



Essex Region Source Protection Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Time: 4:00 pm

Location and Details: Essex Civic Centre, Room C

Attendance

Members Present: Tom Fuerth (Chair)
John Barnett (via Zoom)
Ron Barrette
Bill Dukes
Jim Drummond (via Zoom)
Frank Garardo

Antonietta Giofu
Tim Mousseau
Cynthia Ouellet
Chris Snip
Kevin Webb (via Zoom)

Victoria Peczulis (WECHU – via Zoom)
Larry Verbeke (SPA)
Saira Bozin Illisinovic (MECP)

Regrets: Matthew Merrett, Dennis Rogers

Absent: Aaron Coristine, Chad Quinlan

Staff Present: Katie Stammer, 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 – via Zoom), Warren Higgins, Chelsea Salter

1. **Call to Order**

Good evening and welcome to the September 13th, 2023 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee.

We have quorum with 7 members present, and 3 members present by Zoom. I will call the meeting to order at this time, 4:10pm.

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.

As we do at our meetings, I'll begin with a statement of gratitude and a statement of hope. I'm grateful for Lisa and Amy who are incredible supports. To Lisa for organizing our meetings and to Amy for keeping our Water Quality Program going single handedly. Thank you both for all you do. I am also grateful for everyone gathered around this table, so many of you here in person, thank you. As always, I'm hopeful that we have a good and productive meeting.

3. **Chair's Welcome**

Katie and I met with Caldwell First Nation representatives in August regarding an introduction to the Source Water Program and the source water portion of the Clean Water Act and about their opportunity to participate with representation on our committee. We welcome Jenna Maidment and Michelle McCormack of Caldwell First Nation to our meeting tonight. They have not yet been formally appointed to this committee, so they will not be able to vote, but are welcome to participate and ask questions.

The Committee Chairs from across the province met virtually on June 28th. This was a bit of an orientation for all of the newly appointed chairs and there was also discussion about the future and where we go from here.

Saira Bozin Illisinovic is here from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

We wish to congratulate Larry Verbeke, who has been officially confirmed as the Source Protection Authority Liaison to this committee. Thank you for all your past work Larry and we are glad to have you back.

In other news, Kathleen Schnekenburger, who was our Risk Management Officer has left us for greener pastures and Katie will now be operating in this role.

We also have present, Chelsea Salter, a University of Windsor Masters student, who will give a presentation.

4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Approval of Agenda

Resolution SPC 13/23 Moved by Ron Barrette
 Seconded by Bill Dukes

That the agenda for the September 13, 2023 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee be approved.

Carried

6. Adoption of Minutes

A. Essex Region Source Protection Committee

Resolution SPC 14/23 Moved by Tim Mousseau
 Seconded by Chris Snip

That the minutes for the March 8, 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

Meeting minutes provided for the Committee’s information. Larry Verbeke has been confirmed as the SPA Liaison to the Source Protection Committee.

That the minutes of the of the Source Protection Authority meeting held on March 30, 2023 be received.

Resolution SPC 15/23 Moved by Cynthia Ouellet
Seconded by Ron Barrette

Carried

7. Correspondence

None.

8. MECP Liaison's Update

Saira Bozin Illisinovic has been with the Ministry long term, working mostly as a funding coordinator, but is now Senior Drinking Water Program Advisor. The Ministry is moving (perhaps temporarily) away from having dedicated, or assigned, liaison officers for each of the source protection areas. The purpose of this is to shift priorities toward the efficient and timely review and approval of the many source protection plan amendments that are going through the Ministry. We are advocating for a return to in-person meetings of Committee Chairs as it has been at least 4 years, since pre-Covid times that we have had face-to-face meetings.

9. Presentations

Identifying microbial mechanisms of the break down of microcystin-LR in Lake Erie beach sand on Pelee Island using genetic techniques

- Presented by Chelsea Salter, MSc.

10. Reports for Approval

A. Report SPC 06/23 – S.36 Update – Evaluating Microcystin as a Drinking Water Issue for all Drinking Water Intakes in the Essex Region and ERCA Water Quality Program Update

THAT microcystin-LR be identified as an issue under the Clean Water Act pursuant to Rule 115.1 for the following drinking water intakes in the Essex Region; and further,

THAT the technical work be included in the updated Assessment Report as part of the forthcoming amendment to the Source Protection Plan, under Section 36 of the Clean Water Act; and further,

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

Resolution SPC 16/23 Moved by Tim Mousseau
Seconded by Ron Barrette

Carried

B. Report SPC 07/23 – S.36 Update – Dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLS) – new policies

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

Resolution SPC 17/23 Moved by Antonietta Giofu
Seconded by Bill Dukes

Carried

C. Report SPC 08/23 – S.36 Update – Combined Sewer Overflow/Sanitary Sewer Overflow Policy Amendments for Prescribed Instruments

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

Resolution SPC 18/23 Moved by Cynthia Ouellet
Seconded by Chris Snip

Carried

11. New Business

None.

12. Other Business

None.

13. Adjournment

Resolution SPC 19/23 Moved by Tim Mousseau
Seconded by Ron Barrette

That the September 13, 2023 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee be adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Carried

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee will tentatively be held on November 8, 2023 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**