



**Minutes of the meeting of the
Quinte Region Source Protection Committee**

Date: February 24, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Location: ZOOM Meeting

Members Present:

- Andrew Landy** (Health Unit Liaison)
- Bryon Keene** (Economic – Business)
- Curtis Maracle** (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte)
- Ernie Margetson** (Prince Edward County)
- Gary Fox** (Agriculture)
- Garnet Thompson** (City of Belleville)
- Gillian Ward** (General Public)
- Heather Lang** (Agriculture)
- Jack Alexander** (Economic- Small Business)
- Joanne Albert** (Tweed, Centre Hastings and Marmora and Lake)
- Josh Powles** (General – Education)
- Mary Wooding** (MECP Liaison)
- Max Christie** (Chair)
- Mel Plewes** (General – Public urban)
- Phil Norton** (General - Public Rural Non-Farm)
- Roger Cole** (Town of Deseronto and Greater Napanee)
- Sandy Latchford** (Economic – Business)
- Terry Kennedy** (General – Environmental)

Also Present:

- Amy Dickens** (Project Coordinator)
- Sam Reid** (Corporate Services Assistant)

Absent:

- Mike Kirby** (Source Protection Authority Liaison)
- Ron Hamilton** (Group 5)
- Vacant** (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte)

1. **Call to Order**

The Chair, Max Christie called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

There was no discussion.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the agenda for the SWP Committee meeting on February 24, 2022.

3. **Chairs Statement to Guests - Collection of Personal Information for Board Minutes**

This is addressed to anyone that is not a committee member and/or staff person of Quinte Conservation: Your name will be used in the committee meeting minutes and the minutes will become public information after review and approval of the committee. If you are present for a delegation or hearing, the context of your presentation will be recorded in the minutes of the committee meeting.

4. **Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interests.

5. **Approval of the minutes of the Source Protection Committee of December 9, 2021**

There was no discussion.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting.

6. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

7. **Action Items of Previous Meeting**

Staff reviewed the status of the action items from the previous meeting.

8. **Chairs Update**

The 2021 Director's Technical Rules are now approved and corresponding guidance document was received from the Ministry February 14th, 2022. Staff are in process of reviewing the new rules alongside the policies in the source protection plan to determine where amendments are required. Staff will bring this information to the Committee for their consideration at the upcoming March meeting.

Modernization of Environmental Compliance approvals. Ontario is adopting a Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Permissions Approach (CLI) for low-risk projects related to sewage collection and stormwater management, with a goal of getting important, low-risk public infrastructure projects

built sooner by reducing the time it takes between when needs are identified and when citizens can benefit. Municipalities will have to consolidate all the changes made and then send to ministry for approval every four years. Have to be approved by engineer.

Currently, if a municipality wanted to make a change they are required to receive Ministry approval for ever change. Under this process the source protection authority would have to request information from the Ministry, under this modernization, the source protection authority can go directly to the municipality. This approach stream lines the process.

A committee member said that ditches have been designed by an engineer will get ECA approval.

Municipalities are exploring small communal systems to create affordable housing. Amendments made in 2018 to the *Clean Water Act* and *Safe Drinking Water Act*, now require municipally owned residential drinking water systems to have source water protection considerations approved prior to the system supplying water to the residents.

A committee member asked if private systems also require source water protection considerations.

Staff answered that municipality would be smart to require any new private residential drinking water system being developed also complete source water protection considerations before implementation because if the municipality has to take it over it the system, the required source water protection technical work would already be completed.

Staff went over map of potential development, explaining municipalities are trying to develop in already developed areas and finding undeveloped pockets rather than in rural areas that are all on private wells and septic.

A committee member commented that communal systems have been explored for years but have limited success due to the large costs to develop such systems.

A committee member commented that within Hastings County a municipality cannot have rural subdivision, although there is a big push to allow rural subdivisions due to the housing crisis.

A committee member commented Prince Edward County does not allow rural subdivisions. There are concerns surrounding private developers having communal systems because if the developer does not provide what is required, the municipality is required to take over. Reluctance from municipality. Source protection is applied to communal systems.

Discussion followed.

The Ministry release Best Practices Guidance online as a voluntary guide to afford source protection in rural areas. This guidance is outside *Clean Water Act*. The source protection authority will be promoting this guidance and recommending municipalities use the guidance to afford source protection to other drinking water systems not captured by the *Clean Water Act*. It is anticipated there will be expenses involved. Staff are formulating methods to promote use of the guidance, because it is voluntary may be challenging to get municipalities or private owners to adopt and use the guidance. Staff have not reviewed the final but will review and report to the committee at the next meeting.

