

Source Protection Committee

MEETING 13 – JANUARY 14 at Super 8 Motel, Peterborough

Chair Jim Hunt welcomed new members Mae Whetung (replacing Wanita Dokis) and Wendy Lavender (replacing Debbie Scanlon). Dick Hunter was acting as SPA Liaison and Tom Cathcart as Health Unit Liaison.

Wecome to Peterborough

Richard Straka (SPC member) welcomed the Committee to Peterborough and provided an overview of the community including early settlement, development of industries and current municipal planning strategies.

Presentation – Identifying Knowledge Gaps and Research Needs for Source Water Protection

Dr. Chris Metcalfe, Director of the Institute for Watershed Science and professor in Environmental & Resource Studies at Trent University provided a presentation on the research work of the Institute related to source water protection. The research study focused on four themes: intake protection zones with a focus on Great Lakes Intake Protection Zones; land use impacts on watershed level source water protection; watershed scale risk mitigation techniques; water quantity management.

Work Plan Update

An update was provided on the work completed over the past couple months related to watershed characterization; water budget; significant groundwater recharge areas; highly vulnerable aquifers; wellhead protection area and intake protection zone vulnerability/threats & issues; GIS/information management; and communications.

In addition to the ongoing work for the SPC and the review of technical reports over the next few months, it was identified that the Committee will need to make decisions related to:

- What is an “issue”?
- Identification of additional threats

Approval of Terms of References

Approval of four of the five Terms of References (ToR) was received from the Minister of the Environment during the meeting (January 14) with the fifth approval expected shortly. Once the ToR approval is posted on the EBR (anticipated within 7 to 10 days), the SPC will have one year to complete the Assessment Report (January 2010).

Timelines for completion of the Assessment Report are:

- Draft Proposed Assessment Report completed – late July
- 35 day public consultation – late August/early September
- Revise Assessment Report based on public input – September/October
- 30 day public consultation – by mid November
- SPA approval of Proposed Assessment Report – December/January
- Submission to Minister of the Environment – January 2010

A meeting has been scheduled with MOE to discuss timelines and deliverables for the Assessment Report. The SPC did express concern with the timelines and did agree that a deadline extension may be required.

Surface and Groundwater Vulnerability and Significant Threats – Case Studies

An overview was presented of the steps required for assessing vulnerability for both surface and groundwater systems and identifying potential significant threats to drinking water.

Steps for Surface Water Intake Assessment (19 within Region):

1. Classify surface water intake (Type A,B,C,D)
2. Delineate IPZ-1, IPZ-2 & IPZ-3
3. Determine vulnerability scores for each zone (based on proximity to intake, slope, land cover/use, location/depth of intake)
4. Identify threats
5. Score threats (based on Threats Lookup Tables)
6. Identify potentially significant threats (assign parcels with score)

Steps for Wellhead Assessment (34 and 2 planned within Region):

1. Delineate Wellhead Protection Areas
2. Assess vertical vulnerability (based on time it takes for a contaminant to reach water table)
3. Determine overall vulnerability (overlay wellhead protection area zones with vertical vulnerability)
4. Identify threats
5. Score threats (based on Threats Lookup Tables)
6. Assign parcels with Potentially Significant Threats

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP)

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) is currently reviewing the design and delivery of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) through its third (2009-10) and fourth (2010-11) funding years. Currently, the scope of the ODWSP is focused on providing financial assistance for voluntary projects and programs aimed at protecting the province's municipal drinking water sources in advance of source protection plans being completed.

MOE plans to involve stakeholders across the province in a comprehensive consultative process over the next several months to determine:

- what stakeholders' needs are
- which bodies/agencies may participate as a program administrator to deliver the ODWSP
- how MOE can ensure financial assistance provided through ODWSP is put to effective use

MOE has asked SPC Chairs to take the lead on discussions with their Committee and to also consider consultation with local landowners and other stakeholders (in particular the agricultural community). The Source Protection Committee will review and provide feedback on the questions provided on the Consultation Form at the February 11, 2009 Committee meeting. As well, Municipal Working Group Chairs (with assistance from Conservation Authority staff) will consult with Municipalities through Municipal Working Group meetings to be scheduled in February. The SPC will discuss potential consultation with local agricultural groups at the February meeting.

Committee Members – Updates on public engagement/conferences

- Gerald MacGregor provided an overview of a recent spill of approx. 700 litres of heating fuel from a private residence into a storm drain on Sturgeon Lake
- December 8/9 2008 Chair's Meeting in Mississauga: Glenda Rodgers and Jim Hunt attended.
- December 11, 2008 TCC Meeting in Keene: Conservation Staff, TCC Staff and Jim Hunt attended.
- January 8, 2009 Chair Teleconference: Jim Hunt participated - Stewardship Program discussed.
- January 30, 2009: Maud Barlow speaking at Market Hall Theatre (7:00 p.m.) in Peterborough to discuss bottled water versus tap water.
- February 19, 2009: Otonabee Conservation's Annual General Meeting and 50th Anniversary at Trent University. Guest speaker is David Phillips. Tickets are \$10.

Next Meeting: February 11, 2008 at the Super 8 Motel in Peterborough. The March meeting was re-scheduled for March 13. Other meeting dates were set for April 21, May 7, June 17, July 15 and August 19. Locations to be determined.