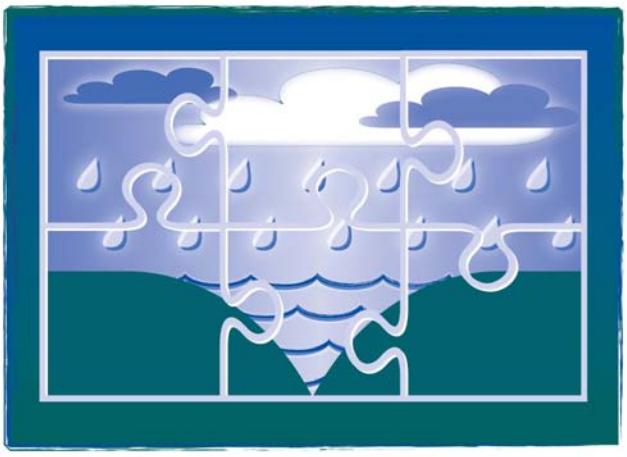

GUELPH WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #3
MEETING SUMMARY

February 15, 2006
Cutten Club, 190 College Avenue East
Guelph, Ontario

City of Guelph

This meeting summary was prepared by Lura Consulting. This meeting summary captures the key presentation and discussion points from the February 15th, 2006 Public Advisory Committee Meeting #3 for the Guelph Water Supply Master Plan. It is not intended to act as a verbatim transcript, and is subject to review by meeting participants. If you have any questions or comments regarding the summary, please contact either:

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GUELPH WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN
PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #3
FEBRUARY 15TH, 2006, 7:00 P.M.– 9:30 P.M.
Cutten Club, GUELPH

The third Public Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was hosted by the City of Guelph Waterworks Division to receive feedback from the PAC as part of the Guelph Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) process. Specifically, the third meeting was designed to seek input from the PAC on the summary of water supply alternatives, the evaluation of these alternatives, and the draft preliminary implementation plan. Feedback was also sought on how to present this information to the public in the upcoming Public Forum.

Fourteen of the seventeen PAC members attended the meeting. The meeting agenda is attached as Appendix A and the list of participants is included in Appendix B.

This summary report focuses primarily on the feedback and comments made by PAC members. It provides a high level summary of the key discussion points at the meeting. The PowerPoint presentation provided by the project team is available on the project website at www.guelph.ca.

1. WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS

Councillor David Birtwistle, City of Guelph

Councillor Birtwistle welcomed the participants to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He stressed to the committee members that their participation in the WSMP process is very important. He said that Guelph is one of the largest municipalities that depends solely on groundwater, and that where the City will get its water from in the future is a serious concern. Councillor Birtwistle commented that the City has been a leader in water conservation, and that other alternatives must be examined as well. He said that one the most important decisions that Council will have to make is on the City's future water supply. He urged committee members to encourage others to review the water supply alternatives report so that the City could receive their input as well.

Janet Laird, City of Guelph

Ms. Laird commented that this project is critical to the City of Guelph and its future growth management efforts. The results of this project, along with the wastewater and solid waste master plans, and the growth management strategy will help to determine how best to manage the future growth of the City. She added that this consultation is the participants' collective opportunity to provide the City with input on the alternatives for staff to consider before staff takes its recommendation to City Council.

Dave Dilks, Lura Consulting, Facilitator

Mr. Dilks explained that Lura Consulting has been retained to assist the City and the consulting team with the public consultation and communications component of the Guelph Water Supply Master Plan project. He indicated that Lura's role as a neutral third-party is to help stakeholders participate in the Master Plan process and to facilitate discussion at the meeting.

Mr. Dilks reviewed the agenda and materials available for participants and indicated that the workshop would provide an opportunity both to learn more about the work to date and provide feedback on the findings and preliminary recommendations.

He asked the meeting participants if they had any comments on the meeting record from the June 9, 2005 Agency and Municipality Workshop. No comments were voiced about the report, and Mr. Dilks suggested that this being the case, the report would be considered as an accurate summary of PAC meeting #2.

