



**Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
9th Meeting
September 16th, 2008**

Held: 199 Larch St. Provincial Building, P-7

Commenced at: 10:20 a.m.

Adjourned at: 4:10 p.m.

Present: Nels Conroy, Chair
Paul Baskcomb
Nick Benkovich
Luc Bock
Greg Haddad
Stephen Monet
Lilly Noble
Crystal Osawamick
Wendy Wisniewski
Tim Worton

Also Present: Katie Fairman, Ministry of Environment Liaison
Richard Auld, Sudbury District Health Unit Liaison
Ed Gardner, Sudbury District Health Unit
Judy Sewell, Drinking Water Source Protection
Sharon Bennett, Drinking Water Source Protection
Melanie Venne, Drinking Water Source Protection
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority

Communication: Donald Malette
Heather Mandamin
Bob Rogers, Source Protection Authority Liaison

1. Chair Nels Conroy Opened the Meeting

Chairs Nels Conroy opened the meeting by thanking everyone for agreeing to a longer meeting. Nels also thanked the committee for their well wishes during his medical leave, and a special thank you to Tim Worton for stepping up as acting chair in his absence.

Nels also highlighted that at the opening gala of the Conservation Ontario Biennial Tour hosted by the NDCA, Crystal Osawamick performed as part of the Native Dancers. The delegates were delighted to see Crystal's jingle dance.

2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 2008-24

Baskcomb - Monet

That the agenda for the September 16, 2008 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted, as circulated.

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 2008-25

Haddad - Noble

That the minutes of the July 8, 2008 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nathalie Gara-Boivin, who was not present at the July SPC meeting, thanked the committee members for their attendance at the Terms of Reference open houses in June. Nels stressed the importance of bringing the public to the various drinking water sources.

6. Terms of Reference Update and Correspondence

The Proposed Terms of Reference was released on August 20th 2008. Judy Sewell explained that this second public comment period will end on September 19th 2008. All of the changes suggested by the committee members at the July meeting were incorporated, with the exception of one that was not made in order to keep the Sudbury terms of reference numbers balanced with the Ministry of the Environment records for dollars spent to date.

Judy distributed the comments received to date and quickly reviewed all six comments. For this consultation period comments were received by the Chair of the Source Protection Authority and Nathalie responded to all comments on behalf of the Chair.

The next steps for the Terms of Reference is that by October 20th the Chair of the SPA will write to the Ministry of the Environment, submit the Proposed Terms of Reference and the comments received during the last consultation period. Katie Fairman mentioned that it may take up to four or five months to have the Terms of Reference approved by the MOE.

Nathalie mentioned that she or Judy are available to make presentations to different committee member sectors or other interested groups.

7. Draft Protocols for Dealing with the Public and SPC Meetings

Nels led a discussion about establishing protocols as to how to deal with the public once they start attending committee meetings.

Greg Haddad suggested a new standing agenda item: "Communications from visitors" and also creating a protocol summary that could be handed out to the attending public.

Tim Worton mentioned how a well established process needs to be in place and needs to be explained to the public prior to or at the beginning of each meeting in order to avoid confrontation. Questions should be about clarification and protocols should be strict that there will be no debate after a presentation.

The committee also suggested that presentations by the public should be limited to 10 or 15 minutes plus a discussion period and that the public should give the Chair two weeks notice if they wish to make a presentation. It is important to have notice for presentations in case it is about sensitive material that may need to be in-camera and to make sure the topic is relevant to our mandate. As suggested by committee members, materials can be vetted by staff members for these reasons.

Wendy Wisniewski suggested a comment sheet that attendees could fill out during the meeting with questions that the Chair or staff could follow-up on after the meeting.

Our meetings must be accommodating to two different types of public: those that wish to make a presentation and those that are attending out of interest or curiosity. Stephen Monet suggested that our agenda should have two items, one at the very beginning for presentation and one at the end for questions from the public.

There was also a discussion as to how to make the public aware and welcome at our meetings. Suggestions included posting a notice in the community bulletins section of newspapers and advertisements in newspapers.

Action: Melanie will draft procedures and newspaper ads, and circulate to discuss at next meeting

Action: Nathalie to draft communications plan to discuss at November meeting

8. The Year Ahead

This discussion topic dealt with the work that needs to be completed in the next year. Sharon has looked at the upcoming year and written up suggested items so that we are on track to meet the deadlines for completion of the assessment report.

Judy explained that according to the draft regulations, and based on a December approval of the Terms of Reference, the draft proposed assessment report should be completed by June 2009. While this is a short amount of time, the committee has accomplished a lot in the last year. The committee was just appointed last October, had their first meeting last November, approved a code of conduct and completed the first regulated document, the Terms of Reference. Much work has already been done to support the development of the assessment report.

Sharon explained that the Assessment Report draft regulations did not provide much guidance on what the assessment report should look like. Therefore this flexibility provides the opportunity to organize it based on local needs. The committee members liked the format that was suggested. Similarly, Sharon provided a format for a summary of the assessment report for the general public, similar to what the Sudbury Soils Study did. Nels emphasized that a plain language report would be necessary for the general public.

Sharon reviewed a tentative month-by-month meeting schedule of potential presentation topics. Committee members suggested sending out background information prior to each meeting.

There were also discussions regarding progress on the various technical reports, and the idea of bringing in a risk assessment specialist. All technical reports are being peer reviewed by a groundwater specialist, Peter Richards, and a surface water specialist, Eric Smith. Dr. Ron Brecher has come highly recommended to act as a peer reviewer from a risk assessment perspective. Staff is currently working out an arrangement with him.

Sharon brought to the meeting various resources (books, CD's, papers) that provide some useful background information for committee members about different topics related to source water protection. Resources will be brought to all following meetings so that anyone who wishes to borrow them can do so. It was discussed that the SPC may want to form smaller working groups dedicated to a certain topic in order to become familiar with the topic areas.

To close the conversation about the assessment report, Nels asked Crystal how Traditional Aboriginal Knowledge might be incorporated into the document. Crystal suggested that it would be most suitable to be included in the introduction, but that the material is sensitive. Katie mentioned that the MOE has provided funding to the Chiefs of Ontario to provide information to the Source Protection Committees on how to integrate Traditional Aboriginal Knowledge into the assessment report.

9. Potential Threats to Our Water Sources

Nathalie led an exercise to discuss what the perceived threats to our water sources are. Every committee member wrote out what they believed to be potential threats, these were then amalgamated onto large pieces of paper. Afterwards, every committee member ranked what threats they believed to be high, medium and low risk to both surface water and groundwater sources. The complete listing of these threats will be distributed to committee members before the next a meeting.

There was a short discussion regarding rail corridors. The draft regulations for the assessment report do not include transportation corridors as a threat at this time. Katie stressed that a threat is an “activity” and that the MOE is still looking into how to deal with transportation corridors.

10. New Business

Nathalie made the following announcements:

- On Thursday, September 18th at 1pm there is a media event planned with the Honourable Rick Bartolucci to announce the funding received by the Source Water Program for 2008/09. Committee members are welcome to attend.
- On September 23rd and 24th, the Sudbury and District Health Unit is hosting the Children's Water Festival and is looking for volunteers.
- The Ministry of the Environment is hosting a media training workshop for committee members on Friday October 10, 2008 at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto.
- Committee members are also welcomed to attend the 2008 A.D. Latornell Conservation Symposium, a three day environmental conference hosted in Alliston, Ontario (<http://www.latornell.ca>).

Katie Fairman also informed the committee that SPC workshops about the assessment report rules and regulations are being organized by the MOE for December. There will be a session in Northern Ontario however the location will be determined by Northern CA project managers.

Lilly Noble also mentioned that the Water Guardians, a group of NGO's working on water related issues, including source protection, will be hosting a conference on October 20-21 in Toronto. Lilly is attending and will report back to the committee at the November meeting.

Lastly, Nels brought up the Blue Green Algae bloom that occurred on Ramsey Lake and was reported in the local news on September 10th. At this point it is no risk to drinking water because the bloom was localized and far away from the drinking water intake. However, with climate change it may become a more frequent event and it is something that the committee needs to consider.

At this point, we cannot pinpoint the source of the enrichment that led to the blue green algae bloom. The first step is to discover what the source is through monitoring. Nels suggested an ad hoc meeting to be held at the beginning of October to further discuss the issue and determine what the SPC's responsibility is.

11. Adjournment

Resolution 2008-26

Bock - Benkovich

That we now adjourn.

12. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

- Comments received on the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Proposed Terms of Reference
- Letter from the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority regarding the receipt of the Proposed Terms of Reference
- Protocols for Public at Source Protection Committee Meetings handout
- Tentative Timeline for Assessment Report Review and Submission, 2009
- Assessment Report Draft Table of Contents
- Summary of Assessment Report for General Public – Draft Tables of Contents
- Proposed SPC Meetings: Technical Studies Updates and Review of Tentative Schedule
- Urban Watershed Management and Integrated Watershed Management CD's

Next meeting: Tuesday October 14th, 1 to 4 p.m., Room C-11 Tom Davies Square