

**NIAGARA PENINSULA SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

**WELLAND**

**September 15, 2016**

**7:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** M. Neufeld, (Chair)  
R. Bator  
M. Bellantino-Perco  
T. Dalimonte  
D. Renshaw (by proxy)  
D. Semple  
C. Vega  
A. Willems

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** P. Grenier, D. Renshaw

**LIAISONS PRESENT:** G. Hudgin, Niagara Public Health Representative  
B. Forrest, Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change

**LIAISONS ABSENT:** B. Baty, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

**STAFF PRESENT:** B. Wright, Manager, Watershed Projects  
D. Gullett, Recording Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:** J. Croswell, Niagara Region

**ROLL CALL**

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**BUSINESS:**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., welcomed everyone and said there was a proxy this evening from Mr. Renshaw to Ms. Bellantino-Perco, therefore the votes are to be recorded. The Chair requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it. There being none, the following resolution was then presented.

**SPCR-01-16**

**MOVED BY:** R. Bator

**SECONDED BY:** M. Bellantino-Perco

**THAT:** The agenda be accepted as presented.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
R. Bator	√		M. Bellantino-Perco	√		T. Dalimonte	√	
D. Renshaw	√		D. Semple	√		C. Vega	√	
A. Willems	√							

**“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”**

**(1) MINUTES – DECEMBER 2, 2015 SPC MEETING**

The Chair stated the minutes of the December 2, 2015 meeting were approved previously by way of correspondence. The revised minutes were available to the committee.

**(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Ms. Bellantino-Perco inquired about the commercial sector vacancy in the previous minutes. Mr. Wright responded this position was advertised in the spring and we only received two candidates. Going forward, we will contact the Port Colborne Chamber of Commerce for any possible recommendations for this position.

Mr. Bator asked about the updated Assessment Report and Mr. Wright requested Ms. Forrest respond to this. She stated there are two mechanisms available for these updates:

(1) under section 34 of the CWA, the source protection Authority can propose amendments for the assessment report and plan, but they must be supported by municipal resolution before it can be released for public consultation. If municipal support is not provided the SPA can request the amendments by initiated by the minister under section 35.

(2) Alternatively the SPA can include the proposed amendments in the workplan that is submitted to the minister under section 36. The s36 workplans are generally due about 3 to 4 years after the plan is approved. (Niagara’s work plan is due November 30, 2017.)

The Chair requested any changes, please send Mr. Wright an e-mail.

**(3) UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair mentioned the MOECC conducted an audit and review of the Niagara source water protection (SWP) program in January, 2016. This included looking

at the last ten years of the program in Niagara, governance and staffing, information management. Looking ahead at implementation and financial obligations.

He welcomed Jen Crowell, who started her new position as the new RMO / RMI approximately January, 2016. She previously worked in operations and water treatment at the Niagara Region.

MOECC is officially conducting a review of the provincial SWP program. Ms. Forrest will touch on this in her presentation.

There is a new federal / provincial initiative for First Nations SWP in Ontario. The provincial source protection branch is involved in this initiative. First Nations work is currently focusing on the 'Ring of Fire' area in northern Ontario. Ms. Forrest will have an update at the next meeting.

The SWP Program is looking for eight new Source Protection Committee (SPC) Chairs, and interviews were conducted over the summer. An announcement should be made in the next three weeks. Ms. Bellantino-Perco asked what the criteria and / or qualifications are this position. The Chair responded they are looking for a proven track record of people who can lead and bring people together. He suggested looking at the postings in the public appointment secretariat under source protection.

A letter was forwarded from Minister Glen Murray stating all Source Protection Plans are now approved and implementation has started.

**(4) DRAFT ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT – REPORT SPC-01-16**

Mr. Wright stated the first annual progress report does not have to be submitted until May 1, 2017. Staff completed a dry-run to see how much effort and time would be required to complete this document. He wondered how readable this report is. The reporting requirements are listed in the first part of the report. The main body or text of the report provides the information in a more public friendly format since it must eventually be posted on the website for public viewing. Appendix A is a mandatory part of the report which will be used by the MOECC. The MOECC will roll all the annual progress reports for the SPAs into one provincial report.

Mr. Bator inquired if each municipality will receive this report. Mr. Wright said it is not required but thanked him for the good suggestion to distribute to each municipality.

Ms. Vega asked if we would use the same template for next year. Mr. Wright answered yes, but he would welcome any suggestions to further improve it.

**SPCR-02-16**

**MOVED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**SECONDED BY:** D. Semple

**THAT:** The comments from the Source Protection Committee (SPC) on the Draft Annual Progress Report be provided to the Source Protection Authority.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
R. Bator	√		M. Bellantino-Perco	√		T. Dalimonte	√	
D. Renshaw	√		D. Semple	√		C. Vega	√	
A. Willems	√							

**“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”**

**(5) TIMELINES FOR 2017 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr. Wright stated there are two scenarios shown. One is an aggressive approach, and the other a more realistic schedule. We will need to schedule the next SPC meeting in March 2017, so please keep the last two weeks open if possible. The actual SPC meeting date will depend on whether the data for the annual progress report is received from the implementing bodies by the required deadline.

