

# 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. If you are unable to attend please contact Deb Kirk at 519-245-3710x 46.

**Meeting Date:** May 14, 2010  
**Meeting Time:** 9:00 am to 2:30 pm  
**Meeting Location:** St. Clair Conservation Authority office

## Proposed Agenda

Item	Time
1. Chair's Welcome	9:00
2. Adoption of the Agenda	
3. Delegations	
4. AODA Training	9:15
5. Minutes From the Previous Meeting	
6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
7. Business arising from the minutes	
a. Letters regarding wind turbines	
8. Business	10:30
a. LTVSPA Assessment Report update	
b. SCRSPA Assessment Report update	
c. UTRSPA Assessment Report	
i. Consultation update	
ii. AR sections (1, 2, 5)	
Lunch	12:00
iii. Maps	
9. Information	1:30
a. Wildlife impacts -John Van Dorp, Pat Feryn,	
b. MOE releases Report on the Occurrence and Levels of Pesticides in Ontario's Finished Drinking Water	
10. In Camera Session	
11. Other business	
12. MOE Liaison report	
13. Members reports	
14. Adjournment (next meeting June 25)	2:30

## Meeting Materials

Agenda Item	Description
8.c.ii	• Preliminary draft of Section 1, 2, 5 of UTRSPA AR
8.c.iii	• UTRCA AR Maps (to be distributed at meeting)
9.b	• Pesticides in Ontario's Treated Municipal Drinking Water. 1986-2006 document
7a	• Draft letters to be distributed by email



SPC MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 14, 2010  
Meeting #26

Bob Bedggood, Chair of the Source Protection Committee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on May 14, 2010 at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) Boardroom. The following members and staff were in attendance:

**Members**

Bob Bedggood	Augustus Tobias
Brent Clutterbuck	John Van Dorp
Dean Edwardson	Doug McGee
Pat Feryn	Pat Sobeski
Carl Kennes	Joe VanOverberghe
Joe Kerr	James Maudsley
Don McCabe	Jim Reffle
Earl Morwood	Teresa McLellan
Sheldon Parsons	Murray Blackie
Darrell Randell	
Joe Salter	
Charles Sharina	
Richard Philp	
Marg Misek-Evans	
Paul Hymus	
Valerie M'Garry	

**Regrets:**

Pat Donnelly  
Keenon Johnson  
Robert Olivier

**Staff:**

Rick Battson	Chitra Gowda
Steve Clark	Brian McDougall
Ralph Coe	Girish Sankar
Linda Nicks	Chris Tasker
Bonnie Carey	Deb Kirk
Derekica Snake	



1) Chair's Welcome

Bob Bedggood welcomed the committee.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jim Maudsley seconded by Doug McGee.

*"resolved that the agenda be approved."*

*CARRIED.*

3) Delegations

None

4) AODA Training

Sharon Vigilanti, the Human Resources/Payroll Administrator from Upper Thames River Conservation Authority attended the meeting and provided Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities training. The committee will receive a link to the E-Learning Website for further information. Absent committee members can take the training through the website or may also receive it through their employer. This is mandated training all employers will be asking everyone to complete.

5) Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The April 30, 2010 meeting minutes have not been prepared and will be considered at the next meeting along with the minutes from today.

6) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was identified.

7) Business arising from the minutes

a) Letters regarding wind turbines

Draft letters were distributed to the committee for approval based on the previous meeting discussion. Suggested revisions:

- Grammatical items outlined. Font changed in some places for consistency. Date also needs to be corrected.
- Letter to the Director, SPP Branch, MOE re-worded to include broader issues that may come up in the future, such as solar panels, geothermal systems.
- Letter to the Director, SPP Branch, MOE to be copied to Ministry of Natural Resources, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- It was suggested cc be sent to the Renewable Energy Facilitation Office, Sue Lo, who oversees these types of projects, outlining our concerns and asking to keep the committee updated.
- Letter to Essex Region to be copied to Chatham-Kent, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

## 8) Business

### a) LTVSPA Assessment Report update

LTVSPA Proposed Assessment Report (AR) was submitted to the MOE in April. The MOE sent a letter acknowledging the receipt of the AR. The SPC can expect to hear from MOE in 3 to 6 months from the time of submission.

