

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – MEETING # 97

MEETING: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: March 28, 2025

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION & VIRTUALLY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

In Attendance: Chair, Carl Kuhnke
John Fruin, Dick Hibma, Dan Orr, John Rodgers, Gord Timmerman, Les
Nichols, Paul McQueen, Troy Pelletier, Harley Greenfield,

Virtual Attendance: Andrew Barton

Proxy Appointed By: NA

Others Present: Carl Seider, Project Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP)
Valerie Coleman, Recording Secretary, GSCA

Also in Attendance: Karen Gillan, Program Supervisor & Risk Management Inspector, DWSP
Tim Lanthier, CAO, Grey Sauble Conservation, Erik Downing, CAO,
Saugeen Valley Conservation, Peggy VanMerlo-West, CAO, Municipality
of Northern Bruce Peninsula, Danielle Fisher, Centre Wellington County

Regrets: Laura Collings (Ex-Officio, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and
Parks (MECP), Jim Hanna, Amy Harrison

The Chair introduced and welcomed Members and attendees.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.
SPC-25-274

Moved by Dick Hibma
Seconded by John Rogers

THAT the Agenda be adopted as distributed/amended.

Carried

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary or Conflict of Interest

Source Protection Committee (SPC) members were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting. No disclosures of pecuniary interest were expressed at this time.

3. Adoption of Minutes

**Motion No.
SPC-25-275**

**Moved by John Rodgers
Seconded by Gord Timmerman**

THAT the Minutes of the November 15, 2024, Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted as distributed/amended.

Carried

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nothing raised

5. Correspondence

Nothing at this time.

6. Reports

Administration Report 6a

Mr. Seider gave an update on the status of several wells in the region. With regard to the Arran Elderslie well, staff reviewed the hydrogeological report developed by Burnside & Associates, which included pumping test results for the proposed new Well #4 in Chesley. It was noted in this report that the status of the current groundwater model will need to be discussed with staff prior to updating the original model. The pump test results demonstrated that the new Well #4 draws water from the same deep overburden aquifer as the existing Well #3, which is located 56 metres to the West. It was also noted that the water quality results indicate that the aquifer is a secure groundwater source and is not GUDI. More details included in Report #7b. At the end of February, the new test well was expanded to 10 inches (production well diameter) and drilled into bedrock, with plans to do a second pump test in early March 2025.

The Town of the Blue Mountains is currently engaged in a Municipal Class EA for the construction of a new drinking water intake pipe leading into Georgian Bay for a new Water Treatment Plant in Craigeith. There are currently a few possible intake locations under consideration near Craigeith Provincial Park. Work has been completed on possible delineation of vulnerable areas/IPZ mapping and preliminary assessment of threats (see Report #7c).

The Municipality of South Bruce was unable to find/secure an alternative well site for the proposed new well in Teeswater, so are looking at the existing municipal well site as a possible location for

the new well (approximately 50 metres East of the existing well). Consultants are currently finalizing the Class EA documents, with options for consideration.

There were no updates for Kincardine or West Grey.

Mr. Seider noted that the Sec.34 Amendment Update The Sec.34 amendment package is currently working through the MECP approval process. There was a delay with some of the mapping data that was provided, which needed to be updated prior to the package proceeding through approvals. This data was sent on February 20th.

Mr. Seider spoke to the Walkerton 25th Commemoration activities. On February 17th, staff interviewed Chair Carl Kuhnke in support of the source water protection video that is being developed for the 25th anniversary of the Walkerton contamination event. Staff also had the privilege to interview Justice Dennis O'Connor on February 12th. Both interviews were very well received by the organizing team, led by Conservation Ontario.

There was discussion with regard to what organized activities may or may not be happening in the region to mark the 25th anniversary.

Staff were recently contacted by the Risk Management Official (RMO) for the Municipality of Southgate to inquire if Grey Sauble Conservation Authority would be interested in taking on Risk Management responsibilities on their behalf. Staff presented a draft service agreement and options for Municipal Council's consideration on February 19th, 2025, whereby the Municipality endorsed the recommendations and designated Grey Sauble staff to conduct these services.

Members praised staff for their efforts to expand into new municipalities.

Staff also met with municipal planning staff on March 3rd, to review restricted land-use screening protocols and procedures as a result of these changes.

Motion No.

Moved by John Fruin

SPC-25-276

Seconded by Paul McQueen

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Administrative Report 6a for information.

