

MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION REGION
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MINUTES

**Mississippi-Rideau
Source Protection Committee** **May 1, 2008** **#6/08**

Present:

George Braithwaite	Scott Bryce
Alex Cullen	Carol Dillon
Richard Fraser	Domenic Idone
Paul Knowles	Patricia Larkin
Christine Leadman	Randy Malcolm
Peter McLaren	Beverly Millar
Eleanor Renaud	Jim Riopelle
Janet Stavinga (Chair)	Mary Trudeau

Steve Hardaker (SPA Liaison)
Katie Fairman (MOE Liaison)

Regrets:

Staff:

Brad Carew	Karyn Cornfield
Sommer Casgrain-Robertson	Emily Saumure
Brian Stratton	

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked SPC members to introduce themselves. The Chair recognized three elected officials in attendance from Mississippi Mills including Mayor J.A. (Al) Lunney, Councillor Jane Torrance, and Councillor Val Wilkinson. The Mayor provided some welcoming remarks.

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 1-05/08

That the Agenda be adopted.

Carried

d) Declarations of Interest

None

e) Approval of Minutes

Motion 2-05/08

That the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of April 3, 2008 be approved as amended.

Carried

f) Status of Action Items

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson provided an update on Action Item #1 (the precautionary principle). She noted that a response was received from MOE stating that the source protection planning process under the *Clean Water Act* is inherently precautionary (a copy of the response was circulated to all members). A statement was included in the revised ToR (Terms of Reference) highlighting this fact.

Brian Stratton provided an update on Action Item #3 (identifying threats in Highly Vulnerable Areas and Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas). According to MOE, the Assessment Report Regulation and Director's Rules will likely only allow identification of issues, not threats, in these two areas except to determine the cause of the issue. MOE plans to post the draft Assessment Report Regulation and Director's Rules on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry by June 15th. Therefore, the final Regulation and Director's Rules will not be available before ToRs are submitted for approval.

2. Community Events and Presentations

a) Past Events

Chair Stavinga reported on the Chairs' teleconference with the Province. The Province remains firm on the deadlines for the ToR. Therefore, all ToRs are due October 20, 2008. Requests for extensions may be submitted on a case-by-case basis.

Richard Fraser reported on the City of Ottawa's Rural Summit (April 15). Approximately 100 people attended, which was smaller than the first Summit.

Casgrain-Robertson reported on the Ottawa Cottage Show (April 11-13) and the Ottawa Eco-Stewardship Fair (April 19). Both events were well attended and provided good exposure. Visitors were interested in and supportive of source protection planning.

b) Upcoming Events

- Tay Watershed Management Plan Implementation Meeting (May 6)

- SPC Chairs Quarterly Meeting (June 2)

3. **Preliminary Draft (version 2) Terms of Reference**

Stratton presented the second version of the Preliminary Draft ToR (revisions were based on comments received at the previous MRSPC meeting). Members provided comments during the presentation. All suggestions were documented and incorporated into the Draft ToR for public consultation (see changes marked in yellow in **Attachment A**).

Casgrain-Robertson provided an overview of the schedule to develop the ToR. Next week the Draft ToR will be sent to municipalities, posted on the Region's website (www.mrsourcewater.ca), made available at both CA offices, and advertised in local newspapers. Ten open houses will be held in June (3rd-19th), which will act as public meetings for the ToR. The open house schedule will be finalized shortly. Invitations will be sent directly to property owners within 100 metres of a municipal well and 200 metres of a municipal surface water intake. Members were asked to review a draft cover letter for municipalities and provide staff with comments. Staff noted that an additional section will be added highlighting issues relevant to the municipalities (see **Attachment B**).

A member asked if direct invitations will be sent to property owners within entire WHPAs (Wellhead Protection Areas) and IPZs (Intake Protection Zones). Staff responded that these areas are in the process of being mapped so their boundaries are not yet defined. In addition, the funding being used to send the direct mail-outs is from the Source Protection Program (stewardship fund), which is limited to the 100 metre and 200 metre areas for the 2007/2008 funding cycle. Staff assured members that open house advertisements will be inclusive of everyone living near a municipal system, not just those on municipal water or living within the 100 metre or 200 metre zones. Staff also noted that there will be at least three more rounds of public consultation in each of those communities at different stages in the source protection planning process.

