



Agenda

Coordination Committee

Monday, April 17, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Online, Cisco Webex

Present

Dr. Bruce Newbold (Chair), McMaster University

Abigail Amponsah, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Barry Duffey, Citizen

Dr. Charles Hostovsky, Citizen

Dr. Fran Scott, McMaster University

Gas Gebara, ArcelorMittal Dofasco

Geoffrey Knapper, Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association

Grace Higgins, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton

Dr. Joseph Okeme, McMaster University

Julie Wedzinga, Stelco

Kerry Leclair, Ward 3 Councillor Nann's Office, City of Hamilton

Liesel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture

Mackenzie Whitten, Green Venture

Nico Strabec, Mohawk College Centre for Climate Change Management

Pascale Marchand, Ward 4 Councillor Hwang's Office, City of Hamilton

Shelley Rogers, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

Sara Yonson, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority

Stefanie Ferraro, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (on behalf of Natalie Stacey)

Stephen Burt, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Timothy Hung, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Trevor Imhoff, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton

Regrets

Alison Carlyle, PED, City of Hamilton

Christine Newbold, Planning and Economic Development, City of Hamilton

Dr. Denis Corr, Corr Research

Matthew Lawson, Healthy and Safe Communities, City of Hamilton

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 March 13, 2023 Minutes

Approved

Presentations:

4. Assessing Airborne Exposure using Novel Sampling and Measurement Techniques (30 minutes) Dr Joseph Okeme, McMaster University



CleanAirHamilton-
17April2023.pdf

Questions/discussion

Deeper analysis would be required to determine occupational vs residential exposures from NHANES study and there are plans to explore this more. Some ethnic groups would be disproportionately represented in some occupations.

Dr. Okeme is currently setting up his research program at McMaster as he started the position in July but plans to be involved in research locally and will be recruiting participants in Hamilton soon.

Dr. Okeme further clarified that we should not use a single parameter such as NO_x, because we're exposed to thousands of chemicals so there are lots of confounders that we might not be aware of. For convenience people might focus on one chemical, but when choosing to look at just one rather than on a wholistic scale we're either over or under estimating so it's not the truth.

Discussion around higher risk of exposures in the United States for BIPOC that is related to geography. Dr. Charles Hostovsky is currently working on research around exposures of the African Nova Scotian community living around old dumps.

- Geospatial data is not available for NHANES study unfortunately.

Dr. Joseph Okeme can be contacted at okemej@mcmaster.ca.

Discussion Items:

5. Update: BOH Presentation of 2021 Annual Report (10 minutes) Bruce Newbold

- Overall the presentation went well. Impressed with amount of discussion among BOH members. New council is more engaged and aware of air quality issues. There were questions from councillors around how to approach improving air quality.
- An information report on the status of site-specific standards (SSS) will be brought to the May 1 Public Health Committee meeting (formerly Board of Health) by Public Health Services staff as requested. A motion was also passed for the Mayor to write a letter to the MECP to “articulate that the City of Hamilton is opposed to any extension or continued special permissions for contaminants above provincially regulated general air standards”. Finally, as directed by council PHS staff has invited the MECP to the May 1 Public Health Committee meeting.
- How does the MECP consider public comments in the SSS process? What policies or guidance show how those comments from agencies/organizations are considered? If community is widely opposed, how does the Director consider that feedback and how does it inform the Director’s decision?
 - MECP responds to those comments based on what agencies are sharing and what concerns are brought to the Environmental Sciences and Standards Division (ESSD). E.g. for SSS postings in 2020, responses were received through the ERO and whether MECP decided to include those comments depended on technical aspects. They are posted for 45 days to give people enough time to review materials. Sometimes further clarification is required in response to public comments, but all comments will be considered and responded to.
 - In the past when the decision-making process was challenged, the MECP demonstrated that it was done in a transparent fashion and appropriate rationale was shared via the ERO.
- When SSS first came out, MECP spent a lot of time considering health-based standards and SSS with the public health agency. They spent significant time looking at a lot of materials and determining how the process was set.
- A concern was raised about data analysis before release of final Clean Air Hamilton annual report and conclusions that were drawn. There were spikes throughout the year that were not noted in the report.
 - We included graphs focusing on the final few years with greater scale.
 - For future reports we might look at offering more detailed analysis, messaging, giving the committee the tools to better understand what’s happening. For example, Councillor Nann asking about the inclusion of qualitative information.
- A concern was also raised about our role as Clean Air Hamilton – are we an advocacy group? Concern that it shouldn’t be our role to define the regulatory framework.

