

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING SUMMARY
MAY 27, 2021 – VIRTUAL MEETING/TELECONFERENCE

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- G. Offshack requested an update on the Colborne new well mapping. Staff expressed that a Section 48 notice has been issued and they have begun the early engagement process of a Section 34 amendment. Staff noted that due to the increased vulnerability scores, an exemption on DNAPLs will not be allowed.

2. CHAIRS REPORT

- Fort Erie Resolution
 - J. Hunt suggested the Fort Erie Resolution supports the initial intent of the source protection program to provide clean drinking water to all, and that this is a human right. The argument would be a jurisdictional argument, whether this is a federal or provincial. J. Hunt suggested we should avoid a situation where this is downloaded onto the municipality, as funding isn't always there.
 - J. Hunt asked if the committee would be willing to write a letter of support of this resolution, provided the wording noted that funding should come from the province and not be downloaded onto the municipalities.
 - D. Elmslie suggested tabling this until more information is available, and if we're within jurisdiction to be commenting on this. F. Langmaid agreed with tabling this, noting the initial concern brought up should be addressed under the Aggregate Act.
 - B. Clark noted this came to their municipal council, and they tabled the issue while waiting for future guidelines. B. Clarke did express concern for the initiative to be downloaded onto municipalities.

3. SECTION 51 AMENDMENTS

- K. Taylor outlined minor amendments to be made to the Trent and Ganaraska Source Protection Plans, to correct typos, improve style (including removal of unnecessary acronyms), and to correct obvious errors. This includes the removal of the outdated Threat Circumstances from the Threat Summaries.

4. LEADS REPORTS

- Each Source Protection Authority (SPA) Lead Staff member provided a verbal report on:
 - a. Update on Municipal Working Groups;
 - b. Update on the out of compliance risk management plans progress;
 - c. Any issues or challenges;
 - d. Any positive progress news;
 - e. Status of education and outreach.

5. SECTION 36 AMENDMENTS

- **Decisions Still Pending**
- **Road Salt Policies**
 - K. Taylor further outlined the newly proposed method for calculating impervious areas in relation to road salt and how it will impact threat counts.

- K. Taylor noted Municipal Working Groups supported change of policy structure from requiring Risk Management Plans for municipal roads and properties to the municipalities developing Salt Management Plans based on best management practices.

- K. Taylor presented the overall staff recommended approach, including:
 - Education and Outreach (E&O) Policy for homeowners and small parking lots
 - K. Taylor noted E&O is more widely accepted than a regulatory approach, and is far more practical for homeowners and easier to deliver. The concern about bad actors and E&O not having the same level of enforcement was also mentioned.
 - Policy requiring municipalities to develop a Salt Management Plan which includes the location of vulnerable zones and accepted best management practices
 - Risk Management Plan policy for large parking lots (greater than 50 parking spaces or 1,500 sq.m.)
 - Additionally, staff recommended a Specified Action – Non-Binding Policy requesting that Municipalities consider water quality sampling for sodium and chloride in the peak snowmelt/runoff periods
 - Staff noted results could be used in the E&O program to show the importance of managing road salt.

- **Pathogen Policy**
 - K. Taylor noted that the Ministry informed staff that the intent of the pathogen threat circumstances tables as not to include backyard chickens. Their assessment is that backyard chickens are considered pets. Therefore, we cannot write a mandatory policy requiring that a municipality adopt a bylaw restricting backyard chickens in vulnerable areas.
 - K. Taylor noted there is already a general E&O policy in place for all threats (Policy G-5)
 - Staff proposed three options:
 - Write a separate E&O policy specific to pathogens in vulnerable areas
 - Write a Specified Action – Strategic (non-binding) policy asking municipalities to restrict backyard chickens in vulnerable areas
 - Leave our policy as is – Implementation of E&O policies by Source Protection Authorities, with the potential of ramping up pathogen specific outreach.
 - K. Taylor suggested his preference is to leave the policy as is.

- **Summary of Other Updates from the Workplan – Mandatory Updates**
- Assessing the Vulnerability of the Great Lakes – Ganaraska
 - Staff indicated an assessment was completed by Stantec – results of report indicated no updates are necessary.
- Addition of above grade fuel tanks greater than 250L as a significant threat
 - K. Taylor noted this is for commercial and residential properties
 - Phase I Director’s Technical Rules - IPZ 1 with VS = 10 (already approved)
 - Phase II Director’s Technical Rules WHPA with VS = 10 (not approved yet but imminent)
 - The Committee has already approved including these above grade tanks in the existing fuel tank policies.
 - K. Taylor noted this will require changes to the Assessment Report: Threats enumeration will need to be done by generating maps of applicable zones using land parcel information, using windshield surveys, and staff will consult with owners of tanks
- Removing references to vulnerability scores for Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas
- Hydrocarbon Pipeline Policies – already approved by the Committee
- Technical work for changing systems

- Port Perry – Section 34 amendment
- Blackstock – Section 34 amendment
- Birch Point – minor amendment
- Pleasant Point – minor amendment
- K. Taylor referred to the list of other policy challenges that have already been addressed by the Committee
- **Non-mandatory Updates:**
 - Short-name edits are changes to terminology in the Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plans
 - Reducing setbacks based on floodplains that cross into other catchments is not necessary in our region.
 - Stirling Issues Contributing Area
 - Staff isn't recommending removing the Issues Contributing Area at this time.
 - Issues resulting from Environmental Monitoring
 - Staff continues to monitor results from Water Quality Reports for exceedances of the drinking water standard
 - Local Threats
 - Microcystin – Bayside Intake – Continued to be monitored, but not currently a problem.
 - There was consideration of introducing Transportation Corridors as a local threat, however our emergency plan policies and education and outreach policies should be sufficient.
 - Updated mapping – Floodplain mapping
 - Kinmount, Fenelon Falls, Bobcaygeon, Minden
 - Update Highly Vulnerable Aquifers
 - This was included in the Workplan in case there was sufficient new borehole data to warrant an update, but there is not at this time.
 - Update Water Budget
 - Stirling should have a Tier 3 Water budget done, but there is no funding at this time from the Ministry.
 - G. Offshack requested staff submit a recommendation to the Ministry regarding this. K. Taylor noted that they have submitted this request in the past, but will re-enforce the issue.
 - Climate Change
 - Climate Change Assessment Tool is now available for municipalities to assess the risk to water quality due to climate change
 - Staff suggested consideration of updating our climate change policies to encourage municipalities to consider using the tool to see if there are any water quality concerns identified

13. OTHER ITEMS

- Round Table: D. Elmslie questioned the impact of geothermal energy systems on aquifers. J. Hunt noted we have transport pathway policies that address this, and geothermal is well regulated by the Green Energy Act.
- G. Offshack mentioned that he recently made a presentation to Hastings Planning Committee regarding the potential for source protection to be applied to other non-municipal systems in rural areas.

14. NEXT MEETING

- Staff indicated the last meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of July, 2021.

15. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 3:24 PM.