



Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
25th Meeting
March 9, 2010

Held: Howard Johnson Hotel, 50 Brady St.

Commenced at: 1:10 p.m.

Adjourned at: 3:50 p.m.

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

Also Present: John Westlake, Ministry of the Environment 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
Anoop Naik, Drinking Water Source Protection
Brianna Carter, Drinking Water Source Protection
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority

Communications: Paul Baskcomb
Bob Rogers
Vivian Naponse
Cheryl Recollet

1. Chair Conroy Opened the Meeting

Nels Conroy opened the meeting by remarking that Sharon Bennett had her baby and asked for staff to pass on congratulations from the Committee.

Nels thanked John Westlake for being at the meeting while Neil Gervais is away for the month on parental leave.

2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 2010-06

Bois – Noble

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

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 2010-07

Noble - Bock

That the minutes of the February 9, 2010, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, be approved.

Carried.

Nels reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. The February meeting had a lengthy discussion on how the committee will handle threats and local concerns. The discussion will continue during this meeting.

Nels asked for clarification on the mailouts and their expected release dates. Melanie Venne mentioned that there were two mailouts:

- 1) a regulated mailout to all landowners engaging in a significant threat activity which was being sent out on March 12. This will contain a copy of the notice for the open houses.
- 2) a general information mailout to landowners in a wellhead protection area B and within 120 m of Ramsey Lake. It will include an invitation to the open houses. The larger mailout will reach 1,100 residences and be sent out by the end of March.

5. Assessment Report Update

i) Report Update

Judy Sewell reviewed the Assessment Report timeline. The report was sent to the printers on time and will be posted online for public comment on March 16. The open houses are scheduled for April 6 and 8. After the end of the first consultation period, staff will incorporate changes into the report. The second consultation period begins May 7 for 30 days and afterwards the report will be submitted to the MOE on June 8, 2010.

Tim Worton inquired about the MOE review process. John Westlake explained that there is an informal review process during the first public comment period.

After the Proposed Assessment Report is submitted to the MOE on June 8, it will be officially reviewed against the Technical Rules by MOE technical staff and also local MOE District staff.

A hardcopy of the Draft Proposed Assessment Report was distributed to all committee and liaison members. Electronic copies were also made available on Committee member's flash drives. The Draft Proposed Assessment Report is approximately 250 pages in length and has 96 maps. Sharon Bennett was as concise as possible in her writing. More technical details are available in the appendix DVD which contains all the technical reports completed over the past four years to support the development of the Assessment Report.

Brianne Carter is working on fact sheets for every drinking water system. These fact sheets will be public friendly documents for distribution at the open houses.

The Assessment Report will be updated for June 8, 2011. The updated Assessment Report will contain the tier 3 water budget analysis for Valley East and any new technical work that would need to be done for the two new City wells if they come online. This technical work will be undertaken this coming summer.

ii) Recap from Discussion at Last SPC Meeting

After the last meeting, Bob Rogers, on behalf of the Source Protection Authority, submitted a letter to Nels regarding threats and the importance of addressing local concerns through the Source Protection Plan. Nels' letter relayed these concerns to Ian Smith, and an informal reply from Ian Smith was received the morning of the Committee meeting. All three letters were distributed to Committee members.

The response from Ian Smith and the release of the Draft Source Protection Plan Regulation both indicate that the SPC is extremely limited in addressing threats that are outside of the prescribed list of 21 threats from the Technical Rules.

The Committee feels it is very important that they deal with the concerns of the Sudbury Committee and the general public. Many ideas were discussed in order to be able to continue towards dealing with both threats and other concerns. These included drafting a companion document to the official Source Protection Plan. It was also suggested that transportation of certain dangerous goods along the railway line be added as a local threat. The discussion also included matters of responsibility and budget considerations to draft policy for things that are outside the scope of the Clean Water Act.

The committee also suggested more information be obtained on the risk management plan for the railway and the road salt management plan that is being implemented by the City in advance of the open houses. Staff will attempt to get more clarification on these topics. The Committee stressed the importance of having answers to these very important issues before the open houses.

6. Assessment Report Open House Update

Open house products have not been completed since staff efforts have been focused on completing the Draft Proposed Assessment Report. The Powerpoint presentation to be given by Nels and Judy is partially completed. The text for the poster boards is currently in draft form and was made available for review on Committee member's USB drives.

Richard Bois mentioned the importance of having a press kit for interested media at the open houses. Brianne will be working on one.

Since there is no other SPC meeting scheduled before the open houses, Nels suggested an ad-hoc meeting to review the open house products. Melanie will set up a meeting and distribute the information to Committee members by email.

The MOE liaisons have not generally been in attendance at Assessment Report Open Houses. However, the Committee felt it was important to have a MOE representative at the Open Houses. Judy will contact the Ministry to see who may be able to attend our Open Houses in April.

7. Source Protection Plan Draft Regulation

The Ministry of the Environment held a consultation session on the Source Protection Plan draft regulation in Sudbury on March 5 for the Northern Conservation Authorities. Nels and Melanie attended on behalf of the Source Protection Committee. Also attending from the Sudbury Region was Pierrette Desrochers from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Wendy Kauffman from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

One of the main comments Nels made during the session was the need to be able to incorporate local concerns into the Source Protection Plan. The MOE in return asked Nels what types of policies the committee would like to develop to address local concerns.

The NDCA will be submitting written comments on the draft regulation. Any committee members that have concerns or comments can submit them on their own through the Environmental Registry website (www.ebr.gov.on.ca, posting #010-8766) or pass them on to Judy. The deadline for comments on the draft regulation is March 26.

Nels emphasized the importance of reviewing the draft regulation. This document will determine what the Source Protection Plan will look like. If there are any omissions or concerns about the draft regulation they need to be addressed now.

8. Program Updates

i) Correspondence

Nels received a phone call from a concerned citizen regarding endocrine disruptors in Ramsey Lake. Nels explained that the major contributor to this is wastewater plants, which Ramsey Lake does not have. It is not an issue for our source water but Nels will follow-up with the citizen.

10. New Business

Nels led a roundtable discussion on new business.

Paul Sajatovic was approached by the Healthy Community Cabinet to submit an application for the Source Protection program to be designated as a healthy community initiative. Paul will fill out the application and provide an update at the next SPC meeting.

Paul also acknowledged and thanked the staff for their dedication and commitment to completing the draft proposed Assessment Report. He wanted to, with the Source Protection Committee, recognize the hard work and long hours that went into producing this high quality document.

Lilly Noble mentioned a recent decision made by the City's Planning Committee that could allow for rural five acre lots to be split into two acre lots in rural area. She was concerned that this could create hundreds of new lots and impact our water budget studies.

Nick Benkovich will be presenting to City Council on March 24 regarding an update to the sewer use by-law. The update is to help reduce unnecessary discharges to the wastewater sewer system.

Richard Bois mentioned a recent article in the Globe and Mail regarding road salt. The article details a recent University of Toronto study on the impact of road salt on water quality near roadways. Anyone interested in seeing a copy of the article can contact Melanie Venne.

Judy Sewell mentioned that the recent Science North Envirothon was attended by Tom Killingbeck from WESA on behalf of the NDCA. The event went very well and the kids were very interested. Tom used the NDCA's groundwater model in his presentation.

11. Adjournment

Resolution 2010-08

Haddad - Wisniewski

That we do now adjourn.

12. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

- Draft Proposed Assessment Report
- Letter from Bob Rogers to Nels Conroy. Follow-up letter from Nels Conroy to Ian Smith and informal response from Ian Smith.

Flash Drive Updates:

- Draft Proposed Assessment Report
- Draft Text for Open House poster boards

Next meeting: Tuesday April 13, 1 to 4 p.m., boardrooms C/D, provincial building at 199 Larch St.