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## Thames – Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee

# Meeting Notice

Please be advised that a meeting of the Thames-Sydenham and Region source Protection Committee has been called for the following time. Please confirm your attendance with Deb Kirk at 519-245-3710 ext 46.

**Meeting Date:** September 12, 2008

**Meeting Time:** 1:00 p.m. (following member's tour of the area)

**Meeting Location:** Wallaceburg Arena, 600 Wall Street

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### Proposed Agenda

Item	Time
1. Chair's Welcome	1:00
2. Adoption of the Agenda	
3. Delegations	none
4. Minutes From the Previous Meeting	
5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
6. Business arising from the minutes	1:15
a. Letter to Minister	
7. Business	
a. Terms of Reference consultation update	1:30
b. Vulnerability Assessment Peer Review	2:00
8. Information	2:30
a. First Nations update (verbal)	
9. In Camera Session	none
10. Members reports	
11. Adjournment	3:30

### Meeting Materials

	Agenda Item	Description
Discussion Papers	2008.09.7c	Vulnerability Peer Review discussion paper
Other Materials	Tour invitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Departure time, location (as distributed at previous meeting)</li></ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>

SPC MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2008  
Meeting #9

Bob Bedggood, Chair of the Source Protection Committee called the meeting to order at 1:00 a.m. Friday, September 12, 2008 at the Wallaceburg Arena. The following members and staff were in attendance:

**Members:**

Bob Bedggood	Darrell Randell
Dean Edwardson	Charles Sharina
Patrick Feryn	Pat Sobeski
Paul Hymus	John Van Dorp
Carl Kennes	Brent Clutterbuck
Joe Kerr	Marg Misek-Evans
Don McCabe	Jim Reffle
Doug McGee	Jim Maudsley
Sheldon Parsons	Rick Vantfoort (interim Provincial Liaison).
Richard Philp	
Joe VanOverberghe	

**Regrets:**

Pat Donnelly  
Valerie M'Garry  
Murray Blackie  
Earl Morwood  
Joe Salter

**Staff:**

Bonnie Carey	Teresa Hollingsworth
Chitra Gowda	Deb Kirk
Chris Tasker	Linda Nicks
Ralph Coe	Rick Battson
Brian McDougall	

**Others:**

Robert Olivier, First Nations technical rep

Bob welcomed the committee after a tour of the Wallaceburg area.

1) Adoption of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was requested.

moved by Charles Sharina - seconded by Jim Maudsley

*“Resolved that the agenda be approved as circulated.”*

*CARRIED*

2) Delegations

None

3) Minutes from the Previous Meeting

moved by Darrell Randall–seconded by Dean Edwardson

*“Resolved that the minutes be approved as circulated.”*

*CARRIED*

4) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict was identified.

5) Business Arising from the minutes

a) Letter to Minister

A draft letter to the Minister was distributed to the committee, pertaining to transportation corridors and the threat they pose to drinking water sources. Transportation corridors such as major highways, railways, shipping lanes and pipelines cross through Well Head Protection Areas and Intake Protection Zones. The intent of the letter is to ensure transportation issues are not overlooked. A suggestion was made to ask the province to deal with it as a separate issue as it does not fit into the systems of land uses and activities as outlined in the Clean Water Act.

Rick Vantfoort of Ministry of Environment spoke to this issue, outlining the Ministry’s view. Through the EBR consultation process on the regulations, the absence of addressing transportation corridors was identified as a concern. Rail and waterway corridors fall under Federal jurisdiction and therefore the Ministry of Environment does not have legislative authority over them. The legalities need to be considered. The Ministry of Environment recognizes this gap and hopes to obtain more authority to allow the Source Protection Committee’s to address these issues. The SPC chairs and project managers in the province are meeting at the end of September to develop a response. The committee agreed the letter may be pre-mature at this point and will wait until after the meeting to finalize this matter. This issue will be addressed at the committee meeting on October 3, 2008. If the letter is to be sent to the Minister it should also be copied to Ontario Energy Board.

moved by Joe Kerr–seconded by Doug McGee

*“Resolved that the draft letter concerning transportation corridors be considered at the next committee meeting.”*

*CARRIED*

## 6) Business

Don McCabe arrived at 1:40 p.m.

### a) Terms of Reference consultation update

Consultation on the Terms of Reference has occurred through various open houses held throughout the Thames, Sydenham and Region. A summary of the comments from the meetings was circulated to the committee. Some of the keypoints highlighted at the meetings were ensuring there is adequate communication with the stakeholders when the assessment process begins, concerns over specific threats such as pharmaceuticals and bio-solids application to land as well as compensation for work that is required when the plan is implemented.

