

Source Protection Committee

MEETING 3 – February 13, 2008 at Rock Haven Motel & Convention Centre, Peterborough

Opportunity for Public Input

There will be various opportunities for public input:

- Public meetings are required at various stages of the source protection planning process. The first series of meetings will occur during the development of the work plan (Terms of Reference) for the preparation of the Assessment report. These meetings will occur in mid June.
- Delegations to the SPC are welcome at any time. Requests must be received by the Chair 2 weeks in advance. Presentations are limited to 10 minutes plus discussion time.
- Presentations/speaking engagements, special events, etc. throughout the planning process

Committee Handbook

The policies and procedures for conducting the business of the Committee were approved and will be posted on the website. The Committee Handbook includes: operating policies; rules of procedure; code of conduct; and conflict of interest guidelines.

Development of Terms of Reference (Work Plan)

The Terms of Reference (ToR) will identify who will be responsible for what parts of the Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plans, how the work will be completed, and approximate costs. Timelines for the preparation of the ToR were outlined:

- Notification of commencement of preparation of ToR sent to Municipalities & First Nations – by Jan. 29
- Draft proposed ToR to be discussed at April SPC meeting; finalize draft proposed ToR at May meeting
- SPC publishes draft proposed ToR for consultation – May 21
 - notification to municipalities & First Nations
 - publish on website
 - notices in all local newspapers, at municipal/Conservation Authority offices
- Public meetings – June 11 to 17 (dates & times TBD)
- Deadline for written comments to SPC (within 35 days of publishing notice) – June 25
- SPC consider public input, finalize proposed ToR – June through July
- SPC submits proposed ToR to SPA – by August 20
- SPC publishes proposed ToR for final consultation – by August 20
 - submit to municipalities & First Nations
 - publish on website
 - notices in all local newspapers, at municipal/Conservation Authority offices
- Deadline for written comments to SPA – September 20
- SPA submits proposed ToR to Minister – by October 20

Legislative Safety Measures to Protection Ontario's Drinking Water

Ontario's Drinking Water Safety Net is a comprehensive safety net of measures to protect Ontario's drinking water from source to tap including:

- Clean Water Act – development of drinking water source protection plans
- Safe Drinking Water Act – legislation regarding drinking water systems, testing services, drinking water quality standards, certification of drinking water system operators and drinking water quality analysts, compliance and enforcement.

Communications/Consultation

Conservation Authorities are hosting a series of drinking water seminars/workshops in January through March for the general public. The outreach/education events have been funded by the Ministry of the Environment through the Source Protection Fund (future Stewardship Fund) to provide information about the Clean Water Act and tips for looking after private wells. Dates for the events can be found on the website and a summary will be provided to the SPC.

As well, Conservation Authority staff will be contacting landowners in the immediate vicinity of municipal wells and intakes to identify possible early actions on these properties that may help protect the municipal drinking water supply. Grants are available to eligible individuals for: well decommissioning/upgrades; septic system inspection/upgrades; runoff/erosion protection; and pollution prevention reviews.

Municipal Working Groups

Five Municipal Working Groups have been established to act as a communication link between municipalities and the SPC. The first series of meeting are being organized by the Conservation Authorities throughout February to gather feedback on the draft terms of reference for the Working Groups. Issues brought forward to date include:

- concern is being expressed regarding the tight timeline
- clarification on elevating municipal drinking water systems outside of existing municipal residential drinking water systems
- reimbursement to individuals providing specific expertise to various working groups
- compensation from the Province for municipal staff time required during the planning process

Committee Members – Updates on public engagement

- Guest speaking engagements – Friends of Kawartha Conservation (Jim Hunt); Peterborough Landowner's Association (Edgar Cornish)
- Preliminary contact with local Economic Development groups (Robert Lake)

Getting at the Science – Water Quality Risk Assessment for Groundwater

A presentation was provided to the SPC on the technical steps required to carry out water quality risk assessment for groundwater. The presentation will be available on the website.

Using a groundwater flow model, Mary Jane Conboy also provided a demonstration on how water and contaminants move through different aquifers.

Next Meeting

March 19, 2008 at Rock Haven Motel & Convention Centre, Peterborough from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

*Meeting locations were set for July: July 3 in Haliburton; July 17 in Marmora
A meeting date was set for August: August 7, 2008 in Lakefield*

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