

Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
7th Meeting
June 10th, 2008

Held: C-11, Tom Davies Square

Commenced at: 1:00 p.m.

Adjourned at: 4:07 p.m.

Present: Tim Worton, Chair
Paul Baskcomb
Nick Benkovich
Greg Haddad
Donald Malette
Heather Mandamin
Stephen Monet
Lilly Noble
Crystal Osawamick
Wendy Wisniewski

Also Present: Bob Rogers, Source Protection Authority Liaison
Ed Gardner, Sudbury and District Health Unit Liaison
Judy Sewell, Drinking Water Source Protection
Nathalie Gara-Boivin, Drinking Water Source Protection
Sharon Bennett, Drinking Water Source Protection
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority

Communication: Luc Bock
Nels Conroy

1. Judy Sewell opened the meeting

Due to a health related absence, Nels Conroy was unable to attend the meeting. Judy Sewell initiated the meeting in his absence.

Judy welcomed Heather Mandamin of the Whitefish Lake First Nation to the table. Committee members introduced themselves to Heather.

Judy initiated the discussion regarding selecting an interim chair for the meeting. She stated there were a number of options as to how the committee could select a chair. A committee member could be selected to serve as chair until Nels returned (which

would include acting as interim chair at the upcoming open houses), or the interim chair could be rotated among members.

Lilly Noble enquired as to the requirements of chair outside of the meeting. Judy replied that it may require a couple of meetings before an SPC meeting to solidify the agenda and to prepare for the items to be discussed at the meeting. [Post-meeting note: the chair acts on behalf of the committee in between meetings; it might be necessary to contact the chair to deal with business arising from public comments received, requests for interviews with the media, or other matters.]

Greg Haddad suggested that the chair chosen should also act on behalf of the chair for the open houses.

Resolution 2008-16

Haddad – Malette

That Tim Worton act as chair for the June 10th meeting as well as the open houses.

Carried.

2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Judy added an item to new business pertaining to the July 10-11 Ministry of the Environment information sessions.

Resolution 2008-17

Malette - Noble

That the agenda for the June 10, 2008 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted as circulated with the changes noted above.

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Tim Worton noted there were a number of action items still outstanding from the previous meeting. These were discussed as follows:

1. New Valley Well construction meeting with city staff and Source Protection staff.

Judy provided an update on the discussions at the meeting. A Class B Environmental Assessment has begun for the locations of two, possibly three new wells to enhance the capacity of the Valley system. This will make up for the loss of Well #6 in Capreol and for the increased development in the Valley area. The City Water/Wastewater staff wanted to be sure all City departments

were aware of the process and the possible implications of a Source Protection Plan.

Paul Baskcomb added that when the Official Plan was created, recognition of source protection was included, however, they were careful to note that the implications are not known yet. He also added that it was appreciated that the planning department was consulted on the matter.

Judy expanded that the Official Plan includes general approaches for source protection and added that there are implications for the new valley wells regarding new septic approvals.

Paul Baskcomb asked Ed Gardner if the City was in a position to approve septic systems as it is generally a health unit jurisdiction. Ed replied that it would fall under the Ontario Building code – anything above and beyond all applicable law would likely be the City's jurisdiction. This could impact land severances in the future.

Lilly Noble asked who pays for the well and is it the SPC's job to determine if no septic systems are allowed.

Nick Benkovich replied that it is the City who pays for the wells. Judy added that it is the SPC's job to make recommendations for the Source Protection Plan, however it is the municipality's job to implement the plan. Bob Rogers clarified that the SPP takes precedence over the Official Plan and the Source Protection Authority passes on the plan to the Minister of the Environment and the MOE ultimately has the authority.

2. Hanmer open house update was elaborated by Nathalie Gara-Boivin later in the meeting

3. Adhoc groups have not been created as per one of the action items from the previous meeting.

Crystal Osawamick suggested a new agenda item "Business Arising from the Minutes" be added as a regular agenda item.

Resolution 2008-18

Wisnewski – Benkovich

That the minutes of the May 13th, 2008 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

5. Preparation of Open Houses

Nathalie Gara-Boivin gave an overview of the open houses planned for the release of the Terms of Reference on June 12 at Science North and June 17 at the Howard Armstrong Centre. She handed out the comment forms which will be distributed at the open houses.

