



Lakehead Region  
Conservation Authority  
Conserve Today...For A Better Tomorrow

**LAKEHEAD Source Protection AREA**

## **MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-NINTH REGULAR LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the Fifty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee held on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority. The Chair called the Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bob Hartley, Chair  
Ken McWhirter, Vice Chair  
Bernie Kamphof  
Jim Vukmanich  
Paul McAlister  
Guy Jarvis  
Ross Chuchman  
Hartley Multamaki  
Lucy Kloosterhuis

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Robert Stewart

### **LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mervi Henttonen, LRCA General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer  
Mary Wooding, MOECC (via telephone)  
Abby Mackie, TBDHU

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Tammy Cook, Watershed Manager  
Roman Augustyn GIS/Data Specialist

### **1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA BY CONSENSUS**

Agenda adopted by consensus.

### **2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

None.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Fifty-Eighth Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014, were adopted by consensus.

### **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS AGENDA**

#### Auditor General Audit of Ministry of the Environment

It was noted that the Auditor's General audit of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) has been completed and the Ministry received a copy of the draft report.

#### Oil Transported By Rail Car past Bare Point Water Treatment Plant

Discussion took place regarding the potential threat from rail cars carrying oil past the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant. The MOECC Liaison advised that additional threat work is not an eligible expense at this time. If funding is available in the future, the MOECC would first need to agree that the transportation of goods was a local threat. If this was agreed to, then event based modelling would be conducted to confirm if the activity was a significant threat. If the modelling determined that a significant threat would occur as the result of a spill, then policies would be required in the Plan to address the significant drinking water threat. If a spill occurred today, reporting is required under the *Environmental Protection Act*. The response would be based on the current mapping of the vulnerable areas, which the Spills Action Centre has and existing Federal railway regulations. It was also noted that the Regional Environmental Emergencies Team (REET) is already in place and as part of that process the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant would be notified in the event of a spill.

The MOECC Liaison also suggested that the SPC could contact other Project Managers on how similar issues were handled in other regions to determine if there was a net benefit to undertaking the work and resulting policies.

### **5. SOURCE PROTECTION PLANNING**

#### Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund

It was noted that the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge has received funding to assist with offsetting a portion of the costs the Municipality will incur to implement Plan policies. The Municipality and LRCA Staff have participated in teleconferences related to the fund which outlined eligible activities and reporting requirements. It is noted that this funding is directly from the Province to the Municipality.

#### Meeting with Oliver Paipoonge

It was noted that a Meeting took place with the Chair, LRCA Staff and representatives from the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge on September 3, 2014 to provide an update on Source Water Protection and review the components of the Source Protection Plan that the Municipality is responsible to implement. At the time of the Meeting the Municipality advised that they were exploring funding to potentially decommission and replace the municipal wells and water lines. It was noted by the Municipality at the SPC Meeting that the funding application was not successful and there are no plans to proceed with the work at this time. It was noted that if the wells were to be decommissioned and moved in the future, an update to the Plan would be required which would be the responsibility of the Municipality to fund and complete.

The Municipality will explore a by-law to restrict home owners from getting off of the municipal water system. It was noted that two new homes have recently been added to the system and a subdivision may be added in the future.

#### Oliver Paipoonge Salt Management Plan

Oliver Paipoonge has submitted a copy of their Salt Management Plan to the Source Protection Authority which was adopted by resolution by the Municipality on October 15, 2014. The completion of the Salt Management Plan was a requirement of the Source Protection Plan.

#### Best Practices for Education and Outreach

It was noted that on October 2, 2014 LRCA Staff and representatives from Oliver Paipoonge participated in a webinar entitled “Best Practices for Education and Outreach”. The webinar focused on effective communication practices.

Additional educational resource material is available from the MOECC through a resource catalogue found on the Conservation Ontario website:

<http://www.conservationontario.ca/library?view=category&id=66>.

#### Thunder Bay District Health Unit Septic Inspection

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) has initiated the septic re-inspections in WHPA-A, as required in the Plan. To date five of the 25 septic systems have been inspected by the Development Officer and no issues were observed. It was noted that the TBDHU has decided not to charge fees to the home owners for the mandatory inspections. The MOECC Liaison reported that some other regions also decided not to charge fees to home owners for the inspections.

