

GUELPH WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #1 DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

January 26, 2005
River Run Centre – Canada Company Hall
Guelph, Ontario

City
of
Guelph

This meeting summary was prepared by Lura Consulting. Lura is providing third-party public consultation services as part of the process to develop the Guelph Water Supply Master Plan. This meeting summary captures the key discussion points from the January 26th, 2005 Public Advisory Committee Meeting #1. It is not intended 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 #1
JANUARY 26TH, 2005, 7:00 P.M.– 10:00 P.M.
River Run Centre – Canada Company Hall, GUELPH

1. ABOUT THE WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Public Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was hosted by the City of Guelph Waterworks Division to introduce the Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) and seek participant feedback on key process elements. The Water Supply Master Plan (WSMP) forms an integral part of the overall Water Supply Strategy that was initiated in 1999. The WSMP will identify a number of options including the development of additional groundwater supplies and will identify alternative municipal supplies. Its aim is to map out a path to supplement the existing supply for the next 50+ years following the Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

Specifically, the PAC meeting was designed to:

- 1) Introduce participants to the WSMP project; and
- 2) Seek feedback/input on: (a) issues and opportunities arising, (b) purpose statement, (c) evaluation criteria and methodology, and (d) alternative solutions.

Prior to the meeting, a Draft Discussion Paper was circulated to all PAC members. Sixteen 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.



PAC members at working session

2. WELCOMING AND OPENING REMARKS



James Etienne, Director of Environmental Services welcomes PAC members

Mr. James Etienne, Director of Environmental Services, City of Guelph

James Etienne thanked all participants for coming and stated that the City and the project team will listen to participants' comments and incorporate the feedback received from this meeting into the Master Plan process.

Councillor Laura Baily, City of Guelph

Councillor Baily also expressed thanks on behalf of the City to all PAC members for being part of the advisory committee.

Mr. Dave Dilks, Lura Consulting, Facilitator

Dave Dilks welcomed all participants to the event and explained that Lura Consulting has been retained to assist the City and the consulting team with the public consultation and communications component of this project. Mr. Dilks indicated that the City of Guelph wants to ensure the PAC is both informed about the WSMP and engaged early on in the WSMP process. Mr. Dilks indicated that Lura's role as a neutral third-party is to facilitate a constructive, mutually respectful discussion.

Mr. Dilks reviewed the agenda and materials available for participants and indicated the meeting would provide more information about the WSMP process, discuss next steps, and then provide an opportunity to hear participants' views on the purpose statement, alternative solutions, and evaluation criteria and methodology. A round of introductions by PAC members followed who identified their involvement in the process as representatives from organizations, municipalities, etc. and shared some of their expertise with water issues in Guelph.

1. OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

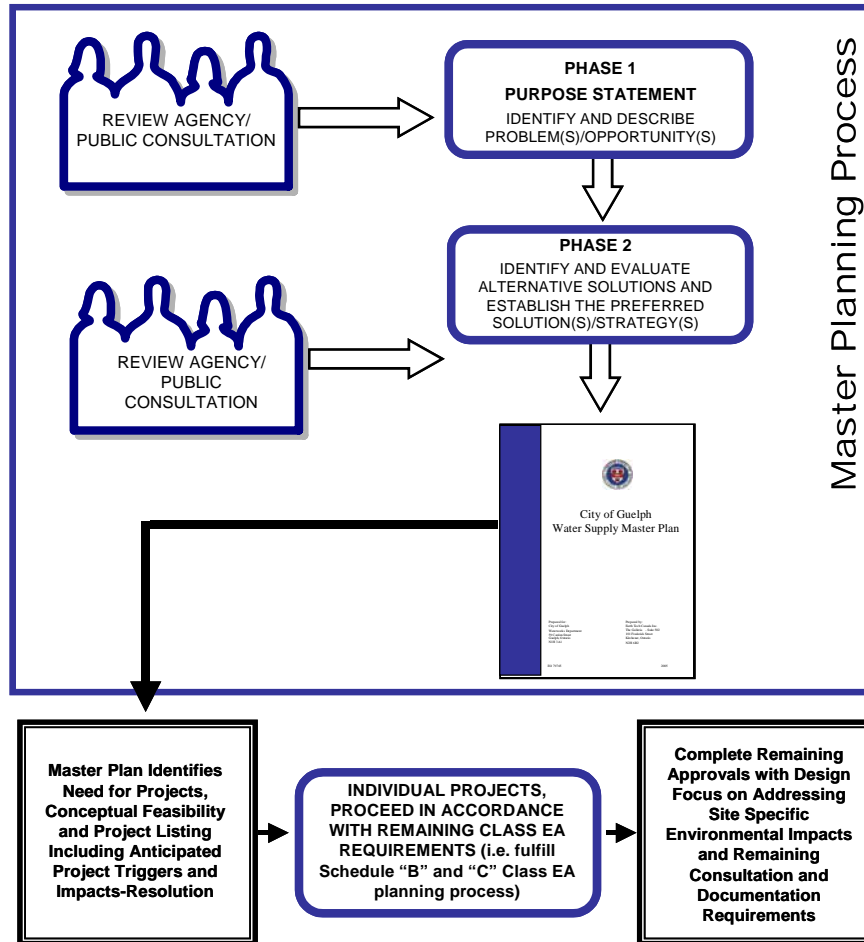
John Haasen, Project Manager of Earth Tech provided an overview presentation on the WSMP process.

