

NIAGARA PENINSULA SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

WELLAND

June 12, 2018

7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Bellantino Perco (Chair)
R. Bator
C. Bodimeade
T. Dalimonte
D. Fry
P. Grenier (arrived 7:20)
A. Michaud
C. Vega
A. Willems

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Semple

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

LIAISONS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: J. Campbell, Supervisor, Special Projects
E. Navarro, Communications Specialist
D. Gullett, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: J. Croswell, Niagara Region RMO
Niagara College Students

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

BUSINESS:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed the Niagara College students. She asked if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it. Mr. Fry had a conflict with Walker Industries regarding the Renewable Energy connection to the distribution of natural gas. He will excuse himself if this conflict arises. The following resolution was then presented:

SPCR-08-18

MOVED BY: A. Michaud

SECONDED BY: R. Bator

THAT: The agenda be accepted as presented.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(1) MINUTES – MARCH 6, 2018 SPC MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes of the March 6, 2018 meeting. There being none, the following resolution was presented:

SPCR-09-18

MOVED BY: T. Dalimonte

SECONDED BY: R. Bator

THAT: The minutes of the Source Protection Committee meeting held March 6, 2018 be received and approved as printed.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

As requested at the last meeting, please find in your handout package the work program approved by the MOECC to compliment previous Report SPC-04-18.

Enbridge answers to questions provided, with two more forthcoming to be presented at the September meeting as an in-camera item.

(3) UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR, PROJECT MANAGER, MOECC LIAISON, MEMBER ANNIE MICHAUD AND MEMBER ADRIN WILLEMS

Chair

The Chair mentioned at the Source Protection Authority meeting held on March 26, 2018 the board of directors approved the 2017 Annual Progress Report and it was submitted as presented to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

Chair’s Meeting via teleconference May 29, 2018 included:

- Annual Reports:
 - I. 80% of committees progressing well / on target; the rest are satisfactory;
 - II. Average of 73% of significant drinking water threats addressed;
 - III. 89% of policies that address significant drinking water threats have been or are being implemented;

- IV. 40% (88 / 220) of subject municipalities have incorporated Source Protection Policies into their Official Plans (Niagara is the only one that has completed its reviews).
- Regulatory Changes - New regulations under Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act take effect July 1 and we are going to hear about some of the implementation late in the meeting.
- Climate Change Project – spearheaded by Conservation Ontario. They are developing a science-based handbook to conduct climate change vulnerability assessment regarding water quality.

We are still awaiting the receipt of the amended Section 36 workplan Ministerial Order.

- Section 36 Workplan Update
 - 3 workplans were submitted in 2017 (Niagara, Lakehead & Matagami)
 - Lakehead doesn't require a comprehensive review. Their order states that they need to submit a comprehensive workplan within five years of this approval;
 - Niagara's plan is a comprehensive review;
 - Matagami is somewhere in between;
 - Items can arise post workplan submission but they can be dealt with Source Protection Program Branch staff;
 - Not every plan needs to be updated.

Our committee is now focusing on raising awareness around source water protection and we'll hear about some of those initiatives tonight. It has been positive, and others are encouraged to think about ways to reach out to the sectors they represent.

- The Chair attended the MOECC monthly meeting with Jayme Campbell and Taran Beatty from Source Protection Branch and there was great dialogue. MOECC local staff want to be engaged on source protection;
- Darren Fry is going to have a Lunch and Learn event tomorrow that he can report on at the next meeting;
- Not only do we want to raise awareness around source protection, but we need to seek feedback from these groups to inform future activities and focus.

