

*Advisory Council on Drinking Water Quality and Testing Standards
Minutes from February 17, 2006 Meeting*

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

1. Call to Order:

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

Adoption of February 17, 2006 Agenda

February 17, 2006 agenda was adopted by consensus, with the addition of 2 items:

- CAEAL / SCC changes: Michele Giddings
- WCWC RAC Update: Robert Andrews

Adoption of January 20, 2006 Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2006 meeting minutes were adopted by consensus

Review of Outstanding Action Item(s)

Council member Michele Giddings reported back to the Council on the availability of NSF additives for well disinfection in private water supplies. The Council learned that generally only tablet forms were available, and were difficult to find. Further investigation is underway.

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.

It was reported that the Program's name will be the "*Small Drinking Water Systems Program*", and the Health Units will be required to administer the programs, under the HPPA.

The Council has asked to remain engaged in this project as it progresses, and it was noted that the Council will receive drafts of the Risk Assessment Tools for its review.

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It was also noted that the USEPA is asking for comments on revising its Small Drinking Water Systems requirements for standards, and that the Council should review this documentation, which can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/affordability.html>

Actions:

- **Council to remain engaged in the Small Drinking Water Systems Program, in order to provide on-going advice**
- **Council to review USEPA proposal documentation on Small Drinking Water Systems Variances**

The issue of the application of total coliform standards was next discussed, in terms of the action levels for positive results from various types of systems.

It was decided that the Council's approach would be to focus on the Presence / Absence of Total Coliforms, in the absence of *E. coli*.

Action:

- **Council Executive Assistant to coordinate with MOHLTC staff liaison member to develop corrective actions wording for the new *Small Drinking Water Systems Program* systems**

3. Drinking Water Source Protection

The Council's proposed advice was discussed, and it was decided that an Advice Letter be finalized as soon as possible for transmittal to the Minister.

It was noted that some of the Council's previous advice could be given in the future, as the regulations and guidance modules are further developed. This advice included:

- The communication of expectations (public relations)
- The development of representative scenarios to test procedures and protocols

Action:

- **Council Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize advice for transmittal to the Minister**

It was also discussed that the Ministry of the Environment may benefit from a meeting with select Council members, to discuss the Council's proposed advice.

Actions:

- **Executive Assistant and MOE liaison staff member to arrange a meeting with key Ministry staff and Council members to discuss the Council's proposed advice, as well as timing of the release of regulations and guidance modules**

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- **Council to become engaged, on an on-going basis, in the Act's Regulations and Guidance modules as they develop**

- **Council Administrative Assistant to collect media articles concerning the *Clean Water Act* Legislation, Regulations, and Guidance Modules, as they are developed and released to the public**

4. Justice O'Connor Priorities

The Council reviewed its draft advice on definitions for free available chlorine, free available chlorine residual, and chlorine residual for use in the *Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water In Ontario*.

The Council learned that The Ministry of the Environment intends to use AWWA definitions as a guide to develop unique definitions for the *Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water In Ontario*.

Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize advice for transmittal to the Minister**

5. Standards Review

Standards Review Protocol:

The Council's Standards Review Protocol was streamlined to reflect changes to the Federal-Provincial-Territorial process.

Action:

- **Executive Assistant to update Council's Standards Review Protocol to reflect changes to the Federal-Provincial-Territorial process, as well as comments from Council discussion**

Arsenic:

The Council's Arsenic Advice Letter to the Minister was discussed and it was agreed it would be transmitted upon confirmation that both CDW and CHE have approved the revised Guideline, *with no significant changes*.

Action:

- **Executive Assistant to transmit final Arsenic Advice Letter to the Minister upon confirmation that both CDW and CHE have approved the revised Guideline, *with no significant changes***

MTBE:

The Council's MTBE Advice Letter to the Minister was discussed and it was agreed it would be transmitted upon confirmation that both CDW and CHE have approved the revised Guideline, *with no significant changes*.

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Action:

- **Executive Assistant to transmit final MTBE Advice Letter to the Minister upon confirmation that both CDW and CHE have approved the revised Guideline, with no significant changes**

Chlorite / Chlorate:

The Council's Chlorite / Chlorate Advice Letter to the Minister was discussed and it was agreed it would be transmitted upon confirmation that both CDW and CHE have approved the revised Guideline, *with no significant changes*.