Ms. Bellantino-Perco asked what the consequence is, if we do not complete this on time. The Chair responded that there needed to be some type of deadline in the legislation. The date (of May 1<sup>st</sup>) gives the province several months to roll up all the annual progress reports into one annual summary report. The MOCCE understands there may be some hiccups with the first report. Provided the municipalities are notified early of their reporting requirements, we should meet the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**(6) LAKE GIBSON POLICY UPDATES – REPORT SPC-02-16**

This report provides information on the policy included in the City of Thorold’s Official Plan covering disturbance of sediments in Lake Gibson. B. Wright provided a summary of information on the topic.

Ms. Bellantino-Perco inquired about the status of the proposed intake relocation at Decew. Ms. Croswell will get an update from Deanna Barrow for our next meeting.

Thorold amended its Official Plan last year and have added a policy to cover the Lake Gibson sediment issue. This should help ensure future developments don’t mobilize the sediments and impact the water quality.

There is also a proposal to extend the Greenbelt to include areas surrounding Lake Gibson. The following resolution was presented:

**SPCR-03-16**

**MOVED BY:** D. Semple

**SECONDED BY:** R. Bator

**THAT:** That this report be received by the Source Protection Committee (SPC) for information purposes.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
R. Bator	√		M. Bellantino-Perco	√		T. Dalimonte	√	
D. Renshaw	√		D. Semple	√		C. Vega	√	
A. Willems	√							

**“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”**

**(7) DRINKING WATER PROTECTION ZONE SIGNS – REPORT SPC-03-16**

This report provides an update to indicate where these new signs are installed on Highway 406. These were the first signs that MTO has put up, though Napanee municipality had installed their own signs previously.

Niagara Region is in the process of adding the required information to their ERP’s (Emergency Response Plans). These signs are more of an alert to the emergency responders, and once the spill action centre is contacted, they have a protocol to follow. The following resolution was presented:

**SPCR-04-16**

**MOVED BY:** C. Vega

**SECONDED BY:** M. Bellantino-Perco

**THAT:** This report be received by the Source Protection Committee (SPC) for information purposes.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
R. Bator	√		M. Bellantino-Perco	√		T. Dalimonte	√	
D. Renshaw	√		D. Semple	√		C. Vega	√	
A. Willems	√							

**“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”**

**(8) PROPOSED WATER POLICY FOR SPC MEETINGS – REPORT SPC-04-16**

This report requests the SPC promote the use of municipal drinking water, as opposed to commercially available bottled water at SPC meeting. Mr. Bator urged municipalities to provide piped water to rural properties. The Chair responded every point is valid, but this is outside of our scope. Glen Hudgin said

Niagara Public Health provides free water testing for private well users. Niagara Region has started inspecting water haulers (that supply municipal water to residents with cisterns).

The following resolution was presented:

**SPCR-05-16**

**MOVED BY:** M. Bellantino-Perco

**SECONDED BY:** T. Dalimonte

**THAT:** That the Source Protection Committee (SPC) adopt the a policy on the preferred use of municipal water over bottled water for its meetings and workshops.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
R. Bator		√	M. Bellantino-Perco	√		T. Dalimonte	√	
D. Renshaw	√		D. Semple	√		C. Vega	√	
A. Willems	√							

**“CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENATION”**

After some discussion, the policy was amended to read,

*“The SPC will only use drinking water from municipal water sources at SPC meetings and workshops wherever this is practical.*

*If access to safe, potable municipal water is not available due to a water advisory, or emergency, the SPC may use water from commercial sources.”*

**SPCR-06-16**

**MOVED BY:** M. Bellantino-Perco

**SECONDED BY:** D. Semple

**THAT:** That the Source Protection Committee (SPC) adopt the amended policy on the preferred use of municipal water over bottled water for its meetings and workshops.

	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
R. Bator	√		M. Bellantino-Perco	√		T. Dalimonte	√	
D. Renshaw	√		D. Semple	√		C. Vega	√	
A. Willems	√							

**“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”**

**(9) MOECC PRESENTATION ON ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Ms. Forrest presented an update from the March 2016 SPC Chairs meeting. All the source protection plans are now approved and all SPAs are now in the implementation phase. The MOECC are currently conducting a review of the provincial SWP program. The MOECC wish to analyze key program areas and develop program design options and recommendations, and identify areas for improvement with regard to effectiveness, efficiency, long-term sustainability and local accountability.

**Program Areas for Review:**

- Technical Framework
- Source Protection Plan Policy Framework
- Overall Source Protection Program Framework

Mr. Bator questioned how much more money is being earmarked for SWP, and Ms. Forrest responded they are looking at transitioning to steady state, and will be making recommendations on how best to move forward.

**(10) OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Croswell gave a presentation of the Decew blue-green algae event that occurred in July 2016. Blue-green algae is not a prescribed threat. Ms. Belantino-Perco asked if monitoring is conducted routinely and Ms. Croswell replied they have increased monitoring since this event.

Niagara Region have not yet determined the cause of the blue-green algae event. One SPC member suggested the abnormally hot summer would have resulted in warmer water temperatures and this may have been a factor in the algae event this year. In the future, Niagara Region may consider a water monitoring plan to establish baselines and identify nutrient sources. They are also investigating treatment options in the event microcystin is detected at the raw water intake.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:42 pm.

**“D. Gullett, Recording Secretary**

**M. Neufeld, Chair”**