

Seconded by: Alex Clark

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee adopts the Agenda as circulated.

Motion Carried

d) Declaration of Interest/Notice of Proxies

There were no declarations of interest.

e) Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2024

The signature block will be revised to incorporate the names of both the Interim Chair and the Recording Secretary.

Motion SPC2-240704

Moved by: Alex Clark
Seconded by: Claude Lloyd

That the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of April 4, 2024 be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

f) Correspondence

Interim Chair Smithson referred to a letter from Mr. Jim Hunt, Chair of the Trent Conservation Coalition SPC, addressed to the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. Interim Chair Smithson informed the Committee that she had received an email from the Ministry requesting her availability for an upcoming quarterly Chair meeting. She noted that Mr. Hunt's letter had successfully prompted the Ministry to take steps to arrange such a meeting. Interim Chair Smithson sought the Committee's input on whether the MR-SPC should compose a similar letter to the Ministry.

Brian Stratton added that Mr. Hunt's letter expressed concerns about the Ministry's commitment to the Source Water program, specifically highlighting two main points: the absence of Chairperson meetings in recent years and the four SPC Chair vacancies. Mr. Stratton stated that the Ministry has responded positively to both concerns by organizing the quarterly Chair meetings and announcing their plan to re-post the vacant chair positions. Mr. Stratton and Ms. Livingston concurred that Mr. Hunt's letter had accomplished its objective, rendering a second letter from the MR-SPC unnecessary.

Eleanor Renaud suggested sending a thank you letter to the Minister instead. The Committee agreed, and staff were directed to draft a letter of gratitude.

Motion SPC3-240704

Moved by:

Eleanor Renaud

Seconded by:

Alex Clark

That the members of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee send a thank you letter to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Motion Carried

2.0 Source Protection Staff Update

Ms. Livingston provided a program update, which included information on the Project Manager's meeting held on June 3rd and 4th in Peterborough, Ontario and the announcement of a new three-year funding agreement with the province (MECP).

Interim Chair Smithson inquired whether there were any increases to the funding. Mr. Stratton responded, clarifying that while staff Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), the overall funding envelope has remained unchanged, clarifying that no additional funds have been provided. Ms. Livingston added that there have been no cuts to funding areas, including salaries and other program expenses.

Ms. Livingston continued with her updates, sharing information on the successful delivery of the 5th Drinking Water Wise Webinar and expressing hopes of hosting more webinars in the future. She thanked the members who attended and provided feedback.

Ms. Livingston followed up on a message sent on July 3rd regarding the upcoming 25th anniversary of the Walkerton Tragedy in 2025. She noted that staff across Ontario are being very mindful of this anniversary and have been collaborating on an approach to bring attention to this date. She informed members that a steering committee, led by Conservation Ontario, has been established to commemorate this anniversary. Ms. Livingston invited committee members to submit ideas for community outreach and education to mark the anniversary.

Eleanor Renaud inquired about the nature of the Walkerton stories to be shared, asking whether they would cover the events of the Walkerton Tragedy or the subsequent corrective actions. Ms. Livingston responded that the narrative would encompass both aspects, aiming to tell the story and highlight the successes of Source Protection initiatives.

Peter McLaren suggested establishing a chronological timeline to outline the events that took place. He emphasized highlighting both the negative aspects, such as the wrongful accusation of a local farmer, and the positive developments, including the establishment of a clean water facility in Walkerton and the prohibition of bottled water in the area. Interim Chair Smithson thanked Mr. McLaren for his suggestion.

Ms. Livingston noted that the Risk Management update is deferred to Fall 2024.

Ms. Livingston extended an invitation to Mr. Nigel Holgate from MECP to provide an update from the Ministry. Mr. Holgate began by expressing gratitude for the opportunity before proceeding to discuss key points. Mr. Holgate informed the Committee that the MR-SPC Section 36 updates were received for early engagement. He provided an update on the SPA Annual Report, noting the preparation of an annual reporting placemat to demonstrate implementation progress across Ontario and how SPAs are meeting their goals and policies.

He discussed the three-year Transfer Payment Agreement, noting that while the funding envelope has not increased, it will remain steady for the next three years. Additionally, he provided information on the ongoing updates to the Section 34 guidance with the goal of streamlining the process. He also mentioned the continued review of Section 34 amendments and Section 36 updates across the process.

Mr. Holgate then opened the floor to questions, there were none.

Motion SPC4-240704

Moved by:

Michel Kearney

Seconded by:

Alex Clark

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee accepts this report for information.

Motion Carried

3.0 Source Protection Plan & Assessment Report Amendments

Ms. Livingston first presented the amendments to the Assessment Reports and reviewed the comments received from the MECP, noting that the recommended adjustments have been implemented. She invited feedback from the committee on how to streamline the review process.

Ms. Livingston reviewed the changes to the Explanatory Document. In response to an inquiry from Peter McLaren, she clarified that the Enbridge pipeline in question does not bisect a vulnerable area, thus it is not considered a significant drinking water threat and is not subject to the pipeline policy. She noted that while pipelines can be a threat in areas with a

vulnerability score of 10, she could not speak to the specifics of the Enbridge upgrade. Mr. Stratton added that an evaluation of the pipelines in the area had been conducted, and it was determined that there are no significant threats.

Ms. Livingston continued by reviewing the Source Protection Plan. Ms. Livingston highlighted the new education and outreach policy for salt storage less than 300 kg. The Ministry commented that the SPC should consider a new monitoring policy to evaluate implementation success. She informed members that alternatively staff suggest using the existing annual reporting opportunity to track success.

Ms. Renaud inquired about the risks associated with salt stored under cover. Ms. Livingston explained that the province wanted to clarify that indoor storage constitutes a medium-to-low threat, which could be addressed by creating a policy.

Ms. Livingston then invited Ms. Tessa Di Iorio from the City of Ottawa to present Section 36 changes related to the Richmond West addition of Well 3. Ms. Di Iorio summarized the changes to be included as part of the Section 36 amendment, reviewed the timelines, and explained the technical reports.

Eleanor Renaud inquired about the blue line depicted on the map in the slide on page 17. Ms. Di Iorio clarified the meaning of each line in the map legend.

Ms. Livingston outlined next steps of consultation, starting with pre-consultation in Summer 2024 and then public consultation in Fall 2024.

Scott Bryce inquired about the next steps to authorize the go-ahead for pre-consultation. Ms. Livingston indicated that the direction would be received from the SPC, as per the staff recommendation on page 4 of the agenda package.

Motion SPC5-240704

Moved by:

Scott Furguson

Seconded by:

Eleanor Renaud

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

4.0 Other Business

None.

5.0 Member Inquiries

None.

6.0 Next Meeting - TBD

Ms. Livingston indicated that the next meeting is anticipated to take place in the Fall, after the conclusion of the pre-consultation.

7.0 Adjournment

Interim Chair Smith extended warm wishes for a pleasant summer to all members and expressed her gratitude for their participation. She adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m. on a motion by Alex Clark which was seconded by Michel Kearny.

Diane Smithson
Chair Pro-Tempore

Marissa Grondin
Recording Secretary