Mr. Fred Stahlbaum commented that he was at the first meeting but was not notified about the second. He said that he does not own a computer or have e-mail, and that he would prefer to receive a letter. Mr. Dilks noted that it may have been the public meeting that Mr. Stahlbaum attended, and that he would be notified of the next meeting by a letter or a telephone call.

2. OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

Project Manager John Haasen of Earth Tech provided an overview presentation on the WSMP alternatives and preliminary evaluation draft report.

Master Plan Update

Mr. Haasen provided an update on the Master Plan that included the project status and how feedback from the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) and the general public has been used to date. He reviewed the project's next steps, which are to obtain feedback from the Agencies and Municipalities and the PAC, make a public presentation on March 21st on the alternatives, make changes as needed, and then present the alternatives and recommendations to City Council in April or May.

Overview of Alternatives

Mr. Hassen provided an overview description of the alternatives, which were grouped into three catagories: Demand Management/Other Alternatives; Groundwater Alternatives; and Surface Water Alternatives.

The Demand Management/Other Alternatives included:

- Water conservation and demand management aspects, such as Unaccounted for Water (UFW), pricing controls, and education;
- Re-use of water, such as implementing a dual-use (two-pipe) system or reusing wastewater; or
- Limiting growth.

Mr. Haasen noted that "do nothing" was included as required by the EA process a benchmark from which to measure the other alternatives.

Groundwater Alternatives included using existing wells, using existing wells that require treatment, upgrading wells for optimization, and building new wells inside and/or outside the City.

Surface Water Alternatives included taking water from local water sources and using them to supplement the ground water system. Sources of local surface water include the Eramosa River and Guelph Lake, and Lake Erie was also presented as a surface water alternative, requiring a pipeline. Water treatment requirements and Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) systems were also considered.

Groundwater Alternatives

Tony Lotimer of Lotowater provided a closer look at the groundwater alternatives. He said that the project team's review of groundwater alternatives included an examination of all the available background information, which included a detailed assessment of existing wells and existing hydrogeological data. The review found that there is an existing capacity of 75,000 m^3 with an opportunity to develop 20,000 m^3 of additional supply. Mr. Lotimer cautioned that these are estimates based on the available data and that further testing is needed. He also noted that

environmental impacts and concerns have not been addressed in great detail but would have to be with more detailed environmental studies.

Surface Water Alternatives

Patty Quackenbush of Earth Tech presented a detailed review of the local surface water alternatives, which included water takings from the Eramosa River and Guelph Lake. Joe Gemin of Earth Tech reviewed the surface water alternative via a pipeline from Lake Erie.

EA Evaluation Process and Recommendations

Mr. Haasen then described the process that was used to evaluate the alternatives. He noted that 34 criteria were used to score the alternatives and compare them. He showed the participants a sample EA table to demonstrate how the evaluation process worked and presented an evaluation output summary. Following the evaluation summary, Mr. Haasen presented the short-term, mid-term and long-term recommendations.

3. PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

This section provides an overview of the feedback received during the PAC meeting. Feedback received after the PAC meeting is presented in full in Appendix C.

Summary of PAC Feedback

Table 1: Summary of Feedback on Water Supply Alternatives
• Great Lakes pipeline does not necessarily need to replace ground water entirely
• Clarify the role the Great Lakes pipeline could play.
• More information is needed on sewage flows.
• Pricing and costing are key and should be emphasized more. Price increases are needed but a level playing field must be ensured.
• Conservation should be emphasized more in the report. Include previous water conservation models that have been prepared, such as earlier funding formulas on sanitary and sewage systems. Water conservation among industry should be particularly emphasized
• Wastewater needs to be dealt with before the pipeline is seriously considered.
• Focus on water leakage.
• Because the report states that a maximum day factor of 1.5 should be used for populations greater than 150,000, the water demand graphed in Figures 1 and 7 should flatten slightly once 150,000 is reached.
• The report should list the specific items that need to be undertaken by the City in the short-term.

Table 2: Summary of Feedback on Evaluation of Alternatives
• Is the conservation plan sound? For example, the watering restrictions may be counter-productive.
• Local surface water is preferred over water from Lake Erie.
• Illustrate the impacts of water conservation and its economy of scale in the report.
• Clarify where the 15% water conservation target came from.

