



**Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
19th Meeting
September 8, 2009**

Held: Radisson Hotel, 85 St. Anne Rd., Palladium North meeting room

Commenced at: 1:15 p.m.

Adjourned at: 3:50 p.m.

Present: Nels Conroy, Chair
Paul Baskcomb
Richard Bois
Nick Benkovich
Luc Bock
Lilly Noble
Wendy Wisniewski
Tim Worton

Also Present: Bob Rogers, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Liaison
John Westlake, Ministry of the Environment Liaison
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

Communication: Greg Haddad
Stephen Monet
Richard Auld, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison

1. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 2009-17

Noble - Baskcomb

That the agenda for the September 8, 2009, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted, as circulated.

Carried.

3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 2009-18

Bois - Wisniewski

That the minutes of the July 14, 2009, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as amended, be approved.

Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nels reviewed the minutes from the July meeting and asked Sharon Bennett to provide an update on the Blue Green Algae Monitoring Program.

Sharon mentioned that a mass resembling a blue-green algae bloom had been spotted on Ramsey Lake in late August, but nothing has been confirmed by the MOE. Anoop Naik, the field technician, sampled the area and found negligible blue-green algae microcystin levels. Discussions are also ongoing with the North-Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority about the possibility of including a microbial risk assessment in the Assessment Report.

5. Round Table Discussion on Dry-Run Exercise and Source Protection Plan Discussion Paper

Committee members were given a copy of the minutes from the September 1 policy development workshop and a feedback chart on the dry-run that will be sent to the Ministry of the Environment. One of the suggestions from the session was to add more information about the Environmental Protection Act as an existing tool for developing and implementing source protection policies.

Nels led a roundtable discussion to solicit comments on the dry-run exercise and source protection plan discussion paper. Some of the comments from committee members included:

- Dry-run exercise was valuable and effective. All committee members spoke very positively about the exercise.
- Committee members need more information on existing legislation and regulations that could be used to implement the Source Protection Plan, similar to what is being done for provincial instruments.
- Need to cooperate and coordinate with all relevant agencies, groups and departments in order to create policies that are effective and do not duplicate what may already exist.
- As the process progresses, there will be a need to be proactive with affected landowners.
- Suggestion to have provincial standardized best management practices and/or guidance for the most common threats.

- Suggested exploring a “one window” approach for implementation. This type of approach would be cost effective, credible and the least complicated for landowners.
- Exercise and discussion paper allow the committee to start looking at the bigger picture, including public perception, feasibility of policies, costs and what the next steps will be.

Judy closed the discussion by mentioning that comments on the discussion paper and dry-run exercise will be submitted to the MOE on September 23. If anyone has any other comments, please forward them to Judy.

Paul Baskcomb mentioned that he will be attending a training session on September 11 in Toronto on the discussion paper and will relay some of the comments from the committee.

6. Communication Plan for 2009-2010

Brianne Carter described the communication plan she produced and distributed. The plan lays out communication activities until the end of 2010 and the main focus is the communication events that will support the assessment report.

Brianne quickly reviewed the plan’s goals, objectives, messages, audiences and tools. Some of the important key events will be the assessment report consultation periods and open houses. Judy mentioned that at a later meeting we can discuss how the committee would like to go public with the assessment report.

Continued activities include the quarterly newsletter, the website, promotion of the Stewardship Program and participation in community events such as the Water Gathering, Earth Day and the Children’s Water Festival.

Richard Bois suggested looking into cross promotion with the local community action network websites. Brianne will explore this idea.

7. Surface Water Vulnerability and Threats Update

Sharon gave updates on the surface water vulnerability scoring. For Ramsey Lake, IPZ-1 will be scored a ten. IPZ-2 and IPZ-3 will be scored a nine. For a significant threat to emerge, the vulnerability score of the area has to be eight or above.

Scoring for the Wanapitei River is ten in IPZ-1, eight in IPZ-2 and varies between one and eight in different areas of IPZ 3.

For the Vermilion River, IPZ-1 will have a vulnerability score of ten. IPZ-2 will be scored seven and different areas of IPZ-3 will score between one and six.

