

d) **Declarations of Interest**

None

e) **Approval of Minutes**

Motion 2-09/09

That the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of October 1, 2009 be approved, as amended.

Carried

f) **Status of Action Items**

Chair Stavinga gave an update on Item 3 (Ottawa River Inter-Jurisdictional Committee). Chair Stavinga informed Members that she had received a response from Minister Gerretsen to her letter calling on the Province of Ontario to initiate an Ottawa River watershed inter-jurisdictional Committee. The Minister's letter indicated that his staff engaged their Quebec counterparts and determined that there is interest in pursuing joint collaboration through:

- o A series of bi-annual meetings with Ontario and Quebec official and relevant local stakeholders to discuss spills response, source protection and the potential of an integrated watershed management strategy for the Ottawa River; and
- o Further consideration of a formal watershed schedule for surface water and groundwater management in the Ottawa River watershed under the framework of the *Agreement Concerning Transboundary Environmental Impacts Between the Government of Ontario and the Gouvernement du Québec*.

Chair Stavinga informed Members that the Ministry will keep both the Committee and the conservation authorities aware of and involved in this initiative. The Minister's letter will be included in next month's agenda package under correspondence and will be distributed to Members electronically. The Minister also sent a copy of his response to Mayor Larry O'Brien as Ottawa City Council passed a resolution calling on the Province to create an Ottawa River watershed inter-jurisdictional Committee.

Alan Arbuckle asked what the cut off date was for applications to fill the vacant industry/commercial position on the MRSPC. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that a call for applications should be posted later this month and applications would be accepted for two months until late January.

Motion 3-09/09

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

Carried

g) Correspondence

None

2.0 Assessment Report Development

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson stated that individual wellhead protection area studies had been undertaken for each groundwater based municipal drinking water system. These studies which produced vulnerability scores were reviewed by the Committee last spring and were presented to the public at open houses in June and July. Dillon Consulting has now undertaken a groundwater threats and issues inventory which is the next step in developing the Assessment Report. The Committee is being asked to review the inventory study and its results and decide whether to approve the results as draft for public consultation. If they do, the study summary will be posted on the web site, circulated to municipalities and letters will be sent to those properties who may be undertaking an activity that could be a potential significant threat. Staff will then incorporate the results of the draft threats and issues inventory into a preliminary draft chapter for the Assessment Report which the Committee will review in the coming months. In the spring the Committee will review a complete preliminary draft Assessment Report, which if approved as draft for public consultation, will undergo two rounds of public consultation.

Mr. Stratton reminded Members that the MOE Threats Training Session they attended on October 13 provided a background for the information they are about to review and discuss. Mr. Stratton explained that while Dillon Consulting is undertaking a threats and issues inventory for both surface water and groundwater only the groundwater inventory has been completed. Surface water results will be presented to the Committee in a few months following the intake protection zone studies. Mr. Stratton introduced Benoit Chouinard and Eric Gilbertson from Dillon Consulting who presented the attached groundwater inventory presentation.

A Member asked what protocol is used to determine the land use activity that caused the two spills reported near the Munster wells and if that activity(s) would be classified as a significant threat in the Provincial Threats Tables. Mr. Chouinard responded that the two spill events were small and it was his understanding that the standard reporting process was followed meaning the Spills Action Centre was contacted, the incident was reported, and measures were undertaken to prevent a reoccurrence. He also noted that the two spills had not caused a documented drinking water issue (e.g. contamination in the drinking water) or condition (e.g. contamination in the soil). The Member

asked specifically about the protocol used to determine land use activities that could be considered a threat to drinking water such as pumping heating oil into a tank. Mr. Chouinard responded that the scale of a spill and the location from a well would determine its significance. Mr. Stratton added that when Dillon reviewed the MOE's spills database they included any information about activities considered a significant threat in their groundwater threats inventory analysis. Chair Stavinga asked staff to clarify what protocol is used when a spill is reported to determine the activity that caused the spill and report back to the Committee.

A Member asked how the Committee will address the observations and findings identified in the threats inventory. Mr. Stratton responded that the inventory estimates how many existing land use activities may be considered a significant threat, because site visits were not undertaken to confirm details about identified land use activities the inventory is not exact. Once the Assessment Report is complete the Committee will develop risk mitigation policies to address each land use activity identified in the Provincial Threats Tables as a significant threat. The inventory will simply inform the Committee about how many of each land use activity may exist in the Mississippi-Rideau. Chair Stavinga reminded Members about the September 13 source protection plan dry run session they attended that outlined the policy tools available for Committees to use to address threats in their source protection plans.

