

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 1-02/09

That the Agenda be adopted.

Carried

d) Declarations of Interest

None

e) Approval of Minutes

Motion 2-02/09

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

Carried

f) Status of Action Items

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson provided an update on Item 4. She informed members that she is sitting on a new provincial working group, led by Conservation Ontario, to develop appropriate Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act policies and statements. She will share this information with Members when it is developed.

Chair Stavinga provided an update on Item 5. She informed members that MOE is trying to get the Ottawa River issue, as it relates to source water protection, on the agenda of the June, 2009 Interprovincial Cabinet Ministers' meeting between Ontario and Quebec. Chair Stavinga also noted that Ottawa City Council, at their February 25th meeting, deferred a motion regarding this issue to their Planning and Environment Committee (copy of motion provided in blue folders). Chair Stavinga will follow up with the City to discuss a coordinated effort regarding this issue.

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

Motion 3-02/09

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

Carried

g) Correspondence

Chair Stavinga stated that Terms of Reference for the Mississippi Valley Source Protection Area had been approved by the Minister, and Terms of Reference for the Rideau Valley area was pending approval at this time. Chair Stavinga understood from MOE that there are no issues with the Rideau Valley Terms of Reference, it just needs the Minister's signature. Chair Stavinga read a section of the approval letter from the Minister as it complimented the Committee's public consultation efforts and integration of public comments into the final proposed Terms of Reference.

Members expressed concern about Provincial delays in approving these documents and the impact that could have on subsequent deadlines (e.g. Assessment Report). Chair Stavinga explained that some of the Terms of Reference that are awaiting approval require amendments. Also, it can be difficult for MOE staff to get time with the Minister to have him sign approval letters. Katie Fairman further explained that many Terms of Reference were granted extensions until December 2008 and those make up the bulk of the Terms of Reference still awaiting approval.

2.0 Community Outreach

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson highlighted item 8 under Past Activities and indicated that Eastern Ontario source water staff would be holding a conference call each month, at least until the Assessment Reports are developed. These monthly calls are a way to build consistency among Assessment Reports across Eastern Ontario which has been an important request by municipalities.

Chair Stavinga gave an overview of Item 11, Quarterly SPC Chairs Meeting held March 2 & 3 in Toronto. Of the 40 Terms of Reference received by MOE: 12 have been reviewed by the Minister (11 were approved and one was returned for amendment), 15 are on their way to the Minister for review (1 recommended for approval and 14 recommended for amendment) and 13 are still being reviewed by MOE staff. We have been advised that the Rideau Terms of Reference are not one of the 14 being recommended for amendment. Chair Stavinga noted that some regions are relieved that there are delays in approving the Terms of Reference because that means they have longer to complete their Assessment Report (due one year after their Terms of Reference are approved).

Ms. Fairman reminded members that despite some Assessment Report deadlines being delayed, Source Protection Plans are due August 20, 2012 for all regions. Members expressed concern with Terms of Reference approvals being delayed indicated that approval of Assessment Reports could also be delayed given that they are much more complex. Members explained that this could compress the timeframe to develop Source Protection Plans which are the most essential deliverable. Members raised a concern that we may need to ask the Ministry to amend the Source Protection Plan due date because the objective of this exercise must be to deliver a plan that is effective within a timeframe that is reasonable.

Ms. Fairman presented MOE Liaison roles and responsibilities at the Quarterly Chairs meeting. These permanent assignments will provide greater capacity and forward momentum, not only for individual SPCs, but also between SPCs and the Ministry. An Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program update was also provided. It gave statistics on program uptake for 2008/2009. Finally, the results of a survey conducted by Environics were presented. Project Managers were asked to rank and comment on the 'health' of the overall source protection partnership and all the players involved. A report is available should members be interested. Generally there is a positive relationship between SPCs, neighboring regions, Conservation Ontario, municipalities, MOE & MNR.

Chair Stavinga indicated that guidance from MOE regarding the elevation of "other" systems (e.g. clusters of private wells) will be released shortly, though no definitive timeline or date has been announced. MOE is aiming to post a draft Source Protection Plan Discussion Paper on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry in April 2009. Once posted, members can anticipate reviewing draft comments prepared by staff on the discussion paper.

Chair Stavinga told members that after three years of negotiations, Conservation Ontario had finalized an agreement for data from MPAC. This was favorably received by all project managers.

