LAKE ERIE REGION SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 1, 2008

The following are the minutes of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee held on Thursday, May 1, 2008 in the Auditorium, Grand River Conservation Authority, 400 Clyde Road, Cambridge, Ontario.

Members Present: C. Ashbaugh, Chair; M. Ceschi-Smith; H. Cornwell, M. Goldberg; R. Haggart; A. Henry, *K. Hunsberger, R. Krueger, I. MacDonald; D. Murray, J. Oliver; D. Parker; L. Perrin, *G. Rae; T. Schmidt; R. Seibel, B. Ungar; M. Wales; W. Wright-Cascaden

Members Regrets: J. Harrison, B. LaForme, J. Laird, D. Woolcott

Proxy Representatives: None

Liaisons: A. Dale, Source Protection Authority Liaison; D. Molnar, Provincial Liaison

Region Management: P. Emerson, GRCA; T. Marks, KCCA; R. Sackrider, LPRCA; K. Smale, CCCA

Committee:


Also Present: K. Campbell, R.V. Anderson Associates; A. Davidson, Brant County; B. Fields, Norfolk County; P. General, Six Nations; D. Goudreau, Oxford County; B. Harris, Stantec Consulting; E. Hodgins, Region of Waterloo; S. Kongara, City of Brantford; J. Langan, Stantec Consulting; L. Lee, R.V. Anderson Associates; M. A. Marion, Brantford Expositor; R. Martin, Cambridge Times; S. Smith, University of Guelph; T. Spiers, City of Brantford; P. Wilson, Haldimand County

1. Call to Order

Craig Ashbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2. Roll Call and Certification of Quorum – 15 Members Constitute a Quorum (2/3 of members)

The Recording Secretary called the roll and certified a quorum with 16 members present for a total of 18 members attending.
3. Chairman’s Remarks

C. Ashbaugh welcomed members, staff and guests, and spoke to the following announcements, meetings, and events:

- Long Point Region Conservation Authority held their Annual General Meeting (60th Anniversary) on April 4, 2008 at Camp Trillium in Waterford.
- The Lake Erie Region Management Committee meeting was April 17, 2008.
- C. Ashbaugh introduced and welcomed Daniella Molnar as the Provincial Liaison representative for the meeting.

* K. Hunsberger joined the meeting at 1:05.

4. Review of Agenda

Moved by: L. Perrin
Seconded by: D. Murray carried unanimously

THAT the agenda for the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee Meeting of May 1, 2008 be approved as distributed.

5. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest made in relation to the matters to be dealt with.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 3, 2008

It was noted that T. Marks represents Kettle Creek Conservation Authority.

Moved by: A. Henry
Seconded by: D. Murray carried unanimously

THAT the revised Minutes of the previous meeting of April 3, 2008 be approved.

7. Hearing of Delegations

None

8. Presentations

a) City of Brantford Technical Studies

S. Kongara provided an overview of the status of the Brantford Technical studies and introduced K. Campbell from R.V. Anderson Associates. K. Campbell is the consultant overseeing Brantford’s technical studies. He provided a summary of Brantford’s Technical Studies, outlining the project requirements, project findings, current status and next steps.

G. Rae joined the meeting at 1:15.
M. Goldberg reiterated that Brantford’s water supply is highly vulnerable, and inquired if microbiological threats were assessed. K. Campbell replied there are significant levels of E. coli in the river. K. Campbell stated that the Brantford water treatment system is a good treatment system; however, there is a higher degree of risk for Brantford because the Grand River is highly impacted. M. Goldberg stated that he feels a major threat has been identified.

D. Parker asked if the Brantford intake can be closed. K. Campbell replied affirmatively. D. Parker inquired if it has been identified as to whether the source of the E. coli is agricultural or human waste. K. Campbell replied there has not been an analysis on the origins of the E. coli.

J. Oliver inquired as to whether there have been any issues identified pertaining to water quantity. K. Campbell replied that quantity has not been identified as an issue.

R. Seibel asked how many of the spills were from gasoline/diesel. S. Kongara replied that out of the 48 spills thus far in 2008 one was a small diesel spill upstream.

A. Henry noted that from 2000 to 2006 the number of reported spills was stable, and wondered if there is any indication that there is an increase in reporting as opposed to an increase in spills. K. Campbell replied that he is unsure of past factors, but identified that unusually high snowfall and subsequent melt and runoff were large factors for the increase in spills for early 2008.

