

THE CATARAQUI SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING # 56

Thursday, March 3, 2016

General Purpose Room, Outdoor Centre
Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area, Kingston

Present: John C. Williamson, Chair Kathleen Laird Peter Raabe
Richard Bresee Richard Lindgren Jeff Peters
John Conley Chris Mangan-Greene Ross Sutherland
Beth Forrest Nona Mariotti Kim Sytsma

Regrets: Rob Cumming Alex Palilionis
Joan Green Kevin Riley

Not Present: Gary Davison
Scott Ewart
Jacques Labelle

Staff Present: Holly Evans, Environmental Technician
Rob McRae, Watershed Planning Coordinator
Erin Murphy-Mills, Source Protection Assistant

Chair John C. Williamson called the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee (SP Committee) meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

1) Roll Call and Mileage and Notice of Proxies

There were nine (9) voting members present and no proxies; therefore quorum was not achieved. At the current Committee size of 15 voting members, quorum is achieved when at least 10 voting members are either present or represented by proxy. However, since the purpose of the meeting was to share information updates, and since there were no decision items on the agenda, the Chair decided that the meeting would proceed.

Chair Williamson then invited all participants to introduce themselves, and welcomed Ross Sutherland, CRCA Vice-Chair, as the new Liaison between the SP Committee and the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority (SP Authority).

2) Adoption of Agenda

Chair John Williamson requested comments on the agenda. The members present indicated that it was acceptable with no changes required.

3) **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were none.

4) **Approval of Cataraqui Source Protection Committee Minutes**

Chair John Williamson acknowledged that the minutes of the January 22, 2015 meeting had previously been approved by the SP Committee via a poll using electronic mail.

5) **Business Arising**

There was none.

6) **Delegations**

There were none.

7) **Correspondence**

There was none.

8) **Updates**

a) Remarks from the Committee Chair

Chair Williamson noted that there had been two Source Protection Committee Chairs' meetings convened in the Toronto area since the previous SP Committee meeting. He observed that the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change had been focused on approving the initial set of source protection plans across Ontario, but was now considering the broader future of the drinking water source protection program. The latter topic will be discussed at the next Chairs' meeting, to be convened at the end of March 2016.

The Chair noted that technical assessment work remains ongoing in some source protection areas. He cited the need for future source protection efforts to include work at rural facilities (e.g. retirement homes, schools) where sources of drinking water for vulnerable populations may be exposed to contamination from nearby activities. He indicated that the Chairs continue to lobby the Ministry to allocate energy and resources to this topic.

b) Roundtable Updates from the Source Protection Committee

Nona Mariotti indicated that area lake associations remain interested in the general topic of drinking water source protection. She cited particular concerns for the excessive growth of aquatic vegetation in the inland lakes, the environmental impact of poorly functioning wells and septic systems, and the potential overpopulation of cormorants (birds) on some lakes. She noted that lake associations, municipalities and other organizations are working to address some of these challenges.

Richard Lindgren reported that he had been involved with the development of a drinking water source protection 'toolkit' for First Nations communities. The toolkit is now available on the Canadian Environmental Law Association website at: <http://www.cela.ca/first-nations-source-protection-toolkits>. He indicated that it had been applied in a northern Ontario location with relatively few risks to the drinking water source. He indicated that it may be applied to First Nations communities in southern Ontario, pending continued funding support for the work. Mr.

Lindgren also noted the approval of the *Great Lakes Protection Act* (Ontario) and that the implementation of the *Act* remains uncertain.

Kim Sytsma informed the SP Committee that the Beef Cattle Farmers of Ontario had contributed to research on how to reduce climate change impacts from the sector. She also highlighted their contribution to the ongoing discussions about nutrient management in the Lake Erie watershed. She noted that the agriculture sector was seeking credit for existing on-farm practices that help to protect downstream water quality and quantity.

Peter Raabe noted that local municipalities are working together to ensure a consistent approach to implementing the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan, for example, with respect to land use planning policy. He expressed appreciation to the CRCA staff team for their coordination role.

Jeff Peters remarked on how *Great Lakes Protection Act* does not take a consistent approach across Ontario, and that therefore the degree of assessment work (and resulting requirements) may be greater for the Bay of Quinte watershed than other areas.

Chris Mangan-Greene reminded the SP Committee that the operation of golf courses is regulated via numerous mechanisms and levels of government. She expressed concern that energy generation facilities (solar farms) do not appear to be subject to the same degree of oversight.

Ric Bresee acknowledged that the relative degree of consistency between the Cataraqui and Quinte source protection plans had been helpful during the preparation of the first-ever Official Plan for the County of Lennox and Addington. He also indicated that source protection information had been used by Loyalist Township when the municipality needed to address a turbidity challenge in the source water for the Bath drinking water system.

Beth Forrest confirmed that the future of the program would be discussed at the Chairs' meeting later in March 2016. She noted that drinking water supplies on First Nations reserves had been included in the Premier's current mandate letter to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, and that related work would be conducted in partnership with the Federal government. Ms. Forrest highlighted the release of a new on-line mapping tool by which one can identify vulnerable areas, vulnerability scoring and other information.

Rob McRae indicated that it was a pleasure for CRCA staff to be meeting with the SP Committee, and that former staff also wished to send their best wishes to the members.