### b) SCRCSPA Assessment Report (AR) Update

Revisions have been made to the SCRCSPA draft proposed AR based on the comments reviewed at the previous SPC meeting. The proposed AR will be posted on the Thames-Sydenham and Region website around May 14, 2010. Advertisements will go in the newspaper May 18 and 19th. The thirty day comment period ends June 18, 2010.

### c) UTRSPA Assessment Report

#### i. Consultation Update-

Open houses were well attended and members of the public showed general interest in what is happening. There are some misunderstandings of groundwater versus surface water issues. One to one consultations with people were appreciated. Pat S. reported that invitations he sent to the Mayor of Zorra, East Zorra-Tavistock helped in having them attend. It was beneficial to have SPC members, municipal representatives, and water plant operators present to respond to questions.

Updates to schedule:

- *Woodstock* tentatively booked for July 5.
- *Mount Elgin* is set for June 28.

- *St. Mary's* to be determined, late June early July. A notice will be sent out.
- Water Budget and municipal update planning meeting to be held in *St. Mary's*, June 24. More information coming on this in the next few weeks.

ii. AR Sections (1, 2, 5)

The draft Assessment Report sections which were distributed were discussed. Suggested edits/revisions include the following:

**Section 1 -Introduction and Background**

- *Page 1-16 Table 1.4* summary of plans should read Upper Thames, vs. Lower. Add Proposed AR in last paragraph.
- *Page 1-20* A discussion took place on whether the First Nations needs to be listed as there are not First Nations in this source protection area (SPA). For clarification, a paragraph will be added above the list of First Nations in the region, indicating although there are no First Nations in the Upper Thames River SPA, there are some located directly downstream who may be impacted by activities in the Upper Thames River SPA. For example, Augustus Tobias noted the First Nations have groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GUDI) wells and health inspectors have found sodium in the water in the winter possibly coming from anthropogenic sources in the Upper Thames River SPA, upstream of the wells.

**Section 2 -Watershed Characterization**

- *Page 2-8 Table 2-2* Habitat and Temperature Assessment numbers should be explained. (Blandford/Blenheim, East-Zorra Tavistock – where components that should add up to the same number, do not).
- *Page 2-12* Species at Risk data was discussed. A comment was received on the Lower Thames Valley AR that the list of Species at Risk (SAR) was not up to date. The Water Characterization Report, which is where the SAR list was taken from, took three years to complete and will not be updated. For the Upper Thames River AR, any updates can be incorporated into the Appendix 5 addendum (list of SAR). The Ministry will need to determine what the requirements will be in terms of any updates. Information on water pump rates and population served are also updated in the Upper Thames River AR.
- *Page 2-14 Figure 2-1.* Federal lands map was regenerated from a mapping tool on a Federal Lands website. CA staff are looking into obtaining the federal lands data, in order to create a map product that meets Technical Rules mapping requirements.

- *Page 2-16* Not all information is necessary in the text on farming practices in the Upper Thames SPA, so this section will be thinned down. Bob will work directly with Chitra to revise.
- *Page 2-18* Include subtitles for water quality section of either surface/ground water, to be clearer. The use of the recreational guideline for E. coli (100 counts per 100 ml) was discussed. This benchmark was used in the Watershed Characterization Report to assess levels of E. coli in inland water bodies across the watershed. The guideline and its use as a benchmark should be clarified in the AR.
- *Page 2-24* Mount Elgin change to capital E.

### **Section 5 -Issues Evaluation**

- .A question about Terbufos was asked related to the document “Pesticides in Ontario’s Treated Municipal Drinking Water” which will be discussed under item 9b.

