

MINUTES

SAULT STE. MARIE REGION SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

February 28, 2025 - 9:00am - Virtual: Zoom

Participants: Mike Delfre, Michael McCarthy, Larry Woolley, Marlene McKinnon, Corrina Barrett, Gerard Lavoie,

Regrets: **Ahmed Mohammed** (MECP) - unable to attend SPC meetings during the writ period leading up to the election. As a minimum, we will need to wait until a new cabinet is appointed. MECP can schedule one-on-one meetings to provide answers to questions and concerns.

Catherine Taddo - City of SSM; Orlan Euale SSM - PUC Inc.

Absent: **Peter Tonazzo, Hal McGonigal**

Guests: **Isabel Juchem**, Presentation

Jerry Tulloch - City of Sault Ste. Marie - Municipal (alternate by proxy)

Derek Nott - Commercial (alternate by proxy)

Minutes: **Gerard Lavoie** (Transcript and Video Recording for Minutes only).

1. Call to Order

2. Opening

Land Acknowledgement:

The SPC would like to begin by acknowledging that this meeting is being conducted within Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, and that the land on which we are gathered, is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg Peoples. We particularly acknowledge Garden River and Batchewana First Nations, as well as the Missinabie Cree community and Métis people who call Bawaating home.

Introductions:

We are very privileged today to welcome **Isabel Juchem** to our meeting. Isabel is an Environmental and Water Resources Specialist with nearly a decade of experience in conservation, sustainable resource management, and environmental policy. She holds a master's degree in Genomic Sciences and Biotechnology and a Specialization in Environmental Education and Sustainability from UFT, in Palmas, Brazil.

During her time with the Government of Bahia, Brazil, she was involved in overseeing conservation units, conducting environmental audits, and supporting initiatives related to water resource management and sustainability. Her background includes ecological research, policy compliance, and community engagement, ensuring that environmental protection efforts are both science-based and socially inclusive. Isabel now applies her knowledge in Canada, contributing to research initiatives in the environmental sustainability and resource management sector.

3. **Declaration of any Conflict of Interest – None Declared**

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion: Accept the Agenda as presented and instruct communications representative to post to SSMRCA website for public consumption.

Moved by: **Larry Wooley**

Seconded By: **Jerry Tulloch**

Carried Unanimously

5. **Approval of January 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Motion: January 16, 2025, Minutes approved as distributed and instructed to be posted on the internet (SSMRCA website) for public. Guests requested to take time for reviewing the previous minutes document. (**Deferred to Next Meeting**)

6. **Review of Action Items**

Date	Description	Status
Feb 28, 2025	Gerard will bring historical road salt data to next meeting from previous reports up to end of 2024 season.	For Mar27 Meeting
Feb 28, 2025	Acquire SPOT 6 satellite imagery to perform Impervious surfaces update for DWSP Areas focusing on WHPA-A's and WHPA-B's. Grid cell size change to 500m for overlay.	In Progress
Feb 28, 2025	SPP amendment process options (MECP): a) remove the grid cell size change from ongoing s.51 SPP amendment and postpone it when s.34 process is required.	Completed
Feb 28, 2025	Develop presentation/materials for municipal and band councils: SSM, Prince Twp, BFN, and GRFN (SP Orientation; SPC membership information).	In Progress
February 28, 2025	Schedule NORDIK Institute representatives to attend and conduct presentation - water sampling and citizen science initiatives.	In Progress
February 28, 2025	Schedule Sapna Sharma, York University Professor to present to SPC on Climate Change and Lake Ice Quality. April or May meeting.	In Progress
Dec 13, 2024	Remove pre-consultation SharePoint link to amended AR, SPP, and ED documents	Completed

7. Guest Presentation - Water conflicts and Access to Treated Water – Isabel Juchem

Presentation was very well received by committee. Inspiring images were of locations in the conservation areas of Bahia, Brazil. It generated very relevant discussions comparing water protection and conservation efforts between our regions. The following questions were posed:

