



Agenda

Coordination Committee

Monday, February 13, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Online, Cisco Webex

Present

Dr. Bruce Newbold (Chair), McMaster University
Abigail Amponsah, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Alison Carlyle, PED, City of Hamilton (On behalf of Peter T)
Barry Duffey, Mohawk College
Dr. Charles Hostovsky
Dr. Denis Corr, Corr Research
Gas Gebara, ArcelorMittal Dofasco
Geoffrey Knapper, Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association
George McKibbon, McKibbon & Wakefield Inc.
Grace Higgins, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton
Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton
Julie Wedzinga, Stelco
Kerry Leclair, Councillor Nann's Office, City of Hamilton
Leisel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture
Lubna Hussein, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Lucas Neil, Ausenco
Matthew Lawson, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton
Natalie Stacey, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Nico Strabec, Mohawk College Centre for Climate Change Management
Pascale Marchand, Councillor Hwang's Office, City of Hamilton
Sara Yonson, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority
Shelley Rogers, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton
Dr. Shirook Ali, Ecosystem Informatics Inc
Tiffany Singh, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton
Timothy Hung, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Trevor Imhoff, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton
Dr. Hind Al-Abadleh, Wilfrid Laurier University

Regrets

Dr. Fran Scott, McMaster Institute for Health Equity

1. Introductions & Welcome

2. Land Acknowledgement

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (North America) and we recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand our roles as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers ([source](#)).

3. Approval of January 9, 2023 Minutes

Approved

Presentations:

4. Air Quality Monitoring Using Low Cost Sensors in the City of Kitchener (20 minutes), Lucas Neil, Ausenco and Dr. Hind Al-Abadleh, Wilfrid Laurier University



L Neil Low Cost
FINAL.pdf

Questions/Discussion

- 2 papers came out of the project and school boards gave \$10,000 for undergraduate students to give presentations (Grades 5-12) on air quality and health.
- Covid-19 both helped and hindered the work – received funding because of Covid-19 but city and regional budgeting priorities were focused on Covid-19.
- The total cost for the pods was \$12,000 which includes the initial fee for data flow from cloud to computer. After that, there is an ongoing annual fee for that service.
- Why would municipality want to invest in this type of network? What's the benefit of hyper-localized air monitoring? Cities and regions investing in climate change are working to meet reduction of GHG goals, the only way to quantify if initiatives are effective at city level is through monitoring. Therefore, monitoring investment is as important as investing in the initiatives themselves. Environment Canada is also interested in monitoring in mid-sized cities as they are the fastest growing - looking to determine if investments are meeting targets to lower emissions and how growth is influencing air quality. Local monitoring also increases awareness among the population, helps empower people to take individual actions and

increases communication between the city and community. It can also influence planning – e.g. where to put residences and sensitive receptors. See additional articles on this topic from Dr. Hind Al-Abadleh: [Cities Drive Global Warming, but Change is Possible](#) and [Healthy Cities Start with Chemistry](#)

- Similar to how the Code Red analysis in Hamilton helped to bring resources to specific issues.
- [AQ Mesh Monitors technical specification](#)
- AQMesh data is first transmitted back to AQMesh and run through an algorithm specific to each pod based on scaling done at the factory level after each pod is produced.
- How can we mitigate air quality at schools? Do we have HVAC technology to protect students? There are filtration systems that can give high efficiencies with PM_{2.5}. Gases are a bit more complicated because need certain amount of fresh air intake to the school.
- Mohawk is running a Covid-19 related research project on cleaning of air in schools – Clean Air for Kids also informs kids how to cut down on idling and how to reduce air pollution. Clean Air for Kids is also creating an Ontario-wide kit with GCC.
- For sources near roadsides, could they expand height of intakes to mitigate? This is an area of interest, for example exploring using drones to assess pollutant levels by vertical height.

Discussion Items:

5. [Livable Cities](#) – Air quality monitoring opportunity (10 minutes) Matt Lawson

- Opportunity to pilot PM_{2.5} monitors that can be affixed to specific light fixtures in the city. Cyrus Tehrani, City of Hamilton Chief Digital Officer & Director of Innovation has presented an opportunity for one-year participation.
- Where would it be useful to install these types of monitors?
 - Highway 403 ascending the escarpment
 - Highway 6 ascending the escarpment into Flamborough
 - ESI has recently done scans that also include PM_{2.5}. They are happy to share findings.
 - A quick scan of mobile monitoring reports was suggested – for example Nebo Rd where there is a lot of track out that could be susceptible to municipal action. Recognizing that mobile monitoring is just a snap shot in time – should it also be redone to see improvements?
 - We shouldn't just monitor elevated areas but also places in between - areas such as bottom of Nash (QEW and Red Hill), Dundas, Stoney Creek.
 - Would be good to work closely with Matt Adams to ensure that results can be comparable to existing data.
 - Lucas - If planning to do a collocation, do two locations to see how they perform at both the high and low end of pollution rates. Is aware of the Livable Cities program and thinks it would be great to be involved. Limitation is that it will only be PM_{2.5}.

