



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

**Friday, May 26, 2017 - 1:00 p.m.
Civic Centre – Thompson Room**

Attendance

Mark Howson – Chair
Ralph Yanni – Sault North Resident Member
Hal McGonigal – Municipal Member, Prince Township
Larry Woolley – Resident Member
Marlene McKinnon – SSMRCA GIS Specialist and RMI
Christine Ropeter – SSMRCA Communications
Rhonda Bateman – SSMRCA General Manager and SPA Liaison
Aaron Francis, Source Protection Liaison, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) via teleconference

Regrets: Andrew Hallett, PUC member, Catherine Taddo, Municipal Member, City of SSM.

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. New Chair Appointment**

Mark Howson, New Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined his work history and background. Mark thanked the members of the SPC for their work to date and their commitment to the committee. The focus moving forward is on successful implementation.

3. Administration

Quorum was not reached
No votes were taken

Declaration of Conflict of Interest
No conflicts were declared.

Sign-in sheet - completed

Adoption of the May 26, 2017 Agenda

Reviewed, no vote

Approval of the November 23, 2015 Minutes

Reviewed, no vote

3. Summary of Chair's Meeting

Mark Howson reported on information discussed at the March 2017 Chair's meeting.

The first day was a Chairs only session devoted to orientation, training, roles and responsibilities. Minister Glenn Murray spoke to the Chairs. There is a "Chairs Forum" set up for Chairs to share information and ideas.

Rhonda discussed the second day which included the Project Managers. Most of the information shared was of a technical nature including emerging mobile fuel threats, alternate methodologies for determination of road salt threats, annual reporting and Source Protection Plan amendments and Source Protection Municipal Implementation Funding status. Rhonda indicated that the Chairs meeting presentations were on the thumb drives that were distributed to each member. Also contained on the thumb drive are the Source Protection Plan and the Explanatory Document. The members were encouraged to review the documents.

Hal McGonigal commented on the continued lack of coverage of the program in areas with private wells and the effect of road salt threats in these areas. There is a Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network well in Prince Twp. but it's location is above the influence of the applied road salt. Sodium levels that reach the health unit levels for reporting appear to be naturally occurring in the environment.

Aaron discussed the different source protection plan amendment options including planned, required and minister's orders.

Mr. Howson indicated the third day included a session on knowledge retention strategies, a working group has been formed, Rhonda is a member of the working group.

5. Source Protection Plan Implementation Status

Marlene McKinnon, Risk Management Inspector (RMI), provided an update on behalf of the Risk Management Official (RMO), Peter Tonazzo. There has been one Risk Management Plan (RMP) developed for a property in the Shannon well Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) and one under development for the Goulais WHPA. The Goulais well RMP should be completed prior to the two-year anniversary of the plan implementation.

There have been 14 Restricted Land Uses identified through the screening process developed at the City. Planning and Building applications related to properties under the jurisdiction of the Source Protection Plan, where the proposed use did not have the potential to include a significant threat activity, such as the creation of a new rural residential lot or the construction/addition/renovation of a single detached dwelling were not included in the Restricted Land Use screening numbers.

Associated City Staff Training

- Both the RMO and RMI have completed the mandatory MOECC training course.
- City of Sault Ste. Marie Planning and Building Staff have been trained to understand various protocols related to the implementation of the Source Protection Plan, including a basic understanding of the Clean Water Act, identification of vulnerable areas, and restricted land use procedures.

Public Education and Outreach

- Social Media
- Press releases
- Website updates
- Plain Language Guide updates
- Factsheets for DNAPLs, fuel storage and handling, organic solvents developed
- SSMRCA events include Science Festival, RBC Blue Water Days, Yellow Fish Road, local organizations and classroom presentations
- Communications teleconferences

Further implementation includes participation in RMO/RMI forum and teleconferences, various MOECC and Conservation Ontario committee participation by all Drinking Water Source Protection staff at the SSMRCA.

6. Annual Reporting

Marlene outlined the process for the collection of data for the MOECC annual reporting framework. The status and compilation of the data was outlined including population of the annual reporting database and the resulting reports generated.

The moderate policy written for the Significant Groundwater Recharge Area (SGRA) was found to be lacking in the reporting requirements. It was suggested by the Ministry of Transportation that the SPC consider modifying the policy to include reporting from the MTO as a provincial instrument. That could be accomplished through a Section 36 amendment.

The first production of an annual report is due in the spring of 2018.

7. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Updates

Aaron was asked to provide information regarding the changes to the technical rules that are occurring and/or being considered. The new rules specific to the SGRA address quantity threats not quality. Rhonda outlined the specific water quality concerns that the

SPC has expressed over the entirety of the source protection process. Aaron stated that he would take the information back to the MOECC staff.

Aaron also discussed the updated Table of Drinking Water Threats, the increased flexibility in Intake Protection Zone scoring, municipal engagement sessions and the MOECC participation in First Nations drinking water protection.

Aaron announced the recent release of the Source Protection Information Atlas. Marlene gave a quick demonstration of the atlas for SPC members at the link below:

<https://www.gisapplication.lrc.gov.on.ca/SourceWaterProtection/Index.html?site=SourceWaterProtection&viewer=SWPViewer&locale=en-US>

Members were encouraged to experiment online and tutorials are available.

8. Other/New Business

SPC Terms of Appointments

New regulations indicate that the current members are able to continue their participation on the committee until the end of the year prior to the third annual report, which means, December of 2019.

Expense Claims

Members are reminded to submit expense claim forms for meeting mileage. New claim forms will be emailed to members.

Blue Sky

Hal McGonigal shared his ideas to have the SPC promote and/or “create & maintain a living (annual) inventory of what if scenarios, crystal ball forecasts and pertinent (evidence-based projections) relative to our local circumstances” including:

Climate change impacts

Infrastructure developments

Commercial developments

Social/ community changes

Explore innovative partnerships and cooperative arrangements with local organizations and others at the provincial, national and international levels.

Rhonda outlined some of the current projects at the SSMRCA that correspond to the list provided and as well indicated the areas where there is a lack of funding and expertise.

Mark praised the initiative and forward thinking shown by Mr. McGonigal but indicated that some of the topics are not within the scope of the SPC. Rhonda will share the email received with the committee members.

Shipping Channel Event

Discussion of last year's ship wreck near the drinking water intake. The policy developed by the SPC was intended to notify the operator of the Water Filtration Plant of an incident to ensure proper shut down procedures. The policy was successful. The development of the emergency spills response plan was under development prior to the shipping accident. The process was found to have some areas that need improvement but as there was no spill, it was a good exercise for future events.

9. Next Meeting

To be determined.

10. Adjourn 2:45