

Report to Source Protection Committee on the Working Groups and Municipal Subcommittee

April 2008

All seven of the regional working groups and municipal subcommittee met during the period of April 1- April 8. A 75% attendance record was achieved for this series.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Mileage was not paid out at the end of the first quarter because many cheques were for under \$10.00. Mileage from February/March will be incorporated into the second quarter and will be paid at the end of June.
- One of the deliverables of the SPC is to create a Terms of Reference (ToR), or workplan, that details the tasks and timelines to complete the Assessment Report and the Source Protection Plans. The SPC is currently working on a preliminary draft of the ToR and confirming details with the municipalities. A 35-day public comment period is anticipated to begin in early May with public meetings towards the end of May. Further details on the dates of the public meetings will be provided at the next meeting in May.

The host from the meeting took up the field assignment and the results from the personal evaluation and curriculum assessment from Module 1, Introduction to Source Protection. Feedback from the SPC on the comments by the working groups is available in the 'members forum' of the website.

PROTECTING OUR WATER

Module 2 – Watershed Description

The five watersheds in the source protection region:

- Ausable River (in the ABCA)
- Bayfield River (in the ABCA)
- Maitland River (in the MVCA)
- Nine Mile River (in the MVCA)
- Shore Gullies and Streams (shared by the ABCA and MVCA)

What is a watershed?

Small groups defined a watershed and looked at three other definitions (pages 3-4). Background information is provided on p. 16.

Surface water watersheds and groundwater watersheds do not follow the same boundaries. However, surface water feeds groundwater and vice versa; the two affect the other type of watershed. Boundaries of scale also need to be considered when talking about watersheds; watersheds are often subwatersheds of a larger watershed. For example, the Ausable watershed is part of the Lake Huron

watershed which is part of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence watershed which is part of the Atlantic watershed. Other names for watershed include catchment basin, drainage basin, and drainage area.

Why are watersheds important?

The groups answered nine questions on pages 8-9. Background information is provided on p. 17.

Jigsaw Experts (pages 10-11)

The working groups broke out into groups of two or three to review five maps that characterized the watersheds:

- **Soils** – e.g., A rapid drainage, B moderate drainage, C slow drainage, D very slow drainage, organic, muck, peat, urban
- **Land Use** – e.g., built up area, cropland, pasture, wetland, open marsh, forest, quarries
- **Overburden Thickness** – the amount of bedrock that lies overtop of the aquifer.
- The thicker the overburden, the longer it takes for water to percolate and the greater protection provided to the aquifer.
- **Runoff** – the amount of flow divided by the watershed area.
- **Physiography** – the key item that influences water movement and the process that shaped the land. Outcomes of the physical process include till plains, drumlins, sand plains, eskers etc.

Watershed Description Presentation

Two presenters shared the duty of presenting the watershed description information: Alec Scott, Water and Planning Manager for the ABCA, and Rick Steele, Watershed Information Coordinator for the MVCA. Background information on all the five watersheds is provided on p. 22-33. As well, more information on watershed description is available in the downloads' section of the internet.

TOPICS FOR SPC REVIEW

There were eight main concerns that the Working Groups and Municipal Subcommittee wish to submit to the Source Protection Committee for the month of April. They are not listed in any particular order:

1. That there be Best Management Practices regarding amendments for:
 - Road conditions (salt, dust controls)
 - Road situations – main, secondary, subdivisions
 - Good management in general (**Parkhill**)
2. That there is a need to communicate with adjacent source protection regions so that similar geographic areas and issues are dealt with consistently (i.e. municipalities and landowners in two rural areas; prominent rural or urban focus) (**Listowel**).
3. Some sinkholes may need to be considered a higher potential risk factor and may need more urgent attention than the current process would indicate (e.g., sinkholes adjacent to active agricultural areas). Some further study for action may be necessary (**Wingham**).

4. There are concerns regarding eventual downloading of the source protection plan to municipalities. Are there long term plans for funding after implementation? **(Wingham)**
5. The agricultural industry is concerned about receiving stewardship grants for implementation which are then taxed back by municipalities who are also receiving grants **(Wingham)**.
6. How much involvement will source protection have 'in' the lake, e.g.,
 - Recreational boating exhaust, industrial use?
 - Break into stuff coming off into the land, and stuff from the lake?
 - Water borne – us pollution crossing the lake, recreational boating exhaust
 - Or from the land – industrial use, manure runoff, septic systems?
(Clinton)
7. There are still concerns about the plans being practical and workable without being a bureaucratic overload **(Kingsbridge)**.
8. Focus should remain on the four vulnerable areas outlined in the Clean Water Act: the intake protection zones (IPZ), wellhead protection areas (WHPA), highly vulnerable areas (HVA) and significant groundwater recharge areas (SGRA).
(Exeter)

Major Theme

Implementation funding continues to be a concern. In addition, questions arose on the scope of the work to be undertaken: best management practices, involvement in the lakes, and the four vulnerable areas.

