



**Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday March 14, 2018 1:00 pm
Civic Centre – Plummer Room**

Attendance

Mark Howson – Chair

Ralph Yanni – Sault North Resident Member

Hal McGonigal – Municipal Member, Prince Township

Larry Woolley – Resident Member

Roy Bertolo, Aggregate Industry Representative

Catherine Taddo, Municipal Member, City of SSM

Rhonda Bateman – DWSP Project Lead and SPA Liaison

Marlene McKinnon – DWSP GIS Specialist and RMI

Christine Ropeter – DWSP Communications

Brian Wright, Source Protection Liaison, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) via teleconference

Regrets: Andrew Hallett, PUC member

Meeting called to order at 1:09 pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Administration

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

Sign-in sheet - completed

Approval of the May 26, 2017 Minutes

Moved by Ralph Yanni, seconded by Hal McGonigal approved by consensus

Approval of the November 23, 2015 Minutes

Moved by Larry Woolley, seconded by Roy Bertolo approved by consensus

3. Summary of Chair's Meeting

Mark Howson reported on information discussed at the March 2018 Chair's meeting.

The Chairs received Social Media training and had In Camera discussions with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC).

The topics discussed over the two day meeting were:

- Communication Plan Update from Conservation Ontario
- Regulatory Amendments for the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act
- Assessment Report and Plan Amendments – review and discussion of requirements for amendments under Section 34 and 36 of the Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Technical Rules Project – discussion on possible updates to the technical rules for specific conditions around water systems
- Source Protection Program Updates
 - Annual Reporting
 - Program Funding
 - First Nations
 - Source Protection Information Atlas Updates
 - Climate Change Project
- Working Group Updates
 - Groundwater Strategy
 - Knowledge Transfer Plan

Rhonda and Mark updated the SPC members on the status of most of the initiatives listed and will be providing the slide decks from the meeting on members memory sticks.

The Assistant Deputy Minister for the Policy and Programs Division of the MOECC, the overseer of the Source Protection Branch, Jim Whitestone, delivered a speech to the Chairs. The speech was encouraging and was well received by the chairs and Project Managers.

The final exercise for the meeting was a brainstorming session to receive feedback on specific questions related to the extension of the program outside of its current regulated boundaries.

SPC members discussed possible options for inclusion of local First Nations in our watershed. Current notifications as required by the program have been completed and further communications can be sought through alternative methods/venues for example the storm water management financial study.

Passage of information from the MOECC and the SPC is completed at Source Protection Authority Meetings or through regular SSMRCA Board meetings through verbal or written reports to the Board.

4. Source Protection Plan Implementation Status

Marlene McKinnon, Risk Management Inspector (RMI), provided an update on behalf of the Risk Management Official (RMO), Peter Tonazzo.

“2017 was a relatively slow year for development. Building permit applications were down from previous years, as were planning act applications for development. This lack of development also resulted in a relatively slow year in terms of development requests for significant threats in vulnerable areas.

Dealings with the public and proponents has been generally positive. Up to this point, I have not come across any major issues, concerns or inconsistencies within the approved Source Protection Plan.

We have been having an issue with the Mac’s Mart Gas Station at 647 Second Line West. They are an existing significant threat requiring a Risk Management Plan. To date, they have been generally unresponsive. To this end, a Section 58(4) Notice has been drafted and will be sent to Mac’s no later than the week of March 19th. The Notice will grant the operator (Mac’s) 120-days to respond and negotiate. If they fail to do so, an Order will be issued and the Risk Management Plan will be established. I have reached out to Mac’s on several occasions and have received very limited responses, dating back to June 3, 2016, and as recently as March 7th, 2018. A draft Risk Management Plan has been created.

We continue to utilize the Source Protection Municipal Implementation Funding. We have also received additional funds that were earmarked for Prince Township, as I am acting as the RMO for that municipality. The spending deadline for the funding has been extended to March 2019.”

Marlene McKinnon added that Sault Ste. Marie City Council approved, in the absence of the RMO, the RMI has been designated the RMO position. This was enacted to prevent the possibility of conflict of interest and/or absence of the RMO.

5. Education and Outreach

Christine Ropeter outlined the education and outreach that has occurred in the past year and an upcoming event.

Source Protection Implementation Funding has been responsible for the creation of two new banners to be used at community events. As well funding was provided to create new communication items for distribution at public events.

- Social Media
- Press releases
- Website updates
- Further development of necessary Factsheets
- SSMRCA events include Science Festival, RBC Blue Water Days, Canada 150 Parade of Paddles Event, local organizations and classroom presentations

Communication products from Conservation Ontario has changed the tag line for source protection from “Act for Clean Water” to “Our Actions Matter”

6. Annual Reporting

Marlene outlined the process for the collection of data for the MOECC annual reporting framework. The status and compilation of the data was outlined including population of the annual reporting database and the resulting reports generated.

The SPC were presented with the Draft Annual Progress Report and Marlene led the committee through the current wording and noted suggested changes.

Rhonda invited the SPC members to review the document and make suggestions for possible edits especially for the section outlining the SPC comments.

A future draft will be forwarded to the SPC as changes are made. A section will be added to the public release of the report to make it reader friendly and some additional context to enhance public consumption.

The Annual Progress Report needs the approval of the Source Protection Authority before it is submitted to the MOECC on May 1, 2018.

7. Source Protection Plan Workplan Review and Timelines

Rhonda outline the process necessary complete a SPP workplan as mandated through Section 36 of the CWA. The SPC is to review the SPP policies and determine what, if any changes to the are required. The staff have a few suggestions that they will bring forward to the SPC. The next SPC meeting in the Spring will focus on this task. The workplan is due to the MOECC in November 2018.

8. EBR Comment Letter

A letter was submitted on behalf of the SPC to the MOECC through the Environmental Bill of Rights, thanks to Andrew Hallett for his contribution to this correspondence from the SPC. Members had the opportunity to comment on the letter prior to its submission.

9. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Updates

Brian Wright was invited to provide any additional updates to the SPC. Brian told the SPC that the MOECC had recently undergone a reorganization and that the Source Protection Branch had moved under the Policy and Programs Division.

10. Other/New Business

Catherine Taddo asked members to complete the Stormwater Management Financial Study questionnaire. It is directly affecting the quality and quantity of water within the Source Protection Area.

Hal McGonigal asked when in the process of the possible development of the ferrachrome smelter, would the SPC be consulted. The influence of the atmospheric pollution associated with the process may affect the source water. The SPC concerns should be brought forward to the City.

Mark invited SPC members to participate in the upcoming Science Festival as a volunteer if they were available. Rhonda noted that expenses related to the cost of entry to the festival or travel costs could be added to expense claim forms.

9. Next Meeting

To be determined.

10. Adjourn 3:10