



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

**Tuesday April 8, 2008
Russ Ramsay Room, Civic Centre
12:25 PM**

Attendance

Subhash Verma – Chair	Susan Hamilton-Beach – Municipal Member
Hal McGonigal – Municipal Member	Jennifer Arthur – MOE Liaison
Andrew Hallett – PUC Member	Loralei Premo – SPC Administrator
Roy Bertolo – Aggregates Member	Linda Whalen – Alternate SPA Liaison
Larry Woolley – Resident Member	Gary Nelson – Algoma Public Health Liaison
Ralph Yanni – Sault North Resident Member	Sherri Cleaves – Algoma Public Health Liaison
Peter McLarty – Environmental Member	
Peter Tonazzo – Municipal Member	

Regrets

Rhonda Bateman

1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

2. Introductions

Gary Nelson of the Algoma Public Health will be Sherri’s alternate.

3. Administration

i. Sign in Sheet

ii. Adoption of Agenda

Postpone item #6 - Terms of Reference until next meeting to allow for Rhonda to be present.

Add proxy letter to item #4 - Correspondence

iii. Adoption of minutes of meeting February 5, 2008

Motion to pass March 11 meeting minutes – **passed by consensus**

4. Correspondence

i. Assessment report

Correspondence entitled “The Risk Assessment Report, Source Protection Plan and Risk Management Plans” from the Ausable Bayfield-Maitland Valley Source Protection Region. There has been a meeting between Ian Smith and a few Chairs regarding the possibility of making changes to the assessment report requirements in regard to the risk assessment areas. There will be further updates available after the June SPC Chairs meeting.

Motion to postpone Assessment report issues until May meeting – **passed by consensus**

ii. Chairs teleconference

Current MOE budget for technical studies province wide is 23 million. This funding is for technical studies yet to be done. The funds will be distributed among Source Protection Areas with allotted funds to be announced in the near future.

There is internal debate on postponing Terms of Reference (ToR) deadlines as to correspond with the availability of MOE guidance documents affiliated deadlines. This would revise the timelines associated with the ToR only but not the source protection plan deadlines.

As posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) septic inspections are proposed to be mandatory as defined designated vulnerable areas through the Clean Water Act. There are a number of issues and concerns the committee has with the proposed regulations. The main concerns the SPC would like to specifically address/comment on were:

- 1) Staff shortage of APH in Algoma District which makes increased septic inspections in IPZs or vulnerable areas difficult/impossible for our Source Protection Area
- 2) Financial support will be required to fund additional staff for such amendments and new regulations to be enacted.
- 3) It should be specifically and clearly noted in such regulations that frontline focus to prevent septic influence in any drinking water source contaminations should target older, likely more faulty septic systems. There should be strong focus in proper septic system design, installation and maintenance of new septic systems but the first priority should be inspection of older systems.
- 4) In relation to #3, it is stated that a conflict of interest may exist if the septic system designer or installer is the same affiliated person(s) doing the inspection. However, wells and septic systems should have similar regulations. Currently, it is the well drillers’ responsibility to approve and sign off on well inspections. This procedure should be amended to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Action – Based on these immediate concerns of the SPC, Lorelei will draft an EBR response, which will be reviewed by the SPC Chair before submission. Correction, the deadline for comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is May 1.

iii. Proxy

The Chair of South Nation Raisin SPC is petitioning the MOE to revoke mandatory Proxy notice as a requirement of SPCs code of conduct, and is seeking the support of other SPCs. This request was discussed and the SPC agreed to take a supporting position.

Action – Write letter of support from the SSMR-SPC supporting the removal of mandatory rule of proxy from SPC's Rule of Order and Code of Conduct – **passed by consensus**

iv. Draft 'Speaker Form' – provided to SPC for approval. Make edit/grammar correction - **passed by consensus**

Action – Make hardcopies of speaker form available at Civic Centre, Prince Township Administration Office and the Building Permits Office.

5. Website Changes

- Hotlink was made for lpremo@ssmrca.ca
- Picture gallery will be made available once SPC and area photos are obtained
- SPC group picture has been added to SPC homepage
- Public feedback can be sent via SPC Admin email
- 'Related pages' list of hotlinks at the bottom of page is automatic and cannot be added. Related links page contains APH and Prince Township links.
- It is not possible to track site hits, especially not specific pages of general SSMRCA site, without added cost.

6. Terms of Reference (ToR)

Postponed until May 6 meeting.

7. Public Engagement Strategy

Draft plan for ToR Open Houses was presented to the committee. Committee will be prepared to suggest edits/changes at the next meeting.

Action - All SPC members to review strategy and prepare comments for May meeting

8. Other Items

i. Feedback regarding consultant presentations

- Computer modeling was amazing
- Presentations were easy to comprehend
- Helpful and informative
- Can we arrange similar presentations for future studies and similar updates?

- Concerned about preferential pathways and elevated E. coli levels mentioned in Baird and Associates presentation. What is being done about this? SPC would like to address this issue immediately.
- SPC would like to continue having such info sessions separate from regular meetings as was done this month.

Action – Provide SPC with a complete list of technical studies (in progress/complete/future)

Action – PUC would like to receive similar presentations

Action – Request for hardcopy of presentations available online with meeting materials

Reminder – All presentations are available online with meeting materials

ii. Stewardship flyer distribution and discussion

Stewardship funding allowed for the creation, print and distribution of these flyers (available to view online at www.ssmrca.ca) within 100 meters of the municipal wellheads.

9. Items for next agenda

i. Susan offered to provide developer application submission criteria to SPC and make presentation to clarify their responsibilities.

ii. Proposed SPC tours

iii. Next six-month meeting schedule proposal next meeting. All members will check their respective agendas. SPC decided to keep meeting day on Tuesdays and the time 12:30 – 3:30 PM.

Action – Have Agency/Responsibility diagram available for Committee. Jennifer volunteered to provide an existing diagram to Lorelei for the SPC

Action – Create an acronym list for members

Next SPC Meeting

Tuesday May 6, 2008

Civic Centre, Biggings Room

12:30 – 3:30 pm

10. Adjourn: 3:12 PM