

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

June 2008

All seven of the local, multi-stakeholder, community working groups and municipal subcommittee met during the period of June 3rd -10th. A 60% attendance record was achieved for this series.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The SPC has invited all of the working group members to a bus tour of the Port Blake Water Treatment Facility and the Zurich wellhead protection area followed by a barbecue at the conservation area on June 25th. Bruce Davidson, of the Concerned Citizens of Walkerton and the Saugeen, Grey Sauble and Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee, will be the guest speaker at this event.

Because of the long list of comments, the feedback from the SPC on the comments provided by the working groups from the previous month was distributed to every member of the working group. Each group had the opportunity to ask questions of SPC Chair Larry Brown or Acting Chair Gerry Rupke.

PROTECTING OUR WATER

Module 8 – Existing Programs

Existing Programs Presentation

Three presenters shared the duty of presenting the water quality information: Kate Monk, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Supervisor for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA); Doug Hocking, Water Quality Coordinator for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA); and Geoff King, Stewardship Services Coordinator, also from the MVCA.

Current local conservation authority water quality programs in addition to provincial and federal programs were discussed. Further reading is available in the 'Priming the Pump' section beginning on Module 8m p. 28. Some of the programs in the area include:

- Huron Clean Water Program
- Middlesex-Oxford-Perth Clean Water Program
- Wellington County Rural Water Quality Program
- Ausable River Recovery Strategy
- Environmental Farm Plan
- Nutrient Management Plan
- Reforestation Assistance Program

TOPICS FOR SPC REVIEW

1. Compensation policies have to be clearly stated in the Terms of Reference as per section 98 of the *Clean Water Act* (**Municipal**).
2. The mandate of the SPC need to be broadened to do risk assessment beyond the municipal wells/intakes (e.g., airports, schools, campgrounds) (**Clinton**).
3. Agricultural drainage is very important to both agriculture and the environment. It needs to be considered as part of the Source Protection Plan (**Kingsbridge**).
4. The Source Protection Plans need to indicate which authority or agency is responsible for each project. One agency should be the sole lead for one project – the process would have less bureaucracy and more 'one-window' service (**Kingsbridge**).
5. Environmental Farm Plans and Nutrient Management Plans are a major part of source protection planning (**Kingsbridge**).
6. Use updated and current information only [for the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan] (**Kingsbridge**).
7. Encourage Perth Council to support the Clean Water Project or implement a comparable project [to Middlesex, Oxford and Huron] in Perth County (**Exeter**).

Major Themes

The working groups and municipal subcommittee met during the final days of the public consultation period on the Terms of Reference and, consequently, a couple of the topics address the concerns of the working groups with respect to financial assistance and broadening the scope. Exeter's recommendation to encourage Perth County to support or implement a Clean Water Project is a topic that was also discussed and lamented in the Listowel working group.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will occur in the fall, possibly in September. Mary Lynn MacDonald will be contact with the members of the working groups to notify them of the next meeting.