

Members Present:	Robert Andrews Michèle Giddings Peter Huck (<i>via phone</i>) Derrick Kamanga Jim Merritt John Rudnickas	Mary Jane Conboy Rod Holme Alex Hukowich Robert Lannigan Ken Roberts Lesbia Smith
Ministry Liaison Staff Present:	Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE	Fred Ruf, MOHLTC
Council Staff Present:	Scott Barrett, ODWAC	Iris Biggar, ODWAC
Regrets:	Ron Brecher	Robert Walton
Guest(s): (MOE):	Orna Salamon, DWPMB Ian Smith, DWPMB Keith Willson, DWPMB	Christine Campbell, DWPMB Adrienne Scott, SPB Satish Deshpande, SDB

1. Call to Order:

The Chair opened the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Adoption of December 15, 2006 Agenda

December 15, 2006 agenda was adopted by consensus, with no changes.

Adoption of November 17, 2006 Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2006 meeting minutes were adopted by consensus, with no changes, and will be posted to the public area of the Council's website.

The Chair briefed the Council on some recent conferences / sessions that he attended:

- Canadian Water Network (Montreal, November 20-23, 2006)
- Clean Water Act Great Lakes Municipalities Workshop (Toronto, December 4, 2006)
- NSERC Chair in Water Treatment Annual Information Day (Waterloo, December 7, 2006)

2. Reg. 170 Review:

The Ministry of the Environment continues to implement the 22 recommendations made in the Council's February 8, 2005 report to the Minister of the Environment entitled "Report and Advice on Ontario Regulation 170/03 Smaller, Private Systems Review and Recommendations".

Action(s):

- ***Chair to follow-up with Minister's Office staff, early in 2007, on the progress of the Council's recommendations on Reg. 170***

Reg. 248:

The **Reg. 248 Working Group** briefed the Council on its progress in relation to determining the MOE's progress on implementing Walkerton Part 2 Recommendations 40 and 41, and the Council's advice in its Reg. 170 and Reg. 248 reviews.

It was agreed that the **Reg. 248 Working Group** should meet with the MOE's Laboratory Services Branch and MOHLTC (Public Health) staff, in order to discuss progress and strategies for implementing Walkerton Part 2 Recommendations 40 and 41.

Action(s):

- *Reg. 248 Working Group to meet with the MOE's Laboratory Services Branch and MOHLTC (Public Health) staff, in order to discuss progress and strategies for implementing Walkerton Part 2 Recommendations 40 and 41*

3. Small Drinking Water Systems Program

The MOHLTC Liaison Staff member briefed the Council on the progress of the **Small Drinking Water Systems Program**. It was noted that the "Health Systems Improvement Act" (Bill 171) went for 1st reading on December 12, 2006, which included the Small Drinking Water Systems Program (Schedule D). Bill 171 can be viewed at:

http://www.ontla.on.ca/documents/Bills/38_Parliament/session2/b171_e.htm

It was also noted that a 1-day workshop will be held on January 30, 2007, to discuss the technical aspects of the **Risk Assessment Tool**, and that some Council members will be in attendance.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to provide Council Members with the pertinent parts of Bill 171*
- *Council to remain engaged in the Small Drinking Water Inspection System, Legislative and Regulatory changes, and the development of new protocols, in order to provide on-going advice to the MOE and the MOHLTC*

4. Priorities

It was agreed that, after any priority item is presented, the Council would discuss next steps immediately thereafter. As well, the Project Working Documents would need to be updated to reflect the most recent information.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to keep Project Working Documents for priorities up-to-date with the most recent information discussed at Council meetings*

Security / Vulnerability of Drinking Water Systems:

Key Ministry of the Environment staff presented to the Council on the **Ontario Critical Infrastructure Assurance Program** (OCIAP) for the drinking water sector.

It was noted that a 31 member (2 of which are Council members) **Drinking Water Working Group** (DWWG) was formed and has been meeting to discuss the unique issues of maintaining drinking water continuity during an emergency.

