p> <p>M. Bergen shared the updated Story Map that provides an interactive overview of the Source Protection program. The Story Map is a resource for the public to access information about Source Water Protection. The Story Map will be launched mid-spring on the protecting water website.</p> <p>G. Smuk asked for the image for fuel storage to be changed as propane is not a drinking water threat. M. Bergen noted and will make the change.</p> <p>M. Keller shared that the Province has committed to a 3-year funding agreement until 2027. Negotiations for funding are ongoing.</p> <p>THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives report SPC 24-03-01 Source Protection Program Update for information.</p> <p>Motion received by consensus.</p> <p>b) SPC 24-03-02: Annual Progress Report 2023</p> <p>M. Bergen provided the 2023 Annual Progress Report.</p> <p>G. Smuk asked for clarification in the paragraph outlining 42% progress on addressing drinking water threats. Have there been new threats identified that aren't addressed yet? M. Bergen responded with yes.</p> <p>B. Edmondson suggested to add a note that there have been new threats identified and they are being addressed. M. Bergen and M. Keller to send out a revised Part 2 paragraph and circulate to committee members.</p> <p>C. Murray asked why the number of threats addressed through policy implementation decrease from 2022 to 2023. M. Bergen will reach out to the municipalities for confirmation on the reasoning behind the change in</p> |
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numbers. J. Clark explained that an agricultural property that no longer has livestock would be an example of an enumerated threat that no longer exists. C. Murray suggested a change in the threat identification description. M. Bergen will take these comments back to the municipalities and Ministry.

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee endorse report SPC-24-03-02 - Annual Progress Report 2023;

THAT in the opinion of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee, implementation of the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Plan has progressed well and is on target towards achieving the plan objectives;

AND THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee direct Staff to present the Halton-Hamilton Annual Progress Report 2023 to the Halton and Hamilton Region Source Protection Authorities for submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Moved by S. Stewart, seconded by D. Rodgers. Carried.

c) SPC 24-03-03: CCVAT

J. Strakowski presented the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report.

G. Smuk asked what kinds of impact climate change is going to have on our threats? J. Strakowski explained that through this assessment tool, each system will be evaluated separately. Depending on which system you are looking at, and its location, the impacts will vary. Currently, staff are in the final stages of looking at all potential outcomes and how to recommend or implement measures to reduce impact.

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information the staff report SPC 24-03-03 CCVAT

Moved by E. Milligan, seconded by J. Clark. Carried.

d) SPC 24-03-04: Draft Policy Package – Commercial Fertilizer

M. Bergen presented the Draft Policy Package for the Application, Handling and Storage of Commercial Fertilizer.

G. Smuk noted concern with the prohibition policy as there is no rationale and a risk management plan is the default approach to dealing with a threat. He would like to see it be adjusted to a risk management policy. G. Smuk does not support the prohibition policy. M. Keller shared that the municipalities are coming from a precautionary and preventative approach.

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The future prohibition policy does not impede on anyone's livelihoods.

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for endorsement the staff report SPC 24-03-04 Draft Policy Package – Commercial Fertilizer

Moved by J. Clark, seconded by C. Murray. G. Smuk and S. Stewart are opposed. The motion failed.

C. Murray advised he held proxy for S Lock. However, this was not clarified at the beginning of the meeting. A motion to defer this item to the June 24, 2024 SPC meeting was suggested.

Moved by C. Murray, seconded by E. Milligan. Carried.

e) SPC 24-03-05: Draft Policy Package – Pesticides

M. Bergen presented the Draft Policy Package for the Application, Handling and Storage of Pesticides.

G. Smuk noted that there is no rationale for prohibition of the handling and storage of pesticides and sees the jump from a moderate threat (<250kg) with no policy to a significant threat (<250kg) being prohibited as extreme.

G. Smuk advised he will be opposing the policy as it is written.

Motion to defer this topic to the June 24, 2024 SPC meeting.

Moved by J. Clark, seconded by C. Murray. Carried.

f) SPC 24-03-06: Draft Policy Package – NASM

M. Keller presented the Draft Policy Package for the Application, Handling and Storage of NASM.

G. Smuk noted that he is against the Part-IV prohibition in WHPA-A. It could be resolved with a risk management plan. G. Smuk opposes the policy as written. M. Keller responded that we would be inconsistent with the Nutrient Management Act if policies would be adjusted, as the act prohibits the activities in a WHPA-A. The use of a RMP would suggest the activity is allowed and would be misleading.

Motion to defer the topic to the June 24, 2024 SPC meeting.

Moved by C. Coveart, seconded by C. Murray. Carried.

g) SPC 24-03-07: Draft Policy Package – ASM

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M. Keller presented the Draft Policy Package for the Application, Handling and Storage of ASM.

G. Smuk noted his support for a risk management plan approach for WHPA-A and B for existing and future threat activities. G. Smuk will not support the prohibition.

Motion to defer the topic to the June 24, 2024 SPC meeting.

Moved by S. Stewart, seconded by D. Rodgers. Carried.

h) SPC 24-03-08: Draft Policy Package – Sewage and Waste

M. Bergen presented the Draft Policy Package for the Technical Rule Changes for Sewage and Waste.

G. Smuk pointing out that these rules allow the establishment of on-site sewage systems within the WHPA-A and there is no prohibition proposed. M. Bergen confirmed that these comments will go back to the working group for consideration.

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information the staff report SPC-24-03-08 Draft Policy Package – Sewage and Waste

Moved by G. Smuk, seconded by C. Murray. Carried.

i) SPC 24-03-09: Auditor General Report - Proposed Free Water Testing Phase Out

M. Keller presented the Auditor General Report - Proposed Free Water Testing Phase Out.

B. Edmondson commented that in regards to best practices, there is concern with stopping well water testing and the impact this has on our knowledge of water quality within aquifers.

D. Rodgers noted that K. Davis from the Lake Erie Region commented that it is important [to test]. There is a considerable percentage of the population that is not on municipal wells that are vulnerable. B. Edmondson noted that in the Halton Hamilton Source Protection Region 5% represents about 50,000 people.

G. Smuk commented that he is 100% in support of free well water testing. Phasing it out creates two barriers: the costs with testing and the challenge of finding a lab to do the testing.

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| | <p>THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information the staff report SPC-24-03-09 2023 Auditor General Report – Proposed Phase Out of Free Well Water Testing</p> <p>AND THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee direct staff to write a letter to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Minister of Health, area municipalities, other Source Protection Committees and local health units requesting that the province does not proceed with the recommended phase out of free private well water testing in Ontario</p> <p>Moved by J. Clark, seconded by E. Mulligan. Carried.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Correspondence</p> <p>Letter to Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Recommended Phase out of Free Well Water Testing</p> |
| 10 | <p>Source Protection Committee Chair’s Update by Bob Edmondson</p> <p>a) SPC 24-03-10: Halton-Hamilton SPC Chair Update</p> <p>B. Edmondson provided Chair’s Update.</p> <p>THAT the Source Protection Committee Chair’s Update by Bob Edmondson is received for Information</p> <p>Moved by E. Mulligan, seconded by C. Coveart. Carried.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Update:</p> <p>L. Collings provided an update. B. Edmondson inquired about any decisions on recent ERO postings. M. Keller will forward the relevant ERO’s to L. Collings for follow up.</p> |
| 12 | <p>Conservation Ontario Update:</p> <p>None.</p> |
| 13 | <p>Other Business</p> <p>None.</p> <p>Next meeting is in June, in-person at the Hamilton Authority with a virtual option.</p> |

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| 14 | Adjourn Chair Bob Edmondson adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m. |
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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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