Why Develop A Water Supply Master Plan?

The WSMP's primary goal is to identify alternative solutions for Guelph's water supply for the next 50 + years. The WSMP will serve as both Phase 1: Purpose Definition/Statement and Phase 2: Alternative Solutions of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Master Planning Process

In General, master plans are broad in scope and focus on the analysis of a system, in this case water supply, to develop a framework that will guide future work and development. Master plans fit into the Class EA process as they are designed, for the most part, to satisfy the requirements of Phase 1 and 2 of the process. Master plans clearly define a 'suite' of projects that are housed within the plan that may be implemented over the planning period (2004 to 2054).



WSMP Consultation and Communications Activities

Susan Hall of Lura Consulting described the public consultation and communications initiatives that have been included in the WSMP. Ms. Hall emphasized that public consultation and communication initiatives form a key component of the process and are designed to keep stakeholders, agencies and the public informed and involved in determining how and when the City’s water supply system should be improved, expanded and implemented; incorporate the knowledge and insight of City of Guelph and area residents, stakeholders and businesses; and exceed Class EA consultation requirements.

Through preliminary interviews with key stakeholders, the public consultation component was refined to ensure that the public consultation is a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive process.

The Public Consultation and Communications program includes the following components:

Public Consultation	Communications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Advisory Committee formation & meetings • Technical agency and Municipality workshops • Public meetings • Additional Consultation As Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stakeholder meetings ○ Focus groups with high user groups ○ Meetings with City and Area Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising and Public Service Announcements • Website • Project Newsletters (3) • Communications with agencies, municipalities and stakeholders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Events ○ Launch event ○ Water Forum (to be determined) • Speaking engagements • Media plan

The Current Water Supply System

John Haasen provided an overview of the current water supply system in Guelph. Key highlights of his presentation indicated that:

- Guelph relies exclusively on groundwater;
- The water supply system includes production wells installed in the Guelph-Amabel bedrock aquifer and the Arkell Springs Ground collector system; and
- In 2004, 17 of the 23 existing production wells were operated on a near continuous basis.

Water Supply Issues and Options

Mr. Haasen identified the objectives of the master plan:

- Provide a planning framework to develop the water supply to accommodate future demands;
- Build on previous City water supply initiatives;
- Aim to provide an adequate and sustainable water supply to meet current/future needs of customers;
- Include review of a few demand scenarios to evaluate impacts on water supply;
- Identify additional sources of water to supplement the existing supply; and
- Examine alternatives including developing additional groundwater supplies and alternative municipal supplies.

A more in-depth discussion of the current water supply system, and issues and options for Guelph are found in the Draft Discussion Paper in Appendix D.

Draft Purpose Statement, Alternative Solutions and Evaluation Criteria

Mr. Haasen briefly reviewed the purpose statement, alternative solutions, evaluation criteria and methodology indicating that this is in draft form and that the purpose of the meeting is to receive PAC members' input and feedback on these elements.

The Draft Purpose Statement:

The City of Guelph has experienced population growth that is expected to continue over the next 25 years and beyond. The existing water supply system has performed satisfactorily but has reached limitations with respect to meeting peak and long-term demands and reliability.

Climatic conditions, well interference, regulatory constraints and water quality degradation have reduced the yield of the existing municipal water supply system. The City is committed to managed growth as it continues to develop a strategy for water supply enhancement. The goal is the provision of an adequate and sustainable supply of water to meet the current and future needs of all customers.

The municipality must have sufficient capacity to supply the water demands of its residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional customers. A community's water demands has hourly, daily and seasonal fluctuations which must be considered in predicting future water demands and assessing water supply requirements and infrastructure improvements. Recent studies confirmed the inability of the existing system to meet future demands, particularly from the residential and industrial sectors, which could place constraints on the future, long-term growth of the City.

It is, therefore necessary to carry out a study to identify alternatives to improve the capacity of the City's existing water system to ensure that an adequate amount of water can be provided in a safe and cost-effective manner to satisfy long-term municipal demand requirements. The study will also consider water conservation/efficiency measures to extend the life of the existing supply capacity.

