

## **SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES – MEETING # 98**

**MEETING:** SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

**DATE:** July 25, 2025

**TIME:** 1:00 P.M.

**LOCATION:** SAUGEEN CONSERVATION & VIRTUALLY

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

**In Attendance:** Chair, Carl Kuhnke  
Gord Timmerman, John Fruin, Dick Hibma, John Rodgers, Paul McQueen,  
Harley Greenfield, Amy Harrison

**Virtual Attendance:** Andrew Barton, Dan Orr, Jim Hanna, Laura Collings (Ex-Officio, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), Dr. Hugh Simpson – University of Guelph

**Proxy Appointed By:** NA

**Others Present:** Carl Seider, Project Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP)

**Also in Attendance:** Karen Gillan, Program Supervisor & Risk Management Inspector, DWSP, Erik Downing, CAO, Saugeen Valley Conservation, Danielle Fisher, Centre Wellington County, Chris Cossitt – Bruce Federation of Agriculture

**Regrets:** Troy Pelletier, Les Nichols, Tim Lanthier, CAO, Grey Sauble Conservation

The Chair introduced and welcomed Members and attendees.

#### **1. Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion No.**  
**SPC-25-282**

**Moved by John Fruin**  
**Seconded by Amy Harrison**

**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-25-283**

**Moved by John Rodgers  
Seconded by Harley Greenfield**

**THAT the Minutes of the March 28, 2025, Source Protection Committee meeting be adopted as distributed/amended.**

**Carried**

## **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Nothing raised

## **5. Correspondence**

Chair Kuhnke shared that the Conservation Authorities will now fall under the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Kirsten Service is Director, previously were under the Ministry of Natural Resources.

## **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. He emphasized with municipalities that we try not to be a roadblock to bringing systems online, keeping this office informed can keep the process moving forward.

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 Craigeleith. There are currently four possible intake locations under consideration near Craigeleith Provincial Park. Work has been completed on possible delineation of vulnerable areas/IPZ mapping and preliminary assessment of threats.

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.

If municipal representatives hear of new systems being considered to please let Mr. Seider know.

Mr. Seider noted that the Sec.34 Amendment Update has been approved. Staff will work with all affected parties to ensure timely implementation of the policy amendments. Work with Brockton has included suggested wording for by-laws to support their process. Member Hanna shared the process his municipality (Huron-Kinloss) undertook in their septic inspection policy. If you don't look, you don't know was a key learning/message as good treatment by private systems can avoid costly sewer installations in lakeshore communities and protects the water source. He encourages promotion of septic inspections especially in cottage areas where once seasonal living has become permanent home residences with increased water use and waste generation.

Mr. Seider spoke to the Auditor General – Safety of Non-Municipal Drinking Water System report. MECP has not fully assessed the feasibility of applying source water protection to non-municipal sources. There was a lively discussion amongst the members about the need to inspect drinking water systems as the failure to do so can lead to loss of life. A letter to the Minister acknowledging the report and planned feasibility study indicating the SPC's willingness to provide help and that regular updates be requested was put forth for consideration. Guest Chris Cossitt shared how many agricultural commodities require annual well water testing as part of Animal Care Components in order to sell their products to the end user. It is a trade and marketing component that also ensures that animals are using safe quality water supply. Member Barton added that the Minister of Health accepts the recommendations in the Auditor General's report and that the Health Units have sent a letter to partner in resources as they also need financial resources to meet the needs of their inspection role.

A motion was put forth based on the discussions by committee.

**Motion No.  
SPC-25-284**

**Moved by Dick Hibma  
Seconded by Jim Hanna**

**That the Source Protection Committee will write a letter to MECP Director Kirsten Service about the Auditor General well sampling, drafted by Carl Seider for review by the committee and sent to the Ministry.**

**Carried**

It was later noted that the following be added to the letter, need to decommission unused wells and get funding, stewardship funds help protect aquifers and have been successfully distributed by Conservation Authorities and the Drinking Water Source Protection program in the past.

