



## **Agenda**

Coordination Committee

Monday, April 12, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Online WebEx

---

### **Present:**

Bruce Newbold, (Chair)  
Ed Cocchiarella, HIEA  
Geoffrey Knapper, HIEA  
Barry Duffey, Citizen  
Lubna Hussain, MECP  
Trevor Imhoff, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton  
Andrea McDowell, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton  
Heidi Levitzky, HIEA  
Joshua Fischer-Robertson, HIEA (student)  
Denis Corr, Corr Research  
Nico Strabac, Mohawk College Sustainability Office  
Megan Sutton, Green Venture  
Kerry LeClair, Councillor Nann's Office, City of Hamilton  
Victoria DePaulo, Councillor Nann's Office, City of Hamilton  
Stephanie Gasko, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Abigail Amponsah, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Stephen Burt, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Sara Yonson, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority  
George McKibbon, McKibbon Wakefield Inc. /University of Guelph  
Lynda Lukasik, Environment Hamilton  
Michael Cortese, ArcelorMittal Dofasco  
Mark Smithson, Citizen  
Fran Scott, McMaster Institute for Health Equity, McMaster University  
Tiffany Singh, Planning & Economic Development, City of Hamilton  
Andy Sebestyen, Stelco  
Sarah Styler, McMaster University  
Lucas Neil, Hemmera  
Mainul Husain, Health Canada  
Brian Jantzi, Citizen  
Carl Slater, Citizen  
Kathy Renwald, Journalist/Citizen

Paul Panabaker, Energy Dimensions  
Ben Chursinoff, Railway Association of Canada  
Jonathan Thibault, Railway Association of Canada

**Regrets:**

Shelley Rogers, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton  
Linda Campbell, Office of Energy Initiatives, City of Hamilton  
Rob Conley, Environmental Services, City of Hamilton  
Sandy Herkimer, Niagara College

**1. Introductions & Welcome**

**2. Approval of March 8, 2021 Minutes**

- Approved

**Presentations:**

**3. Presentation from the Railway Association of Canada (30 minutes)**

**Link to Presentation:**



RAC\_Clean Air  
Hamilton\_April 12.202

- Railway Association (RAC) represents 60 freight and passenger railway companies coast to coast.
- MOU started 1995 and in fourth iteration between 2019-2022.
- GHG intensity decreased by 40% since 1990, does not represent total GHG emissions.
- Dramatic Criteria Air Contaminants (CAC) reduction with SO<sub>2</sub> almost eliminated, however no CAC targets in plan.
- Public-private effort to research decarbonization pathways.
- Summarizing 5 key pathways and landscape for decarbonization.
- Federal measures including regulations and carbon pricing impacting rail emissions.

**Questions/Answers:**

- Transport Canada unable to attend but is part of MOU working together to reduce CAC and emissions.
- Switching yards in Hamilton's waterfront and modelling showing source of CAC. Experience of pollution from local locomotives. Wondering if switching yards are a priority due to proximity to population. Referencing federal study with Bob Oliver and wondering if moving to pilot project?
  - Not aware of any pilot project moving forward. Hydrogen pilot moving forward in Calgary.
  - Individual switching yards are difficult to discuss specifically, encourage and RAC could help facilitation in collaborating with different railway groups.
  - Clean Air Hamilton could help start local conversations and RAC can help facilitate.

- Engaging with citizens and issues with different switching yards across Hamilton. RAC annual reports and help find them. Referencing 30 minutes idling and how enforced?
  - Will send previous report.
  - 30 minute idling emissions tricky as operational impacts such as weather will allow exemptions.
- CAC referencing and substantial reduction of CAC and specifically of SO<sub>2</sub>. What regulations helped to improve.
  - SO<sub>2</sub> ultra-low Sulphur regulations large impact and fuel efficiency regulations and renewal of fleet contributing to
- Any pilot projects for alternative propulsion and status of those
  - Will send additional information, pilot projects in California and Calgary for alternative propulsion.

