

Assessment Reports

# The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region Consultations



BARRIE  
OCTOBER 6, 2010

## FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY

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# Presentation on Assessment Reports and Facilitated Discussion

**Robb Ogilvie:** My name is Robb Ogilvie and I am the Independent Public Facilitator for this project. You would have met two of my associates when you registered, Melissa Hirst and Bev Warner. Holly Huehn is a planner with us who will help us record the conversations as we go. That way you can see number one, what we are taking down and two, that we are serious about recording what you say. Holly will prepare the final summary, which all of you will receive a copy of, either electronically or by Canada Post, depending on what you put on the registration forms. The person with the camera is our project photographer, Peter Courchesne. We use his photographs to spice up the summary. If you do not wish your photograph to be included, just tell Peter; it is not a problem from our perspective. Wayne Hoth is running the audiovisual for us from Pickering Audio Visual. That is our team that is supporting this. You have met most of the people from the Source Protection Committee; they are all the people in what they call the blue shirts.

**The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region Consultations**

**You are Invited**

5 Open Houses on the Assessment Report will be held on the following dates and locations:

- 1. Midland**
  - Saturday, September 25, 2010 1 - 5 PM
  - North Simcoe Sport and Recreation Centre
  - 557 Len Golf Blvd, Midland, Ontario
- 2. Newmarket**
  - Tuesday, September 28, 2010 4 - 9 PM
  - Glenway Golf & Country Club
  - 470 Crossland Gate, Newmarket, Ontario
- 3. Orillia**
  - Thursday, September 30, 2010 4 - 8 PM
  - OGDG Park
  - 6500 Kingsquarry Rd, Orillia, Ontario
- 4. Alliston**
  - Tuesday, October 6, 2010 4 - 8 PM
  - The Netherlands Inn
  - 6215 Highway 88, Alliston, Ontario
- 5. Barrie**
  - Wednesday, October 6, 2010 4 - 8 PM
  - Lions Club Banquet Centre
  - 1361 Blake St, Barrie, Ontario

Please RSVP by September 15, 2010 so we know who and how many will be attending.

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**Independent Public Facilitator**

Our role as the Independent Public Facilitator is to make sure the discussions are fair, transparent, balanced and informed. Fair means everyone will be treated with respect and their opinions given a fair hearing, when we get to the roundtable discussion and the Q and A session. Transparent means summaries of the sessions will be published. You will notice as Holly is doing it, they are pretty close to transcripts, so we are not editing people's stuff out or changing anything that way. Balanced means no one will be allowed to dominate

## The Independent Public Facilitator

**My role is to make sure the discussions are fair, transparent, balanced and informed**

- Fair means everyone will be treated with respect, their opinions given a fair hearing.
- Transparent means summaries of these sessions will be published.
- Balanced means no one will be allowed to dominate or hog the discussion.
- Informed means the process will be based on "facts".

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Independent Public Facilitator

or hog the discussions, and that is my role again, once we get to the Q and A and the roundtable discussions. Informed means the process will be based on the facts.

We are going to be doing two presentations tonight, if additional people come after the first. The first one is at 5:30, the second one is at 7:00; both are exactly the same. Not totally exactly, Don's punctuation may be different or he may pause or use different embellishment. But if we do run the two presentations and Q and A, you will see them in the summary, so you are not going to miss anything. We did not want you to think that one presentation is going to say one thing and the second would say something else; they are a repeat. It is convenience for people when they arrive.



## Permission to use these Discussion Ground Rules

- ▶ You have the right to ask any question and you deserve a straight forward answer... doesn't mean you will like the answer, but you deserve an answer...
- ▶ When enough is enough - I would like your permission to allow question-answer-follow-up-answer and then I will move on
- ▶ When a question is asked, give the other person time to answer the question... please don't interrupt, wait until they are finished
- ▶ To make sure we have time for all speakers, if I have to, can I use a 3-4 minute maximum per speaker?

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## Two “paper assistants”

The image shows two forms side-by-side. The left form is titled "I didn't get a chance to say..." and has a header "Please give to the Facilitator/Recorder at the end of the Session". It includes a section for "What you would like to say" with a large text area and a "Name" field. The right form is titled "Facilitator's Feedback Form" and has a header "Please give to the Facilitator/Recorder at the end of the Session". It features a grid for rating various aspects of the session (e.g., "The Chairperson", "The Facilitator", "The Recorder") on a scale from "Poor" to "Excellent".