Carried

Communications Report 6b

Staff participated in the Farmer's Week 2025 Crops Day on January 13th. The total attendance for the multi-day event was 1050, 217 on Crops Day with about 150 people streaming the content virtually for the event. It was noted that there were lots of questions regarding septic systems and wells.

Ms. Gillian gave an update on staff activities on their 25 Year Commemoration of the Walkerton Water Tragedy. Interviews with Chair Kuhnke and Justice O'Connor will be part of the larger series and commemoration campaign in Ontario. This includes interviews from others who have had various roles in conservation, water protection and the water industry. The project committee have been working with a student at Loyalist College to produce video clips and a longer video to be used by each stakeholder for their distribution locally. The objective is to demonstrate the achievements of the DWSP program over the past 25 years, the lessons learned, and continued improvements for the program going forward. While there will not be a formal event, it was noted that the videos will be used across Ontario and shared at the Conservation Ontario Annual General Meeting.

Ms. Gillan attended the Politician's Meeting on March 22nd in Elmwood, hosted by the Grey and Bruce Federations of Agriculture. The event includes local municipal and members of parliament as well as stakeholders from the two counties.

It was noted that DWSP was highlighted in an article of Better Farming via an interview with past member David Biesenthal.

The Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival is being held on May 21, 22 & 23. If Members have time to volunteer at this event it would be greatly appreciated.

Staff completed a nine-week campaign to raise awareness of road salt issues including the promotion of salt reduction and better road salt management. The Campaign began on Wednesday January 22nd and ended on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-277**

**Moved by John Rodgers
Seconded by Paul McQueen**

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Communications Report 6b for information.

Carried

8. New Business

Annual Progress Report - Report 7a

The Project Manager reviewed Report 7a and noted that the report is a requirement and must be submitted to the MECP by May 1, 2025.

The report highlights the progress of Source Protection Plan implementation, results of municipal monitoring programs, risk management activities, Ministry reporting of prescribed instruments, and reporting requirements for Conservation Authorities under the local Source Protection Plan.

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) is required to conduct a formal review of the annual progress report and provide written comments regarding the extent to which the objectives set out in the Source Protection Plan are being achieved.

Mr. Seider summarized the information included in the draft Annual Progress Report for feedback. Members discussed some wording changes for staff to incorporate.

A Member asked with regard to mandatory septic inspections in source water areas. Mr. Seider responded that the source water protection implements mandatory inspections in sensitive areas. In other cases, it falls to the municipalities to implement a mandatory inspection protocol. There was general discussion around other municipalities that have put mandatory inspections in place. Staff will incorporate Member's comments and suggestions, finalize the report, and submit to the MECP.

Mr. Seider gave a brief update on nitrate levels and the Kimberly Karst study. It was noted that the province has become interested in the results of the study.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-278**

**Moved by John Fruin
Seconded by Les Nichols**

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives a copy of the draft Source Protection Annual Progress Report 2024 and directs Staff to provide the Report, along with any comments, to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks by May 1, 2025

Carried

Chesley Well # 4 Update - Report 7b

The Project Manager reviewed Report 7b and spoke to the hydrogeological report received from R.J. Burnside with updated pump test results for the proposed new Well #4 in Chesley. The report identified that the original groundwater model used to develop the Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) for Wells #1, 2, and 3 would be used as the basis for the new Well #4.

Based on the pump test results, it was noted that water quality results indicate that the contact aquifer is a secure source of groundwater, and not a GUDI water source. It was also determined that the groundwater source is essentially the same as Well #3, as Well #4 is located at a similar depth and only 56 metres East of Well #3.

The pump test identified that two nearby private water supply wells may be adversely affected by the operation of the new well and recommended that these pumps be lowered to eliminate any potential adverse impacts.

Overall, these positive test results led the municipality to expand the test well with a 10-inch casing and finalized the drill hole into the bedrock formation, to a depth of 42.7 metres.

Staff discussed plans to update the groundwater model to include the new Well #4 with the consultants on February 26th, 2025. The original model was last updated in 2010 by Genivar as part of the 'Round 2 Groundwater Technical Study' for Tara and Chesley wells. The modelled pumping rate that was used was 2,228 m³/day, which was approximately 80% higher than the average combined pumping rate of 1,230 m³/day (recorded between 2006-2008). Also, once Well

#4 becomes operational, the municipality plans to decommission Well #1, which accounts for roughly 20% of the modelled rate.