- The report should provide a sophisticated understanding of the differences between using water prices to recover the full cost of providing water services and using water prices as an economic tool to modify water use behaviour.

Table 3: Feedback on Draft Preliminary Implementation Plan
• Monitoring and indicators are key. Add a focus on monitoring across all three timeframes.
• Focus on securing new wells outside the City and cleaning up existing wells.
• Move the ASR timeframe up.

Table 4: General Feedback
• The report should recommend updating Guelph's water conservation strategy and implementing it.
• The report was clear and well done.
• Population numbers should be included in the water usage charts.
• Identify which planning projections are being used in the report.
• Coordinate with the City planning department to use the same planning projections they are using in their growth strategy work.
• Table 4 is too small and cannot be read.
• The report seems to assume that the City's future water patterns will be similar to its past water patterns. The report could be more acknowledging of the different ways in which the City can grow that are less water consumptive.
• Explain what is meant by the term "equivalent population" (on page 3).

Table 5: Advice on Presenting Information in Upcoming Public Forum
• Be theatrical with the information.
• Show examples of Guelph's water conservation successes.
• Indicate if the City has a preference for a particular growth-rate option, and if so, which one is preferred.

Questions and Comments Regarding the Presentation:

Immediately following the presentation, Mr. Dilks asked participants if they had any questions or comments directly related to the presentation. Questions (identified with 'Q') and comments (identified with 'C') raised by the participants are presented below. Responses from the project team are shown in *italics*.

Question and Answer

Q1: How did you come up with the potential yields in the new groundwater source areas?

A: *We identified capture zones from previous work that we thought could be looked at for potential supplies. We used information on existing yields to perform a 'best guess'. We model tested scenarios using available data. In the areas outside the City, we looked for areas of high transivity and looked where there was significant drawdown. We estimated specific capacities and ground water yields. Remember these are preliminary estimates. There are issues that need to be covered, such as impacts and drawdown. There is a landfill near one of the areas.*

Q2: You looked at existing data?

A: *Yes. Some wells could have varying yields, some high or low. We tried to be conservative in our estimates.*

C1: I thank the team for making this clear. The team hit on what I was looking for and helped me to understand the options. I am still not clear on how the pipeline could replace the existing groundwater system and would like to look more at that.

C2: The team did a good job and I am pleased with the report. With respect to the termed recommendations, all of them are sensitive to conservation programs. I'm not sure if we have handled the conservation issue as completely as we should have. Do we know the risk of killing the grass in the City? Experts we have talked to about lawns have said that watering 3 times a week has little risk of killing the grass, but not watering at all could result in the grass being killed. Before we move forward we need to get more information. There are serious cultural implications of not being able to water lawns in the summer.

Also, if the sewage temperature goes above 20 ^{o}C, you start to get flow and odour issues, but I'm not sure what the implications would be. You need to see what the hazards are and their probabilities.

Earth Tech did a good job with the requirement for monitoring. I think it would enhance the recommendations if a separate focus was given to monitoring. How do you know if a well is performing as well as it should? Monitoring can help to keep track of that moving target.

C3: The report is good. The over-riding issue is the costing, which affects all of the options. The City's cost for the average house for water and sewer is less than a cup of coffee a day. It needs to be expressed more strenuously that costing is the most important issue, and the alternatives fall behind it. If the costing is not there, how do we implement the solutions? It is the key driver for the recommendations.

A: *All municipalities have to comply with Bill 175 A lot of this infrastructure came in 1950, and it will be getting near the end of its lifespan by 2040. This plan will help to build out the capacity. When the report is complete, the cost of each item and its benefit will be in there. The cost will have an impact on the rates. The increase of the rates will depend on how long the transition period is.*

Q3: Why have you not addressed storage?

A: *That is being covered in the wastewater study. It is a system-related aspect that is part of another study.*

C4: There is a huge capacity for conservation, and I'm not sure if this was brought home in this report or not. We did a lot of work on funding formulas on sanitary and sewage systems, and there was a lot of money that the municipality could have saved. I would like to see that kind of modelling pulled in here. I am concerned about the cost going up; we need to make sure that we create a good environment for industry.

