



**Minutes of the meeting of the
QUINTE REGION SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

Date: March 29, 2018 at 6:30 pm

**Location: Quinte Conservation - Joe Eberwein Board Room
2061 Old Highway 2
Belleville ON**

Members Present: **Max Christie** (Municipal - Greater Napanee and Town of Deseronto), **Garnet Thompson** (Municipal - City of Belleville), **Ron Hamilton** (Municipal - Group 5), **Roy Pennell** (Municipal - Prince Edward County), **Jack Alexander** (Economic - Small Business), **Rahmathulla Marikkar** (Economic - Large Business), **Terry Shea** (Economic - Tourism and Recreation), **Phil Norton** (Other Interests - Rural Non-Farm), **Mel Plewes** (Other Interests - Public Urban), **Mary Wooding** (Liaison - Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks), **Olga Yudina** (Liaison - Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks), **Eric Bauer** (Other Interests - General Public), **Terry Kennedy** (Other Interests - Environmental), **Mike Kerby** (Liaison - Quinte Region Source Protection Authority), **Jo-Anne Albert** (Municipal - Marmora and Lake, Centre Hastings, and Tweed), **Curtis Maracle** (First Nations - Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte), **Clarence Zieman** (Municipal - Greater Napanee and Town of Deseronto)

Members Absent: **Todd Kring** (First Nations - Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte), **Andrew Landy** (Liaison - Health Unit), **Gary Fox** (Economic - Agriculture), **Heather Lang** (Economic - Agriculture), **Doug Parker** (Other Interests - General Public)

Also Present: **Kirsten Geisler** (Communications Coordinator – Quinte Conservation), **Amy Dickens** (Source Water Protection Project Coordinator – Quinte Conservation), **Mark Boone** (Stormwater Project Coordinator – Quinte Conservation)

52.1 Call to Order

Chair, Max Christie, called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

52.2 Approval of Agenda

By consensus the Quinte Region Source Protection approved the agenda.

52.3 Chair's Statement to Guests

There were no guests at the meeting.

52.4 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There were no disclosures of conflict of interest.

52.5 Delegations

There were no delegations.

52.6 Adoption of the Previous Minutes

By consensus the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting.

52.7 Picton Bay Update

Staff talked about their experience working with Prince Edward County during the barge accident in Picton Bay. Staff included a slide show presentation with photos of the sinking barge and a review of the Picton drinking water plant operations.

Staff went on to explain the drinking water system services the towns of Picton and Bloomfield, where the intake zones are located and that the water reserve holds enough water supply for the towns of Picton and Wellington, for approximately 3 days.

Staff continued the discussion with a brief history of Picton Terminals, and provided more information on what led to the barge sinking. Staff explained that 30 litres of oil leaked from the barge and that the ice over Picton Bay trapped the oil. It was noted that the County would turn off the water plant at night, which meant the town had to rely on the water reserve. A boom was brought in to vacuum the oil from the bay and tow trucks were used to pull the barge from the water. During this time, Picton Terminals was still operating, however, all boat traffic was ordered to stop. The water intake was eventually shut off and the town declared a state of emergency. Over 100 truckloads carrying water a day were brought into the area. The town issued a boil water advisory, but there was confusion surrounding the fact that the water didn't actually contain oil. Municipal staff working at the plant did daily sampling of the water and completed sniff tests to determine if the water had oil in it. Staff commented on the cost and process for analysis and how long the sampling took.

A committee member commented that if it hadn't been for the support of surrounding municipalities, the situation may have been a lot worse; however, their (municipality) efforts could have been better. The committee member continues to mention that the age of the barge was also a factor.

Staff commented that the barge was approved to travel.

A committee member asked about hydro carbon.

Staff explained that the water below the oil was tested, including the water that contained oil.

A committee member inquired about the lack of protocol and whether the municipality has made any plans for emergency protocols.

Staff responded that the protocol is in the process of being adopted and they are being extremely diligent now.

