



**Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
19th Meeting
July 14, 2009**

Held: Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation (formerly Whitefish Lake) Community Complex

Commenced at: 1:05 p.m.

Adjourned at: 4:35 p.m.

Present: Nels Conroy, Chair
Paul Baskcomb
Richard Bois
Greg Haddad
Stephen Monet
Heather Mandamin
Lilly Noble
Wendy Wisniewski

Also Present: Bob Rogers, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Liaison
John Westlake, Ministry of the Environment Liaison
Richard Auld, Sudbury & District Health Unit
Ed Gardner, 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
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority

Guests: Wayne Nebenionquit, Deputy Chief
Darin Migwans, Manager of Public Works

Communication: Nick Benkovich
Luc Bock
Crystal Osawamick
Tim Worton

1. Welcome by Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation (formerly Whitefish Lake) Deputy Chief

Chair Conroy opened by thanking the First Nation for hosting the meeting. There were a number of guests at the meeting and Heather Mandamin introduced the committee to Deputy Chief Wayne Nebenionquit and Manager of Public Works Darin Migwans.

Deputy-Chief Wayne Nebenionquit thanked the committee for holding the meeting in their community and sharing the information on Source Protection. He stressed the importance of working together to protect drinking water. He distributed information on the “Empty Glass of Water” campaign spearheaded by the Chiefs of Ontario to bring attention to water issues of First Nations.

Darin Migwans, the Manager of Public Works, gave the committee some background about the state and operation of their drinking water system. Darin mentioned that drinking water used to be pulled from two communal wells, but as the community grew, they connected to the City of Greater Sudbury’s water system in 2001. Each residence has an individual septic system. Efforts have been made to hook up to the City’s wastewater system, but the sewage treatment plant in the area is at capacity and cannot accommodate the First Nation community at this time.

Nels thanked Wayne and Darin for their welcome, information and for Heather’s continued participation on the committee.

2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 2009-15

Bois - Noble

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

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Bob Rogers clarified that the June meeting minutes, in section 9.4, should read that Dr. Liette Vasseur led the meeting on climate change. The change was noted.

That the minutes of the June 10, 2009 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as amended, be approved.

Carried.

5. Source Protection Plan Discussion Paper

John Westlake gave an overview presentation of the Source Protection Plan Discussion Paper, which was posted to the Environmental Bill of Rights website on June 25 (www.ebr.gov.on.ca, # 010-6726).

John reviewed what has occurred in the past few years and the timeline moving forward. The Source Protection Plan is the final document that the Committee must produce and the discussion paper highlights the various policy approaches that will be available to address the drinking water threats identified in the Assessment Report.

The policy approaches may be seen as a spectrum, ranging from what are sometimes called “soft” tools, like education and outreach and incentive programs, to more prescriptive and regulatory approaches, like the new powers in the *Clean Water Act*: risk management plans, prohibition and restricted land uses. John elaborated on each of the seven key policy tools.

The Source Protection Plan Discussion paper also lays out what policies are mandatory in a source protection plan and those policies the Committee may want to include, but are optional. Mandatory policies include those that address and those that monitor significant threats set out in the Assessment Report. Optional policies can be those that address conditions that result from past activities, or address low or moderate threats.

John went through example policies illustrating each of the policy options. There was a lengthy discussion about the policy options, the implementation and enforcement of created policies and the appeal process for those who may be affected.

Nels thanked John for the presentation. He also stressed the value of having the discussion paper before the completion of the assessment report. At the next meeting, we will look ahead at creating hypothetical policies to see if the discussion paper fits the Committee’s needs and to see the range of potential policy options.

6. Threats and Issues to our Drinking Water Sources – Group Discussion

Prior to the meeting, Nels had asked committee members to bring to the meeting what they considered to be important threats and issues. The purpose is to collect a list of possibilities for the dry-run exercise on the Source Protection Plan Discussion paper.

The committee listed the following threats and issues:

- Fuel spill
- Increased development
- Illegal dumps/Landfills
- Bacterial contamination
- Chemical contamination
- Underground fuel tanks
- Transportation corridors
- Older water and wastewater infrastructure (*post meeting addition from Tim Worton*)
- Septic systems
- Stormwater runoff
- Road salt
- Phosphorus
- Heavy metals
- Terrorism

At the June SPC meeting there was some concern that certain important threats would not be able to be dealt with because they did not fit into the list of threats from the technical rules. This could challenge the credibility of the committee within the community. This discussion was continued at an ad hoc meeting on July 7, attended by 4 committee members, Nels and staff. At this meeting, threats were enumerated and Sharon explained how these could be dealt with in the assessment report. By the end, everyone was mostly satisfied that most of the important issues could be covered.

Sharon explained an updated table of significant threats for Ramsey Lake, including the circumstance for each threat and the next steps. Similar tables for the wells, Wanapitei River and Vermilion River are being developed. Sharon explained how most of the threats listed during the meeting could be dealt with. Fuel storage, transportation corridors and terrorism at this point need more thought or clarification from the Ministry of the Environment.

John Westlake clarified that the rail corridor *per se* is not a threat, however the activity of transporting specific goods on that corridor could potentially be added as a threat. The process to add a new threat is laid out in rule 119 of the technical rules. The MOE has also issued a bulletin on dealing with transportation corridors and it also describes the process for adding a threat related to a transportation corridor. The Committee can add the transportation of a certain chemical as a threat if they identify the hazard rating and the risk score for the threat and if it is approved by the Director. Judy has circulated the bulletin on transportation corridors to the committee by email and it is on the Ministry of the Environment website at www.ontario.ca/drinkingwater/272427.pdf

7. Blue Green Algae Update

Sharon updated the committee on recent progress on the blue green algae issue. Sharon and Judy will be meeting with staff and the SPC chair of the North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Area on July 22 to collaborate on how to approach the issue and what can be done to include it in the assessment report.

As part of the Monitoring Program on Ramsey Lake, the Algae Watch program is being launched shortly. A mailout to residents within 100 m of Ramsey Lake will be occurring in the next week and an information session will be held on Wednesday, July 29. The information session will be held at Science North and will feature keynote speaker, Dr. Susan Watson, an expert on blue green algae from Environment Canada.

8. Correspondence / Program Updates

i) Dry Run Exercise in August

A meeting will be held in August to do a dry-run exercise using the Source Protection Plan Discussion Paper. At this meeting, the committee will create hypothetical policies for threats. Melanie will distribute by email a potential date for the meeting and a short list of threats for the dry-run exercise. This may be an ad hoc meeting depending on the availability of committee members.

ii) Survey from Masters Student

SPCs are the subject of a Master's thesis by a student at Oxford University. The research has been approved by the Ministry of the Environment and the student would appreciate it if Committee members could fill out her questionnaire. Melanie distributed hardcopies of the questionnaire. An online version is also available at: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s/143316/source-protection-committee-questionnaire>

Post meeting program updates:

iii) Instruments paper

A paper describing existing provincial instruments, such as Certificates of Approval and Permits To Take Water, that can be used to implement source protection policies, will accompany the Source Protection Plan regulation. The paper lists 15 policy instruments, which are provided in the presentation John gave; this information can be used in the dry run exercise.

iv) Liaison Newsletter

The first edition of the Liaison Newsletter was released on May 18, 2009, and a second edition on July 7, 2009. The newsletters are lengthy and technical. However, Appendix 1 of the July newsletter discusses options for committee members for involvement in the assessment report. If committee members would like a copy, please let Melanie know and she can either email or mail you a copy.

v) Training Session for Health Unit Liaisons on Source Protection Committees

MOE is hosting a training session for Health Unit liaisons on Source Protection Committees on August 25, 2009 in Toronto.

vi) Risk Management Measures - Stakeholder Meeting

Judy joined a webcast on risk management measures on June 23. The Ministry of the Environment is currently compiling a database of risk management measures

that should be available in October. These measures can be used to develop risk management plans to reduce risk to water sources. They may also be helpful for developing policies for source protection plans.

9. Addendum / New Business

Chair Conroy asked the committee if they had any new items of business. No new business was brought up.

10. Adjournment

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

11. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

Flash drive updates

Next meeting: September 1, 2009, 1st floor provincial building (199 Larch St.), 1 to 4 p.m.