



Source Protection Committee

Wednesday, March 31st, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Holmesville Community Centre, Holmesville

MEMBERS PRESENT

SPC Chair Larry Brown; SPC Members; Keith Black, John Vander Burgt, Don Jones, Gib Dow, Gerry Rupke, Ian Brebner, Mike McElhone, Matt Pearson, Karen Galbraith, Marilyn Miltenburg, Jim Nelemans, Al Hamilton, Rowena Wallace, Mert Schneider

LIAISONS PRESENT

Health Liaison Bob Worsell, Source Protection Authority Liaison, Jim Ginn, MOE Liaison, Tu Van Duong, Kettle and Stony Point First Nations Liaison, Bob Bresette

WITH REGRETS

SPC Members; Bill Rowat

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Cathie Brown, Project Manager; Jenna Bowen, Project Assistant/Recording Secretary; Tim Cumming, Communications Specialist; Darrell Innes, GIS Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

Larry Brown, Source Protection Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Chair Brown announced that the main item to deal with during the meeting is the Assessment Report comments that have been received through consultation.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2010-03-01

Moved by Jim Nelemans
Seconded by Gerry Rupke

That the agenda be approved.

Carried by Consensus.

MINUTES AND MEETING NOTES FROM JANUARY 27TH, AND FEBRUARY 25TH, 2010

MOTION #SPC: 2010-03-02

Moved by Marilyn Miltenburg
Seconded by Mert Schneider

That the SPC minutes from January 27th be approved, and the meeting notes from February 25th be received for information.

Carried by Consensus.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

Four items were provided in SPC packages that fell under business out of the minutes. These included: a template of the letter sent to affected property owners, a letter from MOE approving the methodology proposed for determining livestock density, an update on stewardship activities, and a copy of the residential surveys that were sent to residents living in the two year time-of-travel. The Committee was informed that out of the 2000 surveys that had been mailed out, just over 1000 have been returned. It was also explained that the language used in the survey is consistent with the surveys used by other source protection regions and was taken from the table of circumstances for drinking water threats.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

EBR POSTING

Project Manager, Cathie Brown gave a presentation on the Source Protection Planning Regulation that was posted on the EBR. A number of SPC members were able attend a multi-stakeholder meeting that MOE held in London about the regulation. At this meeting, a number of comments on the regulation were submitted to MOE. These comments were reviewed and the Committee discussed submitting the following additional comments:

- 1) Sinkholes are a major concern in the ABMV region. How can the risks associated with these issues be addressed? The SPC would like the Province to provide a broader policy framework in order to deal with sinkholes.
- 2) Incentive programs, and education and outreach are good options for dealing with drinking water systems not included in the Terms of Reference.
- 3) The SPC encourages the Province to provide direction on how to deal with transportation corridors as a threat.
- 4) The SPC is looking forward to the Province clarifying prescribed instruments.
- 5) The SPC agrees that if a landowner is managing a risk under a prescribed instrument they can use this to opt-out of a planning policy. However, the SPC feels that the term "opt-out" is inappropriate as this implies that the landowner may opt-out of management practice altogether. Additionally

these landowners should still have to follow policy requirements such that management practices should be monitored.

- 6) Local methods and approaches to consultation are preferred.
- 7) Interim Risk Management plans are not necessary give timeframe.
- 8) Wildlife makes a contribution to surface water pollution. This should be recognized as part of the problem.
- 9) The Province needs to clarify how the placement of new municipal well systems will be impacted by source protection planning.

MOTION #SPC: 2010-03-03

Moved by Karen Galbraith

Seconded by Gerry Rupke

That the above mentioned comments be forwarded to MOE.

Carried by consensus

It was noted by a member of the SPC that there was a growing body of knowledge that the residents of the watershed are expected to know. It was suggested that an opportunity be held for the real estate community within the next few months. The Chair indicated that the source protection policies will be made available along with all zoning and municipal information. This notification will be part of the standard property purchase due diligence process conducted by the buyer's lawyer and provided to the buyer by the municipality. Similarly, property owners proposing land use changes or erecting structures will be in contact with the municipality to obtain approvals.

DIRECTION ON DRAFT PROPOSED AR

Project Manager, Cathie Brown, and Project Assistant, Jenna Bowen presented information on the draft proposed Assessment Report. The public consultation period for the draft proposed AR was recently completed and all public comments on the reports have been compiled. A review of the consultation process was presented (e.g. meetings, letters, notices, phone calls), and the public comments were reviewed. The SPC provided the following direction on public comments that were received:

Sewage Treatment Plants – The Committee desires that STP by passes (planned and un-planned) be included as well as normal discharge with a cross reference to MOE websites where more detailed information can be obtained.