Project Manager

Mr. Campbell stated since the last meeting highlights include:

- Port Colborne Zoning By-law Updated (as of May 2018);
- A number of stakeholder / outreach meetings have been held on the Section 36 update with:

- I. Niagara Region & local municipalities QMS / Water Compliance Group;
- II. Area Planners (Niagara Region and local municipalities);
- III. NPCA Staff
- IV. Wainfleet staff (they don't participate in the area planners or QMS groups);
- V. Port Colborne Environmental Advisory Committee
- VI. Niagara Region Public Health (Peter Jekel, Anthony Habjan) including tour;
- VII. City of Hamilton Health Unit and Source Water / Groundwater staff;
- VIII. MOECC District Office monthly meeting

Mr. Campbell believes these meetings were very productive for two-way communications, education on source water protection and laying the groundwork for future consultations.

- A summer project is beginning with Niagara College's Environmental Management and Assessment program to work on a Source Water Protection Communications Plan. Ms. Navarro, Patrick Robson and the students will all be working on this.
- **Please Note:** The December 11th meeting has been moved to November 27, 2018.

MOECC

Mr. Kidwai doesn't really have much to update since the election and a new government. The writ has been extended until June 29. As soon as the new minister is assigned, we should be able to get an order back from Section 36.

Member Annie Michaud

Ms. Michaud is involved with the Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative who are taking action on the Lake Erie Nearshore Framework Assessment. Partners include: Friends of Fort Erie's Creeks, Bert Miller Nature Club, MNR, Niagara College and the MOECC. There is not a lot of substantial data for algae monitoring so volunteers and students will help with this, and also Fowler toad monitoring with the Ministry. She will forward this information to the committee

Member Adrin Willems

Mr. Willems did an outreach event with Princess Auto on May 29, 2018. Most people were interested where the water treatment plants were located and where their water comes. He would like to do this on a larger scale partnered with perhaps Meridian as they do events all over the region.

Ms. Navarro put together a lot of the materials for this, and Mr. Lee from the GIS Department at NPCA prepared the maps. She also offered to help anyone else on the committee that would like to do obtain any type of promotional items for an event. Perhaps have a representative from the Region present if the main

concern are the treatment plants. Ms. Croswell mentioned if the water wagon was at the event, it would be manned by staff from the Region.

There is also promotional literature available from the Region, and Niagara College has offered to do research as to what kind of events are available. Mr. Bator suggested setting up at Canal Days in Port Colborne. Mr. Baty said the Niagara Children’s Water Festival is a good opportunity to distribute literature to teachers and to volunteers that attend the festival.

Mr. Bodimeade attended the CWWA in Ottawa recently. There was not a lot of source water information, one thing the Federal Government is looking to lower the lead guidelines in drinking water. There was a review of known and emerging contaminants in municipal wastewater and options to deal with it. Also, cyber threats to water treatment plants was discussed.

(4) PORT COLBORNE VULNERABILITY SCORE RE-EVALUATION – REPORT SPC-06-18

Mr. Campbell stated that Technical Rule 95.1 has been added, and Port Colborne received the highest score allowable at the time the assessment report was approved. Three tests are:

- i) Shallow waters;
- ii) Close proximity to shoreline; and
- iii) History of water quality concerns.

Mr. Bator commented upping the factor in his opinion would not make a difference as all the water comes from Lake Erie. No matter what you do, you cannot improve the water quality entering the canal from the American side.

The Region plans to update the treatment plant, and Ms. Croswell cannot comment on the Seaway, but she will provide more information at the next meeting. Mr. Bodimeade questioned the impacts of changing the vulnerability factor for spills. Mr. Campbell explained spills are not part of Drinking Water Table of Threats, they are identified as local threats and non-legally binding policies were established for the Seaway, a federal body. The Region has installed a boom at the intake and has an oil/water separator on the raw intake. The Seaway also has the infrastructure to deploy a boom in the main channel if required.

The Chair asked Mr. Campbell to explain the process of the threats. If the vulnerability scores were raised, these additional significant threats would be enumerated within the IPZ-1 and IPZ-2. Following additional significant threat enumeration, policies will be recommended for consideration building on existing policies where available.