A Member asked if the land application of biosolids was included in the threats inventory. Mr. Chouinard responded that biosolids are included in the four categories of land use activities still being inventoried by Dillon, specifically the application of non-agricultural source material. The Member asked how biosolids were being classified and what assumptions were being made. Mr. Stratton explained that attempts had been made to obtain data on biosolid application from municipalities but in many cases the information is considered confidential. Mr. Stratton stated that there are two maps to be created by the consultants. The first is a managed lands map and it is made up of agricultural managed lands (lands used for agricultural purposes) and non-agricultural managed lands (e.g. soccer fields, golf courses). The second map is a livestock density map. Both maps will evaluate managed lands relative to their nutrient units, an evaluation practice common used by agriculture. This additional information will be presented to the Committee in the new year. Chair Stavinga directed staff to follow up with municipalities regarding their application of biosolids to land.

A Member stated that the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) requires a nutrient management plan for farms with more than 300 animals and these nutrient units can be obtained from OMAFRA. Mr. Stratton responded that the nutrient unit information retained by OMAFRA is different than the information required for the managed lands maps.

A Member stated the biosolid information collected for the threats inventory should include more than just the application location. It should include information about the elements that have been removed such as heavy metals and what materials remain in the biosolids before it is spread. Another Member clarified that municipalities are subject to strict rules regarding

biosolids including what is allowed to be in the material and how and where it is applied to land.

A Member asked what the vulnerability scoring was for highly vulnerable aquifers and if the score applied into wellhead protection areas or if wellhead protection areas were still cut out of the highly vulnerable aquifer map. Mr. Stratton responded that highly vulnerable aquifers score a 6 which is not high enough to result in a significant threat. The Technical Rules are currently being amended to change the rule for mapping highly vulnerable aquifers so that wellhead protection areas are not removed. This means that if a wellhead protection area study assigns vulnerability scores of 2 and 4 in the 25 year time-of-travel zone, where this area overlaps with a highly vulnerable aquifer that vulnerability score of 6 would supercede.

A Member asked if the wording on page 40 regarding 'parameters' referred to those of a chemical nature. Mr. Stratton confirmed that it is a 'chemical' parameter. Staff will make the correction.

A Member referred to Page 42 and asked if the paragraph on 'Limitations' could be amended to be more proactive and notify Source Protection Committees at the time of reporting a spill rather than the suggested approach of notifying a Committee once a spill has been reported and remediated. Chair Stavinga responded that this would be a good item for further discussion.

Chair Stavinga asked if there were any further questions on the Threats Inventory. There were none.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson gave a brief overview of the preliminary draft Table of Contents for the Assessment Report. She explained that this Table of Contents was developed in conjunction with the Cataraqui, Quinte and Raisin-South Nation regions. The objective of a common "Eastern Ontario" Table of Contents is to make it easy for municipal staff from municipalities located in more than one region to find the same piece of information quickly in neighbouring reports. Ms. Casgrain Robertson reviewed the intent of the nine chapters. She highlighted that in Chapter 1 there is a subsection that outlines the limitations of the science and in Chapter 8 there is a subsection identifying areas requiring additional research of discussion outside the scope of the Clean Water Act.

A Member asked if the Committee was required to submit two assessment reports. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that the Committee is technically required to submit an assessment report for each watershed: Mississippi and Rideau. However, during public consultation on the Terms of Reference it was very cumbersome and confusing for municipalities and the public to review two documents that were nearly identical. Therefore, staff is proposing to produce a draft single Assessment Report for the Mississippi-Rideau and use this single document for public consultation purposes. If the MOE requires two documents than separate title pages will be created and two copies will be submitted when the proposed version is submitted to the Director for review and approval.

A Member asked where in the Assessment Report a strong link would be made to the source protection plan as the next step. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson responded that it is the intent of Chapter 9 to point to the source protection plan as the next step. The Member asked if the range of policy tools discussed by the Committee and municipal partners at the Dry Run sessions in September would be included in the Assessment Report. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that the tools could be discussed in Chapter 9.

A Member asked where the geographic and legislative concerns raised by the Committee to date would be documented. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson responded that Chapter 8 would house issues identified by the Committee to date that fall outside the scope of the Clean Water Act. Chair Stavinga clarified that data gaps, such as those identified in consultant's studies, would be identified in Chapter 1, section 1.6.

