

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from January 15, 2009 Meeting

Members Present:	Mary Jane Conboy Peter Huck Derrick Kamanga Jim Merritt John Rudnickas Robert Walton	Rod Holme Alex Hukowich Robert Lannigan Ken Roberts Lesbia Smith
Ministry Liaison Staff Present:	Satish Deshpande, MOE Pat Lachmaniuk, MOE	Andenye Chablitt, MOHLTC
Council Staff Present:	Scott Barrett	Iris Biggar
Regrets:	Ron Brecher	Michèle Giddings

1. Call to Order:

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

The **Minister of the Environment**, the **Honourable John Gerretsen** was present to meet the Council Members and informally discuss drinking water in the province.

The Council discussed a few items of interest, including:

- The Chair's meeting with the **new Chief Drinking Water Inspector**, John Stager;
- preliminary second round results of **municipal lead testing**; and
- **lead studies** in Hamilton, and by Health Canada

Adoption of January 15, 2009 Agenda:

The **January 15, 2009 agenda** was adopted by consensus.

Adoption of December 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes:

The **December 19, 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 Council discussed some items of interest, including:

- the **Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS)**;
- Clean Water Act **Source Protection Planning**; and
- **municipal financing of drinking water systems**

Action(s):

- *Council to request an update presentation on the implementation status of the DWQMS, at a future Council Meeting*

- *Council to request an update presentation on the implementation status of the Clean Water Act's Source Protection Planning activities, at a future Council Meeting*
- *Council to consider municipal financing of drinking water systems as part of its priorities discussion at the June 19, 2009 Meeting*

3. MOHLTC Update on Initiatives and Activities:

The MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member briefed the Council on the progress of the **Small Drinking Water Systems Program**.

The Council learned that a "**Small Drinking Water Systems**" **Package** is being prepared and will be given to the Council for review and comment.

A **Working Group** was struck, consisting of Mary Jane Conboy, Michèle Giddings, Rod Holme, Derrick Kamanga, Ken Roberts, Jim Merritt, and Scott Barrett to review and comment on the package.

Also discussed were **Blue-Green Algae issues** and public health responses. It was noted that several Council Members have heard expert presentations on the environmental aspects of Blue-Green Algae.

Action(s):

- *MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member to provide the Council with a "Small Drinking Water Systems" package for comment and review*
- *Council Working Group to review "Small Drinking Water Systems Program" package", for discussion at a future Council Meeting*
- *MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member to provide the Council with a presentation of the Risk Characterization Assessment Tool, as well as some sample documentation, at the February 20, 2009 Council Meeting*

4. Standards Review:

Tritium:

The Chair briefed the Council on the progress being made on the preliminary **confidential draft tritium report**.

It was decided that the preliminary **confidential draft tritium report** should be shared with the Minister's Office and key Ministry of the Environment staff for **fact-checking**.

Action(s):

- *Council Executive Assistant to provide all Council Members with the latest version of the confidential draft tritium report*
- *Council Chair and Executive Assistant to provide a copy of the confidential draft tritium report to the Minister's Office*

Radiological Characteristics:

The latest **draft advice letter for the Minister on Radiological Characteristics** was presented, and several options were discussed. The **Radiological Characteristics of Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*) is currently with CHE for final approval.

Action(s):

- *MOE Liaison Staff Member to provide the Council with the Ministry of the Environment's Gross Alpha / Gross Beta screening protocol*
- *Executive Assistant to provide updated advice letter to Council Members for discussion at the February 20, 2009 Meeting*

Benzene:

The **Benzene in Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*), is with CHE for final approval.

Action(s):

- *Council Chair, Executive Assistant and Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to draft a preliminary advice letter for discussion at the February 20, 2009 Meeting*

Chloral Hydrate, Potassium:

The **Chloral Hydrate in Drinking Water** (*Guidance Document*) and the **Guidance on Potassium from Potassium-based Water Softeners** (*Guidance Document*), are now both CHE approved.

Action(s):

- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to provide Council Executive Assistant with the final Chloral Hydrate and Potassium Documents, when they become available*
- *Ministry of the Environment Liaison Staff Member to arrange for presentations on Chloral Hydrate and Potassium Documents for Council deliberation at future Meetings*

Chlorine:

The **Chlorine in Drinking Water** (*Guideline Document*) is now **CDW approved** and will soon be submitted to CHE for final approval.

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*

5. Other Drinking Water Issues:

Council Member Peter Huck updated the Council on the progress of the **Alternatives to Disinfection Symposium report**.

Action(s):

- *Council Member Peter Huck to continue to edit draft report for discussion at a future Council Meeting*

6. Administrative Items:

The Chair noted that the **Council has been invited to present at the OWWA Spring Seminar**, on March 26, 2009, at Black Creek Convention Centre in Toronto.

Action(s):

- *Council Chair and Executive Assistant to prepare a presentation for the OWWA Spring Seminar*

The Chair also noted that **Council's Terms of Reference** will need to be renewed this year.

Action(s):

- *Chair and Executive Assistant to work with Ministry of the Environment staff to renew the Council's Terms of Reference*

The Chair presented a list of **2009 Council activities** that will form part of the priorities for this fiscal year. The document was discussed and comments were received.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to update the list of activities for use in the Council's priorities-setting meeting, to be held on June 19, 2009*

Council Member Derrick Kamanga noted that he will be **presenting on a “Guide for the design / selection of small-flow water treatment units”** at the **OWWA /OMWA / OWWEA Conference** and Trade Show on May 5, 2009. The conference and trade show will be held from **May 3rd to May 7th, 2009**, at the Board of Trade Conference Centre in Toronto.

Council Member Derrick Kamanga also alerted the Council on the proposed **schedule of engagement sessions with First Nations**, Regional First Nation Organizations, and the Assembly of First Nations and Provincial/Territorial officials, **regarding the proposed legislative framework for Water & Wastewater**. It was noted that a **Toronto session** has been scheduled for Thursday **March 5, 2009**.

Action(s):

- *Council Member Derrick Kamanga to provide Executive Assistant with more details on the engagement sessions as they become available*
- *Council to send an observer, if possible, to the proposed Toronto engagement session*

Council Member Mary Jane Conboy then briefed the Council on the **Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP)** program review and consultations.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to forward Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) program review and consultation documents to all Council Members*

Next Meeting(s):

- Friday, February 20, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room “B”)
- Friday, March 20, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room “B”)
- Friday, April 17, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room “B”)
- Friday, May 22, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room “B”)
- Friday, June 19, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room “B”)

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 2:15 p.m.