

**Middlesex County/ City of London/ Municipality of Central Elgin/ Malahide Township/ Town  
of Aylmer  
Groundwater Study Steering Committee  
Meeting 3 Minutes: September 4, 2002**

**Attendees:**

Joni Baechler, councillor, City of London	Bob Cooper, City of London
Gary Crandall	Al Edmondson, Middlesex County
Steve Evans, County of Middlesex	Catherine Fletcher Marsden, Dillon
Patty Hayman, St. Clair Region CA	Rob Kell, Project Manager, Dillon Consulting
Dave Leckie, City of London	Alan Marr, Thames Centre
Linda Nicks, Upper Thames River CA	Rob Panzer, City of London
Lloyd Perrin, Central Elgin	John Piraino, Ausable Bayfield CA
Jim Reffle, Middlesex-London Health Unit	Jim Reith, Middlesex Centre
Cathy Saunders, Middlesex Centre	Brent Stainton, Middlesex Centre
Ganesh Vallamkonda, Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit	
Mark Widner, Malahide Township	

## **1. Including the “Rest of Elgin” in the Study Area**

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) asked the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority (UTRCA) to host a meeting with Oxford, Elgin and Lambton Counties to discuss updating Oxford County, complete the remaining unmapped portions of Elgin County and complete Lambton County. The MOE asked the present Middlesex *et al.* steering committee members to consider appending the rest of Elgin on to the present study. Dillon Consulting (with Golder Associates) was asked to submit a proposal. Dillon proposed a budget of \$124,500 and concluded that the project could be completed by March 31, 2003. The Dillon proposal erroneously included the municipality of Bayham (which is being completed by Waterloo Hydrogeologic).

Rob Kell said that Dillon Consulting/Golder Associates already has all of the Elgin and Middlesex oil and gas records. The additional areas would have to be sent large water use questionnaires as these have already been sent out by the consultants. They would have to back-track on and re-generate new maps for some aspects of the tasks.

Dillon Consulting (Rob Kell) was asked if there would be enough time to conduct additional field work. Rob said that there is not a great deal of field work being done, but that it could be completed in this time frame.

The committee suggested that letters of approval or commitment be sent out to the representative municipalities as soon as possible to enable a continuous stream of work for the consultants.

Al Marr proposed a motion: The Steering Committee agrees to a proposal to include that portion of Elgin County not covered in the 2002 contract to map Middlesex County/ City of London/ Municipality of Central Elgin/ Malahide Township/ Town of Aylmer. The additional area would include St. Thomas, Southwold, Dutton-Dunwich and West Elgin and would be funded at the same 85% MOE/ 15% municipality formula. As well, the additional Elgin communities should provide letters of commitment for their 15% share of the project costs before the consultants commence any additional work. The allocation of costs should be set up in a similar way as we did

for the original study partners, on an area basis for aquifer characterization and a set fee for wellhead protection work. The project will require a three month extension and there will be an extension of steering committee meetings. Mark Widner seconded the motion. The committee carried the motion (100% agreement).

## **2. Project Status**

### Update on Outstanding Data from MOE and Other Sources

Rob Kell presented a series of slides on the status of data provided by MOE. The consultants need the rest of the DEM for the additional areas and at this time will have data corrected for 80 m error in the northwest corner of the study area. Except for the new additional areas, Dillon Consulting/ Golder Associates now has all data except for the CD of contaminant site information. Rob Kell has been told that this data will arrive shortly. The consultants cannot complete their wellhead protection areas/ contaminant source inventory without this information.

### Review of Preliminary Regional Mapping

**Aquifer Mapping:** Based on the water well database, three main types of aquifers have been identified: shallow overburden, deep overburden and bedrock aquifers. Water elevation maps will be prepared throughout the study areas where these are identified. The water well database is composed of 21,000 wells of which 14,000 have the criteria to be used in the study. Several thousand wells have been eliminated due to inaccurate locations. Of these 14,000 wells, 75% are overburden wells and 25% are bedrock wells.

Rob Kell presented maps on water wells in overburden by depth (clustered on the Caradoc and Norfolk sand plains) and water wells in bedrock (clustered in the northeast and western portions of the study area). Rob also highlighted problem areas on the Quaternary geology maps where seamless mapping between various map sheets has not been accomplished. Also revisited were the bedrock geology and topography maps. Rob also reiterated the importance of water table wells and that they will generate water table maps that incorporate surface water features. This map is a key map in delineating the intrinsic susceptibility as outlined in the MOE terms of reference. New maps included preliminary water table and bedrock topography maps. The data is preliminary and Rob illustrated areas that need further investigation, i.e. areas of bull's eyes where data is scattered and quite variable on the bedrock topography maps. Furthermore, Dillon Consulting/ Golder Associates has also generated preliminary bedrock aquifer water level and recharge/discharge areas maps (subtract the water table from the bedrock) . These were preliminary maps, but provided the committee with an idea of some of the final products.

### Southwest Region Aquifer Mapping Committee

The purpose of these meetings is to bring together all the different consultants working on mapping in the southwest region to ensure that the maps will be compatible on a regional scale. Each meeting addresses issues associated with missing data and how to resolve mapping issues arising from the data on a county scale, and illustrates how the various counties are progressing. The MOE has created a set of Terms of Reference that is definitive in some areas but needs clarification in other areas. The areas that need clarification are discussed and a solution is often identified, but sometimes the MOE has subsequent meetings (telephone conferencing) between technical groups to resolve problems. Other studies are on similar track with Middlesex County *et al.* studies. Rob Kell

identified that the attendance at the first open houses in our study area was low and was not effective at getting the message to the public sector. Alternative ideas to the public open houses were discussed and the committee agreed that alternative approaches such as displays at fairs, the ploughing match or libraries were possible alternatives and we were not bound by the terms of reference in this regard.

#### Public Participation - Rural Expo and Fall Fairs

Catherine Fletcher Marsden, Dillon Consulting discussed various approaches to informing the public about the groundwater studies: Displays at fall fairs: Western Fair, Ploughing Match, Ilderton, Thorndale, Dorchester. A poster display will be mounted at the London Western Fair and the Ploughing Match in Glencoe. Furthermore, Catherine suggested, as an alternative approach to the fairs and open house, hosting a workshop, by invitation, for selected representatives of different stakeholders in the study area to review study findings and recommended measures. Dillon Consulting has found that this approach has worked well in other studies. There would be a need to identify representative groups and decisions would have to be made on the number of invitees. There was a general agreement that the workshop approach between the main stakeholders and Dillon Consulting would be a good approach. Further discussion is needed on what stakeholders to invite and the technical aspects of the workshop.

Dillon Consulting/Golder Associates will provide two 24 x 36 inch posters plus pamphlets for the fairs.

#### Upcoming Project Tasks

Aquifer Vulnerability Mapping  
Wellhead Protection Studies  
Contaminant Source Inventory  
Management Options for Groundwater Protection

### **3. Other Business**

UTRCA hopes to have web access for the groundwater study available on their website in September. UTRCA website is [www.thamesriver.on.ca](http://www.thamesriver.on.ca).

Ted Briggs, UTRCA will approach the municipal representatives from the “Rest of Elgin.”

There was a general agreement that the committee needed to meet earlier than the previously scheduled meeting of November 20 to include the additional study representatives (Elgin townships not previously included in the study). The steering committee agreed that we should cancel the November 20 meeting and re-schedule the meeting for October 30, 2002 at 9:30 am, so that the additional committee members could have input as early as possible.