

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

May 2008

All seven of the local, multi-stakeholder community working groups and municipal subcommittee met during the period of May 6 – May 13. A 62% attendance record was achieved for this series.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The Source Protection Committee (SPC) wishes to invite all participants of the working groups and municipal subcommittee on a bus tour of the Port Blake intake and the Zurich municipal well supply on Wednesday, June 25th. The tour will be followed by a barbecue lunch and a talk by Bruce Davidson, of the Saugeen, Grey Sauble and Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee. To go on the tour of the Port Blake facility, participants must wear closed-toed shoes and long pants. Mileage will not be covered for this day as it is an optional tour, but the lunch, tour, and bus rental is covered by the project. The tour will begin at 10:00 a.m. sharp and end at approximately 1:00 p.m. Please let Mary Lynn MacDonald know at the June meeting if you will be attending.

The host from the meeting took up the field learning assignment and the results from the personal evaluation and curriculum assessment from Module 2, Watershed Description. Feedback from the SPC on the comments by the working groups from the previous month will be available in the 'members' forum' of the local Source Protection Region website (sourcewaterinfo.on.ca).

PROTECTING OUR WATER

Module 3 – Water Quality

Water Quality Presentation

Two presenters shared the duty of presenting the water quality information: Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Coordinator for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), and Rick Steele, Watershed Information Coordinator for the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA). Information for Activities 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 were discussed during the presentation. Further reading on water quality is available in the 'Priming the Pump' section of pages 26-51 of Module 3. Answers to the 'Toxic Trivia' facts are on pages 52-56. As well, more information on water quality in the region is available in the downloads' section of the internet.

TOPICS FOR SPC REVIEW

There were sixteen concerns that the Working Groups and Municipal Subcommittee wish to submit to the Source Protection Committee for the month of May.

1. How will the agricultural community be involved in the costs of this plan?
 - Stewardship funds are in place – Drinking Water Stewardship Program and Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) can provide full funding for projects closest to municipal wellheads (**Listowel**).
2. Monitoring and Education – even though the focus is not on personal residential wells throughout the watershed, we still need a lot of monitoring and education (**Listowel**).
 - a) What performance measurements have been contemplated to ensure that Ontario is progressing towards the standards as set by the Clean Water Act, 2006?
 - b) Is there a strong, continuous education of stakeholder being developed? (e.g., landowners, businesses other than the working groups and the 100 metre area around wellheads)
 - c) How do we measure that the message has been read and understood? E.g., – those who don't comply have 5% added to taxes
 - d) Is there an opportunity to pool resources?
3. Should the province be taking more of a leading role in the work plan to avoid repetition? e.g., generic policies, programs (**Listowel**)
4. Who is “priority target markets” for knowledge and education, and how do we reach them? (**Listowel**)
5. Water quality concerns are affecting community life because of the cost of operating costs (testing and monitoring) of the drinking water systems (**Wingham**).
6. Municipalities are going to be reluctant to take actions related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) because we can't determine consequences of actions (i.e., determining assessment consequences) (**Municipal**).
7. Should safeguards be in place regarding continuing in the Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) process for municipal representatives? (**Municipal**).
8. The upper tier has no involvement and no representation in DWSP (**Municipal**).
9. Is there a contradiction between DWSP and Drinking Water Standards? (**Municipal**)
10. Is there an effect of the apparent increase of wildlife (e.g., number of geese) on drinking water quality? (**Municipal**)
11. Make a greater effort to control the amount of runoff. (**Municipal**)

12. Are lagoons being considered in Source Protection Planning? (**Parkhill, Clinton**).
13. Schools, nursing homes and other vulnerable populations should be asked if they would like to include their system in the ToR and municipalities should be encouraged to be more proactive (**Kingsbridge**).
14. Municipalities should be provided with an information sheet to all councils to be better informed about the decision to elevating water systems. (e.g. schools, nursing homes, children's camps – esp. vulnerable populations) for all regulated systems (**Kingsbridge**).
15. Encourage water intake owners to voluntarily support requirements of an IPZ-3 when guidelines are available (**Exeter**).
16. Are there specific early actions that need to be addressed **immediately**? e.g., abandoned wells decommissioned with 100% of the cost covered (from the province). Make the information about funding more widely known so that landowners can take advantage of it before it is gone (**Listowel**).

Major Themes

After the April question regarding immediate action for sinkholes, the working groups continued to ask about specific early actions that could be addressed immediately: in this case, abandoned wells. The Draft Proposed Terms of Reference dominated the questions from the Municipal and Kingsbridge groups and more concerns or questions may be put forward during the June meetings (the comment deadline is Tuesday, June 10th). Both Parkhill and Clinton independently asked about the risk of lagoons in source protection planning, and Listowel focused on a series of questions regarding monitoring and education.

