



**Minutes of the meeting of the
Quinte Region Source Protection Committee**

Date: September 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Location: ZOOM Meeting

Members Present:

- Andrew Landy** (Health Unit Liaison)
- Curtis Maracle** (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte)
- Ernie Margetson** (Prince Edward County)
- Gary Fox** (Agriculture)
- Garnet Thompson** (City of Belleville)
- Gillian Ward** (General Public)
- Heather Lang** (Agriculture)
- Joanne Albert** (Tweed, Centre Hastings and Marmora and Lake)
- Josh Powles** (General – Education)
- Max Christie** (Chair)
- Mel Plewes** (General – Public urban)
- Mike Kirby** (Source Protection Authority Liaison)
- Phil Norton** (General - Public Rural Non-Farm)
- Roger Cole** (Town of Deseronto and Greater Napanee)
- Sandy Latchford** (Economic – Business)
- Terry Kennedy** (General – Environmental)

Also Present:

- Amy Dickens** (Project Coordinator)
- Kirsten Geisler** (Communications Specialist)
- Michelle Grandchamp** (Communications Assistant)

Absent:

- Bryon Keene** (Economic – Business)
- Jack Alexander** (Economic- Small Business)
- Mary Wooding** (MECP Liaison)
- Nicole Storms** (Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte)
- Ron Hamilton** (Group 5)

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Max Christie called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Chair Christie thanked all the members for attending the meeting on the first annual National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Chair Christie began by acknowledging the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands where we conduct business and that we find ourselves on today. He acknowledged our shared

responsibilities and obligations to preserve and protect the land, air, and water. We are grateful to have the privilege to meet, explore, and connect here on these shared lands. In the spirit of friendship, peace, and respect, he extended our thanks to all the generations that came before us and cared for these lands.

He noted, we Canadians are reflecting on the terrible and lasting impacts of residential school, remembering the many children who never returned home and honouring the survivors, their families, and their communities as we recognize and observe the first annual National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. He observed this holiday is an opportunity for everyone all to learn more, to affirm the need for reconciliation and commit ourselves to the work ahead and to understand the role we each play in reconciliation.

Chair Christie then asked all in attendance to join in a moment of reflection to acknowledge the harms of the past and to consider how we can each try to move forward in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

2. Approval of the Agenda

There were no comments.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the agenda for the SWP Committee meeting on June 24, 2021.

3. Chairs Statement to Guests - Collection of Personal Information for Board Minutes

This is addressed to anyone that is not a committee member and/or staff person of Quinte Conservation: Your name will be used in the committee meeting minutes and the minutes will become public information after review and approval of the committee. If you are present for a delegation or hearing, the context of your presentation will be recorded in the minutes of the committee meeting.

There were no guests in attendance.

4. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interests

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

5. Approval of the minutes of the Source Protection Committee of June 24, 2021

A committee member pointed out that committee members absent from the meeting were omitted from the minutes and asked if this could be changed.

Staff said they would correct the minutes to include absent members.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the minutes of the June 24, 2021 meeting.

6. Matters Arising from Minutes

Staff went over the action items from the previous meeting and explained moving forward these will be included in the meeting package along with a status update.

7. Chairs Update

The Chair provided an update to the committee on the latest Chairs meeting, the status of the Best Practices Guidance for non-municipal systems, the provincial information on PFAs, and a vacancy on the Quinte Source Protection Committee.

8. S36 Policy Updates

Staff discussed several policy amendments to be included in the Section 36 Source Protection Plan Update.

DNAPL:

Staff provided an update on the status of the DNAPL policy updates and presented two different policy approaches: one should it be confirmed there are no DNAPLs in the IPZ 1 and the second should DNAPLs existing in the IPZ 1.

A Committee Member asked staff to clarify whether the train tracks were considered a threat and how they would be monitored.