**ACTION: RAC to send past reports and resources to Trevor for distribution to CAH members.**

#### Updates:

#### 4. Ward 3 Odour Impact Study Update (15 minutes), Kerry LeClair

Link to Presentation:

- Focusing on air quality, water quality and working with industry on odour complaints. Wanted to study odour complaints and partnered with Niagara College student.
- Investigating chronic foul odour complaints from Hamilton's ward 3.
- Multiple industrial, commercial and other odour issues difficult to identify sources. Lack of municipal support for residences experiencing odour issues.
- Overview of MECP odour reporting framework and steps.
- Issues with lack of follow up, health impact and lack of literature/studies as residents are very concerns if they are impacted by odour, lack of use of tools.
- Over 240 respondents to survey conducted in Ward 3. Results included steel and various recycling sources, residents complaints scattered across Ward 3.
- Biggest concern was regarding health and what long term health impacts of those odours are. Survey results indicate health impacts including asthma inflammation, sore throats and burning nasal cavities.
- Recommendations include advanced communications, more research and improved reporting framework.

#### Questions/Discussions:

- Devices referred is called odour ranger and evaluated by Ministry. Back tracing of odour complaints previously needed to know exact timing and location. Software available now that could potentially use to identify sources.
- Hamilton Air Monitoring Network monitors total reduced sulphur, not all compounds will trigger monitors. Confounding sources including how people describe odours are difficult, brought people into plant to identify sources, helpful in the past and odour controls put in place. Odour complaints difficult to identify during low wind speeds.

- Recognize complexity, however survey, although not scientific, residents are aware of sources. Idea of process of elimination.
  - Industrial emissions are continuous, whereas odour complaints are intermittent, combined with varying meteorological and variety of sources difficult to identify.
  - Study showing chronic (daily) odour experiences.
- Odour difficult as perceptions may vary. Questionnaire to give people choices is very important and additional detail can help. Live 2 blocks south-west of City Hall, combined with low wind speed can smell burning metal right now and occasional smell of coal-tar. Recommend Ministry reporting going back to the community as gap to be filled.
- Researched olfactometers and US cities tracking odour complaints. City of London (UK) example, did research include local examples of how municipalities track odour complaints?
  - City of London research nasal ranger finder and had community members using device to track odour sources. Recommending City of Hamilton to do similar approach.
  - Recommending one streamlined framework/tool which triggers Environmental Officer to go out and investigate. Other private companies are able to perform studies.
- Thinking what next steps would look like and how to avoid overlap with municipal vs provincial jurisdiction.
  - More consultations with MECP recommended. Evident through survey need for more robust framework.
- Outcomes of London Study?
  - Put in By-law, London Environmental Network does not work directly with citizens on odour but referred to by-law officer.
  - Do not want to go too far down the policy discussion right now. Fact finding mission to gather information. Interesting findings of 240 respondents within 2 week timeframe vs MECP yearly complaints of approximately 160.
- Can send along the Public Health Guidelines for health hazards protocol. Recommendation on odour and health, any research and findings linking odour with health impacts?
  - 2019 Italy study, main concern was mental health issues. Cannot enjoy outside, long-term impacts of anxiety and streets. Can pass along study.
- Past jurisdictional review of odour complaints, recommended to jurisdiction contracting work to get citizens to fill out table over set period (2 week to 2 month) plus odour wheel and direction of wind. Track over time and know generally when to do investigations. Odour dealt more as a nuisance, some standards are odour based such as VOC standards.
  - Would appreciate any information on jurisdictional review.
- MECP does have nasal ranger and qualified staff. Difficult to use due to transient odour sources and need steady source. Priority response based on severity of complaint. CLP and Hamilton compost facility as past examples of success. MECP do respond on regular basis and if reports coming in of no follow up would like to know.
- Asking response rate of survey and timeframe.

- Voluntary survey and posted on Councillor social media. Used google form and dates between March 3 and unofficially close April 5.
- Past projects from Hemmera being consulted on studies shows big issue of planning and encouraging municipalities to think ahead. Example existing slaughter house with development allowed and now odour complaints come in.
  - Hamilton does have legal non-conforming residential areas adjacent to potential sources. Survey shows respondents across Ward 3, showing odour and air quality does not care where you live. Zoning changes could help, but odours can impacts anyone across the City.