Motion 3-05/08:

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve the *Preliminary Draft (Version 2) Terms of Reference* as amended as *Draft* for public consultation.

Carried

A member asked about conducting a water budget on the Ottawa River. Chair Stavinga responded that the question can be raised to the Province at the next Chairs' meeting (June 2). The Chair said that the issue can also be raised in the letter to the municipalities.

There was one public delegation regarding the ToR. Benjamin James spoke about his multi-generational farm property and history of

environmental stewardship in Lanark. James feels if Source Protection Plans result in any land use restrictions that the Province should fully compensate affected land owners for all resulting costs and inconveniences.

A member inquired about a meeting taking place on May 12 about compensation. Staff was unaware of the meeting but offered to find out more information and circulate it to members.

Linda McCormick, a member of the public, asked if there was any federal representation on the MRSPC (e.g. Parks Canada, Rideau Canal Office). Staff responded that there is no federal government representation on the SPC; however staff will circulate the Draft ToR to Parks Canada-Rideau Canal Office for their review and comments.

4. **Draft Technical Reports**

Brad Carew gave a presentation on Chapter 3 (vulnerable areas) of the *Preliminary Draft Watershed Characterization Report (March 2008)*. Carew's presentation included groundwater flow modelling results within a WHPA (Wellhead Protection Area), sensitivity analysis results, geologic cross sections, WHPAs for King's Park, Munster Hamlet, Almonte and Carp, regional vulnerability and data limitations.

- Surface Water/Ground Water Interaction

A member asked if interactions occur between the aquifer and the Mississippi River. Staff responded that the Nepean aquifer *discharges* to the Mississippi River. This interaction, along with fractures and fissures, are incorporated in the groundwater flow model.

- Almonte Sewage Lagoon

A member asked if land use policies in future Source Protection Plans might affect the Almonte sewage lagoon. Staff responded that yes they could. The lagoon was identified as an issue during the Almonte WHPA Study completed by Intera in 2003. It is currently situated in the WHPA for Wells 5 and 6. As a result, monitoring has been increased at the Almonte wells.

- Beckwith Landfill

A member asked about the status of the Beckwith landfill contamination. Staff responded that the location of the contaminant plume has been studied and identified. It was found that the plume has reached a steady state (meaning it has stopped expanding in size). Treatment systems have been placed on all the private wells located in the plume. Monitoring wells are located beyond the plume.

- Time of Travel

A member asked how long a spill-at-surface takes to arrive at a well (within a 2-year time-of-travel zone). Staff responded that if the spill had direct connection to the aquifer (e.g. through a fracture or a well) then it

would arrive within 2 years; however, if the spill had no direct connection then it would take longer. The time-of-travel is calculated as horizontal flow time through the aquifer. This is conservative because it doesn't take into account any protection offered by the type or thickness of overlying material and the time it would take for a particle to travel through it.

- Aquifer Recharge

A member asked how the aquifer is recharged. In HVAs, where there is no overlying protection, rainwater directly recharges the aquifer. In confined aquifers, recharge occurs from water seeping through faults and fissures or from where it outcrops. The recharge area of an aquifer supplying a municipal well can be located outside of that well's WHPA. These recharge areas will potentially be defined as Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas in the Tier 1 Water Budget.

- Vulnerability Scoring

A member asked how vulnerability scoring is affected. When you have a deep aquifer like the Nepean sandstone, there is overlying protection from the bedrock above it. The deep aquifer will have a different vulnerability score than shallow aquifers with no bedrock. Within a WHPA you can have different vulnerability scores within the same time of travel zone (e.g. the 2-year Time of Travel zone). For example, the Carp well has different materials at surface and varying vulnerability within the same wellhead zone.

- Preferential Pathways

A member asked how private wells are related to vulnerability. Staff responded that wells can be considered a preferential pathway because it allows direct transmission from surface to the aquifer. Vulnerability scoring can be increased to reflect preferential pathways (e.g. wells or quarries). There are not many private wells located close to municipal wells; however, there are a few exceptions in areas that used to be serviced by private wells where the private wells have not been decommissioned (e.g. Westport). Stewardship programs should aim to abandon these private wells.

