

MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION REGION

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APPROVED MINUTES

Mississippi-Rideau

Source Protection Committee

April 7, 2021

#2/21

VIA ZOOM

Voting Members: Scott Bryce
Ken Graham
Drew Lampman
Claude Lloyd
Bev Millar
Diane Smithson
Carol Dillon
Michel Kearney
Patricia Larkin
Randy Malcolm
Eleanor Renaud
Wilf Stefan

Tessa Di Iorio (City of Ottawa)

Mary Wooding (Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Liaison)

Staff: Laura Cummings (RVCA)
Marika Livingston (RVCA)
Michelle Paton (RVCA)
Brian Stratton (RVCA)

Regrets: Peter McLaren

Kathryn Downey (Medical Officer of Health Liaison)
John Hall (Mississippi Valley Source Protection Authority Liaison)
Pieter Leenhouts (Rideau Valley Source Protection Authority Liaison)

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Ken Graham welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

a) **Agenda Review**

Chair Graham reviewed the agenda.

b) **Notice of Proxies** None

c) **Adoption of the Agenda**

Chair Graham asked that the Agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion 1-2/21

Moved by:

Eleanor Renaud

Seconded by:

Diane Smithson

That the Agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

d) Declarations of Interest None

e) Approval of Minutes

Marika Livingston spoke to a proposed amendment to Item 4.0 (page 5) of the draft minutes of February 11, 2021.

Existing paragraph ;

“ ... hydrocarbons are fossil fuels in a liquid form. Mr. Lloyd noted that, in the event of a spill, spread across the ground is possible as is ground permeation. Mr. Lloyd added that spills are common and data on spills should be available. Spills Action Centre responds quickly to spills with appropriate remediation efforts. “

The above paragraph be replaced with the following paragraph that summarizes the key points expressed;

Hydrocarbons are fossil fuels and can be in the form of a liquid. In the event of a spill, the liquid can spread across the ground surface as well as permeate the ground. Unfortunately, pipeline spills are common. The data on these spills should be available and potentially prove valuable in assessing the associated risks of a pipeline spill and to ensure proper remediation.

Motion 2-2/21

Moved by:

Patricia Larkin

Seconded by:

Carol Dillon

That the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of February 11, 2021 be approved as amended.

Carried

f) Correspondence None

2.0 Source Protection Program Update

Marika Livingston provided an update on the Source Protection Program (Attachment #1).

Workshops

Staff hosted workshops to help municipal and conservation authority staff screen for Source Water protection policies related to new development.

2021-2022 Transfer Payment Agreement

Marika Livingston noted that a draft Transfer Payment Agreement has been received from the Province for funding for the next fiscal year. Ms. Livingston added that she and Brian Stratton appreciate all the efforts the Ministry is making to streamline the application process and move things forward in an efficient manner.

Risk Management Training

Two RVCA staff will be completing the RMO/RMI training offered online through the Ministry next week. They will be able to support existing Risk Management staff and take on some of the workload.

Communications Tools

Marika Livingston advised that staff are developing communication materials to promote the 'Trust the Tap' campaign.

RVCA Communications and Source Protection staff are working on converting the existing Source Protection Plan document into a more user friendly/update friendly format.

Lemieux Island Intake Improvement Project

Tessa Di Iorio (City of Ottawa) provided background and an update on the Lemieux Island Intake Improvement Project.

Ms. Di Iorio confirmed that, while the original intake will remain as a back-up system, the new intake will be much deeper and will be located entirely on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River.

When the Report was presented to the City's Environment Committee for review, the Committee did express concerns and questioned how source protection would be protected on the Quebec side.

Ms. Di Iorio noted that the public consultation process has been paused pending coordination efforts between the City of Ottawa and their Province of Quebec counterparts. The City of Ottawa has to decide what level of protection it would require for the new Intake. Before sending a formal request to the Province of Quebec. The Province of Quebec has indicated that it is unlikely that they would follow Ontario's source protection regulations and suggested that It would be easier to apply Quebec source protection regulations. Ms. Di Iorio confirmed that staff will compare Quebec source protection regulations with those of Ontario.

Ms. Di Iorio noted that the delineation of the intake zone has been completed. As part of the threats risk assessment, J.F. Sabourin & Associates has been hired to complete a threats assessment. The risk assessment should be completed by the end of summer 2021.

In response to a concern voiced by a member, Ms. Di Iorio explained that all monitoring and compliance activities will be completed by the Quebec Ministry of the Environment.

In response to a question from a member, Ms. Di Iorio confirmed that the City of Gatineau draws its drinking water two kilometres upstream from the Ottawa Intake.

Mary Wooding (MECP) and Tessa Di Iorio reiterated that the new Intake will be much deeper (20 metres) than the original Intake (2.5 metres) and will be intrinsically better protected.

Brian Stratton advised that there are no source protection policies currently being implemented by the Province of Quebec with respect to the Lemieux Island Intake and the Britannia Intake. The Lemieux Island Intake would result in new Intake protection on the Quebec side through Quebec regulations. Tessa Di Iorio added that a successful project might also lead to future protection for the Britannia Intake.

Chalk River

Tessa Di Iorio provided background information and an update on the Chalk River Laboratories Near Surface Disposal Facility Proposal. The Chalk River facility is located 200 kilometres upstream of the City of Ottawa's intake at Britannia and is completely outside of the Intake Protection Zone. Ms Di Iorio added that the Mississippi Rideau Source Protection Plan did reference the Chalk River Facility and the potential for tritium to enter the water. Over the years, the levels of tritium have been monitored and they fall well below recommended limits.

This proposal was originally posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) in 2017. The proposal calls for the refurbishment of old buildings and the relocation of a low-level solid waste disposal site one kilometre away from the river.

The proposal had been brought to the City of Ottawa's Environment Committee in March 2021.

In response to a question from a member, Tessa Di Iorio confirmed that Chalk River Laboratories had considered alternate locations for the disposal facility.

Climate Change Item

Marika Livingston provided a Workplan update on the climate change item.

Risk Management Plans and Section 36 Workplan Extensions

Marika Livingston advised that staff will be applying for extensions for overdue Risk Management Plans and for the 2023 Workplan. Ms. Livingston confirmed that the Ministry has been supportive during initial discussions. Brian Stratton confirmed that the majority of source protection regions have not completed their

Section 36 Workplan updates. Mr. Stratton clarified that it would be better to wait for changes to the technical rules before completing the updates rather than making multiple updates.

3.0 2020 Annual Progress Report to MECP

Marika Livingston presented the 2020 Annual Progress Report prepared for the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. Ms. Livingston noted that the following annual reports are required:

Monitoring Policies

Annual reporting on monitoring policies is due February 1. In late December, staff circulate a reporting template for legally binding and non-legally binding policies to member municipalities. Ms. Livingston confirmed that the submission rate for non-legally binding policies is lower than that of legally binding policies.

Risk Management Official Annual Report

Marika Livingston confirmed that staff had presented this report at the February 11, 2021 meeting. The report covers work completed in the previous calendar year.

Annual Progress Report

This report is due to the province on May 1 and requires Source Protection Committee input. The report includes a public-facing document and a supplemental form which is intended for the Ministry only. The template was developed by the Ministry. Committee members were provided with copies of both documents prior to this meeting and were asked to submit any written comments to staff prior to April 7, 2021.

The policies in the Source Protection Plan are implemented by implementing bodies who report to the Source Protection Authority by February 1. These implementing bodies include municipalities (15 with legally binding responsibilities and 16 with non-legally binding responsibilities), risk management staff, the Principal Authority – approval agency for septic systems, Ontario Ministries (OMAFRA, MECP, MNRF, MTO, MGCS/TSSA and MMAH) and the Source Protection Authority.

The public and supplemental reporting forms are grouped into themes, corresponding to the reporting provided by implementing bodies.

The public portion of the Annual Progress Report includes an introductory section which includes Source Protection Committee comments, information about the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region, and an overall 'grade' for the region in achieving source protection plan objectives. Where the form asks for grading, there are three options for the SPC:

- P: Progressing Well/On Target, meaning that the majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing

- S: Satisfactory, meaning that some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing
- L: Limited progress, meaning that a few of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing

There are nine general sections in the public facing annual report that pull information from the supplemental reporting form.

