

MISSISSIPPI-RIDEAU SOURCE PROTECTION REGION

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MINUTES

**Mississippi-Rideau
Source Protection Committee**

July 7, 2011

#7/11

Location: Carleton Place Arena, 75 Neelin Street

Present:

Scott Berquist	Scott Bryce, Acting Chair
Carol Dillon	Richard Fraser
Paul Knowles	Drew Lampman
Patricia Larkin	Pieter Leenhouts
Randy Malcolm	Peter McLaren
Beverly Millar	
Mark Burnham	(Source Protection Authority Liaison)
Jean-Guy Albert	(Medical Officer of Health Liaison)
Mary Wooding	(Ministry of the Environment Liaison)

Staff:

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson	Allison Gibbons
Tiffany Onesi	Michelle Paton
Brian Stratton	

Guests:

Geoff Davies, Metroland Media
Derek Matheson, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
Gary O'Connor, City of Ottawa

Regrets:

George Braithwaite	Eleanor Renaud
Tammy Rose	Janet Stavinga (Chair)

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Scott Bryce was the Acting Chair in Janet Stavinga's absence. Chair Bryce welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all participants to introduce themselves.

a) Agenda Review

Chair Bryce reviewed the purpose of the meeting.

b) Notice of Proxies None

c) Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 1-7/11

That the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

- d) **Declarations of Interest** None
- e) **Approval of Minutes**

Motion 2-7/11

That the minutes of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee meeting of June 2, 2011 be approved as presented.

Carried

- f) **Status of Action Items**

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson reviewed the Status of Action Items.

- 2. Road Salt, and
- 3. Home Heating Oil

Ms. Casgrain- Robertson advised that the Ministry of the Environment will not revise circumstances in the threats tables for this first round of planning but will revisit the tables of circumstances post 2012 and will consider making amendments.

- 6. Ottawa River Watershed

Mary Wooding indicated that staff at the Ontario and Quebec Ministries of the Environment are currently scoping out potential funding and assessing the feasibility of implementation. She advised that a fall 2011 meeting has been tentatively proposed.

Motion 3-7/11

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

Carried

- g) **Correspondence** None

2.0 Source Protection Plan Development

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson directed members to the updated flowchart in the Agenda package which outlined a more detailed policy development process. Also included were two charts showing policy development progress to date and the potential effect of draft policy concepts completed to date.

Motion 4-7/11

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee receive the report on Source Protection Plan Development.

Carried

3.0 Draft Policy Ideas

a. Sewage Works

Chair Bryce briefed members on the optional tour of the Carleton Place Wastewater Treatment Plant held earlier in the day.

Paul Knowles gave a presentation on sewage works (attached) which addressed the eight sewage threat subcategories and highlighted the systems used by the Town of Carleton Place.

1. Untreated stormwater from a stormwater retention pond.
2. Sanitary sewers and related pipes
3. Sewage treatment plant effluent discharges (including lagoons)
4. Storage of sewage
5. Combined sewer discharge from a stormwater outlet to surface water.
6. Sewage treatment plant bypass discharge to surface water.
7. Industrial effluent discharges
8. Septic systems and holding tanks

In response to a question from a member, Mr. Knowles stated that the contents of sump pumps are supposed to be directed into storm sewers or onto the surface. He acknowledged that some sump pumps may be connected illegally to the sanitary sewer. He explained that while new housing developments in Carleton Place have connections to municipal water, sanitary sewers, and stormwater pipes, older housing developments may not have had access to stormwater sewers and therefore sump pumps may have been connected to the sanitary sewer lines.

Mr. Knowles confirmed that the fencing of stormwater ponds is a municipal decision and that many municipalities do not require them to be fenced as they are more like ponds rather than swimming pools.

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson reviewed existing and potential future significant sewage work threats in local Wellhead Protection Areas and Intake Protection Zones. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson spoke to the existing regulations governing sewage works. She reminded the Committee that draft policy concepts for septic systems regulated under the *Ontario Building Code* (e.g. small residential septic systems) were approved by the Committee at their March 2011 meeting.

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed the proposed draft policy ideas were supported by the municipal working group.

Members discussed the draft policy ideas and noted the following:

Existing Significant Threats

#1 Sanitary sewers and related pipes

Vacuum sewer systems would not require pressure testing of pipes every five years as the system is constantly under vacuum.

