

MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION REGION

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APPROVED MINUTES

Mississippi-Rideau

Source Protection Committee

November 2, 2017

#2/17

Location: Rideau Valley Conservation Centre
3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick

Present: Ken Graham Carol Dillon
Scott Bryce Michel Kearney
Paul Knowles Randy Malcolm
Peter McLaren Bev Millar
Eleanor Renaud Patricia Larkin

Mary Wooding (Ministry of the Environment Liaison)

John Karau (Source Protection Authority Liaison)
Lyle Pederson (Source Protection Authority Liaison)

Guests: Terry Davidson, RVCA Tessa Di Iorio, City of Ottawa
Max Christie, Quinte SPC Abby Armstrong, Mississippi Mills
John Garrah, RVCA Adam Dillon, RVCA
Ferdous Ahmed, RVCA Amanda Lange, RVCA

Staff: Brian Stratton Laurie Dool
Bonnie Boyd

Regrets: Scott Berquist George Braithwaite
Drew Lampman

Kathryn Downey (Medical Officer of Health Liaison)

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

a) **Agenda Review**

Ken Graham called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Graham introduced himself and welcomed everyone. He recognized past Chair Janet Stavinga for her contributions to the SPC, as well as thanking Carol Dillon and Scott Bryce for chairing SPC meetings.

Mr. Graham informed the SPC of Richard Fraser's passing and asked all to stand in a moment of silence for Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Graham advised the group that George Braithwaite would be stepping down from the committee due to family reasons. Mr. Graham recognized Mr. Braithwaite's contributions to the SPC and the community in general.

Mr. Graham introduced Max Christie from Quinte West SPR, who is partnered

with Mr. Graham as his new chair mentor.

Mr. Graham also introduced Bonnie Boyd, Mississippi-Rideau SPR's new Project Co-Manager. Ms. Boyd addressed the group with background information on herself. Mr. Graham asked staff and guests to introduce themselves.

- b) **Notice of Proxies** **None**
- c) **Adoption of the Agenda**
Motion 1-2/17 **Moved by:** Peter McLaren
Seconded by: Carol Dillon

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

- d) **Declarations of Interest** **None**
- e) **Approval of Minutes**

A correction was requested by Mary Wooding on page 5 of the minutes, where Section 36 of the Clean Water Act should be referenced rather than Section 34 in relation to the November 2018 Workplans. Ms. Wooding also requested that the same statement be clarified to indicate that the timeline specified is applicable to the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region.

- Motion 2-2/17** **Moved by:** Paul Knowles
Seconded by: Eleanor Renaud

That the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of February 2, 2017 be approved as amended.

Carried

- f) **Correspondence** **None**

2.0 **Source Protection Plan Implementation Progress Report**

Bonnie Boyd gave an update on Source Protection Plan implementation progress to-date. The status of legally binding and non-legally binding policies and their compliance dates or target completion dates were reviewed.

It was noted that Source Protection staff should keep in touch with municipal staff dealing with policy issues ensuring that that SWP is kept at the forefront, and that municipalities have made progress implementing policies. Ms. Boyd noted that for educational programs, staff are always looking for ideas and ways to improve. Ms. Boyd highlighted that small municipalities (except for City of Ottawa) qualify for SPMIF, which is available to early December 2017. Staff will make an effort to reach out to municipalities to assist with implementation of policies before funding date is met.

3.0 Presentations from Implementing Bodies

Presentations were received from representatives of three implementing bodies.

Risk Management Officials

Brian Stratton, Risk Management Official (RMO), presented an overview of Risk Management tools under Part IV of the *Clean Water Act*, and highlighted Risk Management Plans for fuel storage and handling. Mr. Stratton, provided information on chemical and fuel policy work, which highlighted where Risk Management policies apply outside of the City of Ottawa. Mr. Stratton reported on progress and results relating to these tasks.

Mr. Stratton outlined requirements for the risk management plans and emphasized annual inspections of oil tanks. He also discussed some challenges that have been faced and gave an example of a Risk Management Plan. Mr. Stratton anticipates that it may be difficult to get residents to provide proof of annual inspection.

