

MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION REGION
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Monterey Boardroom

DRAFT MINUTES

Mississippi-Rideau
Source Protection Committee **1/24** **Thursday, February 8, 2024**

Present: Bev Millar Eleanor Renaud
 Michel Kearney Claude Lloyd
 Wilf Stefan Alex Clark
 Scott Ferguson Scott Bryce
 Drew Lampman

Staff: Marika Livingston
 Brian Stratton
 Marissa Grondin

Regrets: Randy Malcolm Peter McLaren
 Diane Smithson Nigel Holgate

Guests: Tessa Di Lorio, City of Ottawa
 Beth Forrest, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
 (MECP)

Marika Livingston called the elections to order at 1:04 p.m. and reviewed the procedures for naming a Chair pro-tempore.

Ms. Livingston called for nominations for Chair pro-tempore from Members.

Wilf Stefan nominated Claude Lloyd.

Ms. Livingston called for nominations one more time.

Claude Lloyd accepted the nomination for Chair pro-tempore.

Ms. Livingston called for nominations a second time. Eleanor Renaud moved to close nominations. No other nominations were presented.

Claude Lloyd was acclaimed Chair pro-tempore.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Chair pro-tempore Claude Lloyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed newest Committee member, Scott Ferguson.

a) **Agenda Review**

Chair pro-tempore Lloyd reviewed the Agenda.

b) **Notice of Proxies**

None stated.

c) **Adoption of the Agenda**

Motion SPC1-240208

Moved by:

Bev Millar

Seconded by:

Michel Kearney

THAT the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee adopts the Agenda as circulated/amended.

Motion Carried

d) **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

Drew Lampman joined the meeting 1:10 p.m.

e) **Approval of Minutes, October 5, 2023**

Motion SPC2-240208

Moved by:

Eleanor Renaud

Seconded by:

Wilf Stefan

THAT the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of October 5, 2023 be approved as amended/circulated.

Motion Carried

2.0 **Staff Update**

Marika Livingston, Source Water Project Manager delivered verbal updates.

She welcomed Scott Ferguson, the new member replacing Carol Dillon's public seat and invited him to introduce himself. Mr. Ferguson briefly outlined his academic and professional background and expressed his excitement about joining the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee.

Ms. Livingston then discussed the SPC Membership Plan and the status of seat appointments.

She informed members about the Project Manager in-person meeting held on December 4th, 2023, in Peterborough, noting that it provided valuable networking opportunities.

Following Ms. Livingston's updates, Brian Stratton, Manager of Engineering, provided an update on the Water Budget and upcoming expectations. Mr. Stratton then responded to questions.

Eleanor Renaud raised a question about the water budget, asking whether there is an issue of too much water or not enough water. Mr. Stratton clarified that the purpose of the conceptual water budget is to assess the overall water availability in the watershed annually. Additionally, the Tier 1 water budget involves monthly assessments to determine the current water levels in the watershed and identify any stressors affecting them.

Bev Millar inquired whether the water budget will reflect the transition from a 15-year timeframe to the present. Mr. Stratton confirmed, stating that their system includes reservoirs to supplement water flow year-round. He added that they will delve into the specifics and anticipate potential issues such as drought in the future.

A member asked if Parks Canada has data for the Mississippi River reservoirs. Mr. Stratton clarified that the information is managed by MVCA.

Ms. Livingston reviewed the funding cycle for 2024-2027 and outlined notable funding request items. She then invited Beth Forrest, from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), to introduce herself and speak to the Ministry updates. Ms. Forrest briefly introduced herself and provided an overview of updates, including the three-year transfer payment agreement applications, staffing changes, and program analysts stepping into the role of reviewing Section 34 updates. Lastly, she noted that there are no updates on Chair assignments. Ms. Forrest thanked Acting Chair Lloyd for stepping into the role for the meantime. Ms. Livingston thanked Ms. Forrest for providing the updates and asked for any questions from members; there were none.

Ms. Livingston requested that members stick around at the end of the meeting for an updated SPC group photograph in the Atrium.

Motion SPC3-240208

Moved by: Eleanor Renaud
Seconded by: Scott Bryce

THAT the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive for information the verbal updates.

