

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:

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- 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.

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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 inkind 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

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required to have environmental management systems. He noted, however, that they do have operating procedures. The composite correction program extends beyond training; the operators are certified, highly trained professionals. There are other factors that are assessed through this process such as management policies and maintenance procedures. M. Ceschi-Smith pointed out that there are still spills into the river and asked if there is something else that can be done about it. M. Anderson pointed out that they are continuing to seek further support for the composite correction program.

9. Correspondence

a) Copies for Members

Correspondence from Ian Smith, Director, Source Protection Programs Branch, Ministry of the Environment to Craig Ashbaugh, Chair, Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee Re: Director's Opinion Regarding Transportation of Oil and Fuel Products Through Pipelines within Vulnerable Areas of Municipal Drinking Water Systems as a Local Threat.

b) Not Copied

None

Res. No. 46-11	Moved by:	D. Parker	
	Seconded by:	P. Busatto	carried unanimously

THAT the correspondence be received for information.

10. Reports

a) SPC-11-06-09 Proposed Long Point Region Source Protection Area Assessment Report

M. Keller noted the amended report which was distributed and provided an overview of Report SPC-11-06-09.

D. Parker noted that he was pleased to see the pipeline issue approved and asked if a map with the pipelines will be included in the assessment report. M. Keller responded that this report will only address future threats, as there are no existing pipelines going through wellhead protection areas in the Long Point Region. He pointed out, however, that there are three wellhead protection areas with existing pipelines in the Grand River watershed and that some rough scale maps of these could be included in the Grand River assessment report.

R. Seibel reiterated that the aggregate rehabilitation activities have not been approved as a significant threat and, as such, they should not be included in this report.

Res. No. 47-11 Moved by: D. Murray Seconded by: R. Krueger

18 in favour, 2 opposed

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THAT the Proposed Updated Long Point Region Source Protection Area Assessment Report be submitted to the Long Point Region Source Protection Authority, as required, under section 19 of the Clean Water Act, 2006.

b) SPC-11-06-10 Industrial Effluent Discharge Discussion Paper

L. Lobe provided an overview of Report SPC-11-06-10 and the Industrial Effluent Discharge Discussion Paper.

R. Seibel commented that the aggregate industry is one of the industries that are exempt from the MISA regulations, and advised that this was the result of a study which indicated that there were no contaminants in the effluent of aggregate operations. He also suggested that where it states that a Certificate of Approval is required for industrial effluent that discharges to ground or surface water that the word 'contaminants' should not be included as it may be confusing because a Certificate of Approval is required for any discharge of sewage, and sewage may not contain contaminants.

D. Parker asked if a Certificate of Approval is required for sewage discharge if there are no lagoons. L. Lobe advised that municipal sewage is not covered under this threat. L. Ross noted that there are Certificates of Approval for sewage discharge where there are no lagoons.

Res. No. 48-11 Moved by: L. Perrin Seconded by: P. Busatto

carried unanimously

THAT the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee release the Industrial Effluent Discussion Paper to municipalities for source protection planning purposes.

c) SPC-11-06-11 Application and Storage of Road Salt Discussion Paper

L. Lobe provided an overview of Report SPC-11-06-11 and the Application and Storage of Road Salt Discussion Paper.

R. Haggart asked if there were any insurance industry representatives at the discussion paper workshop. L. Lobe indicated there were not. R. Haggart noted that one concern with the reduction of salt use is increased liability. L. Lobe acknowledged that liability is a large factor for the reduction of salt application, but noted that there are proven methods to reduce road salt without reducing the effectiveness of the road maintenance. M. Ceschi-Smith concurred that there is an area in Brantford where salt use has been reduced effectively.

J. Oliver asked how many municipalities have participated in the Smart about Salt[™] program. L. Lobe clarified that the Smart about Salt[™] program is focused on sidewalks and parking lots; its focus is not road maintenance. To her knowledge only the Region of Waterloo is participating in the program in the Lake Erie Region, however the program was released on a provincial level only last year. J. Oliver asked if there is anything prohibiting a road authority from participating in the program. L. Lobe responded that there is a significant amount of guidance available regarding the maintenance of roads,

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and identified that the challenges for road maintenance are quite different than the maintenance of parking lots and sidewalks.

Res. No. 49-11	Moved by:	B. Ungar
	Seconded by:	M. Wales

carried unanimously

THAT the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee release the Application and Storage of Road Salt Discussion Paper to municipalities for source protection planning purposes.

d) SPC-11-06-12 Storage of Snow Discussion Paper

L. Lobe provided an overview of SPC-11-06-12 and the Storage of Snow Discussion Paper. There were no questions or comments.

Res. No. 50-11 Moved by: R. Krueger Seconded by: J. Oliver carried unanimously

THAT the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee release the Storage of Snow Discussion Paper to municipalities for source protection planning purposes.

11. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

None

12. Other Business

a) Question and Answer Period

None

13. Closed Meeting

Not applicable

- 14. Next Meeting Thursday, July 7, 2011, 1:00 pm Six Nations Community Hall, 1738 Fourth Line Fairgrounds, Ohsweken, ON
- 15. Adjourn

Moved by: L. Perrin Seconded by: D. Parker

carried unanimously

THAT the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee meeting of June 16, 2011 be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.