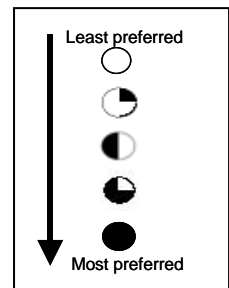
Mr. Haasen indicated that there are currently five main categories of alternative solutions including:

1. Water conservation/demand management
2. Expand the existing water supply system
3. Establish new surface water supply
4. Limit growth
5. Do nothing

Mr. Haasen noted that the "Do nothing" alternative represents what would likely occur if none of the alternative solutions were implemented and is a mandatory alternative according to the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Mr. Haasen indicated that in thinking about the types of evaluation criteria to be employed to determine the final recommendations, the group should consider the six categories below.

1. Public Health and Safety
2. Natural/Environmental
3. Social/Cultural
4. Economical/Financial
5. Legal/Jurisdictional
6. Technical



The consulting team proposed the use of a qualitative evaluation methodology that considers the suitability of alternative solutions/strategies based on significant advantages and disadvantages. In this type of evaluation, comparisons are made between alternatives, which form rationale for the identification of the preferred solution or water supply strategy. In this system, alternatives are ranked in order of preference as indicated by the legend on the right. However, the method of evaluation (i.e. qualitative vs. quantitative) and how applied was put forth as a point of discussion and feedback.

A detailed assessment of each water supply alternative is completed by the consulting team with consideration of input received from the public and other stakeholders and based on evaluation components and criteria. This assessment is used to generate a short-list of alternatives that are then ranked and carried forward for more detailed evaluation. This process can involve both primary criteria (e.g. inability to meet regulations, excessive costs, technical feasibility, unacceptable environmental or social disruption), and secondary criteria (e.g. mitigable impacts such as construction truck traffic) criteria.

2. PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

This section provides an overview of the feedback received from participants at the PAC meeting. This summary is a collection of comments obtained from table discussions and individual feedback provided through workbooks. For the detailed compilation of all comments received, please see Appendix C.

General Questions, Comments and Concerns:

Participants were asked if they had any questions or comments directly related to the presentation or the WSMP process in general. The following identifies the participants' questions (identified with 'Q') or comments (identified with 'C'), are listed below with responses from the project team in *italics*.

Prior to the question period, David Dilks briefly reviewed the role of PAC members as defined in the Terms of Reference.

Q1: Three meetings are not enough to provide valuable input into the WSMP. Want to know if we are linked to the EA and why EA is being done?

A: *J. Haasen - The EA is not dictating the PAC process but it is linked. We are willing to look at more meetings if the request is put forward.*

Q2: Is the role of the master plan to define what future projects should occur?

A: *J. Haasen - Absolutely. The master plan is a road map so in 10 years down the road, we can move towards options as needed.*

Q3: What happens with the input from the PAC? Will we get this information back in a collated format?

A: *D. Dilks - The information provided by the PAC has and will continue to help shape the process. The input provided at the meeting today will be put together in a report and sent to the group.*

Q4: The Draft Discussion Paper does not include enough information to provide the PAC with adequate background information to provide comments. The 1999 Water Resource document should be made available to PAC members.

A: *J. Haasen - This is not the only opportunity for comments. This meeting is designed to get the ball rolling. We won't be going to the public without input from the PAC. (Note: The City has started to place background documents on its web site under the Water Supply Master Plan. Additional documents will be added as they become available.)*

- Q5: Task 5 in the WSMP RFP document indicates that the consultant will provide a link to wastewater master plan – is there some reassurance that the wastewater master plan will be ready in time?
- A: *J. Etienne - The City is currently developing the Terms of Reference for the wastewater master plan and will be issuing it later this year. Conceivable that it will catch up to this process. It will be a similar Class EA.*
- Q6: Another member reiterated that the PAC's contribution is not enough with only 3 meetings and that they should also be able to provide comments on the wastewater master plan. The member also indicated that the Golder report is not ready, and asked if we are premature in discussing planning?
- Q7: Another member indicated that the City's 2005 budget indicated \$50,000 for Terms of Reference for wastewater master plan and another \$25,000 for next stage which is not in this year's budget, so will that occur in 2006?
- A: *J. Etienne - There was some confusion around the numbers. There is \$75,000 for the wastewater master plan, \$50,000 for the Terms of Reference for a Solid Waste master plan.*
- C1: There is a need to link the two (wastewater and water supply master plans).
- Q8: When will the EA for the wastewater master plan be complete?
- A: *J. Etienne - It is ongoing.*
- C2: Looking at the schedule for meetings, we will need to address the concern of commodification of water to coincide with UN direction on this issue.
- Q9: Demand management and conservation have been excellent. The groundwater system has checks along the way, will it be able to handle growth?
- A: *(Provided following the meeting) Part of the evaluation will be to determine the sustainable capacity of the groundwater system and to assess the capacity that may be available for groundwater supply. Water supply capacity would only represent a fraction of the sustainable capacity of the groundwater system. Required capacity beyond the sustainable groundwater capacity would need to come from another supply source (i.e. surface water).*
- Q10: Projecting 187,000 residents by 2031 in the City of Guelph according to the Places to Grow. How much does the provincial government have control of growth?
- A: *J. Haasen - We should be cautious and address growth. 1.5% is already on the City's Official Plan so we have to consider that option. There are two options we can use, the growth strategy determined by the city or the province, then design the water supply around that or decide on growth, create the master plan, then put this forward to the government. The proposed approach to address various population projections is to develop a few conceivable growth scenarios and determine the water supply requirements for each of these scenarios.*
- C3: Interchangeable language between water supply and system. Hope the Terms of Reference will identify water systems and distribution/storage systems. This could be a constraint.
- A: *J. Haasen - This study focuses on water supply, not distribution.
J. Etienne - One of the components of looking at long-term supply deals with peaks in demand and storage. This study is to identify other considerations and the City will look at distribution and storage through other processes.*