A committee member asked if this could be in a written report.

Staff agreed.

There are a number of emerging contaminants of concern, like microplastics, that should be included in the Assessment Report. There is a chapter that discusses future areas of study in the Assessment Report that needs to be updated with these emerging contaminants.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks recently posted a Draft Subwatershed Planning Guidance for comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. As specified in provincial policies and plans, watershed/subwatershed planning for land use planning purposes is a responsibility of the planning approval authority, usually a municipality. This guidance is directed to municipalities and provides them with a process that can be followed, and a variety of data sets and reports that can be considered for inclusion. The draft guide is intended to promote a more consistent subwatershed planning approach across Ontario, leading to better coordinated and more efficient planning processes. This guidance is voluntary to follow.

A committee member stated that he is involved with principle and practice of watershed management. Subwatershed planning guide is currently posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario for comment. No legislative status therefore no teeth to the guidelines. The document should contain more references to the applicable source water protection reports, studies, and most importantly, the legislative requirements of the *Clean Water Act*.

Staff answered that Conservation Ontario coordinates responses from all CA, to remove duplication. Staff provided comments throughout the guidance document where source water considerations would be beneficial to planners. These comments have also been shared verbally on a virtual question and answer session.

A committee member clarified that the subwatershed guide does contain source water and encouraged other members to go and make comments on the environmental registry.

Discussion followed regarding whether the committee should collectively send comments.

The Chair commented this would be discussed with Quinte Conservation's CAO to determine best direction forward.

A water quantity assessment was performed on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks in relation to a 2018 moratorium on water bottling production. BluMetric hired to perform, study. Quinte area was one on the areas studied. Generally, the study found groundwater in the Quinte area is sustainable, however some areas not due to local geology and fractured rock. Ground water and surface water for future drinking water sources were found to be unsustainable due to climate change.

The Chairs from Eastern Ontario collaborated on a letter to the Director of the source protection branch of the Ministry. The letter highlighted the hard work Ministry staff have been doing to provide guidance and support number of new initiatives, reminded the Director of the importance of workshops on these new guidance documents and rules, emphasized the success of the program initially was tied to stewardship funds and encouraged the Ministry to reinstate this program, explained the current drive

of small communal systems, and finally looked forward in the future to suggest the next round of amendments update the science that supports the assessment report and source protection plan.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the Chair's Update.

9. S34 Amendment- Nitrate Issue – Policy Updates

Staff reminded committee of the decisions made at last meeting in regard to the nitrate issue. Staff reviewed the current relevant policy approaches in the Quinte Region Source Protection Plan then went on to review policies from across Ontario that also address nitrate issues in drinking water systems.

Staff then reviewed the proposed amendments to the agricultural policies in the source protection plan.

A committee member asked about the added cost of soil testing for agricultural operations.

Staff explained soil testing can currently be funded and performed through the Bay of Quinte Remedial Action Plan (BQRAP) programs.

A committee member asked if it is a common practice to temporarily store agricultural source material. Another member responded it is common to take manure out to the field create a separate pile from the normal storage area of 180 day storage.

A committee member asked why there is not a policy related to non-agricultural source material.

Staff said the agriculture policies in the plan address non-agricultural source material as well.

A committee member said we shouldn't be relying solely on BQRAP for soil tests. There are other farm initiatives to tap into.

Discussion followed on wording of potential policies.

A committee member asked where the agriculture officer is located.

Staff says the officer works out of Belleville office.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the Nitrate Issue S34 policy Amendment.

10. S36 Policy Updates

Staff went through two small amendments of the source protection plan.

Discussion followed.

A committee member asked about parking spaces and their respective size requirements.

Staff said they looked at parking lot sizes of existing risk management plans to ensure consistent thresholds and looked at parking space size requirements from multiple municipalities in the source protection area to ensure requirements could also be met.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the S36 Policy Updates.

11. **Other Business**

Staff said they had to opportunity to meeting with community representative at Drain-All. Staff received a tour of facility and it was explained when Drain-All responds to spills. Drain-All also offered to do a tour with the whole committee at a later date.

12. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2022

13. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Max Christie, Chair