



Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
24th Meeting
February 9, 2010

Held: Tom Davies Square, Room C-11

Commenced at: 1:10 p.m.

Adjourned at: 4:30 p.m.

Present: Nels Conroy, Chair
Paul Baskcomb
Richard Bois
Luc Bock
Greg Haddad
Stephen Monet
Lilly Noble
Wendy Wisniewski
Tim Worton

Also Present: Neil Gervais, Ministry of the Environment Liaison
Bob Rogers, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Liaison
Burgess Hawkins, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison
Richard Auld, Sudbury & District Health Unit Alternate 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

Communications: Nick Benkovich
Vivian Naponse
Cheryl Recollet

1. Chair Conroy Opened the Meeting

Chair Conroy opened the meeting by congratulating Bob Rogers on his re-appointment as chair of the NDCA and Source Protection Authority board. Vice-chair, John Dennis, was also re-appointed.

Nels highlighted some of the discussion from the recent Chairs and Project Managers meeting including a revised Ministry of the Environment position on the concerns of Canada geese populations in the vicinity of drinking water intakes. The revised position will be made available in the minutes of the Chairs meeting and will be passed on by the Chair with respect to the relevance to the Ramsey Lake intake.

It was indicated that our proposed direction of including local concerns as placeholders in the draft assessment report was appropriate.

The importance of releasing the threats catalogue was highlighted by the Chairs to MOE staff.

2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 2010-04

Bock – Noble

That the agenda for the February 9, 2010, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted, as circulated

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 2010-05

Bois - Wisniewski

That the minutes of the January 12, 2010, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, be approved.

Carried.

Nels reviewed the minutes of the last meeting. He mentioned that the latest version of the assessment report forward is on the USB drives for review and comment. There was no other business arising from the minutes.

5. Source Protection Plan Regulation

Neil Gervais gave a presentation on the Draft Regulation for Source Protection Plans. The draft regulation was recently posted to the environmental registry (www.ebr.gov.on.ca, posting #010-8766). Comments are due by March 26.

The presentation was an overview of the regulation that will support the development and implementation of source protection plans. Neil's presentation focused on the context of the regulation, the requirements under the regulation, key proposals for developing source protection policy, and the consultation process.

Neil pointed out a significant new piece of information about transportation corridors and other local concerns about drinking water sources that do not fall within the Clean Water Act definition of a threat. As the draft regulation is presented, SPCs may not include policies to address these local concerns. If the SPC would like to have the ability to include policies in the SPP that do not fall within the Clean Water Act definition of a threat, then the SPC is encouraged to make that comment on the draft regulation. [Post-meeting note: it is possible to make a formal request to MOE to include specific substances along specific transport corridors as a threat if they have a hazard rating greater than 4 and a risk score greater than 40 as per an MOE Technical Bulletin].

He also pointed out that the proposed regulation states that existing prescribed instruments rather than risk management plans, will be used to address septic systems and lift stations, which currently make up 50 of the 62 significant threats in the draft proposed assessment report.

Neil encouraged comments to be made on the draft regulation. There will be a consultation session in Sudbury on March 5 to provide comments to MOE. Committee members are invited to attend.

Nels thanked Neil for the presentation; it gives the committee a lot to think about while moving forward to develop the source protection plan. Any comments on the draft regulation can be sent to staff or submitted directly to the environmental registry website. Staff will be commenting on the draft regulation.

6. Draft Assessment Report Update

i) IPZ-1 Delineation for Ramsey Lake

A concerned committee member came forward voicing apprehension regarding the delineation of the Ramsey Lake IPZ-1. Tim Worton had been in contact with Judy and Sharon and asked to revisit the decision about IPZ-1. Tim's concern stems from the potential of the lack of public acceptance of the 1km IPZ-1 that will eliminate important shoreline areas on the lake and therefore not capture all the important significant threats to Ramsey Lake source water. He also spoke about the importance of having a locally-driven process and plan and being sensitive to the locally perceived issues.

The committee had a lengthy discussion about the issue. IPZ-1 has been a recurring discussion item and is very significant to the committee. However, the timeframe for completion of the Assessment Report is only a few weeks away. Judy suggested that if the committee would like to meet the regulated timeline for submitting the assessment report, then a covering letter or text could be added to the front of the report addressing the committee's concern about the delineation of IPZ-1.

The committee suggested enumerating moderate and low threats, which can be addressed in the source protection plan, to see if these will cover all the important aspects in the protection of Ramsey Lake as a drinking water source. Moderate and low threats have not yet been identified but can be added as part of an update to the Assessment Report in 2011. [Post-meeting note: Neil confirmed via telephone on February 16, 2010, that this would be an acceptable approach.]

As noted by Bob Rogers, the end result should be a local plan that addresses local issues and fulfills the recommendations of the O'Connor report: protection of the source water should take precedent.

The committee remained apprehensive respecting the ability of ensuring that local "threats" could be addressed in the plan – a view that was reinforced by Neil's presentation on the draft plan regulation

ii) Draft Assessment Report

The committee was provided with the most up-to-date version of the Assessment Report working draft on their USB keys. Updates can also be sent in hardcopy if requested.

At the March meeting, the committee will receive the Draft Proposed Assessment Report as a hardcopy.

iii) Updated timeline

The Draft Proposed Assessment Report release date will be moved back two weeks from March 2 to March 16 and the open houses will be two weeks later as a result. The MOE-regulated submission deadline of June 8 can still be met with this schedule adjustment as there was a bit of flexibility built into the original timeline to account for delays. An updated timeline handout was circulated to committee members.

7. Open House Updates

Melanie Venne spoke about the April Assessment Report open houses. A handout outlined the timeline, committee member's role during the open houses, and the presentation. Another element of the open houses will be a series of poster boards. These were outlined in the handout and will be available in draft form at upcoming meetings.

Committee members also received a copy of the brochure that will accompany the official notification to landowners with significant threats on their property. Another brochure and an invitation to the open houses will be mailed to all landowners in the more vulnerable areas (2-year time of travel, IPZ-1 for the Wanapitei River and 120-metre along Ramsey Lake shoreline). A draft of this brochure was available for committee members to review as well.

More details on the open house presentation, poster boards and mail out products will be available at the March committee meeting.

8. Program Updates

i) Correspondence

There have been a few pieces of correspondence in the past month. A letter was addressed to Judy regarding potential contamination of soil near Ramsey Lake; she distributed the letter and her response.

Other correspondence included letters from Ducks Unlimited and the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy. Responses are being drafted and Judy will provide them at the next meeting.

Staff were invited to participate as speakers at the Science North Envirthon. Due to the upcoming Assessment Report deadline Judy approached Tom Killingbeck from WESA to present in partnership with the NDCA. The theme of this year's Envirthon is groundwater protection.

ii) Media Training

Committee members are invited to attend a one-day media training workshop. The workshop will be held February 23, at Tom Davies Square from 9:30 until 3:30.

iii) Focus Group on Draft Source Protection Plan Regulation

There will be a focus group in Sudbury on March 5 to discuss the Draft Source Protection Plan Regulation. It will also be attended by other northern SPCs. Nels asked committee members interested in attending to respond to staff. This is a session to give input and to express any concerns with the draft regulation. Once the draft regulation is approved there will be a training session for all committee members.

iv) WHPA Mapping Update

Source Protection staff were informed in November about a problem with the provincial water well information database. This is one of the databases used to delineate groundwater vulnerability areas, including the wellhead protection areas. Some technical work was impacted by the database problem and the relevant work has been re-done. The consultants have finished the changes: the vulnerability scoring for Garson and Falconbridge is slightly different and the highly vulnerable aquifer area has changed a bit as well. These changes have been incorporated into the draft proposed assessment report.

v) Local MNR Update

At a local forest management plan open house, the MNR expressed interest in putting the municipal drinking water intakes and wells onto their values map. Nels commented that he felt there was value in having the intakes and the municipal wells shown on the values map.

vi) Water Budget

The final water budget report for Ramsey Lake was received January 7. The last water budget report will be the Tier 3 for Valley East. Consultants were on track to have it completed for the Assessment Report deadline but are still waiting to hear back from the province about methodology for completing the analysis. The Tier 3 water budget will be put into an updated Assessment Report due on June 8, 2011.

10. New Business

Nels led a roundtable discussion on new business. Lilly briefly mentioned the Draft Zoning By-law that has recently been released by the City of Greater Sudbury. In the section regarding the wellhead protection areas, Lilly wondered if wording could be added to explain that changes to the by-law will be required once the source protection plan is completed. Paul Baskcomb explained zoning by-laws are not generally verbose, so wording to that effect was not included, but it is the intention of the City to revisit the zoning by-law once the plan is approved.

Neil Gervais mentioned that he would be unavailable for the March SPC meeting and John Westlake will be attending in his place.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

12. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

- Powerpoint presentation slides on Draft Source Protection Planning Regulation
- Environmental Registry posting and copy of Draft Source Protection Plan Regulation
- Table of Enumerated Significant Threats
- Details on Assessment Report Open Houses
- Brochure explaining Source Protection and the Assessment Report for landowners with a significant threat on their property

Flash Drive Updates:

- Update of Working draft of Assessment Report

Next meeting: March 9, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Howard Johnson Hotel on Brady St.