



**Sudbury Source Protection Committee
64th Meeting
March 3, 2020**

Held: Room C-12 Tom Davies Square
Commenced at: 1:10 p.m.
Adjourned at: 4:20 p.m.

Present: Gerry Bilodeau, Chair
Robert Alemany
Kendra Driscoll
Harry Pearce
Michel Simard
Mike Jensen
Wendy Wisniewski
Kris Longston

Also Present: Lin Gibson, Source Protection Authority Chairperson
Andre Frappier, RMO, City of Greater Sudbury
Jessica Brunette, RMI, City of Greater Sudbury
Richard Auld, Public Health Sudbury & Districts
Tea Pesheva, Liaison Officer, MECP (present by phone)
Madison Keegans, Conservation Sudbury

Regrets: Luc Bock

Lin Gibson introduced newly appointed Chair Gerry Bilodeau to the committee members and welcomed him to his first Source Protection Committee meeting

Chair Bilodeau opened the meeting and members did round table introductions

Safety Talk: Chair Bilodeau provided a safety message to members regarding road safety and driving according to conditions in inclement weather.

Enviro Talk: Wendy provided an environmental message regarding sodium levels in Ramsey Lake, indicating it should be top of mind for committee members.

1. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

No declarations of conflict were declared.

2. Approval of Agenda

Resolution 2020-01

Jensen-Wisniewski

That the agenda for the March 3, 2020 Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

3. Communication from Visitors

Lin introduced Richard Witham, Chair of the Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance (GSWA) to the Committee. Richard provided the committee with an overview of the community information release that was recently published by the GSWA regarding sodium and chloride levels in area lakes. The report was provided to SPC members.

Gerry highlighted that “road salt management” will be one of the main focuses of the committee moving forward. Mike mentioned that it is important to find a balance between road salt management and public safety. The City of Greater Sudbury and the Source Protection Committee will work together to find ways to reduce sodium levels.

4. Approval of Minutes

Resolution 2020-02

Alemany- Simard

That the minutes of the October 24, 2019 Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Michel asked about the Ramsey Lake Sub-watershed Report Card that was mentioned at the October meeting. Madison indicated that once the report has been approved it will be sent to members.

A tour of the Wanapitei Water Treatment Plant will be planned before the next meeting in June.

6. Source Protection Program Update

Madison provided a program update to committee members.

- Four committee member appointments expired on January 1, 2020 and recruitment was undertaken to fill the vacancies. Wendy Wisniewski, Luc Bock, and Kendra Driscoll have been selected to represent the Mining Sector, Development Sector, and Environmental Sector. The City of Greater Sudbury is currently in the process of undertaking an internal recruitment for a new municipal committee member. Madison indicated the process for recruiting a First Nation Liaison is underway.
- The Source Protection Programs Branch put a call out for draft workplans for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The Branch has held individual meetings with project managers to discuss the inclusions in the workplan and intend to have final transfer payment agreements sent out in March.
- Conservation Ontario recently completed a climate change vulnerability assessment tool for water quality and held workshops to provide stakeholders with a walk-through

of the tool. The session was held in Sudbury on January 16th and was well attended with representatives from the SPC, City of Greater Sudbury, Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay.

- Madison provided an update on the Ontario Road Salt Management Advisory Committee that is chaired by Conservation Ontario and the Ontario Good Roads Association. The Committee has provided a letter to the Attorney General that contained high level recommendations regarding municipal liability and environmental management of road salt. The next step for the committee is to meet with the Attorney General in partnership with the Freshwater Roundtable in order further these discussions.
- Wahnapiatae First Nation and Lake Wahnapiatae Home and Campers Association held a visioning session for Lake Wanapitei on February 27th. They invited multiple stakeholders to present on their organization, connection to the lake and key issues they see affecting the lake. Madison attended and provided an overview of the Source Protection Program.
- EarthCare Sudbury is hosting “Hold the Salt” EarthCare Breakfast on Wednesday March 25th at the Northbury Hotel & Conference Centre at 7:30am to 10:00am. The event will focus on the importance of smart salt application and will have a panel discussion with community stakeholders, the Smart About Salt Council and the City of Greater Sudbury. Madison asked members to indicate if they are interested in attending after the meeting.
- An update was provided on the Canadian Environmental Law Association’s (CELA) application for review of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* to incorporate certain types of non-municipal drinking water systems. The MECP provided a response indicating that they will not conduct the review as they are already dedicating resources to a similar request made by the Attorney General of Ontario. The Ministry will share the results of their review once it has been conducted. The correspondence was provided to SPC members.

7. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Update

Tea Pesheva, Liaison Officer from the Source Protection Programs Branch (SPPB) provided an update on behalf of MECP.

- Keley Katona has recently taken on the role of Director of the Source Protection Programs Branch. Her previous position was as Director of the Investment and Governance Branch at the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines.
- All Source Protection Committee Chair appointments have been completed by the Minister
- The SPPB held engagement sessions in the fall on the Phase II updates to the Director’s Technical Rules with multiple stakeholders. The branch is currently in the process of reviewing the comments received during these engagement sessions and will move forward with public consultation shortly.
- All Provincial Ministries completed their required annual reports by February 1 and the data is available online for Source Protection Authorities.
- MECP has issued all Section 36 Orders to date except for Grand River
- The SPPB has completed an update to the Source Protection Information Atlas to incorporate Provincial Water Quality Monitoring data and as well as climate data.

