

**MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION REGION**  
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**MINUTES**

**Mississippi Rideau  
Source Protection Committee** **March 6, 2008** **4/08**

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<b>Present:</b>	George Braithwaite Alex Cullen Domenic Idone Patricia Larkin Peter McLaren Eleanor Renaud Janet Stavinga (Chair)	Scott Bryce Carol Dillon Paul Knowles Christine Leadman Beverly Millar Jim Riopelle Mary Trudeau
	Mark Burnham (SPA Liaison) Katie Fairman (MOE Liaison)	
<b>Regrets:</b>	Richard Fraser	Randy Malcolm
<b>Staff:</b>	Charles Billington Sommer Casgrain-Robertson Kristina Kamichaitis Brian Stratton	Brad Carew Karyn Cornfield Emily Saumure

**1. Welcome**

**a) Agenda Review**

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

**b) Adoption of the Agenda**

**Motion 1-03/08**

That the Agenda be adopted.

**Carried**

**c) Declarations of Interest**

None.

**d) Approval of Minutes**

**Motion 2-03/08:**

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

**e) Status of Action Items**

Chair Stavinga reviewed the list of status updates of each action item.

**Chair and Staff Action Items:**

Action Item #1

- A formal request has been sent to Ian Smith at the MOE to further examine the uranium issue in conjunction with other Ministries and to report back to the MRSPC.
- At the Chair's meeting, Chair Stavinga raised the HVA issue.
- The staff report and motions were circulated to the SPC chairs.

Action Item #2 – In progress

Action Item #3 – In progress

Action Item #4 – In progress

- There are some cost implications and other issues associated with a members-only website. Will explore further.

Action Item #5

- a) and b) Refer to Action Item #1
- c) In progress – Request presentation from Frontenac Ventures.
- d) In progress – Requested funding for public awareness campaign in letter to Ian Smith at the MOE
- e) Complete

Action Item #6

- MOE to present primacy of the Clean Water Act at April meeting.

Action Item #7

- The Chair raised the issue at the Chair's meeting of posting draft documents on the EBR.

Action Item # 8

- The Governing Policies document was approved by the Mississippi SPA on February 20 and the Rideau SPA on February 28.
- SPC members were given a copy signed by Chair Stavinga and Brian Stratton. They were asked to sign the Acknowledgements page and leave a copy with SP staff.

Action Item #9

- Members were provided with a list of municipalities in the MR Region and a map of municipal drinking water supplies in the Region.

Action Item #10

- There was discussion during Brad Carew's presentation later in the meeting on elevating "other" systems by municipal council resolution.

Action Item #11 – In progress

Action Item #12 – In progress

**Member Action Items:**

Action Item #1 - In progress

Action Item #2

- Members can now provide updates of events and presentations during SPC meetings as per Agenda Item 2.

**2. Events and Presentations**

Chair Stavinga highlighted this new standing agenda item, which will provide an opportunity for staff and members to give updates each month on past and upcoming events and presentations that they have attended or are planning to attend related to source protection.

Reports were provided verbally from Sommer Casgrain-Robertson, Brian Stratton, Carol Dillon, Patricia Larkin, and Chair Stavinga.

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson provided an update on the Eastern Ontario Crop Conference (February 21) attended by Sommer and Richard Fraser. There was a panel discussion on the Clean Water Act chaired by Chris Attema, a water quality specialist with the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition. John Williamson, Chair of the Cataraqui Source Protection Committee gave a presentation about the three Eastern Ontario Source Protection Regions. An agricultural representative from each of the three Eastern Ontario SPCs also participated in the panel.

Sommer reported on the following upcoming activities:

- Ottawa Valley Farm Show, March 11-13
- The Cottage Show, April 11-13
- Ottawa Eco-Stewardship Fair, April 19

Brian Stratton attended the Ontario Ground Water (OGWA) Association regional meeting in Perth (Feb. 26). Brian gave a presentation on the Clean Water Act and an overview of source protection work being done in the MR Region.

Patricia Larkin reported on her outreach work through Well Aware. She has talked about the work of the MRSPC at workshops in Almonte, North Lanark, and Appleton.

Carol Dillon reported that she had a conference call in February with the "Water Guardians", which is a network of environmental non-

governmental organizations. The purpose of the call was to bring together different groups to talk about source water protection. Topics discussed included private well clusters, First Nations and obtaining bursaries through Environmental Defense. It was noted that some regions are having difficulty getting First Nations representation on their SPCs. The Friends of the Tay Watershed are applying for a bursary to produce a revised edition of the Tay Watershed Times that includes source water protection content.

Carol reported the following upcoming activities:

- Maplefest, April 26 (Perth)
- Tay Watershed Management Plan stakeholder meeting, May 6 (Perth)

Chair Stavinga reported on the Eastern Ontario Certified Forest Owners AGM (February 9). The group includes 45 owners and represents 9,500 acres. The Chair noted these landowners are committed to sustainable forest management practices in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council and are leaders in sustainable land use practices. The Chair conveyed to the EOCFO an interest in forging partnerships to further protect the quality and quantity of our water resources.

