

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – MEETING #93

MEETING: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
DATE: NOVEMBER 24, 2023
TIME: 1:00 P.M.
LOCATION: GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION & VIRTUAL

CALL TO ORDER

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Chair, Carl Kuhnke
Andrew Barton, Harley Greenfield, Amy Harrison, Dick Hibma, Les Nichols, Dan Orr, Troy Pelletier, Gord Timmerman

Virtual Attendance: John Rodgers

Proxy Appointed By: John Fruin

Others Present: Carl Seider, Project Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP)
Nancy Guest, Recording Secretary, DWSP

Also in Attendance: Karen Gillan, Program Supervisor & Communications Specialist, DWSP
Erik Downing, Acting General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, Saugeen Conservation (SVCA)
Devin Wilhelm, Water Operator, Chippewas of Nawash First Nation

Regrets: Hugh Simpson, Mitch Twolan

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.
SPC-23-257

Moved by Dick Hibma
Seconded by Andrew Barton

THAT the Agenda be adopted as distributed.

Carried

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary or Conflict of Interest

Source Protection Committee (SPC) members were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting. No disclosures of pecuniary interest were expressed at this time.

3. Adoption of Minutes

**Motion No.
SPC-23-258**

**Moved by Les Nichols
Seconded by Amy Harrison**

THAT the Minutes of the July 28, 2023 Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted as distributed.

Carried

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arose from the previous minutes.

5. Correspondence

Copy of letter from Quinte Source Protection Committee dated October 27, 2023 to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks respecting source water priorities and concerns was **noted and filed**. Discussions followed respecting the validity of 20-year-old information being used for the Program, as well as stewardship incentives and ongoing education. Based on these discussions, it was noted that a letter would be sent to the Ministry on behalf of the Source Protection Committee in support of the comments made by the Chair of Quinte.

6. Reports

Administration Report 6a

With respect to new or replacement wells being proposed, the Project Manager advised that:

Ripley Well #1 will be abandoned and capped and the system will continue to operate on the remaining drinking water wells with the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) adjusted accordingly.

Minto Pines is currently awaiting a Permit to Take Water (PTTW) respecting the new well drilled to replace Well #1. Well #1A is approximately 6m north of Well #1 and the remaining WHPA will remain the same since both wells draw from the same aquifer. Wellington County staff will complete the work required to provide the technical information. Connection of the new production well to the Minto Pines system is expected in the Spring of 2024.

In Chesley, technical reports on the proposed Well #4, which appears to be drawing from the same aquifer as the existing Well #3, are being reviewed by Arran-Elderslie municipal staff. When finalized, DWSP Staff will review the technical report in order to issue s. 48 Notice for Source

Protection Authority review/approval. The municipality plans to bring Well #4 online by the summer of 2024.

In Teeswater, a new well is being proposed in close proximity to the existing Well #3, and in Durham, a new well is being proposed close to Well #1b. More information on both these wells will be provided as detailed plans become available.

SPC Group 2 Municipal Member Replacement:

The Project Manager advised that a Notice had been issued to the Group 2 municipalities, Saugeen Shores, Kincardine, Huron-Kinloss, South Bruce, Morris-Turnberry and Howick, requesting the names of candidates to replace Mitch Twolan on the Source Protection Committee, who is retiring from the Committee after serving since its inception in 2007. Several possible candidates have been vetted and once an individual has been advanced by the relevant municipalities, the candidate will need to be endorsed by the Source Protection Management Committee, and formally appointed by the lead Source Protection Authority.

Proposed Changes to PTTW Applications:

The Project Manager advised that the MECP, in an effort to make the process simpler, it has made changes to Permit-To-Take-Water applications, which seem reasonable and have little affect on this Region, with only one area in the Region identified with water quantity issues.

Communications Report 6b

The Communications Specialist/Program Supervisor reviewed Communications Report 6b and advised that Staff has been meeting with various municipal staff to establish risk management plans for salt storage and application activities pursuant to policies in the Source Protection Plan (SPP). These meetings have provided an opportunity to review best management practice resources to protect vulnerable drinking water systems as part of local outreach.

Cover crop projects are in the current round of stewardship funding. Other project areas are still available in subsequent rounds. The next project dates are April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, and April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. A simple application form can be found at: <https://forms.office.com/pages/>. Please contact Jenna Salvatore at Conservation Ontario jsalvatore@conservationontario.ca Cell: 289-338-3336 if more information respecting eligibility is required.