After reviewing the water budget study summary at their September meeting the Committee asked staff to make a stronger link between climate change and the water budget work. A Member asked about the status of this revision. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson responded that the changes requested by the Committee at their September meeting are being incorporated into the preliminary draft water budget chapter that will be presented to the Committee at their December meeting. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson also noted that links will be made throughout the Assessment report to information in other sections as appropriate. Mr. Stratton added that while staff is developing the preliminary draft assessment report they are required to review all the technical study findings and determine if any of them would be different as a result of local climate change predictions. If a determination cannot be made that must be stated in the Assessment Report.

Chair Stavinga asked staff to clarify the public consultation process for the preliminary draft assessment report. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that once the Committee has approved the assessment report as *draft for public consultation* it will be posted for public review and comment. This will include posting on the web site, circulation of copies to municipalities, letters to property owners with potential significant threats, newspaper advertisements, and open houses (probably one in each watershed). The Committee will then review all the comments received and revise the assessment report as needed. This proposed version will be posted for a second comment period and comments received will be forwarded to the MOE along with the proposed assessment report for review and comment.

A Member asked if municipalities will receive advance notice before letters are sent to property owners with potential significant threats. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson assured Members that municipal staff will be given a copy of the letter prior to it being sent out and the addresses it will be sent to are provided by the municipalities because they own the address data.

A Member asked how outstanding work, such as adding information about the land application of biosolids to the threats inventory study, will be incorporated into the assessment report. Mr. Stratton responded that as outstanding work is completed by consultants that additional information will

be added into the preliminary draft assessment report chapters that will be presented to the Committee over the coming months prior to a preliminary draft assessment report being compiled. Chair Stavinga stressed that while there are still some outstanding items missing from the threats inventory the report is nearly complete and it is important to get this information out to municipalities and the public in a timely manner rather than sitting on it for a few more months in order to fill small missing pieces. She reminded Members that when the Committee approves a study summary as *draft for public consultation* it is still draft and subject to further review and approval by the Committee.

Chair Stavinga asked if there were any further questions. There were none.

Motion 4-09/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve the following study and its summary as *draft for public consultation*:

- Groundwater Threats and Issues Inventory.

Carried

Motion 5-09/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the *preliminary draft* Assessment Report Table of Contents.

Carried

3.0 2010 MRSPC Meeting Schedule

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson presented a proposed meeting schedule for 2010. Members were asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Motion 6-09/09

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve the following meeting schedule for 2010:

- Thursday, January 7
 - 1pm, RVCA
- Thursday, February 4
 - 1pm, RVCA
- Thursday, March 4
 - 1pm, RVCA
- Thursday, April 1
 - 1pm, RVCA
- Thursday, May 6
 - 7pm, (meet & greet @ 6pm), location TBD
- Thursday, June 3

- 7pm (meet & greet @ 6pm), location TBD
- Thursday, July 8
 - 7pm (meet & greet @ 6pm), location TBD
- Thursday, September 2
 - 7pm, (meet & greet @ 6pm), location TBD
- Thursday, October 7
 - 1pm, RVCA
- Thursday, November 4
 - 1pm, RVCA
- Thursday, December 2
 - 1pm, RVCA

Carried

4.0 ODWSP Update

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson gave a verbal update on the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program. She explained that since the MOE expanded the eligible areas to the two year time of travel zones around the municipal wells the Mississippi-Rideau region has been able to administer grants to property owners. Over the past few months staff has allotted \$59,000 of the \$83,000 in funding. Now that staff has allotted 70% of their available funding they will apply for additional funds. The \$59,000 funded 14 projects: 8 septic system repairs/replacements and 6 well upgrades. These projects were located in Westport (2), Almonte (5), Richmond (5) and Kemptville (2). These applications were a result of promoting the program at the wellhead protection area open houses in June and July. Once staff has secured additional grant funding from the MOE they will undertake a broader advertising campaign about the program: press release, newspaper advertisements, and information in letters to property owners identifying potential significant threats. Information about the program and maps showing the eligible areas are currently available on the web site.

Members were asked if they had any questions. There were none.