Mr. Seider spoke to the Canadian Environment Protection Act Update, in accordance with Act, the Ministers are recommending that the Governor in Council make an order to add the class of

PFAS, excluding fluoropolymers, to Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the Act (list of toxic substances). PFAS have been an issue with fire suppression products historically.

Mr. Seider spoke to the Temporary Salt Storage at the Owen Sound Harbour, he conducted a site visit in a Risk Management capacity to determine if there were any potential drinking water threats based on this activity. Salt storage activities are currently not considered a significant drinking water threat in this location (IPZ-2 score 4).

**Motion No.**

**Moved by Gord Timmerman**

**SPC-25-285**

**Seconded by John Fruin**

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

**Carried**

#### Communications Report 6b

Ms. Gillan 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 social media campaign will run from July 7 to August 20, 2025. The Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival was held on May 21, 22 & 23. Ms. Gillan shared some of the water drops decorated by local students. It was a great event and SPC Members are encouraged to volunteer at future events, it would be greatly appreciated. The full-length video was shown following the report.

**Motion No.**

**Moved by Amy Harrison**

**SPC-25-286**

**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**

##### Shallow Lake Karst Study - Report 7a

The Project Manager reviewed Report 7a and noted that back in 2009, Dr. Worthington's Review of the Kimberley and Shallow Lake Wellhead Protection Areas identified several limitations to the WHPA modelling because of the influence of karst around these drinking water systems.

Staff are currently reviewing of the data collected from the municipal Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and rainfall/snowmelt data over the past 5 years. Staff have updated the request for hourly turbidity data from the WTP operator for a number of selected dates over this period of time in an effort to determine possible times of travel for groundwater flows in the area surrounding Shallow Lake.

Next steps include the issuance of a Request for Proposals for a consulting contract to assist in reviewing the data collected and preparation of possible groundwater modelling work as part of the Kimberley and Shallow Lake Wellhead Protection Area review. General review of the Kimberley system was also discussed.

**Motion No.  
SPC-25-287**

**Moved by John Fruin  
Seconded by Amy Harrison**

**THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Shallow Lake Report 7a for information and directs Staff to issue a Request for Proposals for consulting services for possible groundwater modelling work.**

**Carried**

#### Battery Energy Storage Systems - Report 7b

The Project Manager reviewed Report 7b and spoke to the Tara Battery Energy Storage System (Tara BESS) is a 400-megawatt (MW), 1,600-megawatt hours (MWh) utility-scale battery energy storage project proposed in the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie. The municipality denied the BESS project on July 15, 2025. The committee discussed the process, concerns, and dangers associated with these facilities and lithium ion batteries. The need for checks and balances and local scrutiny was emphasized.

He also spoke about a similar 125MW BESS project that was considered by the Upper Thames Region SPA within a WHPA-D area with some considerations.

**Motion No.  
SPC-25-288**

**Moved by Amy Harrison  
Seconded by Harley Greenfield**

**THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives Report #7b for information.**

**Carried**

## **8. Other Business**

Member Rodgers spoke about a project that the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association has received a \$50,000 grant from the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership to develop best management practices for drinking water projects in karst areas. Partners on this project include Mel Luymes and Dr. Hugh Simpson.

Member Greenfield brought up a development in Crawford area for discussion.

Staff member Karen Gillan shared Minister Excellence in Agriculture Awards information and the new online system for private well water testing.

Chair Kuhnke shared that he has sold his home and will be moving from the area in November and as per regulations cannot Chair from outside the source protection region, he will plan to attend the next meeting.

### **9. Confirmation of Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next Committee meeting will be held on November 28, 2025, the location to be determined, probably Owen Sound area.

There being no further business, Chair Carl Kuhnke declared the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

**Motion No.  
SPC-25-289**

**Moved by Gord Timmerman**

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

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Carl Kuhnke  
Chair

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Karen Gillan  
Recording Secretary (Acting)