**5. Upwind Downwind Lunch N' Learn March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Update (10 minutes), Bruce Newbold**

- Second Lunch N' Learn happened last Tuesday. Golder Associates presenting on sub-regional analysis of Hamilton
- Had approximately 60 participants with good discuss after the presentations
- Thanks to Heidi for technical and background support.

Questions/Discussions:

- Asking whether CAH would like to have another lunch n learn and discussion on what type of information and when.
  - Current request to Dr. Matt Adams as previously on the Upwind Downwind agenda.
  - Within 1-2 months, prior to the main part of summer.
- Asking if there is any other information CAH members would like to see. Any ideas bring forward to Bruce and Trevor.

**6. Air Quality Coordinator Co-op Position Hiring (5 minutes), Trevor Imhoff**

- Successfully hired for position. Thank you CAH members for referrals. Had over 45 applications.
- Hired Environment and Business Undergraduate from University of Waterloo with experience in GHG quantification and stakeholder coordination with Deloitte and University of Waterloo Sustainability Office.

**7. CAH 2021 Funding & Procurement Updates (5 minutes), Trevor Imhoff**

- Experience delays across the City in RFP and other procurement processes. Hoping to finalize RFP in the next couple of weeks but continue to experience delays.
- Funding timelines changed to twelve month period instead of calendar year to accommodate delays.

**8. Member Updates**

Andy Sebestyen – Stelco

- Working with MECP on variety of initiatives that can update in the future but nothing right now.

Brian Jantzi – Citizen

- Been collaborating with Clean Air Partnership, federal government posting rules of carbon offsetting in gazette recently. Gave overview of how offsets work and recommendation to municipalities to provide shopping list of projects to attract carbon offset funding. Opportunity for City of Hamilton to contribute.

Denis Corr – Corr Research Inc.

- MECP van being kept for essential projects. Been told availability not until May.

Ed Cocchiarella – HIEA

- Planning to retire and move to Canmore Alberta. Pleasure working with CAH members. HIEA in good hands.
  - CAH members congratulations and thank you.

Geoffrey Knapper – HIEA

- Pleased to be part of CAH and looking forward to productive meetings.

George McKibbon – McKibbon Wakefield

- Work continues on 25 year historical record of CAH and thinking about drafting article. Looking at how CAH successful and results in other collaboration.

Heidi Levitsky – HIEA

- HIEA AGM this Wednesday at 6:30PM. Guest speaker is President and CEO of Canadian Steel Producers Association and presenting on decarbonization pathways of Canadian Steel Sector.

Megan Sutton – Green Venture

- Had three schools wrap-up the program and two that are ongoing. Getting up to 8 schools for this school term.

Mainul Husain – Health Canada

- Working with ECCC to plan for Clean Air Day coming up on June 2. If any events reach out to Mainul and can post on website.
- Facebook live panel discussion planned, if any participants interested let me know. Two different times currently proposed.
- Discuss with Trevor potential funding opportunity from Health Canada

**ACTION: Mainul to share information with Trevor on June 2 Clean Air Day activities and videos to be shared with CAH.**

Sarah Styler – McMaster University

- McMaster new Bachelor of Science and Sustainability in terms of chemical synthesis and quantifying measure of sustainability. Opportunities for students to do work terms and if interested reach out.

Trevor Imhoff – Healthy and Safe Communities

- Link to Hamilton's first net negative bus pilot:
- Council approved motion around no longer purchasing diesel buses

- Expecting upcoming Site Specific Standards for Benzo[a]pyrene coming soon. Will send ERO posting out once available.

Stephanie Gasko – MECP

- Plan to get Ministry monitoring van as soon as stay at home order lifted for Fresh Air for Kids
- Hired Abigail as new Air Policy Analyst in March with 8 years experience. Also hiring another Air Policy Analyst in a couple of weeks.
- MECP providing greater overview of Local Air Quality Notification Framework at future CAH meeting.

**Next meeting**

**May 10, 2021**

**3:00-5:00pm**

**WebEx**