

NIAGARA PENINSULA SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

WELLAND

November 27, 2018

7:00 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Bellantino Perco, (Chair)
R. Bator
C. Bodimeade (by proxy)
T. Dalimonte
P. Grenier
A. Michaud
D. Semple
C. Vega
A. Willems

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Fry

LIAISONS PRESENT: P. Jekel, Niagara Public Health Representative
B. Baty, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
B. Kidwai, Ministry of the Environment Conservation and
Parks (via telecon)

LIAISONS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: J. Campbell, Source Water, Project Manager
J. Diamond, Water Quality Specialist
D. Gullett, Recording Secretary
E. Navarro, Communications Specialist
T. Proks, Hydrogeologist

OTHERS PRESENT: J. Crosswell, Niagara Region

ROLL CALL

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

BUSINESS:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m., welcomed everyone and said there was a proxy this evening from Mr. Bodimeade to Ms. Bellantino-Perco, therefore the votes are to be recorded. She also welcomed Mr. Kidwai participating via teleconference.

The Chair introduced Joshua Diamond, Water Quality Specialist at NPCA and Thomas Proks the new staff hydrogeologist who will begin his position here on December 10, 2018. The Chair requested that if anyone had a conflict of interest to declare it. There being none, the following resolution was then presented:

SPCR-23-18

MOVED BY: R. Bator

SECONDED BY: A. Willems

THAT: the agenda be accepted as presented.

| | Yes | No | | Yes | No | | Yes | No |
|------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|
| R. Bator | √ | | C. Bodimeade | √ | | T. Dalimonte | √ | |
| P. Grenier | √ | | A. Michaud | √ | | D. Semple | √ | |
| C. Vega | √ | | A. Willems | √ | | | | |

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(1) MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 SPC MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any errors or omissions in the revised minutes of the September 25, 2018 meeting. There being none, the following resolution was then presented:

SPCR-24-18

MOVED BY: A. Michaud

SECONDED BY: R. Bator

THAT: the minutes of the Source Protection meeting held September 25, 2018 be received and approved as presented.

| | Yes | No | | Yes | No | | Yes | No |
|------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|
| R. Bator | √ | | C. Bodimeade | √ | | T. Dalimonte | √ | |
| P. Grenier | √ | | A. Michaud | √ | | D. Semple | √ | |
| C. Vega | √ | | A. Willems | √ | | | | |

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(2) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mr. Campbell stated with regards to Item 6, the modelling is based on diesel not bitumen. Enbridge believes the pro-rated approach is reasonable in assessing the pipeline.

(3) UPDATES from the:

CHAIR

The Chair stated there has not been a Source Protection Authority meeting since our last meeting. The Chair's and Project Manager's teleconference was held on October 30, 2018 highlighting:

- SPC's are still out there doing a lot of good work on outreach to the sectors they represent;
- Sixteen SPC's are working on submitting their Section 36 workplans by the November 30 deadline.

On November 20 there was a GLWQA Nutrients Annex Update Webinar which included:

- An introduction to the issue of toxic and nuisance algae and the establishment of Canada-U.S. phosphorus reduction targets for Lake Erie;
- An update on phosphorus loads to the western and central basins of Lake Erie (2008 – 2016), as well as the status of this year's bloom;
- An update on domestic action plans to achieve phosphorus reductions in Lake Erie;
- A description of next steps, including research priorities moving forward.

The Chair asked if there were any questions or comments, and Mr. Bator commented the nutrient management plans for small farms requires them to hire a consultant which is quite costly he thinks this is unfair to the smaller farmer.

PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Campbell mentioned since our last meeting, items to update the committee include:

- Following a productive meeting with Niagara Region Planning and Development in October, a business process is being developed for notification of transport pathways;
- The Region is adopting our mapping of Hydrogeologically Sensitive Areas into their mapping application for screening of planning applications on private sewage services. This helps with our Section 36 update;
- Watershed Director T. Al-Zabet sends his regrets for not being able to attend tonight. The current plan with Thomas starting in December, is to retain Jayme part time until the end of January 2019 to assist Thomas in the project management role;
- DeCew Falls Environment Assessment amendment expected to be completed September 2019;
- There is an upcoming meeting with Niagara Region and their consultants for updating the Welland Intake Protection Zone for a new intake.

(4) PRESENTATION – NPCA WATER QUALITY

The Chair welcomed Joshua Diamond who is doing a presentation on the NPCA Water Quality Monitoring Program. This program was implemented in 2001 with a mandate to:

- 1) Assess water quality in local watersheds; and
- 2) Report water quality information to stakeholders.