- Meteorological data would also be helpful (wind direction, temps, humidity) to better analyze the cause if there is a spike detected.

6. Update: 2021 Annual Report (5 minutes) Shelley Rogers

- Will be presented by Dr. Bruce Newbold at Board of Health on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 9:30 am. Can be watched live on [City of Hamilton's YouTube Channel](#). Final draft has also been uploaded to the CAH portal.

7. 2023 meeting schedule - April, August, October (5 minutes) Bruce Newbold

- April meeting moved to Monday, April 17, 2023.
- August meeting cancelled.
- October meeting moved to Monday, October 2, 2023.

8. 2023 – 2026 Work Plan (15 minutes) Grace Higgins

8.1 Update: 2023 funding for local projects

- PHS has initiated RFP approval process to allocate funds through City of Hamilton.
- Up to \$30,000 available total for all projects.
- Planning to update adjudication criteria and will report back on changes.

8.2 Discussion: 2023 priorities



2023 Priority
Setting.pdf

- George – mining of existing data could help to model worst case scenarios for the purposes of land use planning work, help to better understand land use compatibility. The province is revisiting Provincial Policy Statement at some point this year so there will be an opportunity for input.
- Natalie – MECP receives data from HAMN quarterly and monthly on thresholds and exceedances. Can provide presentation on how exceedances are evaluated on a monthly basis. Grace to connect with Natalie to plan for future presentation on this topic.
- Tiffany – City of Hamilton working on terms of reference and guidelines for 96 types of studies and plans that may be required as Phase I of a planning application. Didn't have time to do as robust of a consultation process for Phase I but also currently working on Phase 2, which includes both air and noise impact assessments. In April, all material for Phase 1 & 2 will be shared with the public and plan is to finalize by July.
- Toronto has its own municipal code that relates to their own by-laws – locally we can look at alternative ways to require more enhanced measures. George and Tiffany to connect about this offline.
- Shelley: webinars as an option to consider for education goals of the CAH work plan.
- Grace to send call out for members interested in supporting 2 smaller task groups on land use planning (George will support this group) and education.

9. Member Updates

Trevor Imhoff, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton

- Working on Action Plan work around climate change governance and innovation. As part of governance work, ongoing Climate Change Advisory Committee.
- Also moving forward on development of Hamilton Energy Retro Fit Opportunity (Better Homes Hamilton) – eyeing early May to bring design of program to GIC, recommending a pilot to retrofit 50 homes in 1.5-2 years.
- Working with CityLab on educational campaigns related to climate risk (heat, vector-borne diseases, flooding).
- Also conducting feasibility study to expand accessibility of emergency preparedness kits as well as business case for a more circular economy approach to food waste.

Alison Carlyle: Sustainable Mobility, City of Hamilton

- Looking to create Mobility Lab - Cycling Network to comment on cycling infrastructure. There is a seat for one CAH member: Commit to 3-5 meetings this year and join one bike ride (this will be very inclusive and can be adapted to individual needs). Contact Alison if interested in joining at alison.carlyle@hamilton.ca. See [Terms of Reference](#).
- Also accepting nominations for Annual Community and Motion awards (organizations, advocates, schools or employers that have done something interesting to support active transportation) by March 1. More details available [here](#).

Dr. Denis Corr, Corr Research

- In the middle of Fresh Air for Kids program, going very well.
- New SO₂ reg from Ministry – consulting with some of industries involved to ensure they meet the requirements for SO₂ monitoring.
- Also consulting with Toronto Island Airport on research about air quality monitoring.

Dr. Charles Hostovsky

- Back from Vancouver where was working as a senior lecturer starting new Bachelor's degree in planning, prior to that was with Dalhousie University. Now semi-retired and looking to get more involved in community in Hamilton.
- Currently working on contract with Dr. Ingrid Waldron looking at environmental racism in Nova Scotia.

Geoffrey Knapper, Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association

- Heidi moved onto new role and her part-time position is now posted.

Leisel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture

- Have already hit target by numbers for Fresh Air for Kids and hoping to make space for one more school.

Shirook Ali, Ecosystem Informatics Inc

- Noticing big push for more data on air quality internationally, doing similar work with mobile units on buses Italy, Greece, etc.

Shelley Rogers, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

- Moving air pointers to Meadowlands in Ancaster – 403 & Highway 6
- A volunteer with the [David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights](#) (“the Asper Centre”), and a law student at the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Law contacted CAH wondering if any members could provide questions about the Environmental Bill of Rights, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, or legal rights relating to climate justice that they should investigate for a handbook they are preparing. If members are interested, they can contact Shelley to be put in touch.

Grace Higgins, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

- Dust handbooks added to banner and [Resources](#) drop-down of CAH website.

Next meeting

March 13, 2023

3:00-5:00pm

WebEx