



Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 6, 2009
Civic Centre – Russ Ramsay Room
12:00 – 4:00

Attendance

Subhash Verma – Chair	Maeve McHugh – MOE Liaison
Larry Woolley – Resident Member	Rhonda Bateman – SPA Liaison and Source Protection Planning Coordinator
Susan Hamilton-Beach – Municipal Member	Linda Whalen – Alternate SPA Liaison
Peter Tonazzo – Municipal Member	Loralei Premo – SPC Administrator
Hal McGonigal – Municipal Member	
Ralph Yanni – Sault North Resident Member	
Peter McLarty – Environmental Member	

Regrets

Andrew Hallett – PUC Member
Roy Bertolo – Aggregates Member
Gary Nelson – Algoma Public Health

1. Lunch

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

3. Introductions

4. Administration

- i. Sign in sheet

ii. Adoption of Agenda

Add Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program: Special Projects Update – Rhonda Item #9i.

Add Planning Update – Peter Tonazzo to Item #9ii.

Add Proposed Next 6 Month SPC Meeting Schedule to Item #9iii.

iii. Approval of September 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Approved by consensus

5. Correspondence

i. Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy: Best Practices Document Related to Drinking Water Source Protection

This summary and reminder document was produced by Conservation Ontario for SPCs, Source Protection Authorities, CAs and staff approach Assessment Report drafting stages, open houses and public consultation. The document is a quick reference produced for review before completion of Proposed Assessment Reports and consultation requirements under the CWA.

ii. Letter to the Director, Ian Smith from Trent Conservation Coalition – RE: Support of Peterborough Utilities Commission Special Project Application for Goose Management Program

This request is due areas developed by man around an intake that has resulted in an area that geese are gathering in increasing numbers. This is directly resulting to more geese feces which are a concern due to the proximity to the surface water intake. The request to utilize ODWSP funding for a geese management plan is debateable as geese management in city parks and lands is a municipal issue however; Trent Conservation Coalition is directly linking the issue to the surface water intake.

A member questioned if other funding opportunities exist for Trent Conservation Coalition to use in place of ODWSP funds to work toward a geese management plan for this issue.

iii. Letter to Medical Officers of Health Liaisons

The SSMR-SPC was notified by the Algoma Public Health (APH) Liaison last year that he would be unable to attend every scheduled meeting. The APH Liaison has been readily available to assist with questions and discussions pertaining to their mandate in their absence.

The SSMR-SPC was divided on the need to have the health liaison officer present at every meeting. Some members felt it was necessary to have the health liaison present at all meetings even when the agenda did not present a direct need for their presence other conversations might arise during the meeting. Other members felt that the APH Liaison was accommodating our needs even though they could not be present for all meetings and discussions; they are readily available for comment and discussion via

correspondence and sometimes attend portions of meetings to cover agenda items that pertain to the health liaisons mandates.

CWA legislation states that the health liaison may attend the SPC meetings; therefore it is not mandatory that the APH liaison attends all meetings.

Action – Maeve will inquire of other SPCs as to whether or not other health liaisons are attending some or all meetings.

iv. Letters to Source Protection Chairs and Project Managers: Update on Risk Management Measures Catalogue/Database

This letter clarifies that the catalogue/database is a tool to be used as a guide; overall the letter addresses what the catalogue/database is to be used for and what it is not to be used for.

The Provincial legislation/instruments listing is a separate catalogue than this letter refers to, however; the Provincial legislation/instruments may be referred to in this catalogue.

There is no timeline listed for this catalogue to be released. It is currently in draft stages and underway with in-house edits with MOE.

v. Letter to MOE – RE: Comments on Source Protection Plans under the CWA – A Discussion Paper on Requirements for the Content and Preparation of SPPs (EBR Posting # 101-6726)

The submission deadline was met. Comments were diverse, sometimes opposite in opinion. The submission was an amalgamation of SPC members and some CA staff. It was found helpful at the PM meeting to hear most of the SSMR-SPC comments were included and to hear other issues considered.

Some main themes in the submission

- Prohibition: there was a lack of consensus but a mutual understanding in the difficulty of the concept.
- Overall, Outreach and Education seemed key to the SPP process for SPCs and CA staff.
- Risk Management Plans should not be restricted to significant threats alone. Moderate threats should be an option to consider in the SPP process as they can easily become significant threats if not properly managed.
- Consultation and regulating strategies are acceptable guidelines, however; public participation cannot be regulated as part of these strategies. This section should be better defined.