- C4: It is unfathomable that water supply and water distribution are not being done together. There is a need for a comprehensive approach.
- A: *J. Etienne - Model identifies weak links in the system and identifies areas for storage, pressure issues. Those items aren't detailed but come into the next phase of the process.*

1. Issues and Opportunities

As you think about the Water Supply Master Plan project, what major opportunities or benefits do you see resulting from the project? What pressing issues or concerns will the project need to address?

The most commonly identified opportunities, benefits and concerns are presented in the table below. Participants agreed that the WSMP provides a good opportunity **to plan for the long-term water supply strategy, to change the approach to water management, and to educate the public about water supply issues and conservation.** The group expressed concern about **the level of public education about water conservation, and the lack of linkages to related City and provincial initiatives and programs.** For more detailed participant feedback, see Appendix C.

MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES/BENEFITS
<p>Participants felt the WSMP is an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be used as a tool for future planning that includes delivery of a long-term water strategy that will eliminate doubt surrounding long term water supply regardless of how growth will occur. This could influence industries coming to Guelph and overall economic prosperity • Manage or define growth strategy • Change approach – with emphasis on cooperative approach with area municipalities and the adoption of a businesslike approach to the sale and supply of water to customers • Highlight dangers of not including wellhead protection • Clarify the goals for our community • Look at water uses that don't need potable water, and rethink how we get water • Improve focus on 'source' rather than 'system' and acquire an enhanced definition of the source area • Provide a synthesis of current legislation constraints with clearly defined study area e.g. SDW Act, Nutrient Management Act, source protection • Provide community education and improve conservation in the study area • Obtain a longer view about Guelph as a center for sustainable development <p>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the WSMP is timely as the there is a campaign underway to encourage the United Nations to adopt a Treaty Initiative that addresses 'Water as human right, not a commodity'. The schedule of meetings for the WSMP should also considering addressing the issue of the commodification of water.

PRESSING ISSUES/CONCERNS

Participants identified a number of pressing issues and concerns. Specifically participants indicated there is a need to:

- Include the average citizen in the process to get buy-in
- Provide education about the WSMP and conservation

Participants also expressed concerns about:

- How to implement the strategy and how will it be paid for
- How much will input be heard from neighbouring municipalities
- The lack of linkages between the WSMP and other City of Guelph studies and processes such as the City Official Plan, Golder report, landfill site impacts, and wastewater master plan, as well as provincial directions such as “Places to Grow”, natural heritage strategy, and Source Water Protection
- Concern that this is predetermined process used for regulating growth
- The plan is not a full scale water conservation plan
- The quantity of water to be supplied for growth, peak and quality
- The potential impacts to aquifers and water quality for expansion from increased taking of water outside city boundaries, both from Arkell springs which is a high quality source, and from individual owned wells
- The lack of inclusion of wellhead protection, specifically for wells outside the city.



Participants at PAC working session

2. Purpose Statement

Looking at the draft purpose statement (Discussion Paper, pages 10-11), what would you change or add (if anything)?

The group examined both wording and content and suggested a number of changes to both. The recommended changes are presented in the table below. For more detailed participant feedback, see Appendix C.

COMMENTS ON PURPOSE STATEMENT
<p>WORDING:</p> <p>The introductory statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refers only to domestic water use, doesn't include industrial and commercial demand which should also be included• Refers to "daily" demand instead of 'average' demand which needs to be defined <p>The purpose statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paragraph 1 – should say 50 years and replace 'inability' of existing system• Paragraph 2, sentence 2 – presupposes that alternatives 2 and 3 will be selected, need to change the wording• Paragraph 3 – municipality must have 'sufficient capacity' for customers implies that demands are static. 'Sufficient capacity', and 'adequate water' in last paragraph need language that relates to price• Last paragraph – replace 'alternatives' with 'strategy' and replace 'consider water conservation' with 'further recommend the need'• Suggestion to reduce to first 2 paragraphs only
<p>CONTENT:</p> <p>The statement should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The actual cost of water• Dependence on groundwater means we need to act in a responsible manner - means need to have topsoil by-law, by-law to prevent large users to move to Guelph until supply issue is addressed• Ecosystem approach, or protection of natural environment• Reference to 50 years with layout of strategy not alternatives

3. Evaluation Criteria and Methodology

Looking at the draft evaluation criteria (Discussion Paper, pages 12-14), what would you change or add (if anything)? Do you have any comments on the proposed methodology (e.g. the suggestion that the evaluation not be based on a numerical ranking system, but rather on a descriptive or qualitative approach; Discussion Paper, page 15)?