Gas Wells – The SPC directs that MOE be asked why natural gas storage was not considered to be a threat (especially since this storage is under high pressure). The MOE liaison will follow up on this issue at the next meeting.

MOTION #SPC: 2010-03-04

Moved by John Vander Burgt

Seconded by Marilyn Miltenburg

That the SPC requests the MOE Liaison to investigate why underground storage of natural gas is not considered a potential threat.

Carried by consensus.

Natural gas storage should be included in the Watershed Characterization chapter as a concern.

Lake Huron – The section about Lake Huron in the water budget chapter should be moved to chapter on Great Lakes.

Sink Holes as an “Issue” – Sinkholes are currently being considered as a possible issue in the ABMV region. An issue can be identified if there is an exceedance of a water quality parameter. The only way that the sinkholes could be considered an issue is if a change in nitrate levels was detected in the private wells near the sinkholes. At the April SPC meeting Brian Luinstra will discuss the outcomes of the sinkhole study and provide the SPC with direction on how sinkholes can be included. Sinkholes are mentioned in the text but an issue can be other drinking water systems.

MOTION #SPC: 2010-03-05

Moved by John Vander Burgt
Seconded by Marilyn Miltenburg
Carried by consensus.

That the Committee support pursuing sinkholes as a potential issue.

Questions submitted with residential surveys: Staff should help residents who submitted questions with their completed surveys better understand the information that they are getting from the project.

Clarification – drainage versus tile drainage: The SPC wishes staff to clarify wording in the report to differentiate between drainage and tile drainage.

Clusters: The SPC supports working with hamlet residents to help them improve protection for their drinking water since they have no other protection barriers.

Addressing Limitations: The SPC supports leaving Addressing Limitations as a separate chapter, but amending it to comply with the regulations and rules.

For the April version of the AR, the following will be completed: livestock density maps, Tier 2 water budget, public consultation report, more information on aggregates, and amendments to the introduction to chapter 4.

MOTION #SPC: 2010-03-06

Moved by Ian Brebner
Seconded by Gerry Rupke

That staff proceed to implement amendments recommended by the SPC.

Carried by consensus.

CORRESPONDANCE AND DELEGATIONS

Three pieces of correspondence were included in SPC meeting materials. The first was a letter from Green Communities Canada indicating the services they provide through the Well Aware program. There was also a letter from MOE in reply to the clusters letter that the SPC sent in November. The letter indicated that the SPC should approach municipalities to gauge

their interest in funding screening work for clusters. It was the consensus of the SPC that municipalities had already been approached and showed no interest in funding the pilot project. It is therefore unnecessary to contact them again at this time. The last piece of correspondence was the band council resolution from Kettle and Stony Point First Nations to request that the water intakes for both Kettle and Stony Point be elevated into the scope of the source protection. First Nations Liaison, Bob Bresette informed the Committee that MOE has amended the regulation to include the systems located in Kettle Point as an eligible system. This regulation change did not include the Stony Point intake. The intention is that an agreement be struck to undertake an IPZ study that would identify any potential threats. This information could be included in the updated AR.

MOTION #SPC: 2010-03-07

Moved by Don Jones

Seconded by Mike McElhone

That the pieces of correspondence be received, noted and filed.

Carried by consensus.

LIAISON UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

Health Liaison Bob Worsell informed the Committee that the health unit and planning departments have been given direction to pursue septic inspections by the county. All municipal councils have been contacted about this initiative. The Huron Perth Agricultural Water Festival is taking place in Seaforth next week.

Source Protection Authority Liaison, Jim Ginn informed the Committee that a letter was sent by both source protection authorities in regards to the draft proposed AR. Both SPAs have concerns about sinkholes.

MOE Liaison, Tu Van Duong informed the Committee that the stewardship program has been fully committed. There were 17 million dollars worth of applications and there was 7 million dollars to allocate. There has been a lot of interest in the program.

SPC Chair, Larry Brown noted that what gets included in the AR will not affect SPC policies. The SPC could make the policies today without knowing much of the information about threats included in the report. Even there are a lot of amendments and future updates to make, the SPC should be happy with where we are.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – APRIL 28TH, 2010

- Final Draft of AR
- Traditional knowledge presentation

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown declared the meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Larry Brown
Chair

Jenna Bowen
Recording Secretary