1. **Source Protection Plan Policies:** this section reports a percentage of the policies that are considered to be 'implemented' and 'in progress' in the region. It requires the SPC to grade the overall plan implementation progress, based on information gathered from the implementing bodies. Progress has been made in implementing many policies in the Source Protection Plan according to the timelines set out in the plan. There are 56 policies addressing drinking water threat activities, 50 of which address significant drinking water threat activities, and 6 that address moderate-low drinking water threat activities. There are 16 policies that are not directly associated with addressing specific drinking water threat activities, such as administrative policies, education-outreach, transportation corridors and transport pathways and 15 monitoring policies. Most of the policies are either in progress or are considered implemented. **Grade assigned: P**
2. **Municipal Progress:** this section summarizes information on municipal implementation progress for land-use planning and asks the committee to grade the overall progress towards implementing these policies. It also includes information on day to day planning decisions from the municipal progress reports. **Grade assigned: P**
3. **Septic Inspections:** there are two on-site sewage systems that require inspection every five years, according to the Building Code. These two systems were inspected by the Principal Authority. The committee is asked to grade the overall progress towards implementing these policies. **Grade assigned: P**
4. **Risk Management Plans:** there are several plans required at sites throughout the Mississippi-Rideau Region. Several plans have been negotiated and agreed to, and several are under negotiation currently or have had a site visit by a Risk Management Official or Inspector. In 2020, additional drinking water threats were added due to the new municipal well in North Grenville. Some drinking water threats were removed in other areas of the Region due to threats verification. More detailed information is provided in the supplemental form outlining the number of inspections, and information is available outlining delays in implementing risk management policies. The committee is asked to grade the overall progress towards implementing these policies. Following discussion, the original staff-proposed grade of Satisfactory was downgraded to Limited Progress. The lack of progress was attributed to limited risk management personnel, and the effects of Covid-19 on capacity and on individuals affected by the plans, such as those experiencing financial hardships or having immunocompromised health. **Grade assigned: L**
5. **Provincial Progress:** this section gives a general summary of information on the reviews by provincial implementing bodies and reports on the progress

reviewing previously provincial approvals and asks the committee to grade the overall progress. **Grade assigned: P**

6. **Awareness and Change in Behaviour:** this report section provides information on road signs in the region and on education and outreach programs and tools in use. **No grading is required.**
7. **Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays:** this section discusses policy tools where there are delays in implementation, causing the policy to not meet the dates specified in the source protection plan. In the Mississippi-Rideau Region, this section focuses on discussing a few risk management policies for existing activities, some non-legally binding policies, and a few others. **No grading is required.**
8. **Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions:** no issues have been identified in our assessment reports regarding the quality of municipal drinking water sources, so this section has not been completed. **Not Applicable.**
9. **More from the Watershed:** this section highlights some of the feedback received during the annual reporting process from municipalities with legally binding policy responsibilities.

Overall, the Source Protection Committee feels that implementation of Source Protection Plan policies is **progressing well** in the Mississippi-Rideau Region.

Motion 3-2/21

Moved by:

Diane Smithson

Seconded by:

Wilf Stefan

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive for review the draft Annual Progress Report for 2020;

And further, that the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee assess and grade the progress achieved so far, providing a grade achieved through discussion at the meeting of April 7, 2021 to be recorded in the meeting minutes;

And further that the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee direct staff to summarize the comments, notes, grading and discussion and provide the Annual Progress Report to the Source Protection Authority for their approval.

Carried

4.0 Liquid Hydrocarbon Pipeline Threat Policy

Marika Livingston presented a revised Liquid Hydrocarbon Pipeline Threat Policy. A draft policy had been brought to the Committee on February 11, 2021. Ms Livingston confirmed that this revised policy was very similar to policies drafted by other source protection committees and was identical to others approved across the Province.

In response to a suggestion from a member regarding the potential changes in use for existing pipelines (from natural gas to liquid hydrocarbon), Mary Wooding (MECP) confirmed that any proposed pipeline conversion would be a future liquid

hydrocarbon pipeline and would fall under the liquid hydrocarbon pipeline policy as proposed.

Motion 4-2/21

Moved by: Randy Malcolm
Seconded by: Scott Bryce

That the Source Protection Committee receive this report for information;

Further that the Source Protection Committee support the proposed liquid hydrocarbon pipeline policy;

Further that staff be directed to pre-consult on the proposed draft policy with implementing bodies and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks; and,

Further that staff be directed to incorporate the proposed policy as part of the forthcoming amendment to the Source Protection Plan, under Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act*.

Carried

5.0 Climate Change Tool

Marika Livingston noted that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) had made the consideration of climate change a priority. In response, a climate change tool was developed by the Ministry, Conservation Ontario, conservation authorities, and the Ontario Climate Change Consortium.

Marika Livingston advised that staff had worked with the Town of Carleton Place to test the climate change tool and a demonstration using actual test results will be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

6.0 Oher Business

Ken Graham informed the Committee that Marika Livingston will be commencing maternity leave in July 2021 but will return to her role as Project Manager in July 2022. A recruitment process is currently underway.

7.0 Member Inquiries

There were no member inquiries.

8.0 Next Meeting

To be determined.

9.0 Adjournment

Motion 6-2/21

Moved by: Carol Dillon

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

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Ken Graham
Chair

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Michelle Paton
Recording Secretary