

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE NORTH BAY-MATTAWA  
SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
1:00 PM, OCTOBER 14, 2009  
Held at North Bay – Mattawa Conservation Authority, 15 Janey Ave, North Bay**

**1. Administration**

a) Meeting called to order @ 1:20pm by Chair, Barbara Groves.

b) Attendance

<b>Source Protection Committee</b>	<b>NBMCA Staff &amp; SPC Liasons</b>	<b>Regrets:</b>
Barbara Groves, Chair	Sue Miller, Project Manager	Kathy Parker (SPC)
Lucy Emmott	Francis Gallo, Water Resources Specialist	George Stivrins (SPC)
Ian Kilgour	Sue Buckle, Communications Advisor	Peter Jekel (NBPSDHU)
Dennis MacDonald	Neil Gervais (MOE)	
John MacLachlan		
George Onley		
Maurice Schlosser		
Roy Warriner		

c) Approval of Agenda

**Carried**

d) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of June 17<sup>th</sup> and June 23<sup>rd</sup> approved. June 25<sup>th</sup> minutes are not yet available.

**Carried**

e) Correspondence – none

**2. Project Manager’s Updates**

a) Site Visits to Businesses in IPZ-1’s

Barbara Groves and Sue Miller met with business owners in the IPZ-1 for the City of North Bay intake in the spring of 2008 to discuss the opportunity to have an environmental consultant conduct a site visit of their business premises. The purpose would be to advise them of any practices apparent which could pose a threat to the municipal drinking water supply. Some months later several NBMCA staff and the consultant successfully completed Section 88 training which allows entry onto private property for the purpose of acquiring information pertinent to the completion of the Assessment Report or Source Protection Plan. NBMCA staff who received this training included Rob Palin, Sue Miller, Scott Higgins, and Kristen Green (currently on maternity leave).

Sue Miller will be sending a letter to each business operator (approximately six) in the North Bay IPZ-1 to remind them of their prior interest and advise that Wayne Marshall of Farrow Associates will be contacting them shortly to conduct the site visits.

At this time no businesses have been identified in the other municipalities but based on the Technical Studies, there should be business properties to inspect in Callander and South River.

With respect to septic systems in IPZ-1s, for the purposes of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP), qualifying households have been contacted to encourage them to apply for ODWSP funding for septic system inspections, replacements or upgrades if they feel their system might be faulty. North Bay is not participating in the program; they have had a septic re-inspection program in place for a number of years along with a septic tank pump-out bylaw.

#### b) Staff Changes/Updates

Sue Buckle will be replacing Bronya Cuddy-Gregg as Communications Advisor.

NBMCA underwent interviews for the Source Protection Planner position, and is currently going through references. NBMCA will hopefully choose to hire the planner within the next few days.

NBMCA is currently seeking a writer to assist with compiling the Assessment Report.

#### c) Copies of Minutes

There was a question concerning the time-frame requirements for SPC members to keep their hard copies of previous minutes. Sue Miller clarified that there are no requirements. Copies are retained by the NBMCA.

### **3. Callander Drinking Water Surveillance Program**

The Municipality of Callander was offered the opportunity to participate in the Drinking Water Surveillance Program. As a result of the recent blue-green algae concerns, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) is prepared to conduct water quality testing for microcystin LR (among other water quality parameters), and has arranged lab space/time for analysis. Analysis of samples at no cost was offered for September, October, and November when the chances of detecting the toxin are greatest. However, council has not yet approved participation.

At this time the only justification for identifying blue-green as an issue is to verify presence of the toxin microcystin. Sue Miller explained that AECOM consultant Tammy Karst-Riddoch would prefer to use the relative abundance or biomass of algae as an indicator of the risk of microcystin. This is due to the difficulty of detecting the toxin and the fact that it can either form or disappear quite quickly.

Sue Miller was asked to contact Jeff Celentano CAO/Clerk of Callander to see if and when Callander council might approve participation in the water quality testing program.

#### **4. International Plowing Match and Rural Expo**

During the week of Sept 22-26 NBMCA had a booth at the International Plowing Match and Rural Expo in Earlton, with the overall goal of increasing awareness of the Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) program among northern municipalities who are not members of a conservation authority. Such communities may eventually become included in source protection planning under the Clean Water Act. A map was presented showing the origins of visitors from across the province and indicated significant numbers from the target areas.

#### **5. Municipal Drinking Water Signs**

Sue Buckle provided an update on the signs for municipal drinking water wellhead protection areas. The wording on the Nickel District Conservation Area "Ours to Protect" should help the public relate to the goal. The NBMCA logo and spill contact number will also be included. Cost is estimated at \$50 per sign. Locations need to be verified as there are restrictions along provincial highways. Ian Kilgour suggested putting the signs on existing poles to reduce the risk of vandalism, and contacting Joe Germano of Public Works to advise him of the initiative.

