

MINUTES OF THE SIXTY-THIRD REGULAR LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Sixty-Third Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. The Chair called the Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Hartley, Chair
Bernie Kamphof
Jim Vukmanich
Ross Chuchman
Lucy Kloosterhuis
Guy Jarvis
Gail Willis

LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tammy Cook, CAO
Mary Wooding, MOECC (via telephone)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

LIAISON MEMBER ABSENT:

Lee Sieswerda, TBDHU

ALSO PRESENT:

Simon Shanke, Watershed Manager
Roman Augustyn GIS/Data Specialist, recorder of Minutes

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA BY CONSENSUS

Agenda adopted by consensus.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Sixty-Second Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016, were adopted by consensus.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS AGENDA

Waukesha Diversion

It was noted that the Chair of the SPC sent a letter on March 3rd, 2016, on behalf of the SPC opposing the Waukesha Diversion that was seeking permission for an out of Great Lakes basin water diversion that would set an undesirable precedent. Subsequently, the diversion was approved allowing the out of basin diversion. In addition, LRCA Staff Report WM-04-2016 provided an overview of the application and outlined a resolution that several municipalities and the LRCA have passed opposing the decision. A decision by the Compact Council on whether to rehear the Waukesha case is expected in the spring of 2017. It was noted that the SPC committee is still opposed to the Waukesha Diversion project and Staff will continue to monitor relevant information regarding this case.

5. SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Source Protection Funding

It was noted that the current funding Agreement expires on March 31, 2017. MOECC cannot commit to multiyear funding; therefore, funding is unknown from year to year. The current 2016/2017 budget is \$91,788.20.

Staff have submitted a draft budget to the MOECC for the 2017/2018 fiscal year for their consideration. The request included 0.75 FTE, which results in 0.35 FTE Watershed Manager, 0.2 FTE Administrative Assistant and 0.2 FTE GIS/Data Specialist. The Watershed Manager FTE was increased to account for additional time required to complete the work plan for the Section 36 Order and the transition of the program to the new Watershed Manager. The requested budget totaled \$97,438.00. The budget has not yet been approved for 2017/2018.

Chair's and Project Manager's Meeting

It was noted that the Chair, CAO and Watershed Manager, attended the Chair's and Project Manager's Meeting that took place in Toronto on November 9 and 10, 2016.

The main points from the Meeting relative to the Lakehead Source Protection Area included:

- Discussion related to Annual Progress Reporting templates developed by MOECC technical staff. The MOECC introduced the new public-facing template that will be used by all SPAs to present the Annual Progress Report.
- Discussion related to Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Information Exchanges in 2017. The MOECC plans to visit the Lakehead SPA in the spring of 2017 as part of the DWSP Information Exchange program. The program provides an opportunity for proactive engagement with Conservation Authority management and key staff to discuss local programs, as well as monitor agreements between the Province and Conservation Authorities.
- The MOECC has begun to review and analyze key program areas and develop program design options/recommendations that identify areas for improvement with regard to effectiveness, efficiency, long-term sustainability and local accountability. Significant proposed areas of review included:

- Make necessary changes to allow for the inclusion of new and expanded Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems in Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plans before the systems become operational.
- Review of process for Plan amendments.
- Policy framework review (research, prioritization, gaps/issues).
- Potential addition of transportation activities as a prescribed drinking water treat.
- Review of polices for highly unlikely threat activities (i.e. airports).
- Enable polices for transport pathways.
- Technical changes including allowing higher vulnerability scores for the IPZ of the Great Lakes intakes.

The Watershed Manager and the Chair of the Source Protection Committee will be attending the next Chair's Meeting on March 28 and 29, 2017, which will be held in Toronto.

Section 36 Work Plan

It was noted that the Chairs of the SPC and SPA received a Section 36 Order form the Minister of the MOECC, on October 13, 2015 requiring the SPA to submit a Section 36 Work Plan to the MOECC by November 30, 3017. The Work Plan must propose the detailed steps for review of the plan, including which portions of the plan are to be reviewed, the timeframes for each step of the review, and the rationale for each step. It was agreed that the Committee Members would put forth ideas of what to include in the Work Plan review and propose potential changes/updates to the Plan.

