



**Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee**  
**57<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**January 25, 2018**

**Held:** Room C-12, Tom Davies Square

**Commenced at:** 1:10 p.m.

**Adjourned at:** 3:15 p.m.

**Present:** Nels Conroy, Chair  
Lilly Noble  
Richard Bois  
Stephen Monet  
Tim Worton  
Wendy Wisniewski

**Also Present:** Richard Auld, Sudbury & District Health Unit Liaison  
Lin Gibson, Source Protection Authority Liaison  
David Brouse, Risk Management Office, City of Greater Sudbury  
Sarah Woods, Conservation Sudbury  
Melanie Venne, Conservation Sudbury  
Michel Simard, proposed new committee member (Agriculture)

**Regrets:** Carl Jorgensen, Conservation Sudbury  
Cheryl Recollet  
Heather Sawdon  
Kris Longston  
Luc Bock

**Note:** Quorum not met

**Chair Conroy Opened the Meeting**

Nels introduced Michel Simard, who is the proposed new SPC member, pending approval by the Source Protection Authority. M. Simard represents the Agricultural sub-sector.

**1. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

No declarations of conflict were declared.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

No resolution for the adoption of the agenda given that quorum was not met.

## **3. Communication from Visitors**

No communication from visitors.

## **4. Adoption of Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Nels noted that the minutes for the March 30, 2017 Greater Sudbury Source Protection Committee meeting were not circulated prior to this meeting. They will be circulated via email, to be approved at the following SPC meeting scheduled for March 29, 2018.

## **5. Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Update**

An update was circulated with the agenda. An MOECC representative was not available to attend this meeting, but we expect someone to be here in March.

The MOECC reorganized their internal structure for the SPP in late 2017 but we expect very little impact on the program.

Nels added that he attended a Chair's meeting in Toronto in October 2017 and that there were many new faces. There is continued push to provide source protection for non-municipal systems but this has not moved forward. He explained that MOECC offices are working with First Nations on source protection, as described in the distributed mandate letter by the new Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

## **6. Source Protection Program Updates**

Sarah Woods reviewed the Program Update that was circulated, including:

### **i. Recent Media Attention to Salt Levels in Ramsey Lake**

Sarah indicated that there is continued interest within the community regarding salt levels in Ramsey Lake. She gave a brief summary of two media pieces from earlier this year and provided more details in the agenda package. Despite the role of the SPC in source water protection, none of our policies were cited. Nels added that as Chair of the SPC he is interested in knowing whether our policies are adequate and enforced in an appropriate manner. Lin shared that in some other jurisdictions, such as Lake Simcoe, CAs are a leading role in salt reductions on roadways. The salt reduction strategy being used by Lake Simcoe watershed is attached to the meeting minutes.

### **ii. Ramsey Lake Subwatershed Study**

Sarah gave a brief update on the status of the Ramsey Lake Subwatershed Study. More details are provided in the agenda package. There was some discussion on the Ramsey Lake Aquatic Monitoring System (RAMS) which provides real-time data on water

quality during the ice-off season, and Lin indicated that Conservation Sudbury was given a presentation on the system. Data are available on the City of Greater Sudbury's website, on the page for the Ramsey Lake Subwatershed Study.

## **7. Review of Vulnerable Area Mapping, Significant Threats and Associated Policies**

Melanie walked the committee through the attached presentation. She outlined each of the vulnerable areas and the associated policies with each area. She also listed the additional policies that we drafted which are not meant to address current threats, but meant to prevent future threats.

There was some discussion on threats associated with wastewater. D. Brouse indicated that CGS is working on incentives for homeowners to disconnect downspouts in an effort to decrease inflow and infiltration, and reduce loadings to the wastewater system during rain events.

## **8. Conservation Sudbury Ramsey Lake Sampling Results**

Sarah provided an update to Conservation Sudbury's Ramsey Lake water sampling program and provided a handout with a summary of the data. The parameters of concern are phosphorus (because it correlates with algae blooms which release microcystin LR) and sodium. Data were collected in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016 and 2017, from up to 6 sites in each year. The data presented are raw data and have not been subject to statistical analysis.

These data were provided to the CGS for consideration in the Ramsey Lake Subwatershed Study. Staff also intend to analyze the data in advance of the Plan Renewal.

The data suggest geographical variability in the concentrations of both phosphorus and sodium. Phosphorus concentrations appear to be highest from the outfall at Bell Park and lowest from the Lake Laurentian area. Sodium concentrations appear to be highest from Frobisher Creek and lowest from Roger's Creek and Lake Laurentian. It is important to note that only the concentration of these parameters were measured, and not the rate of flow (discharge volume), so the absolute amount of P and S could not be calculated. Staff have some data on flow measurements at the time of sampling in order to estimate the absolute contributions of these chemicals from each site.

There is also a lot of variability throughout the year, suggesting that multiple samples must be taken throughout the season to obtain representative results.

W. Wisnewski suggested that elevated phosphorus readings in spring, particularly at the Bell Park sampling site, might be associated with fertilizers containing phosphorus, such as those used for flower beds (of which there are many in that area) or new lawns. Staff should consider this when analyzing and interpreting the data. There was also some discussion on the affinity of phosphorus for binding to soil particles, and potentially elevated soil runoff during spring freshet and rain events.

## 9. Next Steps

*February 1:* Implementing bodies (MOECC, MTO, CGS, etc) are required to submit their first annual report to the Source Protection Committee staff.

- Staff will send the reports to the SPC for review and comment. Reports associated with prescribed instruments (from MOECC, MTO) will not be distributed as they are long and deal with the entire province. Please provide comments to staff if you have any. Please note that these are the unanalyzed reports.
- Staff will review the reports and complete two documents required for the first SPC annual report to MOECC, integrating comments received from the SPC. These 2 MOECC required documents will be circulated to the committee a few weeks before the April SPC meeting.

*Mid-March:* Staff will provide the SPC with a draft annual report.

*April 5 :* Draft annual report to be considered at the SPC meeting.

- Staff will make any edits necessary following SPC comments and resolution.

*April 12:* Annual report and recommendation of the SPC to be considered at a meeting of the Source Protection Authority, for approval.

*May 1:* Annual report due to the MOECC.

*Fall 2018:* Workplan for the Plan Renewal to be submitted to the MOECC.

*2019:* Plan Renewal.

D. Brouse inquired as to the estimated timelines for MOECC to review the annual report. Staff could not provide an answer and will forward the query to the Liaison Officer

## 10. Addendum / New Business

### i. Document Retention

Tim asked whether there are any requirements for SPC members to retain all old documents. It was agreed that there is no need to retain any documents that are already in the possession of staff. It was also agreed that, given that meetings are public, any documents that were available at meetings could be disposed of via regular recycling.

### ii. Panel: Salt in Aquatic Ecosystems

Lily told the SPC about an upcoming panel discussion on salt levels, particularly chloride, in waterways, hosted by the Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance. The event will be February 5<sup>th</sup> at the Vale Living with Lakes Centre. Confirmed panelists are Drs. Charles Ramcharan and John Gunn.

## 14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

### **List of Handouts Provided at Meeting**

- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Update
- Minister's Annual Drinking Water Report
- Ramsey Lake Subwatershed Study Update
- List of Recent Media Attention on Salt Levels in Ramsey Lake
- Role of the SPC in the Review of the First Annual Progress Report: Excerpt from Clean Water Act
- Review of Mapping Threats and Policies
- Conservation Sudbury Ramsey Lake Draft Sampling Results

**Next meeting:** Thursday April 5, 2018 at 1PM, Room C-12, Tom Davies Square