

*Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards
Minutes from March 21, 2005 Meeting*

Members Present:	Robert Andrews John Rudnickas Rod Holme	Michele Giddings Alex Hukowich Jim Merritt
Ministry Liaison Staff Present:	Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE	
Council Staff Present:	Scott Barrett	Iris Biggar
Regrets:	Peter Huck ¹ Lesbia Smith Marilyn Lee Mark Servos Fred Ruf, MOHLTC	Ron Brecher Harold Richardson Ken Roberts Robert Walton
Guests:	Dale Henry, MOE SDB	John Mayes, MOE SDB

1. Call to Order:

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Adoption of March 21, 2005 Agenda

March 21, 2005 agenda was adopted, with minor changes, by consensus.

Adoption of February 18, 2005 Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2005 Meeting Minutes were adopted, with minor changes, by consensus.

2. Reg 170 Review:

The Chair noted that the final report was due to be released by the Minister soon, but that there was no official release date as of Monday March 21, 2005.

The chair also noted that Minister Dombrowsky mentioned the report and its direction in a ROMA / OGRA speech on February 22, 2005.

The Chair also noted that a copy of the report was given to Harry Swain, Chair of the Ministry of Public Renewal and Infrastructure's Water Experts Panel, to aid in the formulation of their report.

It was noted that requests for speaking engagements may come up frequently after the release of the report, and it was agreed that requests must be vetted through the Council's office.

Dale Henry, Director, SDB, represented the Ministry of the Environment until Pat Lachmaniuk arrived.

¹ It should be noted that even though he is out of the country, Peter Huck is actively participating in the Council's work by reviewing and providing feedback on documents and issues through E-Mail, and phone calls.

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Decision / Action:

- **Executive Assistant to update general Council presentation, in anticipation of Reg 170 Report release, for members' use at speaking engagements**
- **Executive Assistant and Administrative Assistant to pro-actively seek out speaking engagements for the Council for upcoming conferences for organizations like OWWA, OMWA, etc. and coordinate with possible MOE involvement to eliminate duplication**
- **Executive Assistant to coordinate mail outs of final report to consultation participants, once publicly released**
- **Ministry Liaison to supply to the Council Chair and Executive Assistant the total cost of producing the report**

3. Reg. 903 Chlorination Requirements

John Mayes, MOE SDB was present to discuss the issue of Reg. 903 chlorination requirements, in context of the Council's task to provide advice to the Minister.

It was determined that the overarching principle in this issue before the Council is to ensure that private well drinking water is microbiologically safe to drink prior to human consumption.

The Chair noted that the Council's advice could range from general to prescriptive.

It was noted that the legal opinion of the OWRA definition of "construction" implies any alteration, repair, maintenance, improvement, etc.

It was determined that Reg. 903 applies to only the well and all piping leading up to, but not including inside a dwelling, which falls under the Plumbing Code (now Part 7 of the Building Code).

It was noted that the Council should check any advice given to the Minister, for inconsistencies, against the "Keeping your Well Water Safe to Drink" information kit developed and sponsored by MOE, MOHTLC, EC, OGWA, OSCIA, OMAF, and OFEC.

It was agreed that any new construction, pump installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, improvement, etc. done by an owner on his / her own well (that does not serve any other family) does not require a licenced technician.

Consequently, it was also agreed that any new construction, pump installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, improvement, etc. facilitated by a hired contractor, requires a licenced technician.

It was noted that homeowners, although under no obligation to do so, should follow recommended procedures, use licenced technicians, follow Reg. 903, etc. when they perform any work, for the safety of their own water supply.

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It was noted that, per Reg. 170, all communal wells must follow AWWA's C654 standard, as well as *Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario*.

The Council's advice is to be converted into an advice letter to the Minister, to be discussed at the April 15, 2005 meeting.

Decision / Action:

- **Executive Assistant to draft up general well disinfection advice with the aid of Bob Andrews, for circulation to members, and for discussion at April 15, 2005 meeting**
- **The Council should check any advice given to the Minister, for inconsistencies, against the "Keeping your Well Water Safe to Drink" information kit**
- **It was agreed that any new construction, pump installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, improvement, etc. done by an owner on his / her own well (that does not serve any other family) does not require a licenced technician.**
- **Consequently, it was also agreed that any new construction, pump installation, alteration, repair, maintenance, improvement, etc. facilitated by a hired contractor, requires a licenced technician.**
- **It was noted that homeowners, although under no obligation to do so, should follow recommended procedures, use licenced technicians, follow Reg. 903, etc. when they perform any work, for the safety of their own water supply.**

4. Drinking Water Source Protection

It was debated as to whether the Council should officially comment on the draft documents.

It was noted that the Council has interest in: raw water drinking water standards, as it is unclear if PWQOs or ODWQs are referenced; and well permitting and inspection programs.

Decision / Action:

- **The Chair is to check with Minister's Office staff as to the Ministry's next steps on Drinking Water Source Protection, in order to determine if the Council should be commenting at this time.**

5. Justice O'Connor Priorities:

The advice letter on microbiological indicators has not been officially transmitted to the Minister, pending Minister's Office staff review. The Chair is to contact Minister's Office staff to discuss the letter's delivery.

