Ontario Drinking Water Advisory Council: January 23, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Members Present:  
Ian Douglas  
Derek Hill (via phone)  
Jim Merritt, Chair  
John Rudnickas  
Joanne Thompson  
Michèle Giddings  
Peter Huck (via phone)  
Ken Roberts  
Jan Sargeant

Ministry Liaison Staff Present: Satish Deshpande, MOECC

ODWAC Staff Present: Scott Barrett

Regrets:  
Tony Amalfa, MOHLTC  
Iris Biggar, ODWAC Staff  
Alex Hukowich  
Rob Walton  
Susan Andrews  
Rod Holme  
Robert Lannigan

1. Call to Order:

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m., and noted a few items of interest to the Council, including:

- upcoming presentations/initiatives topics for the Council:
  - Operator Training, Certification, and Curriculum discussion with the OWWA on February 20, 2015;
  - EDCs/PPCPs/PFOAs/PFOSs discussion with the MOECC on February 20, 2015;
  - DW System Inspections/Licence content; and NMYRR and DF inspections and compliance discussion with the MOECC on March 27, 2015;
- the announcement of a new hydrogen research facility at the Chalk River Laboratories; and
- the announcement that he (Jim Merritt) will not be renewing his appointment to the Council when it expires after June 1, 2015, and that his last meeting will be May 22, 2015.

Adoption of January 23, 2015 Agenda:
The January 23, 2015 agenda was adopted by consensus, with an additional item under Section 6, Member Suggestions.

Adoption of December 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes:
The December 19, 2014 meeting minutes were adopted by consensus, with minor edits, and will be posted to the public area of the Council’s website at: www.odwac.gov.on.ca.

2. MOECC Update on Initiatives and Activities:

The MOECC Liaison Staff Member updated the Council on the following:

- the monitoring of source water for neonicotinoid pesticides, using passive samplers; and
- the public comment process for the EBR “Standards Package” (012-1594).
GUDI Terms of Reference Working Group:
The Council discussed the next steps of its working group regarding the MOECC’s GUDI Terms of Reference Working Group’s activities and next steps.

Action(s):
- MOECC Staff Liaison Member to investigate how many Drinking Water Systems may potentially be subject to a revised GUDI Terms of Reference framework.
- Executive Assistant and Chair to arrange a meeting of the GUDI ToR Working Group (Alex Hukowich, Joanne Thompson, Susan Andrews, Rob Walton, and Jim Merritt) for early February, 2015.
- Working Group to then meet with MOECC staff in order to better understand the impacts of the implementation of revised GUDI Terms of Reference.
- Working Group to report back to the full Council at a future Meeting.

3. MOHLTC Update on Initiatives and Activities:

The MOHLTC Liaison Staff Member was unavailable to update the Council on MOHLTC initiatives and activities.

The Council did, however, receive information that Ontario’s potential adoption of the CNPHI system is being further delayed, possibly due to more consultation with the MOECC and the Health Units.

4. Standards Review:

Health Canada’s Contaminants under Assessment:
Health Canada’s contaminants currently under assessment were briefly discussed, and it was noted that 4 Guidelines may be nearing the consultation phase: PFOS / PFOA; Chromium; Microcystins; and Lead. More information will be made available after the CDW meets in May, 2015.

ODWAC’s Standards Advice and Outcomes Summary Table:
ODWAC’s own Standards advice and outcomes summary table was presented and discussed with a view towards strategizing on future consultations.

Action(s):
- Council to discuss, at a future Meeting, a strategy for the next group of “Standards” that the MOECC should consult on, which were not posted for consultation on December 18, 2014, including those where:
  - a change in a numerical Standard was recommended;
  - no change in a numerical Standard was recommended (status quo);
  - a change in Policy was recommended, resulting from Health Canada Guidance Document review;
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- **no change in Policy was recommended after Health Canada Guidance Document review (status quo).**

1,2-Dichloroethane, Selenium:
It was noted again that the Council’s final advice letters on 1,2-Dichloroethane and Selenium are ready for official transmittal to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, pending the posting of Health Canada’s Guideline Technical Documents on their website.

**Action(s):**
- Council to discuss, at a future Meeting, the final advice letters to the Minister on 1,2-Dichloroethane and Selenium, once Health Canada’s Guideline Technical Documents are posted on their website.

Nitrate and Nitrite:
The Chair noted that the Council’s final advice letter on Nitrate and Nitrite was officially transmitted to the Minister on January 20, 2015.

Tetrachloroethylene:
A draft advice letter on tetrachloroethylene was presented and discussed; changes were agreed to.

**Action(s):**
- Executive Assistant and MOECC Staff Liaison Member to edit tetrachloroethylene advice letter, taking into account Council discussions, for review at the February 20, 2015 Meeting.

TEX (Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Xylenes):
The Council revisited TEX, as CDW has changed 2 of the proposed Aesthetic Objectives. Both the issue of updating the MOECC’s Technical Support Document for Ontario Drinking Water [Quality] Standards, Objectives and Guidelines with the current proposed Aesthetic Objectives, as well as adopting Health Canada’s Maximum Acceptable Concentrations for toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes, were discussed.

**Action(s):**
- Executive Assistant to develop draft advice letter to the Minister on TEX, for full Council discussion at the February 20, 2015 Meeting.

- Council to discuss, at a future Meeting, the philosophy of required Regulation 170 chemical and radiological monitoring versus only what may really be necessary and/or meaningful.

Boil Water Advisories Guidance:

**Action(s):**
- MOHLTC Staff Liaison Member be asked to brief the Council on what Ontario’s process is for Boil Water Advisories (and other Drinking Water Advisories) in context of the national Guidance document, at the February 20, 2015 Meeting.
pH:
The Council next discussed Health Canada’s new Guidance document on pH, which is currently out for public consultation.

**Action(s):**
- *MOECC Staff Liaison Member to provide the Council with a roll-up of pH (at the tap Lead Program) data for Ontario Drinking Water Systems.*

5. Areas of Ongoing Interest

**Conferences and Training:**
There were no conferences reported on by Council Members. However, one upcoming conference was noted: AWWA’s Sixth International Symposium on Waterborne Pathogens, to be held in Savannah, GA, from April 13-15, 2015. Member Ian Douglas will be attending.

6. Additional Items:

**Member Suggestions:**
One item of interest was noted and briefly discussed: a paper on DALY risk for THMs and HAAs from China.

**Action(s):**
*Executive Assistant to distribute the paper on DALY risk for THMs and HAAs from China, to Council Members.*

7. Administrative Items:

**Next Meeting Dates:**
- Friday, February 20, 2015
- Friday, March 27, 2015
- April, 2015 – *No Meeting Planned*
- Friday, May 22, 2015
- Friday, June 19, 2015
- Friday, July 17, 2015
- August, 2015 – *No Meeting Planned*
- Friday, September 18, 2015
- Friday, October 16, 2015

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