

Source Protection Committee

MEETING 14 – FEBRUARY 11 at Super 8 Motel, Peterborough

Terms of Reference Approval (ToR)

The Crowe Valley, Ganaraska Region, Lower Trent and Otonabee-Peterborough ToR were approved by the Minister of the Environment on January 13 and notices were published on the Environmental Registry on January 20. The Kawartha-Haliburton ToR was approved January 29 and the notice published February 5. As required by the Clean Water Act, a notice of the approval of the ToR will be sent to all municipalities.

Work Plan/Timelines

The technical work underway which will provide the information required to complete the Assessment Report includes:

- Watershed Characterization
- Water Budget and Stress Assessment
- Landscape scale Vulnerability Assessment/Issues/Threats
 - Significant groundwater recharge areas
 - Highly vulnerable aquifers
- Surface Water Vulnerable Areas & Water Quality Drinking Water Threats/Issues
 - 3 Lake Ontario Intakes
 - 16 Trent River watershed/Bay of Quinte Intakes
- Groundwater Vulnerable Areas & Water Quality Drinking Water Threats/Issues
 - 34 municipal well systems plus 2 planned systems

Based on the review of the technical program, the SPC provided approval for submitting a formal request to the Ministry of the Environment for a 6 month extension of the deadline for the completion of the Assessment Report.

If an extension is granted, the deadline for the submission of the Assessment Report to the Ministry of the Environment will be summer 2010.

Acceptance of Technical Studies/Peer Review

As outlined in the Terms of Reference, technical studies that will be peer reviewed include the water budget, significant groundwater recharge areas as well as the vulnerable areas and vulnerability scores for the municipal systems. All studies will come forward to the SPC for review and acceptance.

Assessment Report draft Table of Contents

The SPC reviewed a preliminary Table of Contents for the Assessment Report which could include the following chapters:

- Introduction
- Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Description
- Watershed Characterization
- Great Lakes Considerations
- Water Budget and Stress Assessment Summary
- Water Quantity Drinking Water Threats (Tier 3 water budgets, if required)
- Landscape Scale Vulnerable Areas & Water Quality Drinking Water Issues & Threats
- Surface Water Vulnerable Areas and Water Quality Drinking Water Issues/Threats for Drinking Water Systems Identified in the Terms of Reference
- Local Scale Groundwater Vulnerable Areas and Water Quality Drinking Water Issues/Threats for Drinking Water Systems Identified in the Terms of Reference
- Potential Impacts from Climate Change
- Additional Research/Data Collection Required
- Summary of Key Findings & Consideration for the Source Protection Plans

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP)

The Ministry of Environment (MOE) has requested input on the future framework of the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP). The SPC separated into small groups to discuss a series of questions provided by MOE. The municipal working groups will also provide feedback on the funding program. SPC members were also encouraged to gather feedback from their sector.

Municipal Working Group Update

The Ganaraska Municipal Working Group met on February 9. They were provided with an update on the technical program and concerns were expressed regarding source protection planning timelines related to other municipal activities. The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program questionnaire was also reviewed. The other four municipal working groups have meetings scheduled in the next several weeks.

Committee Members – Updates on public engagement/conferences

- Mary Jane Conboy – Well Wise and the Ontario Groundwater Association are hosting a seminar for private water well professionals to share knowledge on innovative research and to facilitate discussion amongst professionals. Cost for the seminar is \$25. Registration is requested in advance.
Date: March 26, 2009
Location: Orono Town Hall
RSVP : 905.983.9911 or Janelle@wellwise.ca
- Wayne Stiver – Participated in the January 30, 2009 Maude Barlow “Un-Bottle it” campaign which talked about the environmental and health repercussions of bottled water.

Next Meeting: March 13 at Super 8 Motel, Peterborough. Next meeting locations and dates were confirmed as follows:

- April 21 – Cobourg/Port Hope area
- May 08, 2009 – Trenton/Brighton area
- June 17 – Port Perry area
- July 15 – Minden area
- August 19 – Marmora area

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