

**SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 25, 2024**  
**The White Carnation, Holmesville ON**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Ellen Foran, Dave Frayne, Paul Heffer, Doug Hocking, Rowland Howe, Philip Keightley, Carol Leeming, Matt Pearson, Allan Rothwell, John Thompson, Jennette Walker

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

John Graham, Alyssa Keller

**LIAISONS PRESENT**

Lori Collins – Huron Perth Public Health Liaison  
Davin Heinbuck – Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison  
Phil Beard – Maitland Valley SPA Liaison

**DWSP STAFF PRESENT**

Elizabeth Balfour, Tim Cumming, Abigail Gutteridge, Kyle Davis – Wellington Source Water

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mary Lynn MacDonald

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He also welcomed Carol Leeming, who was the successful candidate for the Economic – Agricultural representative on the Source Protection Committee.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION #SPC: 2024-09-01**

**“That the agenda for the September 25, 2024 meeting be approved as amended.”**

**Carried by Consensus.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION #SPC: 2024-09-02**

**Moved by Rowland Howe**

**Seconded by Paul Heffer**

**“THAT the SPC minutes from March 27, 2024 be approved as presented.”**

**Carried.**

**BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES**

None

**DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. A letter from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding the approval of the Source Protection Plan (SPP) Section 34 amendment for the Lucknow and Century Heights wellhead protection areas.
2. The Source Protection Committee (SPC) received several letters of support regarding the proposed phase-out of free water testing, since April 2024. Letters were received from the Town of Goderich; Municipality of Killarney; Perth East; Lake Erie SPC; and the Saugeen, Grey Sauble and Northern Bruce Peninsula SPC.
3. A Letter from the CTC Region SPC to the MECP and Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) ministers regarding the importation of excess soil into wellhead protection areas.

**CHAIR'S UPDATE**

Chair Matt Pearson noted that the last Huron County Water Protection Steering Committee focused on Source Water Protection, including updates on the Water Wise Program, the role of Huron Perth Public Health and a tour of the Clinton wellhead. Chair Pearson also reported that there will be a SPC Chair's meeting via Zoom on October 8 with the MECP. In addition, he reported that the three-year budget and workplan were approved with some minor changes. Of note, the funding for Best Practices outreach

will no longer be available, therefore the Water Wise program will no longer be funded through the MECP. Chair Pearson also reminded the SPC that next year would mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Walkerton tragedy, and that we will be thinking of ways to note it, while still being sensitive to those who were directly affected.

### **ELECTION OF ACTING CHAIR**

Chair Pearson noted that the SPC has not had an Acting Chair for the majority of 2024, as the previous Acting Chair was Bert Dykstra, who sadly passed away earlier in the year. As it is a good practice to have some one on standby, he asked to hold an election.

Chair Pearson called for nomination for the position of Acting Chair. Doug Hocking nominated Dave Frayne for the position, which was seconded by Allan Rothwell. Dave Frayne noted that he would be willing to stand.

Chair Pearson called for further nominations, and there were none. Therefore, Dave Frayne was acclaimed as Acting Chair.

### **MOTION #SPC: 2024-09-03**

**“That Dave Frayne be appointed as Acting Chair of the Source Protection Committee.”**

**Carried by Consensus.**

### **PROGRAM UPATE**

Elizabeth Balfour, Co-Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Program Supervisor, provided a program update to SPC members. First, she noted that the three-year budget and workplan for the DWSP program were approved. There were several changes to the budget. Of note, funding for SPCs were reduced by 10 percent for all SP Regions. The funding for best practices for private water wells was also cut from the budget. However, the region did receive funding for technical work for wellhead updates.

Elizabeth also noted that the Section 34 amendment to the Maitland Valley SPP was approved. This amendment was for the Lucknow and Century Heights wellhead

protection areas. This was approved on July 24, 2024. Additionally, the Section 36 update to both the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley SPPs was approved on March 26, 2024. Affected municipalities and the public were informed of these amendments.