Motion Carried

3.0 RMO Annual Reports

To acquaint new members, Brian Stratton provided a brief overview of Risk Management work, focusing on the Risk Management Official Annual Report required under Part IV of the *Clean Water Act*. He explained that Section 81 of the *Clean Water Act* mandates each Risk Management Official to submit an annual report summarizing the actions taken by risk management staff. These reports cover the calendar year and must be submitted to the Source Protection Authority (SPA) by February 1 of the following year. Brian shared that the City of Ottawa's Risk Management Report will be presented in April, at the next Committee meeting.

Mr. Stratton then discussed the Annual Report for 2023 for all municipalities in our Region except for the City of Ottawa. He noted that no new Risk Management plans were developed during that year, with one outstanding Risk Management Plan. He elaborated on how these plans are implemented to mitigate risks to drinking water sources.

A member asked if the outstanding Plan pertained to a property in Westport, but Ms. Livingston clarified that the outstanding Risk Management Plan is in Tay Valley.

There was a discussion about the Provincial and Federal rebate program for replacing fuel oil tanks. Staff discussed the steps being taken to assist the owners in transitioning to a new heat pump or alternative heat source.

Mr. Stratton introduced Ryan Hiemstra, Mississippi-Rideau's Risk Management Official and Inspector. Additionally, Ms. Livingston mentioned that he would be attending the April SPC meeting to provide an update on Risk Management.

Motion SPC3-240208

Moved by:

Eleanor Renaud

Seconded by:

Scott Ferguson

THAT the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive for information the Risk Management Official Annual Reports for the 2023 calendar year.

Motion Carried

4.0 Summary of Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report Amendments

Ms. Livingston directed members to agenda package item 4.0 and its accompanying documents, providing an overview of the Section 36 update. She reported the intent is to submit the Section 36 update to the Minister for review and approval by December 31, 2024. Ms. Livingston expressed gratitude to all staff, neighboring Conservation Authority project managers, SPC members and municipal partners for their contributions to the updated

documents. She informed members that Source Protection staff would incorporate requested changes and consider comments from the Source Protection Committee. If no changes were requested at the February 8th, 2024, meeting, staff would submit for early engagement to the Ministry in advance of the April-May timeline outlined in Appendix A. However, if changes were requested, a draft, including any modifications, would be circulated before the upcoming April 4th meeting.

Ms. Livingston then reviewed the Section 36 summary of revisions in Appendix B and responded to questions.

Wilf Stefan had a questions regarding Significant Groundwater Recharge Area (SGRA) scoring. Ms. Livingston clarified that they removed the scoring altogether from SGRAs, explaining that SGRAs are mapped without assigning a score. Mr. Stratton expanded on the reasons behind this decision. Mr. Stefan then asked if not a scoring method having would impact risk management in those areas. Mr. Stratton responded stating that there is sufficient water in every watershed in our Region, with more water being added than removed. Beth Forrest chimed in, stating that the SGRA should never have had scoring because it is not based on quality but on quantity, adding that scoring is reserved for quality-based layers.

Ms. Livingston continued reviewing Section 36 summary of revisions in Appendix B of the Workplan and opened the floor to questions.

Eleanor Renaud inquired about the threshold for what constitutes a "small waste exemption," referring to SQE. Mr. Stratton offered to consult the available resources and suggested returning with an answer at the next meeting.

Wilf Stefan inquired about the new threat of hauled sewage in the list of threats and asked for an opinion on why they are now included when they weren't originally. Ms. Livingston clarified that the application of hauled sewage was a threat, but the storage of hauled sewage wasn't. The storage of hauled sewage refers to temporary holding locations and is now considered a significant threat. If such events occur, they are prohibited. She noted that staff completed a threats enumeration exercise, and no storage of hauled sewage threats were identified.

Eleanor Renaud asked if any Source Protection Committees have recommended treating sewage waste before storing or applying them, suggesting the possibility of using biodigesters for fertilizer production as an alternative solution. She questioned if any groups had made such recommendations. Ms. Livingston responded that to her knowledge, no such recommendations had been made. She suggested reaching out to counterparts across the province to inquire if any similar initiatives were underway and committed to bringing back any relevant information to the Committee.

Drew Lampman inquired about submitting his comments via email to Ms. Livingston after the meeting. She confirmed that the deadline for suggested revisions is February 23rd, 2024. These comments will then be incorporated into the next draft for committee approval at the April SPA meeting.

