

NIAGARA PENINSULA SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

WELLAND

June 13, 2017

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Bellantino-Perco (Acting Chair)
R. Bator
T. Dalimonte
P. Grenier
D. Semple
C. Vega (delayed)
A. Willems

MEMBERS ABSENT:

LIAISONS PRESENT: P. Jekel, Niagara Public Health Representative
B. Forrest, Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change
B. Baty, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

LIAISONS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: J. Campbell, Supervisor, Special Projects
S. Miller, Manager, Water Resources & Restoration
K. Royer, Coordinator, Community Outreach & Volunteers
D. Gullett, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Olga Yudina, Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change
Tea Pesheva, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change
James Knott, Lura Consulting

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

BUSINESS:

The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., welcomed everyone and mentioned Ms. Crosswell from Niagara Region is unable to attend this evening, therefore agenda item # 3 will not include an update from the Risk Management Officer.

She introduced Mr. Peter Jekel, the new Public Health Liaison taking over for Mr. Glen Hudgin. Ms. Taya Pesheva and Ms. Olga Yudina from the MOECC, and mentioned Ms. Yudina will also be working on the Section 36 workplan. The Acting Chair requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it. There being none, the following resolution was then presented.

SPCR-06-17

MOVED BY: P. Grenier

SECONDED BY: R. Bator

THAT: The agenda be accepted as amended.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(1) MINUTES – MARCH 7, 2017 SPC MEETING

The Acting Chair asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes of the March 7, 2017 meeting. There being none, the following resolution was presented:

SPCR-07-17

MOVED BY: T. Dalimonte

SECONDED BY: A. Willems

THAT: The minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held March 7, 2017 be received and approved as presented.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Acting Chair inquired about the status of the Source Water Protection signs in Thorold and Welland, and Mr. Campbell responded this has already been completed.

(3) UPDATES FROM THE ACTING CHAIR, PROJECT MANAGER AND MOECC

Acting Chair

The Acting Chair has been very busy since taking on this role. She stated that Mr. Renshaw has resigned due to health reasons and this leaves a gap which we will discuss later.

The Acting Chair has attended two meetings since assuming this position, and commented it is nice to see the enthusiasm of the people involved. This committee is kind of trail blazers for the SPC implementation.

The work we are doing is very important and after attending the Source Protection Authority meeting, everyone seems to be engaged in the work that has been done and the work we are currently accomplishing.

Project Manager

Mr. Campbell mentioned following approval at the Source Protection Authority meeting in May, the annual Source Protection Plan reporting documents have now been submitted to the MOECC and the public facing annual report has been posted on the Source Protection Authority web-site.

The City of Niagara Falls held their open house on the Official Plan and Zoning By-law amendments for proposed source water protection policies in Niagara Falls IPZ-1 and there is a public meeting tonight to finalize their Official Plan.

The City of Port Colborne is working on their planning updates and have been in contact with NPCA and Niagara Region staff on the details, with an August target for completion.

Niagara Region is proceeding with Drinking water protection zone signage along the regional roads for Welland, Port Colborne and Thorold. The Spills Action Centre phone numbers will be added to the signs.

NPCA has now hired a firm to complete updates to the SPA website. We are in the process of updating the content, and please feel free to provide any recommended changes.

Municipal engagement meetings are being held across the province. Staff from Niagara Region planning, the Niagara Region Risk Management Officer and Mr. Campbell attended the meeting in London on March 8.

The Acting Chair and Mr. Campbell attended the March 2017 Chairs meeting in Toronto which they found very informative. For example, Section 60 Risk Assessments which may be an appropriate future avenue to consider with respect to someone building a berm, which prevents water flowing, this could be looked at.

MOECC

Ms. Forrest commented the MOECC is currently having an overall look at the program and what to do moving forward. The last update she received was a discussion paper to be forwarded for some of the things they are changing. The changes to the Technical Rules in phase one were quick fixes, and the second phase will involve condensing the table of threats. Municipal meetings have been held with the central and west regions to collect their thoughts on the implementation of the program.

There will be a demo of the new mapping tool that was launched at the end of March. MOECC will be offering RMO training in July, and beginning to ramp up

again on the Annual Reporting due February 1st. They are switching to an electronic version of reporting, and will eventually roll it out to the SPC's.

As a refresher, part of the provincial mandate is to improve drinking water on First Nations properties. This includes technical assessments of existing drinking water and wastewater systems, reviews of feasibility studies and support in preparing these studies, review of upcoming design and construction proposals, development of sustainable regional operations and maintenance models, assessment and upgrading of operator training and certification requirements, and support for source protection planning. Currently they are planning an on-line forum for source protection for all indigenous communities. A pilot is scheduled for this fall involving 15 First Nations communities.

(4) PRESENTATION – CHILDREN'S WATER FESTIVAL

Ms. Royer did a presentation on the Niagara Children's Water Festival in the absence of Ms. Wilson. This program was initiated in 2003 by the Niagara Region and NPCA with 60,000 children in grades three to five participating. There are fifty activities centres focusing on five water themes including Trout Unlimited's Yellow Fish Road™ Program. This festival also involves hundreds of volunteers each year, and many of our committee members have had the opportunity to participate in this program. The Acting Chair asked if there were any comments or questions and thanked Ms. Royer for her presentation.

