

Meeting Notes
Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance
Private Drinking Water Protection Committee
9 July 2015, 12:00 to 2:30 pm
Living with Lakes Centre

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

Regrets: Judy Sewell, Melanie Venne

1. Contractor Pump-out Licencing Agreements

- Lin met with Ministry of Housing representative
- Policy is set out in the Ontario Provincial Policy (2005)
- MOECC issues Certificate of Approval
 - Pumpers must have a Certificate of Approval
 - Some pumpers are charging less and hauling sewage to Killarney – this seems unfair to local pumpers and raises red flags as it undermines the City's bio-solids strategy

Action: Lin will follow-up with the City to see whether it is legal to slash prices and haul to Killarney.

2. Pump-out Contractor Protocol

Pump-out contractors used to complete inspection reports for free, but since the bio-solids plant opened, will no longer do septic inspections

3. Review of Proposed Stewardship Program Survey Results

- Survey commenced on 30 April 2015
- Survey extended to 30 June 2015
- 200 participants out of a potential 2,500 waterfront homes – a good response
- Some questions were skipped
- 166 of 187, or 89% of respondents are on privately owned septic system
- 139 of 164, or 85% have a septic tank and field bed
- 101 of 155, or 65% have a septic system within 100m of a water body – 35, or 23% between 100 and 200m, and 19 or 12% are over 200m
- 137 of 153, or 90% of respondents were reporting on their primary residence – only 16, or 11% were reporting on a seasonal cottage or camp
- 89 of 153, or 58% of respondents take their drinking water from the lake/river, and only 39, or 25% are on wells
- 104 of 150, or 70% of respondents pump-out their septic tanks every 1 to 2 yrs; 39, or 26% 3-5 yrs; 6, or 4% every 6-9 years, and 1 person over 10 years
 - 96% already pump out every 1 to 5 years – so may not see much of an improvement in water quality if we offered a grant on pump-outs
 - Now that pump-out rates have dramatically increased this result could change – residents may hesitate to pump out as often with higher prices
 - It was apparent from the comments that there needs to be an educational component in whatever we do because many people were under the impression the science didn't support more frequent pump-outs
- 122 of 150, or 81% of respondents said they would take advantage of a 50% grant towards pump-out – only 28, or 19% said no; however, most people said they would pump-out anyway, but it would be nice to have a grant

- Data does not seem to support grant dollars towards pump-outs because most people will pump-out every 1 to 5 years anyway
- 102 of 145, or 70%, said they would take advantage of a \$5,000 grant towards the cost of a septic system replacement
 - Only one of the yes respondents made comments, so it's difficult to know why the other 101 people said yes
 - Perhaps some answered yes because they saw it as a hypothetical question that may or may not have pertained to them
 - On first examination the Committee thought the data did not support providing a grant towards septic system replacement
 - Need to analyse this data more fully and have further discussion
 - 43 of 145, or 30% said no, and made most of the comments
 - Many of the no respondents had relatively new septic systems
- Need to address mandatory septic system inspection with our new Mayor and Council
- Look into Tiny Township's inspection system
- Could look at local pumpers' pump-out data
- Richard @ SDHU said in his experience there has only been one septic system where sewage was seeping onto the surface
- Committee not ready to make recommendations, but will meet after the September GSWA meeting to discuss our options further

Action: Lesley will check with Jim's Septic Service to get feedback - data.

Action: Linda will check with MOECC to see if they will share the total volume of sewage from private residences.

4. **Water Quality**

- Ramcharan's blue-green algae report is of interest to lake dwellers
- Helps determine source of blue-green algae

Action: Margaret will invite Ramcharan to make a 30 minute presentation - an overview of his study – at the 21 September General Meeting

5. **Feedback on Meeting with CAs - Re: Huron County Model – Lin - deferred**