

MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION REGION
Box 599, 3889 Rideau Valley Drive
Manotick, Ontario, K4M 1A5
613-692-3571 1-800-267-3504

MINUTES

Mississippi-Rideau
Source Protection Committee **December 2, 2010** **#11/10**

Meeting Location: Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick, Ontario

Present:

Scott Berquist	George Braithwaite
Scott Bryce	Carol Dillon
Richard Fraser	Drew Lampman
Patricia Larkin	Randy Malcolm
Peter McLaren	Beverly Millar
Eleanor Renaud	Tammy Rose
Janet Stavinga (Chair)	

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

Regrets: Paul Knowles

SPA Members: Mark Burnham (Mississippi Valley SPA)

Staff: Sommer Casgrain-Robertson Allison Gibbons
Brian Stratton

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

a) Agenda Review

Chair Stavinga reviewed the purpose of the meeting and the Agenda. She asked members to add an additional agenda item – 2.0 d) *SPC Involvement on Municipal Source Protection Plan Working Group*.

b) Notice of Proxies None

c) Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 1-11/10

That the Agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

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

e) **Approval of Minutes**

Motion 2-11/10

That the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of November 15, 2010 be approved.

Carried

f) **Status of Action Items**

Jean-Guy Albert contacted the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care and they informed him they are still reviewing the fact sheet about uranium and drinking water prepared by Health Canada. Health Canada is now going to follow up with the Ministry to try and expedite their comments.

Drew Lampman indicated that there is a 2001 report from Health Canada about uranium which is available on their website.

Motion 3-11/10

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

Carried

g) **Correspondence**

Motion 4-11/10

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

Carried

2.0 Assessment Report Development

Allison Gibbons, new Senior Environmental Planner for the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region was formally introduced to the Committee. She provided a brief overview of her past work experience and indicated that she was excited to work with the Committee over the coming two years to develop source protection policies.

Ms. Gibbons gave members an overview of the provincial objectives and requirements for a Source Protection Plan (slides attached). She also walked members through the policy development process and schedule proposed in the agenda. She then launched Conservation Ontario's web-based policy

forum on the screen and navigated through the pages so members could see the layout of the website. The purpose of this site is to provide Committees and staff with a platform to share preliminary, draft and finalized policies. All members have “read-only” access to the site.

A member asked if Committee’s had to adhere to existing standards or could they develop their own requirement. Mary Wooding explained that industry experts will explain current standards and Committee’s will be able to require those if appropriate or require a higher standard and provide rationale in the Explanatory Document.

A member asked if the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition was consulted with in the preparation of the agricultural “backgrounder”. Ms. Gibbons informed members that staff who prepared the backgrounders did consult with various industry and sector representatives and that the draft backgrounders were undergoing another round of vetting through Conservation Ontario’s working groups.

A member questioned why the threats listed under “municipal” did not include pesticides and fertilizers. Ms. Gibbons explained that any of the threats could potentially apply to all sectors and industries and policies will be developed accordingly. The headings of “municipal”, “industrial”, “residential”, “agricultural”, “commercial / small business” and “other” was simply an administrative exercise to break the list of 21 threat categories into 6 smaller subgroups for the purposes of policy development at upcoming Working Group meetings.

A member suggested surveying municipalities to determine what policies they currently have in place regarding drinking water threats (e.g. pesticide bans, salt management plans). Ms. Gibbons noted this was a good idea and staff will follow up on it.

A member noted that unlike municipalities, many snow removal companies do not adhere to best management practices. Staff explained that source protection policies will address activities posing a drinking water threat, not who is posing the threat.

A member asked where drinking water issues fit into the policy development process. Ms. Gibbons explained that issues are dealt with as a significant drinking water threat.

Log-in information for Conservation Ontario’s policy forum will be provided to members via email.

Ms. Gibbons led the Committee through an activity which asked each member to rank a list of four potential policy objectives. Each member identified their ranking by adding different coloured lego pieces to a tower (each colour corresponded to a different policy objective). Not surprisingly, the end result was a tower with many different colours on each of the four levels, indicating that members have differing policy priorities from one another. This will lead to much discussion when different policy options are being considered for a particular drinking water threat which is exactly why

the province created a source protection process led locally by multi-stakeholder committees. This will ensure a variety of perspectives is considered when policies are being developed.