Chair Stavinga recently met with Councillor Peter Hume, Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee of the City of Ottawa and Dixon Weir, Director, Water & Wastewater Services Branch to discuss reporting requirements to the appropriate Committees of Council as well as opportunities to strengthen our partnership with the City of Ottawa.

Chair Stavinga reported on the last SPC Chair's meeting. She noted that there is great diversity across the 19 Regions. The Regions are all at different stages in their work yet are all learning together. She reported the following updates:

- Assessment Report – There is no consensus amongst the Chairs about how to deal with Regional issues in HVAs (Highly Vulnerable Aquifers) and SGRAs (Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas). There will be an opportunity to comment on the draft Assessment Report regulation on the EBR.
- Property Entry - MOE is developing a training course for staff conducting site specific property assessments (e.g. entry protocols, biosecurity). The course will be ready to roll out in April in advance of the “training and qualification requirements” regulation. Brian Stratton clarified that entry onto private property will not be required in the Mississippi-Rideau region to complete Tier 1 technical work to be completed before 2009.
- Septic Re-inspection - The Clean Water Act triggered proposed amendments to the Ontario Building Code allowing for mandatory

septic re-inspection programs. There are currently two scenarios proposed on the EBR for consultation: (i) apply a septic re-inspection program across an entire municipality, or (ii) apply a septic re-inspection program only within vulnerable areas.

A member asked if the SPC can urge the Province to apply a septic re-inspection program Province-wide. Chair Stavinga responded that it is currently posted on the EBR for comment and will provide a web link. Stavinga mentioned that there was discussion at the Chair's meeting over which standards should apply: the design year or inspection year.

There was discussion about non-municipal systems that can be elevated into source protection planning through a municipal council resolution. The SPC Chairs clearly communicated to MOE that municipalities need guidance from MOE on the potential legal and cost implications of elevating such systems before councils are asked to make this decision, not just guidance on how to screen the systems to decide which should be included.

### **3. Terms of Reference Schedule**

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson presented a detailed schedule developed to complete the ToR (Terms of Reference) on time. The schedule identifies a work plan for staff and the points of SPC involvement. The schedule may be able to gain a month to avoid a time crunch at the end.

A member asked if the municipalities were clear in how to respond on the questionnaires to their desired level of involvement. Sommer responded that the questionnaire listed in brackets what "little" and "some" involvement meant so municipalities knew exactly what we meant by each term.

A member asked if the SPA could change the ToR if the Minister of Environment requested an amendment after reviewing the draft that was submitted for approval. Sommer responded yes, if the Minister requests an amendment the SPA can revise the ToR or the Minister will if the SPAs do not.

A member asked if there will be an opportunity for the SPC to see comments made by the SPA on the draft ToR prior to submitting them to the Minister. Sommer responded that yes the SPC will be sent a copy of the SPAs comments and would be sent draft copies during the public consultation process so any potential issues would be identified and could be worked out with the MRSPC prior to comments being drafted. Mark Burnham commented that unless there was a glaring issue, it would be unlikely that the SPA would submit negative comments on the MRSPC's work. Chair Stavinga added that any issues would likely be worked out at management meetings.

A member asked how many ToRs will be submitted. Sommer responded that there will be two: one for MVC and one for RVCA.

A member asked about details on the public consultation meetings.

Sommer responded that there will likely be 2 or 3 meetings across the region and that members would be asked to attend those that are relevant to the region or sector they represent. Dates will be set as early as possible but cannot be booked until we know exactly when preliminary draft ToR will be ready.

A member asked if “other” non-municipal systems such as mobile home parks would be included in source protection planning. Chair Stavinga responded that when the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Gordon Miller, was asked the same question on whether or not to identify and include these other systems, at the recent SPC's Chairs meeting, he responded that there is no need to push hard on this issue now and that there is enough work on every ones plates. Everyone should be diligent about the work they have to do now and to do it well. These “other systems” can be addressed in the future. If anything, deliver the current mandate of work sooner rather than later.

Chair Stavinga noted an Ottawa Citizen article by Joe Banks regarding drinking water quality issues within a mobile home park in Ottawa. She recommended to the SPC that although these types of systems are currently outside of our mandate; if issues are brought to our attention then we should serve as facilitators and make the necessary connections between the appropriate authorities and ministries to respond to the particular issue.

A member commented albeit a massive fiscal responsibility in assuming these types of systems it was important to ensure that these systems not fall off the radar in the future.

A member asked if the SPC can recommend to municipal councils that these “other” systems be elevated. Brian recommended waiting until there was additional guidance from MOE. Chair Stavinga responded that municipalities have been given the authority to make this decision and it is the role of the SPC to provide the necessary technical information. Brian explained that the Ministry can also elevate “other” systems. The Chair added that the public can therefore petition the Minister and their municipal councils regarding elevating “other” systems.

A member asked if the Minister elevates a system will the MOE pay for the technical studies. Chair Stavinga responded that MOE has not committed any money regarding the elevation of “other” systems. Katie Fairman from the MOE stated that the MOE is collecting information and developing a screening tool for these “other” systems.