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I need your permission to use a couple of ground rules for when we get to the discussion. The first one is, you have the right to ask any question and you deserve a straightforward answer. My role is to make sure you get an answer, but I cannot guarantee you will like the answer. If we cannot give an answer tonight, Don and his team will go back, find the answer and we will include it in the summary; we will probably put it in red so you will notice it. Second ground rule, when enough is enough. You know how some people rag the puck, they raise the issue once and then they go back at the same issue a second time. When they try a third time, I will suggest that we move on to the next; twice is usually enough and Holly is good in terms of recording it. When a question is asked of Don, give him a chance to answer. You know how some people are like a machine gun, here is the first question, here is the second question, here is the third question. One at a time and we will get them all answered. If we have many people that want to speak, I would like to be able to impose a 3- to 4-minute rule. You can always go to the end of the line and come back through again, but I need some way of pushing it along and not letting it be stalled out.

When you registered, you also would have received two sheets of paper. One says, “I didn’t get a chance to say...” Some people do not like to stand up at the microphones. Anything you put on the “I didn’t get a

chance to say...” form gets included in the summary. But you have to give the form to myself or to Holly to make sure it gets included there. The other one is a feedback form that tells us what you liked, what you did not like.

We are ready to move on to the presentation by Don Goodyear. For those of you who do not know Don, he is the director for the staff, in terms of managing all of the work the Committee wants done. I would ask you to hold your questions or comments until Don finishes his presentation. It will take him about 20 minutes and he is a good presenter, he does not waste your time. Then we get to the microphones if you have questions, comments, speeches, whatever the range is.

- ▶ Let's move on to the presentation by Don Goodyear
- ▶ Please hold your questions/ comments until after Don finishes his presentation

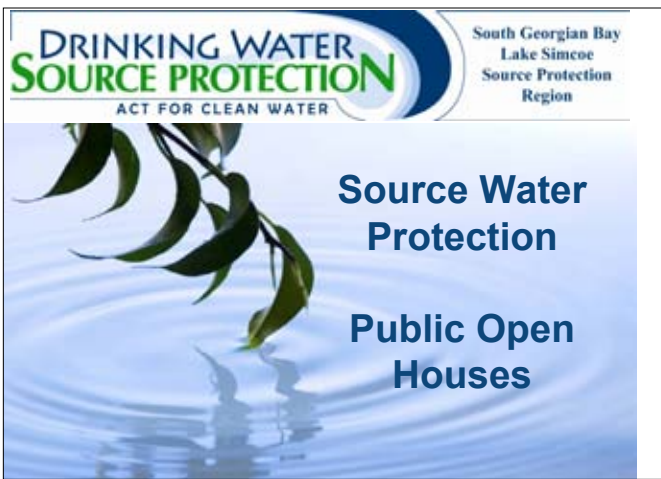
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# Presentation by Don Goodyear

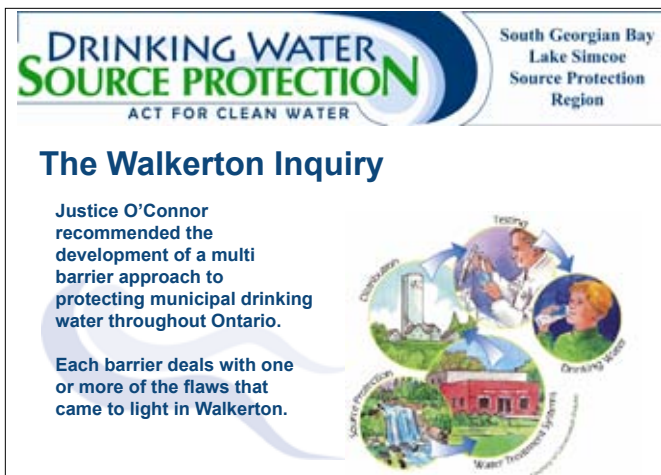
**Don Goodyear:** Good evening everyone. Thanks very much for coming. I am going to try to accomplish a couple of things with this presentation tonight. I am going to give you a little bit of background on the Source Protection Program, where it was established and where we have come from. I am going to try to describe the assessment report, which is what we are here to consult with you on tonight. Finally, what I am going to try to do is give you a sense of where we are headed in the short- and longer-term. And then, as Robb mentioned, happy to try to address any questions you have.

Safe Drinking Water Act in pretty short order after that Walkerton event. We have, as a result, the requirements for testing, for treatment and for operator training. Source water protection is actually the first barrier in the multi-barrier approach, trying to keep water clean in the first place. That came about as a result of the Clean Water Act in 2006.

Source water is any reservoir of drinking water, it can be a lake, can be a river, can be an underground aquifer, all of which are used for drinking water supplies in Ontario, and in this region. Source water protection is whatever efforts you undertake to prevent the overuse and contamination of those drinking water supplies. It is not a new concept, businesses, landowners, various agencies, have been trying to manage land use in an effort to minimize environmental impacts, and in this case, drinking water impacts, for a long time. The Clean Water Act formalizes that.