The most commonly identified changes and comments on the evaluation criteria and methodology are presented in the table below. **The majority of evaluation criteria comments related to natural environmental considerations and the evaluation criteria in general.** For more detailed participant feedback, see Appendix C.

COMMENTS ON EVALUATION CRITERIA
<p>GENERAL COMMENTS: The evaluation criteria should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Educational Systems as major criteria – school board representatives should be on PAC • Bring alternatives up to a common level of knowledge so they can be evaluated fairly because the level of detail may be different for each alternative and there is a need to fill in data gaps for comparison • Include issue of non-conforming land use - impacts on point sources and water quality <p>NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS: The natural environmental criteria need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insert education • Why is stream crossing included? • Need ecological function to be included to represent ecosystem approach <p>ECONOMICAL/FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The economical/financial criteria need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include cost of water • Include components of full cost including source protection costs. Should match provincial definitions and get financial cost in line with mandated full costs <p>TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: The technical criteria needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a piece about strategic ways to meet peak demand
COMMENTS ON EVALUATION METHODOLOGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants in general were in agreement with the approach. • Some preferred a numerical system because words don't give a gradient, and numerical system provides a better ability to eliminate alternatives. • Will criteria provide meaningful evaluation of alternatives, especially for alternative #1?

4. Alternative Solutions

Looking at the “long list” of alternative solutions (Discussion Paper, pages 11-12), do you have any comments? For example, what alternatives do you see as priorities? What alternatives (if any) should not be considered? Why?

The most common comments on the alternative solutions are presented in the table below. The group identified **water conservation/demand management as the number one priority**. For more detailed participant feedback, see Appendix C.

COMMENTS ON ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS
<p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solutions should be considered in a phased approach that includes short, medium, and long-term
<p>Water Conservation/Demand Management</p> <p>Participants indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pricing mechanisms should be listed• Public education should be included• ‘Continue to develop conservation strategy’ should be the revised wording• This alternative should include the option to collect rain water beyond residential e.g.: rain barrels, building roofs, etc.)
<p>Establish New Surface Water Supply</p> <p>Participants indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Great Lakes pipeline should be removed from this section and added as an independent alternative because of the magnitude of scale
<p>Limit Community Growth</p> <p>Participants indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The City should consider option of changing <u>how</u> we grow not only limiting growth – land use, community design, etc.• Guelph may not have a choice to limit growth but there should be a balance between Guelph perspective and outside influences• The City should consider another option - Reduction of population through relocation
<p>Do Nothing</p> <p>Participants indicated this was not a preferred alternative recognizing that it is included as an alternative as part of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment requirements.</p>

At the end of the working session, participants were asked if they had additional questions or comments they would like to raise. These comments are presented in Appendix C.

5. PAC ADVICE ON FORMAT OF UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETING

David Dilks asked PAC members to provide their thoughts and recommendations on the format for the Public meeting, including meeting agenda, display materials, location and timing. The feedback received is presented below.

RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>LOCATION AND TIMING: PAC members suggested that the Public Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be transit accessible• Provide parking• Not be conducted during reading week (week of Feb. 21st) or March break• Explore the potential to link to World Water Day (March 23rd)
<p>ADVERTISING: PAC members suggested that advertising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Link with Milton web page and Guelph website• Advertise in all newspapers• Advise all media
<p>MATERIALS: PAC members suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include child friendly displays and visuals• Other ongoing Class EA's and studies should be available on site such as: Guelph Eramosa groundwater study (Jan 2003) and Guelph-Puslinch groundwater study, etc.
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS The WSMP should also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer tours of the water supply systems• Create a Resource Centre that will give all interested parties access to all documents• Include an on-line survey for public input on the WSMP web page

The group also discussed the role of the PAC at public meetings and members felt they could invite people to attend as well as participate with another opportunity to provide comments and feedback.

6. NEXT STEPS

David Dilks thanked everyone for their participation and feedback at the meeting and noted that advice from this meeting will be incorporated into a report to be circulated to all PAC members.

James Etienne and Laura Baily expressed appreciation on behalf of the City of Guelph and project team for the ideas and feedback provided by participants at this meeting.



PAC members at working session

APPENDIX A: AGENDA

City of Guelph Water Supply Master Plan: Public Advisory Committee Meeting #1

7:00 – 10:00 p.m., January 26, 2005

River Run Centre – Canada Company Hall, 35 Woolwich Street, Guelph

AGENDA

Meeting Purpose: To orient the PAC on its role in the Master Plan process and seek early feedback on key process elements.

