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# Thames – Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee

# Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** February 8, 2008

**Meeting Time:** 9:00-4:00 pm

**Meeting Location:** SCRCA Boardroom, Strathroy

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## Agenda

Item	Time
Welcome and Introductions	9:00
1. Appointment of acting chair – if required	
2. Adoption of the Agenda	
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
4. Delegations	none
5. Committee Member updates	
6. Minutes From the Previous Meeting	
7. Business arising from the minutes	9:15
a. Municipal Forum preparation	
b. First nations consultation plan	9:30
8. Business - none	
9. Information	
a. Human Characteristics of the Watershed	9:45
b. Water Quality Characterization	10:10
c. Vulnerability Assessment Status	11:30
d. Terms of Reference Components	11:50
e. March meeting plans	12:10
10. In Camera Session	none
11. Adjournment	12:15
Lunch	
12. Facilitated goal setting discussions	1:00-4:30

## Meeting Materials

	Agenda Item	Description
Disc. Papers		✓ none
Other Materials	8e	✓ Terms of reference components- <i>to be distributed at meeting</i>
	8d	✓ Vulnerability Assessment status- <i>to be distributed at meeting</i>
		✓ Facilitated Goal setting package
		✓ Presentations – <i>to be distributed at meeting</i>
		✓ Municipal Terms of Reference Forums invitation

SPC MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2008  
Meeting #3

Bob Bedggood, Chair of the Source Protection Committee called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Friday, February 8, 2008 in the Boardroom of the St. Clair Region Conservation Board Room. The following members and staff were in attendance:

**Members:**

Bob Bedggood	Earl Morwood
Murray Blackie	Sheldon Parsons
Brent Clutterbuck	Richard Philp
Pat Donnelly	Darrell Randell
Dean Edwardson	Jim Reffle
Patrick Feryn	Joe Salter
Paul Hymus	Charles Sharina
Carl Kennes	Pat Sobeski
Joe Kerr	John Van Dorp
Jim Maudsley	Joe Van Overberghe
Don McCabe	Rick Vantfoort (interim provincial liaison)
Doug McGee	
Marg Misek-Evans	

Regrets: Valerie M'Garry

**Staff:**

Chris Tasker	Bonnie Carey
Rick Battson	Linda Nicks
Chitra Gowdra	Karen Maaskant
Karla Young	Ralph Coe
Orrie Wigle	Deb Kirk

Regrets: Jerry Campbell, Ian Wilcox

1) Appointment of Acting Chair

Bob Bedggood was present.

2) Adoption of the Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was requested.

moved by Charles Sharina - seconded by Jim Maudsley

*“Resolved that the agenda be approved as circulated with the addition of the Executive Committee teleconference meeting report on Chairs of municipal working groups.”*

CARRIED.

3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict was identified.

4) Delegations

None

5) Committee Member Updates

Marg Misek-Evans reported giving updates to the Oxford County council regarding the Early Actions Program and of the upcoming Municipal Forums.

Bob recently spoke to Ian Smith of the Ministry of Environment regarding the committee meetings being held once a month, as per the regulations. Ian indicated that rather than having a meeting just for the sake of having one to meet our regulatory requirement to meet monthly, it is acceptable to miss one if the work progress does not require a meeting be held.

6) Minutes from the previous meeting

moved by Charles Sharina –seconded by Dean Edwardson

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

CARRIED

7) Business arising from the minutes

a) Municipal Forum Preparation

Chris advised the committee of the distribution of the Municipal Forums Invitations to the Municipal clerks and other SP contacts. The forums are scheduled for February 12th at the St. Clair office, February 13th in Ridgetown and in February 20<sup>th</sup> in Dorchester. A draft agenda for the forums was circulated.

b) First Nations consultation plan

The First Nations Engagement plan was reviewed by Bonnie Carey of the Lower Thames Valley Conservation. The plan includes background, a list of the First Nations in our Region, a description of First Nations Opportunities for involvement in Drinking Water Source Protection, and a summary of contacts that has been made with the First Nations. Copies of the plan were available to the members.

c) Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met by teleconference on January 31, 2008 to discuss the procedure for selecting chairs for the Groundwater Municipal and Surface Water Municipal working groups. Marg-Misek-Evans reported on behalf of the Executive Committee. After a brief discussion, the committee agreed the chairs should be selected from the municipal representatives. The Executive Committee recommends to the Source Protection Committee that *Joe Salter* be considered for the chair of the Ground Water Municipal Working Group and *Pat Donnelly* be considered for the chair of the Surface Water Municipal Working Group. Both candidates agreed to serve as chairs.

moved by Marg Misek-Evans -seconded by Darrell Randell

*“Resolved that the Source Protection Committee accept the Executive Committee meeting report and further that Joe Salter be appointed as the Groundwater Municipal Working Group chair and Pat Donnelly be appointed as the Surface Water Municipal Working Group chair .”*

CARRIED.

8) Business

None

Brent Clutterbuck arrived at 9:20 a.m

9) Information

a) Human Characterization of the Watershed

Orrie Wigle, the technical writer for the project presented on the Human Characterization of the Watershed. Various questions were raised during the presentation.