The Source Protection Program is one of the barriers that Justice O'Connor referred to in his Inquiry after the Walkerton tragedy. The Province established the



One of the big recommendations from the Walkerton Inquiry was to undertake this program on a watershed basis. Water does not obey municipal boundaries, so that made a lot of sense. There are 19 of these source protection regions across Ontario. The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region, the local region, is in the centre of Southern Ontario.



their own supplies. There are also three First Nations communities, all of which rely on lake-based water supplies. One of our Source Protection Committee members is from the Rama First Nation. We also have, I guess the honour of, the greatest number of municipal drinking water systems of any of those 19 regions. There are, I think, 16 surface water intakes and close to 300 municipal wells that are assessed in the Assessment Report that I am going to get to.

I think the Clean Water Act is a little bit of a unique piece of legislation in Ontario, in that a lot of the authority is divested from Queen's Park down to a group of local stakeholders. Our local Source Protection Committee is made up of 22 members. It is chaired by Lynn Dollin, a councillor from Innisfil. There are 7 members to represent the economic interests across the region. Those 7 people, 3 of them are farmers, 2 of them are industrial/commercial representatives, we have a golf course representative and we have an aggregate producer. There are 7 municipal members and there are a blend of staff and elected officials. Then, we have 7 members of the public at large, 2 of whom happened to be retired public health officials. We have a very well rounded committee and as I mentioned, the one First Nations member as well, from the Rama First Nation.

It is a fairly interesting and complex place to work. It is a little better than 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> in size. We have 52 municipalities in this region, and a mix, in terms of which municipality is responsible for delivering water. In the counties, it is the lower tier municipality, in the regions and the Muskoka District, it is the upper tier municipality. We have a few separated cities that are responsible for

South Georgian Bay  
Lake Simcoe  
Source Protection  
Region

### Source Protection Committee

Comprised of the Chair plus 22 members:

- 7 Economic
- 7 Municipal
- 7 Public Sector
- One First Nations Community Member

### Our Region

**Four watersheds**

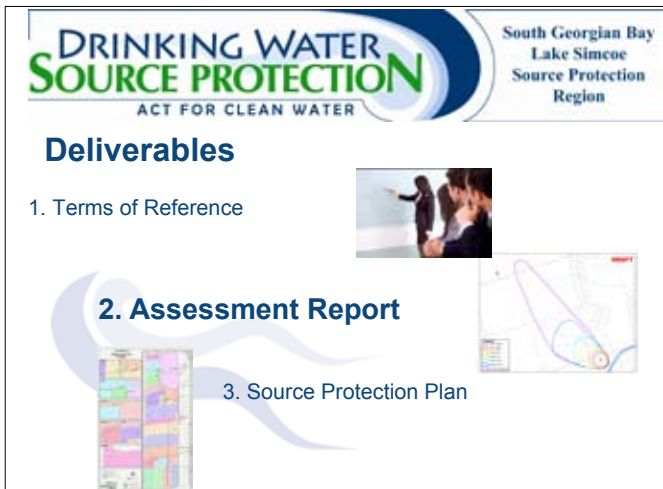
- Black-Severn
- Lake Simcoe
- Nottawasaga
- Severn Sound

**> 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>**

**52 municipalities**

- 41 lower tier
- 8 upper tier
- 3 separated cities

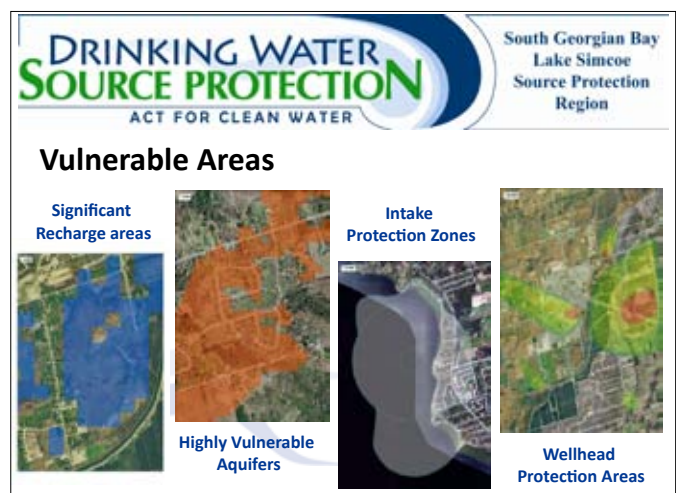
**3 First Nations communities**



That Source Protection Committee is responsible for delivering three things. The first is a Terms of Reference, which is really just a work plan. That was completed a couple of years ago and it described who was going to do what and when and how we were going to meet the regulations and requirements the Province set out in the Clean Water Act. Where we are right now is just wrapping up the technical assessment of vulnerable areas and threats to drinking water, and I will speak to that in just a moment. That assessment report, the technical “nuts and bolts” of vulnerable areas and threats to water are going to form the foundation for a Source Protection Plan. At the end of the day, that Plan really has two primary objectives. In these vulnerable areas, how do we prevent new risks from showing up on the landscape? But if we already have them there, how do we take steps to reduce them or manage the risks?