- 6:30 p.m. **Registration and Refreshments** – Opportunity for PAC members to view project displays and meet informally with City staff and the consultant team
- 7:00 p.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** – City of Guelph
- 7:05 p.m. **Agenda Review and Introductions** – Dave Dilks, Facilitator
- 7:15 p.m. **Introduction to City of Guelph Water Supply Master Plan**
- i) Overview of the Master Plan Process – John Haasen, EarthTech
 - ii) Community Consultation and Communication Plan – Susan Hall, Lura Consulting
 - iii) Role of the Public Advisory Committee – Discussion of PAC Terms of Reference and Work Plan
- 7:45 p.m. **Water Supply Issues and Options** – John Haasen, EarthTech
- 8:10 p.m. **Break**
- 8:20 p.m. **Working Session – Committee Discussion**
- Issues and Opportunities
 - Purpose Statement
 - Evaluation Criteria and Methodology
 - Alternative Solutions
- 9:40 p.m. **PAC Advice on Format of Upcoming Public Meeting**
- 9:50 p.m. **Next Steps and Meeting of the PAC** – Dave Dilks
- 10:00 p.m. **Adjourn**

APPENDIX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

The following is a list of PAC members signed in at the PAC Meeting #1:

Name	Affiliation
Bill Banks	Guelph resident
Robert Barron	Council of Canadians
Doan Bellman	Sleeman Brewery
Bob Carter	University of Guelph
Peter Chisholm	Guelph resident
Astrid Clos	GDA/Guelph District Homebuilders Association
Rob deLoe	University of Guelph
Ken Hammill	Friends of Guelph
Dave Hume	Puslinch resident
Andrew Lambden	Guelph Developers Association
Gary Nelson	Wellington Federation of Agriculture
Gary Martin	Guelph/Eramosa resident
Laura Murr	Green Plan Steering Committee
John Pawley	Guelph resident
Elbert van Donkersgoed	Christian Farmers Association
Lynda Walters	Clean Water Coalition
City of Guelph	
Councillor Laura Baily	
Dave Belanger	
James Etienne	
Brian Pett	
Lee Wilson	
Consulting Team	
John Haasen	Earth Tech
Joe Gemin	Earth Tech
Karl Grueneis	Earth Tech
Patty Quackenbush	Earth Tech
Dave Dilks	Lura Consulting
Susan Hall	Lura Consulting
Tony Lotimer	Lotowater Geoscience

APPENDIX C: DETAILED PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

1. Issues and Opportunities

As you think about the Water Supply Master Plan project, what major opportunities or benefits do you see resulting from the project? What pressing issues or concerns will the project need to address?

MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES/BENEFITS
<p>PAC members comments on what opportunities and benefits stem from the WSMP are organized into five categories including: (a) public involvement, education and conservation; (b) planning processes and innovation; (c) ecological resources and sustainability; (d) increases knowledge of water supply; and (e) linkages to other policies or programs.</p> <p><i>The * indicates that more than one person identified this to be an opportunity/benefit.</i></p>
<p>Public involvement, education and conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education/Conservation* • Opportunity for various stakeholders to provide input • Opportunity to implement leading edge conservation technologies • Opportunity to influence user behaviour in order to reduce usage • How can we use WSMP to maximize water conservation? • Use to educate public and IC&I sector about water resources • Opportunities for managed growth and improved conservation
<p>Planning processes and innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to inject some innovative ideas to help secure a water supply over the next 50 years • Opportunity to plan for an adequate supply of water for several growth options • Used to ensure most cost effective and environmentally sound planning for infrastructure servicing
<p>Ecological resources and sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long view on a centre of sustainable human settlements and a region definition of risks • Sense of carrying capacity and vulnerable components safety • How can we use WSMP to address issue of living within our ecological resources?
<p>Increases knowledge of water supply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at all current water takings and assess current impacts on water takings on ecological systems i.e. PSW, rivers, Kettle lakes, etc. then use as a determining factor in future increase water takings
<p>Linkages to other policies or programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis of regional policy legislation and current/ongoing investigations • Use to incorporate Green Plan goals
<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust, duty and personal commitment to community vision and management

PRESSING ISSUES/CONCERNS

Participants comments on pressing issues and concerns stemming from the WSMP are organized into five categories including: (a) conservation and costs; (b) Carrying capacity, intensification and growth; (c) Water quality, quantity and security; (d) Linkages to other plans; and (e) Implications to economy and businesses.

*The * indicates that more than one person identified this to be a pressing issue or concern.*

Conservation and costs

- There are technologies available to greatly increase the efficiency with which water is used. How do these get incorporated into future by-laws or regulations? Or pricing structures?
- Homeowners have been quite good about accepting lawn-watering bans during past drought years. However, it raises questions about whether homeowners have the right to maintain aesthetics of their home or the right to keep plants and trees from dying.