Brian noted that the Terms of Reference can be changed in the future to include elevated systems if municipalities pass resolutions in the future.

Chair Stavinga asked about the status of the ToR in other SP Regions. Brian answered that the Cataraqui Region currently has a discussion paper out for comment and the Raisin-South Nation Region has a Draft ToR out for discussion but it was not created using the software provided

by MOE. Sommer added that there is a coordinated effort among the Eastern Ontario regions in terms of drafts, timelines and consultations with municipalities and a true focus on sharing information between the Regions. Chair Stavinga noted that the Eastern Ontario Chairs have agreed to meet with the Project Managers and Communications staff to identify areas of mutual interest to be included in ToR.

**Motion 3-03/08:**

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the schedule for the development of the Terms of Reference.

**Carried**

**4. Draft Technical Reports**

Brad Carew, Water Resources Engineer for the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region, gave a slide presentation on Chapter 1 of the preliminary draft Watershed Characterization Report entitled "Watershed Description". Members were given hard copies of the slides. The slides will also be posted on the website

Hard copies of the report will be distributed to members with their April agenda package. Recently received data is currently being incorporated into the report. The report has been prepared in accordance with MOE guidelines.

A member asked if the mapping accuracy of the geologic information from the water wells database could be refined and how. Brad responded that the Region is working with the "best available data" and that better information would require an immense effort.

A member asked how confident staff is that better information would show significant recharge areas (Fig 1.3-6). Brad responded that given that there is very little overburden in the Region it makes sense that there is a little bit of recharge almost everywhere.

A member asked if the purple areas represented Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) on the Wetlands map (Fig 1.4-1). Brad responded that they were not ANSIs and would find out for members what it represents.

Regarding the population density map (Figure 1.6-2), a member explained that many residents live "seasonally" in rural/cottage areas for long periods of time but maintain a permanent address in the City. Brad confirmed that seasonal population is not reflected in the density map and explained that the data we have is good for delineating large population areas but is less accurate in defining small areas such as Plevna who see their populations balloon seasonally.

Brad noted on the Municipal Land Use map (Figure 1.6-3) that there is little data available for the western portion of the Region.

Brad highlighted the clusters of private wells within some municipalities who provide municipal drinking water to some residents (Water Service Areas, figure 1.6-9 & 1.6-10). These clusters could be elevated by municipalities through a council resolution.

A member asked about the accuracy of the Permit to Take Water (PTTW) data (Fig. 1.7-1). Brad responded that the data is new, we received it in February 2008, and it is the best available. Brad explained that it can be misleading because the PTTW database contains only permitted uses, not actual takings. Users are now required to track their actual water use but this data is not yet available as it only started within the past year.

Brian commented that the Ottawa River permits to take water were not shown on the map as the data was not available. Brad added that Munster may also be missing from the map.

A member commented that dewatering activities also require permits. Brad acknowledged that dewatering is not necessarily a consumptive use and that about 60% of PTTW are just for moving water rather than consuming it.

A member asked what a designated facility is (refer to Figure 1.7-3). Brad answered that it depends on the type of population that is served.

A member asked how snow dumps are being evaluated. Brad responded that the impacts of snow dumps and the use of road salt are being evaluated by the MOE as possible "prescribed activities" however it is not currently included in this work. Data and mapping would be required. This could be looked at in the future.

A member asked about how flat areas (e.g. Blueberry Marsh) that straddle the watershed boundary are handled. Brad responded that digital terrain mapping was used to define the limits of the watershed in coordination with neighbouring regions so a defined boundary line has been agreed upon.

A member commented that unregulated/un-classified activities such as car gardens would be difficult to identify particularly if they're outside of wellhead protection areas. Brian responded that drive-by surveys would be conducted during the threats study in cooperation with local partners to help identify undocumented sources of potential contamination.

Chair Stavinga reminded members that this work is based on existing information only and that one of the tasks is to identify data gaps. Brad noted the poor aerial imagery and lack of soils data in the western portion of the region. Mark Burnham commented that new ortho-photography will be available for the Region in the spring.

## **5. Other Business**

Mark Burnham presented a press release (dated February 29, 2008) from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association announcing that the new Minister of Northern Development & Mines will apparently not

be proceeding immediately with surface rights amendments to the Mining Act as previously promised. Premier McGuinty is reported to have ordered a complete review of the Mining Act.

Brian Stratton reported that the annual work plan and budget for the source protection program is due at the end of March.

Chair Stavinga had the following housekeeping points:

- Members must sign the Acknowledgements page of the Governing Policies document and leave a copy with staff.
- A media clippings binder will be available for members to peruse during meetings.
- A correspondence binder will be available for members to peruse during meetings that will include correspondence sent to the SPC and the response issued, and any additional correspondence sent on behalf of the SPC.
- The blue folders containing additional meeting materials not included in the agenda package will be used each month so members are asked to leave the folders behind after each meeting.

**6. Member Inquiries**

None.

**7. Next Meeting**

Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick).

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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**Janet Stavinga**  
**Chair**

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**Karyn Cornfield**  
**Recording Secretary**