This modelled rate was compared to the current average pumping rates, which have only increased slightly over the past 20 years. As the original rate was quite conservative, it was felt that the original modelled rate is still valid. Given the location of the new Well #4, it is anticipated that the updated WHPA delineations will look very similar to the current delineation, with a slight extension to the WHPA-A around Well #4 at the South end of the area.

A Member asked what would need to be seen to make a change to the WHPA. Mr. Seider responded that it would depend on several factors, including pump rate and geography.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-279**

**Moved by Harley Greenfield
Seconded by Paul McQueen**

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives Report #7b for information, with plans to bring update technical information at the next SPC meeting for consideration.

Carried

Craigleith Intake Update – Report 7c

The Project Manager spoke to the ‘Preliminary Intake Protection Zone Mapping’ report received from J.L. Richards & Associates and Dillon Consulting Ltd. for the proposed new Craigleith Water Intake in the Town of the Blue Mountains.

The focus of the source protection study was to develop preliminary maps of the vulnerability areas (i.e., Intake Protection Zones or IPZs) associated with the intake location options, and to undertake a high-level threat assessment of the zones associated with each option. All four intake options are approximately 1,000 m from the shore, with intake depths ranging from 8 m at Intake Option 1 to 2.5 m at Intake Option 4.

A Member asked with regard to fluctuations of Lake levels and when in the cycle the study was conducted. Mr. Seider responded that the system is about half way through with a period of high lake levels in 2020.

As required by the Technical Rules, mapping of IPZs require the identification of three zones, IPZ-1, IPZ-2 and IPZ-3. Part VI and Part VIII of the Technical Rules were used by the consultants to map these zones. Furthermore, a vulnerability score was assigned for each intake option in accordance with Part VIII.1, Rule (87) of the Technical Rules. The resulting score is the product of the area vulnerability factor and the source vulnerability factor.

Based on the calculated vulnerability scores for each intake option: Intake Option 1, 2, 3 (receiving score of 5 for IPZ-1 and 4 for IPZ-2); Intake Option 4 (receiving score of 6 for IPZ-1 and 4.8 for IPZ-2), there are no prescribed drinking water threats that could potentially be triggered as “significant threats” for any of the intake options. For Option 4, there is the potential for some

current or future threats to be identified as “moderate threats” within IPZ-1, depending on threat and circumstances.

It is noted that Highway 26 passes through this IPZ, and therefore there is a potential risk of spills from road accidents that may result in chemicals or fuels to be discharged into the lake via ditches or stormwater infrastructure.

Based on the preliminary review of the available data, land use activities within the vulnerable areas would likely be classified as posing either a low or negligible risk, however, confirmation of this assumption would require completion of a more detailed threats assessment.

Overall, the vulnerability of Intake Options 1, 2 and 3 to raw water quality impacts is considered low. Option 4 is deemed to have a slightly higher potential vulnerability to impacts, largely because of the shallower intake, and the greater area of development within its intake protection zones. The shallower intake depth may also make this option more vulnerable to marine based fuel or chemical spills. In addition, shallower intakes may be more susceptible to turbidity and sediment issues.

At this point, the intake protection zone mapping conducted in this study was preliminary. Once the preferred intake option is selected, intake protection zones should be updated based on more detailed in-water models that incorporate the 3-D flow dynamics of the portion of Georgian Bay near the intake

**Motion No.
SPC-25-280**

**Moved by Les Nichols
Seconded by John Fruin**

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives Report #7c for information, with plans to bring update technical information at the next SPC meeting for consideration.

Carried

8. Other Business

Mr. Seider asked with regard to the proposed development in the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie for battery storage. While the area is outside of the source protection area, Mr. Seider asked if the committee would like to have updates on the development. It was noted that there may be more of these types of storage facilities being built in the region moving forward.

There was general discussion around what information the committee would like to be made aware of. Members agreed that they would like to receive additional information as it becomes available.

9. Confirmation of Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Committee meeting will be held on July 25, 2025, the location to be determined.

There being no further business, Chair Carl Kuhnke declared the meeting adjourned at 2:48 pm.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-281**

**Moved by Gord Timmerman
Seconded by Paul McQueen**

**THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee
adjourns.**

Carried



Carl Kuhnke
Chair

Valerie Coleman
Recording Secretary