



**Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
21st Meeting
November 10, 2009**

Held: Tom Davies Square, Room C-12

Commenced at: 1:05 p.m.

Adjourned at: 3:50 p.m.

Present: Nels Conroy, Chair
Paul Baskcomb
Richard Bois
Nick Benkovich
Greg Haddad
Lilly Noble
Cheryl Recollet
Wendy Wisniewski
Tim Worton

Also Present: Neil Gervais, Ministry of the Environment Liaison
Judy Sewell, Drinking Water Source Protection
Melanie Venne, Drinking Water Source Protection
Sharon Bennett, Drinking Water Source Protection
Brianna Carter, Drinking Water Source Protection
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority
Anoop Naik, Nickel District Conservation Authority

Communications: Luc Bock
Stephen Monet
Bob Rogers, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Liaison
Richard Auld, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison

1. Chair Conroy Opened the Meeting

Chair Conroy opened the meeting by noting that at a recent meeting for the City of Greater Sudbury's biodiversity action plan a clear message was established for the protection of watersheds. The pamphlet distributed at the meeting had a section dealing with "healthy land, healthy lakes".

Nels introduced Cheryl Recollet, our new representative on the committee from the Wahnapiatae First Nation. Cheryl has a strong background in geography, GIS and

environmental studies and Nels was very glad to welcome her to the committee. The committee went around the table to introduce themselves.

There was a funding announcement and media event on November 6 at Tom Davies Square. The event was chaired by Bob Rogers, and presentations were made by Minister Rick Bartolucci, Mayor John Rodriguez and SPC Chair Conroy. The event announced funding from the province received by the NDCA for flood forecasting and prevention programs, source water protection and infrastructure projects. There was a great media turnout and lots of attention paid to source water protection.

2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Nels suggested reordering the agenda items to better suit the schedule of our guest speaker, Kris Longston, from the City of Greater Sudbury's planning department.

Resolution 2009-23

Noble - Baskcomb

That the agenda for the November 10, 2009, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted, as amended.

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 2009-24

Bois - Benkovich

That the minutes of the October 13, 2009, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, be approved.

Carried.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. Update on Official Plan Amendment

Paul Baskcomb and Kris Longston presented an update on the proposed Official Plan amendment that would include the new wellhead protection area mapping. Since the October SPC meeting, Paul and Kris met with NDCA staff to discuss the issue further. Originally, the amendment was going to contain only the new mapping and not update the policy. However, this may not be an ideal approach since the Official Plan policies will list different threats than the Assessment Report and may be confusing to the general public.

In addition, there are no longer “groundwater protection areas” as referred to in the Official Plan; instead there are highly vulnerable aquifers and significant groundwater recharge areas. There will also be intake protection zones to add once the assessment report is complete. Paul also pointed out that it might be better to wait and amend the Official Plan after the assessment report is approved by the Minister of the Environment.

It is also important to note that the new zoning by-laws will be going public soon and open houses for these will be held in late January. The zones around the WHPA will allow different activities based on the threat posed by the activity. Kris displayed maps with the WHPA zones and the proposed by-law zoning.

The committee appreciated that the City were sensitive to providing a unified and consistent message to the public regarding protection of sources of water. Owing to the difference in some terminology there is some danger that as we take the message public that we will confuse the audience.

Paul Baskcomb suggested meeting with NDCA staff again before making any decisions about the amendment. He will also discuss the matter further with City planning staff.

6. Working Draft of Assessment Report

A binder with a partial working draft of the assessment report was distributed to committee members. As the report progresses, new sections will be added to the binder.

Sharon Bennett highlighted a few points:

- A disclaimer has been added to part 1 of the Assessment Report. Paul Sajatovic inquired if a provincial disclaimer is being developed. Neil Gervais will look into it.
- There is a space reserved for a foreword that could be written by either Nels or the committee to endorse the Assessment Report.
- The table of contents at the beginning of the report will be more general, and each section will have its own in-depth table of contents.
- Part 1 will highlight the scope of the work and the methodology.
- Part 2 is all the information that deals with the entire watershed, including the watershed characterization and conceptual water budget reports.
- Parts 3 to 10 will focus on each of the specific drinking water systems.