A: *We were supposed to look at conservation in the report. Benchmarking was added to the scope to see what realistic savings due to conservation are. We are banking on 10% but are hoping for more. More could be done with respect to conservation. The City devotes about $120,000 to its water conservation program, and you would see more conservation if you put more money into the program. But after that the economy of scale is not as good. There is a balancing act, which we hope this study will draw upon.*

C5: I would like to see this communicated graphically in the report.

Q3: I would also like to see that. What kind of pricing plan do you see for the conservation plan? How would it be different than what we have now?

A: *You would see a significant increase in rates that would target the average daily consumption, not the peak. You can use the financing model to affect behaviour. We are not going to suggest a rate, because it would be more of a reactive measure. You can see how it works and react to it so that it finds its own balance. It will come naturally and you will have to measure it. If you can delay the need for new water supplies use and delay the need for infrastructure, then you can minimize the rate increase because it will be spread out over a longer period of time.*

C6: Universities have not been tapped in terms of targeting for education. It would be useful to have that in the report.

C7: The report was well put together, and you have taken our suggestions. I see you discounted the dual systems, but you should make more use of it.

A: *We did look at it on a city-wide scale said that it could be a good application for demand-side management.*

Q4: How much conservation could you achieve if you targeted every house?

A: *We're not sure if that issue was addressed in the Great Lakes Strategy.*

C8: One of the reasons conservation is not getting much attention because it is not given much attention by Council. We need to look at comparing costs before putting in new infrastructure. For example, there is a community that bought residents new front loading washers because that was cheaper than putting in new infrastructure. Show the costs and benefits of conservation versus new infrastructure. Some of the wells have contaminants. How can you consider maxing out wells when others are not being cleaned up?

A: *We have identified wells that have low-level contamination issues. It is difficult to pinpoint sources and pathways. We anticipate that it is not going to get worse, but the Province will have to take it to the next step to identify issues and sources. We have identified that it is a risk, but we're not sure how big the risk is. It has to be looked at. One of the key things is maintaining the wells. The City hopes to have new powers to address these issues and contaminated sites, which we haven't been able to do in the past.*

Q5: Is there an estimated timeframe for how long it will take to identify how many wells have to be cleaned up? How do you decide what to clean?

A: *It depends on how quickly the MOE implements the Clean Water Act, which has been delayed a couple of years. But until we have those powers, we cannot predict when. We know where the sites are, but we cannot go in.*

C9: We need to see greening costs and benefits. Look at the lawn watering aspects of conservation.

Q6: Could the gravel pits that are closer to the City border impact the water supply?

A: *Aggregate pits are not really a constraint on the quantity of water.*

Q7: But the pit is going near a well.

A: *The MOE is of the opinion that the pit will not affect the groundwater. None of these works can go ahead until detailed work is done on these options. Don't walk away tonight with the opinion that we are going here first and then here second. Before anything goes into operation, we have to check it out.*

Q8: Could we access the gravel pit surface water?

A: *It could be a surface water source. It would have to be treated.*

Q9: I attended an Environment and Transportation Committee meeting, and there was a presentation that referenced a study that looked at the costs and benefits of development. The study concluded that less than 10% of residents benefit from development while 90% experience the negative impacts of development. I suggest that you contact Councillor Birtwistle, who received the presentation, to learn more about the study. At some point, the City will reach the limits of its sustainable growth, and we may have to go to a pipeline because we may not have the resources to support our population. Regarding the pipeline, what would the project cost? Where would the funding come from? Where would the control go if you had to privatize it?

A: *The cost of the whole scheme would be several billion dollars spread amongst the residents of the participating municipalities. Regarding ownership, there are a number of models that could be used. London has a water board that was created by municipalities who have voting members. There are also lots of models where whole water basins have been privatized. We are not advocating any of those. Recent discussions by municipalities have centred on a board. You would not have as much control in a board compared to if you owned the whole infrastructure.*

Q10: I like having the opportunity to come tonight and I like this format. My question is - what do you mean by natural environment? I don't know if you are taking into account fish and wildlife in waterways.

