

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

September 2008

All seven of the local, multi-stakeholder, community working groups and the municipal subcommittee met during the period of September 2nd to 9th. A 59% attendance record was achieved for this series.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Source Protection Planning Workbooks were distributed to all working group members. The purpose of the workbooks is to provide the working groups with realistic examples of vulnerable areas so that they can develop and evaluate strategies to reduce and mitigate risks to sources of drinking water. Each working group has been sub-divided into smaller groups to work through the workbooks as a team, and everyone will have a few months to work on them.

Currently there are negotiations being undertaken to pair with Lambton College in offering all working group members a certificate of completion for their participation in the working groups. Specific details such as costs of certification are still being finalized.

All working group members were invited to sit-in on the October 29th SPC meeting and then attend "Backyard Briefs", a series of short presentations in the afternoon. Backyard Briefs will feature local experts who will provide information on various aspects of drinking water source protection.

WATER BUDGET

Module 9 – The Water Budget in Concept

Water Budget Presentation

The information about the water budget was presented by hydrogeologist, Dr. Brian Luinstra.

Quantifying elements of the hydrologic cycle, identifying areas important for long-term preservation, and water quantity risk assessment was discussed during the presentation. Working group members were walked through the conceptual water budget for this source protection region. Activities 3, 6 and 11 were worked through and discussed as a group.

TOPICS FOR SPC REVIEW

1. Stress the continued resolve for *fair and proper* compensation for property impacted by source protection (**Wingham**).
2. The vacancy on the SPC for the agriculture representative should be replaced with the extra nominated individual previously submitted by the agriculture community groups in the SP region (**Exeter**).
3. Ask for an MOE member to come and meet with the SPC and the Huron Farm Environmental Coalition to address concerns regarding appointing agriculture representatives (**Kingsbridge**).
4. Agriculture producers are very concerned that the ½ nutrient unit in the 2 year time of travel is inadequate for production and that several chemicals are considered high risk in the 5 year time of travel (**Clinton**).
5. Concerned about the timeline and commitment for WG members with slowing down of the provincial process (**Listowel**).
6. Need for general policy implementation soon with specific policies to follow (**Listowel**).

Major Themes

Many of the working groups had heard about the resignation of one of the agriculture representatives on the SPC. As a result, there were several members of the working groups that had questions and concerns about how the vacancy was going to be filled. Chair of the SPC, Larry Brown and Project Manager for DWSP, Cathie Brown were there to address these concerns and help explain the regulation and policies for filling a vacancy on the SPC.

NEXT MEETING

The next working group meetings will take place during the first two weeks of November 2008 (November 3rd to the 13th).