

Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: Minutes from September 18, 2009 Meeting

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

1. Call to Order:

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

Adoption of September 18, 2009 Agenda:

The **September 18, 2009 agenda** was adopted by consensus, with two additions:

- Council Member Peter Huck on the **IWA membrane conference** that he attended in China
- Council Member Alex Hukowich on **New York City's municipal drinking water promotion**

As well, the Chair noted that changes made to both the **Travel, Meal and Hospitality Expenses Directive**, as well as the **Procurement Directive** will affect all **Agencies, Boards, and Commissions**.

Adoption of July 24, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

The **July 24, 2009 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 MOE Liaison Staff Member briefed the Council on a few items of interest, including:

- **Reg. 169, Reg. 170, and Reg. 248 amendments**
- Upcoming **guidance for Conservation Authorities** regarding **source protection risk assessments for non-municipal systems** that involve **groups of wells**
- An update on the **Drinking Water Quality Management Standard**

Action(s):

- *MOE Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on the Drinking Water Quality Management Standard for a future Council Meeting*

The Council also discussed the **Reg. 170 / Reg. 243 / Reg. 248 proposed amendments**. Most of the discussion was **focused on Reg. 248** in terms of:

- **Required versus additional testing**
- **Legislative oversight of private wells**
- **Drinking water testing performed by water treatment companies**
- **Research**
- **Sampler issues**

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant, in conjunction with Council Members John Rudnickas, Mary Jane Conboy, Rod Holme, and MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member to develop new document on Reg. 248 for discussion at the October 16, 2009 Council Meeting*

The Chair then presented notes on his review of the “**Discussion Paper on Requirements for the Content and Preparation of Source Protection Plans**”.

Action(s):

- *MOE Liaison Staff Member to arrange for a presentation on Source Protection Planning for the October 16, 2009 Council Meeting*

3. MOHLTC Update on Initiatives and Activities:

The MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member briefed the Council on a few items of interest, including:

- **The Small Drinking Water Systems Program Public Health Inspector training developments**
- **Health Canada’s Committee on Drinking Water Small Systems Working Group**

4. Standards Review:

Member Michèle Giddings updated the Council on the status of several **public consultations for Health Canada’s Guidelines**. Of particular note, both **fluoride** and **carbon tetrachloride** are to be posted imminently.

The Chair then noted that **Health Canada released two documents** of interest to the Council:

- *Guidance for Issuing and Rescinding Boil Water Advisories* (February, 2009); and
- *Guidance for Issuing and Rescinding Drinking Water Avoidance Advisories in Emergency Situations* (February, 2009).

The Council discussed the documents and agreed that the **Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's** April, 2009 *Response to Adverse Drinking Water Quality Incidents* guidance document is more detailed and is **in direct support of Ontario's Legislative and Regulatory framework for drinking water.**

Benzene:

The Council's latest **draft advice letter on Benzene** was discussed and changes were proposed.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to revise the draft benzene advice letter based on Council feedback, for full discussion at the October 16, 2009 Meeting*

Chlorine:

The Council received a presentation on Health Canada's **Chlorine in Drinking Water** (*Guidance Document*) and discussed the document in terms of its **application and implications for Ontario.**

Action(s):

- *Council to review and comment on chlorine through the "Procedure for Disinfection of Drinking Water in Ontario" when the Ministry of Environment proposes amendments*

Radiological Characteristics:

The Council's latest **draft advice letter on Radiological Monitoring** was discussed, and changes were proposed.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to revise draft radiological characteristics advice letter, based on feedback from Council's September 18, 2009 Meeting and Chair's meeting with Minister's Office staff, for full discussion at the October 16, 2009 Council Meeting*

5. Other Drinking Water Issues:

The Chair and Council Member Peter Huck updated the Council on the progress of the **Alternatives to Disinfection Symposium part one report**, noting that all but one of the speakers have provided their comments.

Action(s):

- *Chair and Executive Assistant to meet with Council Member Peter Huck to review and revise the Alternatives to Disinfection Symposium part one report, once all speaker feedback has been incorporated*
- *Council's Alternatives to Disinfection Working Group to meet to develop part two of the Alternatives to Disinfection Symposium report, along with options for deliberation at a future Council Meeting*

6. Administrative Items:

Priorities Review:

The **Council's priorities for 2009-2010** were presented and briefly discussed.

Action(s):

- *Executive Assistant to revise the Council's 2009-2010 priorities document to reflect Council discussions, and to keep it up-to-date*

ODWAC Annual Report:

The Chair noted that the **Council's 2008-2009 Annual Report** was officially transmitted to the Minister of the Environment. It was also noted that the report cannot be released to the public until the Minister grants permission to do so.

Next Meeting(s):

- Friday, October 16, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room "B")
- **Thursday**, November 19, 2009 (Venue to be announced)
- Friday, December 18, 2009 (40 St. Clair Ave. W., 3rd Floor, Training Room "B")
- Friday, January 15, 2010
- Friday, February 19, 2010
- Friday March 19, 2010
- Friday, April 16, 2010
- Friday, May 14, 2010
- Friday, June 18, 2010
- Friday, July 16, 2010

7. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 2:45 p.m.