

MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION REGION
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MINUTES

Mississippi-Rideau

Source Protection Committee

March 4, 2010

#3/10

Present:

George Braithwaite
Carol Dillon
Paul Knowles
Patricia Larkin
Peter McLaren
Janet Stavinga (Chair)

Scott Bryce
Richard Fraser
Drew Lampman
Christine Leadman
Beverly Millar
Mary Trudeau

Jean-Guy Albert (Medical Officer of Health Liaison)
Alan Arbuckle (Source Protection Authority Liaison)
Mary Wooding (Ministry of the Environment Liaison)

Regrets:

Randy Malcolm

Eleanor Renaud

Staff:

Charles Billington
Perry Ghiourelotis
Jackie Oblack

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
Rosalind Kee
Brian Stratton

SPA Members:

Mark Burnham (Chair, Mississippi Valley Conservation)

Guests:

City of Ottawa (Michel Kearney, Tammy Rose)
Dillon Consulting (Luc Begin, Benoit Chouinard, Brent Loney)
J.F. Sabourin (Heather Wilson)
OMAFRA (John O'Neill)
Town of Perth (Ryan Morton)
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (Sandy Hay)

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Chair Stavinga welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked municipal colleagues in attendance 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 1-03/10

That the Agenda be amended such that the order of items under 2.0 a) be

- Chapter 4 review
- Chapter 5 review
- Chapter 1 review

Carried

d) **Declarations of Interest** **None**

e) **Approval of Minutes**

Motion 2-03/10

That the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of February 4, 2010 be approved.

Carried

f) **Status of Action Items**

Chair Stavinga is working on a draft motion regarding the Ontario Drinking Water Standard for tritium. She is consulting City of Ottawa staff on the draft wording and should have a draft motion for the Committee's consideration at their May 6 meeting (Action Item #2).

Mary Wooding is pursuing information on Ontario's tritium standard and will report at the April meeting (Action Item #2).

Peter McLaren reported that the Drainage Act is undergoing a review and he suggested that he and Richard Fraser follow the review process. Chair Stavinga directed staff to place this under members Action Items.

Motion 3-03/10

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the Status of Action Items report for information.

Carried

g) **Correspondence**

Chair Stavinga gave an overview of the correspondence that had been received.

2.0 **Assessment Report Development**

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson reminded members that to meet their extended Assessment Report due date of September 19, 2010 they must approve a Draft Assessment Report at their June 3 meeting. This will allow just enough time to undertake public consultation and revise the document if necessary before submitting it to the MOE for approval. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson emphasized that the Edit Subcommittee has been providing valuable comments on early drafts of Chapters which is resulting in better quality *preliminary draft* Chapters coming before the Committee. This has reduced the amount of revisions coming out of Committee meetings. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson stressed that it is vital that Committee members voice any concerns they have with a *preliminary draft* Chapter when it is being reviewed at the Committee table because that will give staff time to address the concern. When the entire Assessment Report is considered by the Committee at their June 3 meeting there will not be time to make major revisions if the Committee is to make their September 19 due date. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson asked members to thoroughly review and discuss the chapters being presented in March, April and May with the goal of approving a draft report in June.

Brian Stratton introduced the Dillon Consulting team of Luc Begin, Benoit Chouinard and Brent Loney who presented additional groundwater threats information, including results for Managed Lands and Impervious Surfaces (see attached presentation slides).

Dillon responded to a number of questions from members and clarified:

- Certified Managed Forests are not considered “managed lands”
- MOE required that managed lands information be reported in acres because Nutrient Management Plans use nutrient units / acre
- Dillon’s agricultural expert used his professional judgement to delineate areas where nutrients could be applied which does not necessarily mirror MPACs property boundaries
- The drop in agricultural nutrients / acre from 1996 to 2006 reflects a change in census data (1996 data was better quality) and the state of agriculture (post BSC)
- Dillon said that in their experience spills that are reported to the MOE are remediated. Drew Lampman clarified that vehicle spills would not be reported because there is an exception but the local MOE abatement officer would know and follow up.
- As prescribed in the Provincial Threats Tables, the application of road salt can be a significant threat only when the road salt is applied in an area where the percentage of total impervious surface area is 80% or more.

- Ryan Morton clarified that Merrickville has applied for funding to extend municipal sanitary sewers to approximately 150 homes north of the Rideau River. Some of properties in this area have septic systems that may be considered significant threats.
- The aerial photos that were used are from within the last five years

a) **Preliminary Draft Assessment Report Chapters**

i. Chapter 4 – Drinking Water Quality Threats and Issues Approach

Members reviewed the chapter and made the following changes:

- Sec 4.4.1: add “wellhead protection area” to bracket in second paragraph
- Sec 4.4.3: remove “back” from seventh paragraph
- Sec 4.5: remove first sentence
- Sec 4.5: reverse “table 4-2” and “table 4-3”
- Sec 4.5: add “be” in last paragraph
- Sec 4.6 – Conditions: consider removing word “relatively” in second sentence
- Sec 4.7: be consistent and use “quality and quantity” or just “quality”
- All chapters: note in the right margin when a new figure is introduced

ii. Chapter 5 – Groundwater Sources

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson reviewed the comments that were received in writing and made at the six open houses last June and July on the draft groundwater study findings. A copy was provided to members in their blue folder (copy attached). Following that, members reviewed the chapter and made the following corrections and clarifications:

