



Essex Region Source Protection Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm

Location and Details: Essex Civic Centre, Room D

Attendance

Members Present: Tom Fuerth (Chair) Matthew Merrett

John Barnett (proxy for A Coristine) Tim Mousseau (proxy for Barrette)

Bill Dukes (Zoom)
Jim Drummond
Frank Garardo

Antonietta Giofu (Zoom)

Dennis Rogers (Zoom)

Chris Snip

Kevin Webb (Zoom)

Cynthia Ouellet

Liaisons Present: Victoria Peczulis (WECHU) (Zoom)

Larry Verbeke (SPA) (Zoom)

Regrets: Ron Barrette, Aaron Coristine

Absent: Chad Quinlan

Staff Present: Katie Stammler, Water Quality Scientist/Project Manager Source Water

Protection

Amy Weinz, Water Quality Technician

Lisa Limarzi, Administrative Associate, Corporate Services

Others: Jenna Maidment (CFN), Michelle McCormack (CFN), Warren Higgins,

Krystal Kalbol

1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the February 14th, 2024 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee.

We have quorum with 6 members present in the room, and 4 members present by Zoom, and 2 proxies. I will call the meeting to order at this time, 4:05pm.

2. Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi Peoples.

We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of our past as we continue to move forward in the spirit of reconciliation. We know that the people have a longstanding relationship with the land and we trust and respect that relationship.

As we do at our meetings, I'll begin with a statement of gratitude and a statement of hope. As always, I'm so grateful to have you in this room with me and I hope that we can help these salt and snow policies make sense.

3. Chair's Welcome

I'd like to welcome you all and I want to especially welcome Jenna Maidment who is our nominee as well as Michelle McCormack from Caldwell First Nation who will be appointed as members at the April SPA meeting. Krystal Kalbol from the Town of Lakeshore is also joining us for the first time tonight.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Approval of Agenda

Resolution SPC 01/24 Moved by John Barnett Seconded by Matthew Merrett

That the agenda for the February 14, 2024 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee be approved.

Carried

6. Adoption of Minutes

A. Essex Region Source Protection Committee

Resolution SPC 02/24 Moved by Chris Snip

Seconded by Jim Drummond

That the minutes for the December 13, 2023 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee (ERSPC) be approved and the recommendations therein be adopted as distributed.

Carried

B. Essex Region Source Protection Authority

None.

7. Correspondence

None.

8. MECP Liaison's Update

None.

9. Presentations

None.

10. Reports for Approval

A. Report SPC 01/24 – S.36 Update – Draft Road Salt Policies

THAT the SPC approve the attached amended policies, with the exception of the monitoring policy and further;

THAT a new draft of the monitoring policy be brought to the committee at the next meeting

Resolution SPC 03/24 Moved by Cynthia Ouellet Seconded by Jim Drummond

Carried

B. Report SPC 02/24 – S.36 Update – Draft Snow Storage Policies

THAT the SPC approve the attached amended policies to be submitted to the MECP for early engagement

Resolution SPC 04/24 Moved by Matthew Merrett Seconded by Chris Snip

Carried

11. New Business

None.

12. Other Business

Katie discussed an application that is she working on. The federal government, in conjunction with the US federal government, made a \$420,000,000 commitment for the Great Lakes over 10 years. It took some time to determine how that money was to be distributed. Now settled, the funds are to be allocated through multiple different streams. There is funding to address toxic algae and nutrients. We put in a letter of intent for \$2,000,000/year for 4 years for the implementation of Best Management Practices and improved monitoring including bringing back some monitoring stations and staff. Kevin Money, our Director of Conservation Areas, will be putting in an application for \$6,000,000 to do some major restoration projects out at Hillman Marsh. There are also 2 applications going in for the Detroit River area of concern, one for their governance and one for some habitat restoration projects. Finally, I will be putting in an application for funding under the "release of harmful chemicals" stream. We don't know much about per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) although our American counterparts discuss PFAS frequently. These are the forever chemicals. These pertain to anything non-stick, fire retardants and many, many others. The US Environmental Protection Agency says there are more than 4700 of these compounds, but some scientists speculate that there may be more than 15,000 of them. Currently, the US EPA can only identify 40 of those thousands of chemical compounds through analysis. The US is light years ahead of us on this issue. They have a department in the Michigan government specifically for this issue, and they have labs at universities dedicated to the study of PFAs. There are more than 2000 sampling locations in Michigan alone, and they've identified 300 contaminated sites through that monitoring. We are way behind. There has been very little PFAS monitoring at all in Ontario. ERCA, in partnership with 4 or 5 other Conservation Authorities with letters of support from some municipalities, has proposed to take samples for PFAS analysis in our existing monitoring areas. It will be a matter of filling an extra bottle to send off for analysis. Water treatment operators will do the same when they conduct their own sampling. We would like to coordinate

sampling across southwestern Ontario from Essex County to Maitland Valley. Our hope is to obtain this dataset to tell us where PFAS are or are not in the environment.

13. Adjournment

Resolution SPC 05/23 Moved by Tim Mousseau Seconded by John Barnett

That the February 14, 2024 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee be adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Carried

1. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee will tentatively be held on March 13, 2024 starting at 4:00 pm at the Essex Civic Centre, Room TBD.

Tom Fuerth Chair

Katie Stammler
Water Quality Scientist/
Project Manager Source Water Protection