

Source Protection Committee

MEETING 11 – October 2, 2008 at Limerick Community Centre, Limerick Township

Welcome

Dave Golem provided brief history of the early settlement and lumbering industry of the northeastern portion of the Source Protection Region.

Update: Source Protection Authority(SPA) Comments on ToR

On August 12, the Proposed ToR was posted on the website for the second round of public review and also circulated to municipalities, First Nations and others. No comments were received following the 30-day comment period that ended September 11.

At the same time, the documents were circulated to the Source Protection Authorities. To date, 4 of the 5 SPAs have considered the ToR. Crowe Valley, Otonabee-Peterborough and Ganaraska Region SPAs approved the ToR for submission to the Minister of the Environment – the later two SPAs included comments around future funding, compensation and the science to define protection areas. While the Kawartha-Haliburton SPA had similar concerns, they did not approve the ToR for submission to MOE. Correspondence has been sent to the SPA to clarify their responsibilities under the *Clean Water Act*. Lower Trent SPA will meet on October 9 to consider the ToR. The ToR documents are to be forwarded to the Minister by October 20.

Update: Lake Ontario Collaborative

Nothing to report as progress on the project has stopped until technical rules are approved.

Update: International Water Takings

The Quebec water export issue originated from a private institute and is not endorsed by the Quebec government – social and environmental issues were not considered in their report. There is a variety of domestic and international legislation and agreements designed to prevent the bulk water export of Great Lakes water resources. In general, both Canadian & US governments have indicated that water is not a commodity but a natural resource.

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP)

The ODWSP is embedded in the CWA with \$28 million committed for the entire Province over 4 years (2007-2011) to provide financial assistance to persons whose activities or properties are affected by the Act.

Stage 1: initial \$7 M (called Source Protection Program as *Clean Water Act* was not yet enacted)

- \$5 M for early actions directly to landowners within 100 metres of municipal well or 200 metres of a municipal intake; \$332,948 available for the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region

- Eligible projects: well maintenance/decommissioning; septic inspections/upgrades; runoff/erosion protection; pollution prevention reviews with varying grant rates
- \$2 M for local education and outreach, and to promote availability of early actions funding; CAs within the TCC SPR received \$203,906 for workshops, press releases, and other communications initiatives as well as direct contact with landowners eligible for funding
 - Over 2,500 property owners in eligible areas were contacted either by letter and/or door-to-door visits in TCC SPR
 - Startup delays, scope of eligible areas and timing of program (winter months) impacted the number of projects undertaken

Stage 2: remaining \$21 M for the entire Province for 2008-2011 (called Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program)

- Expanded area eligible for funding: increased from 100 metres to 2 year time of travel for municipal wells and from 200 metres to IPZ1 for municipal surface water intakes (with municipal resolution)
- More eligible activities: fuel storage and manure management practices and land conservation measures (purchase, easement or leasing) were added
- Grant rates increased in some cases
- Unspent funds from last year can be used in 2008/09

Water Budget Overview

Water budget deals with the water quantity component of source protection planning (i.e. Is there enough water?). The technical work associated with the water budget is based on a tiered approach where progressively more science is applied:

- Conceptual (completed) – provides general understanding of water supply and demand
- Tier 1 (completed) – focused on all subwatersheds within TCC SPR; screening step to determine potential stressed areas
- Tier 2 (commencing) – to be completed for subwatersheds where water quantity issues were identified through Tier 1; confirms/refutes Tier 1 results using refined data, tools and knowledge; work plan being developed for Lindsay intake, and Brighton, Colborne, Havelock and Orono wells
- Tier 3 – will be completed for areas with moderate or significant stress levels

Digital copies of the Conceptual & Tier 1 water budgets will be provided to the SPC. Municipalities will be more involved in the Tier 2 water budgets as they relate to subwatersheds containing specific municipal drinking water supplies.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

MFIPPA Training is available (and recommended) for SPC members – October 20, 21 or 28
 Eastern Ontario Municipal Water Association Conference, Belleville – Oct. 21-22 (www.omwa.org)
 Overview of Technical Rules: December 1 (tentative)
 Property Entry Training underway for conservation authority and municipal staff, and consultants

Committee Members – Updates on public engagement

- Mary Smith – invitation received to an Institute for Watershed Science workshop regarding the State of Kawartha Lakes – October 27 & 28
- Edgar Cornish – provided update to Victoria OFA October 1 and will also be giving a similar update to Peterborough OFA in early October

Next Meeting: November 25, 2008 at Dalewood Golf Course (7465 Dale Road) in Cobourg

www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca