

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from September 12, 2008 Meeting

Members Present:	Robert Andrews Michèle Giddings Peter Huck Derrick Kamanga Jim Merritt John Rudnickas	Mary Jane Conboy Rod Holme Alex Hukowich Robert Lannigan Ken Roberts Robert Walton
Ministry Liaison Staff Present:	Satish Deshpande, MOE	Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE
Council Staff Present:	Scott Barrett	
Regrets:	Tony Amalfa, MOHLTC Ron Brecher	Iris Biggar Lesbia Smith
MOE Guests:	Richard Raeburn-Gibson	Anne Marie Weselan

1. Call to Order:

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

Adoption of September 12, 2008 Agenda:

September 12, 2008 agenda was adopted by consensus, with the addition of updates from:

- Jim Merritt on **Peter Huck** being featured on the cover of the September, 2008 Journal of the American Water Works Association, as a result of being the recipient of the **2008 A. P. Black Research Award**
- **Derrick Kamanga** on **Proposed Water Legislation by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**, which proposes to incorporate elements of Ontario's legislative framework for drinking water
- **John Rudnickas** on the latest **Joint OWWA/OMWA/MOE meeting**: cross-connections and backflow prevention, *Clean Water Act* progress, and Reg. 248 issues
- **Michèle Giddings** on the **National Drinking Water Conference, October 4-7, 2008, Québec City**

Adoption of July 18, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

July 18, 2008 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.

2. MOE Update on Initiatives and Activities:

The Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member updated the Council on a few items:

- Ontario's progress on a **Pesticides Ban**
- **Land and Water Policy Branch Regulatory Amendments:** Upcoming amendments to Reg. 243, Reg. 170 (including the status of relief from lead sampling), and Reg. 248.

The Council then received an update on the progress of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* on the **EBR comments received and the consultation sessions** recently held, with respect to the “**Definitions of Words and Expressions Used in the Act Regulation**”, the “**Assessment Reports Regulation**”, and the “*Clean Water Act, 2006 Technical Rules: Assessment Report*”.

It was noted that there was a:

- need for clarification of some terms;
- need to provide similar level of protection for type II and III systems (those brought into the source protection program through municipal council resolution and the Minister respectively) that are providing for type I systems (municipal residential);
- need to allow for local flexibility in delineating intake protection zones for the Great Lakes and connecting channels;
- need to consider the nature of the contaminant when determining threats to intake protection zones for the Great Lakes and connecting channels;
- need to include more parameters (beyond just ODWQS) for rules related to drinking water quality issues;
- need to acknowledge treatment plant capabilities but also respect the multi-barrier approach when determining drinking water quality issues;
- need to acknowledge other “criteria” e.g. hydrologic associations with groundwater recharge when setting thresholds for significant groundwater recharge areas

Also, the **Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program** was discussed, and interest was expressed in seeing the summary of the results of the year-1 funding.

3. MOHLTC Update on Initiatives and Activities:

The MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member was unable to attend the Council Meeting but offered to provide a **written update to the Council on the progress of the Small Drinking Water Systems Program**.

Action(s):

- *MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member to provide an update on the progress of the Small Drinking Water Systems Program to the Council's Executive Assistant*

The Council discussed the issue of specialized training of Public Health Inspectors needed for the Small Drinking Water Systems Program. It was heard that the training has been inadequate for the purposes of inspecting small systems.

Action(s):

- *Council to discuss the issue of proper training for Public Health Inspectors for the purposes of the Small Drinking Water Systems Program, at the October 17, 2008 Meeting*

The Council also discussed the application of the uranium drinking water Standard by local health units in Eastern Ontario.

4. Standards Review:

Tritium:

The Chair presented 3 preliminary draft documents (**Conclusions, Calculations, and Recommendations**) for discussion by the Council.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant and Chair to continue to revise documentation, including the draft report on tritium, based on feedback received at the September 12, 2008 Council Meeting*
- *Working Group to meet in late September to review, discuss and revise the draft report on tritium*

HAA₅:

It was noted that the **advice letter to the Minister of the Environment on HAA₅** was transmitted to the Minister of the Environment on July 29, 2008, and acknowledgement was received August 12, 2008.

Radiological Characteristics:

The Council received a presentation on the **Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*) that is currently with CHE for final approval. (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*)

The points of debate were whether to formalize monitoring and whether Standards with no MACs should be removed from Schedule 3 of O. Reg. 169.

Action(s):

- *Council to decide at the October 17, 2008 Meeting whether to formally write the Minister of the Environment to provide recommendations for Ontario on the Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water Document*

Benzene:

The Council was updated on the status of the **Benzene in Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*), which is ready for CDW approval. (*Council Standards Review Stage 5*)

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on Benzene in Drinking Water Document for the October 17, 2008 Council Meeting*

Chloral Hydrate, Potassium:

The Council was updated on the status of the **Chloral Hydrate in Drinking Water** (*Guidance Document*) and **Guidance on Potassium from Water Softeners** (*Guidance Document*) (*Both Council Standards Review Stage 5*).

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for presentations on Chloral Hydrate and Potassium Documents for Council deliberation at future Meetings in 2008*

Chlorine:

The Council was updated on the **Chlorine in Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*) (*Council Standards Review Stage 3*).

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on the Chlorine in Drinking Water Document for deliberation at a future Meeting in 2008*

5. Other Drinking Water Issues:

The Council received a presentation on the **MOE's private well management program under the Wells Regulation (Reg. 903)**.

Several suggestions were offered to the MOE staff, although the Council remained concerned that that microbiological verification prior to first usage is not required, per the Council's recommendations. The Council also expressed concern over the effectiveness of the MOE's education and outreach activities, for new, existing, and abandoned wells.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to report back to the Council on whether there is a correlation between new well drilling and health unit microbiological testing*

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to report back to the Council on whether Well Records capture the two chlorine residual tests required for new well construction*

The Chair and Member Peter Huck updated the Council on the **progress of the September 22, 2008 Alternative Approaches to Disinfection Symposium**. It was noted that approximately 70 participants are confirmed.

Action(s):

- *Council Administrative Assistant to send out agenda for September 22, 2008 to all registered participants*
- *Council Member Peter Huck to finalize detailed agenda for the September 23 experts session*

6. Administrative Items:

The Council discussed the new *Public Service of Ontario Act* (PSOA) as well as the **Conflict of Interest Regulation** (O. Reg. 381/07), which came into effect on August 20, 2008, in terms of the Council's own Conflict of Interest Guidelines. It was noted that the Regulation takes precedence in all cases where there is a conflict with the Council's own rules. As such, the Council decided that it would not revise its own rules.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a Legal Services representative to brief the Council on O. Reg. 381/07 at a future Meeting*

The Council's **2007-2008 draft Annual Report** was next discussed.

Action(s):

- *Council Executive Assistant and Chair to finalize the 2007-2008 Annual Report and transmit it to the Minister of the Environment*

Next Meeting(s):

- October 17, 2008 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3rd Floor, Training Room "A")
- November 21, 2008 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3rd Floor, Training Room "B")
- December 19, 2008 (40 St. Clair Ave. W. 3rd Floor, Training Room "B")
- January 16, 2009 (location to be determined)
- February 20, 2009 (location to be determined)

7. Adjourn

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