Wendy verified where the O'Donnell roast yards would fall out. The roast yards are in IPZ-2 of the Vermilion River and could potentially be flagged as a condition if the soil exceeds the Ontario ground, water and soil standards.

The second update was on the threats inventory. Sharon and Melanie Venne have been going out into the field to visit residences in the two year time of travel of the WHPAs. Potential issues that have been found in the Valley and Garson include septic systems, agricultural practices, storage of fuel, storage of snow, and storage of fertilizers and pesticides.

Onaping, Dowling, Falconbridge and Capreol are still to be assessed. There are no known significant threats for the Vermilion River intake. The Wanapitei River intake will have septics and transportation related threats. Ramsey threats are still being assessed and may include application and storage of road salt, stormwater discharge, storage of snow and application of pesticides.

Lilly Noble inquired about the determination of water quantity threats. Sharon explained that this would be through the water budget process. The Valley wells may be determined to have water quantity threats.

8. Program Updates / Correspondence

i) Assessment Report Site Visits

Prior to the site visits for the assessment report, letters were sent to all landowners that were to be visited. The bilingual letter informed the landowner that a site visit may occur and provided the rationale for the visit. A copy of the letter was distributed to committee members and was also sent to City Councillors in the applicable wards and senior city staff.

ii) Blue Green Algae Event

An evening information session on blue green algae was held on Wednesday, July 29 at Science North. Presentations were made by Dr. Susan Watson of Environment Canada and Dr. Charles Ramcharan of Laurentian University. The event was held in partnership with the MOE Sudbury District Office, City of Greater Sudbury and Sudbury & District Health Unit, all of whom had booths set up. Despite short notice for the event, 75 people were in attendance.

iii) Wahnapiatae First Nation Pre-Screening Survey

The Wahnapiatae First Nation, working with NDCA staff, has completed the pre-screening survey for Source Water Protection. The report was sent to the MOE on September 8.

iv) First Nation Representatives on SPC

Heather Mandamin sent a note saying that she will no longer be attending SPC meetings due to school and family commitments. Crystal Osawamick has also sent an email stating that attendance from the Wahnapiatae First Nation will be

brought to the attention of the new Environmental Technician who is currently in the process of being hired. Nels stressed the importance of keeping good ties with the two First Nations. Staff will continue to work towards getting representatives from both First Nations on the committee.

v) Water Conservation Workshop

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is hosting a series of workshops on water under the Green Municipal Fund. For more information visit:
<http://gmf.fcm.ca/announcement/announcement08190901.asp>

vi) Quarterly Report for SPA

After the approval of the Terms of Reference, the chair of the SPC must submit quarterly reports to the Source Protection Authority. The first quarterly report is due September 9. The report will explain how the committee is meeting the requirements of the Assessment Report and Source Protection plan as set out in the Terms of Reference. A copy of the four page report will sent out via email to committee members.

vii) Staff Changes at NDCA

The General Manager of the NDCA, Allen Bonnis, retired as of September 1. Paul Sajatovic has been appointed Acting General Manager. Bob Rogers spoke about the transition period that the NDCA is currently in. An employment competition for a Water Resources Engineer will be posted soon.

John Westlake also provided a quick update from the MOE. The Ministry has now approved the Terms of Reference for all Source Protection Regions. The Assessment Reports across the province will be completed between January and August 2010. Also, the 3rd year of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program was launched in August. Applications for early actions, special projects and education and outreach funding are being accepted until September 15 2009. The Stewardship Program will be adding a fourth component, called Early Response, which will be launched in a few months.

9. Addendum / New Business

Chair Conroy led a round table discussion regarding new business. No new business was brought up.

10. Adjournment

Resolution 2009-19

Worton - Noble

That we now adjourn.

11. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

- Minutes from the September 1 SPC Policy Development Workshop
- Dry-Run follow-up – Feedback chart to the Ministry of the Environment
- Communication Plan for 2009-2010
- Letter to affected WHPA landowners regarding Assessment Report site visits

Next meeting: October 13, 2009, 1 to 4 p.m. at Tom Davies Square, Room C-12