Members discussed how insurance companies do not insure residents without fuel tanks being inspected and noted there are costs for these inspections and stringent insurance requirements. As well, a member noted that perhaps fuel companies could inform residents if they need a new tank.

Terry Davidson, Risk Management Official (RMO), reported on progress implementing policies related to agricultural threats, including the application and manure, manure storage, livestock confinement, grazing, pasturing and the handling and storage of pesticides. Mr. Davidson noted that there are primarily small farming operations in the vulnerable areas, including beef and horse with solid manure, which in general, has less runoff. Mr. Davidson indicated that Rideau Valley Rural Clean Water Program funding opportunities have helped with uptake on fencing livestock pastures. Mr. Davidson noted that Risk Management Plans focus on moving activities out of the vulnerable areas, clean water diversion, and exclusion of livestock from watercourses.

In response to a question from a member about runoff from manure being applied to hayfields, Mr. Davidson noted that it is important for solid manure to be broken up, applied evenly and at the correct rate, to help manage runoff.

In response to a question from a member about monitoring regional pastures because of the flooding in 2017, Mr. Davidson indicated that livestock is not generally pastured at the time of the spring freshet. Mr. Davidson noted that pastures were not checked with this summer and fall flooding, and that with no flood plain mapping for agricultural drains there is no easy way to know which fields will flood and potentially cause runoff issues.

In response to a question from a member regarding fuel storage at farms, Mr. Davidson noted that policies depend on the volume of fuel and the vulnerability scoring, and that for lower scored areas many of the fuel storage volumes do not meet the requirements at this time.

A member noted that in vulnerable areas, there are some funding opportunities available through the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association.

In response to a question from a member asking about agriculture to commercial land severances Ms. Boyd noted that these should be screened by the municipality using the checklist provided to them and referred to the Risk Management Office for further screening or a site visit if needed.

City of Ottawa

Tessa Di Iorio, Risk Management Official for the City of Ottawa, provided an update on activities noting:

1. City has two Source Protection Regions, five WHPAs and two IPZs
2. There are approximately 100 home heating threats, nine agricultural threats in the City of Ottawa within the Mississippi-Rideau SPR
3. Assistance from the Conservation Authorities has been retained to for threat verification and to negotiate RMPs where needed
4. The City has created a Risk Management Package that they distribute that includes fact sheets and information given to residents with threats identified on their property
5. For screening planning and building applications under Section 59 of the *Clean Water Act* there is an interim screening procedure in place for new threats, and they are hoping to implement final screening procedures in 2018
6. An education and outreach campaign started in March 2017. It includes a website with interactive mapping as well as letters and packages distributed to properties in the wellhead protection areas, and a public service announcement issued to target the intake protection zones

Provincial Ministries

Mary Wooding, MOECC, provided a verbal update on the following:

1. Milestones are being met with the source protection plans in the province, and they are ever evolving in response to challenges
2. The program was recognized in the Auditor General's report

Program Design and Review

3. In March 2018 the MOECC will be releasing a discussion paper on the future of the program design, which will be posted on the EBR for comment

Source Protection Plans – Review and Reporting

4. In the province three SPP are being updated this year, with workplans for their update due in November.
5. Annual reporting will be done electronically this year and should make the process easier. This is in response to feedback from the 3 regions that reported last year.

Other Ministerial Work

6. Risk Management Official and Inspector training will be held in January 2018 in Toronto
7. MOECC has new Minister as of July 2017, Chris Ballard
8. In October, a new structure was announced for MOECC, including a shift of Source Protection Branch out of the Drinking Water Branch into the Policy Branch
9. Continuing to work with First Nations for a source protection planning model specifically for First Nations in partnership with Trent University. They hope to be able to roll it out in December 2017.
10. There is a new methodology being developed by technical staff to change how road salt threats are identified. Once it is complete and approved, regions can assess if it is appropriate for their regions.

