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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 advise Deb Kirk at 519-451-2800 ext 223 if you cannot attend.

**Meeting Date:** May 9, 2008

**Meeting Time:** 1:00 pm SPC members will be touring the area before the meeting as per separate itinerary.

**Meeting Location:** Oxford County Building (21 Reeve Street, Woodstock)

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Meeting start time is approximate as committee will be arriving at the meeting location as part of a tour of the Oxford area. Tour is for Committee members and staff only.

## Proposed Agenda

Item	Time
Welcome and Introductions	1:00
1. Adoption of the Agenda	
2. Delegations	None
3. Minutes From the Previous Meeting	
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
5. Business arising from the minutes	
a.	
6. Business	
a. Ryerson Survey - verbal	1:10
b. Terms of Reference Workshops – discussion paper attached	1:15
c. Working Group Reports - verbal	1:30
d. Terms of Reference update– discussion paper attached	1:40
e. Terms of Reference timing– discussion paper attached	2:00
7. Information	
a. Source Water Protection for Groundwater Supplies in Oxford County-D. Goudreau, P.Eng, Tony Lotimer, P.Geo	2:30
b. Addressing Known Water Quality Issues: A Source Protection Case Study – D. Goudreau, P.Eng.	
c. Challenges to protecting drinking water – Eric Boere, Thames Centre	3:15
8. In Camera Session	none
9. Adjournment	3:45

## Meeting Materials

	Agenda Item	Description
Discussion Papers	2008.05.6b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covering discussion paper with background</li> <li>• Summary from Assessment Report Technical Workshop</li> <li>• Plans for the Source Protection Plan work planning workshop</li> </ul>
	2008.05.6d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covering discussion paper with background</li> <li>• Updated materials for Terms of Reference submission               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Module Overview</li> <li>○ Surface Water Intakes Technical Studies Summary</li> <li>○ Groundwater Wellhead Technical Studies Progress</li> <li>○ Groundwater Technical Studies Progress – Watershed Based tasks</li> <li>○ List of Drinking Water Systems</li> <li>○ List of Municipalities in SPAs</li> <li>○ Task Descriptions (detailed description to follow by email prior to meeting)</li> <li>○ Maps (to be distributed at the meeting)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	2008.05.6e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms of Reference schedule considerations</li> </ul>
Other Materials	tour reminder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirming tour and meeting details for committee members and staff as itinerary distributed at previous meeting</li> </ul>

SPC MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2008  
Meeting #5

Bob Bedggood, Chair of the Source Protection Committee called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Friday, May 9, 2008 at the Oxford County Administrative Building in Woodstock. The following members and staff were in attendance:

**Members:**

Bob Bedggood	Marg Misek-Evans
Murray Blackie	Earl Morwood
Brent Clutterbuck	Sheldon Parsons
Pat Donnelly (meeting only)	Richard Philp
Dean Edwardson	Darrell Randell
Patrick Feryn	Joe Salter
Paul Hymus	Charles Sharina
Joe Kerr	Pat Sobeski
Jim Maudsley	John Van Dorp
Don McCabe	Randy Phillips (First Nations rep)
Doug McGee	Rick Vantfoort

**Staff:**

Rick Battson	Chris Tasker
Ralph Coe	Deb Kirk
Chitra Gowdra	Ian Wilcox
Teresa Hollingsworth	Bonnie Carey
Chitra Gowdra	Linda Nicks

**Oxford County:**

Deborah Goudreau	Paul Holbrough
Rob Walton	Graham Seggewiss
Don McKay	Karin Blackman

**Thames Centre**

Eric Boere,	Jean Monteith
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**Public:**

Alan Dale, Grand River Conservation

**Regrets:**

Jim Reffle,	Carl Kennes
Joe Overberghe	Valerie M'Garry
Jerry Campbell	

Bob opened with a brief review of the tour the committee members participated in during the morning, noting the Oxford County area, the vastness of the region and the resources the committee is trying to protect.

1) Adoption of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was requested.

moved by Charles Sharina - seconded by Dean Edwardson

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

CARRIED.

2) Delegations

None

3) Minutes from the Previous Meeting

moved by Jim Maudsley-seconded by Brent Clutterbuck

*“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

None

6) Business

a) Ryerson Survey

A survey was recently mailed to committee members from Ryerson University. Chris has approached the Ministry of Environment with some questions about the process, and has not received a response, to date. He will report back to the committee when more information is available.

b) Terms of Reference Workshops (report 2008.05.6b)

Two workshops were planned to facilitate the timely completion of the Terms of Reference. On April 14, 2008 one was held focusing on the technical work. The second is planned for May 15, 2008, and will focus on the tasks required to complete the Source Protection Plan. The outcome of these meetings will be brought to the Municipal Terms of Reference Working Groups and to the Source Protection Committee to assist in the development of the Terms of Reference.

c) Working Group Reports-verbal (meeting notes circulated).

Pat Donnelly, the chair of the Surface Water Working Group gave an update on the recent meeting held in April. He identified a few of the members on the working group including Andrew Valickis (OCWA-on behalf of West Elgin), Duncan McTavish, (Enniskillen), Mike Schnare, (Sarnia), and Dave Posliffe (Lambton). He indicated there are differences in the modeling approaches by the consultants, although each is adhering to the Ministry guidelines. The partnerships with the municipalities and the CA's are expected to continue to complete the assessment report work.