**Section 8 -Great Lakes** was circulated today to be reviewed at the next meeting.

### iii. Maps

Suggested edits/revisions:

- *4-1-2 Dorchester.* Scales do not match on groundwater vulnerability. Municipal well locations are listed only on the vulnerability map. The challenge in including the wells on all the maps is with the scales, the green dot is close to the hundred meter circle..
- *4-1-5 London/Hyde Park.* A question of why streams are shown starting and stopping in some areas. The water is going underground and then back out, through culverts. Lower left map has non-circular lines that represent geology and soils, delineating an area of high vulnerability. There will be overlapping in areas where the vulnerability varies. For example, Dorchester has areas of high vulnerability, Hyde Park has high, medium and low areas and when they overlay these vulnerabilities over the time of travel, it results in patchwork. Road names are not consistent. A question was raised of what will be done about areas outside areas of vulnerability. The only areas being assessed are within the WHPA other than through the HVA/SGRA. Outside of this, you would refer to the HVA and significant groundwater recharge areas to see if there are vulnerable areas.
- *4-1-7 Thorndale.* Underlying maps, scale is different. Hyde Park map has detail not necessary to include (street names clutter it). ISI was used in Thorndale and SWAT in Ridgetown to score vulnerability.

- 4-1-9 *Embro* Streams going nowhere indicates drains going underground. Municipal well location map Commissioners Street and Road 80 should be separated.
- 4-1-13 *Lakeside*. A question was raised as to the size of WHPA-A. The size is independent of the other zones and remains a 100 metre radius.
- 4-1-15 *Tavistock* Perth Oxford Road line shown thicker. Municipal boundaries have not been included. Weight of the size of lines should be consistent.
- 4-1-18 *Mitchell* On groundwater vulnerability map legend change yellow line, heavier. The 25 year capture zone is just a sliver beyond the 5 year. This may be because steady state is reached. Steady state is when running the model longer will not result in larger WHPA. Regardless of how much time you give it, the capture zone will not extend any further.

The abandoned well in Mitchell has not been found. Transport pathways were discussed. Transport pathways means the ability to modify vulnerability based on transport pathways from low to medium, low to high or medium to high. If a well is properly maintained and constructed, and therefore not a transport pathway there may be challenge when writing policies related to activities in that area as the vulnerability scores has been adjusted. It was noted problems may occur when the lines are drawn, someone may be deemed high risk and others in the same area may not be. This is the nature of SPP. Change label to transport pathways vs. preferential pathways.

- 7-3-2 *Dorchester* a review was given on the threats chart results. These charts work together with charts in the Threats Tables in Appendix 10. They look at vulnerability score, Zone (WHPA-A, B, C or D) and determine whether there can be significant threats or not. The scoring is based on activity and circumstances around the activity. A question arose as to why threats related to pathogens are not color coded outside of WHPA-B. Pathogens outside a two year time travel are not considered a threat. In general, pathogens may survive a few to several weeks in groundwater and therefore are not a threat beyond the WHPA-B.
- 7-3-5 *Hyde Park* Tables are longer due to the patchwork which result in different vulnerability scores within the same zones. The Threats tables in Appendix 10 indicate which type of activities could be significant. Brackets need to be taken off of DNAPL.
- 7-3-7 *Thorndale* noted as an area of low vulnerability. Capital R in title.
- 7-3-9 *Embro* Legend at top left include hyphen between WHPA-D.
- 7-3-13 *Lakeside* Legend at top include hyphen WHPA-D. Move the word Lakeside in lower left map in order to read Sunova Cres.
- 7-3-15 *Tavistock* Shakespeare is displayed due to scale used. There may be some overlap; a note references Map 7-3-20 of report is included.



- 7-3-18 Mitchell Second Map on legend expand the word vulnerability.

Lunch

The Committee broke for lunch at 11:50 and resumed at 12:25 p.m.

## 9) Information

### a) Wildlife Impacts

John Van Dorp and Pat Feryn circulated two documents received at a recent agriculture training session they attended titled 'Source Protection Plan Assessment Reports and Policy Agricultural Representative Pathogen Primer' and 'Wildlife identified as major source of Escherichia coli in agriculturally dominated watersheds by Box A1R-derived generic fingerprints'. Agricultural groups would like to see livestock, human and wildlife sources of pathogen considered equally and included in the Tables of Drinking Water Threats.

