



Source Protection Committee

**Wednesday, May 27, 2009, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Holmesville Community Centre, Holmesville**

MEMBERS PRESENT

SPC Chair Larry Brown; SPC Members; Rowena Wallace, Matt Pearson, Meredith Schneider, Ian Brebner, Don Jones, Jim Nelemans, Marilyn Miltenburg, Al Hamilton, Mike McElhone, Bill Rowat, John Vander Burgt, Keith Black, Gib Dow

LIAISONS PRESENT

Health Liaison Bob Worsell, Source Protection Authority Liaison, Jim Ginn, MOE Liaison, Teresa McLellan

WITH REGRETS

SPC Members; Gerry Rupke, Karen Galbraith, Walpole Island First Nation Liaison, Kennon Johnson, Kettle and Stony Point First Nations Liaison, Bob Bresette

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Brian Luinstra, Hydrogeologist, Luinstra Earth Sciences, John, Stager, Chief Drinking Water Inspector, Deb Shewfelt, Mayor of Goderich, Mark Harris, MOE

CALL TO ORDER

Larry Brown, Source Protection Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and welcomed the Deputy Minister of the Environment and Chief Drinking Water Inspector, John Stager to the meeting.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2009-05-01

Moved by Al Hamilton
Seconded by Mat Pearson

That the agenda be approved.

Carried by Consensus.

MINUTES FROM APRIL 29TH, 2009

MOTION #SPC: 2009-05-02

Moved by Jim Nelemans

Seconded by Rowena Wallace

That the SPC minutes from April 29th, 2009 be approved.

Carried by Consensus.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

WELCOMING REMARKS FROM CHIEF DRINKING WATER INSPECTOR

Chief Drinking Water Inspector, John Stager greeted the Committee and expressed his pleasure in being able to attend the meeting. He informed the Committee that since taking his position in December of 2008, he had been trying to meet with as many people as possible and felt that there was a very strong infrastructure for the protection of drinking water in the Province. The Inspector praised the Committee for the work that they have been doing, particularly for the development of the working groups. The number of people involved in the program indicates the strength of community involvement in the ABMV region. The Inspector underlined the wider application of source protection work to the Great Lakes and expressed his feelings that source protection is a driving force for change. Mr. Stager informed the Committee that Ontario's Drinking Water Source Protection program has attracted interest from around the world. He also complimented the Committee on their approach to making changes to the Terms of Reference and stated that the decision on the ToR should be coming soon from Minister Gerretson. The Inspector closed by telling the Committee that MOE will be there to assist the SPC with their Assessment Report and Source Protection Plans and thanked everyone for their involvement in the program.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Communications specialist, Tim Cumming provided the Committee with an update on the most recent communications activities. The main focus of communications has been to speak directly with landowners that own property located in highly vulnerable areas. 100 people have been spoken to in person at various meetings while another 100 people have been spoken to over the telephone. A mail out was sent 3400 people informing them that they were located in vulnerable areas and were eligible for ODWSP funding. The most recent communications event was the stewardship program funding announcement in Atwood. Approximately 839,000 dollars in new funding has been approved because of the success that has been achieved in rolling out the stewardship fund in this region. SPC Chair, Larry Brown and SPC member, Karen Galbraith were thanked for their attendance at that event. The next event for the region is an 'Ask the Expert' radio program with SPC Chair, Larry Brown on June 6th, 2009.