- a) **Larry Wooley** asked about Surface water versus wellhead protection – difficult problems regarding large agricultural operations affecting groundwater reserves and surface contamination pathways. Infrastructure projects include testing groundwater and surface water.
- b) **Mike Delfre** asked about citizen attitudes and knowledge of water sources and general protection. Does complacency exist within the public in the Bahia region around water quality and quantity? Yes, this is a very similar situation, many people have the notion that the river will always be there and will always be clean. This is prevalent. The regulatory environment in Bahia requires riparian zone protection. Environmental education and outreach are key.
- c) **Derek Nott** asked about spring water restoration efforts. Different methodologies are employed for this. Isolation and assessment of the site for potential remediation treatments like vegetation or buffers as barriers to development, livestock. We use agroforestry and mandatory restoration for known springs with government support.
- d) **Mike Delfre** briefly spoke about citizen science, and data collection focused on safety and quality and asked about the efforts in Bahia. Yes, but it has been a slow process, from 1993 established, and not until 2018 that there were implementations of policy. There have been many efforts to increase environmental monitoring frequency, not without challenges to implement. These efforts require support and organization. They are improving but conservation is not always the priority in government, often development ranks higher.
- e) **Corrina Barrett** was very appreciative of the conversation and thanked Isabel for the work in this sector. A discussion about the challenges to find budgets for environmental monitoring or restoration projects was shared. This is a difficult situation that is common in Canada as well.
- f) **Mike Delfre** signed everyone up for a field trip to Bahia! Stated that this knowledge exchange was a great opportunity for the committee to connect with experts in their field. Isabel shared her experience with studying in Canada and offered to get involved with local programming.

8. Regular Business – Updates

a) **Acting Chair – Mike Delfre:**

Provincial election completed, no changes to government. Cabinet will be formed and eventually, until then, the status of the Chair position will remain as it is with committee support.

b) **City of SSM Representative – Jerry Tulloch:**

No updates from the Engineering department. Jerry Tulloch introduced himself as having been hired on with the City to replace the Municipal Services Engineer. He works on local development applications, commenting on committee of adjustment applications, subdivisions etc. Jerry is new to working with the City and looks forward to continuing in a Municipal Services Engineering capacity.

c) **Economic (Commercial) (via proxy) – Derek Nott:** Introduced himself as a local commercial builder with an interest in source water protection.

d) **Public Interest Representative – Larry Woolley:**

Introduced himself briefly, spoke to how he keeps an eye on local news sources for any issues, concerns, or potential new threats that may arise in the community. Nothing specific to note, then asked about the Municipal Road Salt Application report that is due to Environment Canada by Municipalities Jun30th every year for the past winter season. This year having a great deal more snow compared to 2024, is there some information available on this? Marlene McKinnon provided an update in that the City Public Works department provides a road salt update for the upcoming Annual Report covering the 2024 period. Usually this is released in the fall every year reporting on the previous winter season. Data from previous years is available, Gerard will bring some historical data to next meeting from previous reports up to end of 2024 season.

e) **DWSP Communications / RMI - Marlene McKinnon:**

Water Wednesdays ongoing, finishing end of March. Please share the postings with your networks. Spring campaign coming soon, an addition to campaign specific to SSM includes the opening date (April 1st) for the hazardous waste depot located at City Landfill.

Mike Delfre spoke about concerns regarding fertilizers and some lawn/garden treatments and asked if that would be part of the spring campaign. Interest in sewage treatment facilities and if there may be interest in learning more about operations (City Public Works Department). The east end Sewage treatment facility is on the list of (prescribed, existing and future) threats in the SPP. It is located within a Wellhead Protection Area Zone, within 100m metres of the Lorna well. SPP has a monitoring policy **SSM-Sewage-E-1.4** with the implementing body being the City of Sault Ste. Marie Public works department. There was a small snow dump area there in the past, which no longer is located at that site.

f) **Source Protection Authority Liaison – Corrina Barrett:**

- Source Protection Authority (SPA) Annual General Meeting AGM held February 18. SPA Signing Authority was updated for SPC: Sandra Hollingsworth (SSMRCA Chair), and Ron Zagordo (SSMRCA Vice Chair). A new representative from Prince Township was welcomed, Margaret Christenson, who will participate on SPA moving forward. SPC updates were provided to executives who oversee SPC at the AGM. A proxy (Derek Nott) was approved by SPA for SPC economic (Commercial) sector.
- Algoma Steel is hosting an open house Wednesday, March 5. The Community Open House welcomes members of the public to view a [presentation](#) and learn more about environmental performance and ongoing transition to Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) steelmaking.

