

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from March 23, 2007 Meeting

Members Present:	Robert Andrews	Mary Jane Conboy
	Michèle Giddings	Rod Holme
	Peter Huck	Alex Hukowich
	Derrick Kamanga	Jim Merritt
	Ken Roberts	John Rudnickas
	Robert Walton	

Ministry Liaison Staff Present:	Satish Deshpande, MOE	Fred Ruf, MOHLTC
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Council Staff Present:	Iris Biggar, ODWAC
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Regrets:	Scott Barrett, ODWAC	Ron Brecher
	Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE	Robert Lannigan
	Lesbia Smith	

1. Call to Order:

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

Adoption of March 23, 2007 Agenda:

March 23, 2007 agenda was adopted by consensus, with the addition of several items:

- Fluoride: Section 5 - *Standards Review*
- Minister's Office Staff meeting: Section 6 - *Other Drinking Water Issues*
- Clean Water Act: Section 6 - *Other Drinking Water Issues*
- CDWI's Annual Report: Section 6 - *Other Drinking Water Issues*
- Regulation 903: Section 6 - *Other Drinking Water Issues*
- 2007 Provincial Budget: Section 7 - *Administrative Items*.

Adoption of February 16, 2007 Meeting Minutes:

February 16, 2007 meeting minutes were adopted by consensus, with one minor change, and will be posted to the public area of the Council's website at www.odwac.gov.on.ca.

2. Reg. 170 Review:

The Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff member advised the Council that the **Design Guidelines** for both water and wastewater are complete and are awaiting approval to be posted to the Environmental Registry. It was noted that there could be a possible connection between the Design Guidelines for water and the existing *Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario*.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff to forward proposed Design Guidelines to Executive Assistant for Review by the Council at an upcoming meeting*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff to arrange for a presentation on the Design Guidelines for the May 25, 2007 or June 22, 2007 Council meeting*

3. Small Drinking Water Systems Program

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) Liaison Staff member briefed the Council on the progress of the **Small Drinking Water Systems Program**.

The “**Health Systems Improvement Act**” (Bill 171), which includes the Small Drinking Water Systems Program (Schedule D) is scheduled for second reading on March 26, 2007.

It was also noted that MOHLTC Liaison Staff member will be retiring from public service effective March 30, 2007, and that a replacement will be announced.

Action(s):

- *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*
- *MOHLTC to advise Council Chair of replacement Staff Liaison Member*

CSA B483 (Drinking Water Treatment Systems)

Canadian Standards Association **CSA B483 (Drinking Water Treatment Systems)** was next discussed. It was noted that all CSA certified systems under this Standard must first be NSF certified.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant and Chair to develop draft advice letter to the Minister of the Environment outlining the need for industry and government to collaborate on a system for aiding Public Health Inspectors in selecting appropriate treatment options for the small drinking water systems that they will become responsible for*
- *Executive Assistant to arrange for a presentation on CSA’s Drinking Water Products Evaluation Program, for a future Council meeting*

4. Priorities

Use of Surrogates:

A draft Project Scoping Document for the **use of surrogates** on was presented to facilitate discussion on next steps.

Action(s):

- *Council member Ken Roberts, in conjunction with the Surrogates Working Group, to develop Terms of Reference from the Project Scoping Document for TOC; E. coli; AOX; HAA₉; and Bromide, for discussion at a future meeting*

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs):

Council member Bob Andrews briefed the Council on the *Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in the Canadian Environment: Research and Policy Directions* conference that was held in Niagara-on-the-Lake from March 5-7, 2007.

Action(s):

- *Council member Michèle Giddings to provide Council with information on Health Canada's initiatives on how PPCPs are regulated, for discussion of next steps at future meeting*
- *Council Executive Assistant to obtain a summary of the Ministry of Environment's PPCP activities being undertaken in Ontario, for discussion of next steps at future meeting*
- *Executive Assistant to obtain summary report from Niagara-on-the-Lake PPCPs conference for discussion of next steps at a future Council meeting*

Public Confidence in Municipal Drinking Water:

Probe Research may be able to make a presentation to Council at the April 20, 2007 meeting on the subject of **public confidence in municipal drinking water**. Senior staff from the Ministry of the Environment's Drinking Water Management Division would also attend.

Action(s):

- *Council Executive Assistant to confirm attendance and make arrangements for Probe Research to present to the Council and staff from the Ministry of the Environment's Drinking Water Management Division, on the subject of public confidence in municipal drinking water, for the April 20, 2007 meeting*
- *Council Executive Assistant to obtain from the Ministry of the Environment, report on public confidence in municipal drinking water, prepared by Probe Research*

Alternative Approaches to Disinfection:

Council member Peter Huck presented a draft Project Scoping Document developed to facilitate discussions on an **alternative approaches to disinfection workshop** for the Working Group.

Discussion points included:

- Targeting workshop for October, 2007
- Primary vs. Secondary disinfection not the issue
- Chlorine use, in general, is the issue
- Questions needed to focus presenters and expert panel
- Desired outcome of workshop
- Workshop could consist of:
 - An information session, followed by:
 - An expert panel session to formulate a suggested consensus-based policy direction

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant and Chair to meet with Council Member Peter Huck to develop workshop scope, plan, and program, to report back to Council at a future meeting*

Report of the Walkerton Inquiry Part 2 Recommendations:

The Chair briefed the Council on a meeting with Minister's Office staff regarding the Ministry of the Environment's responses to the implementation of the **Report of the Walkerton Inquiry Part 2 Recommendations**.