(5) YELLOW FISH ROAD

The Source Protection Plan outlines two specific policies related to outreach and education in Port Colborne and Niagara Falls. Mr. Campbell explained Ms. Royer wrote this report, and as part of the annual reporting the Yellow Fish Road™ program was implemented this year. If the committee has a message they would like relayed, just let Kerry know and they can incorporate it into the water festival program.

Mr. Grenier mentioned the City of Welland was involved with this program and Ms. Royer responded that the Yellow Fish Road™ program is still going on, and we are always looking for groups to continue this. Currently the emphasis is on Port Colborne and Niagara Falls for compliance with the source protection plan. Mr. Bator inquired how do we know when we have reached the implementation of these policies and who is responsible once these fish are painted? Ms. Royer said there is no real follow up due to staff shortage, and putting them on the storm grates may be a solution in the longer term.

Mr. Baty asked if we still do a public day and Ms. Royer commented this hasn't been done in quite a few years, perhaps in May there might be a better turn out. Logistically May is better for touching base with the teachers, but staff is busier in the spring than the fall.

Mr. Willems inquired if this activity would count for community hours, and Ms. Royer believes if this was not during school hours, it would be acceptable. The following resolution was presented:

SPCR-08-17

MOVED BY: D. Semple

SECONDED BY: R. Bator

THAT: Report SPC-05-17 be received by the Source Protection Committee for information.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(6) SOURCE PROTECTION MAPPING TOOLS

The MOECC has built a Source Protection Information Atlas (SPIA). This was launched in March 2017, and there is a link on our SPC website. Stakeholders requested improvements to the current mapping tool to support source protection planning better, with the addition of property boundaries (Ontario Parcel Layers), improved access to policies and water budget information. This new mapping provides everyone with the ability to quickly determine a property’s proximity to a source water vulnerable area and where policies could apply. This is much easier than looking at over 400 pages of threats, and it is very user friendly.

Mr. Bator requested the real estate association be notified of this new mapping and make the urban developers aware of this new tool also. The Acting Chair asked if there were any more questions or comments, and being none the following resolution was presented:

SPCR-09-17

MOVED BY: A. Willems

SECONDED BY: C. Vega

THAT: the Source Protection Committee receive this report SPC-06-17 dated June 2017 for information.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(7) SECTION 36 CONSULTATION

Mr. Campbell said this report is to receive the approval of the committee in regards to the consultation strategy for the upcoming workshop to be held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017. It has been approved committee members will receive a per diem for a non SPC meeting if they attend. Mr. James Knott from Lura Consulting has been retained to facilitate these workshops. Mr. Knott went through the proposed agenda, then Mr. Campbell showed a power point on the workshop presentation. The following questions, comments were discussed:

Ms. Bellantino-Perco inquired about the process of adding to the Assessment Report. Ms. Forrest responded providing it aligns with the Clean Water Act (CWA), is entirely in the scope and consistent with the Technical Rules it would be included in the work plan.

Mr. Bator and Ms. Vega had concerns about substances in natural occurring groundwater. Private wells are difficult to identify the source of water. Mr. Willems suggested it may be beneficial if we touch base with connecting SPC's to see what their policies are.

There was discussion about how much water comes from the Grand River and its proximity to the Rosehill intake. The flows and currents in Lake Erie were discussed. Ms. Forrest recommended researching the policies of Thames and Essex for phosphorus in Lake Erie.

Mr. Miller commented the current plan addresses municipal drinking water sources, do we expand the scope to include rural drinking water? Is it appropriate to look at private wells? Ms. Forrest responded we are required to stay within the Technical Rules and CWA. Currently private systems are not part of the SPP, and we should be cautious what we put out there.

Mr. Grenier suggested highlighting the more positives early in the presentation and why we are asking the public for their input.

Mr. Bator said we should investigate the section of the Assessment Report concerning the DeCew IPZ's. The mapping is out of date due to the work done by OPG and the Region. Ms. Bellantino-Perco asked if there were any more questions or comments, there being none, the following resolution was presented:

SPCR-10-17

MOVED BY: P. Grenier

SECONDED BY: C. Vega

THAT: the Source Protection Committee (SPC) consider this report SPC-07-17 for consulting Stakeholders on the update of the Source Protection Plan.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(8) SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE VACANCIES

This report provides an update on the status of the vacant committee positions. Staff are preparing a report to bring to the Source Protection Authority meeting on June 28, 2017 with recommendations for the commerce and public at large positions. The appointment of a Chair is entirely in the hands of the province right now, and hopefully this will be announced soon. The Acting Chair stated

she is excited we can fill our vacancies on our committee. The following resolution was presented:

SPCR-11-17

MOVED BY: R. Bator

SECONDED BY: D. Semple

THAT: the Source Protection Committee receive this report SPC-08-17 dated June 2017 for information.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(9) OTHER BUSINESS

The Acting Chair asked Mr. Campbell to advise the committee of the timelines for the workplan submission to the MOECC, and he responded as follows:

- Workshop June 21, 2017 - comments due by July 31
- August – incorporate changes
- September – SPC meeting
- Draft Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan Amendments for the Source Protection Authority meeting October 25, 2017
- Submit to MOE before November 30, 2017

Mr. Grenier had an article “Charting Canadian Waters” from the Globe and Mail Monday, June 12, 2017. Below is the link if for this.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canada-fresh-water-review/article35262579/>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

SPCR-12-17

MOVED BY: R. Bator

SECONDED BY: P. Grenier

THAT: this meeting do now adjourn.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

“D. Gullett, Recording Secretary

“M. Bellantino-Perco, Acting Chair”