# **Essex Region Conservation**

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**Essex Region Source Protection Committee** 

**Meeting Minutes** 

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Time: 4:00 pm

Location and Details: Essex Civic Centre, Room C

**Attendance** 

Members Present: Tom Fuerth (Chair) Matthew Merrett

John Barnett (via Zoom) Tim Mousseau

Ron Barrette Cynthia Ouellet (via Zoom)

Aaron Coristine (via Zoom) Chad Quinlan

Jim Drummond Dennis Rogers (via Zoom)

Bill Dukes Chris Snip

Frank Garardo Kevin Webb (via Zoom)

Victoria Peczulis (WECHU – via Zoom)

Larry Verbeke (SPA – via Zoom) Kirsten Service (MECP – via Zoom) Monica Lemke (MECP – via Zoom)

**Regrets:** Antonietta Giofu, Krystal Kalbol

**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 – via Zoom), Warren

Higgins

#### 1. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the March 13, 2024 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee.

We have quorum with 8 members present, and 5 members present by Zoom. I will call the meeting to order at this time, 4:06 pm.

### 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 would be remiss not to be grateful for this beautiful weather and I'm hopeful that we have a good meeting and that we get through our annual report.

#### 3. Chair's Welcome

Welcome everyone. We especially welcome Jenny Gharib who is handling the technical aspect of our meeting in Amy's place. Kirsten Service is here from MECP as well as Monica Lemke. And Jenna Maidment and Michelle McCormack are here from CFN. Tim Byrne, CAO, is here today representing ERCA.

### 4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

### 5. Approval of Agenda

**Resolution SPC 06/24** Moved by Bill Dukes
Seconded by Matthew Merrett

That the agenda for the March 13, 2024 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee be approved.

**Carried** 

# 6. Adoption of Minutes

# A. Essex Region Source Protection Committee

**Resolution SPC 07/24** Moved by Matthew Merrett Seconded by Chris Snip

That the minutes for the February 14, 2024 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

Letter to Minister Lisa Thompson

THAT the Essex Region SPC provide a letter of support to the concerns raised by the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Committees in their letter dated February 26, 2024

**Resolution SPC 08-24** Moved by Matthew Merrett Seconded by Frank Garardo

**Carried** 

# 8. MECP Liaison's Update

The MECP has moved away from the old model of having liaison officers attend all SPC meetings and towards a model where we are fostering a more direct relationship with our program analysts, project managers and our committees. We are looking at workloads and what the needs of various committees are and making a decision at the time of the meeting as to who the right person would be to attend and prioritizing that as we can. The way we do our work has significantly shifted over the years. We are no longer building the program, now we are well into implementation. There is a lot of demand on us for things like Section 34 amendments and Section 36 updates. This has changed what our needs are at the branch and we are responding to that so that we can continue to provide the best service to you and support your needs. You'll see people like Monica at your meetings. I will attend the occasional meeting to hear what's on your minds and learn what's important to you.

You may have learned already that, for the first time ever, the ministry has proposed 3-year funding agreements. The current challenge we're experiencing is that the workplans that came in have significantly been oversubscribed with available funding. My team has been doing very deep analysis on each of the workplans that have come in and we're working closely with the project managers to figure out where we could land with the workplan. That conversation is very live. It is great news for the program to have funding certainty for 3 years. We are hopeful that within a couple of months, you'll see more news from the ministry in terms of detail on looking at either existing recipients or new kinds of recipients to implement our best practices. Given that there's so much volume on Section 34 amendments and Section 36 updates, we are trying to work with our project managers and Conservation Ontario on ways to streamline the process.

There are some things we can do without changing regulations and that's where we've been focused. We are working to be as efficient as we can, so you'll see some changes in the process. We are working hard to help expedite the process so that you can get to the outcomes you need more quickly. We recognize that we may need to continue evolving to ensure that we provide for the needs of the project managers and Source Protection Committees. It's always an open dialogue for us to learn from you and to figure out ways to support you based on where you're at and on some of the pressures and needs that you have.

### 9. Presentations

None.

# 10. Reports for Approval

**A. Report SPC 03/24** – Update on Risk Management Services in the Essex Region Source Protection Area

THAT SPC Report 03/24 be received for information

**Resolution SPC 09/24** Moved by Bill Dukes Seconded by Jim Drummond

Carried

# **B.** Report SPC 04/24 – Draft Responses for the 2023 Annual Reporting Template

THAT the 2023 Essex Region Source Protection Authority Annual Progress Report be submitted to the MECP on or before May 1, 2024, pending suggested changes and additions made by the SPC and endorsement by the SPA

**Resolution SPC 10/24** Moved by John Barnett Seconded by Matthew Merrett

#### Carried

# C. Report SPC 05/24 – S.36 Update – Draft Road Salt Policy - Monitoring

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

**Resolution SPC 11/24** Moved by Chris Snip Seconded by Matthew Merrett

**Carried** 

#### 11. New Business

None.

#### 12. Other Business

None.

# 13. Adjournment

**Resolution SPC 12/23** Moved by Tim Mousseau Seconded by Chris Snip

That the March 13, 2024 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee be adjourned at 5:31 pm. **Carried** 

# **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee will tentatively be held on June 12, 2024 starting at 4:00 pm at the Essex Civic Centre, Room C.

Tom Fuerth Chair

Katie Stammler Water Quality Scientist/ Project Manager Source Water Protection