



**Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee**  
**31<sup>st</sup> Meeting**  
**October 12, 2010**

**Held:** Tom Davies Square, Room C-11

**Commenced at:** 1:10 p.m.

**Adjourned at:** 3:40 p.m.

**Present:** Nels Conroy, Chair  
Paul Baskcomb  
Nick Benkovich  
Stephen Monet  
Lilly Noble  
Cheryl Recollet  
Wendy Wisniewski  
Tim Worton

**Also Present:** Neil Gervais, Ministry of the Environment Liaison  
Kris Longston, City of Greater Sudbury Planning Department  
Judy Sewell, Drinking Water Source Protection  
Melanie Venne, Drinking Water Source Protection  
Jessica Brunelle, Drinking Water Source Protection  
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority

**Communications:** Luc Bock  
Richard Bois  
Brianna Carter, Drinking Water Source Protection  
Greg Haddad  
Vivian Naponse  
Bob Rogers, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Liaison  
Marc Rondina, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison Alternate  
Burgess Hawkins, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison

## **1. Chair Conroy Opened the Meeting**

Chair Conroy opened the meeting by welcoming the committee members. Nels proceeded to summarize the topics of discussion for the day with a focus on the upcoming source protection planning process. Nels also reminded SPC members to register for the MOE Source Protection Plan training on October 26, if they have not already done so.

Nels talked about starting the next phase of the committee's work, developing policies for the source protection plan. He spoke about how important it will be for committee members to hear each other out and to consider all views brought to the table. It is anticipated that different committee members will have different views on certain policies and it will be very important to talk through different options, to try to reach consensus and to ensure respect for each committee member during the process.

## **2. No Declarations of Conflict were declared.**

## **3. Adoption of Agenda**

Resolution 2010-19

Wisniewski – Noble

That the agenda for the October 12, 2010, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted, as circulated.

Carried.

## **4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Resolution 2010-20

Noble – Worton

That the minutes for the September 10, 2010, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

## **5. Early Response Application Update - Melanie**

Melanie and Jessica finalized and submitted the NDCA application for funding under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program – Early Response. Melanie informed the committee that the amount of funding requested was \$122,000 for the Early Response Program and an additional \$22,000 for program delivery. Melanie justified these amounts by reminding the committee that without a dedicated full-time Stewardship Coordinator on staff, delivery of a larger project would not be feasible. Neil commented that MOE has begun the review process for the all the applications received and a response is expected in December. Nels thanked Melanie and Jessica

for doing an admirable job researching information, preparing the application and submitting it to MOE within the time allotted.

## **6. Threat Assessment Update - Melanie**

Melanie provided the committee with an update on threats assessment, which is being prepared for the Updated Assessment Report. A few significant threats that were included in the June 2010 Assessment Report have been removed, such as the four septic near the Wanapitei intake that have been removed because it was later learned these properties are on municipal services.

Some new significant threats are being added because of new direction from the province. An inventory of moderate and low threats, which was not required for the June 2010, Assessment Report, was also done.

Melanie provided committee members with an updated map of the Valley East wellhead protection areas (WHPAs) that includes the two new wells – “Q” and “R.” The addition of these new wells alters some existing WHPAs, including a considerable expansion in the size of the 25 year time of travel.

Committee members asked staff to verify the rivers and streams layer on the map to determine if they are intermittent or year round. Along with the map, a handout including tables enumerating threats for each vulnerable area was provided. Melanie discussed each individual table and indicated the approximate location of the threats through means of a PowerPoint presentation, which included maps.

The calculation to determine threat circumstance numbers was briefly explained. Melanie also indicated that the number of threats pertaining to the Application of Agricultural Source Material and the Application of Commercial Fertilizer has increased dramatically with progress made on the Updated Assessment Report. Septic systems in the Ramsey Lake watershed are now considered a moderate threat. Road salt has been added as the only significant threat in the Wanapitei IPZ-1. Tailings have been identified as a moderate threat in the Wanapitei IPZ-3.

Wendy Wisniewski clarified that tailings areas were approved as a sewage works under the OWRA. We presently have them as a waste disposal site under the EPA. It will make a difference as to the prescribed instruments that will be used. Melanie indicated that she would seek clarification with Neil’s assistance.