- o Clarification was asked as to whether the SP region boundaries extend to the International Boundary and a concern that ERCA was responsible for Lake St Clair. Chris indicated that the boundaries have been extended to the international boundaries to allow for work to be done on protection municipal intakes on the great lakes. The confusion on ERCA’s responsibilities regarding Lake St Clair likely stems from the fact that ERCA is the lead on projects related to vulnerability assessment of intakes on Lake St Clair as well as Lake Erie and Detroit and St Clair Rivers. These projects are being undertaken as partnerships between the CAs and municipalities and involves participation from the LTVCA and SCRCA with ERCA managing the project as per an agreement with MOE. Other questions included clarification on the level of research related to the data,

the fact that information continues to change since the report was drafted. It is important to realize that the Characterization Report is intended to be a compilation of background information and not an assessment of causes and will not be continually updated as more current data becomes available, otherwise the report would be constantly updated and we would never be able to progress to the Assessment Report.

- A question was asked as to whether the Wallaceburg and Walpole intakes are in the St. Clair Region, and they are. Municipalities can designate a cluster of intakes or wells (more than five) to offer them the same level of protection as municipal sources; however they want to be consider the responsibilities that come with that designation.
- Although the transportation routes have been identified in the report the level of intensity of use is not.
- An inquiry was brought forth as to whether drastic changes in water quality at the intakes are a function of weather events or whether sewer or lagoon discharges impacted this. Some discussion ensued as to the possible impacts of rainfall/runoff and wind events on turbidity and other parameters. These events also result in combined sewer overflows as well as increasing runoff of sediment and other materials. The members were reminded that the Watershed Characterization Report is not intended to assess the causes but to summarize the background data. If these are identified as issues through the technical work on the intakes these issues will have to be investigated further.
- Another issue raised was including the oil/gas wells in Lake Erie being within the Intake Protection Zones. It was clarified that the wells in Lake Erie are Natural Gas wells. The members also identified a concern that pipelines need to be considered in assessing the risks.

## b) Water Quality Characterization

Chitra Gowdra, Water Quality Specialist, presented on Water Quality Characterization. The presentation reviewed Surface Water monitoring programs, drinking water intakes, Groundwater Monitoring programs. The general health of the water is assessed and the data has been summarized. Some of the questions/discussions included:

- Are the same methods of testing being used in the different data sets? All tests have been undertaken by certified labs although different programs do test for different parameters.
- Groundwater testing of the PGMN is done by using one to two samples per year. A question was raised as to whether this was of any value and should local water be tested every three months to better monitor trends? To date, there has not funding available to complete more testing, however the intent of the program is to monitor ambient conditions which do not generally change all that quickly.
- The Ministry of Health has private well testing data, which has not yet been made available due to privacy concerns. The data will likely be provided as postal code

- summaries. Some caution need to be taken when using this data when it could involve untrained people collecting the samples.
- Clarification was requested on the process municipalities follow if standards are exceeded. The municipalities respond to these events, as required, including the notification of the Ministry of Environment and the Health and an investigation occurs. Re-sampling is also undertaken as often result can be attributed to false positive results. Irrespective of the possibility of results being false positive, appropriate measures are put in place to insure the safety of the water users.
  - Caution needs be used when reporting on some of the chemicals and their usage. Incomplete information may cause confusion and undo concern.
  - The goal of the report has been colleting and summarizing the data and not the assessment of the threats that may have resulted in specific water quality issues.

The committee took a fifteen minute break

### c) Vulnerability Assessment Status

Chris circulated a package which included Surface Water Intakes Technical Studies Progress, and Groundwater Wellhead Technical Studies Progress. Studies will form the basis of the Assessment Reports for the region. These studies are being undertaken in most cases as municipal CA partnerships. Municipalities participating in these studies have and will continue to review the reports produced by these studies.

### d) Terms of Reference Components

Circulated with the above noted progress summaries were 2 lists that are required as part of the terms of reference. These will be distributed to the municipalities at the forums and working groups. The terms of reference for both the Surface Water Municipal Working group and the Groundwater Municipal working groups were distributed. These terms of reference will be finalized with the involvement of the chairs of these working groups and distributed at the forums. The documents outline the expectations including the concept of working groups, their purpose, the deliverables and the proposed schedule and meeting frequency.

There was some discussion as to how the working group members would be selected. Members will be solicited at the upcoming municipal forums. Informal expressions of interest will be requested. Interested members will be reviewed with the chairs of the working groups who will report back to the SPC at their next meeting.

### e) March Meeting plans

The committee members received a draft agenda for the next meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Rick Battson reviewed the itinerary that includes a bus tour of the Wallaceberg Intake and Walpole Island, St. Clair River, Lambton Area Water Supply System and some of the Water Stewardship Programs. Members should be prepared to load the bus in

Wallaceburg at 9:00. The meeting will occur following lunch at the Gateway Room in Sarnia at 11:45 am.

10) In Camera Session

None

11) Facilitated goal setting discussions

Following the meeting, Steve and Cobi Sauder facilitated a workshop intended to allow the committee to share ideas and develop a mission statement and guiding principals. A report will be submitted to the committee with the results of the session.

12) Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. for lunch and goal setting session in the afternoon.