g) **Project Manager – Gerard Lavoie:**

- Received an update from **Orlan Euale**, Industrial seat (PUC Services Inc.), that World Water Day is upcoming on **Saturday, March 22nd, 2025**. Tours of the drinking water facility located on Second Line will be offered to the public for a portion of the day. SPC is welcome to participate in the event by setting up a table with related resources, handouts and activities for the public. I will be attending, and anyone from SPC is welcome to join in to help.
- Met with account representative from [Planet](#) inquiring about imagery programs. It was indicated that a minimum orders size /cost was in place. This was followed up upon and exceptions can be made for a smaller municipality. There are multiple options available, one in Ontario another in BC for access to SPOT imagery. DWSP program does not have a budget for imagery acquisition, so it may have to be done through an amendment or cooperation with partners. More to come...
- SPP, AR, ED amendment options regarding the current rejected s.51 updates, and s.34 guidance document review. Options are as follows:
 - a) Postpone s.34 amendments until required. Ending current consultation phases and continuing work on SPP document updates. Completing QA/QC on the Impervious Surface Analysis for the grid cell size reduction, updating the plan to be TR 2021 compliant for future s.34 trigger directly influencing SPP policy. Use s.51 process to notify public of typographical changes to SPP.
 - b) Continue with existing amendments and follow s.34 process, resulting in only partially updating SPP to TR 2021, regarding the current grid cell size change/impervious surfaces analysis. Remaining consultation phases required prior to obtaining Minister's approval. This entire process would have to be repeated if an s.34 trigger, like confirmation that a new drinking water source is provided, which would influence SPP policy.

Michael McCarthy asked for clarification on the impervious surface analysis (ISA) grid cell size reduction. Asking for confirmation that postponing s.34 amendment process would not also postpone the ISA. Completing the ISA even if option (b) is chosen by committee? The point being that there is not going to ever be a reduction in impervious surfaces in future, specifically in Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs). This is the reason why I am interested in the increased resolution of the grid cell size (from 1km to 500m). I want to ensure that the motion is clear in that the analysis is not removed if committee delays the s.34 amendment to a later date.

Gerard Lavoie responded by saying that the ISA will be completed again with a new set of more recent data, deriving the impervious surfaces layer from 2024 or newer satellite imagery. This layer will be used and updated on a yearly basis using the most current imagery available. The goal is to ensure that the current road salt policy is sufficient. If a threshold of impervious surfaces is exceeded within vulnerable areas based on the table below, the road salt application policy would need to be reflective of 2021 technical rules.

Marlene McKinnon shared that the grid cell size change is part of the 2021 technical rules and that anything changes to the SPP related to the 2021 technical rules must be completed using a s.34 amendment process. Therefore, if we are not going to complete an s.34 amendment to the SPP, that the impervious surface analysis must be removed. It all must wait until a full s.34 amendment is triggered. The s.51 process is the only amendment process that can be used at this time, because there are no funds available from MECP for s.34 amendments in the current 3yr Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA). The s.51 amendment can still be completed, which includes typographical error corrections etc. Anything to do with '2021 technical rules' cannot be completed unless it is done through a full s.34 amendment process.

Mike McCarthy continued by confirming that any Impervious surface analyses could not influence or modify SPP documents and would be only for SSM SPA internal information.

Gerard Lavoie agreed in that the analyses are preparatory GIS work for a future s.34 and necessary s.34 update for the whole document to a '2021 technical Rules' standard. There is a significant amount of work that goes into a full s.34 update, best to get started on building that supporting information.

Marlene McKinnon: The current TPA runs until spring of 2027. There is no funding for an s.34 update in the current TPA. An ISA was completed in 2022, using the 2021 technical rules with the intent to update the Source Protection Plan documents.

Mike McCarthy: What happens if the ISA indicates that thresholds have been exceeded per the table below? Gerard answered: in that case, the salt application policy (SSM-Salt-E/F-1.4) that is currently in place for vulnerable areas would need to be reviewed and assessed. What we have now is an analysis that cannot be included in the SPP, using a s.51 amendment process using the current 2021 technical rules.

Marlene McKinnon added that the 2022 ISA using a 500m grid cell size did not at that time show percentages exceeding the 2021 technical rules (TR2021) circumstances that would making road salt application a significant threat, so we are not dealing with a ‘concerning’ situation. Also, to clarify that any future updates to SPP documentation that follow TR2021 would have to be completed using the s.34 amendment process.

