



**Sault Ste. Marie Region
Source Protection Committee
Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday April 7, 2009
Bayfront Quality Inn – Bay East Room
12:00 pm**

Attendance

Subhash Verma – Chair	Rhonda Bateman – SPA Liaison and Source Protection Planning Coordinator
Larry Woolley – Resident Member	Linda Whalen – Alternate SPA Liaison
Andrew Hallett – PUC Member	Loralei Premo – SPC Administrator
Roy Bertolo – Aggregates Member	Gary Nelson – APH Liaison
Hal McGonigal – Municipal Member	
Ralph Yanni – Sault North Resident Member	
Peter McLarty – Environmental Member	
Peter Tonazzo – Municipal Member	
Maeve McHugh – MOE Liaison	

Regrets

Susan Hamilton-Beach – Municipal Member

1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

2. Introductions

3. Administration

i. Sign in sheet

ii. Adoption of Agenda

- Add Peter Tonazzo to Item #9 for a planning subcommittee update
- Add ODWSP SPC comments submission update to #7ii. – Lorelei
- Add Communications update to #9iii. – Lorelei

iii. Approval of March 10, 2009 meeting minutes

- #4ii. Add comment that highway road salting standard used for Prince Township along Second Line may have the potential to affect private wells.

4. Correspondence

i. Compensation letter from Ian Smith & Attachment: Financial Implications

The letter includes background on legislative restrictions in referring to financial compensation in any Terms of Reference (ToRs) as it would be a commitment future funding which cannot be guaranteed. Some SPC ToRs were delayed in the review process due to wording that implied financial compensation, some examples are provided in the attachment: Financial Implications. The examples shown in the letter and attachment are examples of appropriate wording.

The Sault Ste. Marie Region (SSMR) Source Protection Area ToR has been approved and was posted to the Environmental Registry February 5, 2009.

Action - The committee felt that the letter could have been better understood with a more simplified approach to the wording. Maeve McHugh will pass the feedback on to Ian Smith.

ii. Canadian Water Attitude Survey

The Canadian Water Attitude Survey results were distributed to the SPC members via email prior to the meeting. Lorelei Premo presented a revised summary from a presentation from the March 30/31 Conservation Ontario (CO) communications meeting.

The survey results strengthen the SPC conclusion to continue education and outreach efforts with the public to increase general knowledge about the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the drinking water source protection planning process.

RBC has a water challenge available on their website until the end of April. It is in the form of a quiz to test one's knowledge entitled "Clean Water Quiz". It is a 5 question test that provides explanations for each of the answers. At the end of the survey you are invited to visit RBC's Blue Water Site. <http://www.rbc.com/environment/bluewater/articles/20090320-water.html>

Action – To foster education and outreach opportunities, Lorelei will try to partner with more local groups and efforts to attend local functions and participate at other events where possible in the future.

5. Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Update

i. Update

Maeve McHugh, Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Liaison, distributed a flow chart 'Drinking Water Management Division' to the SPC.

The Drinking Water Management Division is one of six divisions in the MOE (the other five being Operations Division, Corporate Management Division, Environmental Sciences Division, Integrated Environmental Policy Division and Environmental Programs Division).

The Assistant Deputy Minister & Chief Drinking Water Inspector supervise,

- a) Drinking Water Programs Branch
- b) Safe Drinking Water Branch
- c) Source Protection Programs Branch (Director Ian Smith) overseeing 3 other Units
 - The Approvals Unit reviews ToRs and before submission to the Minister's office. This unit also includes Geographic Information Systems and Information Technology staff. This Unit works on the production of legislation and discussion papers.
 - The Planning Unit has technical staff including Land Use Planners, Hydrologists and Hydrogeologists who are working on threats and issues, guidance on transportation corridors, Intake Protection Zone delineation, water budgets, etc.
 - The Implementation Unit includes Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) Staff and Liaison Staff. Maeve provided a map to illustrate where ODWSP funding has been distributed and used to date. Liaison staff are working to fill gaps within the current process and make contact with other affiliated groups. There was a recent meeting with Conservation Ontario and the Ministry of Natural Resources to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the MOE Liaisons.