Chair Stavinga asked members if they had additional events, past or upcoming, to report on.

Carol Dillon informed members that she participated in a conference call hosted by the Ontario Environmental Network & the Water Guardians. These calls are held regularly to provide Environmental Non-Governmental Organization representatives on SPCs with an opportunity to discuss source water issues happening in their regions. One issue that was raised was the scope of the *Clean Water Act* being primarily restricted to municipal drinking water systems. Many representatives felt the Act does not sufficiently address other systems like private wells. The next conference call is scheduled for March 19. Ms. Dillon is also attending the 'Preserving Ontario's Headwater' conference in Toronto on March 25. She will participate in a session on source water protection for whole watersheds.

Members indicated that the Rural Clean Water Program committee had their meeting and the program is so popular it is over prescribed. The waiting list from 2008, coupled with new applications for 2009, means grant funding for 2009 will likely be used up shortly.

Motion 4-02/09

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

Carried

3.0 Assessment Report Development

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson walked members through a preliminary draft work plan and timeline to develop Assessment Reports. A meeting in February with MOE helped clarify the process, enabling staff to create a detailed work plan and timeline for completion.

The work plan is divided into three phases: 1) completion of individual technical studies and public review of draft findings; 2) assembly of draft Assessment Reports and public consultation; and 3) completion of proposed Assessment Reports and public consultation. The timeline shows submitting proposed Assessment Reports to the MOE for approval by April 27, 2010.

Members stressed the need to increase public awareness about the importance of the Assessment Reports and increasing public participation at consultation open houses. A number of suggestions were discussed around the table. Chair Stavinga recommended an action item asking members to relay their suggestions and potential stakeholders to Ms. Casgrain-Robertson so that communications efforts can reach a broader network.

Members inquired about the level of detail that would be provided in the technical study summaries and the role of the SPC at open houses. Members were concerned about a possible public perception that the SPC was 'rubber stamping' technical work. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that the summaries would be short, concise, plain language versions of the technical studies, summarizing the methodology and study findings. These summaries are intended to be helpful; however, full technical studies will always be available to municipalities and the public on CD. Members are expected to read the full technical studies which will be included in their agenda packages on CD. Consultants who prepared the studies will be at MRSPC meetings to answer any questions members have. Once members are comfortable with a study's findings they will be asked to review, revise where necessary, and approve the summary to ensure they are comfortable with the way the science is being communicated to the public. Ultimately the SPC is responsible for producing Assessment Reports. Chair Stavinga reiterated that the role of members at open houses is to observe, hear public feedback first hand, and answer specific questions asked of SPC

members regarding political aspects of the process. Chair Stavinga reminded members that the open houses are an opportunity for the public to have input, members get to provide input when they are reviewing preliminary draft studies and summaries prior to public consultation.

Members commented that the first set of summaries will be the test. As the process evolves, the review of summaries will become more refined as much of the content will be similar from one summary to the next.

Members asked that public input received at open houses be brought back to the SPC at their next meeting so 'lessons learned' could be applied quickly. Also, members asked that staff compile a summary of all public input received throughout phase one (open houses and comment periods) for the SPC to reference when developing the draft Assessment Reports. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson indicated that that was staff's intention but may not be clearly indicated in the work plan. Chair Stavinga asked that an agenda item be added to include this iterative process in the Assessment Report work plan.

Motion 5-02/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve the following process and timeline for developing proposed Assessment Reports; and

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee direct staff to notify the Ministry of the Environment of the approved process and timeline for developing proposed Assessment Reports and include the attached report.

Carried

4.0 Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program Consultation

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson reminded members that MOE is looking for public input on what the remainder of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP) should look like – 2009 to 2011. At their January 8, 2009 meeting the MRSPC agreed to facilitate feedback from local stakeholders as requested by the Minister. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson provided a summary of local efforts to date, and reminded members of the open house on March 9, 2009 at the Perth Legion.

Members asked if any municipalities had submitted responses yet to the comment form that was distributed. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson indicated that no responses had been received yet, but people have until March 23 to submit comments. Members were asked to remind their sectors about the comment deadline and encourage people to submit comments.

