

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING SUMMARY MARCH 26, 2024– VIRTUAL MEETING

CHAIRS REPORT

- J. Hunt noted there was an initiative of concern from the provincial government that would reduce the public health's access to free water sampling and the closure of testing laboratories. J. Hunt referenced his comments in the Annual Progress Report and expressed that this is a backward step for the program. J. Hunt noted the Ausable-Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee (SPC) sent a letter to the province speaking against this and encouraged K. Taylor to draft a similar letter on behalf of the Trent Conservation Coalition SPC.
 - B. Lake commented that the recommendation to reduce the number of testing laboratories and scale back free water testing is from an Auditor's General report and is not a government policy and that the government is not seriously considering the recommendation from this Auditor's General report.
 - J. Hunt still recommended sending a letter to confirm this.
 - B. Clark noted a letter with full council support has been sent from the County of Peterborough, and the province has ensured them they are not going through with this.
 - P. Niblett suggested making specific reference to the Auditor General's report in the letter and that we are aware of their comments.

ANNUAL REPORT

- **TRENT SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN**
- K. Taylor provided an overview of the Trent Source Protection Plan Annual Progress Report.
- For Policy Implementation, the recommended scoring was "Progressing Well / On Target".
- For Municipal Progress, regarding Official Plan and Zoning By-Law conformity, and Emergency Management Policies Implemented, the recommended scoring was: "Progressing Well / On Target"
- For Septic Inspections, the process is well in progress and K. Taylor noted all inspections were completed in the previous 5-year cycle, and there are standard operating procedures in all SPAs. The recommended scoring was "Progressing Well / On Target".
- For Risk Management Plans, K. Taylor reviewed with number of Risk Management Plans established and the number of threats remaining. K. Taylor noted Minden Hills is out of compliance with several Plans overdue but they have recently hired and trained new Risk Management Officials, and the Kawartha-Haliburton Source Protection Authority is working with them to remedy this. As a whole, the Source Protection Region is recommending a score of "Progressing Well / On Target."
- For Provincial Ministry Policy reporting, K. Taylor noted the Ministries have implemented 93% of the TCC policies, and the recommended scoring is "Progressing Well / On Target."

- For Provincial Progress on the ground, regarding Prescribed Instruments, the recommended scoring is “Progressing Well / On Target.”
- For Education and Outreach efforts, all SPAs have programs in place and the recommended scoring is “Progressing Well / On Target.”
- Overall for the Annual Progress Report, the recommended scoring is “Progressing Well / On Target.”
- **GANARASKA SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN**
- J. Mueller provided an overview of the Ganaraska Annual Progress Report.
- For Policy Implementation, the recommended scoring was “Progressing Well / On Target”.
- For Municipal Progress, regarding Official Plan and Zoning By-Law conformity, and Emergency Management Policies Implemented, the recommended scoring was: “Progressing Well / On Target”
- For Risk Management Plans, J. Mueller reviewed the plans that have been established and the number of threats remaining, noting there is one plan outstanding in the Township of Hamilton, but the business is not currently in operation. The recommended scoring was: “Progressing Well / On Target.”
- For Septic Inspections, the process is well in progress and J. Mueller noted all inspections were completed in the previous 5-year cycle, and there are standard operating procedures in all SPAs. The recommended scoring was “Progressing Well / On Target”.
- Overall for the Annual Progress Report, the recommended scoring is “Progressing Well / On Target.”

LEADS REPORT

- Each Source Protection Authority (SPA) Lead Staff member provided a verbal report on the status of their local source protection implementation, including:
 - a. Update on municipal working groups;
 - b. Potential updates or amendments to drinking water systems;
 - c. Update on risk management plans and RMO progress, managing new threats;
 - d. Current issues or challenges;
 - e. Progress on updating new municipal staff on the Source Protection Program;
 - f. Update on education and outreach efforts, events.
- Anne Anderson (Lower Trent Conservation) confirmed that Matthew Richmond is in the process of being approved as the new municipal representative for the Lower Trent Source Protection Area on the Source Protection Committee.

PROGRAM UPDATE

- K. Taylor provided a program update, reviewing some of the comments from Michael Halder regarding the Section 36 Amendment Submission, noting the Source Protection Branch is

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reviewing the submission for ministerial approval, and they are continuing to engage the MECP program partners to understand their needs to implement the proposed Prescribed Instrument minimum requirements.

- K. Taylor provided an overview of the process of the 2024-2027 budget request.
- K. Taylor noted Michael Halder has replaced Mary Wooding as the SPC liaison, and the title is now “program analyst” and that he’ll be attending SPC meetings when possible.
- K. Taylor noted further effort will be put into Education and Outreach this year to develop specific needs such as road salt application, snow storage, pesticides and DNAPLs.
- Assessment Report Updates – K. Taylor reviewed specific sections of the Assessment Reports that need reviewing, either for a future S.36 amendment or S.34 amendment.

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, future plans, and reiterating the importance of access to free well water testing.

ROUNDTABLE

- B. Lake commented on his support and encouragement of regional water/wastewater authorities and facilities for collaborations of municipalities for better economies of scale and shared staffing. B. Clark spoke to a successful example of this in Frontenac.
- K. Taylor gave a presentation about his recent trip to Egypt.

NEXT MEETING

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