The Protozoa treatment standard was discussed. The guidance document was posted on Health Canada's website on March 21, 2005, and Ontario intends to adopt it as a treatment standard. It was decided that the Council should receive a technical briefing on the Protozoa treatment standard for the April 15, 2005 meeting.

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It was also suggested that a sub-committee should be formed, after April 15, 2005, to review the documentation and prepare the Council's advice to the Minister. It was suggested that the chair be Robert Andrews, with membership to include Peter Huck, Rod Holme, and Ken Roberts.

It was also noted that this sub-committee should also review turbidity at the same time, as it is linked.

Decision / Action:

- **The Chair is to contact Minister's Office staff to discuss the advice letter on microbiological indicators, which has not been officially transmitted to the Minister**
- **It was decided that Ministry staff should provide a technical briefing to the Council on the Protozoa treatment standard, for the April 15, 2005 meeting.**
- **Council to form Protozoa treatment standard sub-committee, after April 15, 2005 to formulate advice to the Minister**

6. Standards Review

The Council reviewed the developed protocol for involvement in standards review, and decided which parameters should be placed at the various "Council Engagement Stages".

The Council discussed the cost difference for implementing the 80 ug/L versus the 100 ug/L limits for THMs, based on cost analysis information.

The idea of enhancing the Council's website to house all of the documentation necessary for members' review was discussed. Having a members-only vs. public site was also discussed, using easy to follow click-boxes.

The Council learned that Ontario is posting soon for adoption a revised Turbidity Guideline as a performance criteria in the *Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario*, which states that treatment processes must meet the log removals.

HAAs were also discussed, as Health Canada will be coming out with a "total" number this fall. It was proposed that a Summary of HAAs will be followed by THMs review, in conjunction with protozoa, for discussion at the April 15, 2005 meeting.

Chlorite / Chlorate standards were discussed. Impact statements are on their way, and documentation is being finalized for consultation. It was noted that there may be little impact for Ontario.

The TCE standard was also discussed. It was noted that the final CDWG may be ready in the next couple of months. It was decided that the Council should comment on the implementation plan for Ontario, when available, for discussion at a subsequent meeting.

It was also decided at the February 18, 2005 meeting that the review of Priority Parameters would take place at the June 27, 2005 meeting.

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It was also decided at the February 18, 2005 meeting that Michelle Giddings would present on the topic of interest: “blue green algae” at the May 27, 2005 meeting.

Decision / Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to review protocol for Council involvement in standards review and prepare descriptions of each stage**
- **Executive Assistant to formalize the parameters in the process and their “Council Engagement Stage”**
- **MOE Liaison member to provide a cost analysis summary on THMs (80 vs. 100 ug/L) to Executive Assistant for distribution to members**
- **MOE Liaison member to provide data on HAAs to Executive Assistant for distribution to members in context for reviewing impact of THM guideline**
- **Executive Assistant to revise list of parameters under review to follow the stages described in the draft protocol and work them into a “members only” website**
- **Council members to review Turbidity guideline in the draft *Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario* and in context with other guidelines i.e. protozoa**
- **It was proposed that a Summary of HAAs will be followed by THMs review, in conjunction with protozoa, for discussion at the April 15, 2005 meeting**
- **MOE Liaison member to provide Chlorite/Chlorate document to Executive Assistant for distribution to members**
- **MOE Liaison member to provide summary of TCE impacts for distribution to members, for review and discussion at the April 15, 2005 meeting.**
- **Review of Priority Parameters to take place at the June 27, 2005 meeting**
- **Michelle Giddings to present on blue green algae at the May 27, 2005 meeting**

7. Administrative Items:

Robert Andrews received a request to speak, on April 7, 2005, in Montreal, at the AWWA RESEAU conference, regarding the Council’s approach to managing smaller and private systems.

As a result, general requests for speaking engagements were discussed and it was agreed that if Council members were going to speak on behalf of the Council, they should be using a standardized and approved presentation, and that all requests be vetted through the Council’s Office.

The Chair noted that he was contacted regarding a backflow prevention initiative. It was agreed that the Council could review research done by others, but would not undertake its own research.

Having a link from the Ministry’s website to the Council’s website was also discussed.

Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest guidelines were presented and discussed. It was suggested that a Legal Services Branch representative be invited to the April 15, 2005 meeting to help develop a final document.

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The Chair offered to narrow and focus the existing document for Council members' review, prior to the April 15, 2005 meeting.

The Council's Annual Report was discussed and it was noted that it is due June 30 of each year. It was agreed that the Chair and the Executive Assistant develop an outline / Table of Contents for presentation at the April 15, 2005 meeting

Decision / Action:

- **Executive Assistant to invite MOE Legal Services to discuss Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest document at April 15, 2005 meeting**
- **Chair to revise Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest document for distribution and review by members**
- **Chair and Executive Assistant to develop an outline for the Council's Annual Report for April 15, 2005 meeting**

Next Meeting(s):

April 15, 2005

May 27, 2005

June 27, 2005

July 15, 2005

8. Adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:00 p.m.