Carrying capacity, intensification and growth

- Sense of carrying capacity of source(s) – education
- As this will determine need for total capacity requirements i.e. - should be planning for only corporate boundary of Guelph (build out to city limits). How can we predict water needs beyond limits (i.e. - will city be annexing more land for growth) or no growth beyond boundaries?
- Must determine “urban build out scenario” (from Halton Master Plan – Regional Municipality of Halton Water and Wastewater Master Plan Review, 2002)
- How much water will we need if we intensify within current boundaries - i.e. if intensify 1090, 2090?
- What is current amount of land available for intensification?

Water quality, quantity and security

- After having attended public meetings involving the EA for increased water-taking from the Arsell Springs, I am sure that residents in that area have major concerns about the effect that future water use by the City will have on their already-existing wells and water supplies
- Focus on source area
- Quality to satisfy growth.
- Quality to satisfy peak demands*
- How can both residential and industrial development continue in Guelph without knowing the amounts of water available in the future?

PRESSING ISSUES/CONCERNS
Linkages to other plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to consolidate WSMP and Wastewater servicing strategy because lack of sewage capacity and assimilative limit of Speed River may determine ultimate amount of water use. What triggers to use? • There are also concerns about the impacts that future water-taking will have on stream flow, increased water treatment requirements and increased sewage treatment requirements • Clarify council's position as per resolution of 2003
Implications to economy and businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can business development continue on into the future without being able to provide some iron-clad assurances that industrial water supplies will be available? • Does not address economic costs or need effect of new infrastructure
Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should add problem statement (such as Halton Master Plan pg E5 3-4 #1-7) and section like Halton Master Plan (pg ES 12, 13) that contains rationale for development of alternatives • 50 yr Master Plan is too long a time frame. • Should look at short term (i.e. 5 yrs) mid term 10 yrs, long term – 20 yrs • Synthesis of new legislation and Not Business as Usual

2. Purpose Statement

Looking at the draft purpose statement (Discussion Paper, pages 10-11), what would you change or add (if anything)?

COMMENTS ON PURPOSE STATEMENT
Wording:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change 25 years to 50 years • Only “alternative” discussed in paragraph 2 page 1 is expansion of water supply – what about maximization of conservation, limit growth or do nothing alternatives? • Page 11 – please remove “the claim that comprehensive water conservation this is a misnomer the inside water conservation strategy addressed

COMMENTS ON PURPOSE STATEMENT
Content:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend add a sentence about future relationships with residents of surrounding municipalities and with competing users of water such as agriculture, bottled water users and water exports • Seems adequate • Conservation should be expressed as a more important role • The City’s commitment to minimize impact to the natural environment and/or improve environmental conditions through this process should be introduced • No consideration in Purpose Statement to natural environment systems. • Requirements for ecological function considerations • Tone of purpose statement suggests that limits to growth is not a desirable option • Not clear re “population growth estimate” • Gap already exists between projected growth and growth targets in the Official Plan • Also what about new Jan/05 Hemson report on Growth in GTA? • Cannot determine population growth w/o considering “urban build out scenario” • Conservation should be an alternative not an “additional consideration” • Page 9 – 3rd Bullet – Include note on water supply for industrial, commercial and institutional sector (IC&I) • Page 5 section. 1.2 - not clear how conservation projects will be defined.

3. Evaluation Criteria and Methodology

Looking at the draft evaluation criteria (Discussion Paper, pages 12-14), what would you change or add (if anything)? Do you have any comments on the proposed methodology (e.g. the suggestion that the evaluation not be based on a numerical ranking system, but rather on a descriptive or qualitative approach; Discussion Paper, page 15)?

COMMENTS ON EVALUATION CRITERIA
General
<i>The * indicates that more than one person identified this to be a pressing issue or concern</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evaluation criteria included more than just water supply. For example, increased utilization of water will also mean increased sewage treatment capability, which also needs to be assessed and included in economic considerations • Adequate* • There should be an additional component to the evaluation criteria that gives additional weight to alternatives within the City of Guelph • Some question whether the criteria will provide a meaningful comparison between alternatives, i.e. #1 #3 #2e #3 etc. • The evaluation of water taking from the Township of Puslinch must include potential loss of

COMMENTS ON EVALUATION CRITERIA

General

*The * indicates that more than one person identified this to be a pressing issue or concern*

agriculture income and tax assessment arising from well field placement in the Township

- Evaluate the affect of wellfield placement on the growth potential of the Township of Puslinch/County of Wellington
- Each alternative/criteria should be looked at according to constraints and opportunities developed during the review of criteria

Natural environmental

Participants indicated that the following should be included in the natural environmental criteria:

- The benchmark for additional water taking should be set at pre-existing pumping levels. In this way the full potential loss of water to a given system can be recognized and evaluated
- The Township of Puslinch requests that evaluation criteria for impacts to the natural environment be provided for each preferred alternative
- Impact of point sources of risk to water supply of a particular detriment
- Add section on “design criteria” (as per Halton Master Plan, 2002, pg ES-6 ES-7) - these are more detailed
- Also add “Environmental features of Study area” (See Halton Master Plan, 2002, pg ES-7)