- Sec 5.1.2: add “maximum” in the last paragraph
- Sec 5.2.1: be consistent in using acronyms or not (SGRA)
- Sec 5.2.2 – Water Surplus: add clarifying statement in the glossary and under the definition of “water surplus” on page 5-10 to clearly note that it is “surplus” water for human consumption, not ecological purposes.
- All municipal systems: add new first map that just shows location of wells and intakes
- Sec 5.5: clarify that Almonte’s wells 1,2 and 4 were decommissioned
- Sec 5.5.2: double check introduction of figure 5-16
- Sec 5.6.1: change “observation” well to “monitoring” well
- Sec 5.13: switch order of first two paragraphs

iii. Chapter 1 – Introduction

This chapter was not reviewed by the Edit Subcommittee. Members reviewed it and made many improvements to the text:

- remove “the environment” from first sentence
- remove “decade” from first paragraph
- correct that there are 38 Source Protection Areas
- remove line under Central Frontenac in table

- add Ottawa River watershed map
- Sec 1.4.6: note that the MRSPC started the push for an Ottawa River Inter-jurisdictional Committee back in August 2008

Motion 4-03/10

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve the following chapters, as amended, for inclusion in the *preliminary draft* Assessment Report:

- Chapter 1- Introduction
- Chapter 4- Drinking Water Quality Threats and Issues Approach
- Chapter 5- Groundwater Sources

Carried

b) Preliminary Draft Surface Water Technical Studies

Brian Stratton introduced Heather Wilson from the consulting firm of J.F. Sabourin & Associates. Ms Wilson presented the Inland Rivers Surface Water Vulnerability Study findings, including revised vulnerability scoring (slides attached).

Following the presentation and just before discussion, Chair Stavinga proposed the following motion required by the Committee's Rules and Procedures:

Motion 5-03/10

Moved by: Paul Knowles
Seconded by: Scott Bryce

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve the extension of this meeting beyond the normal allowance of four hours.

Carried

Considerable discussion followed the presentation, members comments included:

- The range of possible area vulnerability scores for IPZ 2, which are 7 to 9, should not be anchored between 7 and 9 because that is not mathematical. Such a linear equation has no firm mathematical basis.
- Source vulnerability should be determined using a methodology more similar to the one used to determine area vulnerability
- Not comfortable with vulnerability score of 8 because the uncertainty is high so that is not maximally precautionary. Ms. Wilson clarified that she is confident in the score because the high uncertainty is based on possible additional transport pathways.
- Members questioned why open water was given a vulnerability score of 1 in IPZ 3. Ms. Wilson clarified that the river channel was not supposed to be scored. Staff will correct the maps.
- There is an abrupt transition from a vulnerability score of 9 in IPZ 2 to a

score of 1 in IPZ 3. Members questioned how this could be justified. Ms. Wilson explained that there are many natural features in that area that were given an automatic score of 1 (wetlands and wooded areas) because they are untouched lands where land use activities do not exist. Some members felt natural areas should not be given an automatic score of 1, rather their proximity to the intake should be factored in giving the vulnerability scores in IPZ 3 a gradation away from the intake similar to the Ottawa River studies.

A few members remained uncomfortable with the methodology used to determine vulnerability scores. Staff was directed to:

- Take a closer look at the vulnerability scoring methodology used for IPZ 3; and
- Clarify with the MOE that both land and water areas should be scored.

Mr. Stratton noted that IPZ 3 scoring can continue to be worked on and refined over the next year and revised maps and scores could be submitted to the MOE in June 2011 as an Assessment Report amendment along with the Village of Lanark's wellhead protection area study.

Members made a couple of corrections to the study summaries:

- Page 1: reword second bullet at top – "Understand if *the river upstream of the intake* is at risk..."
- Page 11: add "this factor reflects..." sentence to bullet 2) under IPZ 2 section.

Motion 6-03/10

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the following studies and their summaries, as amended, as *draft* for public consultation:

- Carleton Place Surface Water Study
- Perth Surface Water Study
- Smiths Falls Surface Water Study

Carried

Two members dissented: Patricia Larkin
Mary Trudeau

3.0 Draft Source Protection Plan Regulation

Chair Stavinga thanked those members who attended the consultation session held in Kingston on February 19. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson informed members that staff had no serious concerns with the draft regulation but that they are still reviewing and discussing sections of the document with the MOE and working with other regions on potential draft comments. Despite the comment deadline being March 26, staff recommended that potential draft comments be discussed at the April 1 meeting which would only be one week late.

4.0 Community Outreach

Drew Lampman reported that 12 people attended OMYA's annual public meeting where he handed out the Mississippi-Rideau's Jan-Mar Quarterly Update.

Peter McLaren reported that the MNR is going to be the lead for source protection efforts in Renfrew County. Mary Wooding added that a discussion paper should be released in the spring regarding source protection in areas outside of Source Protection Areas.

Carol Dillon gave an overview of a letter submitted to the MOE signed by a number of environmental NGOs. Their key concerns are: attention to the Great Lakes, the importance of private drinking water systems, the legal framework to address drinking water violations on federal lands, and the transition/education of newly-appointed SPC members across the province. Ms. Dillon will email the letter to Sommer for circulation to members.

Patricia Larkin informed members that Maple Grove Elementary school in Lanark is holding an assembly about drinking water on March 26 and it would be nice if a few members attended. She will circulate the details to members.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson reported that dates for the Ottawa River study open houses will be finalized within the next couple days. Details will be circulated to members.

Chair Stavinga reported that she had been invited to attend a high school water conference at the University of Ottawa on March 9 which she will attend.

Motion 7-03/10

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

Carried

5.0 Other Business

A member reported frustration by landowners trying to access Environmental Farm Plan grants that were already oversubscribed even though they were just released. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson reported that a draft letter of support for the Rural Clean Water Program is being developed for the Committee's consideration and it will underscore the value of these programs and the need for more long-term sustainable funding from the province or the federal government.

6.0 Member Inquiries

None

7.0 Next Meeting

Date: April 1, 2010

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: RVCA, Monterey Boardroom

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Janet Stavinga
Chair

Charles Billington
Recording Secretary