Action – Maeve to send an electronic copy of ODWSP funding map and Drinking Water Management Division flow chart to Lorelei for posting with meeting materials.

ii. Freshwater Symposium

Ontario Headwaters Institute hosted the Freshwater Symposium on March 27, 2009. Their website has the agenda online and will soon have a symposium summary and copies of the speaker's presentations posted. Visit the Ontario Headwaters Institute online at www.ohwi.ca and click on news for more information on the Freshwater Symposium.

Comments: Gord Miller spoke at the symposium and began with three myths regarding attitudes on water:

1. *Abundance*. People tend to think there is unlimited water in Canada so they can use as much as they want. Not everyone believes measuring and monitoring water is necessary.
2. *Constancy*. Policy is sometimes made based on the myth that natural resources do not require management.
3. *Detachment*. Humans have detached themselves from the ecosystem equation. A comedic "YouTube" interview was suggested by Mr. Miller as an example of myth #3. Detachment. To view this video, visit the link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQCwnoMMqtA>.

Action – Email 'the front fell off' link to the SPC along with link to Ontario Headwaters Institute.

Harmony Rice presented as the representative for the First Nations Chiefs of Ontario. Her talk focused on seeking resolution on water quality and quantity issues and the need for First Nations Reserves to be brought up to the level of infrastructure that is throughout Ontario. For more information on the Chiefs of Ontario, please visit the website:

<http://chiefs-ontario.org/Default.aspx>

The SSMR-SPC would like to again extend an invitation to the First Nations that share our source protection area to fill the open seat First Nations Member seat and consider the small business seat as well.

Action – Contact the First Nations in our source protection area inviting them to reconsider their participation on the Source Protection Committee.

6. Assessment Report Update

i. Chapter 3 Groundwater Vulnerability Analysis Draft

The committee members received the Draft Groundwater Vulnerability Analysis for internal review. Comments and feedback are to be discussed at the next SPC meeting. The chapter includes explanation as to the approaches taken and how results were interpreted. There are seven maps; the colours are mandated through the data standards developed through regulation. Maps for the Assessment Report are designed to print at 11x17. This is a draft document for SPC review only.

Peer review comments will be included with the Assessment Report submission.

Action – Please provide comments and feedback to Rhonda, please circulate any comments or feedback to the SPC members as well to prevent duplication.

7. Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP)

The SSMR-SPC ODWSP comments have been submitted to the MOE. The Chair requested that any further comments be recorded at this time; there were no further comments from the SPC.

There was an inquiry as to when the ODWSP feedback would be available for committees to review. The MOE Liaison responded that a summary of comments is anticipated to be released after MOE has completed their review.

A brief ODWSP comments and feedback summary was provided at the March 30/31 communications meeting. Across the province, the agricultural sector is strongly represented and communicating the need to continue with current stewardship focus on rural issues while the second largest group giving feedback is the municipal sectors pushing for stewardship to gear program focus more to urban needs. There was a minority of comments and feedback that agreed with the SSMR-SPCs urge to focus on education and outreach now and reserve some stewardship funding for later in the source protection planning process, specifically during the implementation period.

The Sault Ste. Marie Region Conservation Authority (SSMRCA) developed a proposal for special projects funding in partnership with the PUC in 2007. As well the SSMRCA and PUC are actively pursuing possible well decommissioning near the Steelton well. It is anticipated that more well decommissioning applications will come forward in the near future.

8. Coffee break 1:54 – 2:14

9. Other Items

i. Information on east end wells and chloride

SPC members received a copy of the October 1995 Report: "Investigation of Increasing Chloride Concentrations Goulais, Steelton, Shannon and Lorna Wells Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario". The report was initiated due to increasing chloride concentrations in the supply wells. The study found elevated chloride levels in the Lorna and Shannon wells which was attributed to road salt application. Presently chloride levels are tested by the PUC as per the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. The Ontario Drinking Water Standards (ODWS) and the health standards for chloride levels are different. Municipal well water is filtered and disinfected to meet the ODWS standards.

Action – The SPC was asked to review the report before the next meeting. Any comments can be discussed at the next SPC meeting.

Action – Question for Algoma Public Health to address for the next meeting:

- Who notifies the public of health advisory?
- What about seniors with low sodium diets and no regular doctor?
- Confirm APH standard is 40ppm sodium?
- What is the APH protocol concerning drinking water and sodium monitoring?

