

## SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING SUMMARY

**OCTOBER 3, 2024– NORWOOD-ASPHODEL COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### **1. Chairs Report**

- Chair J. Hunt noted an upcoming Chairs meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, of which Program Manager Keith Taylor will be attendance. Committee member re-appointment process will be discussed.

### **2. Section 34 Update**

#### **King's Bay**

- K. Taylor provided an update on the King's Bay Section 34 Amendment, noted early engagement was completed on the basis of an email-poll of the committee, but requires committee ratification. K. Taylor detailed the changes to the King's Bay well head protection area as a result of a new well being added to the drinking water system.
- K. Taylor noted the staff recommendation from the email poll was:  
  
BY CONSENSUS THAT the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee approve moving forward with a Pre-Consultation period for the King's Bay Section 34 amendments and approves requesting that the Lower Trent Source Protection Authority initiates the Pre-Consultation process, once the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks completes its review of the amendments.
- K. Taylor noted the poll received fifteen "yes" votes, and zero "no" votes.
- A. Hukowich expressed concern regarding the high level of uncertainty of wells. K. Taylor discussed that many factors are included in determining uncertainty, - such as looking at the number of wells nearby to assess vulnerability, the quality of data, the availability of pumping test reports and soil reports, etc. D. Workman added that nearby well records are also analysed.
- K. Taylor noted that there is an existing Risk Management Plan in the King's Bay Wellhead Protection Area, and once the section 34 Amendment is approved, the Risk Management Official will re-evaluate the existing Risk Management Plan to determine if it needs to be updated or if any new risk management plans are required. The Risk Management Official will need to update the Risk Management Plan if necessary.

#### **Pre-Consultation Comments**

- K. Taylor provided an overview of comments received from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks during the pre-consultation phase, noting these were the only comments received. K. Taylor noted some of the comments are related to complications arising from the fact that the Trent Source Protection Plan S.36 Amendment is still awaiting approval.

- K. Taylor noted the next step is to proceed with a 35-day Public Consultation Phase, of which a motion to proceed has been received from the municipality.

### Public Consultation

- K. Taylor noted no dates are confirmed, but King's Bay public consultation is likely to run from mid-October to mid-November to satisfy the required 35-day consultation period.

### Grafton New Well

- K. Taylor spoke to the developing situation involving the Township of Grafton bringing a new well online, which will trigger a new Section 34 Amendment. He noted this is still in the early stages, but staff have been working with the Township's consultants and will be setting up a meeting with the Township in the near future.
- A. Hukowich inquired about the reasoning for the need for Grafton to bring a new well online. K. Taylor noted it is replacing an old well that had a minor issue.

## 3. Leads Report

- Each Source Protection Authority (SPA) Lead Staff member provided a verbal report on the status of their local source protection implementation, including:
  - a. Update on municipal working groups;
  - b. Potential updates or amendments to drinking water systems;
  - c. Update on risk management plans and RMO progress, managing new threats;
  - d. Current issues or challenges;
  - e. Progress on updating new municipal staff on the Source Protection Program;
  - f. Update on education and outreach efforts, events.
- J. Mueller (Ganaraska) noted the Township of Hamilton has initiated a new watershed study, noting she attended an open house for information.
- M. Carter (Otonabee-Peterborough) noted they are working with Peterborough Public Health regarding septic inspections as they are being transferred from public health to the municipalities. Asphodel-Norwood is also in the early stages of assessing updates to their drinking water system.

## 4. Section 36 Update

- K. Taylor provided an update on the Section 36 Amendment, noting the amendment package was submitted in December 2023 and is currently being reviewed. A summary of final edits required by the Ministry was expected in September but has been delayed because the Ministry has sent a recommendation to the Minister related to our minimum requirement proposal for the Prescribed Instrument Policies. K. Taylor noted six other Committees have or will be also including them.
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) representative J. McKay suggested that the SPC can write a letter to the MECP regarding this if necessary, the Committee agreed with this, suggesting the chair send a letter as soon as possible, addressed to Tim McCarthy, temporary Minister of the Environment.

## 5. Program Update

- K. Taylor noted the Budget Request for 2024 to 2027 was approved, and new Transfer Payment Agreement is in place, (a three year term from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2027). K. Taylor noted there was a significant cut to the overhead, and in the process the Stirling Water Budget was removed.

### Section 36 Rollout

- Guidance documents have been drafted for the Risk Management Officials and Municipalities, explaining the new policies and new technical rules. The municipal guidance also includes a sample bylaw for the road salt storage policy. Discussions with the Ministry of Natural Resources may be required to explain the two new aquaculture policies directed at them, including a new monitoring policy which addresses the reporting requirements from them.

### Education and Outreach

- K. Taylor noted once S.36 Amendments are approved, we will have several policies for significant threats where Education and Outreach is the only policy tool, including road salt, snow storage, smaller road salt storage, and incidental uses of pesticides and DNAPLs. Staff is developing an education and outreach program to be consistently across the region.
- B. Mayer suggested looking at studies of water softeners and their contribution to salt in aquifers.
- C. Broughton noted including education and outreach efforts regarding chloride and road salt to include the effects on the environment and wildlife, expressing concern that the public isn't making that connection.
- K. Taylor noted there has been discussions with the president of the Loon Lake Cottage Association and they have been encouraging the Ministry of Transportation to use brine and salt-alternatives.

### Committee Member Expiry and Renewal

- K. Taylor provided an update of the members expiring and renewing their commitment. He noted 14 of our 21 Sector Member's terms expire on December 31, 2024, however 13 of the 14 have expressed a desire to remain on the committee, and a recruitment process may need to be undertaken to replace one member.

## 6. Best Practices For Other Systems

- T. Bos provided a report on the Best Practices Program to the committee, including a summary of the Drinking Water Wise Webinar series with statistics from the latest webinar and information on the upcoming one, future plans, and reiterating the importance of access to free well water testing.
- B. Mayer noted they will include a link to the Webinar series on the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit website.

## 7. Roundtable

- K. Taylor noted next year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Walkerton crisis and to consider possible ways of commemorating that.
- G. Offshack inquired about allowing for smaller communities and hamlets with clusters of wells (6+ in a small area) to be allowed into the municipal source protection program. K. Taylor suggested the definition to be considered isn't well defined, and an issue is the regulatory components would then come into play such as requiring risk management plans and the staffing such as risk management officials to enforce those. J. McKay commented that there are two ways for them to be added – the municipality would have to support, and pay for the technical work, or for clusters that have already been mapped in vulnerable areas – however only non-binding policies would apply.

## 8. Next Meeting

- K. Taylor noted there is no set date as of now.