Input was solicited as to whether the signs should be bilingual or English only. The response was mixed. Municipalities will be consulted to see what language option they prefer.

Another consideration was whether the signs should be reflective or non-reflective. It is expected that only Powassan would have a sign along a provincial highway.

#### **6. Source Protection Plan Dry Run Exercise**

Last month SPC members attempted a planning dry-run exercise to help evaluate the principals of the proposed regulation. Lessons learned in trying to develop policies included the need to maintain focus on the threat and to remember that it is the threatening activity that must be considered not the property use. For example, if considering a gas station, the principal threat comes from fuel handling and storage.

Discussion brought about a reminder that regardless of whether an existing activity is actually polluting or not, if it is classified as a significant threat, policies must be developed to address the threat.

SPC members briefly discussed the compilation of the results from all CA's dry run exercises which was provided by MOE.

#### **7. Assessment Report**

a) Updates: Sue Miller stated that she will send the updated version of compiling an Assessment Report to SPC. Other updates included:

- i. Septic systems in Mattawa – Although the municipality cannot absolutely ascertain that everyone has hooked up to municipal services, since there has never been any indication otherwise, no further action will be taken.

- ii. South River IPZ-1 will now extend to the causeway. The intake is approximately 100m upstream of the causeway. The decision was made to delineate the IPZ as in a lake, with a 1km buffer around the intake; the narrow constriction at the causeway is like a river outlet. A date for presentation of the revised **report to the SPC and public is proposed for Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6:30pm in South River's municipal office pending confirmation with the consultant.** Available SPC members include: Dennis MacDonald, George Onley, Ian Kilgour, Maurice Schlosser, John MacLachlan, Neil Gervais, and Kathy Parker. May be available: Lucy Emmott, Roy Warriner. Have not heard from: George Stivrins (absent).
  - iii. Trout Creek – The technical study on the Trout Creek's well cluster is in progress. The consultant is confident that it can be finished in time to be put into the Assessment Report, but his work did not begin until September. Further, it should be noted that this is the first study of its kind and so technical guidance is lacking.
  - iv. Callander Bay – internal comments on the draft Paleolimnology study for Callander Bay have been sent, and NBMCA is expecting the final report soon.
  - v. Great Lakes Agreement – concern was raised on if the Assessment Report will include this. Under the Assessment Report content checklist, it is requirement #142. Because North Bay draws its drinking water from Trout Lake and discards into Lake Nipissing, this constitutes an inter-basin transfer and has to be commented on. For Mattawa and Powassan, there are no Great Lakes Agreement issues.
- b) Timeline: The target date for public release of the Assessment Report is Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 or up to two weeks later.

- i. South River is the last of the municipal technical studies and should be presented before the end of October. Several water budget studies are still awaiting either completion or peer review. All are expected to be complete before year-end.
- ii. The watershed characterization has been completed some time ago, but needs to be summarized for the Assessment Report. It is anticipated that a writer will be contracted to assist with compilation of the Assessment Report. MOE has supplied a checklist of requirements.
- iii. The Assessment Report is being organized to make it easy for people to find information related to a specific system or location of interest. This may lead to some repetition of explanatory information among various sections but the end product should be more user-friendly. The information must still be technically correct and complete.
- iv. SPC members expressed concern over the need to review an excessive amount of technical material in a relatively short time. Staff were directed to provide sections for review as they were completed.

The following target meeting dates were proposed:

- November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009: 1:00 - 4:00pm in NBMCA boardroom
- December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009:
- January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010:

There will be an opportunity to make corrections following the first public consultation period.

The Assessment Report must be available online and a hardcopy must be made reasonably available to the public. Current plans are to place a copy of the report at municipal offices and some libraries.

## **8. Other Updates**

The new North Bay water treatment facility should be hooked-up and running by this time next month.

## **9. Next regular SPC Meeting to be held on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 1:00pm in NBMCA boardroom.**

Following the meeting, there will be a meet and greet with the Source Protection Authority board members at 5 p.m. in the Natural Classroom. Dinner will be served.

The SPA meeting will follow from 6:00 pm-7:00 pm and an overview on the findings of the technical studies and progress on the Assessment Report will be presented.

Pending confirmation with the consultant, the SPC will meet in the Village of South to receive the South River draft technical report on **Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 6:30pm in South River's council office.**

Other tentative meetings to discuss the Assessment Report include:

- December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

## **10. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Moved by: George Onley  
Seconded by: John MacLachlan

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Barbara Groves, Chair

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Sue Miller, Project Manager