Re: Bylaw Backyard Chickens

The Sudbury Source Protection Plan (SPP) was developed by a multi-stakeholder Source Protection Committee (SPC) made up of nine members and a Chair, representing municipal, industry, and public interests. The Plan was implemented in 2015 and contains 45 policies to address significant drinking water threats prescribed by the Clean Water Act, 2006. Multiple policy tools are used to address these threats including but not limited to Prohibition, Risk Management Plans, and Education and Outreach.

The Sudbury SPC reviewed discussions occurring at the City of Greater Sudbury (CGS) regarding the proposed By-law amendment to allow chickens on residential properties. Furthermore, an assessment was undertaken in consultation with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). It was determined that chickens on residential properties are captured in policy Ag1EF-EO which reads in part:

The City of Greater Sudbury shall create and deliver an education and outreach program to all of the vulnerable areas where the following threats could be significant:

- Application to land and storage of agricultural source material;

The education and outreach program may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Descriptions of the threat activities and why they pose a risk to drinking water;
- Source Protection Plan content related to the above threats to inform residents of the new restrictions in effect and the location of the vulnerable areas

Therefore, the following are conditions recommended by the SPC to be included in the By-law, should it be approved by Council, to protect municipal drinking water sources:

- Backyard chickens coops must be registered in order to track locations and number of chickens in vulnerable areas.
- The chicken coop must have a roof in order to reduce the likelihood that chicken waste could discharge into the immediate environment and travel to surface or groundwater sources.
- The coop should have an impermeable floor or catchment tray to reduce the likelihood that chicken waste could discharge into the immediate environment and travel to surface or groundwater sources.
• Waste produced from the coop should be removed from the structure and surrounding area on a regular basis and be stored in a waterproof, leak proof container. The container should be emptied regularly and the waste must be disposed of in accordance with Municipal By-laws.
• Coops should be located 1.0 m away from any lot line and not within 3.0 m of any drainage ditch, swale or other channel that could transport waste from the coop to surface or groundwater sources.
• A functioning and approved backflow prevention device should be installed on water connections used to hose down the chicken coops in order protect the drinking water system from contamination.

The Sudbury Source Protection Committee will monitor the activity and evaluate if additional measures should be implemented in the Source Protection Plan at a later date.

Sincerely,

Richard Bois
Chair, Sudbury Source Protection Committee

CC: Lin Gibson, Chairperson, Sudbury Source Protection Authority Sudbury
    Source Protection Committee
    Carl Jorgensen, General Manager, Conservation Sudbury
    Madison Keegans, Source Protection Program Manager, Conservation Sudbury