

Middlesex County/ City of London/ Municipality of Central Elgin/ Malahide Township/ Town of Aylmer Steering Committee Meeting 1 Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2002
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Middlesex County Building,

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Evans called the meeting to order and welcomed the steering committee members to the initial Steering Committee meeting for the Middlesex, London, Central Elgin, Malahide, Aylmer Study. Members were then asked to introduce themselves and their affiliation. Members present included,

Rob Kell, Dillon	Catherine F. Marsden, Dillon	Darrin Burr, Dillon
Rob Panzer, London	Erick Boyd, Middlesex Centre	Alan Marr, Middlesex Cty
Gary Crandall, Thames Centre	Bob Cooper, City of London	Al Edmondson, Middlesex Cty
Steve Evans, Middlesex Cty	Joni Baechler, City of London	Daniel Dale, Central Elgin
Lloyd Perrin, Central Elgin	Ted Briggs, UTRCA	Linda Nicks, UTRCA
Geoff Cade, SCRCA	Roger Vandierendonck, Aylmer	Layne Wilson, Aylmer
Mark Widner, Malahide	John Ungar, Malahide	Brent Stainton, Well Driller
Jim Reith, MFA		

Steve then asked Ted Briggs to introduce Linda Nicks who had recently been hired by the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to act as project manager for both this study and a similar study being conducted within Perth County. It was outlined that Linda lives in Strathroy, has her Master's degree in both Hydrogeology and Geology and is in the final stages of completing her Ph.D in Hydrogeology at Western Michigan University.

2. Overview of Previous Groundwater Studies

Strathroy Caradoc Study 2001 (Linda Nicks, UTRCA)

The Strathroy Caradoc Groundwater Management study was commissioned by the Middlesex Power Distribution Corporation (formerly Strathroy PUC) with financial assistance from the MOE. The study focussed on the municipal groundwater supplies of the towns of Strathroy and Mount Brydges. The purpose of the study was to define the hydrogeology, identify municipal well capture zones, establish existing and potential threats to the groundwater resources and prepare a management strategy for the protection and management of the groundwater. Maps of the extent and thickness of the Caradoc Aquifer, Groundwater flow, Natural Features, PTTW and Current and Potential Known Point Sources maps were prepared for the amalgamated municipality of Strathroy Caradoc.

Dorchester (Gary Crandall, Thames Centre)

The Dorchester well field was put into production in 1957 and has been abandoned due to high nitrates and sulfur. Dorchester is currently producing water from five municipal wells: shallow wells (approximately 40 feet) and bedrock wells (80-100 feet). The municipality is trying to weigh the best options to provide potable water and is examining additional bedrock wells and a possible connection to the Erie pipeline. At this point the municipality is continuing with groundwater and they have sufficient supply for 10 years. Presently, the town is experiencing storage deficiencies and they need equipment

upgrades.

Belmont (Rob Kell, Dillon Consulting)

Dillon Consulting is near the completion of the GUDI study for the municipality of Belmont and the report is due out in May. The water supply for the municipality is currently from two wells which are approximately 120 feet deep, south of Kettle Creek. There is 100 feet of clay over the aquifer and the wells are artesian (the water would flow out of the well if not for the pumps). Dillon Consulting is evaluating the clay for its aquitard characteristics.

Lloyd Perrin with the Municipality of Central Elgin added further that they have also engaged Dillon Consulting to evaluate water supply and compare a supply from groundwater or a pipeline from the lake.

City of London (subwatershed studies) (Rob Panzer, City of London)

Between 1993 and 1995 the city conducted a 5-phase study of the subwatersheds. These studies included evaluating, aquatic and terrestrial biology, detailed work on flood risks, point and non-point sources of pollution, identified natural heritage areas that should be protected, and an ecosystem approach to planning. In addition important recharge areas were outlined in the report for the City of London. An executive summary of the studies and map detailing the subwatershed limits was also provided to the committee members.