Joe Salter, the chair of the Ground Water Working Group reiterated the concerns of not having final Ministry guidance. Issues unique to the ground water is the Long Term Supply Strategies through the Tier 3 Water Budget and that further guidance is needed on the GUDI wells and surface water threats related to groundwater under direct influence of surface water. A scoped threats inventory may be necessary for threats in these areas.

Data gaps, inconsistencies, assumptions, other difficulties and data handling/maintenance were discussed during the working groups. Pat and Joe both indicated the meeting outcomes were very similar between the two.

Questions/comments raised by the committee;

- Is having two consultants with slightly different approaches going to be a concern? Although both methods meet Ministry guidelines, it may still be a sensitive issue which needs to be considered.
- A concern was raised about how tiled fields that drain into a water course within an IPZ are included and are assumed to be rapid. MOE guidance considers tile drainage and storm sewers as preferential pathways to the water course and within that time of travel, need to be considered. It was pointed out that there is a difference in response between tile drains and storm sewers.
- Assigning scoring levels is difficult with options of only high and low scores. The consultants are reluctant to give a low score and the uncertainty is something that needs to be reviewed. .
- There are data gaps in identifying private wells. The concern raised from the agricultural group was whether all private wells are being looked at or just ones relating to municipal drinking water supplies? Private wells are being targeted that are within the intake protection zones, being direct conduits to the aquifer.
- A question was asked about Oxford County adding an extra level of uncertainty in the WHPA's, refer to bullet three in the GW Assessment Report Technical

Studies, Uncertainties. If we build in more and more uncertainties, will it create more uncertainty? Marg Misk-Evans reported that due to the types of data we are dealing with, the uncertainties will need to be identified and considered.

d) Terms of Reference update (report 2008.05.6d)

Oxford County will be undertaking their own projects and it is assumed the other projects in the region will be completed through the same partnerships. A first draft of the Terms of Reference is expected the end of May, to be submitted to the committee for review at their June meeting. This will be the focus at the June meeting. A second meeting may necessary to finalize this work.

e) Terms of Reference timing (report 2008.05.6e)

The time lines around consultation and completion of the terms of reference present a number of challenges. We will be consulting on the Terms of Reference at the same time the Ministry of Environment will be consulting on the guidance. There may be some significant modifications necessary, due to this timing. An option discussed was to roll out the Terms of Reference as a draft report and provide changes or comments after we receive the guidance, but this would not allow for adequate consultation on any changes.

After a discussion, the committee members agreed to ask the Ministry for an extension to be able to provide a quality product, rather than just adhering to the process. Chris Tasker and Bob Bedggood will draft a letter outlining the committee's concerns. The letter will be circulated to the committee.

moved by Don McCabe-seconded by Dean Edwardson

*“Resolved that a letter be submitted to the Minister of the Environment indicating that the Source Protection Committee will be delaying the submission of the terms of reference to allow adequate consideration of provincial requirements in developing those terms of reference and allow meaningful consultation on those terms of reference. Further, that an adequate extension, following the finalization of the Director’s rules, be requested.”*

*CARRIED.*

Chief Randy Phillips was introduced. He joined the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Chris submitted a sample draft of a Terms of Reference for the committee to review. The Committee is required to complete three Terms of Reference. Only some of the work completed is included in the circulated Terms of Reference.

## 7) Information

- a) Source Protection for Groundwater Supplies in Oxford County.  
D. Goudreau, P.Eng and Tony Lotimer, P.Geo.

Deborah Goudreau presented on Oxford County's past efforts to protect their groundwater municipal drinking water sources and gave an overview of the work pertaining to groundwater protection initiated in the mid-nineties. She spoke specifically of the formation of Nutrient Management and Groundwater Protection Committees. This was a result of two large scale farming operations proposed near some of the well heads.

A Phase 1 groundwater study was completed and nutrient management by-laws were enacted. The Phase 2 study mapped the well head areas and considered vulnerability and risk. The Phase 2 work formed the basis for the technical assessment required under the Clean Water Act. Tony Lotimer, a hydrogeologist, gave an overview of the technical work to date concerning Module 3 of the Guidance, Groundwater Vulnerability Analysis.

- b) Addressing Known Water Quality Issues: A Source Protection Case Study- D. Goudreau, P. Eng

An overview of the statistical data on water supply systems, the well head protection areas, water quality results and some of the landuse management strategies being implemented within the County of Oxford was presented. Various research projects completed through the University of Waterloo were reviewed. The areas of research included economics, hydrogeology, and leaching of nitrate in the unsaturated zone.

A concern was raised alleging that research had been completed on the potential impact of current livestock practices on the high nitrates in the study area. A further concern was raised that the area of elevated nitrates as shown could imply that it extends beyond the area studied. The area is not closed off as it is not known how far the area extends in that direction. Another question was asked as to the policy of the municipality to decommission private wells within a serviced area and connecting these households to the municipal system. An assumption that all older systems are improperly constructed or maintained may not be accurate. In response, County staff indicated that private wells represent preferential pathways in WHPAs; one risk management approach is to remove such pathways where an alternate water source like a municipal system is available.

- c) Challenges to protecting drinking water- Eric Boere, Thames Centre and Jean Monteith, Planning Consultant for Thames Centre

Jean distributed the document "Modification to Municipality of the Thames Centre Official Plan-January 9, 2006." Jean's presentation outlined the history of municipal planning and the evolution of the official plans pertaining to groundwater protection. She highlighted the regulations surrounding existing and future development applications.

8) In Camera Session

None

9) Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 355:p.m. The committee members then returned to the Dorchester Community Centre.