

*Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards
Minutes from November 18, 2005 Meeting*

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| Members Present: | Michele Giddings Peter Huck (via phone until 12:00 pm) Marilyn Lee Harry Richardson John Rudnickas | Rod Holme Alex Hukowich Jim Merritt Ken Roberts Robert Walton |
| Ministry Liaison Staff Present: | Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE | Fred Ruf, MOHLTC |
| Council Staff Present: | Scott Barrett | Iris Biggar |
| Regrets: | Robert Andrews Lesbia Smith | Ron Brecher |
| Guests: | | |

1. Call to Order:

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

Adoption of November 18, 2005 Agenda

November 18, 2005 agenda was adopted by consensus, with one minor change

Adoption of October 21, 2005 Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2005 Meeting Minutes were adopted by consensus.

Review of Outstanding Action Items

None

2. Reg 170 Review:

The MOHLTC Liaison staff member updated the Council on the progress of the Joint (MOHLTC / MOE) Project Management Committee regarding the Small Drinking Water Systems Transformation Project, whose goal is to move the Regulation 252 systems from MOE over to MOHLTC. The Council has asked to remain engaged in this project as it progresses.

Action:

- **Council to remain engaged in the Small Drinking Water Systems Transformation Project, in order to provide on-going advice**

The issue of the application of total coliform standards was next discussed. There was sufficient interest and need for clarification to propose this item be added to the agenda for the December 16, 2005 meeting. Part of the discussion will revolve around how other jurisdictions apply their standards.

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Actions:

- **Ministry of the Environment liaison staff member to provide EPA presentation on coliform applications to Executive Assistant for circulation to the Council**
- **Chair and Executive Assistant to frame the issue of the application of total coliform standards for discussion at the December 16, 2005 meeting**

3. Drinking Water Source Protection

It was noted that the final advice letter to the Minister was transmitted on November 15, 2005. The Council will remain engaged in this issue as the legislation and regulations are developed.

Action:

- **Council to remain engaged in Drinking Water Source Protection initiatives, in order to provide on-going advice**

Council member Alex Hukowich briefed the Council on the Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities Latornell Symposium that was held in Alliston on November 16-18, 2005.

It was noted, overall, that there still seems to be a lack of focus on drinking water. An example of this is that well head protection was not one of the top 10 concerns regarding source protection risk assessment.

Also of note was that the definition of risk presented seemed to be likelihood X (times) public pressure, not likelihood X (times) consequence.

Action:

- **Council member Alex Hukowich to transcribe notes from the symposium and send them to Executive Assistant to aid the Council as it follows this issue, and provides on-going advice**

4. Justice O'Connor Priorities

It was learned by the Council that the Ministry of the Environment is reviewing the Council's recommendations on the *Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water In Ontario*.

As well, the Ministry of the Environment is working on a clearer definition of "free chlorine residual", which could be vetted through the Council.

Action:

- **Council to monitor the Ministry of the Environment's progress on a revised Disinfection Procedure, in order to provide on-going advice, if necessary**

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5. Standards Review

CDW Update:

An update from the October, 2005 Committee on Drinking Water (CDW) was given to the Council and it was learned that both NDMA and 1,4-dioxane were added the National Priority List, and that NDMA was given high priority. Also, a decision was made on arsenic, which is to be forwarded to the Committee on Health and the Environment (CHE), for final approval.

Actions:

- **Executive Assistant to re-circulate the arsenic “Document for Public Comment”, for Council’s review at its December 16, 2005 meeting**
- **Ministry of the Environment liaison staff member to provide updated Priority List to Executive Assistant for circulation to the Council**

THMs:

The draft advice letter regarding THM standards was discussed again, and it was agreed that, with modifications, the letter would be finalized for transmittal the Minister, prior to the Council’s next meeting on December 16, 2005.

Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize and transmit advice letter to the Minister regarding THM standards, prior to the Council’s next meeting on December 16, 2005.**

6. Other Drinking Water Issues

Use of Untreated Surface Water as a Source of Drinking Water

The use of untreated surface water as a drinking water supply for private systems was discussed again in context of the Council’s next steps.

It was decided that the Council’s advice should be limited to the installation of surface water and GUDI systems, and be written up into the form of a draft advice letter for to assist the Council with further review.

Action:

- **Council member Alex Hukowich, Executive Assistant and Chair to collaborate in the development of draft advice for further discussion at the December 16, 2005 meeting**

Drinking Water Testing Services (Reg. 248):

The Council reviewed a new draft advice letter to the Minister regarding its two recommendations for improving Reg. 248.

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Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize advice letter for the Minister, and Chair to forward draft final advice to Minister's Office staff for their information and comment**

Kashechewan

The Council had an open discussion on the events of Kashechewan and, in general, First Nation water supplies.

The following observations were made:

- The First Nation people are self-governing so decisions about drinking water have been made by themselves
- The First Nation people deal only with the federal government in terms of drinking water
- The provision of safe drinking water is a shared responsibility between the federal government and First Nations people
- Funding is provided to First Nation people to be used for the provision of safe drinking water
- The Kashechewan situation was not primarily drinking water quality-related
- Responsibility for safe drinking water is unclear
- Responsibility of the province needs to be clarified

Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to draft points of discussion for Council deliberation on December 16, 2005**

7. Administrative Items:

The Council's Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guideline was finalized and members, who were present at the meeting, signed acknowledgement forms.

Actions:

- **Executive Assistant to ensure each Council member reviews the final Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guideline and acknowledges in writing that he or she has done so**
- **Executive Assistant to ensure all original acknowledgment forms are retained in the Council's files, and that a copy of the Code is sent to the Minister's Office with a list of acknowledgers**

The Action Plan for the Council's 2005 fiscal year was re-introduced. It was agreed that the document would be discussed in relation to priorities and next steps at the December 16, 2005 meeting.

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Action:

- **Council to review Action Plan with regards to priorities and next steps at the December 16, 2005 meeting**

Succession planning for the Council was discussed. It was noted that 3 members' terms will end in May, 2006; one other member has already left, and that one First Nation position still remains vacant.

The question of whether the 1st year's appointments count as a term was discussed. Also discussed was whether affiliations with professional organizations must be pre-requisites. It was noted that Recommendation 25 of the Part Two Report of the Walkerton Inquiry suggested that professional organizations and associations should be solicited for nominations.

It was suggested that if any members have changed their minds regarding their desired term length, they should contact the Ministry of the Environment liaison staff member as soon as possible.

The Council decided that the Ministry of the Environment should endeavour to address the issues of present and future vacancies, using a skills-based approach.

Actions:

- **Ministry of the Environment liaison staff member to determine if the first year's appointment will be counted as a first term**

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to draft advice to Minister's Office encouraging moving forward with filling present and future vacancies, using a skills-based approach, while still soliciting nominations from professional associations and organizations**

The process for public release of the Council's advice was briefly discussed again, and this item will be discussed in detail at the December 16, 2005 meeting.

Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to further develop the process for public release of the Council's advice, for discussion at the December 16, 2005 meeting**

Lastly, the Council's website security was discussed in terms of possible enhancements.

Next Meeting(s):

December 16, 2005
January 20, 2006
February 17, 2006
March 17, 2006

9. Adjourn

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