Action(s):

- *Council to discuss its potential next steps on the security / vulnerability of drinking water systems at the January 19, 2007 meeting*

Use of Surrogates:

Potential next steps on the **use of surrogates** were discussed.

It was noted that it may be beneficial for the Council to receive a presentation from the Health Canada staff member working on a Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA)

Action(s):

- *Council members Bob Andrews and Peter Huck to collaborate with Executive Assistant to develop some potential next steps for discussion at the January 19, 2007 Council Meeting*
- *Council Member Michèle Giddings to arrange for a presentation on the Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment (QMRA) for a future Council meeting*

Dual Water Systems:

The project working document for **dual water systems** was presented to the Council. The Council learned of a Health Canada guideline on Reclaimed Water (dual water systems) being developed in conjunction with CCME and EC, and an ensuing consultation that is scheduled to run in 2007.

Action(s):

- *Council to remain engaged in discussing dual water systems as more information becomes available*
- *Council Member Michèle Giddings to arrange for a presentation on Health Canada's guideline for a future Council meeting*

5. Clean Water Act

Key Ministry of the Environment staff presented to the Council on the progress of implementing the **Clean Water Act**.

It was decided that the **Clean Water Act** Working Group should convene and meet with Key Ministry of the Environment staff in early 2007, in order to discuss the information presented in more detail.

Action(s):

- *Working Group to convene and meet with Key Ministry of the Environment staff in early 2007 to suggest next steps and potential areas of concern with draft regulations and guidance documentation*

6. Standards Review

The complete updated **Standards Review Protocol** was presented and discussed.

It was agreed that a formal presentation on all upcoming Guidelines is expected, at the point that Council decisions need to be made, and that the next steps would be discussed immediately after such presentations.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff member to arrange for presentations for each upcoming Guideline, at the point that Council decisions need to be made*

Next discussed was a summary of the Council's currently engaged **Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ)**. Specific details as discussed are below:

Chlorite / Chlorate:

The revised **Chlorite / Chlorate Draft Final Guideline Technical Document** was not available at the time of this Council meeting so it was decided that the Council would review the amended document at the January 19, 2007 meeting.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to obtain and circulate the revised Chlorite / Chlorate Document to the Council members for discussion at the January 19, 2007 meeting*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff member to arrange for a presentation on the Chlorite / Chlorate Draft Final Guideline Technical Document, for the January 19, 2007 meeting*

MCPA:

It was noted that **MCPA** was posted on Health Canada's website for public consultation on November 17, 2006. The comment period will end January 19, 2007. Council Members were supplied with the consultation copy of the document.

Action(s):

- *Council to discuss the MCPA Document for Public Comment at a future meeting, after national consultation comments are made available*

Radiological Characteristics / HAAs:

It was noted that the **Radiological Characteristics** and **HAAs** national public consultations are both finished, and that comments will be made available to the Council when available. Ontario will hold its public consultations after final GCDWQ are announced.

Action(s):

- *MOE Liaison Staff Member to supply the Council with the national public comments for Radiological Characteristics and HAAs for discussion at a future meeting*
- *Council to discuss the Radiological Characteristics and HAAs Documents at future meetings*

Potassium, Chloral Hydrate, Corrosion Control:

The **Documents for Public Comment for Potassium, Chloral Hydrate, and Corrosion Control** will be made available to the Council after the peer review comments are incorporated and the documents are posted for national consultation.

Pending Reviews:

The revised **Draft Documents for Public Comment for Benzene, and Chlorine** will be made available to the Council in 2007.

Tritium:

The Council heard a presentation on **Tritium** and the derivation and application of Ontario's standard as well as those of several other international jurisdictions. It was also noted that **Tritium** is part of the **Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water Draft Final Guideline Technical Document**, which is currently being developed through the Federal / Provincial / Territorial process.