EBR PLANNING POSTING

Project Manager, Cathie Brown presented information on the Ministry of Environment's Source Protection Planning discussion paper. The purpose of the paper is to provide a formal discussion around planning policies and will be available for public feedback. The posting of the discussion paper on the EBR should happen within the next two weeks and the SPC needs to make sure that they are aware of the contents once it has been posted. It is clear from the Clean Water Act that there will be mandatory elements to policies which include addressing significant risks. The Committee will also need to develop policies for moderate risks, and there is also the potential for Great Lakes targets to be set. While none are specified at this time, if they occur, the SPC would be obliged to put policies in place. The next group of things to consider would be optional policies. They include issues from the past such as brownfields. The SPC may also wish to put in policies related to education and outreach that might be helpful for source protection. Other things that need to be considered include; effectiveness, bias, favouritism, costs, standard approaches, and policy format. The Ministry has the desire to connect this piece of legislation with other legislation and therefore, the SPC should think about how to make use of other provincial tools. In consultation with landowners, the SPC must consider how to communicate with them to ensure all impacted landowners are aware of SP policies. Once the document has been posted, it will be sent out to SPC members for review and a group discussion will be planned for the August SPC meeting.

INTAKE PROTECTION ZONES

Hydrogeologist, Brian Luinstra spoke to the Committee about the need to develop an IPZ-3. According to the MOE Technical Rules, a third IPZ has been identified for inclusion in the Assessment Report. The cost of modeling an IPZ-3 can be very high and there is no known issue that lies outside of the IPZ-2. To do an IPZ-3 in this region would take a considerable amount of time and money. Since no issues of concern exist outside existing IPZ-2's, for the Goderich and Port Blake intakes, it is recommended that no IPZ-3 be delineated at this time. Although it is not recommended to do an IPZ-3 now, it could be done in the future should some issue arise.

MOTION #SPC: 2009-05-03

Moved by Rowena Wallace

Seconded by Don Jones

That the draft IPZ maps and recommendations made in the IPZ report be approved until further analysis.

Carried by Consensus.

GREAT LAKES ISSUES

Andrew Henry, Division Manager for the Lake Huron and Elgin Area Water Supply System presented information on the Great Lakes. An overview of the evolution of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement was given and the differences between interbasin transfers and intrabasin transfers were clearly defined. Some of the major water quality and quantity issues for the Great Lakes were discussed. The impacts of the Great Lakes Water Quality

Agreement on the Great Lake to Drinking Water Source Protection were discussed and include:

- Monitoring and assessing the impacts to watersheds – water and wastewater volumes.
- Monitoring consumptive use.
- The quality and volumes of discharge back into the environment.
- Long-term evolution of threats and risks
- Long-term impacts of recharge – e.g. 60% of low flow down the Thames River are generated from the City of London wastewater. If existing transfers are reduced it could have drastic impacts.
- Adoption of “Water for Life” concepts – managing environmental resources.

Deb Shewfelt, Mayor of Goderich presented information on the Mayor’s Collaborative Action Plan to protect the Great Lakes. The first step of the collaborative plan was to create an organization to exchange ideas on the Great Lakes. The memorandum of understanding for the organization was developed with the Province of Ontario with the aim of working closely together. One of the main initiatives of the group is to improve beaches by promoting tourism. The more a community reconnects people to the Lakes, the more support a community will receive. Some of the issues the organization is dealing with are; the removal of toxic algae from beaches and reducing the amount of untreated sewage and storm water discharges into the Great Lakes.

Hydrogeologist, Brian Luinstra provided the Committee with information on the susceptibility of the Lake Huron-based water supplies in ABMV SPR to low water levels in Lake Huron. Since the SPC has to consider Great Lakes, but Lakes-based water supplies are not subject to analysis as part of the water budget, there is a need to develop a way to evaluate how water levels affect intakes. It was suggested that a maximum wave depth be modeled and intakes be placed at a deeper level. Should there be a desire for new intakes in Lake Huron, or the need for existing intakes to be replaced, the Committee should have a recommendation about where it should be placed.

Project Manager, Cathie Brown spoke to the Committee about Great Lakes reporting protocols. The data reporting protocol was intended to provide guidance on how information should be reported to the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Water use database. This database was created so that the Great Lakes States and Provinces can gather and share water use information. The Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee has a very strong interest in the Great Lakes, and therefore wrote a letter to MOE to comment on the “Healthy Great Lakes, Strong Ontario” discussion paper. This letter was included in SPC package materials. The formal commenting period on the discussion paper ended on May 22nd, however, the ABMV SPC is still welcome to send in comments. One of the SPC’s obligations in the Terms of Reference is to consult neighboring SPC’s regarding Great Lakes issues, this would be one of those consultations. A discussion was had about the length of time provided for public comment on documents released by the Province.

