



Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 08, 2024, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Hamilton City Hall Room 192/193 and Microsoft Teams

Present

Barry Duffey, Chair
Abigail Amponsah, MECP
Beatrice Ekoko, City of Hamilton
Charles Hostovsky, McMaster University
Dennis Corr, Corr Environmental
George McKibbon, McKibbon Wakefield
Howard Pakosh, Piera Systems
Ian Borsuk, Environment Hamilton
Julie Wedzinga, Stelco
Kristina Rudzki, MECP
Laura Buckley, City of Hamilton
Lubna Hussain, MECP
Lucas Neil, Stantec
Manal Chaudhry, City of Hamilton
Matt Parsons, ECCC
Nathan VanBelois, Sarnia BASES
Natalie Stacey, MECP
Phoebe Tung, Health Canada
Sara Yonson, Hamilton Port Authority
Shelley Rogers, City of Hamilton
Tara Barrows, Health Canada
Tim Hung, MECP
Trevor Imhoff, City of Hamilton
Zoe Davis, ECCC

Regrets

Adriano Mena, Citizen
Alexandra Graham, Citizen
Andrew Sebestyen, Stelco
Brian Jantzi, Citizen
Linda Campbell, City of Hamilton
Rob Conley, City of Hamilton
Don Curry, City of Hamilton
Fran Scott, McMaster University
Gas Gebara, Arcelor Mittal Defasco
Giuliana Casimirri, Green Venture

Mark Smithson, Citizen
Matthew Adams, University of Toronto
Andrea McDowell, City of Hamilton
Myles Sergeant, Trees Please,
Paul Panabaker, Energy Dimensions
Patrick Quealey, Environment and Climate
Change Canada
Sally Radisic, City of Hamilton
Sandy Herkimer, Niagara College
Sara Styler, McMaster University

Geoffrey Knapper, Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association
Heather Govender, Green Venture
Heather Donison, Green Venture
Heidi Levitzky, Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association
Nancy Hurst, Ward 12
James LeMoine, McMaster University
Rachel Johnson, City of Hamilton
Katie Chan, Stelco
Mainul Husain, Health Canada
Pascale Marchand, Ward 4

Sara Yonson, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority
Shirook Ali, ESI
Steven Burt, Ontario MECP
Susan Voinson, ESI
Peter Topalovic, Ontario MECP
Kayli Thorp, Mohawk College
Ken Smith, Citizen
Kristina Rudzki, Ontario MECP
Kerry Le Clair, Ward 3
Leisel Knight-Messenger, Green Venture
Lynda Lukasik, City of Hamilton
Mackenzie Whitten, Green Venture
Patrick Maffei, 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](#)).

Presentations:

3. Clean Air Hamilton Annual Progress Report Figures 2022 (20 minutes) Natalie Stacey, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Question: Is the MECP please able to share information on what Industry sites are being referenced here? Perhaps instead of saying "Industry Site" you could reference the Station number? That would answer my questions about what Industry sites are used, do they change for a particular pollutant? Etc.

- MECP is in favour of sharing the location of the industrial stations shown in the figures within the group
- MECP will look into whether this information can be shared in the annual report
- Note that Industry 1 is not the same station in each figure

Question: In Sarnia, the community was often interested in one hour averages of SO₂ and benzene in terms of exceedances. Would it be possible to look at the number of exceedances of AAQC or other thresholds?

- For SO₂, this information is reported in the MECP's annual air quality report, in the appendix.

- Since the continuous benzene monitors are new, the exceedances are not being publicly reported yet. The HAMN benzene samples are taken on a 24-hour basis
- Exceedances of one hour and annual benzene will be available in the HAMN annual report

Question: Is there any fence-line monitoring required by Ontario permitting

- There is one facility in Hamilton that requires fence-line monitoring, which is Rain Carbon. This facility has fence-line monitoring for both benzene and benzo[a]pyrene on a non-continuous basis (24 hour sample collected on a 12 day schedule).

Question: Do we know which sections in the industrial areas are producing the majority of the benzene and benzo[a]pyrene?