A committee member asked why the coast guard was involved when they (coast guard) don't understand the process for drinking water protection.

Another committee member commented that all provinces and territories have different protocols.

A committee member commented that the situation may have been worse if it had happened in warmer weather.

Staff explained that there isn't a way to determine whether warmer weather would have made the situation worse.

Staff explained that the situation wouldn't have been any different if it was two recreational boats that had collided.

52.8 Madoc Well Update

Staff presented the committee with information on a well in Madoc, stating that with low water situations, there is need for adding another well. Test drilling was done for three wells, but there was some concern about the quality of the well. Staff explained the Municipality of Centre Hastings eventually chose a well location. Although the well showed some arsenic naturally occurring, arsenic levels are below the drinking water standard and the Municipality will be putting in treatment for arsenic, as a precaution, if needed. Discussions happened regarding the introduction of a well with a treatment system. Staff also commented that the vulnerable areas would need to be re-zoned and updates to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan will be required. Staff explained the new well would have to undergo an environmental assessment.

Staff explained the municipality would pay the cost and that the new well system cannot be used to supply water to residents until the Source Water Protection Plan is approved.

A committee member asked if arsenic is naturally occurring.

Staff explained that the arsenic originally had to do with mining, but that it is now naturally occurring and is embedded within the bedrock. Staff continued to mention that many tests were performed where the direct point of entry for the arsenic was, and that they are working with Moira Lake and the MOE on water testing because of Deloro Mine, considering arsenic in

that area is very common and naturally occurring.

52.9 Chair's Update

A committee member expressed concerns relating to a lack of communication between municipal staff, mostly those making decisions and those on the ground in the field. It was suggested that the Source Protection Committee members have an education program to educate their interest groups.

Staff added that the message isn't always relayed down to the staff in the field.

A committee member stated that they would like to meet with municipalities and municipal leaders involved with Source Water Protection. They suggested that there needs to be full financial support for all drinking systems and meetings with council will hopefully begin in the New Year.

A committee member commented on the poor communication between coast guards and the ministry and asked who was taking the steps to bring this issue to the attention of leaders.

Staff commented that issue stands between the different layers of government.

It was discussed that a committee member will write a letter to the ministry expressing concerns, for example, the lack of communication involving the coast guard during the incident at Picton Terminals.

A committee member asked that the report highlight the situation and provide resources and protocol.

A committee member commented that it isn't a matter of protocol, but explaining the Source Water Protection role.

A committee member mentioned that the ministry is undertaking review of Spills Action Centre protocol and commented that these conversations should be noted.

A committee member commented that a letter needs to be completed first.

Staff commented that the coast guards mandate is to clean spills, not to protect the water and that it's the responsibility of the municipality to inform them of protection zones.

A committee member mentioned that the ministry does emergency exercises three years and to suggest in the letter that others train in a theoretical way.

A committee member commented that all municipalities are required to have emergency plans.

Staff briefly discussed plan actions and the recommendations to inform staff.

Staff moved the conversation over to the re-working of groups and mentioned including a work plan over the next three years that will address these issues and threats.

52.10 First Nations Update

A ministry member updated the committee on boil water advisories issued over the last five years and that the premier encouraged the ministry to work with first nations groups in order to eliminate boil water advisories. They explained a trilateral committee and actions on Source Water Protection in First Nations communities. A two part plan was developed for Source Water Protection training to first nations, and included a plan template and setting up working groups throughout First Nations communities. The end goal is to have endorsed Source Water Protection Plans by council and community members. A Share Point site communications tool is an online tool for communicating (by uploading and chatting) and was well received by the community. This tool was used for education and outreach purposes, as well as for mapping to pin point threats and drinking water systems.

Staff commented that the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte had completed their vulnerability zone report and that the next step is to complete their threat verification. It was mentioned that a committee would be created and that the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte would be inviting Quinte Conservation to discussions on the approach they would take. It was also noted that they do not need to follow the Clean Water Act.

