



Source Protection Committee

**Wednesday, September 24, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Noon)
Holmesville Community Centre, Holmesville**

MEMBERS PRESENT

SPC Chair Larry Brown; SPC Members; Ian Brebner, Jim Nelemans, Marilyn Miltenburg, Matt Pearson, Bill Rowat, Gib Dow, Mike McElhone, Don Jones, Keith Black, Al Hamilton, Gerry Rupke

LIAISONS PRESENT

Ontario MOE Kate Turner, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation Liaison Bob Bresette; Health Liaison Bob Worsell, Source Protection Authority Liaison, Jim Ginn

WITH REGRETS

SPC Members; Karen Galbraith, Meredith Schneider, Rowena Wallace, Walpole Island First Nation Liaison Kennon Johnson.

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Cathie Brown, Project Manager; Tim Cumming, Communications Specialist
Jenna Bowen, Project Assistant/Recording Secretary, Mary-Lynn MacDonald, Group Facilitator

CALL TO ORDER

Larry Brown, Source Protection Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed Jenna Bowen, Project Assistant and Kate Turner as Acting Liaison for the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE).

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2008-09-01

Moved by Gerry Rupke
Seconded by Ian Brebner

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried by Consensus.

MINUTES FROM JULY 30, 2008

MOTION #SPC: 2008-09-02

Moved by Matt Pearson
Seconded by Marilyn Miltenburg

That the SPC minutes from July 30, 2008 be approved.

Carried by Consensus.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

GENERAL UPDATES

Larry Brown, Source Protection Committee (SPC) Chair updated the SPC on a recent conference call with other SPC chairs and the Ministry of the Environment. The EBR posting of the rules for the Assessment Report was discussed. It will be the end of October before the rules will be approved. However, there are no changes that will affect the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region Terms of Reference (TOR). Most Source Protection Regions have completed their TOR, while a few groups have requested more time.

Larry Brown, SPC Chair informed the Committee that an advertisement has been placed calling for applications to fill the vacant position on the SPC in the agriculture sector. The Joint Management Committee will receive applications and make the decision about the new position. Applications are due by November 24th, 2008.

Project Manager, Cathie Brown introduced the "Vulnerable Areas Workbook" which was created for the Working Groups in response to members wish to become more involved in the Source Protection Planning Process. Working Group members will use the workbooks to identify threats and think up strategies to reduce them.

Project Manager Brown then updated the Committee on the most recent Working Group (WG) meetings. The topic discussed during the September meetings was the water budget. WG members were informed about the conceptual and numeric aspects of the budget. There were 6 issues that WG members requested to be brought to the SPC's attention. These issues were listed in the handout provided in the SPC package material. WG's will be meeting every other month from now on so that it coincides with the work of the SPC.

Project Manager Brown then informed the SPC about the upcoming event, Backyard Briefs. This event is a series of short presentations that will take place in the afternoon following the October 29th SPC meeting. Each speaker will be given a maximum of 15 minutes to talk about different issues related to Drinking Water Source Protection.

It was requested that the SPC be able to see the Source Water Protection Financial Statement. Project manager Brown, informed members that the financial statement can be brought to the attention of the SPC. However, the financial transactions take place at the lead Source Protection Authority, and the budget is approved by the Joint Management Committee.

Action Item # 1: That the financial statement be brought to the next SPC meeting.

A suggestion was raised that the MOE provide a rationale behind the development of the Directors Rules for the completion of the Assessment Reports.

Motion # SPC: 2008-09-03

Moved by Keith Black

Seconded by Ian Brebner

That the ABMV SPC request the Minister of the Environment release the background scientific information that the Ministry used to develop the Directors Rules for the completion of the CWA Assessment reports.

Carried by Consensus

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Communications Specialist, Tim Cumming presented an overview in terms of the communications strategy for the ABMV Source Protection Region. It was indicated that there has been real success in communications. However, despite what has been done so far, there is still a long way to go. Constant evaluation is conducted to help develop new directions in which communications should go. An example of this is the workbooks that have been created for working group members. Other methods of response include feedback from piloted education materials which has led to frequent changes in course of strategy. Events and programs have been particularly successful when there is direct contact with the community. The communications specialist concluded that the goal of the communications strategy was a broad-based program that uses community based social marketing, piloting, surveying and best practices in communications. It was also added that interviews are currently being conducted for a new communications staff member.

It was suggested by an SPC member that a children's exhibit at a fair might be an effective way to get information out to the public. An example was given from the 2008 International Plowing Match put on by the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region.

THREATS PRESENTATION

Hydrogeologist, Brian Lunistra gave a presentation on threats to drinking/source water. Threats to water quality and water quantity were discussed and the major threats important in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region were stressed. It was

underlined that the majority of threats will be in residential areas rather than agricultural areas. A description of how the ISI is used to measure vulnerability from the surface down to the aquifer was given. There was a lengthy discussion surrounding sewage treatment and the differences between continuous release and lagoon/episodic sewage treatment.

A question about why the 5 year and 10 year capture zones are shown if they are not significant was raised. It was explained that they are shown so that it can be seen how threats diffuse out of an area.

GREAT LAKES ISSUES

Great Lakes Advisor for the MOE, Ted Briggs, presented information on Lake Huron. A big picture and management structure for the great lakes was given with particular emphasis on Lake Huron. The speaker provided information on the history of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the U.S. and Canada, the International Joint Commission, Lake Wide Management Plans (LaMPs), and the Canada – Ontario Agreement (COA). The key issues surrounding water quality and water quantity in Lake Huron were discussed. Questions regarding the levels of dioxins and the impact of humans on lake water levels were raised. It was explained that it is difficult to determine human impact on water levels and that standard levels of dioxins over time only occur in certain areas.

Healthy Watersheds Coordinator for the ABCA, Mari Veliz gave a presentation on Community Action Planning for Lake Huron. The presentation focused on the broader Lake Huron issues and specific examples of recent projects were given. A question about what kind of work is being done on a watershed by watershed basis to determine which contaminants are the biggest problem was raised. It was explained that with respect to bacteria, a library of microbes is being built but is time consuming and costly. With respect to nutrients, it was explained that monitoring needs to be conducted to determine the biggest threats. However, funding for monitoring is a big issue. When funding becomes available for monitoring, it is extremely important to make sure the public is aware that this funding is available.

CORRESPONDENCE AND DELEGATIONS

A letter from the Ontario Coordinator for the National Farmers Union addressed to Premier Dalton McGuinty regarding the issue of compensation for farmers in the Terms of Reference was attached to SPC package material.

A letter addressed to the SPC from a Working Group member regarding comments on the Terms of Reference was attached. A response letter from the chair of the SPC was also attached. There was a brief discussion about the effectiveness of the material being presented to the working groups.

Motion # SPC: 2008-09-04

Moved by Jim Nelemans
Seconded by Gerry Rupke

That the pieces of correspondence be received and filed.

Carried by Consensus

LIAISON UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

MOE Liaison, Kate Turner informed SPC members that there is likely to be a training session for all members after the rules and regulations for the Assessment Report have been passed. In addition, a CD containing the annual report from the Chief Drinking Water Inspector was handed out to all SPC members.

A discussion was had about the issue of the ½ nutrient unit as outlined in the threats table. The table suggests that there is a restriction on the limit of manure by 1 nutrient unit per acre in vulnerable areas. A good way to mitigate this is to ensure that farms within those areas use best management practices. MOE Liaison, Kate Turner indicated that there will likely be fewer restrictions than anticipated and that they will most likely be best management practices. It was requested that more information about the screening mechanisms for updating additional systems be provided. The MOE Liaison will try to provide an update on this issue for the next SPC meeting.

Project Manager, Cathie Brown informed SPC members that a peer review of IPZ and WHPA will go ahead as soon as approval is received. WESA will be reviewing the work form Waterloo Numeric Modeling Inc. HCCL will be reviewing Baird and possibly Stantec. Waterloo Numeric Modeling Inc. may be reviewing WESA

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING ON OCTOBER 29, 2008

- Information on Oxford Source Protection
- Backyard Briefs

Action Item #2: Provide expanded agenda prior to next SPC meeting.

Future Meeting Schedule

October 29, 2008

November 26, 2008

January 28, 2009

February 25, 2009

March 25, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Larry Brown
Chair

Jenna Bowen
Recording Secretary