OTHER TOPICS FOR FURTHER WG/MSC DISCUSSION

Issue/Suggestion	Action/Response
Have the working groups been formalized by the Source Protection Committee? Are we following the right sequence? (Parkhill)	Yes. The SPC approved a Procedural Manual on November 28, 2007 that outlined the establishment of Geographic Working Groups. Prior to the SPC formation, the project was directed by the Joint Management Committee for the two Source Protection Authorities. This committee approved a workplan to develop a curriculum document and approved the establishment of local multi-stakeholder working groups. The province also approved this workplan in Spring 2006. In addition, the SPC has the authority to create <i>ad hoc</i> working groups as outlined in the Procedural Manual.
Challenge water plant owners in the IPZ to exceed the minimum requirements with respect to Drinking Water Source Protection (Exeter)	Tabled until the May meeting when the working group can review the Terms of Reference.
Recommend to the SPC to encourage municipalities to include other drinking water systems besides municipal residential in the ToR.	Tabled until the May meeting when the working group can review the Terms of Reference.

NEXT MEETING

A host for each meeting will summarize the evaluations from the previous meetings, review the field assignment, thank guest presenters, and perform other miscellaneous duties. The following individuals are the hosts for the next round of meetings in May 2008.

Parkhill – John Peters

Listowel – Ken Cornelisse

Wingham – Sandra Weber

Municipal – Myles Murdock

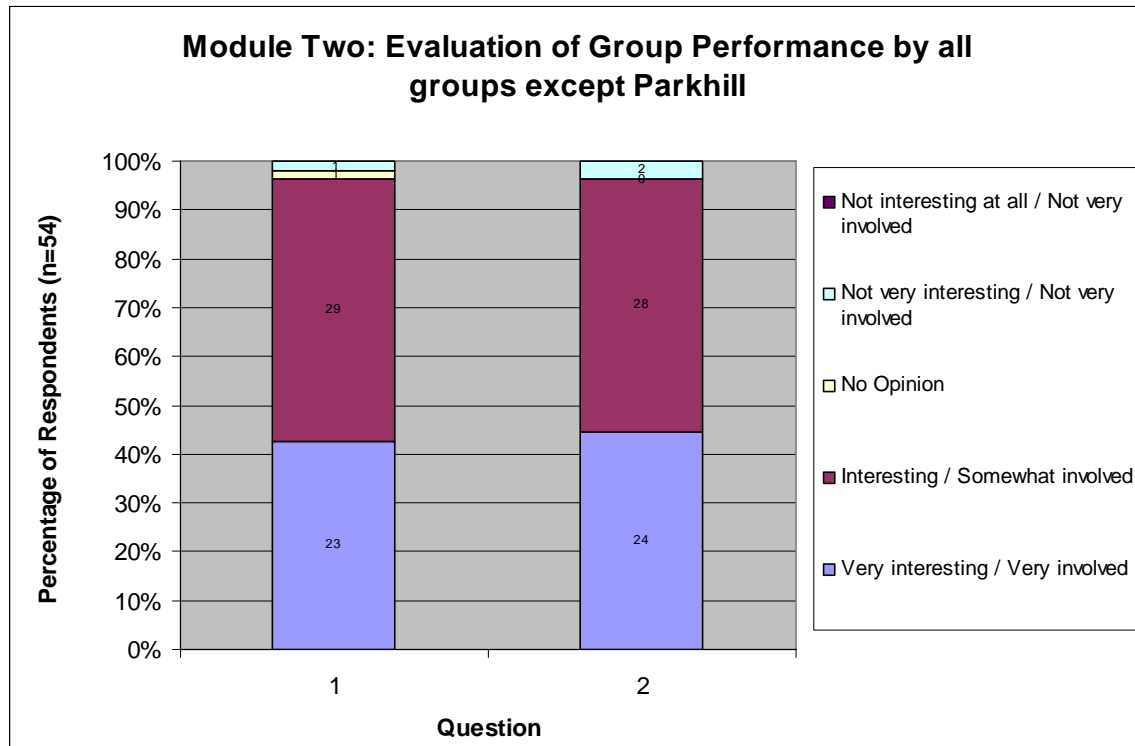
Clinton – Jack Kroes, alternate Nancy Hislop

Kingsbridge – Allan Scott, alternate Sebastian Kraft

Exeter – Paul Nairn

The next meeting will focus on the Water Quality (module three). The field assignment options for the next meeting are listed on Module 2 p.14. In addition, a water bottle was provided to each member to take a sample of any water source (tap, creek, manure pile etc.) and it will be tested at the May meeting.