MOTION #SPC: 2009-05-03

Moved by Marilyn Miltenburg

Seconded by Matt Pearson

That a letter be written to the MOE regarding the recent EBR posting concerning the Healthy Great Lakes discussion paper to (1) support watershed based planning for realistic implementation strategies, (2) support building on existing organizations and good efforts rather than creating new mechanisms, and (3) indicate that timeframes for review of EBR postings should recognize that it takes more than 60 days for an organization that meets monthly to receive, digest and comment on a posting.

Carried by Consensus

PTTW

Mark Harris, Hydrogeologist for MOE, gave a presentation on Permits to Take Water (PTTW). The presentation was a high level overview of PTTW since it is still unclear how PTTW will relate to Source Protection. The PTTW program has been in place since the 1960's and its purpose is to enable the reasonable use of water while protecting the ecosystem. The focus of the program has always been on water quantity management. The most obvious type of water taking is water supply pump houses, which are hooked up to well-established infrastructure. The opposite of that is farm consumption where the pumping schedule is on and off. The program requires a technical study to be conducted by the applicant. MOE peer reviews each study and approves it or declines it. The program does not allocate a right to water, it does not guarantee a supply of water and it doesn't reserve water for future use. It also does not identify all of the water takers, which could be important to source protection.

Source Protection Committee member, Gib Dow spoke to the Committee about his personal experiences with the PTTW program and shared his ideas on how it relates to Source Protection.

NEW THREATS, CONDITIONS & ISSUES

Project Manager, Cathie Brown spoke to the Committee about the SPC's ability to add new threats, conditions or issues to the Assessment Reports. At previous meetings, the SPC has agreed to certain thresholds for identifying issues. If something exceeds one of these thresholds, the SPC may choose to add this to the Assessment Report as a new issue. Currently, no issues have been identified in the ABMV region. The SPC could also consider adding a new threat that is not listed as one of the 21 prescribed threats, if there was enough concern to warrant this. It is recommended that while no new threats or issues have been identified at the time, the SPC should remember that they have the opportunity to add them to the Assessment Report, should the need arise.

ASSESSMENT REPORT CHAPTER 2 & 3

The SPC received draft versions of both Chapter 2 and 3 of the Assessment Report. A brief discussion was had about the best way to approach reviewing the Assessment Report would be. It was agreed that staff would prepare a schedule for reviewing Assessment Report chapters for the next SPC meeting.

LIAISON UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

Health Liaison, Bob Worsell informed the Committee that a new medical officer of health, Dr. Nancy Cameron had been appointed at the Huron County Health Unit.

Source Protection Authority Liaison, Jim Ginn informed the Committee that a copy of the reply letter to MV SPA has not yet been received by the liaison.

MOE Liaison, Teresa McLellan informed the Committee that all Terms of Reference that mentioned compensation have now been resubmitted. It was also explained that the appointed Liaison for the ABMV SPC, Lisa Ross, has been on medical leave since January. MOE has now received approval to fill this position with a new Liaison. It was requested that the MOE liaison check the policy on clusters and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

SPC Chair, Larry Brown informed the Committee that the Chairs meeting would be taking place next week in Grand Bend and that SPC member, Al Hamilton would be speaking at the meeting on engaging the industry and commerce sectors in Source Protection.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING ON June 23rd, 2009

- Working Groups – Ideas for SPP
- AR Update – Threats Verification
- Chapter 4 of AR (in part)

Future Meeting Schedule

June 23, 2009
August 26, 2009
September, 2009
October, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown declared the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Larry Brown
Chair

Jenna Bowen
Recording Secretary