One suggested update was to restrict the drilling of wells in WHPA-A. It was noted that the Municipality had previously passed a by-law restricting residents from disconnecting from the municipal system.

6. SOURCE PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing Bodies Annual Reports

It was noted that the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge submitted their fourth Annual Report on January 30, 2017. In addition, their updated Official Plan is currently being reviewed by Municipal Affairs and Housing and it is anticipated that the Comprehensive Zoning by-law will be updated in 2017 after the Official Plan is approved.

It was noted that the Thunder Bay District Health Unit submitted their Annual Report on January 16, 2017. The Thunder Bay District Health Unit has completed the remaining 12 mandatory septic system inspections in 2016. All of the 25 systems located in WHPA-A have now been inspected. All inspected systems are reported as functioning normally with no evidence of system malfunction. It was noted that in January of 2017, the Health Unit distributed additional outreach materials including a cover letter, "A Guide to Operating and Maintaining your Septic System", "Septic Do's and Don'ts" and "Taking Care of your Sewage Treatment System".

Staff have reviewed the reports and have concluded that the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit have met the requirements of the Plan to date.

Second Annual Lakehead Source Protection Plan Reports

It was noted that the second annual progress report has been prepared for submission by the Lakehead SPA for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2016, utilizing the prescribed MOECC template. In addition, the second annual progress report has also been prepared in the format developed by LRCA staff, which will also be made available to the public on the Source Protection website as it provides a more comprehensive summary of the program.

Consensus was reached by the SPC to submit the draft annual report to the SPA for their review and then submission to the MOECC by the May 1, 2017 deadline.

7. SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

SPC Membership

It was noted that Bob Hartley was reappointed for a three-year term as Chair of the SPC by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, commencing on August 20, 2016.

Ross Chuchman was nominated for Vice Chair of the Committee by Jim Vukmanich. Consensus was reached by the Committee members in electing Ross Chuchman as Vice Chair.

The new members of the SPC were appointed for a five-year term, commencing on December 1, 2016.

It was noted that quorum is 2/3 of the membership; therefore, with the reduced membership, quorum is four members.

Lakehead SPC Procedural Manual

It was noted that Staff have been updating the Lakehead SPC Procedural Manual - Rules of Procedure, Code of Conduct & Conflict of Interest Deputation Policy and will provide the manual once approved by the SPA.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that the MOECC Chief Drinking Water Inspector released the “Annual Report 2015-2016”. It was noted that the MOECC has released the Minister’s Annual Report on Drinking Water 2016.

Bare Point Water Treatment Plant 2016-2017 Annual Inspection Report was provided to the Committee for their review. Relevant information from the report was as follows:

- No Provincial Orders were written as a result of the inspection.
- Two incidents of non-compliance were identified as a result of the inspection, and the Ministry provided a list of Actions Required as a result of the non-compliance incidents.
- The Ministry noted that there is no program for valve inspection pertaining to distribution system valves and recommended that consideration should be given to the development of a procedure that addresses operating valves.

It was noted that there were several EBR posting related to bottled water up for review.

It was noted that the Lake Erie Region SPC sent a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry on behalf of the 19 SPC Chairs, stating that to better protect municipal drinking water sources further consideration should be given to activities which break through an aquitard and

into the water table or which alter the vulnerability of wellhead protection areas or intake protection zones.

9. NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that the Municipality of Shuniah was undertaking a servicing options study for water and wastewater in their Municipality and that KGS Group Consulting Engineers presented the Water and Wastewater Servicing Options Master Plan Development Study for the Municipality of Shuniah at an open house event on March 2, 2017.

10. OPEN DISCUSSION

The Chair noted recent algal blooms in Lake Erie.

11. NEXT MEETING

October 18, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT BY CONSENSUS

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 5:15 p.m.