5. Standards Review

Committee on Drinking Water (CDW) Meeting:

It was noted that the Chair and Executive Assistant received approval to attend the May 2-4, 2007 **Committee on Drinking Water (CDW) meeting** as observers.

Chlorite and Chlorate:

A re-drafted **Chlorite and Chlorate Advice Letter** was presented and revisions were discussed.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant and Chair to revise the Chlorite and Chlorate advice letter for discussion at the April 20, 2007 Council meeting*

Radiological Characteristics / HAAs / MCPA / Chloral Hydrate:

The **Radiological Characteristics, HAAs, MCPA, and Chloral Hydrate Documents** for Public Comment are currently being revised (post consultation) by the CDW.

Action(s):

- *MOE Liaison Staff Member to supply Executive Assistant with the post consultation Documents for Radiological Characteristics, HAAs, MCPA, and Chloral Hydrate for discussion at future Council meetings*

Potassium:

The **Document for Public Comment for Potassium** was posted in late February, 2007 for a public comment period ending May 31, 2007.

Action(s):

- *Council to review the Document for Public Comment for Potassium at a future meeting*

Corrosion Control:

The **Document for Public Comment for Corrosion Control** will be made available to the Council when it is posted for national consultation.

Action(s):

- *Council to review the Document for Public Comment for Corrosion Control at a future meeting, once national consultation is underway*

Tritium:

The Chair presented a draft response letter on the Council's projected timing for the **review of the Tritium Standard**, and it was accepted with one minor revision.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to revise the draft response letter, based on the Council's discussion*
- *Chair to discuss revised draft response letter with Minister's Office staff*

Progress of the **Tritium Working Group** was also discussed.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to arrange a meeting with Toronto Public Health and the Tritium Working Group to discuss their concerns surrounding Tritium*
- *Executive Assistant and Ministry of the Environment Liaison staff member to arrange a meeting with the Ministry of Labour's Radiation Protection Service and the Tritium Working Group on Tritium monitoring data*
- *Executive Assistant to arrange a meeting with the former Chair of ACES and the Tritium Working Group*

Pending Reviews:

The revised **Draft Documents for Public Comment for Benzene, and Chlorine** will be made available to the Council as soon as they are available.

Fluoride:

The Council was made aware of a media article that referenced a possible request from the London region public health board and the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry, asking Ontario to set up a "**Provincial Fluoridation Office**" to disseminate public information, evaluate data and provide research.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison staff member to investigate whether an official request to set up a "Provincial Fluoridation Office" has been received and, if so, which Ministry is the lead on the issue*

6. Other Drinking Water Issues

Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation

Council Member Derrick Kamanga presented an overview of the **Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation's** mandate, services, and activities.

Expert Panel Report on First Nations Drinking Water

Potential recommendations for the Minister of the Environment on **Ontario First Nations drinking water** was presented and discussed.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to develop a draft advice letter with recommendations for First Nations drinking water in Ontario, for discussion at a future Council meeting*

Clean Water Act:

The Council discussed the Ministry of the Environment's anticipated **Clean Water Act** deliverables for 2007.

Also discussed was the **Source Protection Committee** selection process with regard to the amount of time expected from members and chair, as well as remuneration.

Action(s):

- *Council to remain engaged in the development of the Clean Water Act Regulations and Guidance Documentation, in order to provide on-going advice to the Minister of the Environment*

Chief Drinking Water Inspector's 2005-2006 Annual Report:

The Chair briefed the Council on a meeting with the **Chief Drinking Water Inspector**, in which the **2005-2006 Annual Report** was discussed.

Action(s):

- *Chair and Executive Assistant to provide potential areas of interest of the Chief Drinking Water Inspector's 2005-2006 Draft Annual Report to the Council, for the April 20, 2007 meeting*

Regulation 903 (Wells):

Proposed regulatory amendments to Reg. 903 were posted on the Environmental Registry on March 22, 2007 for public comment until April 23, 2007, and on March 23, 2007, the Council publicly post its advice, which was provided to the Minister of the Environment on June 16, 2005.

The Environmental Registry posting can be found at:

<http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/displaynoticecontent.do?noticeId=MTAwMTQ3&statusId=MTQ5NTY1&language=en>

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to compare the Council's recommendations to the proposed regulatory amendments for discussion at the April 20, 2007 meeting*

7. Administrative Items:

It was noted that the **2007 Provincial Budget** was publicly announced on March 22, 2007. Drinking water allotments are as follows:

- \$380 million to help (*combined federal and provincial funding*) **60 small and rural municipalities upgrade their water and wastewater systems**
- \$140 million **Rural Infrastructure Investment Initiative**, which helps rural and small municipalities provide safe and reliable local infrastructure for clean water and wastewater
- Fulfilling all 121 **recommendations from the Walkerton Inquiry**
- Continuing the \$120 million commitment to fund **source water protection** planning from 2004 to 2008
- \$7 million for the new **Drinking Water Stewardship Program** under the Clean Water Act
- \$21 million over the next 3 years to allow for **research, education and early action to protect drinking water sources**

Next Meeting(s):

- April 20, 2007 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3rd Floor, Training Room “B”)
- May 25, 2007 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3rd Floor, Training Room “B”)
- June 22, 2007 (Location to be determined)
- July 20, 2007 (Location to be determined)
- *No meeting scheduled for August, 2007*
- September 21, 2007 (location to be determined)

7. Adjourn

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