



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

Tuesday September 1, 2009  
Civic Centre – Russ Ramsay Room  
12:00 – 4:00

### Attendance

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

### **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 Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program update – Loralei Premo Item #9

Add Great Lakes Stakeholder Meeting: Stewardship, Leadership & Accountability Update - Subhash Verma to Item #9  
Add Chairs Meeting to Item #9

### iii. Approval of August 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes

*Approved by consensus*

## 4. Correspondence

### Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Liaison Newsletter

The liaison newsletter was emailed to SPC members as part of the meeting package. There are hardcopies available upon request.

## 5. Assessment Report

### i. Threats and Issues Chapter

The Threats and Issues Chapter has not been completed. Some table and mapping products are being finalized as per MOE requirements. This delay could cause some minor timeline changes. The Threats and Issues Chapter is expected to be ready for review shortly. This is a very important chapter of the Assessment Report. The SPC will be provided a flash drive containing chapters of the Assessment Report for review.

### ii. Comments Summary for Source Protection Plans under the Clean Water Act, 2006: A Discussion Paper on Requirements for the Content and Preparation of Source Protection Plans & Dry Runs.

Comments on the Discussion Paper are due to MOE by September 23, 2009. Two members have submitted comments. Comments should be submitted to Rhonda Bateman by email no later than September 9, 2009 to allow for submission to the MOE.

It was noted that the discussion paper provided many options and a broad scope. As a result of the complexity of the document, there was some hesitation to provide further comments due to the uncertainty as to the suitability of members responses. SPC members were encouraged to provide *any* comments on the discussion paper, even to simply state general agreement or disagreement. Members were reminded that their input on the paper is invaluable and that the paper was drafted for their future use in source protection plan development.

### **Comments and Discussion:**

For Risk Management Plans, it is a requirement to have a monitoring policy in place to manage the risk. "Monitoring" must be defined. Policies should be written to ensure a significant threat decreases to a moderate threat. If monitoring reveals that a significant threat did not lessen after a policy was put into place, then the policy would have to be revisited to accommodate future improvement of policy for that significant threat.

There was a concern that the definition of "monitoring" is not fully defined in the Source Protection Plan (SPP) or Assessment Report. Some SPC members felt that this definition should be consistent across the province and written accordingly for all SPP. After a short

discussion of current meaning of the expectations of 'monitoring' the SPC suggested that 'management' may be more appropriate wording. The definition needs to be clearly defined as to whether monitoring is ground-truthing measurements or policy and implementation management

A concern was raised regarding the Great Lakes Targets which are undefined at this point. The difficulty relates to accommodating targets if the SPP is written and passed before targets are set? Currently, there are no assigned Great Lakes Targets for any of the Source Protection Areas/Regions. Targets will be addressed as they are introduced.

The MOE is formulating a list of provincial instruments for SPCs to reference in developing SPP policies. It was noted that this list will only reference provincial instruments, not federal instruments. The SPC proposes that it would be beneficial to all Source Protection Areas/Regions to have federal instruments listed for reference. An alternate instrument listing including federal options could assist the SPC should any local needs require federal consultation.

**Action** – Discussion paper comments due to Rhonda Bateman by September 9, 2009

## 6. Updates

### i. MOE – Maeve McHugh

In regard to the SPP Discussion Paper, it is important that SPC members provide feedback or comments.

Maeve provided answers to questions posed by members during the Dry Runs. The SPC asked "Will drinking water threats guidance include all instruments available for that issue?" Maeve explained that the drinking water threats instrument list will provide provincial instruments only.

The SPC requests that the province reconsider including federal instruments in the list.

**Action** – Maeve McHugh will communicate to MOE the SPC request to include federal instruments on the list of provincial instruments.

Changes to the Director's Technical Rules have been posted to the Environmental Registry and are being reviewed by technical staff for potential changes in current assessment report requirements.