Staff explained that railways could be considered a DNAPL threat due to chemicals on the rail ties if they were within the IPZ, however railways are federally regulated so any policy created would not be legally binding. Staff also explained the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks determines the hazard and risk of each chemical to determine when and where the threat risk is significant, moderate, or low.

There was no further discussion.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee received the staff update report on DNAPL policies.

Application of Road Salt Methodology:

Staff reviewed the results of the alternative methodology for determining impervious surface area percentages related to the application of road salt for all wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones in the Quinte Region.

A Committee Member asked why some areas were flagged and others not.

Staff explained that it depends on the impervious percentage of the area, which is determined by the Ministry.

Staff asked the Committee Members if they agreed with the methodology wording and that they would get clarification what salt management will address.

A Committee Member commented that each of the Municipalities can do a Risk Management Plan for their assets.

There was no further discussion.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the staff recommendation to calculate impervious surface percentages based on vulnerable area for each drinking water system in the source protection plan.

Application of Road Salt Policy:

Staff discussed the policy gap in the existing Policy 12-3-E&F. During implementation it was discovered Policy 12-3-E&F currently only applies to commercial uses. The original intent of applying the policy only to commercial uses was to negate the requirement of a risk management plan on small residential driveways and parking spots, however, the current wording leaves significant drinking water threats related large parking lots at condominium residences unaddressed. Staff proposed amending the text to exclude personal/domestic use at single-family dwellings.

Staff proposed including a condition in Policy 12-3-E&F that risk management plans are only required for parking lots greater than 30 spaces or an area of 1000m². The committee requested additional information on parking lot calculations before deciding on size restrictions.

A Committee Member asked for text to be included with respect to brine (Calcium Chloride) as a dust suppressant. Staff explained that the areas where the application of road salt is a significant drinking water threat are in urban areas where roads are paved, and the percentage of impervious surface areas is great enough to trigger a significant drinking water threat. Typically dust suppressant is used on gravel roads in rural areas where the impervious surface area percentage is much less and therefore the application of road salt cannot be a significant drinking water threat. Staff suggested wording be added to the education and outreach policy to highlight this potential medium/low threat.

A Committee Member expressed concern that the Policy limits the size of the lots and when doing this, smaller scale apartments/condos and townhouses get missed. They asked that the text is updated for fairness and consistency.

There was no further discussion.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the staff recommendation to amend Policy 12-1-E&F to clarify all applicable surfaces to be included in the municipal salt management plans and to remove the wording in Policy 12-3-E&F related to commercial uses and instead exclude personal/domestic use at single-family dwellings.

Transition Policy:

Staff updated the committee with the feedback from the municipal planners regarding preferred wording for the transition policy. There was no discussion surrounding the definitions.

There was a general discussion concerning when and how these policies are used for various development applications.

Under the discussion of the Expansion/Interruption Policy, a Committee Member asked if the content was referring to Nitrates and if so, asked if it would be worked into existing Risk Management Plans.

Staff confirmed this policy generally concerns rotational agriculture activities which could include the application of nitrates, both current and future. They commented that this concern would only be included in new Risk Management Plans.

Another Committee Member raised concerns about the definition and explained that they are worried some individuals will find an exception/loophole in policy.

Staff explained that the definition won't negate the risk management measure and explained these policies help determine whether an activity is considered existing or future. Once that is decided the related policy then applies.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the updated definitions of 'existing' and 'future' for the Quinte Region Source Protection Plan and approved the wording for the transition policy as well as the interruption/expansion policy.

Urban/Backyard Flocks:

Staff presented updated wording for the general education and outreach policy (Policy G-1-E&F) for urban livestock/flocks.

There was a general discussion whether a policy was required to direct municipalities to enact a bylaw prior to allowing urban livestock flocks. It was decided a bylaw policy was not required, rather the Source Protection Authority should offer help with wording, when requested.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the staff recommendation to use education and outreach to address this threat.

Staff confirmed that if committee members feel strongly for the policy we can work with the authority and/or municipalities to create it.