5. **Other Business**

1. MOH Liaison Position

Casgrain-Robertson reported that Dr. David Salisbury recently resigned as Chief MOH (Medical Officer of Health) for Ottawa Public Health. He was the interim MOH Liaison on the MRSPC. Robertson will work with the local health units to help them choose a replacement.

2. Terms of Reference for Neighbouring Regions

Casgrain-Robertson reported that Cataraqui and Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Regions have requested comments from the MRSPC on their draft ToR. Staff had just received these draft ToR so they could

not be included in this month's agenda; however, their comment periods end before the next MRSPC meeting (June 5). Members agreed that staff will review the documents and submit draft responses to both Regions within their comment periods but clearly state that these comments may be amended and/or approved by the MRSPC on June 5, 2008.

3. Regulation Amendments

Casgrain-Robertson provided an overview of two proposed amendments to the Miscellaneous Regulation (O. Reg. 286/07) posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry for public comment. The two amendments outline:

- i. Training requirements for people exercising powers of entry under the *Clean Water Act* for the purpose of developing Assessment Reports.
- ii. Details about the proposed Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program for 2008-2011, which will replace the current program (Source Protection Program 2007/2008).

Casgrain-Robertson explained that while the *Clean Water Act* permits staff to enter onto private property for the purpose of developing Assessment Reports, most Conservation Authorities have their own policies about property entry that are typically less sweeping. Source protection staff will adhere to these local property entry protocols regardless of what additional powers are permitted by the Act. These local Conservation Authority policies will be circulated to MRSPC members.

Motion 4-05/08:

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee submit the following comments to the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry regarding posting 010-3297 (amendments to the Miscellaneous Regulation, O.Reg. 286/07, made under the *Clean Water Act*):

While the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee supports:

- i. The funding of early actions to protect drinking water sources in advance of source protection plans being in effect;
- ii. And supports the use of multi-year agreements that run the timeframe of the current funding commitment until 2011;

It is crucial that:

- i. The area covered around municipal wells and intakes be expanded beyond 100 metres and 200 metres respectively so that more properties are eligible to take advantage of these incentive grants. This can be achieved by allowing Source Protection Regions to allocate early action funding to properties within the 25-year time of travel and IPZ-3 once individual

groundwater and surface water vulnerability studies are completed by consultants but in advance of an approved Assessment Report;

- ii. That the Province give further consideration to providing an appropriate level of funding for decommissioning of abandoned wells province wide.
- iii. And that the Province fund the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program beyond 2011 to provide financial assistance to property owners to undertake actions required under approved Source Protection Plans. This will fulfill Section 97 (2) (a) of the Clean Water Act which states that the purpose of this funding program is to provide financial assistance to persons whose activities or properties are affected by the Act.

Carried

4. Chair's Newspaper Column

Chair Stavinga now has a monthly column in 14 local newspapers. The column will be published the week following MRSPC meetings. The second column will appear the week of May 5, 2008.

5. Other

Jim Riopelle is working with staff to produce source protection articles for a number of golf course industry publications.

A member suggested putting web links to our partner municipalities on the MR Source Protection Region website. Municipalities and the Algonquin Nation will be asked if they can reciprocate and put a source protection link on their website.

A member asked if the public was aware that compensation had been raised as an issue. The Chair responded that this issue will be noted in the draft ToR for public consultation, which should boost public awareness.

6. **Member Inquiries**

None

7. **Next Meeting**

Thursday June 5, 2008 at the Merrickville Memorial Community Centre (106 Read St., corner of Read & Main, Merrickville, next to the fire hall). The meeting will start at 1:00 pm.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 pm.

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Janet Stavinga
Chair

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Karyn Cornfield
Recording Secretary

**Attachment A: DRAFT Terms of Reference for Public Comment
(May 8, 2008)**

**Attachment B: Draft Letter to Municipalities Requesting Comment
(May 8, 2008)**