

# Minutes of Meeting

The following is minutes of a meeting arranged by the Simon Lake Community Stewardship Group. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the excessive growth of algae in Simon and McCharles Lakes, and to discuss action plans to reduce phosphorus levels in the lower Junction Creek watershed.

**Wednesday, July 25, 2007**  
Naughton Community Center

## IN ATTENDANCE

Perry Sarvas – Simon Lake Community Stewardship Group (chair)  
Brian MacGillivray – Simon Lake Community Stewardship Group  
Dave Furino – Simon Lake Community Stewardship Group  
Dan Legrand – Simon Lake Community Stewardship Group  
Diana Leach Petrone – DalRon  
Bob Longarini - City of Greater Sudbury  
Nick Benkovich – City of Greater Sudbury  
Paul Sajatovic – Nickel District Conservation Authority  
Jacques Barbeau – Ward 2 Municipal Councilor, City of Greater Sudbury  
Jamie Meyer – McCharles Lake Stewardship Group  
Sina Kicz – McCharles Lake Stewardship Group  
Peter Kicz – McCharles Lake Stewardship Group  
Mark Donato – MOE

Regrets/absent: Lana Haslam (City of Greater Sudbury); David Pearson (Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit)

## OPENING REMARKS

Perry opened the meeting by introducing handouts detailing the levels of phosphorus in Simon, Mud, McCharles and Kelly Lakes and the chronology of events concerning algae growth in Simon Lake. He also stated that the meeting was to bring to the table people from the City and the MOE with expertise to advise and help us with the problem.

Discussion was focused on the key points listed in the chronology.

### Key Point #1 – Community involvement

- there has been a history of Community involvement over the years in addressing this situation.
- our groups are the latest – a passing of the torch.

### Key Point #2 – Provincial and Municipal Involvement

- historically both have been involved in the clean up of the lake.
- initially the MOE pushed for Phosphate removal
- the city complied and has continued the process
- further work is required by the province, the city and our groups.

### Key Point #3 – Source of Phosphorus

- we are not sure of the source of the phosphorus – is it historical from years of raw sewage into the system or from levels from the water treatment plant.
- levels are elevated and to cure the problem we need to determine the source.

## **Key Point #4 – Past vs. Present Algae Growth**

- history provided from 1976 to present
- in 1987 algae bloomed in early August
- in 1994 algae bloomed in late July
- in 2006 algae bloomed in mid July
- in 2007 algae bloomed in June.

The evidence suggests the instances of algae growth are not just recurring, they are getting worse.

## **Key Point #5 – Health Concerns**

- some officials have been quoted as saying there is no health risk associated with the algae in Simon and McCharles Lakes
- Perry states there are health risks even if the specific forms of algae and “blue-green algae” have not been identified.
- not sure if it is worth while to test for the type of algae – it may be a lose/lose situation
- at this point we can’t responsibly say there is no health risk.
- if we test and find toxicity then we have to do formal notifications.
- best way to remove any potential health risks is to remove the algae
- other persons reiterated the same comments.

## ***Chronology of Events Concerning Algae Growth in Simon Lake***

- summer 1988 Jan Lindquist studied Simon Lake
- looked at the sources of phosphorus in the lake
- recommended that phosphorus removal systems be put in place and will result in 12% reduction
- June 1989 – Gerry Myslik confirmed the results and algae will reduce
- in the last three years (2005 – 2007) phosphorus levels have increased even with the phosphorus removal systems in place

## ***Bob Longarini, City of Greater Sudbury***

- gave handouts for the waste water treatment plants, showing phosphorus levels
- all are below standard set in the MOE Certificates of Approval for the plants.

## ***Dan Legrand***

- what is the phosphorous flow rates for phosphorus budgets
- if WWTP are high then we must focus in further reductions there
- the stewardship believes that there is a good argument that the phosphorus levels are historic from accumulating vegetation on the bottom of Simon Lake
- phosphorus could be sitting on the bottom until conditions are right then it goes back into the water

## ***Brian MacGillivray***

- if water levels are lower then phosphorus doesn’t dissolve

## ***Perry Sarvas***

- In absence of David Pearson, will try to summarize our understanding of what is happening in lower Junction Creek

- WWTP may not be the problem
- it may be historical from 80 years of raw sewage plus algae accumulating on the bottom which rots and turns into phosphorus
- dredging may be the answer.

### ***Mark Donato – MOE***

- is not sure what catalyst is required to get phosphorus removal going
- any algae is not safe
- Health Unit will react if there are health problems.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- the Stewardship Group is looking to get expertise to tell us how to handle this situation
- give us options how to address problems and give us cost proposals.

### ***Dan Legrand***

- who can do a phosphorus budget for this group
- assuming that the problem is historical what are the options available for us – dredging, chemicals, lake lungs etc.

### ***Perry Sarvas***

- if David Pearson can produce a report the source of excess phosphorus can the MOE and CGS review the report

### ***Dan Legrand***

- can we get one person who is in charge from the experts to review the data supplied and costs etc
- if the data is already there – let us fix the problem

### ***Perry Sarvas***

- sees a quick process
- MOE, CGS, MNR, NDCA can review report, choose the best option for removal and then discuss money

## **ACTION ITEMS**

#1 – David Pearson will provide a report

#2 – MOE asked to provide somebody to review phosphorus budget and identify any gaps in data – get their Technical Support Section on line for options to remove algae from bottom of lake

#3 – CGS provide someone to review the data and stay in touch with Stewardship Group

### ***Nick Benkovich***

- need another meeting to get all players at the table to identify a person in charge

### ***Jacques Barbeau***

- will get a resolution to council at the next meeting to get a project manager

## **HOW TO REMOVE PRESENT ALGAE**

- Stewardship Group will get info on a machine to remove algae from the lake – maybe city should look at buying the machine to help our lakes and other lakes in the region

### ***Media***

- CBC radio wants to do interviews on the problem
- general discussion was held and the majority of the lakes people did not want the media involved but Perry will do the interviews when contacted.

Next meeting will be August 22, 2007.

Minutes prepared by David Furino.