A Committee Member asked if it were a specific number of chickens.

Staff replied that they would leave it up to the municipalities to decide and provide guidance.

A committee member asked if pigeons counted.

Staff said they will look into livestock definition and will report back to the committee.

Transportation Corridor Policy Update:

Staff provided an update and updated policy text regarding the strategic policy for emergency response. Staff also provided an update on the emergency response plan work moving forward in Prince Edward County.

A committee member asked if all vulnerable areas in the Quinte Region would be shared with the emergency responders responsible for spill clean up. Staff responded this is a possibility, as long as the vulnerable areas outside Quinte's responsibility have been approved to share by the appropriate organization.

A committee member suggested an offer be extended to the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte to share their vulnerable areas as well. Staff commented they will follow up with staff and extend that offer.

A committee member asked for additional information to be presented at a later date regarding how/why different companies are contacted for various spills.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee approved the wording of the strategic policy directed to the Canadian Coast Guard and received the staff update.

Non-municipal Drinking Water System Policy:

Staff shared a strategic (non-legally binding) policy drafted to raise awareness of affording drinking water source protection in rural communities. Staff explained by adding this policy to the source protection plan will allow staff to remind municipalities, through annual reporting, of the vulnerability of our watershed and to highlight the importance of protecting all drinking water systems.

The chair asked the committee member to confirm if a school in their municipality is on bottled water.

The committee member confirmed and said that the chair would need to go through the school board for more information.

A committee member asked what the biggest vulnerabilities for private wells would be.

Staff explained there are a number of factors that determine how vulnerable a private well is to the activities surrounding the well.

Staff have submitted a proposal to the Ministry for the next fiscal year to work with a member municipality to work through the Ministry developed guidance. Staff mentioned that the guidance website has a review forum and that municipalities will use that feedback to make updates.

A committee member expressed concern for nitrates in private wells and feels that it is the municipality's responsibility to determine where the nitrates are coming from. The member asked whose responsibility it is when it's a private well.

The health unit liaison explained that homeowners are responsible for their own wells. If the contaminant is coming from another property, the Ministry of the Environment and the Health Unit can become involved.

A committee member asked if staff were involved in the review of the Ministry guidance.

The chair confirmed that staff were involved in the process.

Staff explained the process to the committee and commented that they were able to run through some scenarios.

The chair commented that a list of questions was submitted, and they are waiting for legal guidance before responding.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee received the information regarding the Non-municipal Drinking Water System Policy.

9. Program Update

Staff discussed there is one vacancy and one reappointment currently on the source protection committee.

Staff explained details concerning a fuel spill in Picton Bay and the great, coordinated response by municipal staff to evaluate and clean up the spill in efficient time.

Staff provided a brief update on the rising nitrate levels around the Tweed municipal well.

Staff provided an update on the provincial road sign education and outreach initiative and showed the music video with the committee.

By consensus, the Quinte Region Source Protection Committee received the Program Update report.

10. Other Business

Staff provided an update on the nitrate issue in Tweed and said that some non municipal wells were above standards, and the difference is due to the depth of the wells.

Staff said samples are still being taken at the municipal well as well as from a few private wells. These samples will aid the committee in determining whether an Issues Contributing Area is required. A study from 2018 determined that the zone in Tweed has had issues with nitrates in the past. Staff explained that graphs need to be updated and discussed the possibility of addressing this issue using a Section 34 Amendment- an amendment initiated by the Quinte Source Protection Authority in order to move the process along faster.

A committee member questioned how this could be solely a farming concern.

Staff replied by saying there are other activities that can cause the nitrate issue and need to determine all possible activities related to nitrogen contamination to be addressed using policies in the source protection plan.


The chair commented that there is a difference health risk between nitrates and nitrites and asked staff to look into this more.

11. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The date and the time of the next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

12. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

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M.G. (Max) Christie, Chair