A: *Under the natural environment criteria, we have criteria on terrestrial and biological aspects, which includes base flow water quality. We measured this using overview mapping on a broad scale. If you are going to move ahead, you have to have a detailed*

EA and detailed field discussions. Our job here is to pick out high-level issues and recommend more detailed studies. You can't do a detailed check in a Master Plan.

Q11: My major interest is in rural impacts around Guelph. You mentioned source water regulations, which is a growing factor in rural areas. I am also concerned with how climatic changes and changes in technology in rural areas will affect water demand. How will these factors affect demand in rural areas?

A: *In calculating the yields, the assumptions are based on models. We are on the low side and so are underestimating. Right now we are focusing on the demand needs of Guelph, but upstream demands affect the source here. Places to Grow calls for 60% of the growth to be in Guelph and 40% in the other areas, so they will need a plan too. That will be covered in the growth management plan or could be rolled out in a 5-year update plan. We cant; make those assumptions here.*

Q12: How many others in the area are doing detailed studies?

A: *GRCA has recently released a study to estimate the rural use of water.*

Q13: I like the report. It gave good general direction and a timeline based on usage and demand requirements. There is a lot of detail to be filled in. We need specifics on the conservation program. We can't throw money at it without thinking it through. Can we show how much money the City has available and pick and choose, or be more direct and say what to do? Use targeted thinking.

A: *The City has a conservation strategy. Maybe it should be included as an appendix to remind people that it is there. We have just been referencing it in the report.*

C7: The report is on the right track. I want to see the ASR work moved up, and I wish the wastewater master plan was done. The City has to learn that wastewater treatment and not water supply is the driver. I look forward to the rate studies. It boggles my mind to keep harping about conservation, because the revenue is based on water use. The City has a mandate to provide good water service for a good price. I would expect to see prices having an affect on water demand.

Q14: Household costs for water and sewer are on average about $640 a year, based on the BMA report. I agree with the conservation suggestions. There needs to be an emphasis on water lost to leakage. Also, I would like to see population numbers include in the water usage charts.

A: *We can bring in the population numbers. Also, it is important to remember that we are converting the industrial and commercial sectors into population equivalents.*

Q2: I agree that wastewater is a bigger driver. The report appears weak regarding demand-side management. Maybe there should be a recommendation to update the strategy based on today's knowledge. Make comparisons with how we fare against other countries. Show the impact of water conservation on the timeline in Chart 5. Guelph has had some success on the inefficient use of water by industry, but there are no recommendations that target industry. I would not want to make the decision to go to the Great Lakes for water hastily. There is still much that is uncertain. With respect to conservation, the capacity savings have been an excuse to grow more, closer to 2.5. The excuse has been that we have been able to save on water and that we can handle the extra growth. Once you have the growth scenario, work within that, and consider conservation extra.

Suggestions on Presenting the Report to the Public:

Mr. Dilks asked participants if they had any suggestions on how best to present the information in the report to the public. The following identifies the participants' comments (identified with 'C') below with responses from the project team in *italics*.

C1: Be theatrical about the information. We need to realize that we need to have a paradigm shift. People are saying that you shouldn't have growth. Show examples of some of Guelph's conservation success stories. The development industry is supportive of conservation and believes it will go further. We want to help bring down the average water use of the city.

Q2: Does the City prefer the low-growth option? It would be useful to mention that at the meeting. Is the City proceeding to a partial replacement option, with some water coming from ground, some from surface?

A: *Nothing has been decided. There will need to be more detailed study to determine what should be done. Waterloo has some capability to draw from groundwater as a back-up in case of a calamity.*

Q2: Can we determine what is an acceptable minimum usage per person? We could get data from meters, and some people might be willing to be monitored.

A: *We are aware of data sources.*

4. NEXT STEPS

Mr. Dilks thanked everyone for their participation and feedback at the meeting and asked them to send in any additional comments by March 3. He told participants that there will be a public meeting held on March 21 at the Holiday Inn.

APPENDIX A: MEETING AGENDA

CITY OF GUELPH WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN: PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #3

Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Cutten Club, 190 College Avenue East, Guelph

Meeting Focus: To receive feedback from the PAC on the summary of water supply alternatives, the evaluation of these alternatives, and the draft preliminary implementation plan.

