

*Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from June 22, 2007 Meeting*

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**Members Present:**

Robert Andrews	Ron Brecher
Mary Jane Conboy	Michèle Giddings
Rod Holme	Peter Huck ( <i>via phone</i> )
Alex Hukowich	Derrick Kamanga
Robert Lannigan	Jim Merritt
Ken Roberts	John Rudnickas
Robert Walton	

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**Ministry Liaison Staff Present:** Satish Deshpande, MOE    Brenda Mitchell, MOHLTC

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**Council Staff Present:** Scott Barrett, ODWAC    Iris Biggar, ODWAC

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**Regrets:** Lesbia Smith

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**1. Call to Order:**

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

**Adoption of June 22, 2007 Agenda:**

**June 22, 2007 agenda** was adopted by consensus, with no changes.

**Adoption of May 25, 2007 Meeting Minutes:**

**May 25, 2007 meeting minutes** were adopted by consensus and will be posted to the public area of the Council's website at [www.odwac.gov.on.ca](http://www.odwac.gov.on.ca).

The Chair wished to note that the Ontario Municipal Water Association recently presented the "Award of Exceptional Merit" to Council Member Rob Walton.

The Chair noted that the Chief Drinking Water Inspector's Annual Report for 2005-2006 was released on June 21, 2007, and noted that some of the Council's comments were reflected.

The Chair also noted that the "*Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario's Water Act*" received Royal Assent on June 4, 2007.

The subject of how to better promote the Council's activities was also suggested as an agenda item addition.

**2. Reg. 170 Review:**

The Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff member updated the Council on the **progress of Reg. 170 and associated amendments.**

It was noted that the new lead requirements for the province will be in the form of an amendment to Reg. 170.

*Action(s):*

- *Council to remain engaged in Reg. 170 and its associated amendments, in order to provide ongoing advice to the Minister of the Environment*

**3. Small Drinking Water Systems Program**

Brenda Mitchell, Director of the new Environmental Health Branch of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, briefed the Council on the progress of the Small Drinking Water Systems Program, in regards to the transfer of small systems from the Ministry of the Environment to Public Health oversight.

*Action(s):*

- *Council to remain engaged in the Small Drinking Water Systems Program, Legislative and Regulatory changes, the Risk Assessment Tool, and the development of protocols, in order to provide on-going advice to the MOE and the MOHLTC*

**4. 2007-2008 Priorities:**

The Council discussed some general thoughts on upcoming and on-going priorities, including:

- Obtaining a monthly “report” of Ministry of the Environment drinking water initiatives and associated activities
- Changing the standing agenda item “Reg. 170 Review” to “Ministry of the Environment Update”
- Adding timelines and using Gant Charts for planning
- Identifying inter-dependencies
- Making use of one-day workshops
- Using AWWA contacts for new and emerging issues
- Developing templates for Terms of Reference and Requests for Proposal

The Chair then presented an overview of the proposed priorities setting process for the Council, consisting of:

- Currently Engaged Matters
- 2006-2007 Priorities Roll-Up
- Drinking Water Standards
- Pending Ministry of the Environment Activities
- New 2007-2008 Proactive Priorities

Each of the ten 2006-2007 Priorities were then reviewed in detail, with a view towards deciding if they should remain a priority for the coming year, or should be put on hold to allow for more important issue to be addressed:

Alternative Disinfection Approaches:

The Council agreed by consensus that Alternative Disinfection Approaches should remain a priority for this coming year, and that the Working Group continue its efforts with monthly reports back to the full Council.

Use of Surrogates:

The Council agreed by consensus that the Use of Surrogates should remain a priority for this coming year, and that the Working Group continue its efforts with monthly reports back to the full Council.

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products:

The Council agreed by consensus that Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products should remain a priority for this coming year, and that a Working Group should be formed to determine appropriate actions and report monthly back to the full Council.

Public Confidence in Municipal Drinking Water Supplies:

The Council agreed by consensus that Public Confidence in Municipal Drinking Water Supplies should remain a priority for this coming year, and that the Council should watch for and review activities that the Ministry of the Environment undertakes with regard to the Probe Research report conclusions.

Security / Vulnerability of Municipal Drinking Water Supplies:

The Council agreed by consensus that Security / Vulnerability of Municipal Drinking Water Supplies should remain a priority for this coming year, and that the Council should watch for and review activities that the Ministry of the Environment undertakes in this area, specifically with regard to implementation of the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard, and the Ontario Critical Infrastructure Assurance Program (OCIAP) for the Drinking Water Sector.