6. Assessment Report

i. Threats and Issues Chapter

Each member has received a 2GB flash drive containing the Threats and Issues Chapter which is still in review. Please review the chapter provided to you and return the flash drive with your edits saved on the file for the November 3, 2009 SPC meeting. . When reviewing, please track your changes.

Action – SPC members track changes on flash drive while editing the Draft Issues Evaluation and Threats Inventory chapter on the flash drive. Identify yourself in your saved changes version and return the flash drive at the November 3, 2009 SPC meeting.

ii. Threats and Issues Chapter Overview Presentation – Rhonda

SPC members were given a flash drive containing the Assessment Report: Chapter 5: Issues Evaluation and Threats Inventory Draft and a Maps folder. There are 19 maps to view as you read through the Draft Issues Evaluation and Threats Inventory chapter.

The information provided on the flash drive is not to be shared or shown.

The threats list is section 5.1.1. in the Draft Issues Evaluation and Threats Inventory chapter.

Action – Please comment on anything missing on Maps whether it is present/current or historic.

iii. Request for Extension of Assessment Report Timeline

Physically the original timeline cannot be met. It is pertinent to be sure that the SPP is scientifically sound and reviews are accurate. It is too early to ask for an extension on the timeline as then there is the risk of not meeting the extended deadline. A request for an extension to the Assessment Report time line will be submitted later this year when logistics are more accurate. There are other SPCs requesting a timeline as well. The key is that SPPs are complete for 2012 as stated in the CWA. By following the original timeline the SSMR-SPC would have hosted open houses over November, requested public comment over Christmas and would likely have resulted in poor public participation and a lack of public review and comment. The new timeline will entail open houses and request for public comment in early spring which will hopefully allow for better turnout and participation from the public.

The request for a timeline extension is a result a number of factors including MOEs changes to technical rules and guidance materials rolling out later than expected as well as consultants completing work later than anticipated.

There is also an issue regarding and IPZ3 for the SSMR-Source Protection Area. The IPZ3 falls into international waters and is an international shipping channel, therefore; is there any reason to complete an IPZ3 considering there will be no authority to make changes in the SPP concerning the shipping channel.

SPC members stressed the importance of sharing the work load of the Assessment Report with staff in order to meet timelines. Staff reassured the SPC members that the

request for a timeline extension for the Assessment Report is a result of factors other than staff and committee members.

Action – Maeve will discuss the relevance of completing an IPZ3 without ability to include in SPP feasibility with MOE.

Action – SPC is to consider the feasibility of completing an IPZ3 without ability to include it within final SPP. Please come to the next meeting with comments or suggestions.

7. Coffee Break

8. Updates

i. MOE – Maeve McHugh

Currently the MOE is working on gathering the EBR discussion paper comments and determine how to incorporate the feedback into the writing of the regulation.

The Technical Rules are wrapping up and in final drafting stages.

The MOE Liaison newsletter is coming out. The newsletter includes and ODWSP detailed update and more technical bulletins.

SPC inquired as to whether the MOE is planning to hire more staff to ensure that the MOE timelines are better met in the future as the catalogues, instruments and other technical documents pertaining to the SPP process are critical in meeting the 2012 deadline for all involved.

ii. Chairs Meeting – Subhash Verma

This SPC Chairs meeting was held in Kingston, Ontario September 21 and 22, 2009. Kingston has a large windmill farm almost the size of Sault Ste. Marie's windmill farm which the Chairs were able to attend a tour.

The Minister was in attendance this Chairs meeting. A common question directed to the Minister was the inquiry as to what will happen with source water protection after 2012 when the SPPs are complete. The Ministers response was that there are no future source protection plans on the horizon for after 2012 but there has been a lot of time and money invested into the program.

The Province of Ontario has won a silver award across Canada recognizing the CWA and SPP. The Minister requested that the Chairs relay a thank you to CA staff and SPC members for assisting with the program and ultimately for the award and recognition. Overall, the meeting with the Minister was encouraging and it helped maintain enthusiasm in the program and upcoming SPPs.