The Vermilion Drinking Water System does not have any significant threats; however, road salt and tailings have been identified as moderate threats. A discussion was also initiated by Paul Sajatovic concerning a proposed hydroelectric dam on the Vermilion River at Cascade Falls near the intake by Xeneca Power Development Inc. A completed project report from the developer is expected by the end of the fourth quarter. Wendy will continue to provide updated information on the proposed project, which is located in proximity to Vale property, as it becomes available. Further

discussion will also be held at the upcoming water budget meeting. Nels has requested that further information on hydro dams and water quantity threats be gathered.

The Valley East area has the largest number of threats. Along with the previously identified septic system significant threats, the Application of Agricultural Source Material and the Application of Commercial Fertilizer will likely be enumerated as being significant threats once mapping exercises are complete. Dense Non Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPLS), such as methylene chloride and trichloroethane, still need to be verified in the Valley East Area. All DNAPLS located in a groundwater protection area are classified as significant. Threats were also discussed for each individual well in the Valley.

Wendy inquired about the definition being used to identify “*livestock*” in terms of threats. It was agreed that when enumerating livestock threats and developing policies, we must be cautious and consider small animals in greater numbers as threats as well – i.e. dog kennels. Paul Baskcomb inquired about appropriate timing regarding landowner notification for new threats.

The Garson WHPAs currently have one identified significant threat – the handling and storage of fuel. The Falconbridge, Onaping and Dowling WHPAs do not contain any significant threats.

Melanie explained how threats in the Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVAs) and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRAs) have primarily been enumerated using existing databases such as the Technical Standards Safety Authority (TSSA) and various maps and databases from CGS, MOE and MNR. Judy indicated that it is possible that the threats in the HVAs and SGRAs will not be dealt with through policy development as they are calculated to have a vulnerability score of 6 and the majority of threats are ranked as being a low risk. The HVA and SGRA also encompass the majority of the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Area. The only moderate threats found in these areas include large municipal landfill sites, all others are ranked as low risk.

Nels asked if and how we can move forward with selecting low and moderate threats we wish to write policy for. This is a topic that the SPC will have to discuss in the coming months as policy development begins. Nels thanked Melanie for providing the Threat Assessment Update.

## **7. Planning Working Group Update – Melanie**

Melanie provided a flowchart to committee members that explained the proposed process related to Source Protection Planning. Policy development will begin with a working group, and policy options will be brought to the SPC for discussion and approval.

SPC members were invited to attend meetings to be held by the Working Group if a topic of particular interest to them is going to be discussed. Rather than hiring external consultants at this point, Kris Longston, a city planner, will be available to assist in the process. Funds for the hours that Kris spends on Source Protection Planning will be provided by NDCA source protection funding.

The first planning working group meeting will discuss the topic of agricultural threats and be held on November 25. Nels thanked Melanie for the handout and explanation and once again invited all members to take part in SPP training on October 26.

## **8. Summary of Chairs Meetings/Roundtable**

Nels briefed the committee on news from the recent chairs meeting. A representative from the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) gave an informative presentation on how they regulate fuels and other materials and activities that fall within their jurisdiction. The focus of the discussion was on home heating fuel. The Source Protection Office is working with TSSA to develop a handout on TSSA regulation of fuel storage.

Representatives from the Ministry of Transportation made a presentation on the application of road salt on provincial highways. It was pointed out that their primary environmental focus relates to application rates, as once chloride enters a water course, it is impossible to remove. The representative told the chairs and project managers that the MTO is very keen to work with SPCs to develop suitable plans and policies for source protection.

Signage on provincial highways in IPZs and WHAPAs was questioned by a Chair, and it was determined that individual SPCs need to discuss and decide how much and what type of signage would be appropriate for their particular SPAs. MTO representatives indicated that, in general, MTO were reluctant to add additional signage to Highway right-of-ways, but if SPCs could present a case for signage it would be considered.

Nels mentioned that positive conversations were held regarding First Nations communities. It will be important that positive and constructive relationships with these communities be fostered during the planning process. The committees were informed that there were both direct and indirect issues that could affect source protection planning and it will be necessary to maintain good working relationships within our own SPC.