AGENDA

6:30 p.m. Registration and Refreshments

7:00 p.m. Agenda Review and Introductions – David Dilks, Facilitator

7:05 p.m. Review and Approval of June 9th/05 PAC Meeting #2 Summary

7:10 p.m. Opening Remarks – Janet Laird, City of Guelph

7:20 p.m. Master Plan Update – John Haasen, Earth Tech

- Project status & schedule
- How PAC & public feedback has contributed to date
- Next steps

7:30 p.m. Water Supply Alternatives, Evaluation & Preliminary Implementation Plan – John Haasen, Earth Tech

- Overview of water supply strategy alternatives and analysis
- Evaluation results
- Draft preliminary implementation plan and recommendations

8:15 p.m. Break

8:25 p.m. Working Session – PAC Discussion

Thinking about the information presented by the Project Team…

1. What feedback do you have on the summary of water supply alternatives (Draft Discussion Paper, Section 5)? What would you add or change?
2. What feedback do you have on the evaluation of alternatives (Draft Discussion Paper, Section 6)? What would you add or change?
3. What feedback do you have on the draft preliminary implementation plan? (Draft Discussion Paper, Section 7) In particular, what recommended alternatives would you support and why? What would you do differently and why?
4. Do you have feedback on any other aspects of the Draft Discussion Paper?
5. What advice do you have for presenting this information to the upcoming Public Forum?

9:55 p.m. Next Steps – David Dilks

10:00 p.m. Adjourn

APPENDIX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The following is a list of participants at the PAC Meeting #3:

Name	Affiliation
Ralph Billings	North Halton resident
Bill Banks	Guelph resident
Robert Barron	Council of Canadians
Bob Carter	University of Guelph
Peter Chisholm	Guelph resident
Ken Hammill	Friends of Guelph
Andrew Lambden	Guelph Developers Association
Gary Martin	Guelph/Eramosa resident
Laura Murr	Green Plan Steering Committee
John Pawley	Guelph resident
Fred Stahlbaum	Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters
Jean Stahlbaum	Guelph resident
Georgia Simms	University of Guelph Student
City of Guelph	
Councillor Laura Baily	
Councillor David Birtwistle	
Councillor Cathy Downer	
Janet Laird	
Councillor Peter Hamtack	
Dave Belanger	
Consulting Team	
John Haasen	Earth Tech
Patty Quackenbush	Earth Tech
Joe Gemin	Earth Tech
Dave Dilks	Lura Consulting
Jean-Louis	Lura Consulting
Tony Lotimer	Lotowater Geoscience

APPENDIX C: ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Participants were invited to provide more feedback or comments on the alternatives report. Feedback was received from Astrid Clos and from Rob de Loë. Their feedback is presented below.

From: Astrid Clos [mailto:astrid.clos@ajcplanning.ca]
Sent: February 21, 2006 4:15 PM
To: David Dilks; 'Dave Belanger'
Cc: 'Andrew Lambden'
Subject: Guelph Water Supply Master Plan Comments

Hi David,

I'm sorry that I had to miss the last meeting. I am providing my comments related to the draft report dated February 10, 2006.

1.0 Background

"to support the projections" It is not clear which population projections are being supported in this report. You should be working with the Planning Department regarding their growth strategy as per Places to Grow. All of the documents the City does now should be based on the same population projections to assist in a holistic planning effort.

1.1 Purpose Statement

7th bullet confirm what these growth projects are.

8th bullet What is the exact wording of the full Council resolution? The full council resolution and date of the resolution should be included in the report.

2.0 Population Projections

Same comment, use the City's growth strategy population projections not the CN Watson projections. The last paragraph in this section states that "these population projection scenarios do not represent City planning projections." It is worthwhile to work with Planning to make these numbers the same.

3.0 Water Demand Projections

"fire flows and peak flows are typically provided in storage within a distribution system"

If fire flows and peak flows are not provided for in Guelph's distribution system are the conclusions of your report still valid?

