

MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION REGION
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MINUTES

Mississippi-Rideau
Source Protection Committee **January 8, 2009** **#1/09**

Present: George Braithwaite Scott Bryce
 Alex Cullen Carol Dillon
 Richard Fraser Domenic Idone
 Patricia Larkin Peter McLaren
 Beverly Millar Eleanor Renaud
 Janet Stavinga (Chair) Mary Trudeau

Alan Arbuckle (Source Protection Authority Liaison)
Dr. Nadine Sicard (Medical Officer of Health Liaison)

Regrets: Paul Knowles Christine Leadman
 Randy Malcolm Jim Riopelle

Katie Fairman (Ministry of the Environment Liaison)

Staff: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson Dell Hallett
 Paul Lehman Emily Saumure
 Brian Stratton

SPA Members: Mark Burnham (Chair, Mississippi Valley Conservation)

1.0 Welcome

Chair Stavinga welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished them a Happy New Year. Chair Stavinga introduced Dr. Nadine Sicard, Associate Medical Officer of Health for Ottawa Public Health. The Public Health Units in the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region chose Dr. Sicard to fill the role of Medical Officer of Health Liaison on the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee (MRSPC). Dr. Sicard's Ministerial appointment to the Committee is in progress and should be finalized shortly. Chair Stavinga had Committee members introduce themselves to Dr. Sicard and indicate what interest(s) they represent on the Committee. Staff was then asked to introduce themselves.

a) Agenda Review

Chair Stavinga went over the purpose of the meeting and the agenda.

b) Notice of Proxies

None

c) Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 1-01/09

That the Agenda of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of January 8, 2009 be adopted.

Carried

d) Declarations of Interest

None

e) Approval of Minutes

Motion 2-01/09

That the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of August 7, 2008 be approved.

Carried

f) Status of Action Items

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson explained that staff had been able to answer some of the questions MRSPC members had after their Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) training session last fall. Members were told this information was in their blue folders. Staff stated they would work with the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to answer the remaining questions and bring additional information back to the MRSPC on March 5.

Chair Stavinga indicated that she would ask the Source Protection Authorities at their February meetings to support the MRSPC's motion calling on the Provincial Government to initiate an inter-jurisdictional committee to protect the Ottawa River.

Members were asked if they had any questions or comments about any of the action items. They had none.

Motion 3-01/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the following report for information.

Carried

g) Correspondence

Chair Stavinga indicated that a response was sent to the Reeve of Montague Township on January 6, 2009 and a copy of the response is in members blue folders.

2.0 Community Outreach

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson gave an overview of the upcoming activities. She explained that the Municipal Partners Meeting will likely take place in March and is intended to update municipal staff and council members on our progress, explain how we envision the technical work rolling out in 2009 and get municipalities to start thinking about the planning phase that will begin in mid 2010.

Chair Stavinga gave an overview of the Quarterly Chairs Meeting. She explained that the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program is under review and the Minister of the Environment has asked Source Protection Committees to facilitate local consultation on the program. MOE staff will concentrate on engaging provincial umbrella organizations. Chair Stavinga also indicated that there was a good presentation from Transport Canada about transportation corridors. Chairs were told that limitations under the *Clean Water Act* to deal with a physical corridor (e.g. highway) should not prevent Committees from working closely with their municipalities to ensure local Emergency Preparedness Plans are adequate to help protect source water. Members were told a letter from MOE was included in their blue folders.

Chair Stavinga explained that the next Chairs meeting has been pushed back to March 2 and 3, 2009.

Richard Fraser gave an overview of the last Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition training session for agricultural representatives. They received a presentation on the effects of nitrates, phosphorus and potash on water quality. There is still a lot of concern about compensation.

Peter McLaren informed members that the National Farmers Union is holding a speakers series and he has suggested the topic of source water protection for the March 12 session in Beckwith.

Motion 4-01/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the following report for information.

Carried

3.0 Proposed Terms of Reference Submission

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson reported that MOE had received the Mississippi-Rideau's *Proposed* Terms of Reference package on October 17. She indicated that staff had received one phone call from MOE staff to clarify some information and that no major issues had been identified with the Terms of Reference.

Motion 5-01/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the following report for information.

Carried

4.0 Assessment Report Work Plan

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson walked members through a preliminary work plan to develop Assessment Reports. She noted that the work plan at this stage is still very preliminary and meetings coming up in late January with MOE will help clarify the process and allow staff to refine the work plan and develop a timeline for completion. Staff hopes to be able to present this more detailed work plan and timeline to the Committee in March or April.