Mike McCarthy thanked Marlene for the clarification and then asked if in the next funding agreement (spring 2027) that there could be negotiations for the costs to complete a full TR2021 update to the source protection plan, giving us time to prepare for that?

Marlene McKinnon described a variety of circumstances that would require a s.34 full update to the SPP i.e.: expanding a well field, updates to a drinking water system, adding a new well etc. If any of these, or similar triggers are ‘known’ or announced as developments, the next funding agreement would require support for that work to be completed. Some technical studies would be required to be completed by implementing bodies (i.e.: PUC Services Inc.) and the planning and reporting (including all consultation phases) would be the responsibility of the SPC and SPA. Everything will need to be updated and then approved by MECP before the development can become ‘operational’ (turn on the taps, so to speak).

Mike Delfre added that there have been conversations and discussions with regards to SSM PUC Services Inc. being interested in adding a new well to the existing municipal drinking water system (DWS). When would this be an announcement by PUC, or more specifically, what is the process for PUC to notify of its intention to modify or develop the current system further?

Marlene McKinnon PUC has been describing the possibility of adding a new well to the existing DWS for a few years and they must complete the studies on potential locations and what the impacts would be on neighbouring wellheads. A new wellhead has a significant effect on groundwater, and until that analysis is completed and a location is decided upon, SPC does not have anything to work with on the source protection side. Input from DWSP program manager will be in the form of data and reporting requirements needed to inform a s.34 update at that time. This is not a process that will happen with any haste, drilling a new well is a way off into the future at this point.

Mike Delfre What motion can be put forward to decide on the path forward regarding this?

Motion: SPP amendment process decision update per discussed options above.

Option A - Continue with the s.51 SPP updates as discussed continue to complete ongoing impervious surface analyses using a 500m grid cell size to prepare for a future s.34 SPP update.

Moved by: **Mike McCarthy**

Seconded By: **Larry Wooley**

Carried Unanimously

12.1 Application of road salt				
Circumstance type and number	Circumstances	Areas of SDWT	Areas of MDWT	Areas of LDWT
Chemical C12.1.1	1. The road salt is applied in an area where the default percentage of impervious surface area, as set out on a total impervious surface area map, is less than 1 percent.	n/a	IPZ/WHPA-E 9 – 10	IPZ/WHPA-E 6 – 8.1 WHPA 8 – 10
Chemical C12.1.2	1. The road salt is applied in an area where the default percentage of impervious surface area, as set out on a total impervious surface area map, is at least 1 percent, but less than 8 percent in WHPA-A, B, C, C1, D or HVA; or is at least 1 percent, but less than 6 percent in IPZ-1, 2, 3 and WHPA-E.	n/a	IPZ/WHPA-E 8 – 10 WHPA 10	IPZ/WHPA-E 5.4 – 7.2 WHPA 6 – 8 HVA 6
Chemical C12.1.3	1. The road salt is applied in an area where the default percentage of impervious surface area, as set out on a total impervious surface area map, is at least 8 percent, but less than 30 percent in WHPA-A, B, C, C1, D or HVA; or is at least 6 percent, but less than 8 percent in IPZ-1, 2, 3 and WHPA-E.	IPZ/WHPA-E 10	IPZ/WHPA-E 8 – 9 WHPA 8 – 10	IPZ/WHPA-E 4.9 – 7.2 WHPA 6 HVA 6
Chemical C12.1.4	1. The road salt is applied in an area where the default percentage of impervious surface area, as set out on a total impervious surface area map, is 30 percent or more in WHPA-A, B, C, C1, D or HVA; or is 8 percent or more in IPZ-1, 2, 3 and WHPA-E.	IPZ/WHPA-E 9 – 10 WHPA 10	IPZ/WHPA-E 7 – 8.1 WHPA 8	IPZ/WHPA-E 4.5 – 6.4 WHPA 6 HVA 6

Extracted from: [Technical Rules 2021](#) - Part XII.2 Prescribed Threats Categories, Sub-Categories and Circumstances

4.3.7 - Future and Existing Threat - Road Salt Application

Policy Number: SSM-Salt-E/F-1.4

Objective: The policy objective is to manage the application of road salt. Road salt application is determined to be a moderate threat based on the area percentage of impervious surface (such as paved surfaces) within the wellhead protection areas.

Policy:

The municipality shall update the Road Salt Management Plan to recognize the need for prevention of source water contamination in WHPA-A.