### ii. Communications

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

The plain language guide will utilise Conservation Ontario's *Plain Language Fact sheet on Assessment Report Technical Studies and Source Protection Plans* to create a product for the fall Assessment Report open houses geared towards the Sault Ste. Marie Region (SSMR) - Source Protection Area.

**b) Community Environmental Education Family Fun Day! August 29, 2009**

The event attracted about 25 guests through the Outback at Sault College. There was media coverage from Sault This Week to appear in September 2, 2009 edition.

The SPC suggested scheduling future events during the school year and using a venue with more traffic such as the mall or Bellevue Park. It was also recommended to try different avenues to reach the community for participation other than newspaper and radio. Inquire with school boards to distribute flyers in the classroom. Shaw Cable is another advertising alternative for the future.

**c) Well Brochure Update**

SPC members were given a copy of the draft well brochure. Members are requested to bring edits and comments to the next SPC meeting. The goal in editing the brochure is for text removal and formatting to create a more reader friendly brochure.

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

The festival will be held Wednesday September 23 to Friday September 25 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM for grades 3 – 5 elementary school students. If an SPC member would like to attend the festival, please contact Lorelei Premo in advance to set up a meeting time. The area will be closed to the public for safety concerns; therefore it is imperative to schedule an escorted visit prior to arriving.

**7. Break 2:00 – 2:20**

**8. Other**

**i. Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) Update – Lorelei Premo**

Lorelei provided a verbal summary of the ODWSP Concept Paper emailed to SPC members. SPC member comments on the ODWSP were compiled at the March 10, 2009 meeting and those comments were forwarded to the MOE. Based on feedback from SPCs across the province, the MOE has formulated a fourth funding component for the program. The Early Response funding is expected to launch this fall. The concept paper lists specific criteria to be eligible for this funding which will be accessed from the existing \$14 million allocated for the ODWSP.

Early Response enables Source Protection Authorities (SPAs) to fund projects and initiatives that address significant drinking water threats identified in the Draft Assessment Report based on suggested criteria. Specifically it is suggested in the concept paper that projects are strictly defined in Risk Management Measures/Activities and exist in an MOE catalogue (this list is currently being drafted). It is also suggested that if there is an activity or measure not listed in the catalogue that an SPA can petition the MOE to have that activity added to the catalogue.

MOE short timeline for requested feedback, no later than August 28, 2009 was prior to today's meeting.

## **ii. Great Lakes Stakeholder Meeting: Stewardship, Leadership & Accountability – Subhash Verma**

There were three SPC members in attendance for the stakeholder meeting. There were three themes presented:

- Implementing Phase 2 of Permit to Take Water (PTTW) charges – a charge for administration of a provincial data base on water users
- Inter-basin transfer – tightening the rules on inter-basin water transfer
- Water conservation - a provincial water conservation program

SPC discussion included:

- True costs of the administration of the for PTTW were not articulated
- The role of IJC not recognized or acknowledged in the presentation
- The authority/jurisdiction of the MOE in water quantity matters
- The lack of recognition of science as a guiding principle in the approaches discussed

**Action** – It was requested that Rhonda Bateman be copied on any member submission to the EBR

**Action** – Lorelei Premo to e-mail copy of the stakeholder meeting presentation to SPC members

## **iii. Next Chairs Meeting**

The next Chairs meeting will be held in Kingston, Ontario September 21 and 22, 2009. The Minister of the Environment will be present at a breakfast meeting with the Chairs.

## **9. Items for next agenda**

### **i. Threats and Issues Chapter**

- Flash drives provided

### **ii. Dry-Run Feedback & Comment Summary – Rhonda Bateman**

### **iii. Chairs Meeting Update – Subhash Verma**

### **iv. Provincial Planning Update – Peter Tonazzo**

### **v. Communications – Lorelei Premo**

- a) Well brochure
- b) CSWF Update
- c) Next 6 month meeting schedule

## **10. Next Meeting**

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

## **11. Adjourn: 3:58 PM**