In terms of vulnerable areas, the Clean Water Act seeks to manage or protect four parts of the landscape. From left to right on your screen, significant recharge areas are those parts of the landscape where you have sand and gravel at surface and water gets into the ground, as opposed to running off into streams. Those are the parts of the landscape that serve to replenish our aquifers, both municipal aquifers and domestic aquifers. The next one over, highly vulnerable aquifer areas, similar to recharge areas, but not the same, necessarily. You can

imagine if you have a shallow aquifer and over top of it are permeable materials like sand and gravel, if you had a spill at surface, very quickly that shallow aquifer would be contaminated. If you compare that to the setting that most of our municipal water supplies are in, very deep aquifers and protected by layers of clay or till, a spill at surface could take hundreds of years to get down there. That relative vulnerability of the aquifers across the region has been assessed. The last two vulnerable areas on the right hand side of the screen are zooming right into our municipal water supplies. Intake protection zones, this green dot is a municipal intake in Lake Simcoe. The grey shaded area represents the 2-hour time of travel for water to be captured by that intake under different wind and storm events. If you are a land use planner or a municipal water manager responsible for the water coming into that pipe, obviously the land uses and transportation corridors that go across that grey shaded area are of interest. Similarly, the last one to the right, wellhead protection areas, those different coloured rings represent time of travel to a municipal well within an aquifer. Groundwater moves much more slowly than does surface water, so we are talking about years time of travel here. The different coloured rings represent 2-, 5-, 25-year time of travel. Again, if you are responsible for delivering safe and clean water out of that well, what happens over top of that wellhead protection area is of importance and interest.



**DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION**  
ACT FOR CLEAN WATER

South Georgian Bay  
Lake Simcoe  
Source Protection  
Region

## Drinking Water Threats


- Waste Disposal Site
- Sewage Storage and Disposal
- Application of Agricultural Source Material (ASM)
- Storage of ASM
- Management of ASM
- Application of Non-ASM
- Storage of Non-ASM
- Application of Fertilizer
- Storage of Fertilizer
- Application of Pesticide
- Storage of Pesticide
- Application of Road Salt
- Storage of Road Salt
- Storage of Snow
- Storage of Fuel
- Storage of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL)
- Storage of organic solvent
- Management of de-icing runoff

The Province has opted to consider this program using a simplified risk assessment approach and there are two components to that risk assessment. The first component is how vulnerable is the geography over which you are standing. The second part is, what is happening within those vulnerable areas. The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has laid out for us, 21 prescribed drinking water threats. Those threats have all been ranked in terms of how much chemical is associated with the land use activity, how toxic is that chemical, how likely is the chemical to be released in the environment, and then if it is released, how mobile is it in terms of water and groundwater settings. All of these activities get a hazard ranking. Our simplified risk assessment is a combination of two things: the vulnerability of an area and the hazard

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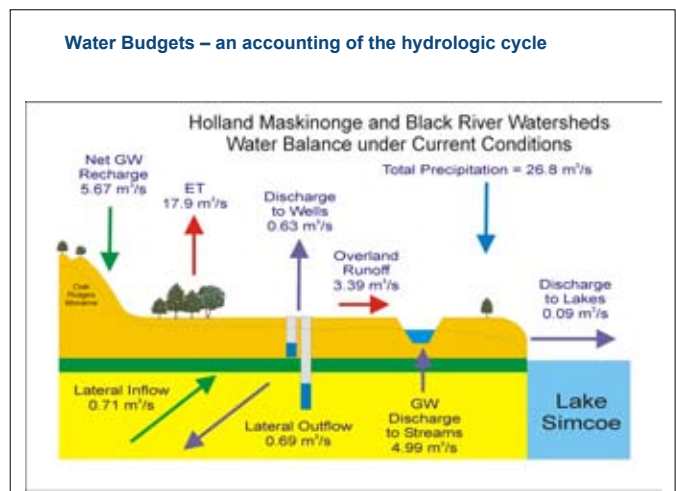
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Source Protection  
Region

### Water Quality Risk Assessment



- Significant threat  
In a vulnerable area  
= High level of risk
- Significant threat  
In an area of low vulnerability  
= Low level of risk

ranking of a land use activity combine to give you a risk score. If you have a nasty land use in a vulnerable area, that represents a high risk. Compared to the same land use, outside one of these vulnerable areas, a great distance from a well, are a much lower relative risk to municipal drinking water supplies. In a nutshell, that is the exercise that has been completed in the Assessment Report for all 100 and some odd, drinking water systems.



