

Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
5th Meeting
April 8th, 2008

Held: Howard Armstrong Centre, Hanmer
Commenced at: 12:30 p.m.
Adjourned at: 4:25 p.m.

Present: Nels Conroy, Chair
Paul Baskcomb
Nick Benkovich
Luc Bock
Greg Haddad
Stephen Monet
Lilly Noble
Crystal Osawamick
Wendy Wisniewski
Tim Worton

Also Present: Bob Rogers, Source Protection Authority Liaison
Katie Fairman, Ministry of Environment Liaison
Richard Auld, Sudbury District Health Unit Liaison
Ed Gardner, Sudbury District Health Unit Liaison
Judy Sewell, Drinking Water Source Protection
Melanie Venne, Drinking Water Source Protection
Nathalie Gara-Boivin, Drinking Water Source Protection
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority

Communication: Donald Malette
Art Petahtegoose

1. Tour of Valley Wells

At 12:30 p.m. the committee boarded a school bus for a tour of the Valley wells. The tour began with a stop at the Frost well. Nick introduced John Pollock who toured the committee through the well. He answered questions from the committee and all found the tour very instructive. Once back aboard the bus, the tour continued with short stops at seven other Valley wells. Nick Benkovich spoke about each well, highlighting surrounding land uses and individual challenges and answered questions about the land tenure and operations of the wells.

2. Welcome to Ed Gardner

Nels introduced Ed Gardner to the Committee and liaison representatives. Ed is Manager of Safe Water and the Part 8 (private waste) program at the Sudbury and District Health Unit. The Chair spoke briefly about the good support that the committee is receiving from the appointed liaison staff and thanked Ed for taking time to include the meeting in his busy schedule.

3. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 2008-10

Wisniewski - Noble

That the agenda for the April 8, 2008 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

5. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 2008-11

Worton - Osawamick

That the minutes of the March 11, 2008 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

6. Terms of Reference Update

Judy Sewell gave a quick update on the Terms of Reference. The access database is up and running and some information has been uploaded. The information provided to date shows the historical costs up to present. Estimating future costs will be more difficult and this will be worked on in the coming weeks.

To view the work in progress, committee members can log into to the members section of the website (www.nickeldistrict.ca/SWP%20Web/English/index.htm).

The May SPC meeting will focus specifically on the Terms of Reference. The Committee will have the opportunity to review the document and provide commentary. The proposed draft of the Terms of Reference is scheduled to be posted for public review on the website on May 22nd.

Lilly Noble asked about the format that would be used to present the Terms of Reference to the public. Judy responded that at this point the staff is unsure how it

will be displayed for public review. Katie Fairman explained that the current format of the Terms of Reference was created as a means to distribute information to the province and that for public review the format can be altered for readability and ease of use.

7. Correspondence

Since the last SPC meeting no new correspondence to the committee has been received.

On March 26th Nels, Judy and Bob Rogers presented a Source Protection Program update to the City of Greater Sudbury Council. Tim Worton, Nick Benkovich and Stephen Monet attended in the audience gallery. The Council asked many questions and seemed both interested and well informed.

Nathalie and Judy gave a presentation to the Wahnapiatae First Nation Band Council on March 12th. Crystal Osawamick indicated that at the next band council meeting on Monday, April 14th, council would discuss whether or not to be included in the Terms of Reference.

Bob Rogers also brought up a piece of correspondence that was recently received from the Minister of the Environment. The Drinking Water Source Protection Program will receive \$585,000 for ongoing technical studies. This money will also allow for peer reviewing of technical studies.

A library has been set up for committee members in the Nickel District Conservation Authority office. Staff received a new book “Stakeholder Engagement: Reference Material for Drinking Water Source Protection” produced by the MOE. It has been added to the library.

8. Overview of Population and Development in the Valley and Official Plan links to Source Protection

Paul Baskcomb presented information on population, household and building trends in the City of Greater Sudbury. Included in his presentation was information on subdivision plans for Valley East, surrounding land uses and the proximity of these to wellhead protection areas.

In the official plan, provisions are made to require watershed planning for new development and also to prevent certain types of development in wellhead protection areas. Stephen Monet pointed out that protecting surface water sources is also identified and provided for in the official plan. These source water guidelines are interim policies and as the Source Protection Plan moves forward the Official Plan will be amended to include new or modified policies.

Nels thanked Paul for such an informative presentation. As the committee moves forward, the official plan will need to be revisited and the committee will also need to consider the nature of the land use activities that are compatible with source protection in areas adjacent to the wells and surface water intakes. The by-laws and policies regarding subjects such as hooking up septic systems and private wells in areas that are serviced will also need to be considered.

9. Process for Addressing Issues in Wellhead Protection Areas and Intake Protection Zones

Katie Fairman spoke to the issue of the mechanisms available to the SPC for early intervention within the wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones. Nels explained that the agenda item was stimulated from a recent discussion at a training session about septic systems and private wells that exist within the wellhead protection areas.

Katie explained that before the Source Protection Plan is approved, there are two time frames that must be kept in mind: 1) before the Assessment Report is approved and 2) between the Assessment Report and the approval of the Source Protection Plan.

Before the assessment report is finalized: An issue can be designated as an “imminent drinking water health hazard” and then must be reported to the Minister of Health. However, the definition and scope of the issues that fall under the “imminent drinking water health hazard” heading are still being worked out by MOE. In addition, staff or the committee can use known technical information to build policies into the municipal official plan and existing provincial or municipal regulations could be used to address the issues.

Between the assessment report and the approval of the Source Protection Plan: interim risk management plans can be put in place to address threats during this time frame.

As issues or threats arise the committee will need to decide on the appropriate action to alleviate the problem.

10. Process for Addressing Quorum

At the last SPC meeting the committee came very close to not having quorum. Quorum for the SPC committee consists of the chair plus two-thirds of the members. Nels emphasized the importance of communicating with Melanie and letting her know if you will be able to attend or not. With proper communication and email reminders it may be possible to avoid another similar situation.

Nels also opened up the floor to discuss potential scenarios for meetings if quorum was not met. A round table discussion led most to believe that if quorum was not met, the meeting should continue with unofficial business and information items. At

the following meeting, a summary of the discussion could be provided and official resolutions could be made. The Chair was concerned that the assembled committee and liaison staff not be penalized and be required to forfeit the time set aside from their busy schedule.

11. New Business

Nels discussed the proposed meeting schedule until June and wished to discuss the feeling of the committee concerning meetings during the summer vacation period. Most committee members did not mind meeting during the summer months as long as enough notice was provided. It was pointed out that if the delay in the deadline for submitting the Terms of Reference was approved meetings in the summer may not be fruitful. The Directors' Rules for the Assessment Report will be necessary prior to the Committee being able to approve the document and it appears that the rules may be delayed. The committee suggested discussing this topic again after a decision has been made about extending the schedule for completing the terms of reference.

Due to time constraints Nels was unable to open up the floor to new business. Committee members will have the opportunity to raise new business at the next meeting.

12. Adjournment

Resolution 2008-12

Noble - Haddad

That we now adjourn.

Next meeting: Tuesday May 13th, 1pm to 4pm at Tom Davies Square, Room C-11