Action:

- **Executive Assistant to transmit final Chlorite / Chlorate Advice Letter to the Minister upon confirmation that both CDW and CHE have approved the revised Guideline, with no significant changes**

Pending reviews of standards were next discussed. Draft Consultation Documents are now available for both Radionuclides, and HAAs.

Action:

- **MOE liaison staff member to supply the Executive Assistant with the Draft Consultation Documents for both Radionuclides, and HAAs, to be made available for Council review**

It was also noted in the Council's discussions on standards that Ontario still has many pesticides listed in Reg. 169, which have been dropped as Guidelines from Health Canada, because they have been banned for a number of years and / or are not currently being found in drinking water.

Action:

- **Council to discuss this issue at a future meeting**

It was also noted that drinking water disinfection procedures in other jurisdictions may be different than in Ontario, and that an investigation by the Council could be an area of focus.

Action:

- **Council Member Peter Huck to present to the Council disinfection procedures in other jurisdictions at the July, 2005 meeting**

6. Other Drinking Water Issues

Reg. 903 Update:

It was noted that the Ministry is still working on a regulatory amendment for Reg. 903. CELA sent 2 letters: October 18 and December 8, 2005 with their comments and suggestions on changes to the Regulation.

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Action:

- **Council to monitor and review the regulatory amendment on Reg. 903 to ensure its advice was given proper consideration**

Use of Untreated Surface Water as a Source of Drinking Water:

The draft advice for the use of untreated surface water as a drinking water supply for private systems was discussed, and it was decided that it be finalized.

It was noted that the issue of development / re-development of lots is an issue that will likely need to be addressed in the future, in regards to mandating treatment of drinking water from surface sources.

Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize Advice Letter on the treatment of surface water for use in private drinking water supplies and transmit to the Minister**

Drinking Water Testing Services (Reg. 248):

A meeting amongst HC, MOE, and MOHLTC staff was held on February 15, 2006 to discuss field test kits for microbiological parameters.

The need for such kits by Public Health Units for remote areas was confirmed at the meeting. As well, it was determined that the actual testing procedures and test kits were credible. Other discussions included whether the results from these test kits can be considered for regulatory purposes, as well as who could / should be performing the sampling.

Action:

- **Council to remain engaged in the issue of using field test kits for microbiological parameters as it develops**

Drinking Water Quality Management Standard

The Council's draft advice on the proposed *Drinking Water Quality Management Standard* was discussed and it was agreed that it should be finalized and transmitted to the Minister as soon as possible

Action:

- **Executive Assistant and Chair and Council to finalize DWQMS Advice Letter and transmit to the Minister**

Additional Drinking Water Issues

The split of CAEAL / SCC responsibilities was next discussed. There is a proposal before the Ministry of the Environment to allow CAEAL to become both a Certification and an Accreditation body. Currently, only SCC has the authority for Accreditation.

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The Council was next briefed on the inaugural meeting of the WCWC's Research Advisory Committee (RAC). It was noted that the RAC would be formally looking to the Council for recommendations on potential areas of research.

A form template was suggested to help make the Council's potential recommendations consistent.

Actions:

- **Research directions to be an agenda item for the Council's March 17, 2006 meeting, and to become an item that is discussed annually, coinciding with the WCWC's research planning and funding cycle**

- **Update on RAC to become a standing agenda item for Council meetings**

7. Administrative Items:

The Council next received an update on the recruitment process. Four positions are actively being worked on and progress is being made.

Upcoming conferences were also discussed. It was reinforced that the Council would support its members to attend conferences, in the event that their current employer / organization will not be providing funding.

Next Meeting(s):

March 17, 2006	(40 St. Clair, 3 rd Floor, Training Room "B")
April 21, 2006	(40 St. Clair, 10 th Floor, Boardroom 1040)
May 12, 2006	(40 St. Clair, 3 rd Floor, Training Room "B")
June 16, 2006	(40 St. Clair, 3 rd Floor, Training Room "B")

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 2:30 p.m.