



**Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
12th Meeting Minutes
Held January 13th, 2009**

Held: Room C-11, Tom Davies Square

Commenced at: 1:10 p.m.

Adjourned at: 4:20 p.m.

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

Also Present: Katie Fairman, Ministry of Environment Liaison
Richard Auld, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison
Ed Gardner, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison
Bob Rogers, Source Protection Authority Liaison
Judy Sewell, Drinking Water Source Protection
Nathalie Gara-Boivin, Drinking Water Source Protection
Sharon Bennett, Drinking Water Source Protection
Melanie Venne, Drinking Water Source Protection
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority
Peter Richards, Peer Reviewer
Eric Smith, Peer Reviewer
Tom Killingbeck, WESA, Project Consultant
Rich Schmidt, WESA, Project Consultant

Communication: Nick Benkovich
Crystal Osawamick

1. Chair Conroy Opened the Meeting

Chair Nels Conroy opened by meeting by speaking of the tasks the committee has ahead of them in the coming year. The assessment report will need to be completed

in 2009. Judy handed out an updated schedule showing the draft and proposed assessment report being posted for public consultation on October 30, 2009.

2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 2009-01

Haddad - Noble

That the agenda for the January 13, 2009 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted, as amended.

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 2009-02

Bock - Noble

That the minutes of the November 12, 2008 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 November minutes.

5. Communication from Visitors

The Valley resident who was supposed to come and speak to the committee about concerns regarding the Kenneth Well and groundwater contamination was unable to attend and asked Nathalie Gara-Boivin to read an email message which outlined the concerns.

A property on Kenneth Drive near the municipal well has been rezoned from a heavier industrial use which previously allowed a junk yard on the property to allow the development of a trade school that could house chemicals, gasses and oils. The resident is concerned about how such uses could be allowed in a water protection zone and about the impacts the trade school could have on groundwater.

Sharon Bennett clarified that the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) delineations are still ongoing and that it is unknown whether or not this property will be within the WHPA zones and if so, within which time of travel.

Paul Baskcomb mentioned that City planning staff were involved in the rezoning and considered the new light industrial zoning to be more appealing than the previous

one. There was a discussion among committee members about what the committee could possibly do in a situation such as this one. Katie Fairman mentioned that without the assessment report and source protection plan the committee does not have any legal authority, and what can be done at this point is to explain the process to the citizen and wait and see what may come out after the groundwater vulnerability and threats inventory are completed. However, if the threat is considered an imminent drinking water health hazard then the Ministry of the Environment Spills Action Center is to be contacted and the threat will be dealt with immediately.

6. Overview of Surface Water Vulnerability Analysis

Sharon Bennett gave a presentation on the progress of the Surface Water Vulnerability technical study. Sharon introduced the updated technical rules and what they mean for our surface water intakes; including the size of the intake protection zones (IPZ), how vulnerability scoring is calculated and what transport pathways are.

The presentation also included maps of the IPZ-1, 2 and 3 for Ramsey Lake, and of IPZ 1 and 2 for the Vermilion River and the Wanapitei River intakes. The IPZ –3 for the Vermilion and Wanapitei River intakes are quite large and are not necessarily scientifically defensible the way the guidance stands now. Modeling is being done to estimate the time of travel from the headwaters of the watersheds to the intakes. Once this is known, discussions will be initiated with the Ministry of the Environment to determine a more appropriate delineation for the zone.

Greg Haddad inquired as to who was doing this work. Sharon explained that the original contract with AMEC was completed last year, and the work to update the IPZs to current technical requirements is being done by staff and WESA.

There was a discussion about the 2 hour time of travel as it relates to the IPZ-2 delineations. Sharon is currently talking with City staff to see if 2 hours is adequate time for water treatment plant operators to receive notice of a spill and shut down the intake. The City is currently completing a number of elements under the Drinking Water Quality Management program. Element 18 includes the creation of an Emergency Response Plan and will complement the Source Protection Program.

Ed Gardner added some comments with respect to the shutdown of a treatment plant. The likelihood of shutting down the treatment plant is very small. The issues involved with shutting the plant down and resuming operation are many and therefore a more likely approach would be to notify citizens and issue a warning instead. Other questions that should be addressed are, “How long could the City last with one plant shutdown?” and “How long would it take to issue a warning to residents regarding unsafe water?” The answers to these questions may influence the time of travel chosen to delineate IPZ – 2.

Sharon explained that the next steps are to complete the delineations of the IPZ's and complete the vulnerability scoring. Once these are complete, the source protection committee will begin to have a better idea of what kind of management strategies will need to be used to protect the vulnerable areas.

7. Introduction to Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program

Melanie Venne gave a short presentation to introduce the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. The Stewardship program consists of three parts: education and outreach, early action, and special projects. The program was originally designed to be administered by Conservation Authority staff, but the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) would like Chair's and Committee members' input on program delivery for the future. Melanie explained how the program has been designed provincially, and what sort of activities have happened locally.

The program is currently undergoing a review in order for the last two years to be more adaptive to assessment reports and source protection planning processes. The MOE would like the committee to provide commentary on the program, and also do local consultation with the agriculture community and other interested stakeholders, if they see this as appropriate for their area.

Committee members were asked what sort of consultation should happen locally and Bob Rogers, Wendy Wisniewski and Paul Baskcomb provided names of groups that could be contacted.

A handout which listed some of the questions that the MOE provided for the purpose of consultation was given to committee members.

Action item: SPC members were asked to review handouts and to be able to provide feedback at the February meeting.

8. Correspondence / Program Updates

i) Correspondence

Nathalie Gara-Boivin provided the committee with a handout and summary of recent communications received. Many emails and phone calls have focused on blue-green algae concerns on private systems outside of the scope of the current Source Protection Program. Nathalie has replied to these explaining the focus of the program is on municipal drinking water systems at this time.

Committee members were given copies of the recent newsletter and asked to distribute it to members of their sector. Lastly, Nathalie updated the committee on the new website which was completed at the end of 2008.

ii) Resignation of Committee member

Don Malette provided his resignation from the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee. Don's letter was read aloud by Nels. Don explained that the choice to resign from the committee was a difficult one, but understood that his absenteeism meant that the general public was not fully represented. He extended his thanks and offered his services to Nels and the committee if needed in the future. Bob Rogers, as chair of the Source Protection Authority, provided a copy of the formal letter of acceptance of Don's resignation to the committee. The process of finding a new public member for the SPC will start at the Source Protection Authority meeting on Thursday, January 15th.

iii) Proxy

The procedural manual of the Greater Sudbury SPC states that: "a member of the source protection committee may participate in the meetings of the committee by proxy". Melanie explained the draft proxy form that was created for this purpose and the procedure that would be used in order to use another committee member as proxy to a meeting. Using the proxy form is not a justification for unnecessarily missing meetings, but it will help to alleviate the pressure of the 2/3 quorum rule. Greg Haddad suggested sending out this form with the agenda prior to every meeting.

iv) Updating Procedural Manual

The procedural manual has existed for over a year now, and Judy Sewell asked the committee to review how well it has served them up to now. There is the opportunity to update the procedural manual to add the proxy form, the protocol for the public attending SPC meetings and a section on committee responsibilities that could more clearly outline responsibilities such as attendance. If the committee chooses to amend the procedural manual it may be wise to incorporate all required updates at once.

Committee members seemed open to doing so, and Tim Worton pointed out that the procedural manual should be encompassing of anything that explains how the committee does its business.

Nels gave notification to Bob Rogers that the procedural manual may be going before the Source Protection Authority shortly to be amended and updated.

v) Assessment Report Update

Judy handed out a revised timeline for the completion, review and public consultation of the assessment report. A previously distributed timeline had the Terms of Reference approved by the Ministry of the Environment by December 2008. However, it now seems as though the Terms of Reference will only be approved in March 2009. This would give the committee the summer to complete the assessment report and consultations would occur in November 2009. The draft proposed Assessment report would then be submitted at the end of February 2010.

9. Addendum / New Business

Nels led a roundtable discussion to bring up new business.

- Lilly Noble mentioned that the Canadian Environmental Law Association has approached the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury about funding they have to distribute to do education and outreach about Source Water Protection. Lilly and Nathalie will be speaking about this and sharing resources to consider what could happen with this funding around the Valley wells and Ramsey Lake.
- Katie Fairman indicated that she would be attending February's SPC meeting with Sudbury's permanent MOE liaison, John Westlake.
- Paul Sajatovic brought up an article that was published that day in the Sudbury Star regarding water and wastewater rates. Some members of City Council are concerned about the large number of regulations imposed post-Walkerton. City Council will need to be engaged, informed and updated as the Source Protection Planning process proceeds.
- Sharon asked committee members to suggest any agenda topics they would like to hear about or information needs they may have that could be addressed at upcoming SPC meetings.

10. Adjournment

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

10. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

- Presentation slides - Overview of Surface Water Vulnerability Analysis
- Presentation slides – The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program: Looking ahead
- Overview of Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program and Consultation Questionnaire
- Summary of Communications from the Public between November 2008 and January 2009
- Survey of Other Source Protection Committees Rules of Procedure regarding Meeting Attendance
- Draft Notice of Proxy Form for Committee Members
- Updated timeline for Assessment Report Review and Submission
- Resignation letter of Don Malette from the Source Protection Committee
- Response to resignation letter from Bob Rogers, Chair of the Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 10th 2009, 1 to 4 p.m., Tom Davies Square, Room C-11