A Committee member commented that it is important to Show the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte support and that the Source Protection Committee endorses their efforts, including proceeding with a Source Water Protection Plan.

Staff commented that Quinte Conservation already has a good working relationship with this group.

52.11 Annual Progress Report

Staff presented the committee with an update on the status of the Annual Progress Report, commenting they are on track with achieving the plan's objectives for the reporting period. Staff mentioned that the report is compiled with three years of reporting and that it is due May 1, 2018; however, there needs to be 30 days for review. Staff also commented that the objectives for the Source Protection Plan Report are defined by the Clean Water Act. A summary of the report was given and there was a comment made about municipalities including draft emergency response plans.

A committee member asked if graphs will be used in the report and that possibly they should be placed in the appendix. They then commented that Picton Terminals was a big issue and should

also be reported on. Staff explained it is a requirement under the Clean Water Act to use the template and that the template did not leave much room for variation.

A discussion about the percentages displayed in the report led to a committee member asking if they (the percentages) were necessary as they could lead to confusion.

Staff commented that the use of percentages was required in the template.

A committee member commented that challenges are missing from the report and whether they could be included, as well as metrics in relation to historical data and incidents. Staff suggested that was a possibility.

A committee member inquired as to how the percentages were determined. Staff explained that it is a compilation of all implementing bodies current implementation status on the 63 policies in the Quinte Region Source Protection Plan.

A committee member mentioned that it isn't stated anywhere about a septic needing to be pumped every 5 years. Another committee member responds by saying that is every 5 years for those within an intake zone. A ministry member comments that it's 5 years for a septic inspection. Staff further explained that the inspections are a requirement under the Building Code Act and that the policy in the source protection plan is in support of this requirement.

A committee member asked for clarification on which document will be reviewed. Staff responded by stating the document is an annual progress report, not a technical report.

The discussion continued as staff mentioned achieving plan objectives including:

- Source Protection Plan Policies
- Municipal Progress
- Septic Inspections
- Risk Management Plans
- Provincial Progress
- Source Protection Awareness

A committee member asked to have the report sent to municipal councils and the mayors.

A committee member commented that the report will go to each municipality, however, they are reluctant to go beyond what the province is asking.

A committee member commented that staff ask for a motion on grades.

The committee decided by consensus a grade of "P: Progressing Well / On Target" for all sections of the Annual Progress Report.

The committee also approved, by consensus, that the rationale described in the staff report, about how the committee came to the decision of the progress score to describe the extent of which the objectives set out in the plan are being achieved by the measures described in the report.

52.11 Committee Turnover

Staff commented as a requirement under Ontario Regulation 288/07, the member terms can now expire any time after September 12, 2014 (when the Source Protection Plan approval notice was posted on the EBR) and must expire before January 1, 2020 (year the third annual progress report is due).

Staff explained that members whose appointments have expired can apply to be re-appointed for an additional term (no term limit is specified in the regulation). Staff stated it is the hope of staff and the Chair that everyone is able to re-apply for their role on the Source Water Protection Committee.

A committee member asked how the selection process worked. Staff commented that there is no obligation to interview or overturn and that it is best to try and keep the same individuals on the committee, as they have a strong understanding of Source Water Protection.

A committee member asked if the turnover is mandated. A ministry member commented that it is required of the committee to do this as it provides an opportunity for those who wish to leave to do so.

A committee member commented that the committee positions will need to be advertised.

Staff commented that it is the Source Protection Authority who will choose the committee members.

52.12 Other Business

Staff updated committee members on issues surrounding Picton Terminals. They continued by saying that Picton Terminals has a plan which will change the look of the area. The business will continue to monitor salt and keep the piles of salt covered. Picton Terminals has put a concept together in order to treat stormwater. The authority will not issue permits until a plan has been submitted and approved. It was mentioned that compared to other shipping ports throughout the Great Lakes, Picton Terminals is actually considered one of the better areas. It was suggested that those with concerns should call Quinte Conservation.

52.13 Future Meetings

Call of the chair.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Max Christie, Chair