



Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee
17th Meeting
June 10, 2009

Held: Royal Canadian Legion

Commenced at: 9:05 a.m.

Adjourned at: 11:50 a.m.

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

Also Present: Bob Rogers, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority Liaison
John Dennis, Greater Sudbury Source Protection Authority
John Westlake, Ministry of the Environment Liaison
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
Brienne Carter, Drinking Water Source Protection
Paul Sajatovic, Nickel District Conservation Authority

Communication: Crystal Osawamick

1. Chair Conroy Opened the Meeting

The meeting was held at the Royal Canadian Legion because it provided an excellent view of Ramsey Lake and a significant amount of the area draining into Ramsey Lake. Chair Conroy welcomed everyone to the meeting, including a guest from the Source Protection Authority, Vice-Chair John Dennis. Nels noted that the Committee

is very lucky to have a Source Protection Authority that is interested and engaged in this process.

Nels acknowledged a recent honour awarded to Nick Benkovich at the annual conference of the Ontario Water Works Association. The Norman J. Howard Award recognizes proficiency in design, construction, operation, maintenance, management, regulation and research associated with municipal water supply.

2. No Declarations of Conflict Were Declared.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution 2009-13

Bois - Wisniewski

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

Carried.

4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolution 2009-14

Worton - Bock

That the minutes of the May 12th, 2009 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting, as duplicated and circulated, be approved.

Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

At the last SPC meeting, Paul Baskcomb presented a proposed upcoming amendment to the Official Plan to update the Wellhead Protection Area mapping. Since that meeting, Judy Sewell and Paul have met to further discuss the update. The Official Plan amendment is forthcoming, and while public consultation may not be necessary, Paul believed it to be important.

Also regarding the Wellhead Protection Areas, Judy is presenting at the June 10th City of Greater Sudbury Council Meeting, seeking a council resolution to adopt the 2 year time of travel for the purpose of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. The Ministry of the Environment has requested a council resolution accepting the new 2 year time of travels in order to expand the program to a greater number of residents. Last year the program was only eligible to landowners living within 100 meters of a municipal well or 200 meters from a municipal surface water intake. The adoption of the 2 year time of travel WHPAs will quadruple the amount of eligible landowners to nearly 680 landowners.

Lilly inquired if the surface water intake protection zones were part of this program expansion. The Stewardship Program did expand to include the surface water intake protection zone 1, but peer review for these has not been completed yet. Once they have, staff will seek a council resolution for them as well. However, for surface water intakes, eligible areas remain set at 200 meters around the intake. This allows for approximately 20 homes around the Wanapitei intake to be eligible.

There was a discussion regarding how the Stewardship Program could be used to help connect the remaining Ramsey Lake septic systems to the municipal system. However, the program is designed for smaller projects with only \$7 Million/year available province-wide (\$28 million province-wide for 4 years). In addition, the program does not geographically extend to that area of Ramsey Lake at this time.

6. Threats Training

John Westlake, our Ministry of the Environment liaison, provided an overview presentation on threats and issues derived from the all day technical presentation that staff received the week prior. The presentation explained the steps and processes used to identify threats.

There are four steps: the first two are delineating and scoring the vulnerable areas. There are four types of vulnerable areas: wellhead protection areas, surface water intake protection zones, highly vulnerable aquifers and significant groundwater recharge areas.

Once the vulnerable areas are identified and scored, the drinking water threats must be listed and identified as significant, moderate or low using either a threats or an issues approach.

The threats approach uses the list of 21 prescribed drinking water threats from the technical rules. All listed threats have an associated circumstance, which include things like volume, location, likelihood of release and associated chemicals. All the circumstances are listed in the threats tables provided by the MOE. Within this approach there is also the possibility to add local threats not from the prescribed list, provided that these are approved by the Director.

The issues approach relates to pathogens or parameters that result in the deterioration of the quality of water for use as drinking water at the source. Circumstances for each issue must also be defined.

Within the issues approach there is also the possibility to investigate chemical drinking water issues in other drinking water systems. This led to a discussion about the implications that this may have in Sudbury. John said he would look into this and provide the committee with clarification.

A third approach to identify threats does exist: it is an events based approach, and is used for larger water bodies such as the Great Lakes. John noted that it is not an approach that is applicable to the Sudbury area.

Nels thanks John for a great presentation and for giving the committee an overview of the complicated process that Sharon, Judy and the consultants have been working on. As we move forward with the threats assessment we will have to see how the rules and regulated process fit our local situation.

