



Ausable Bayfield
Maitland Valley
Source Protection Region

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES
October 25, 2023
Walkerton Clean Water Centre, Walkerton ON

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Ellen Foran, Dave Frayne, Paul Heffer, Rowland Howe, Philip Keightley, Matt Pearson, Jennette Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bert Dykstra, John Graham, Doug Hocking, Alyssa Keller, Allan Rothwell, John Thompson

LIAISONS PRESENT

Huron Perth Public Health Liaisons – Lori Holmes
Jennifer McKay – Manager, Source Protection Section, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Aaron Clarke, Abigail Gutteridge

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Lauren Turner – Policy Development Intern, MECP
Riel Fournier-Altman – Program & Service Delivery Intern, MECP
Danielle Walker – Source Protection Coordinator, Wellington Region
Sandy Edelsward – Program Coordinator, Drinking Water Testing, Public Health Ontario
Patrick Landry – Huron Perth Public Health

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 10 :45 a.m. and introductions were made for the visitors in attendance.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2023-10-01

Moved by Rowland Howe
Seconded by Dave Frayne

“That the agenda for the October 25, 2023 meeting be approved.”

Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2023-10-02

**Moved by Mary Ellen Foran
Seconded by Philip Keightley**

“THAT the SPC minutes from August 30, 2023 be approved as presented.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A draft letter from Conservation Ontario to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks regarding stormwater environmental permissions and how it will affect Source Protection.

CHAIR'S UPDATE

Chair Matt Pearson thanked the staff from Walkerton Clean Water Centre for the facility tour that they provided prior to the meeting. He noted that the Amendments to the Source Protection Plans were submitted to the Province and that we will now be waiting on approval. He also mentioned the new videos that were created with Philip Keightley and Doug Hocking. Chair Pearson also thanked staff and SPC members for their work on the successful Water Wise Events in partnership with local Lions Clubs and Mid-Huron Beach Lakeshore Association.

PROGRAM UPATE

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, reported on several Water Wise events to help promote source water protection best practices in the region. Staff made

application to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for funding to support these events, and funds totaling \$12,000 were approved. These funds will allow up to ten events before March 31, 2024. A recent event was held in Dublin on October 17 in partnership with the Dublin Lions. In total, 43 water samples were returned the night of the event and delivered to Huron Public Health the next morning. Another event is planned in partnership with the Monkton Lions for October 25. Tim Cumming and Mary Lynn MacDonald were asked to present to the provincial Drinking Water Source Protection Communications group about the success of the first two events.

Tim Cumming, Communications Coordinator, has produced several videos, including one to promote participation in Water Wise events. He has also been working with Philip Keightley on a new video called "The Worth of Water," which highlights how important a clean and reliable source of water is to local businesses and the economy. A third video has been produced featuring Doug Hocking, entitled "Your Well – Your Responsibility," which will be promoted with Water Wise events.

SECTION 51 AMENDMENT TO REMOVE ZURICH WELLS AND WHPA

Donna Clarkson, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, reported on the changes to the Zurich well supply. As the Village of Zurich has switched their municipal drinking water supply to the Lake Huron Primary Water Supply pipeline, their two groundwater wells were decommissioned in October 2023 in compliance with R.R.O. 1190, Reg 903: Wells. The Municipality of Bluewater approved the decommissioning and requested that staff inform the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Water Protection Committee for any action needed. A Section 51 amendment does not require consultation or provincial approval and can be completed relatively quickly, as it is mostly an administrative change. A notice of the amendment needs to be posted online and circulated to implementing bodies as well as the MECP. Landowners with existing Risk Management Plans will be contacted and their plans rescinded. Proposed updates to the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan include the removal of technical information on the Zurich municipal well systems, and updates to maps to remove the Zurich WHPA.

MOTION #SPC: 2023-10-03

Moved by Philip Keightley

Seconded by Dave Frayne

"THAT the Source Protection Committee endorse the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority's decision to undertake an administrative amendment to

the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan and associated Assessment Report to remove references to the Zurich municipal well systems.”

Carried

CENTURY HEIGHTS WHPA UPDATE – SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN AMENDMENT

Donna Clarkson also reported concerning the updates to the Century Heights wellhead protection areas (WHPA). The Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh (ACW) drilled a new well at the Century Heights community in Saltford, and Matrix Solution Inc. provided a draft technical report to identify changes to the WHPA. A new groundwater flow model was developed for the new well, which informed the new WHPA delineation. Combining this model with existing aquifer vulnerability mapping determines the draft groundwater vulnerability scoring for each draft WHPA.

Preliminary findings note that, as land use in the WHPA-A is residential, the only anticipated significant threats are septic systems. In WHPAs B and C there are low vulnerability scores, and the only significant threat may be dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs). Considering the land use in these areas, such significant threats are not anticipated. Staff believe that no changes are needed to the Source Protection Plan policies. However, there are several proposed updates to the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report, including updated mapping and an updated risk assessment and descriptions of the Century Heights water supply system. Staff plan to complete these updates through the Section 34 process, bundled with the changes to the Lucknow system reviewed at the last meeting.

MOTION #SPC 2023-10-04

**Moved by Jennette Walker
Seconded by Rowland Howe**

“THAT the Source Protection Committee agree that proposed amendments to the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report are advisable, and direct staff to proceed with the amendment process.”

Carried.

LIAISON UPDATES

Jennifer McKay, Source Protection Section Manager MECP, provided some updates to the SPC. She noted that as there have been a number of staffing changes at the MECP,

they are not currently sending specific liaison officers to SPC meetings, but rather will send whichever staff member currently has the SPC file. The MECP also has a new IT system to help track Section 36 and 34 Amendments, which should help the process go smoothly. They currently have 16 amendments in process. She also noted that they will either be keeping two-year budget agreements, or perhaps move to a three-year agreement. Kirsten Service from the Source Protection Section continues to meet with SPC Chairs and Project Managers, and the new MECP Minister Andrea Khanjin has had a briefing on Source Protection. Finally, the MECP is busy with several regulatory changes regarding Storm Water Management Ponds on private properties, and the registry for Permits to Take Water.

Lori Holmes, Huron Perth Public Health, noted that they have been working with Source Protection staff on the Water Wise events, and trying to address barriers for water sample pick up and drop off. They have also updated their website so the public can see inspection reports.

Danielle Walker, Wellington Source Water Protection, noted that there are several developments in the Minto/Harriston/Palmerston areas, and that they are working on outreach for mandatory septic inspections. In general, they want to increase their education and outreach to the public.

VIDEO RELEASE


Staff presented an abbreviated version of the new outreach video, "The Worth of Water" featuring SPC Member Philip Keightley.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting may be on January 31, 2024, pending on several items. Location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.



Matt Pearson
Chair



Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary