



**Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee  
16<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
May 12, 2009**

**Held:** Wahnapiatae Community Center  
**Commenced at:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Adjourned at:** 4:30 p.m.

**Present:** Nels Conroy, Chair  
Paul Baskcomb  
Nick Benkovich  
Luc Bock  
Richard Bois  
Heather Mandamin  
Lilly Noble  
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  
Sharon Bennett, Drinking Water Source Protection  
Brianna Carter, Drinking Water Source Protection  
Anoop Naik, Drinking Water Source Protection  
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority

**Communication:** Greg Haddad  
Stephen Monet  
Crystal Osawamick  
Wendy Wisniewski

**1. Tour of Wanapitei River IPZ-1**

Prior to the tour, Judy Sewell introduced the committee to the newest employees at the NDCA. Brianna Carter has taken the Communications Officer position, and Anoop Naik is the new Water Resources Technician.

The Committee toured two locations in the community of Wahnapiatae to see the Intake Protection Zone 1 (IPZ-1). Judy gave an overview of the Wanapitei River and the vicinity. IPZ-1 on the Wanapitei River includes a Hwy 17 bridge crossing, a train bridge and residential dwellings, some of which are still on septic systems. Nels noted that the bridge is under major rehabilitation and asked if there is a mechanism to identify that construction is occurring within the intake protection zone and if special measures were being used because of its proximity to a drinking water intake. Judy indicated that she was not aware of any special construction identification but she felt it was a good idea to suggest that a mechanism be investigated by the city.

The Committee also visited the pumphouse at the Wanapitei River intake. Nick Benkovich, and Drew Peloquin, City of Greater Sudbury Water Supervisor, provided a brief tour. The intake is not a pipe in the river, as in Ramsey Lake, but rather water flows by gravity into two concrete channels into the pumphouse. The channels can be isolated to permit work to be done on one channel without shutting the intake.

The visit was very informative and allowed the Committee to better understand the area around the Wanapitei River intake. Nels thanked Nick Benkovich and Drew for their help on the tour.

**2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.**

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

Resolution 2009-11

Bois - Baskcomb

That the agenda for the May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted, as circulated.

Carried.

**4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolution 2009-12

Noble - Worton

That the minutes of the April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes**

As a follow-up from the April minutes, Nels inquired into the status of the Blue-Green Algae initiatives. Nick discussed a meeting that City staff, NDCA, Ministry of the Environment and the Sudbury & District Health Unit staff had on May 7<sup>th</sup> on the

topic. The City is starting a research study to examine their treatment system and its capacity to handle a blue-green algae bloom.

Sharon Bennett spoke about the monitoring program for blue-green algae on Ramsey Lake that the NDCA is setting up. Anoop, the water resources technician, has been hired and will help on this project. A Masters student from Laurentian University, funded by the blue-green algae monitoring program, will be focusing her research on the topic.

There continues to be a lot of interest on the topic. The Long Lake Stewardship group held a very well attended meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> and the Greater Sudbury Lake Improvement Advisory Pane, at their May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, had discussions about the issue as well.

Nels reiterated that we have a role to play with regards to blue-green algae. Sudbury residents have questions and hopefully the recently started studies, on both treatment and monitoring, will be able to provide some answers.

Judy also gave an update on the Terms of Reference. The Source Protection Authority received a letter from the Minister of the Environment on May 7<sup>th</sup>, stating what changes needed to be done for the approval of our Terms of Reference. Committee members received a copy of the response letter from the Source Protection Authority. Once the Terms of Reference are approved we will have one year to submit the Assessment Report.

## **6. Source Water Protection and Planning**

Paul Baskcomb spoke to the Committee about the interface between Source Water Protection and planning at the City of Greater Sudbury. He presented on three topics: interim planning measures prior to the Source Protection Plan being completed, the new Wellhead Protection Area mapping and planning tools that might be useful to the committee.

Prior to the meeting, the Committee was provided with excerpts from the City of Greater Sudbury Official Plan as they related to drinking water resources.

A planning document, released in draft format from Conservation Ontario and distributed to committee members, suggests that municipalities take a “no regrets” policy when planning in advance of the source protection plans being completed. The City of Sudbury did just that by including the Wellhead Protection Areas in the Official Plan with policies appropriate for the protection of the areas near municipal wells.

At this point in time, the City is inclined to amend the Official Plan to update the mapping. The policy framework would stay the same. An amendment to the Official Plan to update the Wellhead Protection Areas would mean having a public notice of

the amendment and one public meeting. If there were no appeals, then the change would come into effect in a few months.

Paul mentioned that there is the opportunity to add to the Official Plan not only the WHPAs, but also the significant groundwater recharge areas and the highly vulnerable aquifers. Judy, Sharon and Paul arranged to have a meeting to discuss what should be added to the Official Plan.

Lastly, Paul spoke about planning tools that are available in Ontario. Planning tools are set out by the Planning Act. In municipalities all planning is lead by the Official Plan, which is a big picture document for municipalities and sets out goals, objectives, policies and programs.

Another planning tool is zoning by-laws; land is divided into zones and regulated based on land use. Wellhead Protection Areas are being considered in the current re-vamping of the zoning by-laws.

Paul asked the Committee if they thought that Wellhead Protection Areas should retain the same name or be called Source Protection Areas in the zoning by-laws. It was a general consensus that they should called WHPAs in order to retain consistency with the Source Protection Planning Process.

Nels thanked Paul for the presentation and also thought the City should be commended for looking ahead and putting placeholders in the Official Plan prior to the beginning of the local Source Protection Program.

**Action item:** Committee members are asked to read the planning document from Conservation Ontario for the June SPC meeting.

## **7. Ontario Regulations on Drinking Water**

Nick provided the committee with a handout and presentation on Ontario regulations regarding water. The list provides a frame of reference and larger perspective on regulations that impact water treatment and distribution in Ontario.

Some of the legislation affecting drinking water resources includes:

- *Clean Water Act, 2006*
- *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*
- *Ontario Water Resources Act*
- *Environmental Protection Act*
- *Environmental Bill of Rights Act*

Since Walkerton, water and wastewater staff has had to deal with many new or updated pieces of legislation. It can be difficult for City Council to have to understand all these pieces of legislation, regulations and programs.

After Nick's presentation there was a lengthy discussion about the process and cost of delivery of water and wastewater. Because of the Sudbury geology, topography and size it is costly, both in energy costs and infrastructure, to serve the City of Greater Sudbury.

## **8. Role of the Ministry of the Environment Liaison**

John Westlake led a short discussion with Committee members as to how they see his role as the MOE liaison. John is the interface between the MOE and the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee.

John started the discussion by asking the committee how comfortable they felt with the technical material that has been presented to them so far. The committee discussed some unease regarding the threats piece. John mentioned that he will be speaking about threats at the next meeting. Sharon mentioned the need for further explanation on what the committee can do if they think something is a threat, for example nickel, but it is not addressed in the technical rules. Threats identification is still ongoing in Sudbury, as Nels mentioned, and after the work is complete we can look at the list and see if anything is missing.

The second question John had for the committee related to how comfortable they would feel answering questions from the public.

Tim Worton mentioned that when the assessment report is released the public is going to have very specific questions about threats and/or their properties. He did not want to have to pass off all questions to staff or Nels. As a committee member he would like to feel better prepared and able to answer those types of questions.

Other needs brought up by committee members included training on how to explain to the public why certain things are included in the technical rules and others are not. Bob Rogers mentioned that there is a need to consider the French language needs of the Sudbury area in all of these matters.

John is responsible for helping prepare the committee to deal with the public and said he would look into these concerns.

John invited the committee to email him if they have any questions or concerns. Nels thanked John for looking after the committees needs and keeping strong communication with staff and he likewise invited John to email the committee if has any further questions.

## **9. Correspondence / Program Updates**

Judy provided a brief program update. The aerial photography was completed in early May for the entire Ramsey Lake watershed. The imagery will be used to create

a detailed map with 1 metre contours. The DEM (Digital Elevation Model mapping) should be complete in November.

Threats training will be held via webcast on May 29<sup>th</sup>. This training session will be technical in nature, but Committee members are invited to attend if they wish. Information on how to join the webcast has been sent out via email to Committee members. John Westlake will be providing an overview of this training session at the June meeting.

## **10. Addendum / New Business**

Melanie Venne provided a handout and discussed with the committee ideas for meetings for the next six months. If anyone has ideas for topics or field trips they should let Melanie know and it can be discussed with the committee and incorporated into upcoming meeting agendas.

The June meeting will be shifted from Tuesday afternoon to Wednesday morning in order to have the meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion. The Legion provides a good view of Ramsey Lake, including many parts of the watershed that drains into the lake. Another idea presented was to skip either the July or August meeting. The committee was flexible. At this point we will plan to have a July meeting but leave August open.

Nels opened the floor to new business from Committee members. Bob Rogers mentioned a workshop on climate change planned by the Nickel District Conservation General Board for June 5<sup>th</sup>. Last year, the NDCA adopted a position paper on climate change and is now in the planning stages of establishing a consortium on the issue.

## **11. Adjournment**

Due to a loss of quorum there was no resolution for adjournment and the Chair closed the meeting.

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

- Map of Wanapitei River Intake Protection Zone-1
- Resubmission letter for the Terms of Reference, from the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Chair
- Draft Conservation Ontario planning document on integration of Drinking Water Source Protection under the Planning Act
- Example of a zoning by-law - Handout from Paul Baskcomb
- Provincial legislation related to water – Handout from Nick Benkovich
- Source Protection Committee Meetings: Planning for the next six months

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 2009, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Royal Canadian Legion, 1553 Weller St. (Minnow Lake)