Members asked if anyone was welcome to participate and provide input on the program. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that any individual or group is welcome to provide input on the program and further

explained that groups who had expressed interest or concern in the past regarding compensation or financial assistance (e.g. the agricultural sector) were being encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Mr. Hal MacGregor, a member of the Lanark Landowners Association, was given five minutes to address members. Mr. MacGregor commended the efforts of the SPC regarding municipal drinking water. He raised concern about the operation of the Smiths Falls water treatment plant and the quality of the drinking water it produces. Mr. MacGregor cautioned the committee that consultation with the public should be with people who drink the water not those producing it. Chair Stavinga encouraged Mr. MacGregor to report back to the Lanark Landowners Association and inform them of our Assessment Report work plan and timeline as well as the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program review. He indicated that he would do so at the next LLA Annual General Meeting scheduled for March 10, 2009.

Members expressed a need to direct stewardship funding to existing programs, like the Rural Clean Water Program, and to reinstate previous provincial funding like the Healthy Futures Program. The Council of Lanark Highlands passed a motion last month requesting that the province reinstate the Health Futures program.

Members were concerned that not all sectors were interested and/or had the time and resources to participate in the ODWSP review. Chair Stavinga reiterated that the Ministry is undertaking consultation with provincial level organizations. She also encouraged members to speak to their respective networks prior to the next SPC meeting and inform Ms. Casgrain-Robertson of which groups/individuals they were able to notify about the ODWSP review.

Motion 6-02/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve the following process and timeline for local consultation on the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program.

Carried

5.0 2009 MRSPC Meeting Schedule

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson informed members that they are invited to tour the Perth, Britannia (Ottawa) and Smiths Falls water treatment plants prior to their June, July and September meetings respectively. Logistical details such as meeting place & time will be provided to members via email.

6.0 Other Business

Brian Stratton informed members that staff had submitted their 2009/2010 business plan (work plan and budget request) to the

Province. The business plan outlined staffing, travel and training costs for core staff, the MRSPC and the Mississippi Valley and Rideau Valley Source Protection Authorities. It also outlined public consultation and information management costs, as well as funding required to complete all necessary technical studies to be able to develop Assessment Reports. The budget request is in line with the figure proposed in the Terms of Reference and with our budget allocation for 2008/2009. The business case and budget request is currently being reviewed by MOE and MNR.

Members asked if the new climate change component in the technical rules was accounted for. Mr. Stratton informed members that MOE has instructed regions not to spend any money on new modeling. This new component simply asks regions to compile their existing information on climate change.

Katie Fairman provided members with a general overview of Rule 114 in the Assessment Report Technical Rules. Under this rule, a man-made issue (an existing land use activity causing known contamination) can be identified as a significant risk in Highly Vulnerable Aquifers (HVA) and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas (SGRA) in addition to wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones (the areas being mapped around municipal drinking water systems). One important distinction is Sections 57, 58 and 59 of the *Clean Water Act* (e.g. ability to prohibit a land use or require a risk management plan) cannot be used to address significant risks in HVAs and SGRAs. This is a change that was included in the draft Assessment Report Technical Rules posted on the EBR in July 2008.

Members were concerned about the highly technical nature of this discussion and the potential impact on the Assessment Report work plan and timeline. MOE is developing communications materials to explain this Rule and Mississippi-Rideau staff will update members' materials to reflect this new understanding. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson clarified that this new understanding will not impact Assessment Report timelines because known issues always had to be identified in Assessment Reports (this work was included in the Threats and Issues study Dillon Consulting is doing for us). The misunderstanding was around how these significant risks attributed to issues can be addressed in Source Protection Plans so this will play a role in 2010 when we develop a work plan for developing Plans. Ms. Fairman reiterated that MOE wants regions to identify known issues in their first Assessment Reports, not undertake efforts to document currently unknown issues.

Jim Riopelle announced that he is moving to Manitoba and will no longer be able to represent the golf course industry on the MRSPC. Mr. Riopelle stated that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time on the SPC and was disappointed he would not be able to see the process through to the end. Mr. Riopelle has contacted the National Golf Course Owners Association to select a new representative to sit on the MRSPC. Chair Stavinga thanked Mr. Riopelle for his many contributions and wished him

success in his new position.

7.0 Member Inquiries

None

8.0 Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 2, 2009

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4.08 pm.

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Janet Stavinga
Chair

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Roz Kee
Recording Secretary