NEXT MEETING

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

Parkhill –

Listowel – Allen Rothwell

Wingham – Ron Schefter

Municipal –

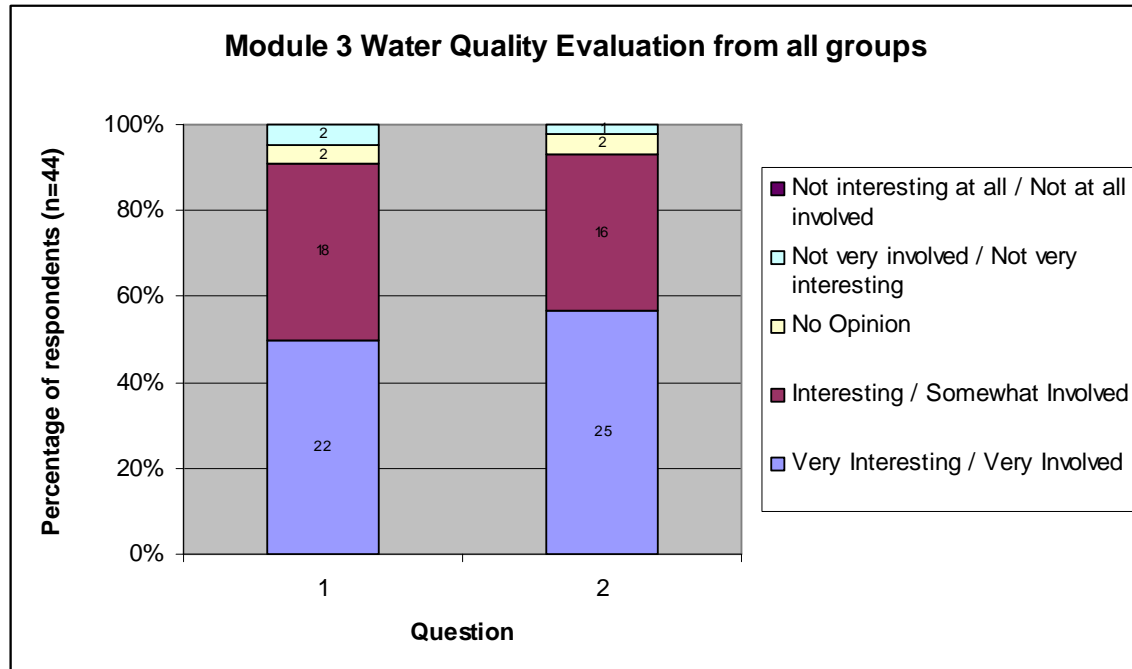
Clinton – Bill Stauttner

Kingsbridge – Roger Watt

Exeter – Erin Kirk

The next meeting will focus on the Existing Programs to Protect Drinking Water Sources (module eight). The field learning assignment options for this meeting are listed on Module 3, p. 25. Activity A will be done at the bus tour on June 25th. Activity B is a short survey on water use in your home.

Curriculum Module Three Group Evaluation



Reflects responses from 44 out of 61 attendees.

Questions

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

Major Themes

Participants remained unclear on the direction and mandate of the working groups. The 'standing on the line' activity was not always well-received, but could be strengthened if answers were provided to the statements (e.g., does most municipal treatment screen cryptosporidium – no, it does not). The water testing activity and the water quality presentation were strong, and most participants felt that the SPC Q&A from the previous session was good.

What parts of the session did you think were weak?

Parkhill

No comments

Listowel

- I was a little lost during the opening discussion
- Clarity in where the overall discussion and agreements have reached timetable and milestones
- The video not your normal standard quality presentation, but it was an understandable situation. I look forward to moving into more technical issues.

Wingham

No comments

Municipal

- Found the answers from the SPC/Province very vague
- The game – standing on the line, agree/disagree
- Trying to decide how important it is to be involved in this process
- Still think we need the modules ahead
- I think we should get the module prior to the meeting
- Nothing was weak, all was good

Clinton

- Sharing of homework – boring and not productive
- Standing on the spot exercise – demeaning
- Water Quality presentation [first portion] for non-science people.
- Could not tell the difference between North and South
- Lots of testing but not any answers to differences

Kingsbridge

- Session is weak on direction the province is heading
- Some people didn't seem to keep the focus
- Review of questions from other groups – seems to be an opportunity for a lot of unfocused discussion.
- The progress through the material seems slow.
- The overall pace drags
- The activity with the agree/disagree statements was good BUT I wanted to learn afterwards about statements (e.g., Is there too much lead? I don't know – let's look at stats, etc.)

Exeter

- Some info too quick
- Some of the discussion points at the end – I think because I was not here for the previous discussion
- Terms of Reference – not entirely clear what it is

What parts of the session did you think were strong?

Parkhill

- All good
- Water testing

Listowel

- Water testing
- Video cleared up my questions
- Water Quality presentation
- It's nice when they refer back to the modules in front of us.
- Mugs are a great idea (instead of plastic cups)
- Opinion game – standing on the line.
- Water information on watershed, nitrates, phosphates, and E. coli.
- Generally very good session.
- Discussion

Wingham

- Report back from SPC
- Water Quality presentation
- Water quality testing
- Both the Water Quality and SPC presentation
- It was a learning process
- Water Quality presentation was very interesting and to the point
- Sampling
- Testing for more awareness of surface water.

Municipal

- Group discussion
- Water Quality presentation was easy to follow
- Enjoyed doing the water testing
- SPC Q & A
- Water Quality presentation with maps and graphs
- Great group to work with good open communication
- Great Water Quality presentation
- Water testing – testing was fun and informative
- I am having fun and learning a lot
- Water Quality data presentation
- Water Quality presentation and water testing

Clinton

- Water Quality presentation and data were great
- Water testing
- Video of questions/answers on Terms of Reference
- SPC Q & A
- Water Quality presentation
- **Is there a list of all members?
- Testing samples
- Water Quality presentation [second portion] for science –savvy people
- Video [on Terms of Reference]
- Water testing
- Water Quality presentation

Kingsbridge

- All good – interactive stuff
- Most of [water quality] information was good.
- Well organized
- Water sample exercise
- The group conducts itself in a courteous manner and opinions are respected.
- Water testing was particularly interesting
- Water quality data and presentations were good
- Water testing was good.
- Good overall – I like the water testing, informative and interesting

Exeter

- Time on group discussion ample
- Interesting water quality analysis
- Water sampling testing exercise
- Water sample tests
- Guest speaker
- Testing water
- [Toxic Trivia] quiz
- Discussion at end
- Water quality tests – hands on stuff is fun.
- Group discussion
- Water quality presentation - excellent