## **9. Updated Assessment Report Work Plan - Judy**

A copy of a letter sent to Ian Smith was circulated to committee members, along with the Updated Assessment Report Work Plan. This information was also provided to committee members on their zip drives. Items to be included in the Updated Assessment Report include the modeling updates of IPZ-2 for the Vermilion and

Wanapitei River systems, the two new Valley Wells and the enumeration of low and moderate threats. The work plan provided to Ian should help the Source Protection Office to determine if it is best to update and edit the current Assessment Report or create a new Assessment Report.

## **10. Correspondence / Program Updates**

### **i) Latornell Conservation Symposium**

The Latornell conference will be held November 17, 18 and 19. With approximately 1,000 participants, this is the largest conservation symposium in the province. The program can be viewed online by visiting the Conservation Ontario website and clicking the link for the Latornell symposium. Judy asked that SPC members notify staff members of their attendance by Wednesday, October 13, 2010, so that staff can confirm the necessary accommodations.

### **ii) Blue-Green Algae**

Anoop gave a brief update regarding the blue-green algae monitoring program to Nels before the meeting. He confirmed that while data taken over the past two years does show an increase in phosphorus levels, there are currently no blooms in Ramsey Lake. Nels requested that an updated report by both the Masters Student and Anoop be given at the next meeting to show SPC members the progress of the program. Nick Benkovich also confirmed that regular testing by water/wastewater shows that there are no blue-green algae blooms in Ramsey Lake.

### **iii) Water Forum**

Stephen Monet attended a meeting with local lake stewardship groups that focused on issues they would like to see addressed. A group of lake stewardship committees said that they would like to use the Water Forum this year to learn more about Eurasian Milfoil and how to reduce it in their lakes. Attendance is expected to be high. Gord Miller, the Environmental Commissioner for Ontario, and Charles Ramcharan, a professor at Laurentian University, are among the guest speakers for this year's event. There will be an opportunity for community groups and suppliers of environmentally friendly products to set up information booths and take part. This year, the event will be community driven for the first time. The event will take place on December 6, 2010, likely at the Inco Cavern – Science North.

### **iv) Ramsey Lake Stewardship Committee – Lilly**

Lilly updated the committee on the Ramsey Lake Stewardship Committee's current initiatives. She mentioned they had approached their local councillor regarding phosphorus levels, milfoil and algae, and proposed a fertilizer ban similar to bans seen in other cities. They were interested in learning if the SPC or the Source Protection Planning Process could help them achieve their goal in any way. Neil will gather additional information about including microcystins in the

Assessment Report; however, even if this is added for Ramsey Lake, it would be of less benefit to the outlying lakes in the area. Stephen indicated that he is aware of the issue and pointed out that it would be a very difficult process to create laws against the sale of phosphorus fertilizers in the city. Lilly also mentioned that there is a plan to create a phosphorus reduction working group that includes Charles Ramcharan from Laurentian University to discuss the issue further.

**v) Septic Systems**

Paul Sajatovic requested that SPC members read the septic re-inspection letter from Ian Smith that was provided in their information package. This letter explains how the Building Code amendment about septic systems affects septic systems identified as threats under the Clean Water Act. It was indicated that only septic systems that are enumerated as significant threats would be subjected to mandatory inspections and upgrades. This is an important topic that we will need to develop a plan to address since septic systems are a significant threat to our municipal drinking water sources.

**11. New Business**

Nels led a roundtable discussion on new business. Lilly told committee members that the Ramsey Lake Stewardship Committee would be meeting this evening. No other new business was raised.

**12. Adjournment**

Resolution 2010-21

Baskcomb

That we do now adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Carried.

**13. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting**

- Map of the two new wells in Valley East, including all new WHPAs
- Threat Assessment - Updated Tables
- Source Protection Planning Process Flowchart
- Updated Assessment Report Workplan and Letter to Ian Smith
- Memorandum Provided by MOE Concerning On-site Sewage Systems
- Source Protection Planning Bulletin, Overview of Source Protection Planning Requirements, September 15, 2010

**Zip Drive Updates**

- SPP Requirements Planning Bulletin
- SPP Regulation Amendment Powerpoint Presentation
- Memorandum Provided by MOE Concerning On-site Sewage Systems
- Updated Assessment Report Workplan and Letter to Ian Smith

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, November 9, 2010, Room C-12, Tom Davies Square