L. Perrin referred to the increase in spills and inquired if the source of the spills is consistent. S. Kongara replied that in 2008 45 of the 48 spills were sewage treatment plant bypasses; 41 of these are mainly raw or primary discharges. L. Perrin asked if this is unique for 2008. S. Kongara responded that patterns from previous years indicate that 90-93% of spills are sewage treatment bypasses.

M. Ceschi-Smith advised that as a public interest representative on the committee, she wanted to remind members that we are stewards of the watershed, and that everything in the watershed is connected. She identified Brantford as one of the only communities who takes their drinking water from the Grand River, and stated that a lot of political will is required to rectify Brantford’s drinking water concerns.

R. Haggart asked if city staff have contacted upstream communities regarding the reasons for the spills. S. Kongara replied that the City of Brantford has contacted the Ministry of the Environment, and the Grand River Conservation Authority is taking an active role in facilitating the determination of best practices. R. Haggart inquired regarding communications with the upstream municipalities in earlier years. S. Kongara stated that the spills have always been stated as a concern to upstream municipalities, and identified that the issue is getting more attention now because of Source Protection Planning. R. Haggart stated that he would like to see action to assist Brantford.
T. Schmidt advised that the Region of Waterloo also takes their water from the Grand River, and that 39 of the 48 spills were upstream from the Region of Waterloo. He clarified that spills that previously would not have been treated as such are now being identified and reported. T. Schmidt concurred that some spills are a concern, but clarified that not all contain harmful effluent. He advised that the Region of Waterloo is upgrading their facilities; these updates may take 10-15 years because of procedures such as studies, approvals, and construction time. He reminded members that water treatment facilities along the Grand River need to be able to adapt to a variable water source.

M. Ceschi-Smith advised that on May 12, 2008 City of Brantford council will receive a full report on spills; from that, a resolution to the Province and the Federation of Municipalities will be forthcoming. She reminded members that this is also a large economic issue, and that food based industries take water from the river. She then summarized that she felt that the process of improving the upstream facilities should be accelerated.

b) Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System Technical Studies

A. Henry provided an overview of the status of the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System technical studies, stating that the technical work has been ongoing for several years. Lake Erie is impacted by wind and wave action. Concerns for the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System include sediment, point source and non point source contamination. A. Henry then introduced John Langan and Brandie Harris of Stantec Consulting.

J. Langan and B. Harris provided a summary of the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System Technical Studies, outlining the source protection process, vulnerability, issues and threats and risk assessment. J. Langan noted that information from the Ministry on hazard rankings is not available to allow the completion of the risk assessment and scoring. In the interim, Stantec has opted to use place holder values; therefore the outcome of the studies is subject to change based on the forthcoming Director's Rules.

R. Krueger asked if ship and boat traffic affect the intake. A. Henry responded that it does not; however, there has been an isolated historic incident which affected the intake’s water treatment for a short period of time. The intake is not in an area of significant traffic. L. Perrin added that there have been discussions with Transport Canada regarding dredging the Port Stanley harbour.

B. Ungar inquired as to whether any chemicals had been identified such as cadmium, lead or zinc. J. Langan responded that these are non-issues. A. Henry clarified that turbidity makes detection difficult.

D. Parker asked if there is a valve to shut off the intake. A. Henry advised that the intake can be closed by shutting down the pumps at the treatment plant. D. Parker asked if they receive notification of spills from the United States. A. Henry replied negatively.

M. Goldberg asked if radioactivity is monitored. J. Langan replied negatively. A. Henry elaborated that radioactivity has been measured in the past and has not been identified as a concern.
J. Oliver referred to the prioritization of issues and asked if standardized guidance is forthcoming. L. Minshall replied that the draft regulations and Director’s Rules will provide more guidance. She further advised that the prioritization of issues is the Source Protection Committee’s responsibility. There will be too many issues to address in the first Source Protection Plan. Most studies are on hold until they receive further direction from the province.

c) Stewardship Program Update

T. Ryan outlined that the Outreach & Education program is moving forward in cooperation with municipalities. The outreach is now directed at a larger audience (residents within the two year time of travel area).

S. Glauser will send members the dates of open houses as they are approved by the municipalities.

D. Parker stated the language of the stewardship program is ambiguous and causes confusion among landowners. He also asked whether township offices serviced by an on site wells are included under the Clean Water Act. T. Ryan responded that the Stewardship program currently only deals with areas around municipal residential drinking water systems.