The First Nations forums were well attended. They expressed an interest on being on the Source Protection Committee. Some of the concerns they identified were sewage treatment, landfills, chemical spills, contamination in sediment and enforcement of the plan. The St. Clair River and GUDI wells on the Thames River were also mentioned.

Some of the committee members who attended the various open houses noted comments as follows:

- A public attendee was concerned about water supply and wanted a guarantee.
- There needs to be a balance of urban responsibility versus just focusing on the agricultural sector.
- A question was raised as to whether the public messaging is strong enough. The perception is some people have knowledge of the source protection process and then there others who have a very limited understanding of it.
- There was some disappointment relayed about the lack of municipal councilors and staff attending the open houses. A concern was brought forward as to whether they are receiving the information and if we can reach out more to councils. A review of the work that has been done to ensure councils receive information through each stage of the process was outlined. Each of the municipality's clerks and staff have received various reports and quarterly updates are distributed. SPC members were encouraged to be more involved in getting the word out.
- More education is required pertaining to the public's perception of bottled water being safer than municipal tap water.

The comment period for the Terms of Reference consultation period is until September 19, 2008. To date, there have not been formal comments submitted. Terms of Reference CD's are available for anyone who wishes one.

### b) Vulnerability Assessment Peer Review

A discussion paper "Vulnerability Assessment Peer Review" was circulated. A number of discussion points were included for the Source Protection Committee's consideration.

Although the province does not require a peer review, it is expected. The water budget had a built in peer review. Through the municipal working groups, water system operators have been involved in exploring this process.

A number of questions were asked as to whether we need a single peer review process across the entire region is it more appropriate to establish separate groundwater (GW) and surface water (SW) peer review committees? After a brief discussion, the committee agreed having one peer review committee to include a balance of staff, academics and consultants who have Groundwater and Surface water expertise.

moved by Richard Philp-seconded by Charles Sharina

*“Resolved that there be one peer review committee formed for the entire Thames, Sydenham and Region, consisting of a balance of staff, academics and consultants who have expertise in groundwater and surface water.”*

*CARRIED*

Further direction was sought on the specific questions posed in the discussion paper:

- The committee agreed the number of members on the peer review committee will be determined at the time of formation to allow for flexibility.
- It is important to have consultants and academics who understand and accept the process described in the guidance and rules.
- Consistency needs to be considered with our neighbors perhaps by engaging a peer reviewer from the Lake Erie Source Protection Region staff or a peer reviewer of work completed in the Lake Erie Source Protection Region. Chris Tasker, Marg Misek-Evans and Lori Minshall of the Lake Erie SP Region will meet to discuss Oxford County’s peer review process, due to the overlap with the Grand River Source Protection Region to avoid duplication in the work.
- After some discussion the committee agreed to review the work after the peer review process.
- The committee did not see the need to peer review work that was previously peer reviewed as part of completed groundwater studies. A suggestion was also made to have some face to face contact with the consultants on the completed work.
- A questions was asked as to whether there other aspects of the Assessment Report work which should be peer reviewed such as threats inventories or risk assessment? The concern is to not miss any data sets on landuse. The Risk Assessment involves a look-up table. It was generally felt that this would not be necessary except perhaps risks not identified within the table are being considered

7) Information

a) First Nations Update (verbal)

Bob reported progress is being made in engaging the First Nations in the Source Water process. Bob and Sheldon attended a meeting at Walpole. Bonnie Carey and Rick Battson have been working with and continue to have contact with Chief Albert, of Chippewa of the Thames. Chief Albert is working on getting more people involved in the process.

8) In Camera Session

None

9) Members Reports

Sheldon Parsons- reiterated wanting more involvement from municipal councilors and ensuring they are kept up to date on the process.

James Maudsley commented on the committee municipal reps also being responsible to ensure councils are informed.

Jim Reffle- reported that the Minister of the Environment has officially designated Medical Officer of Health liaison members to each of the Source Water Protection Committees in Ontario, pursuant to section 19 of the Clean Water Act. Jim also reported that the MOE has issued the procedures associated with an imminent drinking water health hazard notification, as per section 89 of the Clean Water Act. Jim has distributed this procedure to each of the Medical Officers of Health and senior Environmental Health management staff of those health units that are part of the Thames Sydenham Region SPC. He reported that these procedures will be reviewed at a meeting attended by staff from those health units on September 19th.

Rick Battson distributed rain gauges to members who wanted one.

10) Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.