Elizabeth reported on the response to the SPC letter that was sent to the Province regarding the potential phase out of private water testing that was included in the 2023 Auditor General's Value-for-Money Audit of Public Health Ontario. This letter asked that the province not proceed with the recommended phase out of this service. The letter was widely circulated within Ontario and on April 16 and April 22, 2024, the Ontario Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones, said that the Province of Ontario will continue to provide well water testing for rural households. Following this, there were several media interviews held with Chair Matt Pearson, as well as several published articles.

#### **WINTER MAINTENANCE RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Kyle Davis, Risk Management Official with Wellington Source Water Protection, gave a presentation regarding their Winter Maintenance Risk Management Plans (RMPs), mostly involving the use and storage of road salt. He provided a small case study in Fergus and Elora where concentrations of chloride have been seen to be increasing, and a correlation has been noted between these concentrations and well pumping. In 2021, areas were delineated and named contributing areas for chloride in the wells.

Kyle reported that there are a number of issues associated with developing RMPs in these contributing areas, including addressing the over application of road salt, the liability associated with ice for businesses, the number of plans required, getting buy-in from the public, landowners and contractors, limited treatment options and climate change. He noted that these RMPs are legally binding documents, and include components such as training, calibration, record keeping, storage options, plans for clean up of excess, a review of application rates, and alternatives when temperature affects salt effectiveness. Overall, prevention is key to salt application, as treatment usually isn't viable.

#### **WATER WISE EVENTS UPDATE**

Tim Cumming, Communications Specialist, provided a brief update regarding the Water Wise Events that began in 2023. Mary Lynn MacDonald, former Program Supervisor, began these efforts and received approval and funding from the province to continue

this program into 2024. These events made it easier for residents to get their private well water tested and learn about source water protection. Staff worked with community groups, such as Lion's Clubs, Optimists Clubs, as well as residents' associations. There has been a positive response to these events. Huron Perth Public Health was also a partner, as they provided tracking for the samples so staff could learn of the outcome of the samples. In total, over 420 people participated in the events over the past year, and 440 samples were submitted – these account for approximately one third of bottle distributed.

As funding is no longer available through the Province, the future of the program is uncertain. The Huron Clean Water Project provided funding to allow for a recent event in Howick, but no events have been planned since. However, an excellent model now exists for this program if funding becomes available in the future.

SPC members asked Lori Collins if they could geographically track where unsafe samples originated. She noted that their statistics reveal that approximately 85% of all samples that are taken are considered safe, which is a very similar percentage to what was found through the Water Wise events. She said that to map the unsafe samples they would require property owner permission, but that a deeper dive into this program would be beneficial.

#### **PRESENTATION – ALL ABOUT YOUR NEW CO-PROGRAM SUPERVISOR**

Elizabeth Balfour provided a presentation to introduce herself to the SPC as the new Co-Program Supervisor. SPC members will have seen Elizabeth at meetings in the past as recording secretary, but with Mary Lynn MacDonald's retirement in the spring, Elizabeth was the successful candidate for that position. She told the SPC about her and the work she has done at the ABCA over the past nine years, both in GIS and the Healthy Watersheds Department. She is excited to be taking on this new role.

#### **LIAISON UPDATES**

Lori Collins provided a brief update from Huron Perth Public Health. She reported that they are beginning to onboard other public food premises for inspection. In addition, beach water quality and West Nile sampling continued again in 2024. She noted that they had two positive tests for West Nile in the Stratford/St. Marys area. She also reported that regular fall vaccination programs will be starting soon.

Phil Beard provided a brief update from Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. Of note, her reported that the Healthy Lake Huron program was being revitalized, and a new steering committee was developed with the MECP and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA).

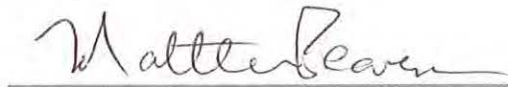
Davin Heinbuck provided a brief update from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. He noted that the Sentinel Well program is entering its 20<sup>th</sup> year, which samples six sites per year, establishing some base number and long-term trends. He also noted that conservation authorities continue to sample groundwater, as part of the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Program.

**NEXT MEETING**

As there are no SPP amendments underway for this Region, it is unlikely that an SPC meeting will be warranted in November or January. Therefore, the next meeting will most likely be March 26, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.



Matt Pearson  
Chair



Abigail Gutteridge  
Secretary