In response to a question from a member regarding if the proposed road salt methodology could be used for wells along roads being affected by road salt, Ms. Wooding clarified that the methodology is only for application within the designated vulnerable areas, and that the focus of Source Protection remains Municipal drinking water systems. Ms. Wooding also clarified that on Provincial roads, road salt application is overseen Provincially. However, it is possible that the new methodology could increase the number of possible threats for a system, based on local data. Most municipalities should have Road Salt Management Plans.

Section 60 Risk Assessments

11. The Ministry is currently writing rules to assist in the application of Section 60 of the *Clean Water Act*, which governs Risk Assessments. This is an avenue for landowners to provide evidence that an activity governed under Sections 56, 57 or 58 is not a significant drinking water threat at that location. The rules will provide guidance to Risk Management Officials on the acceptance and review of Risk Assessments.

4.0 Source Protection Program Update

Bonnie Boyd gave a Source Protection Program update.

Upcoming project milestones

1. Implementing bodies report to the SPAs by February 1 (annually).

2. SPAs produce Annual Progress Report and complete Supplemental Form to submit to MOECC (due May 1, 2018). The Annual Report has a public facing component that will be posted on the website.
3. SPAs consult with stakeholders to assess which parts of the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan require updates between May 2018 and November 2018.
4. SPAs prepare and submit a workplan for review under Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act* to the MOECC by November 30, 2018.

Program Vision and Regulatory Changes

5. There are several regulatory changes under consideration, including technical changes. Changes are meant to ensure that the Source Protection framework remains consistent and relevant.

Technical Changes

6. There is an ongoing review of the technical framework which guided the Assessment Report work.
7. The Phase 1 review is complete and resulted in several changes to the Tables of Drinking Water Threats and the Technical Rules.
8. The more detailed, Phase 2 review is ongoing, and several working groups are discussing potential changes. This phase includes changes to allow alternative approaches in the technical rules and to examine potential changes to several threats under the Tables of Drinking Water Threats. Threats under review include pesticides, dense non-aqueous phase liquids and organic solvents, sewage works, stormwater management facilities, waste disposal sites, biosolids, hauled sewage and non-agricultural source material.

Source Protection Committee

9. As of February 2017, Ken Graham was announced as the chair of the Source Protection Committee.
10. In May 2017, the Source Protection Authorities approved the membership plan for the Source Protection Committee. The plan specifies that the committee size be reduced from 15 members to 12 members, and that term expiries be completed in two phases, once in 2018 and once in 2019. The plan was presented by Allison and endorsed by the Committee in February 2017. Following the expiries, another resolution will be needed if the desire is to reduce the committee size further.

In response to a question from a member on how to become a member of various working groups, Ms. Boyd indicated that staff could provide information, and that opportunities were circulated to municipal working group members in the spring.

In response to a member question asking if wildlife (i.e., Canada Geese) was going to be included as a threat, Ms. Boyd answered there were no plans to do

this to her knowledge.

Consensus to receive this report was met

5.0 Presentation – upcoming Annual Reporting and Workplan

Bonnie Boyd gave a presentation on the annual reporting process coming up in early 2018 and on the workplan for changes to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan that is required in November 2018.

In response to a member question regarding qualitative information for the public facing annual progress report, Ms. Boyd indicated that the template area for comments would be more free form, giving the committee an opportunity to describe progress and challenges.

In response to a member question on policy effectiveness Ms. Boyd indicated that this would need to be investigated further over the coming months as reports are received.

Members discussed plans to have two meetings, one for reviewing the annual report and providing input on it, and one for the Section 36 review workplan.

In response to a member wondering how climate change would factor into the workplan, including new approaches for drought and flooding, Ms. Boyd indicated that if this were of interest it could be investigated further during the development of the workplan.

Consensus to receive this report was met

6.0 Risk Management Update – Chemical (DNAPL) Threats Assessment Project Report

Brian Stratton gave an update on the Chemical Threats Assessment project. He provided background information and outlined the project and some of the guidance received from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change related to chemical threats.