There was a concern considering the Great Lakes Targets in SPPs when there are no official targets yet. There are a number of Source Protection Areas/Regions facing this question. The only solution is to wait for the targets to be finalized.

The next chairs meeting will be November 30/December 1. There is a possibility that Sault Ste. Marie may host a chairs meeting in 2010.

iii. Communications

a) Plain Language Guide for SSMR-Source Protection Area Update

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority presented a number of communications products/handouts at the Project Managers meeting this past month. Lorelei will contact Lakehead to request permission and an electronic copy of *A Guide for Drinking Water Source Protection* and *A Guide for Source Protection of Drinking Water* to edit the contents of the original material to qualify for the Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Area.

Action – Lorelei contact Lakehead RCA for electronic copy of communications materials.

b) 2009 Children's Source Water Festival (CSWF) Meeting July 23

There CSWF was held September 23-25. More than 650 elementary students were in attendance, approximately 115 high school volunteers, 65 Algoma & Sault College students and 30 volunteers/supervisors from the local community. The weather was warm and sunny the first two days of the festival and the last day was very cold but it did not rain! Public comment and feedback from those in attendance were all positive. The Sault star ran a full page in the local section on Saturday September 26.

Action – SPC members requested that Lorelei make new articles available for display at open houses.

c) Advanced Research and Technology Innovation Expo (ARTIE)

Algoma University will host ARTIE for elementary students October 15 9:30-2:00, open to the public that evening 5:00-9:00 and high school students October 16 from 9:30-12:00. The event will host a variety of exhibitors, activities and displays and Lorelei will be attending on behalf of the SSMRCA and DWSP program with a display, handouts and activities. SPC members are asked to contact Lorelei to assist with staffing the display.

d) Private Well Brochure

Well brochures were collected from SPC members for editing by Lorelei.

Action – Lorelei email brochure to Hal.

9. Other

i. Official Plan Update

Peter Tonazzo was unable to attend a planning meeting this past month in Southern Ontario. There are no new updates currently but there should be more new information in the new year.

ii. ODWSP Update: Special Projects

The SSMRCA is at a standstill regarding ODWSP due to the lack of staff which inhibits writing of proposals for the program. There are not many known local issues in the SSMR-Source Protection Area that apply to ODWSP. There is still funding for well decommissioning in the West

End of town, however, this project is on hold until PUC can run well drawdown tests to ensure that decommissioning wells in the West End will not alter the natural flow and function of the West End aquifer.

Can well tests be done in the Township of Prince?
ODWSP funding is for municipal drinking water.

What is the cost to drill and maintain a municipal well?
That would be a question PUC would know.

Action – Ask Andrew at next meeting about cost of installing/maintaining test well for Hamlet in the Township of Prince.

There is an Ontario Community Environmental Fund that Prince Township, Goulais and the city of Sault Ste. Marie is eligible to apply for. The funding pool is approximately \$17,000. Could this be used towards developing and implementing a Spills Action Plan locally?

Action – Susan will investigate potential eligibility of Ontario Community Environmental Funding for a local Spills Action Plan.

iii. Environmental Representative Conference Call

There were 17 participants on the conference call. Trans-boarder issues were a topic of discussion as this is a problem a number of SPCs are facing in different Source Protection Areas/Regions, for example, the St. Lawrence River and the Ottawa/Quebec border.

There was a larger discussion focusing on Site 41, which is outside of Barrie Ontario. The SSMR-SPC Environmental Representative of the committee requested that the SPC research this topic as it may become a present topic for the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

Action – SPC members read up on Site 41.

iv. Next Six Month Meeting Schedule

November 3, 2009 – passed by consensus.

December 1, 2009 – moved to December 8, 2009 due to conflict with next chairs meeting.

January 5, 2010 – moved to January 12, 2010 to accommodate Chair's Winter Holidays.

February 2, 2010 – passed by consensus.

March 2, 2010 – passed by consensus.

April 6, 2010 – passed by consensus.

May 4, 2010 – passed by consensus.

June 8, 2010 – passed by consensus.

10. Items for next agenda

i. Assessment Report Timeline Extension Request Update – Rhonda

ii. Assessment Report Flash Drives – Returned by SPC with Comments

iii. Communications Timeline Update

11. Next Meeting

Tuesday November 3, 2009
Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site
12:00 – 4:00

12. Adjourn: 3:51 PM