



Meeting Minutes

Coordination Committee

Monday May 10, 2021, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Online Webex

Present:

Dr. Bruce Newbold, (Chair)
Andrea McDowell, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton
Andy Sebestyen, Stelco
Barry Duffey, Citizen
Bruce Gillies, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Carl Slater, Citizen
Dan Dobrin, Ontario Ministry of Environment & Climate Change
Denis Corr, Corr Research Inc.
Fran Scott, McMaster Institute for Health Equity, McMaster University
Geoffrey Knapper, HIEA
Grazyna Kalabis, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Heidi Levitzky, Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association
James Gilmore, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Jahanvi Desai, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton
John Lundrigan, ArcelorMittal Dofasco
Kerry LeClair, Councillor Nann's Office, City of Hamilton
Laura, McMaster University
Lubna Hussain, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Lucas Neil, Hemmera
Lynda Lukasik, Environment Hamilton
Mainul Husain, Health Canada
Mark Smithson, Citizen
Maya Abou-Ghanem, McMaster University
Megan Sutton, Green Venture
Ming Lyu, McMaster University
Mya Sharma, McMaster University
Nico Strabac, Mohawk College Sustainability Office
Sarah Styler, McMaster University
Stephanie Gasko, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Stephen Burt, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Tiffany Singh, Planning & Economic Development, City of Hamilton
Timothy Hung, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Trevor Imhoff, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

Regrets:

Adriano Mena, Citizen
Alexandra Graham, Citizen
Brian Jantzi, Citizen
Charles Hostovsky, Citizen
Christine Newbold, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton
Don Curry, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton
George McKibbon, McKibbon & Wakefield Inc.
Giuliana Casimirri, Green Venture
Heather Donison, Green Venture
Kate Flynn, Mohawk College
Katie Chan, U.S. Steel Canada
Kayli Thorp, Mohawk College
Ken Smith, Citizen
Linda Campbell, Energy Office, Public Works, City of Hamilton
Matt Adams, University of Toronto
Matthew Lawson, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton
Myles Sergeant, Trees Please
Natalie Stacey
Patrick Quealey, Environment Canada
Paul Panabaker
Peter Topalovic, TDM, PED, City of Hamilton
Rachel Johnson, TDM, PED, City of Hamilton
Rob Conley, Public Works, City of Hamilton
Sally Radisic, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton
Sara Yonson, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority
Shelley Rogers, Public Health Services, City of Hamilton

1. Introductions & Welcome

- Jahanvi Desai (Air Quality & Climate Change Coordinator – Co-op Student, Healthy & Safe Communities, City of Hamilton)
- Tim Hung (Air Quality Analyst, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks)

2. Approval of April 12, 2021 Minutes

- Approved

Presentations:

**3. McMaster's Environmental Chemistry Research (30 minutes), Dr. Sarah Styler
(*Presentation Attached*)**

- Research group is concerned about dust's interactions with local pollutants and their negative impacts on air quality.
- Road dust research found that road dust is more reactive to ozone than desert dust. Samples were exposed to pollutants that exist in urban environments to study sunlight chemistry.

- Studied various components of urban dust & their individual reactivity to different pollutants.
 - Focus on brake wear (which is 80% of urban dust)
 - Result: Brake wear reacts with ozone, possible that it is contributing to toxicity
- Current research interests include studying ozone uptake by road dust and non-exhaust PM (air quality model studies needed) and researching if road dust is a photochemical oxidant source.
- Research is continuing in Hamilton with a collaboration from University of Toronto. About: metals in road dust & toxicity; studying different street types.
- Studying wildfire impacts on air quality via boreal peat sampling. Post fires; toxicity effects include increased B[a]P & pyrene levels in ash due to ozone exposure.
- Research interest of insecticides on indoor air quality. Studying impacts on surface concentrations and impacts on human health.
- Indoor air quality at museums and gallery environments and how micro glass environments have pollutants build up over time.
- Plans for Hamilton research:
 - Focusing on community engagement
 - Incorporating social justice standpoints
 - Researching micro plastics as reactive surfaces
 - Continuing wildfire research in polluted peatlands

Questions/Answers:

