# **Essex Region Conservation**

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## **Essex Region Source Protection Committee Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm

Location and Details: via Zoom Video Conferencing

#### Attendance

Members Present: Tom Fuerth (Chair)

Albert Dionne

Nelson Santos Kevin Webb (proxy for Thom Hunt)

John Barnett Chris Snip

Matthew Merrett Jim Drummond

Bill Dukes Tim Mousseau (proxy for Cynthia Ouellett)

Chad Quinlan Ron Barrette

Larry Verbeke (SPA Liaison)
Mary Wooding (MECP Liaison)
Catherine Eby (new MECP Liaison)
Victoria Pezculis (WECHU Liaison)

Absent: Aaron Coristine, Antonietta Giofu, Cynthia Ouellett, Thom Hunt

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

Protection

Aaron Zimmer, Multimedia Specialist Lisa Pavan, Administrative Associate

**Others:** Heather Crewe

Warren Higgins

## 1. 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 Potawatomie 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 hope and a statement of gratitude. I'm grateful that we have the opportunity to meet together in this digital format, which allows us to still get our work done and I hope that we all have a good 2022 ahead of us.

#### 2. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the February 9, 2022 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee.

I will call the meeting to order at this time, 4:10 pm.

#### 3. Chair's Welcome

I have something that has nothing to do with Source Protection, but I would like to bring it to your attention. I received a notice this week advising that every Conservation Authority in Ontario is to have an appointment available of a local representative from the farm community to their board. This is something new. It looks like there is going to be an opportunity for the farming community to have some kind of input in an organized manner to the ERCA Board. This is a provincial appointment and, for those of you present from the farming community who might wish to participate in another way, I will be happy to send you the information regarding applying for this position.

We'd like to welcome our new MECP Liaison, Catherine Eby. Mary will introduce Catherine and help us to get to know her a little better later in the meeting.

#### 4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

#### 5. Approval of Agenda

**Resolution SPC 01/22** Moved by Matthew Merrett Seconded by Jim Drummond

That the agenda for the February 9, 2022 Meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee be approved. **Carried** 

#### 6. Adoption of Minutes

#### A. Essex Region Source Protection Committee

**Resolution SPC 02/22** Moved by Ron Barrette Seconded by Chris Snip

That the minutes for the December 8, 2021 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

Back in December, Tom had a meeting with our Director, Kirsten Corrigal. Kirsten made a commitment to meeting annually with all of the Source Protection chairs across the province. This is a good path to relationship building and a good way to garner mutual support.

The Director's Technical Rules were approved and were posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. An important part of this document will be the guidance, which is in the final stages of review and will be ready soon. At this point, we are encouraging Project Managers across the province to develop focused questions following their review of the Director's Technical Rules and the guidance and, if necessary, there will be regional discussions and sessions to answer these questions.

The Best Practices for Source Water Protection, which is the tool to help ensure that communities and landowners which are not covered by provincially approved Source Protection plans have the tools they need to protect their sources of drinking water. We are working on releasing the Best Practices document. It will be a user-friendly guide, posted on ontario.ca, for private landowners, farmers, cottagers and First Nations. It will address the same threats that we address under the Clean Water Act. The Best Practices

tool will be accompanied by a survey so that we can gather more information and feedback to help us continually improve the document.

On the funding front, the transfer payment agreements for the 2021/2022 fiscal year are in place and we are working under them until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The draft final report for that funding is due to the Ministry on February 28, 2022.

We have received all of the workplans on a go-forward basis for the 2022/2024 fiscal year and we are in the process of reviewing them in consultation with the Source Protection Authorities, should we have questions.

We continue to review and consult on the submissions under Section 34 of the Act. Most SPC committees are working on their Section 36 updates with 3 committees having completed and submitted them for our review.

Annual Reporting for the Ministry for the 2021 reporting year is completed. These reports were submitted to all of the Source Protection Authorities across the province.

The appointment of agricultural representatives to Conservation Authority Boards is part of the Conservation Authorities Act update. New regulations were filed to implement the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act in October of 2021 as a first phase, so these regulations set out details on the framework and the programs and services that support the core mandates of Conservation Authorities. One of these core mandates is source protection. Building on that progress and to support a smooth transition by Conservation Authorities to move funding framework by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the second phase of the regulatory and policy proposals were posted for consultation in late January.

We are really excited to have Catherine Eby join us. She has been with the ministry for 17 or 18 years. She has an Honours Bachelors Degree in Environmental Science from the University of Guelph with a major in Earth and Atmospheric Science and a minor in Environmental Economics and Policy. After working briefly in the private sector as an environmental consultant, she started with the ministry as a terrestrial scientist and she has spent the last 17 years as a senior environmental officer. For 10 years, she worked with the spills action centre, the last seven of those being in the Toronto District office. She has a busy life outside of work with her three teenagers. Catherine is a quick study and we are sure you will quite enjoy having Catherine as your new liaison.

## 9. Delegations

None.

#### 10. Presentations

None.

### 11. Reports for Approval

## A. Report SPC 01/22 – Review of s.36 Workplan and Progress Update

THAT SPC Report 01/22 be received for information.

**Resolution SPC 03/22** Moved by Ron Barrette Seconded by Nelson Santos

#### 12. New Business

None

#### **Other Business**

The Risk Management Agreement has been renewed for another 3 years with our municipalities.

The phase 2 consultation on the Conservation Authorities Act is open now for public review and comment.

ERCA's Multimedia Specialist, Aaron Zimmer has reviewed our social media content in order to measure our impact. We've been participating in the Winter Wednesday posts. Project Managers in Ontario come together to create a set of social media content per season which gets pushed out so that all of the communications people at Conservation Authorities can use consistent messaging. Our engagement rate is 1.5 to 5%. This is excellent because the average engagement rate on Twitter is 0.07%. What this means is that the people who are following our accounts are looking at this content and they are engaging with it. We've had 148 views of our road sign video. It is one of our highest viewed videos. Members were encouraged to submit any ideas for new content.

Mary mentioned that there is an opportunity for Risk Management Official training with the ministry in March.

## 13. Adjournment

**Resolution SPC 04/22** Moved by Tim Mousseau Seconded by John Barnett

That the February 9, 2022 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Authority be adjourned at 4:50 pm. **Carried** 

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee is to be held on March 9, 2022 starting at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom web conferencing

Tom Fuerth Chair

Katie Stammler
Water Quality Scientist/
Project Manager Source Water Protection