He noted that the CRCA's funding request for operating support in 2016/17 was under review by the Ministry. He highlighted two aspects: (1) a request to initiate discussions / pilot project on source protection for rural areas, and (2) a request to conduct research on the merits of further technical and policy work at four municipal intakes along the Bay of Quinte coastline. In response to questions from the members, Mr. McRae noted that those intakes draw from protected, shallow water and in one case the intake pipe extends only 50 metres offshore. He indicated that CRCA staff would seek input from the SP Committee on the Bay of Quinte work.

Beth Forrest suggested that the optimal time to advance additional technical and policy work will be following the submission of a work plan to the Ministry in 2018.

9) **Business/Reports**

a) Cataraqui Source Protection Committee – Membership Update

Rob McRae provided remarks to complement the staff report that he had provided to the SP Committee on this topic.

The Cataraqui Source Protection Authority (SP Authority) is reviewing the membership of the SP Committee in accordance with Ontario Regulation 288/07. The SP Authority has expressed its appreciation for the contributions of the initial SP Committee members who were appointed in 2007.

The current appointments extend until the end of March 2016. Looking forward, the SP Authority has determined that a 12-member SP Committee will suit the anticipated workload for the coming years, with 'seats' continuing to be evenly distributed amongst the municipal, economic and community sectors. Mr. McRae indicated that there were ongoing efforts to identify a new industry representative, and to identify/re-confirm four municipal representatives. He indicated that the Source Protection Authority would be reviewing a new membership roster shortly.

b) Implementing the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan (2014) – Update

Erin Murphy-Mills delivered a presentation to the SP Committee on this topic. She indicated that progress was being made on all aspects of implementation, both by the Provincial government and at the regional level.

Some implementers had been required to provide a progress report to the SP Authority by February 1, 2016, and the findings were still being received and collated. The municipalities which received Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund dollars from the Ministry are using those funds for eligible work, and are able to do so until March 2017. CRCA staff continue to play a coordinating role, for example by updating and maintaining the www.cleanwatercataraqui.ca website.

Four early examples of implementation success include: (1) the development of draft official plan text by local municipal planners, (2) an update to Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan for the Wolfe Island Ferry by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), and (3) the completion of mandatory septic maintenance inspections at Mallorytown (Miller Manor Wellhead Protection Area) by the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, and (4) the installation of road signs by municipalities and the MTO at the entry points to selected vulnerable areas.

The SP Committee indicated that it would be a good idea to share findings with local communities prior to the first required progress report by the Cataraqui Source Protection Authority in 2018. The members discussed the need to be transparent and accountable to people in the Cataraqui, while also ensuring that implementers are consulted before any detailed findings are reported (for example, with respect to a particular vulnerable area). CRCA staff indicated that they were working on the template for an interim report; Beth Forrest promised to provide reporting examples from other source protection areas, if available.

c) Groundwater Assessment Guideline – Overview

Holly Evans gave a presentation about the development of this guideline, which will be ongoing across spring 2016.

She indicated that the guideline will help to identify appropriate methods for the localized assessment of highly vulnerable aquifers and Karst topography where development has been proposed. It is being prepared to support municipal implementation of Policy 5.5.1-HR in the Cataraqui Source Protection Plan, but will have broader applications across the rural landscape. It will be a useful reference for both development proponents and approval authorities.

The guideline is being prepared for the CRCA by Geofirma Engineering Ltd. of Ottawa, using Ministry funding and with advice from a multidisciplinary technical group.

The SP Committee indicated its expectation that the guideline will be a helpful tool. Members also reminded the staff team to consider the groundwater-surface water interactions as part of the project.

d) **CRCA Risk Management Office – Update and Future Considerations**

Holly Evans also shared a presentation about the implementation of *Clean Water Act* Part IV policies via the CRCA Risk Management Office. The CRCA is under agreement with six municipalities to administer Part IV requirements in vulnerable areas until December 2017.

Ms. Evans indicated that in her capacity as a Risk Management Official / Inspector, she is working closely with building and planning staff at the six municipalities. She is also working in concert with the risk management office at the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

About 72 site-specific risk management plans will be negotiated in the Cataraqui area, about 60 of which are located at Lansdowne in Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

Factors influencing the risk management work include: (1) the degree to which landowners are or are not willing to participate in plan negotiations, (2) situations where farmers are not currently practicing subject activities (for example, involving manure) and (3) the trend away from using oil for home heating purposes, and (4) the relative lack of land use / activity change being experienced in the subject communities.

Ms. Evans observed that a secondary benefit of the risk management work is increased awareness of the need to protect drinking water sources.

10) Announcements or Inquiries

- a) Conservation Ontario News Release regarding approval by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change of all 22 Source Protection Plans, dated January 1, 2016

The SP Committee acknowledged the achievement of this important milestone for the drinking water source protection program.

11) Motions/Notice of Motion

There were none.

12) Opportunity for Questions from the Media

There were no questions.

13) IN CAMERA Session

This was not required.

14) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SP Committee will be determined at the call of the Chair. Rob McRae indicated that CRCA staff will endeavor to provide regular progress updates to the SP Committee members in-between the scheduled meetings.

15) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M. on a motion by Kim Sytsma.

John C. Williamson, Chair

Rob McRae,
Watershed Planning Coordinator