Conservation Ontario continues to support public awareness of the Clean Water Program and has supplied social media campaign materials. The last media campaign (August 23, 2023 to October 11, 2023) was based on seasonal messaging of the Drinking Water Source Protection program. The campaign media posts are being implemented through this Region's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

7. New Business

Stormwater Management Works Policy Report 7a

The Project Manager reviewed Stormwater Management Works Policy Report 7a and advised that a Notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) was issued to streamline environmental permissions for stormwater management under the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR).

The proposed changes include allowing owners of certain stormwater management works to self-register on the EASR, and streamline approvals and allow self-registration for eligible stormwater management works servicing commercial, institutional, light industrial and multi-unit residential types of activities. The changes will also amend Ontario Regulation 525/98 under the *Ontario Water Resources Act* to exempt some stormwater management works in residential areas from approval requirements and amend Ontario Regulation 287/07 made under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* by removing the need for limiting or restricting the types of policies to be included in source protection plans where a significant drinking water threat is being managed through registration on the EASR, and to allow for amendments to existing source protection plans without following the usual process.

The MECP determined that risks to sources of drinking water can be addressed by the rules proposed in the new EASR regulation. If the activity is a significant drinking water threat, a Licensed Engineering Practitioner (LEP) would be required to consider additional design measures and may need to consider other requirements. The proposal would also amend the regulation to allow for amendments to be made to source protection plans without undergoing the existing amendment processes.

It is not anticipated that the proposed changes will impact the local Source Protection Plan, as there are no Prescribed Instrument policies for stormwater management works. The only policy that applies is Policy 02-11, which would not need to be changed.

Kimberley-Amik-Talisman Karst Study Report 7b

The Project Manager reviewed Kimberley-Amik-Talisman Karst Study Report 7b and advised that Staff recently received test results from water samples taken from the Talisman Spring, as well as from a karst sinkhole within the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) -C area of the Kimberley-Amik-Talisman drinking water system, which revealed the detection of pesticides in the location of the sinkhole (WHPA-C area), but no measurable detection of pesticides at the Talisman Spring location, which is in close proximity to the municipal well.

Due to the existence of numerous sink holes on top of the escarpment and strong karst influence, the uncertainty associated with this WHPA in this area is very high and given the lack of conclusive evidence respecting karst impacts on the Kimberley-Amik-Talisman well, it was recommended that an additional peer-reviewed study be completed as part of any development proposal for this area with respect to potential impacts to groundwater sources. Staff can also include a request to the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks as part of the next budget submission to seek funds for a more detailed karst study of the area.

**Motion No.
SPC-23-259**

**Moved by Amy Harrison
Seconded by Harley Greenfield**

THAT: Drinking Water Source Protection Staff is directed to include the proposal of funding for a more detailed hydrogeological karst study in the area of the Kimberley-Amik-Talisman well as part of the Source Protection 2024-2026 budget submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for consideration in the 2024-2025 MECP budget.

Carried

Source Water Policy Interface Changes Report 7c

The Project Manager reviewed Source Water Policy Interface Changes Report 7c and advised that changes to the annual reporting database and reporting process allow for a more integrated tool for updating Source Protection Plan policies, as well as reporting requirements on policy implementation status that can be accessed by source protection staff, Risk Management Officials and/or municipal partners.

DWSP Staff has recently updated the policy interface tool and assigned the appropriate municipalities with each of their Municipal and RMO policies where they are identified as 'implementing bodies'. Implementing bodies have also been provided restricted access to the portal to update the implementation status. This information can be completed by individual municipalities directly or through designated Risk Management staff. Accordingly, a request will be sent to all municipalities in our Region seeking direction on this change as to their preference to complete these updates directly or to work through designated Risk Management staff to complete this information on their behalf.

**Motion No.
SPC-23-260**

**Moved by Amy Harrison
Seconded by Gord Timmerman**

THAT Drinking Water Source Protection Staff be directed to issue an update to municipal Clerks regarding the policy interface portal changes and seek direction on whether the respective municipalities would like to complete these updates directly or delegate this responsibility to designated Risk Management staff.

Carried

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Confirmation of Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Committee meeting will be held on **Friday, March 22, 2024** at the Grey Sauble Conservation Administration Offices.

There being no further business, Gord Timmerman made a motion to adjourn at 2:50 p.m.



Carl Kuhnke
Chair



Nancy Guest
Recording Secretary