



Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
13th Meeting
February 10, 2009

Held: Room C-11, Tom Davies Square

Commenced at: 1:10 p.m.

Adjourned at: 3:55 p.m.

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

Also Present: Richard Auld, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison
Judy Sewell, Drinking Water Source Protection
Nathalie Gara-Boivin, Drinking Water Source Protection
Melanie Venne, Drinking Water Source Protection
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority

Communication: Ed Gardner, Sudbury & District Health Unit
Bob Rogers, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Liaison
Sharon Bennett, Drinking Water Source Protection

1. Chair Conroy Opened the Meeting

Four members of the public attended this meeting. Chair Conroy asked the committee to introduce themselves to the public and the citizens likewise said who they were and their interest in being at the meeting.

John Westlake our new permanent Ministry of the Environment liaison member was supposed to attend the meeting but due to adverse weather conditions was unable to fly in. His introduction to the committee will be deferred to a future meeting.

2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 2009-03

Worton - Wisniewski

That the agenda for the February 10, 2009 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted, as circulated

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 2009-04

Noble - Monet

That the minutes of the January 13, 2009 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

Nels quickly reviewed the minutes from the last meeting and updated the committee on the status of certain action items. There was no other business arising from the January minutes.

5. Updating the Procedural Manual

There are three items that could be added to the procedural manual. The first is Committee Roles and Responsibilities. Based on discussions at previous SPC meetings, it was proposed that roles and responsibilities of committee members be added to the manual. These are listed under section 2.1 of the procedural manual and were kept broad and uncomplicated in order to allow some flexibility. Judy welcomed any comments or suggestions on these.

A few committee members had issue with the first bullet point: "Must attend Greater Sudbury Source Protection committee meetings". They felt this needed to be more specific with a clause stating a maximum number of meetings that could be missed. The suggestion was that the role and responsibility about attendance state that no more than 3 meetings can be missed per calendar year. After 3 missed meetings in one year a review process would be enacted to consider the reasons for the absences and if the committee member should be asked to resign.

The two other items to be added to the procedural manual, the proxy form and the protocol for the public attending SPC meetings, have been circulated previously to SPC members and no new comments on these were received.

Nels suggested making the changes suggested by the committee members, then drafting a letter to Bob Rogers to have the updated procedural manual brought forward at the next Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority (GSSPA) meeting in March.

6. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Nathalie Gara-Boivin provided the committee with an overview presentation on the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), as it relates to the Source Protection Committee and the Drinking Water Source Protection program.

FIPPA has dual purposes: 1) to provide the public access to government records, and 2) to protect the privacy of individuals with respect to personal information held by government agencies.

Nathalie reviewed how personal information is collected and how it should be used, protected and disposed of. She also described how Freedom of Information (FOI) requests should be handled. Guidance documents on this topic are being developed by MOE and will help assist staff with this process.

7. Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program Review

Melanie Venne provided a short presentation on the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP). This included an overview of projects that have been undertaken across the province in the education and outreach, special projects and early action components of the program.

Source Protection staff are planning a focus group meeting about the ODWSP with local agricultural groups, the municipality and possibly with other interested groups. As part of the request from the MOE, Source Protection Committees were also asked to be consulted and Melanie asked the committee if they had any comments or suggestions about the ODWSP.

Tim Worton had a comment about the timing of the program. The program will be ending just as the assessment report is completed. In addition, with the worsening economic situation across the province, the cost share percentages might be an issue with landowners.

Lilly Noble suggested informing MOE that local flexibility is needed in order for each Source Protection Area to be able to use the ODWSP to address local issues.

Nick Benkovich mentioned that perhaps the small business pollution prevention review could be useful in the wellhead protection areas. Paul Sajatovic thought the staff suggestions on the program could be elaborated upon, and the GSSPA could endorse these at their meeting on March 19th in order to meet the submission date to MOE of March 20th.

8. Communication from Visitors

A member of the public that was sitting in on the meeting briefly addressed the committee. The citizen had a complaint about allowing dogs on the Ramsey Lake skating path. As the citizen explained, in summer there are by-laws preventing dogs from going on the beaches, yet in winter they are allowed right above the drinking water source. This person was concerned about feces entering the municipal source water and wanted better public knowledge and concern about the issue.

Nels thanked the citizen for informing the committee about their concern for municipal drinking water.

9. Correspondence / Program Updates

i) Correspondence

The committee has received three pieces of correspondence in the past month. These three pieces of correspondence addressed the issues of pesticide use, iron piping, blue-green algae, past mining activities and the inclusion of private systems.

Nathalie and Judy attended a Friends of McFarlane Lake open house on blue-green algae on January 22nd. They provided best management practices about septic systems and private wells as brochures for the public to pick up. The McFarlane Lake group will be going to the City of Greater Sudbury Priorities committee meeting on February 18th. One of the action items for the group related to the *Clean Water Act* and the inclusion of private systems. Nathalie has spoken to the group to clarify that the *Clean Water Act* is currently focused on municipal systems. Guidance and funding for clusters of private systems is not currently available.

ii) Program Updates

Committee Member Vacancy

Nathalie updated the committee on the search for a public committee member. The vacancy has been advertized in the Sudbury Star, Northern Life, Le Voyageur, Channel 10 bulletin board, at the City of Greater Sudbury Citizen Service Centres, on our website and through the email distribution list. The closing date for applications is February 20th. So far ten applications have been received. Nels explained that once the closing date has passed, the interview committee will meet to conduct interviews and then recommend an individual for appointment by the GSSPA.

Staff Resignation

Nathalie announced that she had accepted a position as staff scientist doing education and outreach and event planning with Science North. Her last day with the Source Protection Program is February 20th. She thanked the committee, Nels and staff for their support during the open houses and outreach events.

Nathalie will still be the MC for the Water on Film event which she reminded the committee about. The event will take place on Sunday, March 22nd and will be a matinee at the Rainbow Cinemas downtown. Posters to promote the event will be circulated electronically to all SPC members and newsletter contact list.

Nels thanked Nathalie on behalf of the committee for her creativity and great communication materials. He wished her good luck in her new position. A job ad for Communication Officer will be posted shortly.

Terms of Reference

The Ministry of the Environment is still reviewing the Terms of Reference. The reviewer contacted Judy just before Christmas and said that we should receive our Terms of Reference back shortly.

There was some discussion about the inclusion of Lake Wanapitei in the proposed Terms of Reference. Nick Benkovich spoke about the potential of going to Lake Wanapitei as a source of municipal drinking water and answered questions from the committee regarding this topic. The delay in acceptance of the Terms of Reference could provide more time in the fall to continue work on the assessment report.

Technical Work

Judy and Sharon are currently working with the Ministry of the Environment to get an approval on local interpretation for the delineation of the intake protection zones and wellhead protection areas.

The Ministry has still not provided a final threats assessment database. Consultants are working with a draft database. Preliminary threats results should be available to staff within the next month.

Judy is currently working on the 2009-2010 work plan. One of the newest items to the work plan is the addition of a new staff position, a full-time field technician. The job posting for this position is currently being advertised.

Role of SPC in the Development of the Assessment Report

Judy handed out a one page summary of what the role of the SPC could be in the development of the assessment report. The committee was asked to re-read the handout and see if they feel comfortable with how their role is laid out. This topic will be revisited at the March SPC meeting.

10. Addendum / New Business

Chair Conroy led a round table discussion regarding new business. Nels mentioned that staff are currently trying to plan out the agendas for upcoming meetings. One idea was to look at the influence of road salt on surface water and groundwater sources of municipal drinking water, which would include a presentation by City road

department staff. Nels wondered if anyone else had topics or fieldtrips that they would like to see at upcoming meetings.

Nick Benkovich mentioned that he could arrange for fieldtrips to water or wastewater treatment plants. A few committee members thought this was a good idea.

Wendy Wisniewski has an inquiry from a City of Greater Sudbury staff member about salt usage at Garson mine. She directed the inquiry to Source Water Protection staff.

Lilly Noble suggested that committee members and staff consider discussing at an upcoming meeting a ban on fertilizers and pesticides near Ramsey Lake. Nathalie also suggested that staff and the committee need to get more information on the new regulation that bans cosmetic use of pesticides and how this may impact source protection planning.

Judy closed the new business discussion by mentioning that on March 9th Source Protection staff have a meeting with WESA to get a preliminary list of significant threats in the municipal wellhead protection areas. Committee members mentioned that despite the short notice, they would like to receive some threats information at the March 10th SPC meeting.

11. Adjournment

Resolution 2009-05

Worton - Noble

That we now adjourn.

12. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

- Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee Procedural Manual, Proposed Revision, February 10, 2009
- Presentation slides – The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program: Looking Ahead
- Details of Source Protection Committee Roles and Responsibilities During the Development of the Assessment Report

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 10th 2009, 1 to 4 p.m., location to be confirmed