Members asked when the Ottawa River Intake Protection Zone study would be completed as that information is important to the Ottawa River bridge crossing proposal currently being reviewed by Ottawa City Council. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that the study is being managed by City staff and is going to be one of the latter studies to wrap up for a number of reasons. The study was one of the last to get started because the preliminary technical guidance from MOE was unclear about how to delineate the Ottawa River intakes. This is still an issue under the final Technical Rules and staff is hoping to get clarity from MOE at the training session tomorrow. Another hurdle has been staff turnover at the City which has caused some lost time. Staff informed members that they have requested a status report on the study from City staff to include in our annual work plan which is due in February. This information will be shared with the MRSPC.

Members noted that due to the current bridge proposal and the potential for truck traffic to carry hazardous materials across such a bridge there are many communities in the Lac Deschenes area following the source protection process carefully. They are very interested in the intake protection zone study.

Members clarified that Assessment Report documents provided at open houses this year will also be available on the web site for those unable to attend the meetings.

Members asked if we will be able to use Outreach and Education funding through the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program to fund our Assessment Report open houses (last year our Terms of Reference open houses piggy-backed on general open houses raising awareness about the *Clean Water Act* and the stewardship program). Staff explained that last year was a special set of circumstances but that there is adequate funding in our core budget from MOE to deliver the same level of consultation for the Assessment Reports as we did for the

Terms of Reference.

Members asked if the Conceptual Water Budget and Watershed Characterization Report would be coming back to the MRSPC because of changes required by the final Technical Rules. Staff explained that the reports will come back to the Committee if changes need to be made to meet the final rules or to address comments from Members when they reviewed the reports last year. Staff is still working through the requirements to see if changes are needed to either report.

Members asked if there was a way to carry forward unresolved public comments made on a draft document so stakeholders did not have to resubmit the same comments during consultation on the proposed document. Staff explained that all comments received on a draft document are summarized into a chart and presented to the MRSPC who can revise the document to address such comments. The chart that is included in our final submission package to MOE shows which comments were addressed and which were not. Comments received on a proposed document are included in the submission package in their entirety for the Minister's review. They are not summarized into a chart. If an individual or group resubmits their unresolved comments during this second stage of consultation, it indicates to the Minister that they felt strongly enough to take the time to do so.

Members noted that the Conceptual Water Budget identifies a lack of information about groundwater in the western part of the Mississippi watershed. Members felt information about groundwater quality and quantity in this part of the region is important for municipalities to have when making planning decisions. Members asked if more detailed information would result from the Tier 1 Water Budget. Brian Stratton explained that the Water Budget and Watershed Characterization are regional studies being prepared using existing information. The technical studies that will produce new information are those focusing on municipal drinking water systems: wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones. Mr. Stratton explained that the MRSPC will be able to highlight these types of concerns which pertain to privately serviced areas when developing Source Protection Plans. The Committee can recommend policies in a Source Protection Plan that municipalities should adopt.

Members recognized that through the source protection planning process they will become aware of important issues that currently fall outside the scope of the *Clean Water Act* and therefore the MRSPC's mandate. Members discussed that while these other issues are important, the Committee currently has a big task at hand and they will need to stay focused in order to complete it well. Members agreed that an additional list or chapter would be created within the Assessment Reports to document these other issues and data gaps. This will allow the Committee to stay focused on their mandate while at the same time

highlighting other issues of importance that more appropriate ministries, agencies, sectors or groups should be addressing. Members identified universities as potential partners who could fill data gaps.

Motion 6-01/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the following report for information.

Carried

5.0 Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program Update

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson gave a quick overview of both the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 programs. She informed members that MOE is currently looking for public input on what the remainder of the program should look like from 2009-2011. MOE is hoping now that technical studies are wrapping up and identifying potential risks to source water, the program can be redesigned to focus on its original intent of providing financial assistance to people affected by the Clean Water Act.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson informed members that the Minister of the Environment has asked Source Protection Committees to facilitate discussions with local stakeholders to get their feedback on the next phase of the program. MOE staff will focus on engaging provincial stakeholders. MOE wants comments by the end of March which means local discussions with stakeholders need to get underway quickly. Since no February MRSPC meeting was scheduled members were asked if they wanted to have a meeting in February to review and approve a consultation plan or did they want to direct staff to develop an appropriate plan and keep members informed of the details via email.

Chair Stavinga provided some context before opening the floor to questions from members. She expressed frustration that MOE staff is not permitted to discuss the program extending beyond its current funding cycle of 2011. Local source protection staff on the other hand has the flexibility to talk about the importance of the program being extended and that will be a benefit of local consultation being facilitated by the MRSPC rather than MOE. The MRSPC as well as the conservation authorities have stated a number of times the importance of the program extending beyond 2011 so financial assistance can be provided to people affected by the Act when Source Protection Plans are being implemented.