- The predominant sector is integrated iron and steel, as well as Rainn Carbon and possibly Birla Carbon

Question: Are there any facilities in Hamilton that would be registered for the new petroleum standard?

- No facilities in Hamilton

Question: Are there any plans to add additional fence-line monitoring or potentially higher temporal resolution monitoring around certain facilities because of the increasing benzene and benzo[a]pyrene?

- There are some plans and ongoing discussions. MECP has implemented enhanced monitoring via continuous benzene monitoring to get a better understanding of issues, fugitive emissions, and specific sources, and trends.
- This is being considered for benzo[a]pyrene, however there are no field based measurement technologies for continuous monitoring available at this time.

Question: Is the 2022 provincial air quality report available?

- Not at this time. The 2021 report is the most recent information publicly available

Question: Was a ten-year trend considered for benzene and benzo[a]pyrene? With COVID, there was a lull in emissions. Is it possible that the increase in the five year trend is emissions stabilizing again after COVID?

- In this case, a five year trend was examined because there has been an apparent change in the last five years. The MECP does look at ten years in statistical analyses.
- It is a notable change since emissions of other contaminants have not had an increase in the last five years.
- As more data is received, the trend may not be significant.

Question: Is the MECP able to comment on any further assessment and investigation towards trying to isolate and identify why the increased benzene and benzo[a]pyrene trends are happening in the last five years.

- Part of this is enhanced air monitoring which allows the MECP to address issues as they occur more rapidly.
- The MECP has an action plan in place including inspections, outreach, and other initiatives.

Question: There are a few facilities in Hamilton that have site specific standards for benzene and benzo[a]pyrene. What is the status of these site specific standards and renewal?

- Rain Carbon is going through the process of renewing a site specific standard for both benzene and benzo[a]pyrene.
- There is work ongoing at the MECP to develop technical standards for the integrated iron and steel sector.
- There is a compliance pathway being developed for the integrated iron and steel sector for companies that previously held site specific standards. Many conditions that were in the site specific standards for facilities have now been incorporated into their environmental compliance approvals.

Comment: In the Rain Carbon quarterly public liaison committees, there has been no uptick of benzene or benzo[a]pyrene reported.

Question: Does the MECP have plans to engage with the Hamilton public to determine where the community wants monitoring to be done? This seems like the general way that monitoring is going.

- The local district office routinely attends community liaison committees to receive feedback directly from the community
- The MECP also indirectly receives feedback through complaints and by being in contact with local councillors.
- The Air Quality in Ontario report is also a good source of information for the public to engage with the ministry
- MECP open to engaging with community in additional ways

Comment: It may be useful to include comparison to northern Ontario cities as a reference and baseline for comparison

Discussion Items:

4. Air Quality in the News, Barry Duffey (10 minutes)

5. Amendments to the Planning Act and the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), George McGibbon (15 minutes).

- **Comment:** Bill 185 allows land owners to appeal decisions or non decisions by municipalities and allow for potential urban boundary expansion outside of a municipal comprehensive review.

6. Community Experiences: an opportunity for anyone to share local air quality experiences, All (10 minutes)

- Nathan VanBelois: Looking to have conversations with Hamilton, London, and Sarnia in the future
- Dennis Corr: Fresh Air for Kids has wrapped up successfully for this year.

7. Roundtable Updates: an opportunity for everyone to share with CAH participants events or updates that relate to CAH and that you are engaged in, All (10 minutes)

- Zoe Davis:
Bill C226 received Royal Assent recently. There is an advancing environmental equity platform that is being launched
- Ian Borsuk:

Environment Hamilton is collaborating with Dr. Sarah Styler at McMaster University for a study on particles and dust. Portable monitoring kits are being sent out to residents

- Trevor Imhoff:

Low Impact Development Guidelines for stormwater management and Green Building Standards are coming out of the planning committee.

- Matt Lawson:

Working with stakeholders to determine the cleaner air spaces and prompt communication for wildfire smoke events.

- Laura Buckley:

The mobility team wrapped up bike month which was a success

Next meeting

September 9th, 2024

3:00-5:00pm

City Hall Room 192/193 and Microsoft Teams