7. Threats Update

Sharon provided a local threats update, providing the committee with a list of significant drinking water threats for the Ramsey Lake vulnerable areas. There are two tables that consider two scenarios- one more conservative than the other. The next step is to look into the circumstances for all the listed threats.

The committee had a long discussion and raised concerns that many things that they consider as threats, or what the general public will see as threats, are not listed in the tables. For example, diesel fuel leaking from a train in the Mattawa area recently resulted in closing down a few municipal intakes on the Ottawa River. Clearly, leaking diesel fuel and many types of spills from transportation corridors pose a threat to municipal drinking water, but it is not clear how these threats will be dealt with in the assessment report.

The committee made some good suggestions for dealing with the potential non-inclusion of threats associated with transportation corridors and other local threats, including treating the assessment report as a phased approach, continuing to work with the MOE to ensure all local issues are addressed, and getting properly prepared to defend the threats that are or are not listed in the assessment report.

Stephen Monet stressed the need to address issues and threats that are applicable in Sudbury in the assessment report in order to remain credible. The committee strongly agreed.

John Westlake clarified that there is some flexibility in the rules. If the committee believes something is a threat but it is not listed in the tables in the technical rules, there is a process in place to bring those local issues into the assessment report. There is also the possibility to amend the assessment report if not all of the work can be done by the regulated deadline.

Nels suggested a strategic planning session to look at all the issues we want to bring to the table for the assessment report. We need to use the process laid out, cover all the issues the committee deems important but must also commit to meeting established deadlines. Most committee members were interested in attending such a meeting and Melanie Venne will be emailing committee members about a meeting date, time and place.

8. Table of Contents and First Chapter of the Assessment Report

Sharon distributed an updated draft table of contents for the Assessment Report. Sharon has also completed a draft of part one of the Assessment Report. Since there will be multiple drafts of the document, it was distributed on a memory stick. Committee members are asked to bring the memory stick to every meeting in order to update the document as it progresses. Anyone who wishes to have printed copies of the assessment report drafts can request them from staff.

Part one contains information derived from the watershed characterization report, the conceptual water budget report, and the tier one water budget report. It is a broad overview of our watershed. Parts two to nine will focus on specific municipal drinking water systems.

9. Correspondence / Program Updates

i) Source Protection Plan Discussion Paper

A discussion paper on the Source Protection Plan was given to project managers and SPC Chairs at the beginning of June. It will also be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights website by mid-June. This paper describes how Source Protection Committees will go about writing the Source Protection Plan and its associated policies. Judy stressed the importance of committee members reading and digesting this document because it is the core of what their work is going to be. There will be time at the July SPC meeting to discuss this paper.

ii) Approval of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were approved and posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights website on June 8th. This means that the committee has until June 8th 2010 to submit the Assessment Report, however, the initial draft must be done about six months before this to provide adequate time for public consultation. The approved Terms of Reference and updated background document were posted on the local Source Protection website.

iii) Webcast on Stormwater Management

Sharon invited committee members to join a webcast on “Managing Stormwater in the Age of Budget Cuts”, hosted by the Center for Watershed Protection. The free webcast is from 12 – 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17th.

Post meeting program updates:

iv) Blue Green Algae Program

Work on the Blue Green Algae Monitoring Program is progressing. The Masters student that is sponsored through this program, and the NDCA field technician both started on May 4th. In addition to the monitoring program, a citizen’s

Ramsey Lake Algae Watch program is currently being developed with our partners.

v) Technical Studies

The Tier 2 Water Budget Report for Ramsey Lake was completed on April 16th and the Tier 2 Report for the Valley East Well system was received on May 29th. A Tier 3 analysis, which is the most detailed and final level of analysis required for source protection planning, is underway for both systems.

vi) Climate Change

The General Board of the NDCA hosted a meeting on climate change on June 5th. The purpose of the meeting, led by Dr. Liette Vasseur, was to start planning towards a climate change consortium for our region. The meeting was attended by several city managers and directors; SPC members Paul Baskcomb, Stephen Monet and Nick Benkovich; and SPC Chair Nels Conroy, several NDCA staff and board members.

10. Addendum / New Business

Chair Conroy led a round table discussion regarding new business. No new business was brought up.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m., after which committee members looked at maps of the Ramsey Lake watershed and enjoyed the view of Intake Protection Zone 3 afforded by the meeting room at the Legion.

12. List of Handouts Provided at Meeting

- Table of Significant Drinking Water Threats in Ramsey Lake Vulnerable Areas
- Draft Table of Contents for Assessment Report
- Memory stick with Part One of the Assessment Report

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 14th 2009, 1 to 4 p.m., Whitefish Lake First Nation Community Complex