The report will be written with a general public audience in mind. All the technical reports from the consultants will be included as CDs in the appendix.

The draft received at the meeting included part 2 and a sample of one specific drinking water systems section- part 6 on the Valley East wells. This section gives the committee members an overall picture of what each drinking water system section will look like once completed, including the threats section.

Sharon suggested that if committee members felt strongly about any sections or specific drinking water systems, subcommittees could be formed to help in the review of those sections. Committee members did not feel this was necessary at this time and prefer to provide comments by phone or email.

Neil provided a quick update about blue-green algae. A new development from the MOE will allow SPCs to incorporate blue-green algae into the assessment report based on the potential presence of microcystins. It can be dealt with as an issue and then contributing activities would have to be delineated. Nels thanked Neil for the update and was glad that this gives the committee the possibility to include blue-green algae in the report.

Sharon reminded committee members to submit any comments on the distributed draft as soon as possible. Sharon is working towards having a completed draft by the end of December.

Nels thanked Sharon for the presentation and said he is very impressed with the assessment report thus far. It is a well written and very readable document.

7. Types of Vulnerable Areas

Judy gave a presentation on the four types of vulnerable areas. Most of the presentations and focus have been on two of the four types of vulnerable areas: the wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones.

Judy described each of the vulnerable areas and how they apply for either water quality or water quantity. Two vulnerable areas that are not often mentioned are: highly vulnerable aquifers (HVAs) and significant groundwater recharge areas (SGRA). Judy showed maps of both of these areas.

Highly vulnerable aquifers are areas that are susceptible to groundwater contamination due to the shallowness and permeability of the overlying soil type.

Significant groundwater recharge areas are delineated through the water budget work. These areas help recharge water to aquifers and surface water bodies. For the purpose of the Clean Water Act, they must have a hydrologic link to any drinking water system, such as private, institutional or municipal.

The presentation prompted the committee to question if a glossary of all these terms will be available with the assessment report. Brianne is currently working on the glossary.

8. Program Updates

i) Water Gathering

The 3rd Water Gathering was held on Thursday, November 5. There were five groups, including the NDCA, who gave update presentations, plus a guest speaker, Al Douglas, who spoke on climate change. Lilly, Nick and Stephen were in attendance.

ii) December SPC Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

The December meeting will feature a presentation by Bruce Davidson, spokesperson for the Concerned Walkerton Citizen's group, who will be speaking about the Walkerton tragedy. Bruce is a member of the Saugeen Grey Bruce source protection committee. Nels inquired about the committee's opinion on opening up the talk to the general public and City staff. Richard Bois mentioned that an event like this could a good media draw to increase attention to source protection prior to the release of the assessment report in early 2010.

9. New Business

Brianne discussed assessment report open house locations. Initially the committee had mentioned the Science North Vale Inco Cavern; however, the lighting in the Cavern would not be ideal for maps or documents to be looked at. Brianne inquired if committee members had other suggestions. There was a discussion about the Science North Gold Room and the Tom Davies Square foyer.

Paul Sajatovic reminded committee members that the NDCA Christmas party will be held at the Sixth Avenue Golf Course on December 10. Please contact the NDCA office by December 2 if you wish to attend.

Paul also gave a short NDCA update. On November 16, Chair Bob Rogers and Paul will present the NDCA 2010 budget to the City of Greater Sudbury. On February 24, 2010, the NDCA / SPA will begin to engage the City in the process of considering what Source Protection Planning will have to involve post-2012, after the first Source Protection Plan is submitted. This will be an ongoing process involving all parties.

Wendy Wisniewski updated the committee on the status of the Levack well. The well will no longer be part of the municipal system as of November 30. The Onaping well is currently being commissioned as a municipal supply to supply the communities of Levack and Onaping.

10. Adjournment

Resolution 2009-25

Wisniewski - Noble

That we now adjourn.

11. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

- Working draft of Assessment Report
- Presentation Slides: Types of Vulnerable Areas

Next meeting: December 8, 2009, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Tom Davies Square, Room C-10