- As a group we should have consistent understanding of what the regulatory framework is. For example, the ERO for National Steel Car, what is that instrument asking for? Why is it being asked for?
- The National Steel Car Director's order was issued because the window to request a SSS was missed, so a Director's order must now be issued to allow them to apply for a SSS. Given fugitive-based issues of contaminants, they're not expected to meet limits so they will be asked to submit application for a SSS. This includes the process of technological benchmarking, assessing economic feasibility and technical feasibility. It's not an exemption, but a pathway to compliance. It's an air standard that replaces the general air standard.
- Point was raised that for many in the public, what we're describing does sound like an exemption. If we are talking about educating the public, we should acknowledge this. We should also look to use more accessible language. Since results haven't been seen for some facilities, it can feel like an exemption.
- Education is important - O. Reg 419 is very technical and education would be helpful. This should include technology benchmarking. Do you have the best available technology? Can you implement the best available technology?
- A concern was raised about the discussion around benzene, more education should also be provided to increase awareness of benzene levels when driving by gas station/filling up your car.

6. Clean Air Hamilton Membership Vote (10 minutes) Bruce Newbold

- Updates made to voting structure that were circulated with today's agenda – professional consultants now included as voting bloc represented by Denis Corr.
- Dr. Charles Hostovsky approved as Citizen voting member (Yes- 9, No-0, Abstain-2)

7. Discussion: In-person meetings (10 minutes) Bruce Newbold

- With most remaining restrictions being lifted, is there support for in-person meetings?
- Most other meetings now shifting to in-person or hybrid, would be nice to have hybrid option for folks who continue to want to limit exposure and for convenience
- City Hall 192/193 is available from June onward at our meeting time, microphones will be added in the next couple of months
- Suggestion to offer mix of virtual and in-person meetings
- Decision to plan for June in-person meeting in Hamilton City Hall room 192/193 and then alternating in-person/virtual

Action: Grace to update meeting details for June onward and provide information regarding hybrid participation options once available.

8. Member updates

Trevor Imhoff

- Report will go to GIC for May 3 on new incentive loan program to give low interest loans to homeowners to retrofit houses. Trevor and Nico will provide an update after that presentation with more info. They are also planning homeowner education sessions in the coming weeks.
- Two positions with the Office of Climate Change Initiatives are now posted - Project Manager and Senior Project Manager - <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-council/jobs-city>

Ian Borsuk

Registration for Carbon Cycle June 10 – 11, 2023 is now open at https://www.environmenthamilton.org/carboncycle_2023

Liesel Knight-Messenger

Leaving for maternity leave at some point in May – Mackenzie will takeover as the Green Venture representative.

Mackenzie Whitten

Green Venture, as part of Health Canada's nationwide effort to increase awareness about air quality, is hosting Hamilton's Clean Air Day celebration on June 7th, 2023 at Bernie Custis Secondary School, and we would like to invite Clean Air Hamilton members who are interested in the event to host a booth! The booths can be information or activity based. The event will go from roughly 4pm-7:30pm, and feature a panel of guest speakers who will be participating in a question and answer period from the children and families, a variety of booths/stations, and a screening and award show for students around Hamilton who participated in our Fresh Air For Kids program's filmmaking workshop. The nature of the event is to celebrate all of the efforts that elementary school students across Hamilton who are in our program have put into improving their community's air quality and level of environmental consciousness, as well as generate awareness in the broader community about the effects of poor air quality. For those reasons, we'd like to invite as many community members and environmental organizations as possible, so please spread the word.

If this is something you think you or your respective organizations would be interested in collaborating with us on, either as a booth or potentially as one of our group of three diverse panelists representing the communities of Hamilton and taking questions from children and their families in attendance, please reach out to me at mackenzie.whitten@greenventure.ca, so we can look at some of the finer details. I feel as though all of the members of this committee would have a lot to contribute, either as a booth or a panelist. Regardless of if you end up hosting a booth or sitting on the panel, if you would like to attend anyways, we would be thrilled to see you there!

Stephen Burt

Posting to the ERO on April 11 regarding Director's order to National Steel Car <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6830>

Grace Higgins

Currently finalizing the RFP posting for CAH funding with procurement, will circulate information once the posting goes up

Next meeting

May 8, 2023

3:00-5:00pm

WebEx