Action – DWSP technical staff will prepare a trend analysis for chloride and sodium based on current available data.

Action – Locate/identify Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario salt storage sites. Salt storage in the northern portion of Sault Ste. Marie ceased in the late 80's. *Note: This information will be included in the assessment report.

Action – Locate/identify Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario snow dump sites. Are there snow dumps in the recharge area? *Note: This information will be included in the assessment report.

Action – Obtain MTO's data for salt application for the SSMR-Source Protection Area.

Comment – It would be beneficial to increase the number of strategically placed monitoring wells throughout Wellhead Protection Areas to measure water quality parameters.

Comment – Road salt application is recognized in the Drinking Water Threats Table for all source protection areas across the province. MOE and Ministry of Transportation (MTO) should be working together to develop a provincial approach to road salt. Well monitoring trend analysis should be done on a number of parameters; however, this is based on the provincial drinking water standards and not necessarily APH standards.

Communications Update

ii. Water day celebration for education and outreach

March 22, 2009 was World Water Day. This is a perfect opportunity for DWSP education and outreach.

Action – It has been requested that World Water Day 2010 have an event hosted by the SPC. Lorelei Premo will coordinate an event with input from SPC members.

iii. Pauwating Environmental Film Festival

St. Mary's College received a grant for a three day environmental film festival. The event begins on Thursday April 30 and continues until Saturday May 2 at Galaxy Cinema Sault Ste. Marie. DWSP sponsored \$1000. Linda Whalen and Rhonda Bateman were interviewed for a St. Marys College film production. SPC members are welcome to attend the festival. The SSMRCA display will be on site on opening day.

iv. DWSP Brochure

SPC members received the 2009 information brochure. It has been updated since the Home and Outdoor Show in March.

Action – It was requested that a version code be put on the brochure to assist with current brochures as they may require more than one or two annual updates. This brochure will be labelled January 2009 and future updated brochures will have a corresponding month and year.

v. Communications Meeting

Lorelei attended a communications meeting March 30/31. There was a presentation on the Cataraqui's SPC Communication Strategy. Their 'calendar at a glance' and table format was simple and easy to follow. The format will be applied to the SSMR-SPC communication strategy and presented at the May SPC meeting. Communication strategies are never final as they require constant updates as new listings and events arise.

Action – Lorelei will consult with the new Environmental Coordinator, Madison Saunders, for the City of SSM in hopes of improving collaboration and partnerships in regards to local environment related events.

vi. Education and Outreach

There will be three youth groups visiting the SSMRCA office for some DWSP related activities. The groups include high school students, Sparks and Brownies from Girl Scouts Canada.

Rhonda Bateman and Jason Hamilton will be teaching a grade 12 world geography class about local water quality and quantity.

Lake Superior State University (LSSU) is hosting the 8th Annual Environmental Summit Thursday April 16, 2009 at LSSU, Cisler Centre from 5pm to 8:30pm. We will have a display at the summit highlighting DWSP. http://www.lssu.edu/whats_new/articles.php?articleid=1719

Action – Email SPC members the details for Environmental Summit.

Action – Provide Maeve McHugh with a copy of video produced for Pauwating Environmental Film Festival when it becomes available.

vii. Planning Update

Peter Tonazzo is a member of the CO Planning Subcommittee. A guidance document for Conservation Authorities (CAs) in regard to daily planning business entitled, draft "Interim Guidance for Conservation Authorities on Integrating Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) under the Planning Act" is currently under review. Provincial policy notes planning authorities shall protect and improve ground and surface water quality and function. The source protection planning process is underway but has no mandatory policies are in place at this time. The draft report of the planning subcommittee will be released to CA and municipal planners for their review and comment.

Discussion was generated regarding the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and their participation in the DWSP process from a planning standpoint.

Action – More details on the role of the OMB will be provided at the next meeting.

10. Items for next agenda

- i. Groundwater vulnerability comments and feedback discussion**
- ii. Trend analysis for chloride and sodium levels**
- iii. Communications Strategy**
- iv. June 9 SPC meeting**

11. Next Meeting

May 12, 2009
Civic Centre, Russ Ramsay Room
12:00 – 4:00

12. Adjourn: 3:36 PM