

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH REGULAR LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Minutes of the Seventy-Fourth Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee held on March 11, 2024, at the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and via Microsoft Teams (virtual). The Chair called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lucy Kloosterhuis, Chair
Chris Bowles
Walter Turek
Ashleigh Marchl (virtual)
Shanley Thompson (virtual)
Bernie Kamphof (virtual)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mike Fabius

LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tammy Cook, CAO, LRCA
Lauren Turner, Acting Liaison Officer, MECP (virtual)
Bill Potruff, Thunder Bay District Health Unit

ALSO PRESENT:

Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager/ DWSP Project Manager
Ashley Agombar, LRCA Student
Melanie O'Riley, Administrative Clerk, recorder of Minutes

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA BY CONSENSUS

Agenda adopted by consensus.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Seventy-Third Regular Meeting held on April 6, 2023 were adopted by consensus.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

A verbal update was provided by Chris Bowles, Director of Operations, Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, related to the Arsenic in the Rosslyn Village Municipal Drinking Water System. Slightly elevated levels of arsenic are still present in the drinking water system. Arsenic reduction trials have been completed by Walkerton Clean Water Centre. Residents remain on a drinking water advisory which was issued March 2023. The Municipality is intending to install an arsenic treatment system and anticipates the arsenic issue will be resolved by mid-June of this year.

A proposed Lakeshore Development Project was discussed at the March 2023 SPC meeting as its development location is within Intake-Protection Zone-1. It was noted that Shuniah Council denied the application for a Vacant Land Condominium and associated Zoning By-law amendments. The main concern from a Source Protection perspective are undersized lots and the type of septic systems that would be installed.

5. MECP LIAISON'S UPDATE

It was noted that Beth Forrest, Liaison Officer, has been replaced by Erin Harkins, Projects and Planning Advisor. As Erin was unavailable, Lauren Turner attended the meeting and reported no new updates on behalf of the MECP.

6. SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Source Protection Funding

It was noted the Source Protection Authority was successful in receiving funding from MECP to complete a best practices project aimed at residents on non-municipal drinking water systems.

The overall 2022-2024 source protection program funding is set to expire on March 31, 2024.

It was noted that the next round of source protection funding will cover three years starting April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2027. The Lakehead source protection program funding application is currently in the process of being reviewed by MECP at the time of the meeting.

7. SOURCE PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing Bodies Annual Reports

It was noted that the two Implementing Bodies of the Lakehead Source Protection Plan (SPP), the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, submitted their Annual Reports on January 15, 2024, and January 29, 2024, respectively.

It was noted that TBDHU completed three septic system inspections in January 2024 and reported that all three tertiary septic systems were non-compliant with the Manufacturer Annual Inspection and Maintenance requirements outlined in the Ontario Building Code. The TBDHU advised the owners to enter into agreements and ensure required inspections and maintenance is completed. Follow up inspections will be undertaken in the spring of 2024 and inspection results will be included in the 2024 annual report. Bill Potruff from the TBDHU was in attendance to discuss advanced treatment septic systems in WHPA-A and answer questions from the committee.

Staff reviewed the submitted annual reports and concluded that both Implementing Bodies have met the requirements of the Plan to date.

Ninth Annual Lakehead Source Protection Plan Reporting

It was noted that the ninth annual progress report has been prepared for submission by the Lakehead SPA for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, utilizing the prepared templates from MECP. It was noted that the LRCA also completes a comprehensive summary of the program to date in a detailed report using a format developed by LRCA staff. Both reports will be posted on the LRCA website once approved by the SPA.

It is requested that any additional SPC comments in addition to the comments expressed at the meeting regarding the annual reports be received at the LRCA by April 12, 2024 for submission in the Annual Report. Staff will be presenting the final Annual Report to the SPA for adoption at the April 24, 2024 Board Meeting. Final comments or edits will be incorporated into the report with submission to the MECP prior to May 1, 2024.

Section 36 Workplan

Lakehead's Section 36 Workplan was submitted to MECP on April 25, 2023 in accordance with the Minister's Order dated May 7, 2018. The workplan proposed minor updates to the source protection plan (SPP) policies. A Minister's Order dated October 24, 2023 was received by the SPA indicating that Lakehead's Section 36 Workplan was approved. The order and follow up correspondence with MECP indicate that mandatory updates include ensuring that the assessment report and source protection plan are updated according to the most recent version of the technical rules and planned changes to drinking water systems. Any other items in a section 36 workplan that are not listed as mandatory in the section 36 order are considered discretionary and can be undertaken as long as they are in scope and follow the technical rules.

There are no required changes to Lakehead's assessment report and source protection plan resulting from updates to the technical rules. It is proposed to complete the updates to the policies in the source protection plan as summarized in the Section 36 Workplan pending available funding.

8. SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Committee Procedural Manual

It was noted that Staff updated the Drinking Water Source Protection SPC Procedural Manual in 2023. Updates included the allowance of members to participate electronically in SPC meetings and administrative changes related to the source protection website, notice of meetings, and member term of appointment. The draft updated procedural manual will be reviewed for approval at the SPA meeting on April 24, 2024.

SPC Membership

It was noted that there were no changes to the SPC membership. The SPC Chair term expires August 20, 2024 as determined by the Minister of the MECP, and the remaining SPC members until November 30, 2026.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Best Practices Campaign

It was noted that additional funding was received from MECP to complete a best practices project in our region aimed at residents using non-municipal drinking water systems (i.e. private well owners). The project is currently underway and will wrap up at the end of the month. The final deliverables will consist of a resource package of information relating to care and maintenance of private wells and septic systems, a social media campaign on best practices as well as a webpage dedicated to best practices and links to the resource materials produced.

Proposed Lithium Battery Plan- IPZ1/IPZ-2

Members reviewed and discussed the proposed Lithium-Hydroxide Processing Facility which proposes to be located within Intake Protection Zone 1 (IPZ-1). Prior to the SPC meeting MECP responded to Staff's inquiries that lithium processing is not specifically defined as a threat, however, the proposed facility may be subject to environmental permissions where the activities could be part of the prescribed threats list under O.Reg. 287/07 of the *Clean Water Act*, 2006. Staff will update as information becomes available.

Hydro One Expansion Project

Members reviewed and discussed the planned expansion project to the Hydro One Port Arthur Transmission Station at 170 Bare Point Road next to the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant. Construction is tentatively planned to begin late 2025/early 2026. Staff will continue to stay apprised of the project and any implications regarding drinking water source protection.

Proposed Phase Out of Free Water Testing for Private Wells

Members reviewed and discussed the topic of Public Health Ontario's proposed joint modernization plan to update its public health laboratory that previously recommended the gradual discontinuation of private drinking water testing. Members were concerned that people with wells will not test as much as they should if they have to pay for it. The SPC will send a letter to the Minister to advocate for the continuation of the free private well testing in Ontario.

11. OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for March 2025 (date to be determined). It was noted that two SPC Meetings will be held in 2025.

13. ADJOURNMENT BY CONSENSUS

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 11:34 a.m.