#2 Storage of sewage (Munster sewage lagoon)

Staff confirmed that the Munster lagoon has only been used a couple of times in the past four years as a back-up system for maintenance or other short term requirements. The Village of Munster is on a forcemain system that feeds into the sanitary sewers that go to the City of Ottawa's wastewater treatment plant. City staff does visual inspections of the lagoon prior to using it and a Certificate of Approval, issued under Section 53 of the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, would also impose on-going conditions and requirements.

A member expressed concern over leaving it up to the MOE to determine what additional conditions, if any, should be included in Certificates of Approval where sewage works would be considered a significant drinking water threat. The member was concerned that the MOE might include unreasonable conditions. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson explained that even if the Committee outlined specific conditions that should be included in Certificates of Approval, the MOE as the regulatory body issuing the certificates, would still be permitted to add additional conditions over and above those required by a Source Protection Committee. Source Protection Plan policies will act as a minimum set of standards that the MOE must adhere to, the policies do not act as a ceiling limiting what the MOE can require in addition to source protection policies. She added that through the pre-consultation process, the MOE will be asked to notify Source Protection Committees about what additional conditions they are considering adding to sewage Certificates of Approval. Staff agreed to include a direct request for this information in their pre-consultation letters to the MOE.

At the request of a member, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson agreed to bring back early engagement comments and proposed draft policies for all sewage threats (including small septic systems) at the same meeting.

Members discussed what contaminants make a stormwater pond a significant threat. Staff confirmed they include suspended solids, chemicals, drainage areas and land use. Ms. Casgrain-Robertson confirmed that not all run-off contaminants will be covered by policies.

Chair Bryce suggested that most municipalities have by-laws requiring connection to municipal sewer services where available.

In response to a question from a member regarding the submission of an application for a new Certificate of Approval to the MOE, Ms. Casgrain-Robertson advised that all vulnerability score mapping information will be uploaded to the

Ministry so their staff who review applications can look at the Assessment Report information across the province as a GIS layer. Mary Wooding added that the Ministry has been actively involved in outreach activities over the past year with departmental staff. Also, new Certificate of Approval application forms require applicants to indicate which source protection area the application is for and if the proposed work is in a vulnerable area, what the vulnerability score is and if the work matches any of the significant threat circumstances.

Motion 5-7/11

That the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Committee approve the Draft Policy Ideas for Sewage Works and direct staff to undertake early engagement with potentially affected persons and bodies.

Carried

4.0 Community Outreach

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson reviewed the community outreach activities and noted the following:

Past Activities

2. Ontario Road Salt Management Group

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson and Allison Gibbons attended a meeting of the Ontario Road Salt Management Group and gave a presentation on source water protection. Staff learned a lot of information about the Smart about Salt Council and their certification program which they will use to improve the road salt and snow storage policies.

4. Municipal Working Group Meeting

All draft policy concepts approved to date were presented to the municipal working group for review, comment and endorsement. The next municipal working group meeting will take place in October when they will review the remaining draft policy concepts.

5. Rideau Valley Source Protection Authority

Ms. Casgrain-Robertson presented draft policy concepts for liquid fuel, waste, road salt, snow storage and aircraft de-icing to the Rideau Valley Source Protection Authority. Authority members did not have any suggested changes or concerns. She will present the same set of draft policy concepts to the Mississippi Valley Source Protection Authority in July.

7. Mississippi Mills Council Meeting

Sommer Casgrain-Robertson appeared before the Mississippi Mills Council on June 9. She presented an update on the source protection process and focussed specifically on the wellhead protection area identified for Almonte and where policies may apply.

8. Canadian World Youth Group
Brian Stratton organized a tour of the Perth Water Treatment Plant for Canadian World Youth Group members. There were Canadian and Honduran youth who participated.

Motion 6-7/11

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

Carried

6.0 Other Business

7.0 Member Inquiries None

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8.0 Next Meeting
August 4, 2011, 4 pm
Almonte and District Community Centre
182 Bridge Street, Almonte

Mary Wooding and Sommer Casgrain-Robertson advised that they would not be attending the August meeting.

9.0 Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

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Scott Bryce
Acting Chair

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Michelle Paton
Recording Secretary