Ms. Michaud mentioned if the vulnerability score increases, the goal isn’t improved water quality. Currently there are no identified water quality issues, the

policies are more to prevent this ever occurring and protecting the source of the water. The following resolution was presented:

SPCR-10-18

MOVED BY: C. Bodimeade

SECONDED BY: D. Fry

THAT: report SPC-06-18 be received and that staff be directed to investigate and provide additional information on water quality testing and existing threats.

“CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTAINED”

(5) OIL PIPELINE POLICIES – REPORT SPC-07-18

Mr. Campbell stated Source Protection Authorities committees must now evaluate the risk of liquid hydrocarbon pipelines. Adding the pipeline as a local significant threat may be possible. Niagara Falls intake is being relocated so the Region can provide the modelling for this.

Table 1 of this report summarizes policies for petroleum pipeline threats in the source protection plans. In his absence Mr. Semple sent the following comment: One unique feature of the pipeline and the threat in Niagara is the crossing of the Niagara River which is a shared waterway with the United States. A spill on either side of the border poses a potential threat to communities on both sides. It may be necessary to ensure that safeguards on the American side are as strong as Canadian / Ontario standards and that Canadian and U.S. response measures and protocols include both American and Canadian agencies.

There will be an in-camera report at the fall meeting of this committee with respect to details on potential spill amounts and associated modelling. The following resolution as presented:

SPCR-11-18

MOVED BY: P. Grenier

SECONDED BY: C. Vega

THAT: the Source Protection Committee (SPC) receive this report for information purposes, supports adopting pipeline policies and direct staff to complete the threats analysis.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(6) UPDATED RULES AND PROCEDURES – REPORT SPC-08-18

Mr. Campbell explained our rules and procedures were last updated in 2009, and upon review of this document, it has been identified an update is in order. Mr.

Bodimeade asked if these rules and procedures are the same as the Source Protection Authority (SPA)? The Chair responded there are some dictated through regulations, and our committee was allowed the use of a proxy.

Mr. Grenier suggested explaining the proxy portion to the SPA when presenting the updated rules and procedures. The following resolution was presented:

SPCR-12-18

MOVED BY: P. Grenier

SECONDED BY: C. Bodimeade

THAT: the Source Protection Committee (SPC) receive this report SPC-08-18 and direct staff to engage the SPA on the proposed Committee Member’s Handbook.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(7) MUNICIPAL UPDATE – REPORT SPC-09-18

Mr. Campbell said a new Safe Drinking Water Act Regulation 205/18 has been passed, coming into effect July 1, 2018. Four Niagara Region municipal water treatment plants are planned to have changes made to their intake locations and/or intake protection zones. These are: Niagara Falls, Welland, DeCew and Rosehill/Fort Erie water treatment plants.

The Chair questioned the SPC’s role and timelines for these approvals. Mr. Kidwai responded a notice of satisfaction is required, the turn-around will be fairly quick and efficient as possible. The ministry will not provide guidance before June 29, 2018. He will provide some literature to the committee, and the following resolution was presented:

SPCR-13-18

MOVED BY: A. Willems

SECONDED BY: D. Fry

THAT: the Source Protection Committee receive this report.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(8) YELLOW FISH ROAD – REPORT SPC-10-18

This report provides a summary of the outreach and education programs for the Source Protection Plan Policies PC-19 and NF-4. The Yellow Fish Road™ activity is also part of the Niagara Children’s Water Festival. Ms. Michaud asked how the schools are selected, and Mr. Campbell responded he will find out and let the committee know.

NPCA’s GIS team also built an app for the Yellow Fish Road™ program in

Niagara to track where the fish are being painted. The following resolution was presented:

SPCR-14-18

MOVED BY: R. Bator

SECONDED BY: A. Michaud

THAT: Report No. SPC-10-18 be received for information.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the following resolution was presented:

SPCR-15-18

MOVED BY: D. Fry

SECONDED BY: C. Bodimeade

THAT: this meeting is now adjourned at 9:05 pm.

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

M. Bellantino Perco, Chair

D. Gullett, Recording Secretary