An in depth discussion identified the following key points:

- Microbial source testing (MST) is an emerging field of study which may identify the source of microbial contamination.
- A review of the abstracts from scientific journals indicates that wildlife contributions to the pathogens are found in watersheds.
- At this time the Ministry of Environment acknowledges that the science behind MST is new and relatively unproven..
- Agricultural practices such as Nutrient Management plans will continue to reduce pathogens in the case of livestock. Pathogens found in animals die quickly once they are in fields and do not travel far in soil. Application methods from managed livestock versus wildlife were considered.
- A comparison of why abandoned barns are considered more a risk than wildlife was discussed. Why are wetlands and woodlots not included in the higher risk areas where deer, raccoons, turkeys outnumber livestock? Wildlife has not been seen as a threat, unless in great amounts. Due to the potential for abandoned barns to be filled, they remain a potential risk. Capacity, circumstances, density of livestock will all be a factor in determining the threat level.
- The University of Waterloo is completing a study on Thornton/Woodstock water supply and will be testing John Van Dorp's water for these pathogens.
- Committee members emphasized the importance of an educational component. Fact sheets using science based information was suggested as a way to educate the public about facts such as E. coli being contributed by wildlife and humans as well as livestock.
- Wildlife can be managed through public education discouraging them from overtaking areas which could pose a risk, such as not feeding geese in public parks. Habitat modifications

make an area less suitable to geese and limit the number that can exist there. Working with seagulls for example, keeping them from beaches has proved to reduce levels of E. coli.

- Clarification around manure application was given. Previous guidance suggested a pathogen prohibition zone which is no longer in place.. Nutrients in manure also need to be looked at.
- Teresa. M. noted that another Source Protection Region has included a local park as a drinking water threat. Pathogens are identified to be occurring in the source water due to the congregation of geese in that local park, close to an intake. Due to circumstances, the risk was elevated and policies can be written to address them.
- Pathogens have not been identified in drinking water sources in the Thames-Sydenham and Region. Neither pathogens nor Schedule 1 parameters (total coliform and E. coli) are identified as drinking water quality issues in the three source protection areas.
- SPP will focus on human activity whether wildlife is Provincial and Federal government regulation.

The committee agreed education and outreach will be a key factor in dealing with this issue. How we manage wildlife to discourage larger populations in areas can help to reduce pathogens. The SWP Plan will be focused on human activity in relation to threats. Policies would not be written for activities not identified as threats, ,however good practices may be encouraged. Education and outreach would be the preferred method of dealing with wildlife management.

b) MOE releases Report on the Occurrence and Levels of Pesticides in Ontario's Finished Drinking Water.

A report from the Ministry was released and presented to the SPC Chairs. This report examines the presence of pesticides in treated drinking water across Ontario from 1989-2006. There is a link on the Ministry website to the report. Chris reported that although water treatment systems are not designed to treat pesticides, they are showing reduction in the levels and decline in number of occurrences.

10) In Camera Session

None

11) Other Business

12) MOE Liaison Report

Teresa M. noted letters that were required for compliance related to approaches taken in the St. Clair Assessment Report were sent. The Ministry is reviewing the Assessment Reports.

### 13) Members Reports

- Joe Salter attended an Ontario Waterworks Annual Conference that included groundwater/SWP sessions. He highlighted a water taste test which was won by Stratford.
- Jim Maudsley reported the open houses were very informative.
- Richard Philp reported on the upcoming Children's Water Festival at Fanshawe Conservation Area on May 18-21. Twenty eight hundred grade 5/6 students from Thames Valley and , London District Catholic school boards and some private Christian schools will be attending. A good educational tool.
- John Van Dorp shared his concerns based on the "*CCA Tax Guide for Employers provided Vehicles and Allowances Guide*" of mileage not being a taxable benefit and asked that the HR department re-consider this.
- Sheldon Parsons reported Bothwell sewer systems water tests indicated human ecoli versus non-human.
- Pat Sobeski attended some of the open houses and wanted to commend the staff on welcoming people as soon as they arrived and spending one to one time with them.
- Dean Edwardson announced the SLEA Annual Meeting will be held on May 19 at the Dante Club in Sarnia. Chris Young will be speaking on bio-mass trials and Bruce Davidson on Walkerton. If interested in attending contact Dean.
- Teresa McLellan highlighted Walkerton Residents will be marking the tenth anniversary of the Walkerton tragedy on Sunday May 9. The Haiti Well Project will be launched and donations accepted.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2010.