Chair Stavinga then led the Committee through an exercise to develop guiding principles to be used throughout the policy development process. First members brainstormed potential guiding principles. They came up with: realistic, participative, science based, protection, open and transparent, practical, implementable, feasible, water first, equitable, effective, enforceable, achievable, public perception, supportable, informed, cost effective, reasonable, justifiable, fairness / economic impact, promotion of Best Management Practices, education, measurable, affordable and socially responsible. Second, members grouped similar ideas together and created key themes which staff will use to develop draft Guiding Principles for the Committee's consideration in January.

A member asked staff to confirm that moderate and low drinking water threats had not been enumerated. Staff confirmed that only potential significant drinking water threats had been enumerated. The member was thinking that information could have been used to prioritize which moderate or low drinking water threats the Committee may want to consider developing policies for.

Staff explained the purpose of the municipal Working Group and indicated it would be beneficial to have a couple of Committee members attend each meeting. It was decided that:

- Peter, Richard and Eleanor were chosen to attend the December meeting focusing on agricultural activities;
- George, Patricia and Carol were chosen to attend the January meeting focusing on residential activities;
- Bev and Drew were chosen to attend the February meeting focusing on commercial / small business activities;
- Scott Berquist and Drew were chosen to attend the March meeting focusing on industrial activities;
- Eleanor plus Paul, Tammy and Scott Bryce (who are members of the municipal Working Group) was chosen to attend the April meeting focusing on municipal activities;
- George, Patricia and Carol were chosen to attend the May meeting focusing on other activities, and possibly moderate and low threats.

Motion 5-11/10

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee endorse the Source Protection Plan Policy Development Process.

Carried

Motion 6-11/10

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the Source Protection Plan Policy Development Schedule.

3.0 **Assessment Report Accompanying Document**

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson presented a draft Assessment Report Accompanying Document to members titled: *A Summary of Concerns Outside the Scope of the Assessment Reports*. Members reviewed it and provided the following comments:

- Introduction – add that some concerns were identified by Source Protection Authority members
- Introduction – reorder the list of concerns: 8,7,10,1,2,3,4,5,6,9
- 1 – remove “protecting” from the title
- 1 (para 1) – clarify Act is protecting *municipal* source water
- 1 (para 4) – replace “just as many” with “also heard from”
- 1 (opportunities a.) – replace “mean protecting” with also provide protection for”
- 1 (opportunities b.) – replace “within” with “for”
- 1 (challenges a.) – soften the language pertaining to the timeframe
- 2 (para 2) – add that further holes were drilled in 2007 and 2008
- 2 (para 4) – clarify well abandonment requirements in MOU with Algonquins
- 2 (para 5) – cite staff report from 2008 for more details
- 2 (opportunities) – include proposed Mining Act amendments
- 2 (opportunities) – note the MRSPC engaged local agencies following a staff report and public delegations
- 3 – reword statement about well drilling being a self regulated industry
- 4 – add surface water contamination
- 4 – reword to emphasize that concern is existing lots of record that may be too small for development on private services.
- 5 – replace “vulnerable areas” with “wellhead protection areas and intake protection zones”
- 5 – add Committee will work locally with municipalities and counties to erect signs
- 10 – replace “essentialness” with a better word

Motion 7-11/10

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve *A Summary of Concerns Outside the Scope of the Assessment Reports* as amended, and direct staff to submit it to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment when the Proposed Assessment Reports are submitted in December, 2010.

Carried

A member asked if the Assessment Reports reference the Accompanying Document. Staff indicated they would check and if it did not they would add it to their list of editorial changes they are asking the MOE to make prior to approving the Assessment Reports.

4.0 Community Outreach

Motion 8-11/10

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

Carried

5.0 Other Business

Patricia Larkin informed members that she is currently studying the application of road salt as a health risk and she would be happy to present her findings to the Committee.

6.0 Member Inquiries None

7.0 Next Meeting

January 6, 2011, 1pm

Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (Monterey Boardroom)
3889 Rideau Valley Drive, Manotick

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

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Janet Stavinga
Chair

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Sommer Casgrain-Robertson
Recording Secretary