

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2, 2023 – ASPHODEL-NORWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

CHAIRS REPORT

- J. Hunt noted there hasn't been a chairs meeting since the last SPC meeting, however talked about a letter sent from Max Christie, Chair of the Quinte Source Protection Committee, to the new Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Andrea Khanjin, expressing concern for the lack of rural source water protection legislation in place.

LEADS REPORT

- Each Source Protection Authority (SPA) Lead Staff member provided a verbal report on the status of their local source protection implementation, including:
 - Update on public consultation efforts on the proposed s.36 Amendments, including targeted social media posting, newspaper ads, and mail-outs;
 - Update on municipal working groups;
 - Update on risk management plans and RMO progress, managing new threats;
 - Current issues or challenges;
 - Positive progress news, such as Otonabee Conservation updating their webpage;
 - Progress on updating municipalities on the upcoming Annual Reporting process;
 - Update on education and outreach efforts, events.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION REVIEW, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SECTION 36 AMENDMENTS

- K. Taylor provided an overview of the comments received during the pre-consultation phase of the S.36 Amendment. This phase includes comments from implementers of the Source Protection Plan, including: Transport Canada, OMAFRA, Risk Management Officials, Trans **REVIEW:**
- K. Taylor provided a Summary of the public consultation phase of the S.36 Amendment. Noting the 35-day period has completed, and that notices were placed in four newspapers, as well as social media posting, and a question and comment form setup online where the revised documents and proposed changes were viewable. Hard copies of the documents were also available at Conservation Authority offices. K. Taylor provided an overview of some of the questions and comments received over phone calls, and the questions and comments submitted through the online question form.
- **PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED:**
- K. Taylor provided an overview of the public comments received through the official submission form. This included a general comments unrelated to specific policy changes, such as expropriating green space and farmland for development, a comment regarding where to find a map showing private well locations and records, and a comment regarding the lack of hazardous waste disposal locations in some communities.
- **IMPLEMENTERS COMMENTS RECEIVED:**

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- K. Taylor noted one comment was received from Trans North Pipelines (TNPI), indicating that they had no further comment since their previous comments were dealt with by the committee. They also thanked the committee for the opportunity to review.
- P. Niblett noted his concerns regarding the lack of information provided on the best management practices from Trans Northern Pipelines, suggesting the wording is vague and insufficient. K. Taylor suggested the committee could reach out to TNPI to speak at a future meeting, as they have done in the past.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- K. Taylor addressed comments that were received from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on the Source Protection Plans and Assessment Reports, including:
 - Updating all tables to ensure references to the Table of Drinking Water Threats (i.e., 2013/2017) be updated to reference the Technical Rules (2021), and to ensure the year of the Technical Rules is referenced throughout.
 - K. Taylor noted staff did use the 2021 Technical Rules to revise the Table of Drinking Water Threats in the Assessment Report.
 - K. Taylor noted most of the technical work was done using the 2013, however some updates were done using the 2021 rules, and these will be referenced in the documents.

TRENT ASSESSMENT REPORT:

- Ensuring Sections 4.4.3, 5.4.3, and 6.3.2 in the Assessment Report list the six occurrences per Technical Rule 126 where contaminated sites may be identified as Conditions. And removing reference to a WHPA-F in the footnote of Table 8-2.
 - K. Taylor noted these minor errors were corrected.
- Recheck the enumeration of the road salt application risks for the Kinmount drinking water system, where the impervious surface areas vary between 6-8% in IPZ-1 with a vulnerability score of 10.
 - K. Taylor noted two Road Salt Application threats will be added for Kinmount because there are two County Roads that are now significant threats under the new rules and the new impervious percentage calculation.

GANARASKA ASSESSMENT REPORT:

- Removing all references to the old provincial tables of circumstances.
- Providing details supporting the proposed extension to the IPZ-2 of the Cobourg drinking water system. K. Taylor noted Ganaraska staff has provided support in completing this, including more detailed text explaining the rationale and method for expanding the IPZ-2 to be added to the document.