Chair Stavinga also cautioned members that with Assessment Report development ramping up, staff does not have the resources to undertake consultation like they did for the Terms of Reference. They will do their best to engage as many local stakeholders as possible and facilitate some focused discussions with interested groups. This local outreach is intended to supplement what MOE is doing at the provincial level.

Members asked if anyone was welcome to participate and provide input

on the program. Staff clarified that any individual or group is welcome to provide input on the program and further explained that groups who had expressed interest in the past on compensation and financial assistance, such as the agricultural sector, would be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Members notified staff that there was an Ontario Federation of Agriculture Eastern Ontario summit meeting in Kemptville on January 28. If there were specific questions MOE wanted groups to answer Members were willing to circulate them to the County Federations in advance of the meeting. Chair Stavinga explained that MOE had provided some initial materials to the Chairs but that it needed to be tweaked to provide greater clarity. Staff will develop a local version of the questionnaire and circulate it to members as quickly as possible for distribution out to groups and the public.

Members asked if changes made to the initial 2007-2008 program had lead to better program uptake. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that the 2008-2009 program increased the eligible area around municipal wellheads from 100 meters to the 2 year time-of-travel. However, the 2 year line had to be in a municipal Official Plan or Council had to pass a resolution allowing it to be used. Either way, in the Mississippi-Rideau region our consultants were still finalizing travel times around wellheads, so those lines were not available.

Members expressed concern that MOE's application process could be a potential barrier to program uptake. Members noted that there is a 40 page application package for each of the three categories: early actions, outreach and education and special projects. It is also difficult to even locate the program and the application packages on MOE's website.

Members asked what the Business Pollution Prevention Reviews were and if staff had contacted local Chambers of Commerce to advertise the grant. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that the Review entails a consultant visiting the business and doing a review of it to see if any practices pose a potential risk to surface or groundwater. It is similar to an environmental farm plan only for businesses. She confirmed that it was confidential and results were not communicated back to MOE or any other environmental regulatory agency. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that MOE was late developing this module so it was not available until near the end of the 2007-2008 program. Looking at aerial photography staff can identify businesses within the eligible areas and communicate directly with them to see if there is any interest in completing a Review. With the Terms of Reference due staffing resources was limited so not as much attention was paid to delivering this program as could have been. Members did caution that some businesses may be reluctant to participate because of concerns it could lead to mandatory requirements.

Motion 7-01/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the following report for information.

Carried

Motion 8-01/09

Moved by: Domenic Idone
Seconded by: Eleanor Renaud

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee direct staff to work with the Ministry of the Environment on public consultation regarding the future structure and delivery of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program;

And further that a report be brought back to the Committee for March 5, 2009 providing an update on:

- 1) The consultation undertaken to date;
- 2) The feedback collected;
- 3) Staff recommendations for changes to the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.

Carried

6.0 MRSPC 2009 Meeting Schedule Revised

Chair Stavinga gave an overview of the revised meeting schedule for 2009. Nearly monthly meetings will be required to develop the Assessment Reports and meetings from May through September will be held in the evening at different locations throughout the region to encourage public participation.

Members noted that July 2 could be problematic because of the long weekend that follows. Members decided to push the meeting back a week.

Members felt that the tour they had in the fall of different municipal drinking water systems was very informative and asked if there was a way they could tour the remaining systems. Sommer Casgrain-Robertson explained that staff was going to try and organize tours of some of those systems for Members preceding their meetings in May through September.

Motion 9-01/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve the following revised meeting schedule for 2009:

- **Thursday, March 5, 2009**
 - 1pm, RVCA
- **Thursday, April 2, 2009**
 - 1pm, RVCA
- **Thursday, May 7, 2009**
 - 7pm (meet & greet at 6pm), location TBD
- **Thursday, June 4, 2009**
 - 7pm (meet & greet at 6pm), location TBD
- **Thursday, July 9, 2009**
 - 7pm (meet & greet at 6pm), location TBD
- **Thursday, September 3, 2009**
 - 7pm (meet & greet at 6pm), location TBD
- **Thursday, October 1, 2009**
 - 1pm, RVCA
- **Thursday, November 5, 2009**
 - 1pm, RVCA
- **Thursday, December 3, 2009**
 - 1pm, RVCA

Carried

7.0 Other Business

None

8.0 Member Inquiries

None

9.0 Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 5, 2009

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

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Janet Stavinga
Chair

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Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
Recording Secretary