Often times we focus on the water quality side of things, perhaps because of the roots of the program, perhaps because we are a little further behind on the water quantity side, but the Clean Water Act also seeks to try to ensure that we have enough water to meet growing

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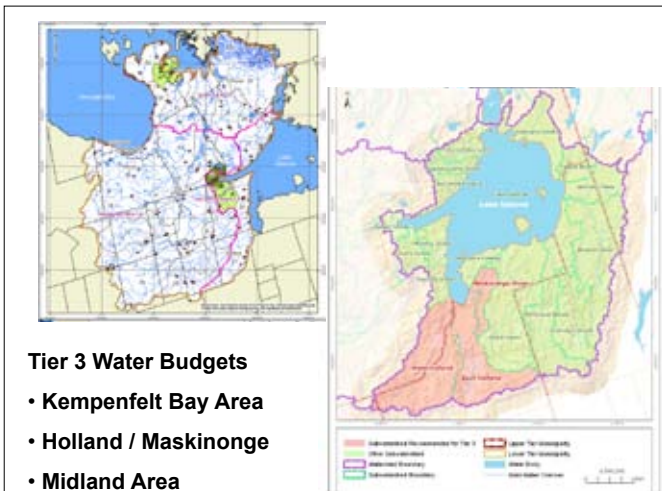
### Stress Levels

$$\% \text{ Water Demand} = \frac{Q_{\text{DEMAND}}}{Q_{\text{SUPPLY}} - Q_{\text{RESERVE}}} \times 100$$

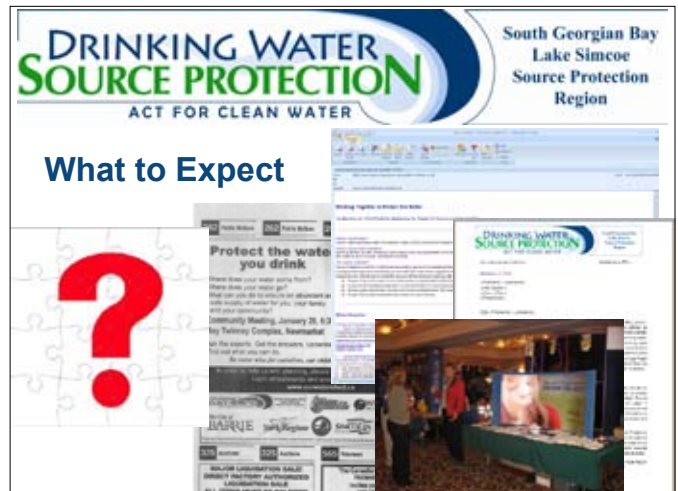
Quantity Stress Assignment	Surface Water	Groundwater	
	Maximum Monthly % Water Demand	Average Annual % Water Demand	Maximum Monthly % Water Demand
Significant	>50%	>25%	>50%
Moderate	20 -50%	>10%	>25%
Low	<20%	0-10%	0-25%

populations. The way in which we are doing that is by completing a series of water budgets. At the end of the day, the objective of those water budgets is to compare available supply to water demand. Wherever water demand exceeds a certain threshold of available supply, we might have a problem in meeting future water needs, so we are required to undertake a risk assessment there. From a water quantity perspective, the risks to drinking water come in two forms: competing water use and paving over of recharge areas, a reduction in recharge.

Where we are undertaking those water quantity risk assessments projects in the region are outlined in these two maps. Not surprisingly, they are in some of the most urbanized and densely populated areas. York Region and Bradford here, East Holland/West Holland/Maskinonge subwatersheds, around the Barrie area, and up in the Midland/Penetanguishene area. Those are the Tier 3 water budgets or risk assessments that we have on the books.



In terms of what to expect over the short-term, tonight's Open House is part of the consultation on the Assessment Report. What we are doing is trying to solicit feedback on the technical assessment of all of these vulnerable areas and threats to drinking water. The Source Protection Committee will be considering all of



the feedback that we receive and providing direction to staff to revise the assessment reports to reflect those comments. And then we will go through the exercise one more time. We will be posting a revised assessment report and asking for comments in the next couple of months. Then we will be submitting the revised reports to the MOE for their review and then, ultimately, approval.

Once those reports are completed, as I mentioned earlier, they will form the foundation for source protection plans. Again, the plans are where the rubber really hits the road, we have identified vulnerable areas, we have identified potential risks to drinking water, what do we do about it. The Source Protection Committee members will be considering how we go about reducing the risk

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### Source Protection Plan


Includes policies, risk reduction strategies, monitoring requirements, education and outreach recommendations etc.

- Risk reduction strategies to address existing significant threats
- Land use planning recommendations to prevent new significant threats from being created
- Education, outreach, stewardship recommendations to address low and moderate threats
- Monitoring and updating requirements to ensure the plan is working and stays current

associated with the existing land uses that have been identified, and how to prevent new ones from showing up, so land use planning policy recommendations. There will also be some education policies, I suspect, and certainly, there is recognition that the landscape is not static, there are new wells coming online to meet growing populations. Every few years, perhaps with the Official Plan amendment cycle, there will be an update required to make sure that the Plan stays current. That will also be included in the Source Protection Plan.