8. Review and Approval of the Third Annual Progress Report

Madison presented an overview of the contents of the Third Annual Progress Report

- Summary of policy implementation
 - Mike highlighted that the City of Greater Sudbury has established a task force to undertake water quantity modeling and to complete the water efficiency plan

for the Valley Drinking Water System. Regular updates will be provided to the SPC.

- Septic Inspection Program
- Risk Management Plans
- Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground
- Ramsey Monitoring Program Results: Phosphorus and Sodium

Committee members provided a summary of the comments to include in the report regarding overall progress made in 2019.

- A score of Progress Well/On Target was assigned for overall progress
- Highlight the progress made on risk management plans since last year's report
- Wendy mentioned the report should focus on new educational initiatives that were completed in 2019
- Highlight that the RMO/Is have completed Smart About Salt Training
- Emphasize where the committee is moving forward in 2020 with a focus on road salt and climate change

Madison will make suggested changes to the annual report and circulate to committee members.

Resolution 2020-03

Simard - Alemany

That the Sudbury Source Protection Committee accepts the Source Protection Third Annual Progress Report, including any remarks as discussed at the Source Protection Committee Meeting of March 3, 2020.

And further, that the Annual Report be brought forward to the Source Protection Authority for approval and subsequent submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks by May 1, 2020.

Carried.

9. Update on Section 36 Work

Madison provided an update on the status of the Section 36 Updates to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan.

- The committee reviewed and approved draft changes at the October 24th meeting and these updates were submitted to MECP for review and comment. Comments were received at the end of January and the comments did not result in any major changes to the submitted work.
- Madison indicated that there was an outstanding item discussed at the last meeting that the MECP provided guidance on. An overview of chloride levels in Ramsey Lake was provided. MECP indicated that the current concentration was well below the aesthetic objective for chloride which is 250mg/L. MECP also indicated that should chloride be identified as an issue there would be no new activities identified as threats since they are already captured under the sodium issue. Members agreed that the chloride levels would continue to be monitored and if required revisited at a later date.
- The next step in the process is to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on proposed changes. A draft pre-consultation notice was submitted to the MECP for approval and comment. The notice contains a summary of the proposed

changes and provides rationale for these updates. The notice will be distributed to members before it is sent out to stakeholders. Public consultation will occur once stakeholder comments are reviewed and considered in plan updates. It is anticipated that the updates will be submitted to the MECP by June 30, 2020.

10. Correspondence – Lake Erie Source Protection Region

Madison provided an overview of the correspondence that was received from the Lake Erie Source Protection Region regarding elevated sodium and chloride levels in several groundwater wells within the region. Committee members discussed the correspondence and provided recommendations to include in a response to the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee.

- Highlight the importance of public safety, if salt application is reduced an appropriate alternative method for safe winter road maintenance should be provided.
- The Northern Ontario communities face more extreme weather conditions throughout the winter compared to the south.
- More operational details should be included in their recommendations
- Include a sodium reduction target
- Model the road salt application training after other established training such as the program established for pesticides
- The Province should provide Source Protection Committees with better tools to address the sodium issues.
- Undertake a more collaborative approach to finding solutions with the Provincial Government.
- Expand past the recommendations to only working with municipal road agencies to provincial agencies as well as First Nation communities
- Ensure that airplane de-icing chemicals would not be included under “winter maintenance chemicals”

The committee discussed what could be done at a local level to help address the over-application of road salt. It was suggested that the committee or RMO could look into an education and outreach tool that would help encourage or acknowledge landowners or businesses engaged in significant threat activities that are conforming with source protection policies. A possible option could be providing landowners or businesses with a sticker to post once a risk management plan has been established as an incentive for having established the plan. The sticker could also serve as a public outreach tool that would draw attention to the risk management measures that have been incorporated at the specific business or property.

Mike will explore potential mechanisms in order to further manage the application of road salt on private parking lots smaller than one hectare such as a by-law. Mike will provide information to the committee on his findings.

Resolution 2020-04

Jensen - Wisniewski

That the Sudbury Source Protection Committee will provide clear recommendations to the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee in response to and support of the correspondence “Support for actions to address over-application of winter maintenance chemicals to protect source of municipal drinking water”.

Carried.

11. Presentation – Overview of committee member roles and responsibilities

This agenda item was deferred until the next meeting.

12. Addendum/ New Business

It was suggested that for a future agenda item it would be helpful for committee members to understand and review the contents of an established risk management plan for the application of road salt/storage of snow. The RMO can provide an overview of the steps in the risk management plan process and review the measures that are included in the Risk Management Measures Catalogue.

Richard Witham highlighted that the Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance and the Vale Living with Lakes Centre at Laurentian University will be hosting an event titled “Troubled Waters Forum: Keeping Lakes Blue in a Warming World” on Thursday April 30th from 6:30-9:00pm at the Science North Cavern. Madison will provide the information to committee members via email after the meeting.

13. Adjournment

Resolution 2020-05

Jensen - Alemany

That we do now adjourn.

Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 P.M.

Next meeting: June 2020