Mr. Stratton discussed the next steps with the Committee, including delivering further education and outreach materials to identified businesses in participating municipalities. Mr. Stratton indicated that based on annual reporting information, it may be necessary to discuss reviewing these policies in the Source Protection Plan to assess their effectiveness. Information gathered will be shared with the City of Ottawa when available.

Members discussed DNAPLs being found in small auto shops (in aerosol sprays) and felt that more education is needed so alternative products not containing DNAPLs could be chosen instead. Mr. Stratton indicated that the province is reviewing DNAPLs and there will likely be changes to the tables of drinking water threats.

In response to a question from the Chair asking if there are any DNAPL issues in our region, Mr. Stratton indicated that there are two he is aware of, one in Manotick and one in Beckwith, but that these were not part of Intake Protection Zones or Wellhead Protection Areas.

In response to question from a member if Fire Departments use DNAPLs (in relation to a fire in Drummond-North Elmsley where there was contamination), Mr. Stratton indicated that he does not believe so. The member also asked how one knows if one has DNAPLs, where Mr. Stratton outlined that all chemicals have a *Material Safety Data Sheet* (MSDS) with density and solubility information, and these sheets can be downloaded from the web. He explained that staff went door-to-door to discuss DNAPLs with those identified, which was difficult but effective. He elaborated that education on DNAPLs needs to be brought to a new level.

Consensus to receive this report was met

7.0 Risk Management Agreements

Bonnie Boyd provided some information to the Committee concerning the status of agreements with municipalities for Part IV enforcement in several municipalities in the Region. Ms. Boyd highlighted that the agreements are being reviewed and renewed with municipalities at their convenience, and that this work is completed in two cases and in the process with other municipalities. The municipalities can either renew the agreement or seek other options such as appointing their own Risk Management Official.

Additionally, Ms. Boyd informed the Committee that the Risk Management Inspectors are assisting the City of Ottawa with their implementation efforts for fuel and agricultural threats within Ottawa.

Consensus to receive this report was met

8.0 Proposed near surface nuclear waste disposal at Chalk River

Bonnie Boyd provided some information to the Committee on an ongoing Environmental Assessment by the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories at the Chalk River Laboratories site.

Ms. Boyd highlighted that this summer there was public consultation, and that the City of Ottawa and Ottawa Public Health submitted comments, which are in the public record.

In response to a member's question if the City of Ottawa's concerns were addressed, Ms. Boyd indicated she was unaware of any response to date.

Members discussed the scope of the project, including an existing impact south of the Chalk River site where heavy water has been detected. Members discussed potential impacts the City of Ottawa because it draws drinking water

from the Ottawa River. It was noted that the project is still in the consultation phase and there is still time to comment. A member indicated that contaminated buildings and materials are already, and that the intent of the project in part is to house these materials in the facility.

Consensus to receive this report was met

9.0 Other Business

Ken Graham provided an update on the Chairs meeting he attended in March organized by the MOECC. Mr. Graham indicated that the former minister, Glen Murray, addressed the group and discussed issues including climate change. The impression is that MOEC wants committees to do more outreach and Mr. Graham invited all to provide their ideas to him and Mary Wooding.

Mr. Graham recognized that this is the tenth year for the *Clean Water Act* and there was a celebration at the most recent Chairs meeting in October in Toronto, including a presentation on Walkerton by a community member involved with the Walkerton Clean Water Centre.

Mr. Graham introduced Max Christie, Chair of Quinte West Source Protection Committee, who was invited to speak to the committee. Mr. Christie outlined wishes to include vulnerable populations (seniors in senior homes, school children) in the source water protection framework; however, there is no funding to do this. He would like to put forward a letter to the MOECC to include these vulnerable populations and invited the committee to join him, and to ask Mr. Graham to bring the issue forward to the Source Protection Authority.

Members discussed Mr. Christie’s idea and several concerns were raised, as well some members voiced support for Mr. Christie’s perspective. Mr. Graham indicated that it was an important issue with many local dynamics at play.

10.0 Member Inquiries None

11.0 Next Meeting

Future meeting dates will be determined as needed. One meeting may be required before May 2018.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

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Ken Graham
Chair

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Laurie Dool
Recording Secretary