

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE NORTH BAY-MATTAWA
SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
10:00 AM, June 17, 2008
Held at North Bay – Mattawa Conservation Authority, 15 Janey Ave, North Bay**

1. Administration

a) Meeting called to order @ 10:15 by Chair, Barbara Groves.

b) Attendance

Present:

Chair: Barbara Groves

SPC Members:

Dennis MacDonald

John MacLachlan

Maurice Schlosser

George Onley

Kathy Parker

Roy Warriner

George Stivrins

Lucy Emmott

Liaisons: Kate Turner (MOE)

Peter Jekel (NBPSDHU)

Absent/ Regrets: Ian Kilgour (SPC Member)

c) No declarations of pecuniary interest declared.

d) Agenda approved (MacDonald/Emmott).

e) Minutes of May 22

Draft minutes were amended to include two items under section 4:

- a copy of the notice of motion presented by Maurice Schlosser and
- direction from the Project Manager to interested SPC members to submit suggestions for wording of a Terms of Reference (ToR) Task regarding compensation for affected landowners.

They were then approved on a motion by Onley, seconded by Parker.

f) Correspondence – none other than related to ToR (see section 3)

2. Terms of Reference (ToR)

Wording in the preamble section of the Draft ToR was adjusted to emphasize the SPC's intent to consider financial implications and options to offset financially negative impacts as the Committee develops source protection planning policies. During discussions the Chair directed staff to assist the Committee in identifying such options. This will be done at the appropriate stage of the project once the scope of the impacts is better understood. The wording amendment was approved on a motion by Stivrins / MacDonald. The second last paragraph of the Project Overview now reads:

“Once assessment reports are complete and risks to drinking water have been identified, it is intended that source protection focus on the development of the source protection plan. The source protection plan will set out locally based risk management measures to reduce or eliminate significant risks to drinking water supplies, and set out a strategy to implement these measures. This could take up to three years to complete. In developing policies to manage risks, consideration will be given to environmental, social and economic implications. The Committee will also consider the potential for financial instruments to complement the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.”

Other changes included correction of a minor grammatical error and clarification that this SP Area is not subject to considerations for the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Agreements. The following sentence was added to the section describing the North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Area:

“For the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the North Bay – Mattawa Source Protection Area is not subject to considerations for the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Agreements.”

Action: Staff were directed to submit the amended document to the SPA for acceptance as the Proposed Terms of Reference at the SPA’s next meeting scheduled for June 25, 2008 on a motion by Schlosser / Parker.

Comments were received from several people on the Draft ToR and these were provided to the SPC. Staff had previously acknowledged receipt of each and advised respondents that they would also be receiving a formal response and copy of Proposed ToR. SPC directed staff to work with the Chair to draft and send the responses on behalf of the Chair.

3. Working Group Formation

There was considerable discussion by the Committee regarding the nature and role of working groups. This followed a similar discussion at the previous meeting May 22 which was cut short due to time constraints. The Clean Water Act provides the SPC with the authority to form working groups at their discretion to complete specific tasks and as such are accountable to the SPC. The Project Manager (PM) advised that the work plan and budget have been developed based on the assumption that positions on working groups will be voluntary.

Each of the municipal technical studies has a steering committee which was formed at the initiation of the studies in spring 2007 prior to SPC formation. The PM suggested that these could continue until the SPC has the opportunity to develop protocols for working group formation and operation. The steering committee for the North Bay intake includes members of the previously existing Trout Lake Watershed Advisory Committee with the addition of a representative of the business operators located within the most vulnerable area. The PM suggested that the SPC may not find that a working group is required for each intake, but did emphasize that the requirement for three municipalities to work together to protect the Callander drinking water source pointed to the need for a working group for the Wasi River Watershed.

Action: A list of the names and affiliations of members of the Trout Lake Watershed Advisory Committee (TLWAC) is to be provided to the SPC.

Action: The SPC needs to officially direct formation of the North Bay Source Protection Working Group from the TLWAC.

Action: The agenda for the next meeting of the SPC shall include the development of protocols for working group formation and operation.

4. Communications

The PM suggested that additional newsletters / factsheets to specific stakeholder groups such as farmers could be prepared and distributed if the Committee identified target groups. Discussion ensued regarding a proposed one-page newsletter for the agricultural sector.

Action: Staff will consider potential for preparation and distribution with a target date of early fall.

5. SECTOR BREAK-OUT REPORTS

Economic – Dennis MacDonald, Maurice Schlosser, George Stivrins

- stakeholder identification: railways, highways, waterways
- many issues are related to federally regulated entities
- maintenance standards on highways and railways are probably beyond the scope of the local committee
- need a protocol as to how businesses would be approached (who meeting, timing of initial contact) – potential for PM to accompany sector rep similar to visits to Trout Lake business owners by Chair and PM
- initial contact would be just for introduction of program since we will not have threats identified until the technical studies have been completed for the assessment report
- important to give business owners the opportunity to express their needs

Action: staff should look into what is happening at the provincial level with respect to highway and railway corridors.

Municipal – Kathy Parker, George Onley

- stakeholder reps should be people with local knowledge and/or historical knowledge and may be found through local associations such as Lions, Legion or Naturalist Club (South River examples) or from the list of people who attended the public consultation sessions – knowledge of potential risks to the South River water supply would be valuable
- criteria should be developed (staff responsibility?) and a letter drafted to be used to follow up with people who express an interest in serving on a working group; the letter should list required qualifications and expectations for potential working group members; letters of interest could be directed to the Chair
- no staff support required at this time
- George Onley will be contacting existing groups and making presentations in Callander looking for input into our knowledge base of threats and issues
- Roles of municipal reps
 - Kathy Parker to cover South River
 - George Onley to cover Callander
 - Suggested that Ian Kilgour (*in absentia*) could cover Mattawa since North Bay is already well covered (there was no suggestion regarding Powassan)
- Need to establish mandates for all working groups
- Suggested that we need to get Ian Kilgour's participation on a regular basis – he needs the support of the City of North Bay to have time to attend meetings

Action: Staff to follow-up with Ian and potentially the City of North Bay to ensure that Ian can be available to attend meetings regularly

Public-at-Large – Lucy Emmott, Roy Warriner, John MacLachlan

- concern was expressed as to the lack of understanding of information flow from working groups to the SPC
- SPC needs to understand the role of working groups
- Suggested using “community notes” to reach people about working group formation
- Work with existing groups such as Greater Nipissing Stewardship Council (GNSC)
- Steve Mitchell of the was suggested as a member for Callander working group

6. New Business

The following motions developed by the farming community were presented by Maurice Schlosser but failed to proceed due to no seconder.

Motion # 1:

The draft TOR be amended to include the task of investigating the range of financial instruments available locally to support the implementation of the Source water protection Plan; and that the TOR be further amended to create budget to support the work of the Local Committee to undertake this task.

Motion #2:

The draft TOR be amended to include budget for an assessment phase on the impact of the proposed local Source Water Protection Plan.

Motion # 3:

The draft TOR be amended to include mandatory conservation targets for municipal water usage as the first means of mitigating the amount of source water needed to meet municipal needs.

Motion # 4:

The draft TOR be amended to include full disclosure of raw water quality data for the Source Water Protection planning area in order to provide an evaluation baseline to determine whether source water protection at the source can effectively deal with the desired outcomes to be achieved for both municipal wells and surface intakes.

Motion # 5:

The draft TOR be amended to include budget and task the Local committee with the assessment of the effectiveness of each of the barriers present locally.

7. NEXT MEETING to be held September 17, 2008 or at the call of the Chair

8. Adjourn.