Small Systems Treatment Equipment:

The Council agreed by consensus that Small Systems Treatment Equipment should remain a priority for this coming year, and that the Chair remain engaged in the nationally focused Federal / Provincial / Territorial Committee on Drinking Water Small Systems Working Group.

Outstanding Part Two Walkerton Recommendations:

A Working Group comprised of Council Members and Staff completed its review of the Outstanding Part Two Walkerton Recommendations, and provided detailed comments to Minister's Office Staff, in November of 2006. It was agreed by consensus that Outstanding Part Two Walkerton Recommendations should become part of the Council's annual review process.

Use of Trends:

The Council agreed by consensus that the Use of Trends should remain a priority for this coming year, and that the Council should watch for and review activities that the Ministry of the Environment undertakes in this area.

Dual Water Systems:

The Council agreed by consensus that Dual Water Systems should remain a priority for this coming year, and that the Council should watch for activities that the Ministry of the Environment undertakes in this area, as well as review Health Canada's proposed "Canadian Guidelines for Household Reclaimed Water for Use in Toilet and Urinal Flushing" Document for Public Comment, when available.

Banned Pesticides in Reg. 169:

The Council investigated whether to recommend the revocation of pesticides from Reg. 169 that have been banned in Canada and have been de-listed as Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality. The Council concluded that it is beneficial to leave these banned pesticides in Reg. 169, since they are generally part of a pesticide scan, and their presence in the future would indicate a problem that would require investigation in to the source.

*Action(s):*

- *Executive Assistant to update all 2007-2008 priorities documentation for use by Working Groups or general Council deliberation*

**5. Standards Review**

First, the Chair and Executive Assistant briefed the Council on their attendance of the Committee on Drinking Water (CDW) meeting from May 2-4, 2007.

Second, Health Canada's Priority List for Drinking Water Contaminants was reviewed, in relation to the Priorities setting exercise in #4 above.

*Action(s):*

- *Council Members to review Health Canada's Priority List for Drinking Water Contaminants, and provide comments on additions, deletions, or moves to Executive Assistant, for discussion at July 20, 2007 Meeting*

Third, the Council reviewed the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality that it is currently engaged in reviewing, in relation to the Priorities setting exercise in #4 above.

Corrosion Control:

The Chair updated the Council on the progress of the Working Group's advice to the Minister of the Environment on Corrosion Control.

It was noted that formal advice was transmitted to the Minister of the Environment on May 31, 2007, and that follow-up advice was requested in relation to sampling stagnation time justification.

The draft advice letter for the follow-up advice on sampling stagnation time justification was presented by the Chair and discussed by the Council.

*Action(s):*

- *Council's Corrosion Control Working Group to review draft advice letter for sampling stagnation time justification, and provide comments to Executive Assistant*

Tritium:

Progress of the Working Group on the review of Ontario's Tritium Standard continues.

Chlorite / Chlorate:

The draft advice letter for Chlorite / Chlorate was discussed and finalized.

*Action(s):*

- *Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize advice letter for Chlorite / Chlorate and transmit to Minister of Environment, once approval has been granted by the Committee on Health and the Environment*

Benzene:

It was noted that Benzene is due to be posted for public comment shortly, and that the Council should receive a presentation on the final Document for Public Comment.

*Action(s):*

*Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff to arrange for a presentation on Benzene for the July 20, 2007 Council Meeting*

## **6. Other Drinking Water Issues**

### **Risk Communication:**

The Council heard a presentation on Risk Communication from Member Ron Brecher.

### **First Nations Safe Drinking Water Advice Letter:**

It was agreed that the draft advice letter for the Minister of the Environment on **First Nations Drinking Water Quality Recommendations** be brought forward for the July 20, 2007 Council Meeting.

*Action(s):*

- *Council to discuss draft advice letter with recommendations for First Nations drinking water in Ontario, at the July 20, 2007 meeting*

**7. Administrative Items:**

**Annual Report:**

The Council discussed its **2006-2007 Annual Report**, which is due to the Minister of the Environment by July 31, 2007.

*Action(s):*

- *Council Members to provide their feedback on the 2006-2007 Annual Report to the Executive Assistant, for discussion at the July 20, 2007 Council Meeting*

**Next Meeting(s):**

- July 20, 2007 (40 St. Clair Avenue West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Training Room “B”)
- *No meeting scheduled for August, 2007*
- September 21, 2007 (location to be determined)
- October 19, 2007 (location to be determined)
- November 16, 2007 (location to be determined)
- December 14, 2007 (location to be determined)

**8. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 3:50 p.m.