The municipality shall review the Road Salt Management Plan on an annual basis with respect to Best Management Practices as they pertain to source water protection.

Education and outreach program shall be directed toward high density residential, commercial, institutional and industrial landowners within the vulnerable areas.

Implementing Body: City of Sault Ste. Marie

Legal Effect: Strategic/Non-legally binding commitment.

Implementation Date: - Two years after the source protection plan takes effect.

Monitoring Policy: SSM-salt-MP-F-1.0

The municipality shall report by February 1 on the volume of road salt used through the previous winter season as reviewed with the Road Salt Management Plan when complete and to report updates as required with respect to Best Management Practices as they pertain to source water protection until such time as it is determined that the SPC no longer requires the report.

Reasons for the Monitoring Policy:

Reporting on volume to SPC to perform change analysis of reported volumes e.g. 5% less or more and winter conditions that caused the change per year.

4.3.8 - Future and Existing Threat - Road Salt Storage and Handling

Policy Number: SSM-Salt-F-2.2

Objective: Risk management of future potential and existing salt storage facilities within vulnerable areas where the threat could be significant.

Policy:

Storage and handling of road salt is designated for the purposes of Section 58 of the CWA requiring a Risk Management Plan for salt storage facilities within vulnerable areas where the activity would be a significant threat, all WHPA-As. Risk Management Plans will not apply to low density residential uses.

All land uses in zoning by-law 2005-150 as amended, are designated for the purpose of Section 59 of the CWA Restricted Land Use in vulnerable area where the activity would be a significant threat – all WHPA-A's, excluding low density residential.

Implementing Body: City of Sault Ste. Marie / Risk Management Official

Legal Effect: Must comply with

Implementation Date:

Risk Management Plan - the date the Source Protection Plan takes effect for future occurrences.

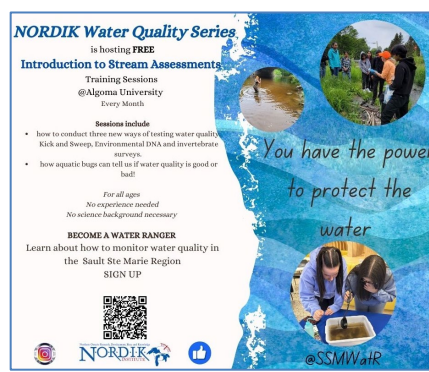
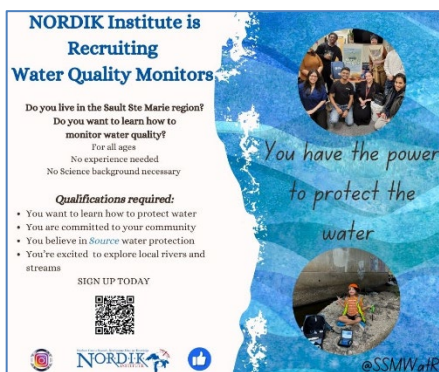
Existing occurrences – the date the Source Protection Plan takes effect.

Restricted Land Use - the date the Source Protection Plan takes effect.

Monitoring Policy: SSM-RMO-MP-1.0

9. **AOB - New Business**

Gerard Lavoie: **NORDIK institute** sent updates on the education and outreach work they have been doing and shared a [calendar](#) of events. They are coordinating participation and setting up a booth at the upcoming Science Festival - Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre in mid April (April 26th). Children’s Water festival resources have been shared with their team. They have also been working very diligently to continue environmental monitoring programs with citizen involvement. Below are some of the media releases that they have been posting to their media pages: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#). Invitation to attend and present at the next meeting will be sent out to the NORDIK team.



Gerard Lavoie: Attended Métis Nation of Ontario Climate Change webinar on February 22nd where a presenter named Sapna Sharma from York University shared research and information related to predicting the effects of environmental stressors (climate change). The focus was on [Lake ice quality](#). It was a very interesting presentation and related to our source protection area. I reached out to [Sapna](#) to ask if there was interest in presenting to our committee at a future meeting and received a positive response. This would be a good option for an April or May topic.

10. **Next Meeting Date:** Tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, March 27, 2025 @ 1pm on Zoom**

11. **Adjournment**

Motion: The Feb 28, 2025, SSM SPC meeting be adjourned at 3pm.

Moved by: **Larry Wooley** Seconded By: **Jerry Tulloch**

Carried Unanimously