As I mentioned, it is the Source Protection Committee that is responsible for all of these products. The Source Protection Plan, in this region, and all the regions, are going to be locally developed. That said, there certainly is some consistency across Ontario because we all have to follow the provincial rules, there is a regulation that describes what has to go into that Plan, so there is a minimum base level of consistency across Ontario. But there is some flexibility locally to make sure that we adapt to our local conditions. As an example, up north, what you suggest to address a water quality risk may be very different than what you suggest to address the same risk down in the Oak Ridges Moraine. Locally flexibility is allowed, but we have that base level of consistency with all of the provincial guidance material and regulations.


Looking way down the road to implementation, we are required to submit those source protection plans by the late summer of 2012, which means that early that year, early 2012, we will be embarking on another consultation exercise; very similar to what we are doing right now with the Assessment Report. But we will be seeking input and feedback on the proposed policies on risk reduction and risk prevention. The Province will then receive our final Source Protection Plan and approve it some time; early 2013 is what we expect. That approval will be followed by some conformity exercise. These plans are going to be implemented primarily by two sets of agencies: municipalities and then provincial agencies. Where we have policies that are wrapped around significant threats, municipalities and the Province have to conform to those policies. When I say the Province has to conform, things like Permits to Take Water (PTTW), Certificates of Approval (CofA) will have to be amended if a significant threat is relevant to that permit or CofA. Policies, if the committee chooses to develop policies around low or moderate threats, then municipalities and the Province must have regard for, so a very different legal effect and a little bit of softer policy.



**Source Protection Plan**

Locally developed:

- Provincial regulation provides framework and context
- Local Planning Working Group established
- Group comprised of municipal planners, Source Protection Committee members, and Source Protection Authority staff
- Evaluating policy and risk reduction options, collaborating with neighboring regions to promote consistency, and making recommendations to SPC




**Source Protection Plan**

Implementation:

- Plans are due to the Province by August 2012 – Public consultation on the draft plans will commence in early 2012
- Followed by provincial review / approval and conformity exercise
- Municipal official plans and provincial instruments (C of As, PTTW etc.) will have to conform to Significant threat policies
- Must have regard for moderate and **low** threat policies
- Monitoring and reporting on plan implementation required
- Updates will be required to reflect new information, additional waters systems etc. Frequency To Be Determined

The last slide, a little bit of good news, the Province has, for the last several years, established a stewardship program and provided grants to landowners to reduce risks to drinking water supplies. Up until this point, there have been a series of pre-approved projects, decommissioning old wells, upgrading septic, pollution prevention review for small businesses, those kinds of things. In the coming couple of months and early next year, we are transitioning. Now that we have all of these significant threats identified, we are transitioning to reducing, specifically targeting those significant threats. If you have a significant threat identified on your property, the people at the back of the room on the right hand side of the room look after the stewardship program locally. They would be happy to take your information and get you on a list for that stewardship program. As soon as we receive funding from the MOE, we will be contacting the people on that list, and hopefully, helping you to undertake some projects to address the significant threat on your property.



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**Stewardship Program:**

Early Response

- Addresses significant drinking water threats or pathways that increase vulnerability scores
- Voluntary participation
- Local application process, underway - due to MOE by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- The program is expected to roll out March of 2011
- Grant rates up to 80% of the project cost (with some caps by project type)



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**[www.ourwatershed.ca](http://www.ourwatershed.ca)**

**[swp@lsrca.on.ca](mailto:swp@lsrca.on.ca)**

**1 800 465 0437**

## Facilitated Discussion

**Comment:** Three to four aquifers are present that we are aware of. Maybe a question for 2012/2013 is to have commercial water takers go into the third and fourth aquifer rather than in the first one and two.

**D. Goodyear:** Certainly water taking, all water taking, has been included in that water budget assessment that I referred to. Regardless of which aquifer they are pulling from, that extraction, that consumption is included in our estimate of demand and therefore, water quantity stress. For the most part in our region, municipal water taking is the most significant amount of taking but there are some exceptions to that, there are some big commercial takers and those commercial takings are included in the water budget assessment. If they happen to contribute to a water quantity stress, it is flagged in this program.

**Comment:** Again, stating that could you get legislation into place to put them into the third and fourth aquifer, rather than taking from a residential water source in the first and second aquifer.

**D. Goodyear:** I am not sure if that is a policy the Committee would necessarily consider. Often times it is the third and fourth aquifer that the municipal taking is from and that is the supply that we are specifically trying to safeguard. I understand where you are coming from,

we are certainly not ignoring domestic water supplies but this program, for the most part, is focused on municipal supplies. What the Committee, I think, would consider is water conservation and means to mitigate the water quantity stress.