Comments on EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- Need to use numbers vs. verbal comparison
- Preferred vs. most preferred – too open for interpretation
- I didn't buy the argument for a descriptive or qualitative approach. My experience in administration is that proper use of a numerical scorecard forces the user to attribute weightings to the various factors that are transparent to others and can be challenged but also justified. Then putting numbers to those criteria should result in an easier path to a decision than leaving evaluations in just a descriptive or qualitative format. In the end, this effort should provide a roadmap to a decision. I think descriptive approaches are too wishy-washy and only part of the job has been done.
- Adequate.
- Prefer qualitative approach* because easier to compare alternatives

4. Alternative Solutions

Looking at the “long list” of alternative solutions (Discussion Paper, pages 11-12), do you have any comments? For example, what alternatives do you see as priorities? What alternatives (if any) should not be considered? Why?

COMMENTS ON ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS
Water Conservation/ Demand Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation should be considered a priority. It has low cost and minimal adverse impacts on other issues such as the environment. Also, it makes sense to reduce the demand side as much as possible prior to calculating & building the supply side infrastructure. • Water Conservation/Demand management results are directly affected by the cost of user fees. A graduated fee structure that increases with usage would encourage conservation. The language seems to indicate no further gains can be made about the current programs.
Expand Existing Water Supply System
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining new wells inside the city should be a priority
Establish New Surface Water supply
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New surface water sources require storage and treatment facilities. Great Lakes pipe would be long-term strategies and receive co-ordination with other municipalities
Limit Community Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should stay in, if it means decisions on growth but not zero growth, which is unrealistic.
Do Nothing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be removed. We wouldn't be engaged in this exercise if we thought this was an alternative
General Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish between short term and long term solutions • Community growth and water supply should be directly tied to each other. From 1980 to present only 4 wells were created. The 25 yrs prior to this there were 16 wells created – this is out of proportion with the amount of development. It would take at least 12 new wells to catch up the supply to the rate of development. • The “alternative” is not a solution but what seems to have been the approach of the last 15 years. • See position Green Plan Steering Committee paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Look at alternatives such as gray HW, cisterns, etc. ○ Need to look at cumulative impacts of current and future ground H2O remediation pumping (i.e. > 300 priority sites for cleanup) ○ Must look at Golder Studies ○ Find where contaminated sites are in order to determine new water wells ○ Separate pipeline from new sources alternatives

GENERAL COMMENTS

- I see an opportunity for Guelph to take another leading position in environmental protection, following on from recycling of garbage. Serious considerations should be given to residential treatment of “grey water”. Some of the new developments in surface and sub-surface water treatments are effective and cost-effective. Take a look, for example, at some of the Project Profiles on the Zenon International Website.
- It would make the crystal ball a little clearer if the Environmental Assessment decisions on the Arkell Springs application were finished.
- I see a developing, critical need to understand the aquifer structure better and to know where various components of the aquifer are inter-connected or act separately. For example, what impact does Nestle’s water taking at Aberfoyle have on the Arkell Springs? And why is a bottled water plant in Ontario allowed to export outside of the Great Lakes watershed when the rules so clearly forbid it?
- My information is that the Source Water Protection Committee of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment will soon be releasing their recommendations. This has been a long process with lots of consultations. If the recommendations become enshrined in laws or regulations, they may have a significant impact on water taking from aquifers and certainly from surface waters.
- Need to discuss the outstanding groundwater studies including:
 - Class B on Sterilization of water from Arkel
 - Class B on expansion Arkel
 - Guelph – Puslinch Study (Non Class EA)
 - Municipal Guelph Erosion Study (Non Class EA)
- Alternatives 1,2,3 and 4 are all part of both a short term and a long-term solution for Guelph’s water supply problems.
- But in order to move forward with any of these solutions the issue of costs and user fees must be addressed. Without proper funding any of these solutions can be implemented. It would seem that the current fee structure could only afford Alternative #5.
- There were some questions regarding the committee structure for this EA. Is there a technical committee or steering committee
- A schedule of meetings would be appreciated.
- Mill Creek Watershed - The technical Experts Committee report to the Minister of the Environment (Watershed Based Source Water Protection Planning, November 2004) recommended that water budgets include both groundwater and surface water dynamics since withdrawals from one invariably affect the other. In the evaluation of potential alternatives in the Township of Puslinch, the full effect of groundwater withdrawals on the natural environment must be addressed. The Township of Puslinch considers Mill Creek to be of vital importance to the health and well being of its residents. Therefore, neither the alteration in the position of the water table nor changes in potentiometric surfaces of lower aquifers resulting in, or potentially resulting in, a decrease of baseflow in Mill Creek will be tolerated.
- Three meetings of PAC is not enough
- Question why the need for 6-month timeframe – isn’t that too short? Why the rush if we have 15 years supply?
- How does this link to the Development Priorities Plan for 2005 and beyond? (i.e. 1500 homes for 2005 – will this rate continue?)