



**Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee  
14<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
April 14, 2009**

**Held:** City of Greater Sudbury's Frobisher Depot and meeting room at Contact North

**Commenced at:** 1:00 p.m.

**Adjourned at:** 4:10 p.m.

**Present:** Nels Conroy, Chair  
Paul Baskcomb  
Nick Benkovich  
Luc Bock  
Richard Bois  
Heather Mandamin  
Stephen Monet  
Lilly Noble  
Crystal Osawamick  
Wendy Wisniewski  
Tim Worton

**Also Present:** Bob Rogers, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Liaison  
John Westlake, Ministry of the Environment Liaison  
Ed Gardner, Sudbury & District Health Unit  
Richard Auld, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison  
Judy Sewell, Drinking Water Source Protection  
Melanie Venne, Drinking Water Source Protection  
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority  
Nathalie Mihelchic, City of Greater Sudbury  
Bob Falcioni, City of Greater Sudbury  
Tom Killingbeck, WESA, Project Consultant  
Rich Schmidt, WESA, Project Consultant

**Communication:** Greg Haddad  
Sharon Bennett, Drinking Water Source Protection

**1. Tour Frobisher Depot**

The Committee met at Frobisher Depot, off Falconbridge Road, and was given a tour about the City's winter road maintenance operations by Terry Speirs, operations superintendent and Rick Henderson, operations foreperson.

A recent addition to their winter road maintenance operations is the application of brine. The brine is a solution of 23 to 25% salt with water and is applied with the rock salt. The brine activates the road salt and therefore less has to be applied. Terry and Rick explained how the brine is made, applied and under what circumstances it is used.

The committee also toured the salt dome and sand storage area and had the opportunity to question Terry and Rick regarding the City's winter operations.

## **2. Salt Management in Sudbury and Potential Issues**

After the tour, Nathalie Mihelchic and Bob Falcioni from the City of Greater Sudbury's Roads and Transportation Department joined the committee to further discuss salt management.

Chair Conroy started the discussion by showing a graph that illustrates sodium and chloride levels in Ramsey Lake. Both sodium and chloride levels have increased from 1971 to 2008. When sodium levels increase above 20 mg/litre area physicians are alerted to inform patients who are on sodium reduced diets. Sodium in Ramsey Lake is currently above 50 mg/litre. The aesthetic objective for sodium in drinking water is 200mg/litre, at which it can be detected by a salty taste.

Nathalie Mihelchic spoke to the handout she distributed, including the types of winter materials used and under what circumstances they are applied. The City has divided the roads into 6 classes based on traffic density. The City of Greater Sudbury applies rock salt, and brine on the Class 1-3 roadways and on certain areas such as steep grades on lower classes of roads. Class 4-6 roads are normally treated with a sand-salt mixture that is prepared at the various City maintenance yards.

Currently the City has two primary locations for operations: the Frobisher location and the St. Clair centre in downtown. They are currently shutting down a third centre at the Sudbury airport. In addition there are several sand/salt depots such as Lively and Val Caron.

Certain technologies, such as the use of the brine solution, have allowed the City to reduce the amount of salt it used over the winter season by improving the effectiveness of the applied salt. As well, the City monitors research being done in Ontario and other jurisdictions for improving the system of winter road maintenance to keep abreast of new technologies.

Future improvements that the City would like to implement includes the recycling of brine wash water and storm sewer improvements along Paris Street between York Street and Walford Road. In those locations it is feasible to reroute storm water to a location downstream of Ramsey Lake. Other improvements to the storm water management system includes the addition of storm-ceptors on the sewers draining to sensitive environments such as Ramsey Lake. In addition, the City is reviewing the

cleaning program for storm sewer collectors with the intent of removing the collected material more frequently. It was pointed out that the changes to the winter maintenance plan need to be costed and decisions made on affordability.

The City is required to submit a report to the Ministry of Environment annually detailing their winter maintenance operations. As well they are required to submit a winter maintenance operational plan that needs to be updated every five years.

The committee had questions on the operation of snow dumps, including the existence of snow dumps in commercial areas. Bob Falcioni explained these are not regulated by the City. Bob Rogers questioned Nathalie on whether environmental sensitivity was included in the criteria for classifying roads. It was pointed out that the criteria at this time relates to traffic density and special roadway issues such as steep grades.

Nels reminded the committee that it is not only surface water sources that are impacted by winter salt application. Sodium levels in groundwater can also be influenced by road salting, as has been seen in the Pharand well in Hanmer.

### **3. Threats Methodology and Update**

Rich Schmidt and Tom Killingbeck from WESA updated the committee on the threats scoring and the list of potential significant threats in the Wellhead Protection Areas.

Rich explained that the methodology to identify threats involves many steps. It is important for the committee to have a general understanding of how the list of significant threats is compiled.

The second half of the presentation included a list of all the potential significant threats broken down by specific well. Some of the most common potential threats included: transportation corridors, road salt application, on-site septic systems and farming. During the summer months WESA will work to ground truth these potential significant threats.

Paul Baskcomb inquired about the status of the wellhead protection area boundaries. Judy explained that the Ministry of the Environment has agreed with our methodology and these are complete pending MOE approval of the assessment report, except for the wellhead areas that are affected by surface water. These are referred to as GUDI wells – ‘ground water under the direct influence of surface water’.

Nels thanked Rich and Tom for their presentation. Nels also inquired about the status of the threats training that the Ministry of the Environment is developing. John Westlake spoke to this, stating that the training will be geared toward the technical staff and consultants. The liaison officers will be doing overview presentations to the

source protection committees. John hoped to be able to present to the Greater Sudbury SPC in May or June.

#### **4. Introduction of New SPC Member**

Nels introduced Richard Bois, the newest member of the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee. Richard will represent the public at large on the SPC. He is a retired Chief Administrative Officer from the Town of Walden and has worked with the City of Greater Sudbury on the transition from regional government to the amalgamated municipality. Nels welcomed Richard and thanked him for putting his name forward to be on the committee. It was pointed out that Richard's experience with municipal governance will be a large asset to the committee as we begin to lay out the assessment report.

#### **5. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.**

#### **6. Adoption of Agenda**

Resolution 2009-08

Noble - Bock

That the agenda for the April 14, 2009 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted, as circulated

Carried.

#### **7. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolution 2009-09

Worton – Baskcomb

That the minutes of the March 10, 2009 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

There was no new business arising from the March minutes.

#### **8. Correspondence / Program Updates**

Melanie Venne sent out most of the program updates and correspondence items as part of the agenda prior to the meeting. These are also attached to these minutes. She highlighted the updated procedural manual and asked committee members to sign a new acknowledgement page approving the updated rules regarding attendance that govern the committee.

Judy informed the committee that the Long Lake Stewardship Committee is hosting a public information session on blue green algae on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the T.M. Davies

Community Centre in Lively. This group remains interested in having private system and clusters added to the source protection planning process. Judy contacted the Ministry of the Environment to get the latest updates on any guidance material regarding this issue. She was informed that guidance is being developed, but the Ministry does not expect private system clusters to be incorporated into the first round of source protection plans. Judy will attend the April 21<sup>st</sup> information session to answer any questions regarding the source protection program.

Lastly, Bob Rogers spoke to an email he received regarding the Unilever and RBC 2009 survey on Canadian Water Attitudes. The results of the study are available at: [www.unilever.ca/ourvalues/environmentandsociety/Go\\_blue/The\\_Canadian\\_myth\\_of\\_abundance.asp](http://www.unilever.ca/ourvalues/environmentandsociety/Go_blue/The_Canadian_myth_of_abundance.asp)

## **9. Addendum / New Business**

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

## **10. Adjournment**

Resolution 2009-10

Monet – Wisniewski

That we now adjourn.

## **11. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting**

- Presentation slides – Threats Scoring Methodology and List of Threats in Wellhead Protection Areas from Rich Schmidt, WESA
- Salt Management Report from Nathalie Mihelchic, City of Greater Sudbury
- Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee Procedural Manual, revised March 19, 2009

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 2009, 1 to 4 p.m., Location to be determined

## **Source Protection Committee Meeting, April 14<sup>th</sup> 2009 Correspondance / Program Updates**

### **1) Blue Green Algae**

A proposal under the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program's (ODWSP) Special Projects was submitted for a Blue Green Algae Monitoring Program on Ramsey Lake. Staff heard in March that the proposal was accepted. The project is worth \$172,000 over two years. The project will provide half of the funding for a technical field position and staff are working with Laurentian University to confirm a Master's student that will also work on the project.

### **2) Procedural Manual**

The changes suggested by the committee were made to the Procedural Manual and the Source Protection Authority approved the updated manual at their March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Committee members will have to re-sign the acknowledgement sheet (Melanie will bring copies to the April SPC meeting).

**3) Staffing**

Two positions are currently being filled. There were 4 interviews for the communications position and 4 interviews for the field technician position. A candidate has been selected for each position; references are being checked for the technical position and an offer has been made for the communication position.

**4) Sudbury Soils Study**

The results of the Ecological Risk Assessment (Volume III of the Sudbury Soils Study) were released on March 31, 2009. Stephen Monet made a presentation about the City's participation in this project and Judy, Sharon and Paul attended the event held at Science North. The Ecological Risk Assessment focused on the elevated metal concentrations in the soils.

Not many of the conclusions related to drinking water. However, the citizens of the community are looking very closely at the risk assessment being carried out with the Sudbury Soil Study. We can expect the community to look carefully at the drinking water risk assessment as well.

**5) Terms of Reference**

Nels, Judy and Melanie had a teleconference with MOE staff on April 7<sup>th</sup>. As pointed out in the document that was submitted to the Minister in October, some minor updates had to be made. The Source Protection Authority will re-submit the Terms of Reference by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The changes included:

- Removal of the Skead system as a municipal drinking water system
- Removal of the New Valley Wells as planned municipal drinking water systems (When the new wells come online, the Terms of Reference will have to be amended to add them)
- Inclusion of the Wickwas well in Onaping as a planned municipal drinking water system
- Removal of the tasks given to the Wahnapiatae First Nation from the table listing assessment report and Source Protection Plan tasks. The pre-screening is still occurring, and footnotes in the Terms of Reference will denote that, but the work is not being done as part of the Assessment Report.