



**Sault Ste. Marie Region Source Protection Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2011
Civic Centre, Thompson Room**

Attendance

Subhash Verma – Chair – via Skype	Ralph Yanni – Sault North Resident Member
Hal McGonigal - Municipal Member, Prince Township	Roy Bertolo - Aggregates member
Andrew Hallett – PUC Member	Rhonda Bateman – SPA Liaison and Source Protection Planning Coordinator
Peter McLarty - Environmental Member	Wesley Wright - MOE Liaison
Peter Tonazzo – Municipal Member	

Regrets:

Larry Woolley - Resident Member
 Catherine Taddo – Municipal Member
 Linda Whalen – Alternate SPA Liaison
 Ken Greenwood – Algoma Public Health Liaison
 Christine Ropeter – Communications

1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

2. Introductions – Chair participating via Skype – sound trouble occurred throughout the meeting

3. Administration

i. Sign in sheet

ii. Adoption of September 23, 2011 Proposed Agenda

- addition of policy database under item 5
- addition of MOE update under item 5
- postponement of approval of draft minutes from August 30, 2011

approved by consensus

iii. Adoption of August 30, 2011 Minutes

- postponed

4. Assessment Report Update

There has been correspondence forwarded to the Chairs of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) and the Source Protection Area (SPA) regarding the changes required to the Amended Assessment Report (AR). The changes have been undertaken by the SPA technical staff for the last few weeks and will be completed by the October 7th deadline and submitted to the MOE.

5. Source Protection Planning

i. Planning Meeting feedback

A policy planning meeting was held for SPA planning staff in Toronto. There were presentations from various SPA's discussing progress to date and policy approaches. The policy database was discussed and will be used as a tool for sharing policy approaches as well as being the conduit for pre-consultation by government ministries. The SPC members can have the opportunity to access the database if they wish.

The afternoon session was a series of breakout groups on several planning topics with good opportunities for sharing information between SPC's

The Chairs had a separate session in the afternoon and discussed such topics as highway signage consistency.

ii. MOE Update

There is no accepted weight equivalence for Nutrient Units for Agricultural Source Materials (ASM)

CLARIFICATION - Future threat policy does not need to be written for threats that will never be significant – will require written justification in the Source Protection Plan.

Road salt enquiry – an email response from MOE on SPC query regarding the 80% impermeable layer in wellhead protection area A which triggers a significant threat.

Excerpt from correspondence:

“Of course, the higher the % impermeability, the greater the amount of salt that is applied in a given area. So, already you are increasing the risk posed by that threat. That is the basis of using the impermeable area calculation as representing the degree of threat. Secondly, diversion to surface water via storm sewer systems may occur during the spring freshet. However, through the rest of the winter as the snow melts and becomes saturated with sodium chloride at subzero temperatures, it typically does not flow in large volumes to the sewer systems. It would typically find all those cracks and potholes in the asphalt, along curbs and adjacent to storm sewer and other covers and seep into the ground.

So, there typically isn't a sustained flow of such contaminated sources of water (except in large melts), and the environment to which it is introduced such as road surfaces, cracks, manhole covers, potholes, and even sewer systems themselves, are NOT leakproof.

There are numerous known cases in Ontario where road salt has contaminated groundwater to the point where it could not be used as a source for drinking water, including areas from large, developed urban centres to rural villages. In addition, there are recent studies that show that groundwater sources are contaminated by sodium chloride and the only reasonable source is road salt application. Try telling such areas that they shouldn't have this problem because it's all on their roads or in their sewers.

In short, it has happened before (repeatedly) and we're trying to reduce the risk of it happening again.”

Follow-up email – “... the most likely concentrated source....all that salt contaminated snow plowed up onto the permeable areas along side the road, where it sits and melts and seeps into the groundwater that is ultimately used for drinking water.”

iii. Draft policy review – future threats

The revised future threat spreadsheet was reviewed for policy approaches

Clarification of organic solvents was undertaken

Discussion of ASMs

There was an expression of interest in addressing septic threats in the Intake Protection Zone (IPZ-1). The interest is due to the future growth area that is designated in the Prince Township Official Plan (OP) in the hamlet of Gros Cap. Septic threats would not be significant in the IPZ-1 but policies could be written to “have regard to”. Monitoring of policy would be number inspections per year and the number of new septic.

Storm Water Management of future threats include the discharge of untreated Stormwater from storm retention ponds. Although currently planning of new large developments includes storm water management this factor would only be applicable for developments within the area of the intake. No large developments can occur in that area according to the Prince OP

Geothermal heating and cooling systems were discussed as a potential threat.

Action: Wesley Wright to follow up with the MOE on the threat status of geothermal units.

iv. Pre-Consultation

Pre-consultation with the various government ministries and the municipalities must occur as soon as policies are developed to adhere to their review timelines. Our existing threat policies do not have any provincial consultation requirements thus far. The future threat policies will have implications for the provincial government ministries such as MOE for waste disposal.

Action: Rhonda Bateman to distribute the SPP timelines to members.

Motion: An SPC member should be appointed as facilitator at the October meeting to act as “Chair” in the physical absence of the Chair.

Motion: Use of teleconference rather than Skype for the Chair at the October meeting.

SPC Membership

Rotation of SPC membership was introduced. The existing membership will not be rotated, as per the regulation at a 1/3 rotation, until after the approval of the Source Protection Plan. The members are rotated as 1/3 of each of the 3 sectors. For example 3 municipal representatives – only one will be rotated out and an appropriate representative will be appointed. Rotation of municipal member’s will have to occur as per the approval of their municipal councils.

Next meeting:
October 14, 2011
Civic Centre, Biggings Room

6. Adjourn: 4:15 PM