**Comment:** I have a question regarding land use, will there be restrictions placed on land uses in proximity to wellheads?

**D. Goodyear:** There will be land use planning recommendations that are included in the Plan. The Committee can consider prohibitions for future land uses; that is a tool that is available in the Clean Water Act and in the Planning Act, so it is possible.

**Comment:** How about existing uses, will there be restrictions added on?

**D. Goodyear:** The Clean Water Act indicates that we must address significant drinking threats. If an existing risk poses a significant threat, then it must be addressed. That is not to say that it is going to be prohibited, but we have to manage that risk. There may be some risk management measures that are required for those existing activities that represent a significant drinking water threat. Some of the policies, risk reduction strategies, that the Committee will be considering and certainly, we recognize that in many industries, there are existing practices that manage risk. I think Job 1 for the Source Protection Committee is to consider what is out there on the landscape today, look at their objectives, first mitigation, and if there are any gaps between those two, let us target those gaps, as opposed to reinvent the whole wheel.

**Comment:** A couple of questions that I have jotted down here. One of the significant risks you have identified is commercial fertilizer. Are there any parameters around a restriction with respect to that as far as type, content, manner of use?



**D. Goodyear:** There are a series of criteria associated with what constitutes a significant threat. It has to do with the extent of managed land within the vulnerable area. It is not specific to the type of fertilizer; the concern is nitrogen, nitrate getting into groundwater. The assessment of the risk associated with fertilizer application is largely based on, again, that managed land proportion within the vulnerable area.

**Comment:** Second question, has there been any work or discussion within the Committee or any of this work with respect to the maintenance/establishment of vegetation within this area to improve or to protect the watershed in the area, specifically turf grass, for example. In other words, it is identifying risks, but is there any work to grow or to encourage development of land that protects the water?

**D. Goodyear:** In fact, one of the stewardship programs does just that. In an area surrounding an intake protection zone, for example, where there is concern for runoff of any contaminants into that vulnerable area. Planting of buffer strips is something that was encouraged in those areas. That is, I think, the limit of that application that comes to mind off the top of my head, but yes, it does exist.

**Comment:** The concern I would have with the way some of the risks have been identified would be if the, for instance, the application of fertilizers. If removing that as an operation or as a practice, in fact, affects vegetation in areas to a point where you have open soil, you have poor condition vegetation that is more apt to have runoff or groundwater contamination.

**D. Goodyear:** The concern is the prohibition of application of fertilizers, where that is identified as a threat. The Committee is very open to and, I would put in a qualifier, I often feel like I step a little too far, I want to give you an answer, but it is the Source Protection Committee that has to establish these policies, and they have to do it over the next 12 to 15 months. What I suspect is that they will be considering options to manage risks and prohibition of existing activities as something that they would only consider as a last resort. Risk mitigation, risk management would be the first option.



**Comment:** What I would suggest as an option as well, as part of the project, is to engage with members of the community or even industries to try to find ways to improve either practices or areas of the environment to get this cause done in a better way.

**D. Goodyear:** Absolutely, and I think Job 1, as we consider policy options, we have a very diverse group of stakeholders and they are all very knowledgeable but we do not have expertise regarding every land use activity across the region. We are certainly expecting to bring in topical experts when the Committee considers policies to mitigate the risks that have been identified.

**Comment:** Did we learn anything from the Site 41 fiasco, or near fiasco? Is there a plan to make sure that this sort of thing does not happen again?

**D. Goodyear:** We were asked to consider Site 41 against the vulnerable areas that are being managed in the Clean Water Act, and we did. We provided the County and the MOE with our understanding of that proposed site relative to four vulnerable areas. There was a small portion of the location that was in a significant recharge area. My understanding is that the County chose to not move forward with that site; it was not the MOE, it was not the Source Protection Committee, we were not involved in it. That said, landfills are an activity that could constitute a significant threat, depending upon where they are located



and we do have a number of them in our assessment report that are flagged as significant threats. Those significant threats will have to be addressed.

**R. Ogilvie:** Just as a follow-up, what we are dealing with at this stage in the process are the assessment reports, which are the technical documents that characterize where everything is at. The actual Source Protection Plan, as I understand it, is still going to be 18 months to 2 years away.

**D. Goodyear:** That is correct.

**R. Ogilvie:** It is really when the Source Protection Plan is done that you get an indication, did we learn anything from that and what was done about it. I think many people are maybe expecting this stage to be dealing with it, so people really have to wait to see what the Source Protection Committee actually does by way of a plan. Fair?

**D. Goodyear:** That is fair and that is one of the reasons that we are coming out now is we want to engage those landowners and business owners that are in these vulnerable areas, and that could be impacted by the Source Protection Plan before what is going to be done is decided. There will be those two years to provide some input into the process.

**R. Ogilvie:** Yes, like the person's comment about are you going to be consulting people on how these things are going to be done, provides that amount of time for that consultation to occur. And then you will have to look at the Plan to see if it makes sense.