3.2 Maximum day/ Maximum Week

"For a population greater than 150,000, a maximum day factor of 1.5 should be used." This should be reflected in Figures 1 and 7. After the population reached 150,000 the demand for water should "flatten" slightly on the graph.

Page 8 The ICI reductions seconf bullet toilet retrofits should specify a focus on institutional uses ie. university, college, hospital, city etc.

Page 11 are the Fleming and Logan wells viable considering their proximity to the landfill site? Should the be included for future investigation?

Page 11 Why hasn't the DoLime information been included in this report? Why is it provided under separate cover?

Page 12

Could you do a chart of all wells and their existing and potential additional capacity?

Page 19

"reuse of zebra mussel" Should this say removal of zebra mussel?

Page 20 5.6 Do Nothing

We do not have a Regional Official Plan.

Table 4 Too small can't read it.

Page 23

$250 M could supply all municipalities in the Grand River Watershed. I don't think that you mean all municipalities.

Page 24 last sentence

"under extensive growth" What do you mean by extensive growth?

Page 25

The Report should list the the specific items that need to be undertaken by the City in the short term.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Regards,

Astrid

Astrid J. Clos
Planning Consultants
423 Woolwich Street
Suite 201
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 3X3

M E M O

To: Dave Dilks
From: Rob de Loë
Date: March 6, 2006
Subject: Feedback on draft

On balance, I think you folks have done a good job of presenting the issues in the alternatives. I'm not sure that I agree with all your conclusions, but at least you've made it possible for me to examine your thinking, and to give the issues more thought. In itself, that's a success for documents such as this.
The following are some questions and loose ends that you may wish to consider.

- There's still a basic assumption running throughout the whole report that suggests the growth will occur and is inevitable. This is pragmatic and realistic -- but at the same time, I think there could have been more recognition of different ways in which we can grow in ways that are less water consumptive. My sense is that the basic assumption here is the future growth will be like past growth, and that, for the most part, future water use patterns will be similar to past water use patterns (although perhaps somewhat reduced due to mild water conservation).

- Also running throughout the whole study is an assumption that water conservation will occur, but that we won't try very hard. This is even reflected in the statement of purpose. For example, at the end of section 1 you state simply that the study will define the role of water conservation measures which can extend the life of the existing supply capacity. This doesn't signal a strong commitment to water conservation. Personally, I would've preferred to see a strong commitment to the idea that we will first exhaust the full potential of water conservation in the management before we set ourselves on the path of very expensive water supply enhancement solutions.

- There's room to clarify some concepts. For example, on page 3 you have the word equivalent population -- with equivalent in quotation marks. I can remember you having a hard time explaining what this meant at one of the public meetings; I think it would be helpful to have a better explanation here.

- Where did the 15% reduction target come from? I accept that Guelph already has a relatively low per capita water use rate in the residential sector (compared to other Canadian cities). Indeed, 15% may be a challenging target. However, I can't see where the report you decided that 15% was the best we could do. Given that you cite a figures of 176 L per capita per day in other jurisdictions, why can't Guelph do better? At the very least, this should be explained.

- Your discussion of pricing on page 8 is problematic. The paragraph that you have doesn't appear to recognize that there's a difference between using prices to recover the full cost of providing water service, and using prices as economic tools to modify water use behavior. These are very different objectives -- and the report should offer a properly sophisticated understanding of the difference. Steve Renzetti at Brock has written a lot about this topic, including some recent work in the Canadian Water Resources Journal.

- The tables with the pie charts summarizing your evaluation are difficult to read because there's so much information. I appreciate having the details, but at the same time sometimes I was puzzled about how you came to certain conclusions. For example, you state that social costs are moderate and benefits somewhat low for pricing controls and education, but it isn't clear how you came to this conclusion. For the criterion ability to respond to changing regulatory treatment and permitting requirements, the bullet says that unaccounted for water is not applicable, but the pie chart suggests that it's close to being least preferred. Why is that?

- I appreciate that you try to offer an implementation strategy in section 7. However, I found this section to be little bit confusing. I also think that you're suggesting strongly (too strongly) that we make some major decisions very soon that will commit us to a certain course of action. Given some of the uncertainties that you discussed earlier in the report, I wonder whether you've gone too far in the section.