

Meeting Notes

GSWA Drinking Water Protection Committee

8 July 2013, 6 to 8:00 pm
Living with Lakes Centre, Sudbury, ON

Present: Lin Gibson, Paul Sajatovic, Lesley Flowers, David Young, Margaret McLaughlin, Richard Witham, John Fraser, Linda Heron

Regrets: Lilly Noble

1. Conservation Sudbury

Lin Gibson and Paul Sajatovic gave an overview of the significant advancements towards source water protection that Conservation Sudbury and Conservation Ontario have made to date – **Addendum 1**.

- Conservation Ontario passed a recommendation in April to form a working group to pursue further dialogue with Ontario Wastewater Association (OWA)
- Will identify a range of options for a formalized collaboration
 - Looking for financial support program to assist private landowners to repair/replace malfunctioning septic systems
 - Support will be communicated to the Provincial and Federal governments, Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the OWA.
- Lin produced a 2003 Municipal Sewage Systems Report – **Addendum 2**
- No data has been compiled on private septic systems since 1998
- Paul mentioned that under the Clean Water Act (CWA) within the source protection zone that 234 septic systems were identified for inspection
 - In 2012 60 septic systems were inspected and of those only 2 were deficient
 - Charge of \$145 per inspection
 - 5 year inspection cycle

2. Discussion

a. Threats to Freshwater

- Waste water effluent
- Mining effluent
- Aircraft
- Hydroelectric – headponds & swings in flow and levels
- Contaminated soils & sediment
 - Sudbury Soil Study
 - MOE Sediment Study
- Ice fishing takes a heavy toll on freshwater
 - Committee discussed whether we should only use Conservation Ontario's list of accepted risks, or whether we should address risks specific to our area

- Committee decided to explore all options & include all risks until we have collected information and have a better idea of our approach

b. Needs

- BC model is a good model – Drinking Water Protection Act
 - Ensures all citizens drinking water is protected
 - Addresses a “domestic water system” – the use of water for human consumption and household purposes
 - Does not differentiate between municipal and private water intakes
 - Protects from all risks to drinking water
 - Onus on developers to ensure there are no risks to the domestic water system

c. Existing Models

- Lake Simcoe Clean Water Act
 - Not the best option as it would be difficult to gain support for a provincial Act
 - Has not been as effective as would require – high impact development continues
- Municipal Models to research
 - Tiny Township
 - Lampton Shores
 - Welland
 - Mattawa
 - Georgina
 - Huron County

d. Potential Solutions

- A municipal by-law approach would be most likely to be supported by City Council – they have already shown support for well researched and reasoned approaches to protecting water quality

e. Challenges

- Sudbury has special needs and is exceptional because of
 - Long history of intense mining
 - City of lakes
 - Abundance of rock – lots of runoff
 - Heavily contaminated soils and sediment
 - City with numerous wastewater treatment facilities
- No one is looking at the cumulative effects of all development
 - We have Cliffs, Xstrata Zinc, Victoria Mine, Totten Mine, and Vale in the Vermilion River Watershed – all looking after their individual projects and zone of influence, but no one is looking at the cumulative effects – this is very important
- Need to end up with protection strategy that is likely to be approved

3. Goals and Objectives

Primary focus will be on

- Engaging discussion and brain storming with regulatory agencies.
- Researching models & gathering information

4. Possible Collaboration - Partners

- Medical Officer of Health
- Sudbury & District Health Unit
 - Principal authority for septic systems
- Ministry of Northern Development & Mines
- Ministry of Environment
- Lake Advisory Panel – Dan Bazinet
- Low impact development

5. Next Steps

Committee will continue our collaboration efforts by meeting with the Sudbury Medical Officer of Health.

Action Items:

Linda:

1. **Will arrange a meeting with Penny Sutcliffe, Sudbury Medical Officer of Health, and our Committee.**

Lesley:

1. **Contact Dan Bazinet to suggest collaboration with our Committee.**
2. **Will forward to our Committee**
 - a. **List of 21 Source Water Protection threats.**
 - b. **2003 septic system data.**

Paul:

1. **Will check to see if there is a more recent septic data.**
2. **Safe Drinking Water Act – testing regulatory – is it still inside the wall?**

Richard:

1. **Richard will review the existing municipal models to see what has worked well and what has not – will report back on findings within 2 weeks.**