**Comment:** So, the Plan will be issued as a draft then, with a period for feedback?

**D. Goodyear:** It will. Similar to the process that I very briefly described with the Assessment Report, there is a draft, it is issued, there is a period for public comment, we have Open Houses, solicit feedback. The Committee will then consider that feedback, direct our staff to revise the Plan, reissue it, so then you get a chance to look, okay I made a comment, did they actually listen, they will have another kick at it. If we have not, then your comment will go to the MOE and they will have the final say as to, you missed the boat here, revise the Plan to reflect this comment. There will be a couple of opportunities.

**Comment:** It is a pretty onerous task for the public to review a plan like that or the assessment reports; it is hundreds and hundreds of pages and it has a certain expertise and technical issues in it.

**D. Goodyear:** That is a very fair comment. The Assessment Report is actually thousands of pages and we are not expecting the public to digest it. What we are hoping to accomplish with these Open Houses is for the people at the side of the room to sit down with you and confirm the information that we have is correct, for one. We are hoping that we can focus on the property specifics and you are the experts there. We are also hoping that some of the municipal reviewers can provide us with some feedback on the assessment of vulnerable areas. Finally, the MOE is reviewing this thing and they have a series of technical experts that will be providing feedback on a couple of things, is the science defensible and have you followed the letter of the law, what is prescribed by provincial legislation.

**Comment:** Is there auditing of the Assessment Report?

**D. Goodyear:** Yes, in terms of the MOE review, I will refer to that as a technical audit and there have been a series of surface water scientists, hydrogeologists, and the like, reviewing those pages in sections. Even the technical experts take a long time to get through that much material and they have been doing that for the past month and we actually just received comments today. Their comments will be a matter of public record when the assessment reports are done.

**R. Ogilvie:** It is really a dilemma from a public consultation point of view because the Committee wants to make sure that everyone has access to all the data and the information. If you check one of the resource tables back there, you will see those big white binders. That is the proof of the work that has been done. The Committee has also distilled that on the website to the synopsis section of it, so, if you do not want to go through all the detail, you can go through the shorter versions. You will also notice there are some DVDs here, in which you can get, and they have a copy of all the report material. It is part of that process of trying to provide the information. And as Don said, use a whole bunch of other people to do the checking and the auditing and going through it. I agree, it is, because we do a lot of the public consultation work, when we got involved in this project, it was just mind boggling, how do you provide a proper environment for people to go through. That is why I think the Committee's approach here of having advisors at the table for individual property owners who have a concern or a problem and wanted to follow it through, it allows them to get focused on their immediate need, and then with these kinds of sessions, we are broadening it out to the whole Plan. I acknowledge your comment.

**Comment:** It kind of gives us a warm feeling, this public consultation, but really, any member of the public can really, can assess a report, or have a feel for it.

**R. Ogilvie:** From a process point of view, what we are trying to do is provide maximum opportunities for people who do want to be involved and engaged. Because

there are also opportunities, as you know, talking to your advisor, who would have told you, if you have any further questions, give me a call and we can follow-up, trying to keep it at that individual level and then at the macro. Again, how many people are here tonight, compared to the number of people that were affected. But we have had good turnouts, I think we are close to 400 or 500 people that have participated, which is more than all the rest of the Province in their rounds with the assessment reports, so I am encouraged by the turnout and we appreciate that.

**Comment:** I just wanted to relay some information about other initiatives, three other initiatives around the Province that actually relate to source water protection and maybe in a different way. One is an organization called Green Infrastructure Ontario, which advocates for the use of leafy, green infrastructure, as a way to protect through filtering processes and other bioswales and things of that sort, buffer strips. The second is a group that was created out of the Region of Waterloo; it is called the Smart About Salt Council. That Smart About Salt Council is doing some really good work in terms of trying to improve practices that will reduce the amount of salt. The third initiative is the City of Toronto and it is a low-impact landscape accreditation program that will also take responsibility for practices in the industry to



do two things. One is to reduce the impact to water and environment. The other is to promote the use of plant material as a very real way of improving water quality.

**D. Goodyear:** Thank you very much for those. I was aware of the first two, but those are all helpful and I think the Committee will be considering many of those kinds of things as they develop the Plan.

**Comment:** Will the draft report, when it is available, will it be available to the public before these town hall meetings, so that we, the people who are interested, have time to read it and understand it before we get here to formulate our own questions.

**D. Goodyear:** In a word, yes. The report will have to be published before we hold the Open Houses, there is some minimum separation and it is all prescribed in the regulation regarding development of the plans. I recognize that the timeframe available for commenting on the Assessment Report, when you consider the volume of work in there, is very tight. Those are all prescribed in the MOE regulation, but we are going to do our best to provide that ample opportunity at that policy stage when the rubber hits the road.



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