COMMENTS ON THE UPDATED SOURCE PROTECTION PLANS

- Revising the wording of Policy G-6(6) regarding pipeline signage for clarity, from “visibly noticeable” to “visible.”

- K. Taylor explained that the MECP would like the waste disposal prescribed drinking water threat activity to be first on the list of activities in the updated Policy G-7(2).
- K. Taylor addressed comments received from MECP regarding policy G-8(1) concerning risk management plan timelines, as a follow-up to comments received during Early Engagement. After further review it was determined to re-add the wording “within 2 years of the effective date of the plan or plan amendment” to the Policy G-8(1) text.
- K. Taylor provided an overview of minor wording corrections noted by MECP to the Trent and Ganaraska Source Protection Plans, for clarity, to be completed by Ganaraska and regional staff. These changes did not alter the intent of any policies.
- K. Taylor reviewed the comments received from Meredith Carter and Terri Cox (Otonabee Conservation), concerning removing “and future” from policy G-1(4), adding “complete” to “application” in the Policy G-1(2), and amending Policy F-1 and F-2 to only prohibit the future handling and storage in IPZ-1 and require Risk Management Plans for future fuel threats in IPZ-2. All proposed amendments were approved.

ADDITIONAL COMMENT

- K. Taylor noted he met with Jennifer McKay and Erin Harkin recently concerning the minimum requirement for prescribed instrument policies, with a concern over a lack of information provided on these in the Ministry’s annual reporting. The ministry suggested removing the minimum requirement. K. Taylor had suggested that the Prescribed Instrument must include as a minimum, what vulnerable area the managed activity is in and what emergency measures are in place related to protecting the drinking water source.
- J. McKay noted more written comments have been provided, sent out the morning of the SPC meeting to K. Taylor. The latest memo provides additional clarity regarding these prescribed instruments. M. Wooding noted existing environmental compliance approvals have all been addressed, and it is not feasible to go back and revise those. K. Taylor suggested that all future approvals meet that minimum standard, and the annual reporting describe where these are taking place specifically.
- K. Taylor recommended we leave the wording as is, with the understanding that the Ministry make efforts to improve the level of information regarding this shared during annual reporting. K. Taylor is to distribute the updated memo to the committee.

NEXT STEPS

- K. Taylor provided an overview of the next steps involved in the S.36 Amendment, including final submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SECTION 36 AMENDMENTS

- K. Taylor provided a summary of the possible tasks for the staff and committee members following the completion of the S.36 amendment. This includes: expanding education and outreach efforts and including committee members in this; working with municipalities on adapting to the new policy and technical rules updates; improving the annual reporting process; and improving internal documents on the processes for transport pathways and RMO protocols and methods.

- K. Taylor also recommended inviting guests to SPC meetings, such as indigenous representatives, pipeline companies, agricultural experts, emergency responders, road salt experts, fuel experts, water treatment experts, septic inspectors.
- Other activities included field trips to municipal drinking water systems, water treatment plants etc.
- K. Taylor noted the need for further turnover and succession planning for both staff and committee members, noting a recruitment and orientation process is in place but could be improved.

BEST PRACTICES FOR OTHER SYSTEMS

- T. Bos provided a report on the Best Practices Program to the committee, including a summary of the webinar series to date, and future plans.

ROUNDTABLE

- P. Niblett provided an overview of the Baxter Creek Watershed Alliance meeting he attended. He noted a primary concern was on non-municipal drinking water sources. Adding that the Chief of Alderville First Nation spoke, as well as students from local colleges and universities on water studies being completed.
- T. Rees spoke to the beginnings of discussions with MECP and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association regarding a rural source protection plan. T. Rees also provided a summary of a Road salt Seminar he attended, including contractors, researchers, consultants, and conservation authority and municipal staff. Discussions involved lake studies, and issues regarding liability, certification and training.

NEXT MEETING

- K. Taylor noted there is no set date as of now.