Action(s):

- *Council to remain engaged in the issue of a Tritium review in order to provide advice to the Minister of the Environment*

7. Other Drinking Water Issues

DWQMS:

The **Drinking Water Quality Management Standard Working Group** reported back the Council on its review of the information found in the Environmental Registry posting of October 30, 2006, as well as suggested next steps. The following observations were made:

- The Guidance Document is a well written, vital tool for drinking water systems owners and operators
- The Guidance Document is a living document that needs to be kept up-to-date, using feedback from stakeholders, etc.
- Development and implementation of a successful DWQMS and the associated activities hinges on sufficient allocation of resources
- The other associated 4 Environmental Registry postings were not discussed in any detail as they were deemed to be administrative in nature

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff member to arrange for a presentation on The DWQMS Guidance Document, for the January 19, or February 16, 2007 Council meeting*
- *Executive Assistant to arrange for a presentation on The DWQMS Guidance Document, from a municipal perspective, for the January 19, or February 16, 2007 Council meeting*
- *Council to discuss next steps on the DWQMS after hearing the January 19, or February 16, 2007 presentations*

Report of the Expert Panel on Safe Drinking Water for First Nations:

The *Report of the Expert Panel on Safe Drinking Water for First Nations* was released in November, 2006, and the Council discussed its contents and recommendations. The report can be viewed at:

http://www.sdw-eps.gc.ca/rprt/index_e.asp

The **Report** noted that First Nations drinking water systems need more resources, and plant upgrades, in order to be in a position to sustain a safe drinking water supply for the future.

5 options for regulation were presented in the **Report**, and it was suggested that the Council wait until a direction is decided on before considering developing advice to the Minister.

It was also suggested that the Council could also hear a presentation from one of the authors of the **Report**.

Action(s):

- *Chair and Executive Assistant to collaborate with Council Member Derrick Kamanga to develop key points of concern for Ontario, to be discussed at a future meeting, for potential use as advice to the Minister of the Environment*
- *Chair to arrange for a presentation by one of the authors on the report*

David Suzuki Foundation Report on International Drinking Water Standards:

The Water We Drink: An international Comparison of Drinking Water Quality Standards and Guidelines was released in November, 2006, and the Council discussed its contents and recommendations. The report can be viewed at:

<http://www.davidsuzuki.org/WOL/Publications.asp>

It was noted that the wide variation in standards and guidelines result from policy decisions, and may not necessarily represent tangible health impacts, or significant differences in science.

Bill S-205: “An Act to amend the *Food and Drugs Act* (clean drinking water)”:

The Council was also briefed of the progress of **Bill S-205**: “An Act to amend the federal *Food and Drugs Act* (clean drinking water)”, which will attempt to designate drinking water as a food, under the *Food and Drugs Act*. The Bill can be viewed at:

http://www2.parl.gc.ca/content/Senate/Bills/391/public/S-205/S-205_1/S-205_text-e.htm

Well Aware Funding:

The Council was made aware that the Ministry of the Environment has committed to supporting Green Communities delivery of the Well Aware program for a three-year period.

It was also noted that OMAFRA has a Research and Innovation Branch and a number of summary reports are available for viewing at:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/research/environment/index.html>

8. Administrative Items:

The Council was given permission to release its **Annual Report** recently, and it was posted on the Council’s website. The Minister’s Office sent out notification letters to 25 key stakeholders, and Council will be sending copies of the actual **Report** to approximately 40 individuals, many of whom will have received the Minister’s notification.

The Chair briefed the Council on several upcoming **conferences**:

- PPCPs: Niagara, March 5-7, 2007 (see e-mail from Executive Assistant)
- OWWA: Collingwood, May 6-9, 2007 www.owwa.com/events/conference.php
- AWWA: Toronto, June 24-28, 2007 www.awwa.org/ace07/

Next Meeting(s):

- January 19, 2007 (40 St. Clair, 3rd Floor, Training Room “B”)
- February 16, 2007 (40 St. Clair, 3rd Floor, Training Room “B”)
- March 23, 2007 (Location to be determined)
- April 20, 2007 (Location to be determined)
- May 25, 2007 (Location to be determined)
- June 22, 2007 (Location to be determined)

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 4:30 p.m.