Motion 7-09/09

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

Carried

5.0 Community Outreach

Ms. Casgrain Robertson gave an overview of the work she is doing on a provincial planning working group along with Alyson Symon, watershed planner for Mississippi Valley Conservation and Jocelyn Chandler, planner for Rideau Valley Conservation Authority. The group is developing guidance for municipal and conservation authority planners on how to use the results of source protection technical studies prior to source protection plan policies being developed. The guidance document will be an easy to use plain language guide on how to use source protection studies to fulfill current

responsibilities under the Provincial Policy Statement to protect source water.

Mr. Stratton hosted a meeting on October 6 with the municipal threats working group. The group reviewed the preliminary results of Dillon's threats and issues inventory. On October 21 and 22 Mr. Stratton attended a workshop on Geothermal Technology. It was hosted by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority and it provided a lot of new information about many different types of technologies. The MOE is waiting to see how this technology evolves in the province. The Committee can expect to see more information in the coming months and years about geothermal systems, in particular a technical bulletin being developed about geothermal and source protection.

A Member asked whether geothermal systems were limited to rural areas or whether large urban centres like Toronto have geothermal systems in use. Mr. Stratton responded that many large scale units install such systems under their buildings. Mr. Stratton learned at the workshop that large scale systems that support urban office structures tend to become less efficient over time. The Member asked if two wells were required to support a geothermal system. Mr. Stratton confirmed that this was the case. Another Member commented that depending on the site, lake water is often drawn in for cooling and heating rather than the use of wells.

Chair Stavinga asked if Members had attended any events in the past month that may be of interest to the Committee. There were none.

Chair Stavinga asked Members if they would be attending any events in the coming months related to source protection.

On November 16, Carol Dillon informed Members that Bruce Davidson will be in Perth to give his talk Walkerton: The Cost of Getting it Wrong. This is part of the Friends of the Tay speakers series. Invitations will be sent to Lanark Village residents to attend this presentation.

On November 23 Carol Dillon and Patricia Larkin will attend the Water Guardians Annual General Meeting in Toronto. Janet Stavinga has also been invited to attend.

Patricia Larkin informed Members that on November 18 there will be a one day workshop for front line workers about wells, facilitated by Well Aware. It will be held in Smith Falls and it has been well subscribed thus far.

Chair Stavinga will be co-presenting with Chair Lynn Dollin at the A. D. Latonell Conservation Symposium November 18 to 20.

On November 9, MOE technical staff, Mississippi-Rideau technical staff and the surface water study consultants will meet with Chair Stavinga, Mary Trudeau and Scott Findlay (University of Ottawa) to continue the discussion on intake protection zone vulnerability scoring. Chair Stavinga extended an invitation to all Committee Members.

Eleanor Renaud recommended a short presentation on the benefits of wetlands be presented to the Committee. Mr. Jack Henry facilitated a course in the Cataraqui region which highlighted the positive financial impact

associated with saving wetlands. Chair Stavinga asked that a link to this course be provided to the Committee.

On November 18, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson will co-present to the Leeds and Grenville Joint Services Board, along with the project managers from the Cataraqui and Raisin-South Nation regions. The three project managers are not available to present to Frontenac County Council so they are providing them with a letter that outlines source protection progress, key technical findings and next steps. Starting in the new year staff will begin a tour of municipal councils to update elected officials on the source protection program.

Motion 8-09/09

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

Carried

6.0 Other Business

Mr. Stratton gave an update on the Lanark wellhead protection study. The municipal council has decided to wait to undertake their pump tests until they can secure more funding to construct the system. This means the wellhead protection study is also on hold as the results of the pump test are required for the study to proceed. Therefore, the planned drinking water system for Lanark village will be identified as a data gap in the *preliminary draft* Assessment Report. Peter McLaren added that the consultants for the Lanark system have recommended studying the three better wells and not study a fourth well. This would save Lanark money.

Chair Stavinga advised the Committee that she will not be able to attend the December 3 meeting. According to the current Governing Policies the Committee must chose a Committee Member to act as Chair for that meeting. Scott Bryce was nominated and accepted. Chair Stavinga thanked Mr. Bryce.

Motion 9-09/09

Moved by: Paul Knowles
Seconded by: Bev Millar

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee appoint Scott Bryce as Chair pro-tempore for the December 3 Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting.

Carried

7.0 Member Inquiries

None

8.0 Next Meeting

Date: December 3, 2009

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: RVCA, Monterey Boardroom

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2.47 pm.

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Janet Stavinga
Chair

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Rosalind Kee
Recording Secretary