Curriculum Module Two Group Evaluation



Reflects responses from 54 out of 75 attendees.

Questions

1. How interesting was the material to you?
2. How involved did you feel?

Major Themes

Most participants enjoyed the watershed description presentation and the mapping exercise. Some people felt that a review of the previous meeting was lacking while others felt the process was moving too slowly. This result underscores the fact that the working groups are comprised of people with varying degrees of knowledge. It may be beneficial to review past material for those participants who missed a meeting.

What parts of the session did you think were weak?

Parkhill

- Perhaps further discussion regarding newspaper articles that were brought in.

Listowel

- Presentation was king of boring

Wingham

- Want more information on what is happening in other groups
- Don't want homework
- Maps handed out without explanation of 'overburden', 'physiography', kames, drumlins, till plains etc.
- Sometimes the time allowed for an exercise was not adequate

Municipal

- Need modules beforehand
- Materials being supplied
- Some parts were rushed
- Trying to bring things as new but will not get as many questions?
- Too fast
- Review module of start of meeting
- Verbal info with no written to refer to
- Articles on water
- Coffee was not working; awful taste (ascorbic)

Clinton

- Explanation of SP process (but I missed the 1st section)
- Styrofoam cups
- Speaker was a little long - went over the same ideas we discussed in groups
- [Watershed description] presentation was not in binder
- Going through workbook questions with us
- Group Activities were not well defined
- Sometimes felt pro forma
- Understanding effects on watershed
- Softer donuts

Exeter

- Our discussion at the end of the session was both strong and weak. I am not sure what the answer was in how to manage the different opinions in our group.
- It was evident that we need to review the Clean Water Act and role of the SPC – the handouts today should help.

Kingsbridge

- Presentation got a little dull (nice to have the background though) – perhaps more interactive
- Things seem to move fairly slowly
- It is a big area to look at; do we need to talk about areas 50 miles south of here?
- [Watershed Description] presentation

What parts of the session did you think were strong?

Parkhill

- Good comparison of drainage basins.
- Very informative – importance of waste water treatment, agriculture and urban.

Listowel

- Viewing the watershed maps
- Speaker, work section, refreshments
- Hands on with maps
- All [was strong]
- All good
- Knowledge of presentation, maps and organization

Wingham

- [Watershed Description] presentation
- Group discussion and input
- Explanation of aquifer
- All excellent
- Suggestions going forward to the SPC.
- Exercise and maps of watershed
- Good group discussions
- All [was strong]
- I learned and enjoyed all – starting to get into the meat of things

Municipal

- Presentation [on watershed description]
- Discussion on physiography
- Outlining of watersheds and viewing of maps
- Tried to stay on schedule
- Watershed Description
- Great [watershed description] presentation
- Watershed Description presentation – would like a copy
- Maps
- Technical maps
- Everyone is so helpful and nice

Clinton

- Group exercise
- Work in groups going over question
- Presentation, feedback, and new material
- [Watershed description] information
- Factual information
- Cathie and Nick's presentation [feedback from SPC on WG comments]
- Excellent discussion, keep it going
- Found it educational
- Maps
- Facilitator and presenter
- Engagement of group was good
- Presentation describing watersheds
- Final discussion on points for committee
- Discussion around concerns near end
- [Watershed description] presentation
- The interaction with the other members

Exeter

- Breakdown of watersheds
- Presentation of the different watersheds
- Final discussion, watershed information, maps
- Discussion on focus of SWP
- Open discussion
- Guest speaker presentation was good
- End discussion
- Lots of info

Kingsbridge

- Different watersheds good to know about
- Watershed explanation – shallow vs. deep groundwater aquifers, physiography
- Sinkholes, Bedrock, watershed areas
- Learning about each watershed – nice to have a background
- Learning about aquifers, sinkholes etc.
- [Watershed Description] presentation