A discussion ensued regarding the wording of some of the items on the comment form. Bob suggested keeping it simple by prompting questions related to the Terms of Reference and then a section for other concerns.

Tim enquired about the addition of personal information on the forms. It was discussed that this was a necessary item to meet legal requirements. To make this point clear to members of the public, it was suggested to add “to ensure registration of your comments....” to the comment form.

Don Malette added that we should respond to any comments submitted as part of this process to ensure transparency.

Nathalie ran through the presentation to be given at the open houses. She also gave an overview of what the Committee’s responsibilities were to be at the event.

There was a broad discussion related to the soliciting of comments and appropriate responses to questions. Overall, it was agreed that all comments should be taken into consideration in a transparent manner and that responses should focus on the Clean Water Act and the Terms of Reference.

6. Stewardship Fund Open House

Sharon Bennett spoke on behalf of Melanie Venne regarding the outcome of the Valley kitchen table discussions held on June 5. She noted that one landowner attended the session to better understand what was being asked of them. Overall, the landowner left better informed and would likely decide to participate in the program. Although the attendance was low, it was encouraging to meet with at least one landowner who might help to spread the word about the funding available.

7. Report on the Sudbury Soils Study

Stephen Monet gave a brief presentation regarding the process and the conclusions of the Sudbury Soils Study. Main points included:

- Study commenced in 2001
- Two part study – Human Health Risk Assessment and the Environmental Risk Assessment
- Five member groups plus one independent observer and union representatives
- Models used were very conservative

- Five main conclusions as stated in the summary of the Sudbury Soils Study
- Sudbury and District Health Unit does regular measurements on health and are reported on regularly.
- Major mining companies in Sudbury are working towards reducing their fugitive nickel emissions from non-stack related activities.
- Steering committee was established for risk management strategies. A toll free number was established.
- Sudbury Soils Study took samples from private wells to assess exposure routes to metals.
- Overall, there is not a large link between the findings of the Sudbury Soils Study and the source protection program.

8. Terms of Reference Update

Judy provided an update on the Terms of Reference. Nels had a number of comments and they were incorporated with the exception of a few that are still being looked at.

The MOE has stated that SPC's will not have to amend the terms of reference for budget reasons as they recognize there is not enough information provided to the committees to do a detailed budget.

When new systems are installed within a municipality, they are automatically included into the plan with no amendment necessary.

Nick added that the Levack system will soon be taken off line. The Capreol system will officially be part of the Valley system and the Skead well is being added soon to the municipal system.

June 26 is the deadline for public comments on the Terms of Reference. It was decided that the next meeting would be a working lunch to quickly go through any changes for the Terms of Reference. The lunch meeting was set for July 8.

9. Correspondence and Source Protection Program Update

The watershed characterization report has been completed. Sharon provided a copy to each committee member. This report provides a general overview of the source protection area and the local source protection program.

10. New Business

Judy informed the committee of the upcoming MOE information sessions tentatively scheduled to be held July 10th and 11th in Sudbury. The MOE has requested that a more technical person from the committee attend the meeting on the 10th for a review of the draft regulations for the Assessment Report. The meeting on the 11th will be a general overview of the regulations under the CWA and 2 people from the committee are asked to attend.

Nick and Wendy Wisniewski can attend the July 10 session. Stephen Monet, Tim and Don stated that they could attend the half day session on July 11.

Bob Rogers mentioned the upcoming Biennial Tour for the NDCA to be held during the week of September 7-10. This may interfere with the regularly scheduled meetings of the SPC. It was agreed that the SPC meeting be moved to the 3rd Tuesday of September (September 16, 2008).

Paul Sajatovic mentioned the committee members will be invited to attend the evening social that will be held for the event.

11. Adjournment

Resolution 2008-19

Haddad - Noble

That we now adjourn.

12. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

- Watershed Characterization Report
- Draft Terms of Reference
- Summary of funding sources and categories
- Summary of suggested changes from Nels
- Summary of Volume II: Human Health Risk Assessment

Next meeting: Tuesday July 8th, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. at Tom Davies Square, Room C-11