Study Area and Objectives

Rob Kell, Dillon Consulting reviewed the latest census data for the city of London and the conservation authorities involved in the regional study. He reviewed the list of maps available for the study and to be produced by the study: geological mapping, aquifer mapping, groundwater use assessment, aquifer vulnerability, quaternary (glacial) geology, bedrock geology, bedrock surface, overburden thickness (ground surface to bedrock thickness). In addition, the digital elevation model (DEM) available from the MNR is very accurate and will be used for producing all the products. Water level (piezometric surface) will be gleaned from the water well records. **Maps will be produced showing, shallow overburden, intermediate depth overburden and bedrock aquifers.** The specific yield will have to be determined from each aquifer type. The White Oaks aquifer in the city of London is **an intermediate depth overburden** aquifer that has been mapped extensively in previous studies. Bedrock valleys will be identified as these are often filled with porous sediments that are often prolific aquifers. Adelaide Malahide has a poor quality and quantity bedrock aquifer. The consultants will review the municipal records, census data and permit to take water (PTTW) data to determine the water resources available at present and for the future.

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) want three classes of aquifer identified: 1) high vulnerability, 2) moderate vulnerability and 3) low vulnerability for the study partners. In addition a wellhead protection area (WHPA) will be identified for producing municipal wells in the study area. To complete this they will review existing databases from the MOE, MNR, municipalities and NAICS the land use survey and risk for potential contaminants.

Roles and Responsibilities

The study will be lead through the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, who has hired Linda Nicks, hydrogeologist to assist with Project Management. The consultant Project Manager is Rob Kell of Dillon Consulting. The consultant project team consists of staff from both Dillon Consulting and Golders. With such a large Steering Committee there is the need for a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to oversee some aspects of the study. This will have a core membership which can be called together by either the

project manager or consultant to discuss various technical matters that come up during the study. This group will consist of the project manager (Linda), consultant project manager (Rob) and specific municipal or agency reps who would deal directly with the issue at hand, therefore it is likely this group may change as the study progresses. The Steering Committee is more of an advisory review committee because the MOE Technical Terms of Reference state the direction of this groundwater study. It is hoped however that this committee will identify concerns, question, comments they may have and provide feedback to the information and recommendations being made throughout the study.

Steering Committee Membership and contact numbers.
(see an attached sheet)

Upcoming Project Tasks\Deliverables for Next Meeting

The following tasks and deliverables have been identified for completion during the next phase of the study, these include;

- May 15th update report
- June Open Houses (see below for dates and locations)
- Collection of Engineer's Reports
- Southwest Region Aquifer Mapping Committee (SRAMC) Meeting June 4, 2002
- Draft Aquifer Maps
- Draft Vulnerability Maps
- June 26 Update Report

The Provincial worker's strike has caused some delays in receiving all the necessary study data that is to be made available by the province to the study group.

Other Business

Locations for the upcoming Open Houses were also discussed. Two sets of Open Houses will be held, (each set will include two locations) one in June outlining the study and some preliminary findings and a second in the fall outlining findings and draft recommendations. It was also determined that meeting sites should be in locations that would be central for both the eastern and western halves of the study area. It was determined that the June meetings (12th and 13th) would be held in Belmont and Coldstream respectively. The fall meetings will be scheduled for Aylmer and Strathroy (tentative).

The Ministry of the Environment has formulated a committee entitled the Southwest Ontario Aquifer Seamless Mapping Committee. This committee will bring together consultants, project managers and MOE staff for the various groundwater studies within this region to discuss study standards and methodologies in the hopes of creating "seamless" groundwater resource mapping across study boundaries. Both Rob Kell and Linda Nicks had attended the first meeting held April 15th at the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority office. The next meeting is scheduled for June 4. It is hoped at the next meeting that the consultants will have a better idea of the exact scale of maps and definition of terms based on the data available and the products of other counties.

Discussed the options for location of upcoming minutes and agreed the Middlesex County building was a central location for most participants.

Agreed on the following dates for upcoming meetings, all scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m..

June 26th, 2nd meeting
Sept. 4th, 3rd meeting
Nov. 20, 4th meeting

It was discussed that there should likely be representation from the local Health Units (London-Middlesex and Elgin County) on the Steering Committee. The Project Manager will contact the respective Health Units to outline the study and ask for their representation.

It was also outlined that a press release to local media on the study would be written and circulated to media outlets throughout the study area. It was hoped that this release would go out within the next week or two.

After a short break Dillon Consulting (Rob Kell and Darrin Burr) provided a short presentation to remaining committee members entitled Groundwater 101. This presentation provided a general overview of groundwater and how it works.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m..

**Middlesex, London, Central Elgin, Malahide, Aylmer
Groundwater Study Steering Committee
2002**

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