

Source Protection Committee

Wednesday November 28, 2007
Benmiller Inn, Benmiller

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Black, Ian Brebner, Larry Brown, Gib Dow, Karen Galbraith, Al Hamilton, Don Jones, Mike McElhone, Marilyn Miltenburg, Jim Nelemans, Matt Pearson, Bill Rowat, Mert Schneider, Mike Strang, Rowena Wallace

LIAISONS PRESENT

Jim Ginn, Bob Worsell

WITH REGRETS

Bob Bresette, Gerry Rupke, MOE Representatives Jennifer Arthur and Melanie Ward

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Sue Brocklebank, Cathie Brown, Tim Cumming, Darrell Innes

CALL TO ORDER

Larry Brown, Chair of the Source Protection Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

AGENDA

MOTION # SPC: 2007-02-01

Moved by Don Jones
Seconded by Matt Pearson

That the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried by Consensus.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2007

Gerry Rupke's name will be added to the list of Members Present in the Minutes of the October 25, 2007 meeting.

MOTION # SPC: 2007-02-02

Moved by Jim Nelemans
Seconded by Al Hamilton

That the minutes from October 25, 2007 be approved with the addition of Gerry Rupke to the list of Members present.

Carried by Consensus.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

The appointment of Vice-Chair will be set as a one-year term. This will allow Members from different regions of the Source Protection Region to serve as Vice-Chair during the life of the committee. Gerry Rupke was nominated as Vice-Chair by Bill Rowat.

MOTION # SPC: 2007-02-03

Moved by Marilyn Miltenburg
Seconded by Matt Pearson

That Gerry Rupke be acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of the SPC for 2008.

Carried by Consensus.

PROPOSED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The procedure manual is based on simple parliamentary procedure. The regulation requires that an effort be made to reach consensus, hence, the minutes will reflect this attempt unless there is a disagreement. The province discourages but does not prohibit a recorded vote. More guidance will be sought on this issue from the Chairs Meeting on December 3, 2007, where other Chairs and Project Managers will be critiquing the ABMV document. The issue of a recorded vote will be left until after this meeting as the procedural document can always be amended.

The regulation allows for a two month period to complete the procedure document. As the first SPC meeting for the ABMV Region was held on October 25, 2007, the procedure document is required, by regulation, to be completed by December 25, 2007.

MOTION # SPC: 2007-02-04

Moved by Ian Brebner
Seconded by Don Jones

That the proposed policies and procedures manual be approved as circulated.

Carried by Consensus.

Action Item #1: Members are asked to review and sign-off on the last page of the Procedural Manual by the next meeting on January 30, 2008.

TERMS OF REFERENCE UPDATE

The Terms of Reference (ToR) defines the scope of the work of the SPC. It will require consultation with municipalities to determine which municipal residential systems will be

included or are proposed, and which systems will not be included (are slated for decommissioning). The province is still in the process of developing a database for each region to populate, and the database is anticipated to be delivered in December 2007 or January 2008.

A possible timeline for the ToR was drafted and given to the Members. This timeline outlines two potential municipal meetings in the spring followed by the production of a final draft ToR by the SPC by the end of May. In June, the draft ToR will be posted for a 35 day public comment period with a notice in the local papers that the ToR will be available on the web and in hard-copy in certain public locations. After the public comment period, the SPC may wish to amend the ToR. A proposed ToR must be submitted to the Source Protection Authority by August 20, 2008, as required by regulation.

In our region, the Town of Goderich is the lead for coordinating the intake protection study at Goderich, the City of London is coordinating the intake protection study for Pork Blake, and the Municipality of Huron East is coordinating a study of the wells in the Seaforth area. The information from these technical studies is being shared with the project, and will be incorporated into the ToR.

THE CWA AND PROVINCIAL OBJECTIVES - PRESENTATION

Drinking Water Protection is a multi-barrier approach. The Clean Water Act is the first part of an eight part 'safety net' for provincial water goals.

1. Strong Legislation – CWA and Safe Drinking Water Act
2. Timely, Reliable Testing
3. Immediate Notification and Corrective Action on Adverse Water Quality Incidents
4. Licensing, Training and Certification
5. Comprehensive Inspection Program
6. Investigation and Enforcement of Legislation and Regulations
7. Integrated Data Acquisition and Information Management
8. Education and Outreach

Some elements of this approach existed prior to the tragedy at Walkerton, but now all elements are viewed as equally necessary. In addition, they provide a framework that is transparent and accountable.

VILLAGE WELLFIELD RESEARCH - PRESENTATION

While the delineation of municipal wellheads has been undertaken as part of technical studies occurring in each of the Source Protection Areas, the delineation of village wellfields have not. The provincial database lists approximately 11,000 private wells in the region, although there is a suspected 4,000-8,000 private wells that are not in the provincial records. Village wellfields are defined as a clustering of private wells by proximity and density, and there are 35 within the region. Staff member Darrell Innes considered the issue of delineating village wellfields for his maters' thesis.