The Chair thanked him for his presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments. Mr. Baty questioned Neonicitoid sampling, and Mr. Diamond responded the NPCA doesn't normally do chemical testing, we partner with the province, other agencies and researchers doing testing. The NPCA works with partners to do monitoring year-round, and currently uses macroinvertebrates and general water chemistry.

(5) GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY – REPORT NO. SPC-16-18

Mr. Campbell stated this presentation is likely only the beginning of our conversation about Great Lakes Water Quality. This brief overview will assist committee members as an introduction to update the Assessment Report. The following discussion took place:

Mr. Bator commented about the cyclonic circulation at Rosehill treatment plant. How much can we control the water quality of the lake without changes from the United States.

Mr. Semple was curious how easy / difficult would it be to find an explanation for the choride in Welland vs. DeCew? Ms. Michaud asked if there has been an update to Niagara Region's salt management plan? Staff direction to find out about road salt. Municipalities are monitoring and is there coordination between upper and lower tier municipalities? Mr. Campbell will update.

Mr. Willems mentioned there is a tremendous amount of private properties using salt, which could bring on a chloride issue very quickly. Ms. Vega stated the City of Hamilton provided training on source protection policies.

Mr. Fry sent the following comments:

- It's my position that this report fulfills one of the objectives for updating the Sec. 36 report, with specific focus on chloride & phosphorus.
- Niagara has a very unique set of drinking water sources that have the potential to be affected in ways unlike groundwater drinking water sources
Chloride
 - An increasing trend in both lakes is observed
 - There is a lag from upstream lakes and loads (ie. upstream of Erie, and Erie to Ontario is 6-7 yrs)
 - Chloride is an indicator of anthropogenic impacts
 -

- Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area population and development growth projects in upcoming decades will increase stress on water quality / Source Water Protection
 - Projected increase in salt application as development, population and risk management (ie. over-salting commercial lots)
- Climate change impacts
 - Potential for more freeze / thaw cycles in Niagara which result in increased requirement for salt application
 - Potential for increased precipitation event magnitude in addition to freeze/thaw resulting in increased salt application
- I am not familiar with the risks presented by increased chloride concentration, either direct or indirect, in our source water – more information may be required here

Phosphorus

- An increasing trend (phosphate) in both lakes is observed
- Climate change impacts may result in increased run-off and warmer waters resulting in increased bacterial blooms.
- I believe there are policy concerns, specifically cyanobacteria and its associated risks

Local Concerns

- Algae at DeCew – additional information such historic data set, source identification would be helpful to determine if local risk exists.
- Climate change – given some intakes are in shallower waters (ie. non-deep lake intakes), they may at risk from increased warming during excessively warm periods. Additional data, analysis may be warranted here.

Mr. Grenier questioned if we check off the boxes, does that negate us from doing anything? Mr. Campbell replied this attempt is to consider as many components as possible to update the Assessment Report. As we move forward the more background information will provide a good overview of what this committee would like to move forward on.

Mr. Bator thanked Mr. Campbell for the fabulous job gathering all this information, so in future if we see something off, we have this to fall back on. Mr. Willems commented there is a huge amount of data, plenty here to keep us going forward with potential problems. Perhaps this could be part of our mandate to make everyone aware. The following resolution was presented:

SPCR-26-18

MOVED BY: C. Vega

SECONDED BY: P. Grenier

THAT: the Source Protection Committee receive this report and provide comments on the materials and direction for next steps.

| | Yes | No | | Yes | No | | Yes | No |
|------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|
| R. Bator | √ | | C. Bodimeade | √ | | T. Dalimonte | √ | |
| P. Grenier | √ | | A. Michaud | √ | | D. Semple | √ | |
| C. Vega | √ | | A. Willems | √ | | | | |

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(6) COMMUNICATIONS PLAN – REPORT SPC-17-18

The NPCA communications staff have prepared a Communications Plan which includes goals and objectives, key messages, target audiences, tactics and timelines. The Chair asked if there were any questions or comments? Mr. Willems inquired if we can we monitor traffic on social media? Ms. Navarro responded we can see who is looking at it and the area they are from. He also asked if it is possible to do a video similar to the one filmed for the Authority, which shows a great introduction into volunteering. Niagara College is contacted every year in September, so perhaps we could work with them or Mohawk to produce a video.