Ms. Livingston continued reviewing the Section 36 summary of revisions in Appendix B of the Workplan and gave a summary of the salt and snow storage policy revisions.

Scott Bryce inquired about the feedback from municipalities regarding the salt and snow policy revisions. Ms. Livingston noted that they seemed receptive and onboard. However, they haven't yet seen the new policy revision requiring a Risk Management Plan for salt storage over 300 kg. Under 300 kg the threat will be managed with a new education and outreach policy. Unless the salt is exposed, in which case the storage of exposed salt is prohibited.

Bev Millar asked how the effectiveness of policy updates would be tracked over the next five years. Mr. Stratton responded that they would put more effort into the education and outreach program with the municipalities and incorporate a tool to gauge effectiveness.

Eleanor Renaud suggested that if contractors don't require a Risk Management Plan, they should be licensed to ensure proper salt and snow removal practices. She expressed concern that it's too difficult for businesses or municipalities to keep track of changes otherwise. Ms. Renaud asked if there was a way to ensure that contractors are licensed to apply salt and remove snow, thus ensuring proper procedures are followed.

Beth Forrest contributed to the discussion by noting that other Source Protection Committees are having similar conversations, particularly in larger regions where creating individual Risk Management Plans may not be feasible. These committees are adopting an educational and outreach approach and considering larger thresholds for RMP requirements.

Wilf Stefan questioned why the threshold amounts had changed significantly. Mr. Stratton responded that previously there were few threats identified. He expressed uncertainty about the guidelines for creating the new rules.

Chair pro-tempore Lloyd appreciated the emphasis on bringing key data to the forefront, particularly regarding chloride levels in the water. Drawing a parallel to greenhouse gas emissions, he suggested presenting monitoring data upfront to the Committee for analysis to make informed decisions in mitigating threats. Mr. Stratton affirmed the existence of a policy to monitor municipal wells for contamination and noted that chloride isn't currently an issue in our Region. He highlighted the proactive approach taken to avoid contamination trends observed in other areas. In response to Eleanor

Renaud's query about which municipalities are required to submit their annual chloride results for monitoring, Mr. Stratton clarified that only those with municipal wells need to supply records.

Ms. Livingston continued reviewing Section 36 summary of revisions in Appendix B and then gave the floor to Mr. Stratton who continued presenting the remaining changes.

Mr. Scott inquired about the progress of establishing the new multidisciplinary working group to protect private drinking water, to which Mr. Stratton clarified that it would commence in 2025. Ms. Livingston explained the schedule and timeline for the Workplan submission feedback process, addressing Ms. Renaud's question regarding the duration of the process, emphasizing that approval is necessary before initiating the group.

Wilf Stefan raised a question about expanding the Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) for the subdivision in Carleton Place and its impact. Mr. Stratton responded that no threats were triggered or would be triggered, but instead the sewer shed/drainage area is added to the IPZ-2.

Eleanor Renaud brought up the topic of permeable interlock, to which Mr. Stratton redirected the question to stormwater management.

Ms. Livingston encouraged members to contribute additional information for discussion on the revisions. None were raised. She reiterated that members still have the opportunity to provide feedback until February 23rd and confirmed that the requested revisions will be incorporated before April 4th, 2024.

Chair pro-tempore Lloyd expressed gratitude to the members for their participation and to the staff for their diligent work in completing the updates and presenting them effectively to the committee.

Motion SPC5-240208

Moved by: Scott Bryce

Seconded by: Bev Millar

THAT the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee this staff report
Be Received;

and,

THAT staff **Be Directed** to revise the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports as recommended within this report;

and,

THAT the resulting updates **Be Included** in the amended Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Plan, Mississippi Valley Assessment Report and the Rideau Valley Assessment Report for further consultation.

Motion Carried

6.0 Other Business

Chair pro-tempore Claude Lloyd announced his decision to step down from his acting Chair duties but assured members that he will continue to serve as a member of the Committee. Considering this, Ms. Livingston reminded members about the process for electing a new Chair pro-tempore and encouraged members to consider stepping into the role.

7.0 Member Inquiries

8.0 Next Meeting - April 4, 2024

9.0 Adjournment

Chair pro-tempore Lloyd adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Claude Lloyd
Chair Pro-tempore

Marissa Grondin
Recording Secretary