

Meeting Notes
Private Drinking Water Protection Committee

24 September 2014, 11:30 to 1:30 pm

Living with Lakes Center, Lake Room

Present: Lesley Flowers, Lilly Noble, Richard Witham, Margaret McLaughlin, David Young, Linda Heron

Regrets: David Furino, Paul Sajatovic

1. Review of our 30 September 2013 PDWPC Meeting Notes - Background Huron County Model

- The project is under the auspices of the Huron County Water Protection Steering committee.
- The initial need was recognized because of disagreement between the Agricultural sector of the county and the Tourism sector.
- Councillors, community reps., agricultural reps., tourism reps., as well as provincial representatives are involved. One very dedicated and enthusiastic staff member of Huron County herds everyone through the process.
- The project is a line item in the Huron County budget.
- Budget started at \$100,000, 5 years ago and is now at \$400,000.
- Money comes from Huron County funds and some granting agencies. (Conservation Authorities do the grant writing)
- The project is seen as an economic driver by council because it means contractors are hired to do the work within the county.
- Landowners contribute 50% of the cost of their project. So double the Councils contribution moves out into the community.
- The list of threats to water that is included in the project were developed by the Conservation Authorities: Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and Maitland Valley Conservation Authority.
- Criteria included what could be done with the money available.
- Changes occur yearly and they must meet with Council approval.
- The involvement of the CAs does not cost the County because they are funded by lower tier municipalities.
- Project approval is done by a review committee with representatives from council, agriculture and tourism
- An optimum budget for this project would be a million dollars so then manure storage and septic system maintenance and inspection could be included.
- This area is very different from the Sudbury district but the model for development of a private water project has some promise.

2. Review of Huron County Clean Water Project – 2013 - Attached

- Website link
- Main thrust - a funding program to encourage large and small projects that protect or improve water quality
- Huron County runs the program in partnership with two Conservation Authorities

3. Comparisons

- **Huron County**
 - 3,400 sq. km

- Population – 59,700
- Mainly agricultural and recreation/tourism
- **Greater City of Sudbury**
 - 3,200 sq. km
 - City of Sudbury population – 157,860

4. Potential Areas of Focus

- Two main objectives - **Education** and **Grant/Project** oriented
- Areas of Focus – Conservation Sudbury can advise further
 - Wells and well head – private & public
 - Encourage free bacterial testing through Sudbury District Health Unit
 - Encourage annual testing through lab – heavy metals
 - GSWA could offer 50% funding
 - Encourage reverse osmosis filtration
 - Stormwater Management
 - Wetland Protection & Restoration
 - Agricultural
 - Chelmsford, Azilda, ValCaron, Wanup – farmland
 - Best Practices for manure, fertilizer, fencing, etc.
 - Vegetative buffers
 - Wastewater/Septic
 - Make coupons available for septic inspections
 - Educate – raise awareness about importance of septic maintenance

Action: Lilly and Richard will check studies cited in Hutchinson Report regarding efficiency of septic systems to remove phosphorus

- Salt
 - Proving to be an issue – elevated levels
 - A health issue when levels are too high – 20 mg/litre – doctors notified
 - City of Sudbury is participating in salt reduction program
- Community Projects
 - Fisheries restocking
 - Water quality testing
 - Lake/river clean-ups, etc....

5. Potential Partners

- Conservation Sudbury
- City of Sudbury
- Sudbury District Health Unit

6. Potential Funding

- Begin at \$100,000 funding
- Applications for projects – small and large projects
- Request to City of Sudbury for budget allocation
- Ontario Trillium Foundation

Recommendation: GSWA should consider becoming a charitable organization to open up funding options

7. Links

- **Phosphorus and Onsite Wastewater Systems**
- **Jurisdictional Review of Lakeshore Planning Practices for Ontario**

8. Next Meeting – 21 October 2014 – 4:30 to 6:30 pm – Living With Lakes Centre