- Is the initial hypothesis that reoccurring wildfires leads to bioaccumulation in the ecosystem, increasing concentration and toxicity? Overall thoughts on long term impacts?
 - Metals are efficiently sequestered in peat. Soil/peat in industrial areas will result in vector to transport in atmosphere. Can cause negative impacts on health.
- How much of health concern is airborne particulate matter when completely inert?
 - Toxicity comes from things attached to the particulate matter – e.g., fine silica – which are irritants, can cause respiratory trouble.
- Wondering about impacts of aerosols on climate change.
 - At the beginning stage of looking at this data. Interesting results about brown carbon in wildfires because of the presence of organic matter. Can bleach out or even become browner.
- Question about coated environment or dust clouds being used in experiment
 - Research has dust cloud going into the setup. There are unique challenges that provide different results.
 - Suggested use of FTIR for particulate matter size.
 - Possible knowledge sharing about community engagement project with low-cost sensors in the City of Kitchener
- Environment Hamilton has had community concern for some flagged areas which could be good spots for study.

- Concern over street sweepers generating more dust than it was collecting. Can have negative health impacts.

ACTION: Interested CAH members to connect with [Sarah](#) offline for potential collaborations & knowledge sharing.

Discussion Items:

4. Hamilton's Site-Specific Standard for Benzo[a]pyrene Update and Discussion (15 minutes), Group Discussion

- Site Specific Standards for Benzo[a]pyrene for ArcelorMittal Dofasco & Stelco expiring June 2021.
- Proposal to extend the existing site-specific standard for the next 2 years, until June 30 2023.
- Comment period expires on June 13th, 2021.
 - [Proposal for ArcelorMittal Dofasco G.P.](#)
 - [Proposal for Stelco](#)
- Proposed values are 1100 times the general air standard comparison for ArcelorMittal Dofasco and 470 times the general air standard comparison for Stelco based on air dispersion modelling.
- Important: in the past four years, Stelco has reduced 40% of B[a]P and ArcelorMittal Dofasco has reduced it by 35%. Demonstrated industry commitment to continuous improvement.
- Reduction of B[a]P seen in all 4 B[a]P monitoring stations across Hamilton.
- These site-specific standards are meant to be put in place until a time where a technical standard can be developed, which is currently taking place through collaborations between government and industry, in consultation with community stakeholders.

Group discussion:

- Concern raised about the site-specific standard not being stringent enough; question raised to Ministry if industry will be required to take any additional actions to ensure reduction of B[a]P to demonstrate continuous progress
 - Not expecting additional actions to take place over the next two years. Focus of the past four years has been on the source of B[a]P – coke ovens. Concentrate on reducing leakages around coke oven doors, get at par with US competitors. The limit for the site-specific standard has not been changed for the next two years but can expect companies to demonstrate continuous improvement.
 - Responding to concern about all mills meeting current requirements – all facilities are meeting their site-specific standards, but not meeting all the leak rates.
- Reiterating urgency for industry to continuously improve and to reduce the value of the site-specific standard.

- Public Health will be commenting on ERO - need for continuous improvement, transparency of industry actions as it relates to community liaison committee requirements.
 - Industry recognizes the importance of engaging with community; companies already disclose leak rates from coke ovens, discuss achievements and failures to CLCs members transparently.
- Important to note - there are many sources of B[a]P in urban environments (e.g., wood burning). Reminder that there is a bigger picture when discussing this compound.
- Severity of issue reiterated due to the high risk of cancer and other health impacts to the residents of Hamilton, however, epidemiological models should be run to directly link cancer deaths to these B[a]P emissions.
 - Will help to determine the degree of urgency – perhaps something the Ministry’s epidemiology department can do – there has been difficulty linking cancer cases/deaths to hazardous emissions in the past.
 - Some numbers already exist which directly link cancer to these emissions. Traditional pollutants often have the most overwhelming public health impacts; however, this is not to deter away from industry’s continuous improvement re: B[a]P.
- Wondering about funding opportunities for facility upgrades that can reduce coke oven leak rates. Want to make sure we are understanding and removing industry barriers.
 - Not necessarily know of funding program available, but infrastructure is often a big challenge when trying to meet stringent measures.
 - Continuous improvement is the industry approach, City of Hamilton will be holding companies accountable.
- Possible collaborations with other ministry departments to overcome barriers
 - Industry in talks with Ministry of Economic Development and Growth
- Cumulative effects policy provides a sense of higher impact zones where Benzene and B[a]P emissions are concerned:
 - Please see following [section of MECP website](#).
- All comments made are public. Ministry takes time to respond to individual comments; encourage to submit comments about continuous improvement and transparency.

ACTION – Trevor to send links to Clean Air Hamilton members for comments.

5. Dust Sub-Committee Update and Demolition Handbook Review (20 minutes), Andrea McDowell

- Dust Sub-Committee projects are on hold currently due to vaccine redeployments at the City
- Demolition Handbooks are ready for final comments and graphic design.
 - No questions/comments raised
 - Demolition Handbook approved. The handbook will go to press
- In regard to timeline, unsure of graphic department’s current workload.

ACTION: Andrea to get in touch and let us know.

6. Upwind Downwind Lunch N' Learn Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 Update (5 minutes), Bruce Newbold

- Matthew Adams, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto Mississauga presenting some of his research on air pollution sensors in Hamilton & how they can help.

7. CAH 2021 Funding Applications Update (10 minutes), Trevor Imhoff

- RFP document developed in collaboration with Corporate procurement. Will be live on our Bill & Tender page by the end of May.
- Application timeline will be open for 8 weeks and will follow a similar process as previously done – through third party adjudication.
- Funding will be announced and processed in the fall. There will be a 12-month period to spend funds.
- This new process might have pain points and learning curves; feedback post process is welcome and appreciated.

Member Updates:

Trevor Imhoff, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

- Jahanvi will be coordinating future meetings, please direct questions related to Clean Air Hamilton to jahanvi.desai@hamilton.ca
- Taking some time off for the next 3 months, will be back for the September meeting

Andy Sebestyen, Stelco

- No updates
- Appreciate Ministry's work facilitating the extension of the site-specific standards.

Barry Duffey, Citizen

- Wondering if we can revisit equity and diversity policy.
 - Can add that as a possible agenda item for next month.

Bruce Gillies, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- No updates

Carl Slater, Citizen

- No updates

Dan Dobrin, Ontario Ministry of Environment & Climate Change

- No updates

Lubna Hussain, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- There is a different ERO posting related to various compliance related policy amendments that has been shared by Trevor with Clean Air Hamilton members. Comprises of:
 - Compliance policy
 - New approach to administrative monetary policy
 - Odour framework
 - Land use guidelines
- There are some public information sessions open for registration to learn more.

Stephanie Gasko, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- No updates

Denis Corr, Corr Research Inc.

- Increasing concern for SO₂ levels in downtown Hamilton for the last couple of years. Requesting an update from MCEP.
- Discussion to expand AQHI to include SO₂ – request to our federal partners, and similarly include SO₂ in our local pollutant system.
- Tentatively add to next month's agenda.

ACTION: Dan, Bruce, Stephanie to meet.

Jahanvi Desai, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

- Working on messaging for Clean Air Day (June 2nd)
- Focusing on importance of inside air quality due to pandemic, please reach out with ideas.
- Can be reached at jahanvi.desai@hamilton.ca

Geoffrey Knapper, HIEA

- No updates

Heidi Levitzky, Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association

- No updates

John Lundrigan, ArcelorMittal Dofasco

- Committed to industry's continuous improvement re: site specific standards discussion. AMD's performance is in compliance with standards and is putting in significant amount of work.

Lynda Lukasik, Environment Hamilton

- Trees Please Project is testing out a new community air monitor. Plan to engage community members when it is safe to do so.
- Environment Hamilton is also moving offices.

Mark Smithson, Citizen

- No updates

Andrea Mcdowell, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

- Air pointer citing matrix is still active; will present updates at the June meeting.

Megan Sutton, Green Venture

- Fresh Air for Kids: 3 schools have completely finished the program.
- Denis is in conversation with Highview; things are progressing.

Manuel Husain, Health Canada

- No updates

Sarah Styler, McMaster University

- No updates

Stephen Burt, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- Re: ERO postings for the site-specific standards, please reach out with any questions or to discuss more about MECP's stance on abatement strategies

Tim Hung, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- No updates

Next meeting

June 14, 2021

3:00-5:00pm

WebEx