



LAKE ERIE REGION SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

The following are the minutes of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee meeting held on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Grand River Conservation Authority Administration Office, 400 Clyde Road, Cambridge, ON.

- Members Present:** C. Ashbaugh, Chair; M. Ceschi-Smith, H. Cornwell, R. Haggart, K. Hunsberger, R. Krueger, D. Murray, J. Oliver, D. Parker, L. Perrin, T. Schmidt, R. Seibel, B. Ungar, M. Wales, P. Wilson, W. Wright-Cascaden
- Members Regrets:** P. General, M. Goldberg, J. Harrison, A. Henry, C. King, J. Laird, I. Macdonald, G. Montour, D. Woolcott
- Proxy Representatives:** P. Busatto (J. Laird), M. Ceschi-Smith (M. Goldberg), L. Perrin (A. Henry), B. Ungar (I. Macdonald), W. Wright-Cascaden (D. Woolcott)
- Liaisons:** L. Ross, Provincial Liaison; J. Mitchell, SPA Liaison
- Region Management Committee:** C. Evanitski, LPRCA; S. Martyn, CCCA; C. Murray, KCCA; R. Sackrider, LPRCA; K. Smale, CCCA; E. VanHooren, KCCA
- Staff:** M. Anderson, GRCA; S. Brocklebank, GRCA; S. Cooke, GRCA; J. Etienne, GRCA; B. Fields, County of Norfolk; E. Hodgins, Region of Waterloo; C. Jacques, LPRCA; M. Keller, GRCA; L. Lobe, Region of Waterloo; L. Minshall, GRCA; D. Schultz, GRCA; T. Seguin, GRCA; S. Shifflett, GRCA; M. Silverio, Region of Halton; E. Stahl, GRCA; George Ounapuu, Lotowater; A. Wong, GRCA

1. Call to Order

C. Ashbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum – 17 Members Constitute a Quorum (2/3 of members)

The Recording Secretary called the roll and certified quorum.

3. Chairman's Remarks

C. Ashbaugh welcomed members, staff and guests and noted the following:

- The Notice of Plan Commencement public meeting process is now complete. Although attendance at the meetings was lower than anticipated, discussions were very positive and constructive.
- The Region of Waterloo is to be congratulated for their Smart about Salt™ program. This is an impressive program which may serve as a template for others.

4. Review of Agenda

C. Ashbaugh noted that a revised agenda was distributed which included correspondence under item 9.a) and amendments to item 10.a).

**Moved by: D. Murray
Seconded by: L. Perrin**

carried unanimously

THAT the revised agenda for the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee Meeting of June 16, 2011 be approved.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made in relation to the matters to be dealt with.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 2, 2011

**Moved by: M. Wales
Seconded by: D. Parker**

carried unanimously

THAT the minutes of the previous meeting June 2, 2011 be approved as distributed.

7. Hearing of Delegations

None

8. Presentations

- a) Grand River Watershed-wide WWTP Optimization Pilot Wrap-up Report

M. Anderson provided a presentation summarizing the Grand River Watershed-wide Wastewater Treatment Plant Optimization Pilot, noting that the project was funded through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Fund and was in response to concerns about the potential impacts of wastewater effluent on the river.

The goal of the pilot project was to provide opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing for wastewater operators, managers and supervisors across the watershed, creating a local watershed community around the optimization concept. This was achieved through a series of three workshops which provided learning opportunities and skills development.

There are 11 municipalities and 2 first nations in the Grand River that own wastewater treatment plants that discharge into the watershed. 28 wastewater operators and managers attended the workshops, representing 12 of the 13 communities. Peer facilitators from City of Guelph, Haldimand County and Grand River Conservation Authority provided technical support to participants to complete assignments. There were approximately 950 hours of in-kind contributions made to this project in addition to the funding provided through the Drinking Water Stewardship Fund.

Data was collected on 14 of the 30 WWTPs in the Grand River watershed. Information and plant data collected through the pilot project has been used to identify candidate wastewater treatment plants for further optimization.

In addition to wastewater treatment plant operators, a half day meeting was held to engage the Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada which provided them with a brief introduction to the composite correction program and some of the tools.

The feedback from project participants was overwhelmingly positive. Their comments demonstrated a high level of interest and engagement. They expressed a strong desire to see this program continue and evolve to include follow up reporting and more workshops.

P. Wilson commented that it was an excellent summary of the pilot project and asked if the Ministry of the Environment was briefed on the project. M. Anderson replied that presentations were made to the Source Protection Programs branch, the Approvals branch, the Showcasing Water Innovation staff and the Strategic Water Directors at the Ministry of the Environment. P. Wilson asked if there has been any indication if the Ministry is interested in continuing their support. M. Anderson replied that there is a lot of interest and support for the project and staff are investigating various avenues of funding.

B. Ungar expressed that the wide range of ammonia and phosphate discharges is disconcerting, and asked if there has been any discussion regarding tightening levels of phosphate and ammonia for the Certificates of Approval. M. Anderson responded that the Ministry of the Environment is working towards addressing these discrepancies. The Certificate of Approval is typically reviewed when a plant is upgrading or expanding significantly, at which time the municipality is asked to undertake an assimilative capacity study to help determine appropriate targets for the Certificate of Approval. B. Ungar suggested that it would be best if there was consistency between Certificates of Approval for total phosphate and ammonia emissions. M. Anderson replied that because factors such as the size of the plant and where the plant discharges is taken into account, the targets will still vary between municipalities.

D. Murray asked if there was any investigation regarding how much of the percent of total phosphorus is contributed by municipal wastewater. M. Anderson responded that the pilot project did not investigate sources of the phosphorus. Sources of phosphorus is a difficult question to answer, and would depend on numerous factors, one of which is time of year.

M. Ceschi-Smith thanked M. Anderson and S. Cooke for responding to Brantford's concerns regarding spills, noting that Walkerton occurred due to human error and one of the important components is the training and human resources and ensuring that training is continually upgraded. She asked if wastewater treatment plants have environmental management systems. M. Anderson replied that he does not know if wastewater treatment plants are