#### Approved Source Protection Plans

To date eleven of the twenty-two Source Protection Plans have been approved.

#### Chair’s and Project Manager’s Meeting

It was noted that the Chair and Tammy Cook, Watershed Manager, attended the Chair’s and Project Manager’s Meeting that took place in Toronto on October 23 and 24, 2014. The Chair commented on the main points of the meeting: future funding is unknown; provincial Ministries are preparing themselves for implementation; a design for a sign has been approved stating “Drinking Water Protection Zone”; SPA’s must begin the process of replacing the SPC as per the *Clean Water Act* and O. Reg. 288/07; some discussion on focusing on private wells and areas outside Conservation Authorities; reintroduction of the *Great Lakes Act*; and MOECC is targeting approval of all 22 source protection plans by the end of 2015.

It was noted that the installed signs in Rosslyn Village are adequate and that the new provincial “Drinking Water Protection Zone” signs are not required.

## 2014/2015 Funding Update

It was noted that the current funding agreement with the MOECC ends on March 31, 2015 and no details regarding future funding have been announced.

## 2012 – 2013 Chief Drinking Water Inspectors’ Annual Report

It was noted that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change released the “2012-2013 Chief Drinking Water Inspector’s Annual Report”.

## Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Mandate Letter

It was noted that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change mandate letter from the Premier had been released, as was the mandate letter from the Minister to his Parliamentary Assistant. It was noted that there was no mention of Source Water Protection in the letters.

## Blue Green Algae

It was noted that information related to blue green algae had been released by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. Discussion took place stating that blue green algal blooms are very unlikely in our area due to cold water conditions in Lake Superior.

## Lakehead Source Protection Plan Implementation Guide

The Lakehead Source Protection Implementation Guide was provided to the SPC Members. The guide provides a brief history of Source Water Protection and the relevant sections out of the full version of the modules which were prepared by Conservation Ontario. The guide provides an overview and background information for the Plan’s implementing bodies (i.e. Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and Thunder Bay District Health Unit) and other interested bodies (i.e. LRCA Staff and Board Members, City of Thunder Bay, Municipal Councils, Lakehead Rural Planning Board, etc.).

## **6. SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

The MOECC has now provided further guidance on SPC expiry and replacement as required in the *Clean Water Act* and O. Reg. 288/07. Section 8 of the Regulation requires that once a Source Protection Plan approval is posted on the Environmental Registry, the terms of appointment on the SPC begin to expire (i.e. January 16, 2013 in the case of the Lakehead SPC). In the case of the Lakehead SPC 2/3 of the membership has expired. Staff will be undertaking the process of member replacement early in 2015. Further guidance is expected from the MOECC in the coming months regarding: reappointment process, SPC/SPA responsibilities, etc. Existing SPC members who would like to remain on the SPC must re-apply through the formal process and cannot be automatically reappointed. Subsequent terms on the SPC will be three years.

It was noted that the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge will be appointing their representative at their next council meeting. The City of Thunder Bay is in the process of recruiting their representatives, as noted in their recruitment ad in the local newspaper.

Some discussion took place regarding the categories of representatives and perhaps including climate change and Great Lakes categories. The consensus was to leave the categories the same at this time. Discussion also took place regarding the future responsibilities of the SPC members.

The MOECC Liaison added that the MOECC recognizes that the process of replacing SPC members is difficult and costly and that MOECC will set up a working committee to discuss the regulations and what guidance could be provided and also consider future amendments to the regulation that may change the process in the future.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

Two new working groups are being created by the MOECC: one regarding non-SPA municipal drinking water systems and one to review SPC membership re-appointments.

The Chair noted that he is a member of the non-SPA municipal drinking water system working group and that it is unknown at this time how the process will work. It was noted that all drinking water systems are subject to the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, which focuses on the water quality coming out of the tap and not protection of the source of drinking water. The Chair advised that he will provide an update at the next SPC Meeting.

The General Manager-Secretary Treasurer of the LRCA advised that there were many points that required consideration prior to any expansion of the Source Water Program.

**9. OPEN DISCUSSION**

None.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The date for the next meeting has been scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February 2015.

**11. ADJOURNMENT BY CONSENSUS**

Meeting adjourned by consensus.