J. Oliver asked what is being included in the Stewardship mail-outs and to whom they are being mailed. T. Ryan referred to the handout provided to members [You’re in a wellhead protection area] and advised that this is being mailed with a cover letter which outlines the scope of the outreach taking place in the area, as well as a survey regarding the clean water program. The content of the mail-out depends on the municipality.

J. Oliver requested more detail regarding the proposed requirement in the EBR posting for municipalities to have the two-year time-of-travel area in an approved official plan. S. Glauser replied that the two-year time-of-travel area has to be identified in an approved official plan in order to extend the Stewardship Program Early Actions funding to those landowners in that area. J. Oliver expressed concern. For many municipalities, the official plans have been submitted to the Ministry of the Municipal Affairs and Housing, and are being delayed by Ministry approval. J. Oliver inquired as to whether staff intended to address this concern in the comments to the Ministry. T. Ryan replied affirmatively. C. Ashbaugh suggested staff bring back correspondence for the Ministry next meeting. L. Minshall advised that comments to the posting are due by May 16, 2008 and asked if it would suffice for staff to report on the comments made in response to the posting. Further, the committee may draft a resolution to be included in the comments.

Res. No. 15-08  Moved by: J. Oliver  Seconded by: L. Perrin  carried unanimously

THAT the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee recommend that the Ministry of the Environment expand the eligibility of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program Early Actions funding to two-year times-of-travel that have been included in Official Plans by municipalities as of the date municipalities approved their Official Plan;
Res. No. 16-08  
Moved by: M. Ceschi-Smith  
Seconded by: B. Ungar  
carried unanimously

AND THAT the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee request that municipal planning approval authorities expedite the approval of outstanding municipal Official Plans in an effort to better implement groundwater and surface water protection measures.

B. Ungar suggested a friendly amendment splitting the motion into two separate motions. J. Oliver accepted the friendly amendment.

R. Sackrider asked if connecting to a municipal sewage system, as opposed to updating a septic system would be eligible for Stewardship funding. T. Ryan replied affirmatively.

9. Correspondence

a) Copied

Correspondence from Kim Smale, General Manager, Catfish Creek Conservation Authority, to Craig Ashbaugh Re: Catfish Creek Source Protection Authority Approval of Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee Rules of Procedure

Res. No. 17-08  
Moved by: M. Cecshi-Smith  
Seconded by: B. Ungar  
carried unanimously

THAT correspondence be received for information.

b) Not Copied

None

10. Reports

a) SPC-05-08-01  
Terms of Reference Update

D. Parker requested clarification regarding consideration of future development near wells. L. Minshall advised that when a proposed water supply system becomes a planned municipal drinking water system, it is then required to be brought under Source Protection Planning.

T. Schmidt expressed concern regarding the short turnaround time from the approval of the Terms of Reference to deadline for municipal resolutions. L. Minshall responded that, if municipalities are concerned with the development of the Terms of Reference, they should provide their comments as soon as possible so that the Source Protection Committee can incorporate the changes.
Res. No. 18-08

Moved: A. Henry
Second: M. Ceschi Smith

carried unanimously

THAT Report SPC-05-08-01 Terms of Reference Update be received for information.

11. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

a) Deferred Motion: February 7, 2008

Moved: M. Goldberg
Seconded: M. Ceschi-Smith

THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to set aside sufficient funds in its 2008 budget to conduct a comprehensive inventory of the volumes of groundwater in the Lake Erie Source Protection Region’s watersheds.

M Goldberg advised that upon further consideration, he would like to receive more information regarding the amount of groundwater in the aquifer before withdrawing his motion.

L. Minshall suggested that the next draft of the water budget report will provide more detailed documentation supporting the estimated volume of groundwater and an explanation of how AquaResources calculated the volume.

M. Goldberg requested to table the motion until the Grand River Tier 2 Water Budget report is complete (March 2009). M. Ceschi-Smith accepted tabling the motion.

A. Henry inquired as to how accurate the calculation in the report will be. L. Minshall replied that more work will be done to improve estimates, and at that point we can revisit to determine if enough rigour has gone into the calculation.

12. Other Business

a) Question and Answer Period

13. Closed Meeting

Not applicable.

14. Next Meeting – Thursday, June 5, 2008, 1:00 pm

15. Adjourn

Moved: A. Henry
Seconded: D. Murray

carried unanimously

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

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Chair      Recording Secretary