Mr. Bodimeade had provided the following comments / suggestions:

- It notes several times that increasing chloride and phosphorous levels are the two major concerns. That is true, however, that I think the general public will be more receptive to the message if it focuses on the effects of those first; for example, the problem is algal blooms possible affecting drinking water safety (and causing impacts to the shoreline) -> which is caused by increasing phosphorous levels -> so how can we reduce those phosphorous levels. Effect -> cause-> solution, rather than cause-> effect-> solution which is the way the communications plan presently seems to read.
- There is a lot of text on the brochure outline and I do not know if most people would take the time to read all that. It may be better to have a few, bold key messages in the text, and then a reference to where the reader can find more information or have that additional detail in text boxes on the brochure.

Mr. Fry had forwarded feedback from Walker lunch & learn: An additional key message could be – Who the SPC is and what does it do?

Are members of the committee interested in participating in public outreach evnts? There is the Children’s Water Festival, Thanksgiving Festival and Yellow

Fish Road™ program. The Chair mentioned the source water protection branch may have funding available for education and outreach. Staff may be able to be present at these outreach venues to assist and supply all the swag to take with you. The following resolution was presented:

SPCR-27-18

MOVED BY: A. Michaud

SECONDED BY: C. Vega

THAT: Report No. SPC-17-18 be received for information and the Source Protection Committee provide comments on the Communications Plan and their role.

| | Yes | No | | Yes | No | | Yes | No |
|------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|
| R. Bator | √ | | C. Bodimeade | √ | | T. Dalimonte | √ | |
| P. Grenier | √ | | A. Michaud | √ | | D. Semple | √ | |
| C. Vega | √ | | A. Willems | √ | | | | |

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(7) CLIMATE CHANGE – REPORT SPC-18-18

This purpose of this report is to update the Assessment Report on Climate Change. We have already advised the province we wish climate change to be part of the source protection plan, and we would require data to back up the policies and this is a very broad topic.

Rosehill plans to extend the intake further into lake, but no designs have been completed yet as to how deep the water is.

Mr. Fry e-mailed the following comments:

- I don't feel that this information fulfils the Sec. 36 objective of climate change resulting in degraded water quality under storm event conditions.
- Additional considerations could include:
 - Turbidity (as a surrogate for storm impacts on quality) – additional data and analysis is required (ie. larger historic data set coupled with mean local temperatures)
 - Temperature – how would warmer water temperatures impact shallower intakes?
 - Precipitation Events – how will climate change impact other key parameters (Phosphorus and Chloride)
 - Water levels – are shallow intakes at increased risk

- I don't feel there is currently sufficient information to move to policy options in the next report. It would be helpful to see the OCC Tool and what assistance it can provide in assessing the multi-faceted risks that climate change presents.

Mr. Bator said Environment Canada has documented rainfall daily for last 25 years, and the lake levels have not varied much.

Mr. Semple commented stormwater issues are going to be an issue whether it is due to climate change or rainfall events. Mr. Campbell said the committee can express the direction in which it would like to move forward, so we don't have to delete these. The update does not have to be a singular view. This report will be brought back reflecting comments made by this committee, and hopefully have some provincial direction and revisit. The following resolution was presented:

SPCR-28-18

MOVED BY: A. Michaud

SECONDED BY: D. Semple

THAT: the Source Protection Committee receive this report and provide comments on the materials and direction for next steps.

| | Yes | No | | Yes | No | | Yes | No |
|------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|
| R. Bator | √ | | C. Bodimeade | √ | | T. Dalimonte | √ | |
| P. Grenier | √ | | A. Michaud | √ | | D. Semple | √ | |
| C. Vega | √ | | A. Willems | √ | | | | |

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

(8) OTHER BUSINESS

The chair asked if there was any other business. Mr. Grenier thanked the members for being a part of this committee. The Chair thanked everyone for their participation over the last year, and being the final meeting of 2018, wished everyone happy holidays and looking forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:00 pm.
The following resolution was presented:

SPCR-29-18

MOVED BY: P. Grenier

SECONDED BY: A. Willems

THAT: **this meeting do now adjourn.**

| | Yes | No | | Yes | No | | Yes | No |
|------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|--------------|-----|----|
| R. Bator | √ | | C. Bodimeade | √ | | T. Dalimonte | √ | |
| P. Grenier | √ | | A. Michaud | √ | | D. Semple | √ | |
| C. Vega | √ | | A. Willems | √ | | | | |

“CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY”

“D. Gullett, Recording Secretary

M. Bellantino Perco, Chair”