

Source Protection Committee

MEETING 18 – JUNE 17, 2009 at the Scugog Island Community Centre, Port Perry

Welcome to Township of Scugog

Bobbie Drew, SPC member, welcomed the Committee to the Township of Scugog on behalf of Council. She highlighted some of the initiatives within the municipality that address the environmental component of the municipality's strategic plan including energy conservation, air quality, water conservation and waste reduction.

Delegations

Kawartha Protect Our Water (KPOW) is a non-profit, volunteer organization whose mandate is to protect and improve the water quality in the waterways surrounding and including Sturgeon and Pigeon Lake. Murray Hynes presented the group's concerns with some threats to water quality of Sturgeon and Pigeon Lake, specifically noting the status of city landfill sites. They support the work of the SPC but are concerned that provincial regulations are handicapping their ability to deal effectively with water quality issues.

Correspondence

- Letter from Ian Smith, Ministry of the Environment, indicating that the request to the Minister for extension of the deadline for the completion of the Assessment Report will be reassessed in the fall when the technical studies are closer to completion.

Chair's Quarterly Report/Work Plan Update

The required Quarterly Report has been prepared and submitted to the Source Protection Authorities (www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca/sourceprotectioncommittee/quarterlyreport/). Glenda Rodgers provided the Committee with an update on work completed since the last meeting (www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca/sourceprotectioncommittee/meetings/).

In reviewing the timelines for completion of the Assessment Report, the Project Manager noted that many of the technical studies are anticipated to be completed from August through November at which time the draft reports will be presented to the SPC.

The Role of Groundwater Modelling for Source Water Protection

Stan Denhoed, of Harden Environmental, explained how models are used to create a picture of the underground world. Through the use of computer models, hydrogeologists can determine where and how water flows through underground layers of soil and rock. The models use data extrapolated from existing well records (e.g. location of soil/rock layers, depth of aquifers, etc) combined with hydrogeologic knowledge of how water moves through different soil types to create the picture. Models are calibrated using data from known water levels in existing wells and surface water flows.

Walkerton: The Cost of Getting it Wrong

Bruce Davidson, of Concerned Walkerton Citizens, provided background of the circumstances around the Walkerton water tragedy and the immediate and long term impacts on both individual residents and the entire community. He emphasized that the economic, social and human health impacts of unsafe drinking water is not a price any individual and community should experience.

Role of Liaison Representatives

The three liaison representatives on the SPC are non-voting members that serve as resource people to the Committee. The liaisons are:

- Ministry of the Environment – Wendy Lavender
- Source Protection Authorities – Jim Kelleher
- Health Units – Anne Alexander (alt. Tom Cathcart)

Tom Cathcart also provided an overview of the Health Units' role as it relates to safe drinking water.

Communications/Consultation Strategy for the Assessment Report

Marilyn Bucholtz presented a framework for a communications/consultation strategy for the Assessment Report. It will include 4 components:

- General Communication/Education Activities
- Stakeholder Consultation
- Pre-consultation on Technical Studies
- Assessment Report Consultation

The strategy will be presented at the next meeting and everyone is encouraged to provide additional feedback.

Source Protection Planning Discussion

The discussion paper is anticipated to be released very soon and is an important document that the SPC will want to review and provide input to. The Committee, as well as municipalities, will be notified as soon as it is posted on the Ontario's Environmental Registry (EBR) website.

Committee Members – Updates on public engagement/conferences

- Chairs meeting – Grand Bend June 1-2

Future Meeting Dates

The following meeting dates were selected:

- September 15, 2009
- October 6, 2009
- November 3, 2009

Next Meeting: July 21, 2009 at the Minden Community Centre, Minden.