Some of D. Innes' findings include:

- In-depth analysis is dependent on time, money, expertise and data.

- More complex methods can be expensive and may not provide any greater accuracy on small systems where a large amount of uncertainty exists.
- The close proximity of wells provides opportunities for wellfield or local well contamination.
- The circular zone delineated from the centre of the village can be used to delineate the most critical zone. This can be adjusted for local conditions.

Comparable studies in North America have shown that 25% of the individual wells within a village cluster test for coliform, which is an indicator species for anthropogenic contamination. Of that 25%, 80% of the problems are related to the proximity of septic systems - either to the landowners own system or to their neighbours – or to the lack of maintenance of the wellhead.

Other studies have shown that septic system discharge can move through the soil without much filtration and pathogens and viruses survive longer than traditionally thought. A greater emphasis should be placed for proper wellhead maintenance, upkeep of septic systems and the decommissioning of abandoned wells.

CURRICULUM MODULE TWO – WATERSHED DESCRIPTION

Members and Liaisons were led through a variety of exercises to recognize the importance of water on the economy and to recognize the unique features of the five main watersheds: Ausable, Bayfield, Maitland, Nine Miles and the Shore Gullies and Streams.

WATERSHED CHARACTERIZATION

The draft Watershed Characterization (WC) was circulated to the Members. The WC has undergone internal review and was sent to municipalities for comment in the spring of 2007. The document was also sent to Conservation Ontario for an external review, but no comments have been received as of yet. While the material may already be dated (the version is from January 2007), at some point, the draft Watershed Characterization must be considered complete and any additional information can be included in an addendum document. The document is designed to provide a snapshot of available knowledge until a certain point in time and be a resource in developing the Source Protection Plans.

Chapters One, Two, and Three are posted on the website for public view. Chapter Four: Threats and Issues Inventory, has been withheld because of the uncertainty associated with it. Work done by the technical studies will provide more information on what is considered a threat and what is considered a concern. The studies are waiting to receive a 'Threats Database' from the province to complete their work.

Action Item #2: The Members are asked to read the Watershed Characterization by the next meeting and provide comments which may be incorporated into an addendum document. The Members are asked to consider what are 'need to know' items versus what are 'nice to know' items.

OTHER BUSINESS

Source Protection Plans

Examples of other Source Protection Plans will be deferred until the next meeting. However, some resources for Source Protection are:

- County of Oxford
<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/groundwater/oxford/pwvf.pdf>
http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/manage/qual/case/e_oxford.htm
- State of Ohio
<http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/pdu/swap.html>
- Columbus, New York
http://www.gaepd.org/Files_PDF/techguide/wp/swapfinal.pdf

Other items to consider when thinking about Source Protection Plans are policies, programs and prohibitions.

Source Protection Stewardship Program

The Source Protection Stewardship Program is funded by the Province to provide technical support and funding to property owners who are within 100 meters of a municipal well or 200 metres of a surface water intake.

Funding is available for:

- Decommissioning old abandoned wells and maintenance of existing wells
- Septic system inspections and upgrades
- Runoff and erosion protection
- Pollution prevention audits aimed at better management of materials storage, handling, and disposal
- Land conservation measures to protect municipal wellhead and surface water intake areas (www.sourceprotectionstewardship.on.ca)

On Thursday, November 29, 2007, 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. there will be a meeting in Bayfield at the Bean Bag Café to provide information regarding funding for early-actions stewardship projects to landowners that are within close proximity to the municipal wells (Carriage Lane and Harbour Lights).

Working Groups

There will be two 'Meet and Greet' Coffee Shop Events to provide information on the Drinking Water Source Protection Project and to recruit individuals for the Working Groups.

- Parkhill - Tuesday December 12, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Kelli's Family Restaurant
- Listowel - Wednesday, December 13, 2007, 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Roadhouse 23

Technology Transfer

T. Cumming and S. Brocklebank will be contacting Members via phone to introduce them to the DWSP website and develop a web profile for them.

Dairy Farmers of Ontario

The Dairy Farmers of Ontario are holding one-day workshops for farmers to learn how to meet the new water quality standards. Starting in 2008, milkhouse wash water will be a grade A requirement (potable water).

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Watershed Characterization
- Water Quality Presentation
- Curriculum Module Three (Water Quality)
- Terms of Reference Update
- Critique of Procedural Manual from December 3, 2007 Chairs Meeting
- Sample Source Protection Plans

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Larry Brown
Chair

Sue Brocklebank
Recording Secretary