

**Meeting Notes**  
**Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance**  
**Private Drinking Water Protection Committee**  
24 March 2015, 1:00 to 3:00 pm  
Living with Lakes Centre

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**Present:** Lesley Flowers, Lilly Noble, Richard Witham, David Young, Margaret McLaughlin, Lin Gibson, Judy Sewell, Melanie Venne, Linda Heron  
**Regrets:** David Furino

**1. Review of Meeting with SDHU**

- a.** An exploratory meeting to find out if and how SDHU could participate
- b.** Committee members came away with very different impressions/memories of what SDHU would require to participate
  - Richard Auld suggested there wouldn't be many septic systems leaching into the environment so this could be manageable, but covering repairs would require a greater commitment
  - Do we need to allow for a contract person & travel allowance
  - Will SDHU human resource concerns be a show stopper
  - Need to develop our proposal in a way that relies very little on SDHU
  - Let SDHU decide if and how they will participate

**2. Roundtable Discussion**

**a. Focus of Project**

- Using a City of Sudbury map of "Addresses not Within 50m of Municipal Water or Wastewater" – involves 15 to 20% of Sudbury addresses – approximately 10,000 sewage systems
- Could just focus on septic tank pump-outs
- Offer 50% rebate on pump-outs
- Could just focus on membership lakes and rivers, or ones that have had blue-green algae blooms and/or have phosphorus issues
- Concerns expressed about limiting to only member lakes
- Important to be fair, open and equal opportunity
- Already focused on systems within 200 to 300 meters of a water body
- Should focus on high risk systems that have the greatest impact on watershed
- Volunteer participation

**b. Funding**

- Need a strong, focused and fair program
- Would approach the City of Sudbury to fund a portion of the project
- Is Council likely to support it if we only focus on GSWA member lakes
- Could eventually be a line item if it is a strong, open and fair program
- OTF funds projects that benefit the community and have measurable results
- OTF would not fund a project geared only towards GSWA members

**c. Contractors**

- Need to collaborate with pump-out contractors
- Find out if they would be willing to
  - Promote our program
  - Complete a pump-out form
  - Suggest applying to our program for volunteer septic replacement

**d. Survey**

- Survey the public/members to see if and how they might participate
  - Would a 50% rebate on septic pump-outs, or \$5,000 towards a septic replacement encourage their volunteer participation
- Concerns were raised about the value of a survey
  - Tendency would be to want to take advantage of a grant, but would people actually follow through when seriously considering the total cost of a septic replacement that could cost \$20,000
- Survey could
  - Provide a general idea of number of people interested in the program
  - Raise an awareness and provide feedback on our ideas
  - Provide a good foundation for project grant funding

**e. Mailing Lists**

- Sending notices only by email leaves many people out of the opportunity
- Snail mail will require a substantial commitment of dollars but would reach more people
- Could advertise in newspapers and email notice

**3. Action Items:**

1. **Lin and Lilly** will work on a survey and circulate it to committee members for their input.
2. **Lin** will enquire with CAs at upcoming meeting regarding the Huron County model.
3. **Lin** will look into contractor pump-out licencing requirements.
4. **Melanie** will provide Margaret with a pump-out form used in their previous Stewardship Program.
5. **Margaret** will contact pump-out contractors to enquire about their protocol and whether they would work with us to promote our program.
6. **Margaret** will also contact Nick Benkovich to find out when the bio-solids plant will be completed.
7. **Richard** will contact Krista Carre to see how he can get a digital version of the "Addresses Not Within 50m of Municipal Water or Wastewater" map
8. **Linda** will clarify details of human resources issues with SDHU, and ask for their input on 26 February 2015 Meeting Notes.