

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – MEETING # 99

MEETING: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: November 28, 2025

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: VIRTUALLY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Attendance: Chair, Carl Kuhnke
John Fruin, Dick Hibma, Dan Orr, John Rogers, Gord Timmerman, Les Nichols, Paul McQueen, Troy Pelletier, Harley Greenfield, Amy Harrison, 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
Erik Downing, CAO, Saugeen Valley Conservation, Danielle Fisher, Centre Wellington County, Laura Collings (Ex-Officio, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP))

Regrets: Jim Hanna, Gord Timmerman

The Chair introduced and welcomed Members and attendees.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.
SPC-25-290

Moved by Harley Greenfield
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-25-291**

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

THAT the Minutes of the July 25, 2025, 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 several municipal wells. Staff spoke with the consultants working on the new Chesley Well project and discussed the need for a technical analysis of the new well location and adjustments required for the existing Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) delineation. It is anticipated that the new well will be incorporated into the existing WHPA delineation, with modifications to account for the increased draw and new/amended WHPA zones.

The Municipality of Kincardine has been instructed to further evaluate the option to connect to the water main from Kincardine. They are still in the comment period for the Class EA for the Tiverton drinking water system.

The proposed location of the new Teeswater well #2 is about 20-30 metres to the East of the existing Well #1. Based on this proposed location it is anticipated that a minor adjustment to the WHPA delineation will be required to account for the new well.

The Town of the Blue Mountains continues to evaluate the potential intake locations for the proposed Craigeith water treatment facility. Technical studies are ongoing, along with communication and consultation with the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of the

Environment, Conservation and Parks (as the proposed intake location falls within Ontario Parks property).

On August 11, 2025, staff received an updated on the Class EA for the new well supply in Durham. The update noted that in October and November 2024, drilling and construction took place to construct a new well at Rockwood Terrace's site in Durham. A 300 mm dia. (Well #1C) was completed in bedrock at 71 m depth which is similar to other municipal wells. Downhole testing indicated virtually all flow to the well occurred below a depth of 45 m. More than 80% inflow came from three (3) major fractures at depths of 59 m, 63 m and 68 m. 72-hour pumping test was completed in December 2024, and water level was measured in neighbouring wells. No complaints of interference with private wells were received. Monitoring showed strong hydraulic connection between Well # 1C and existing municipal Well # 2 & 2A and subdued connection with Well # 1B. Testing indicated Well 1C will sustainably yield water supply at the test rate of 2160 m³/day. Staff met with municipal staff and the consultants doing WHPA delineation work on September 22nd, 2025, to share modelling and available data for Durham. During this meeting staff also discussed any vulnerability and threats assessment work that has been undertaken in the area of the proposed new well, which can support the Source Protection Plan amendments for this new well.

Mr. Seider spoke to the new regulation under the EPA to require proponents to self-register specific storm water management works instead of applying for an environmental compliance approval for private stormwater management projects. It was noted that construction of these works can now begin immediately after registration instead of waiting for ministry approval.

The new regulation requires:

- a licensed engineering practitioner (LEP) prepare a storm water management works report that must be filed with the registration.
- that the storm water management works report prepared by the LEP include information and requirements for the design of the works, operation and maintenance of the works, monitoring requirements, where recommended, and erosion and sediment control measures.
- proponents of these works to implement requirements set out in the storm water management works report and, in some cases, prepare and implement a spill contingency plan.

The regulation requires the LEP to determine whether the establishment of the storm water management works is or would be a significant drinking water threat, and if so, demonstrate how 4 SPC Mtg #99 – November 28, 2025 – Administration Report #6a the considerations included in the report are intended to achieve the objective of ensuring that the activity ceases to be or never becomes a significant drinking water threat. The regulation came into effect on September 1, 2025.

It was stressed that this change does not affect local Source Protection Plan policy (Policy 02-12 Stormwater Management Review), which asks municipalities to give due consideration to evaluating existing stormwater management facilities in vulnerable areas to ensure proper functioning with respect to water quality.

Mr. Seider informed the committee of an MECP funding opportunity under the Best Practices for Source Water Protection program.

The objective of the BPSWP program is to assist Ontario communities, such as rural and northern communities and First Nations, to identify their sources of drinking water and associated risks, as well as to develop local source water protection action plans for managing and protecting their drinking water sources. Developing source water protection action plans is an important step in ensuring Ontario's communities can enjoy safe and clean drinking water. The program will help protect drinking water sources and systems that are not included in a source protection plan and are not regulated under the Clean Water Act. Ontario provides guidance on best practices for source water protection, including information on how to identify areas where drinking water sources could be at risk and how to manage risks to drinking water sources. Funding is available for projects starting before March 31, 2026, with all activities to be completed by February 2027. The maximum amount of funding available for a project is \$100,000 with a maximum of three project applications per applicant organization.

Concern raised regarding the tight timelines and deadlines.

The province is proposing changes to the Clean Water Act so that source protection authorities can approve routine updates to source protection plans. This includes the addition of a new well where protections to source water already exist. The proposed amendment includes regulatory updates to enable the use of new drinking water sources faster to support growing communities including; simplifying consultation; expanding what counts as a minor change to a source protection plan; removing duplicate steps; and clarifying how approvals work. Other updates include changes under the Safe Drinking Water Act to allow new wells or intakes to supply water before plan updates are finalized, where protections are already in place, and creating a new Minister's regulation to make rules for policies, annual reporting, and reviews more consistent and transparent. It is anticipated that the changes will reduce administrative burden, maintain strong environmental and public health protections and ensure timely, effective safeguards for municipal drinking water 5 SPC Mtg #99 – November 28, 2025 – Administration Report #6a sources, with continued public and Indigenous consultation and ministry oversight for significant amendments.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) have posted proposal notices to adapt the regulatory frameworks for septic systems servicing on-farm housing. This proposed initiative would help support the province's agricultural sector and food-supply chain by allowing these systems to be established faster, while continuing to safeguard human health and maintain environmental protections. Currently, septic systems with a design capacity exceeding 10,000 litres per day per

property require an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) under the Ontario Water Resources Act, while smaller septic systems are governed by Ontario's Building Code. Two alternative regulatory pathways for small to medium-sized systems are as follows:

1. The first proposal is to transfer the regulation and enforcement of certain additional small-sized septic systems servicing on-farm worker housing from the Ontario Water Resources Act to the Ontario Building Code. Specifically, siting multiple Building Code regulated septic systems on a single agricultural property, up to a cumulative limit of 50,000 litres per day would no longer require an ECA. Instead, proponents of these systems would be regulated under and be required to meet additional enhanced protective requirements proposed under the Building Code.
2. The second proposal is to allow proponents of certain septic systems servicing on-farm worker housing to self-register on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR), instead of obtaining an ECA. This pathway is intended for septic systems with individual design capacities that range from 10,000 L/day to 25,000 litres per day or those that do not meet the requirements for regulation under the Building Code. The cumulative design capacity of systems on an agricultural property would be restricted to 50,000 litres per day when registering on the EASR. Qualified professionals such as a licensed engineering practitioner or professional geoscientist would be required to complete a site assessment and design the sewage works and prepare technical reports. These reports would include design details, effluent criteria and monitoring requirements, a water resource impact assessment, and operations and maintenance requirements

A Member asked with regard to the expansion of ADUs connected to this amendment. Mr. Seider responded that it was his understanding that it was more for on-site farm worker housing.

A Member asked with regard to sewage inspections. Ms. Seider responded that if the septic is in the source water protection zone there are mandatory inspections every 5 years.

Motion No.
SPC-25-292

Moved by John Fruin
Seconded by Amy Harrison

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

Carried

Communications Report 6b

Program Supervisor and Risk Management Inspector, Karen Gillan provided an update on activities and happenings within the source protection area.

On September 22, 2025, staff attended a Pasture Meeting hosted by the Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association. It was a well-attended evening with good interactions. During social time before meeting, staff fielded questions about wells, water testing, karst and how groundwater flows, which could be visually described using some Groundwater Models brought by Dr. Hugh Simpson.

Dr. Hugh Simpson and Mel Luymes highlighted the Private Drinking Water & Karst BMP Project that we are partnering in to learn and develop best management practices for agriculture and protecting private wells in karst areas. The BMPs from this program link well with the non-municipal drinking water system Best Management Practices that have been distributed by the Ministry. Together we hope to create some useful collateral materials and provide education/outreach to increase awareness of karst, impacts on groundwater systems in karst areas, farming/land stewardship in these areas and protecting your private drinking water are key topics. The Grey Bruce Health Unit is also partnering on this project and will bring valuable expertise, and a network of resources.

Keith Reid from Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) also shared information about available stewardship funding from GSCA and the ALUS program.

SPC Member, John Rodgers speaking to the group about current projects in the Lion's Head area.

Ms. Gillan gave an overview of articles that have been in the news recently.

It was noted that the 25 Years of Source Water Protection in Ontario social media campaign concluded on August 20th, 2025. There was more engagement from the public on the social media channels for this campaign than some of the previous.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-293**

**Moved by Dick Hibma
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

Kimberley/Shallow Lake Karst Study Update - Report 7a

The RFP, closed in August, received three bids. BluMetric was selected at the Source Protection Region Management Committee meeting in September.

A kick off meeting was held with the consultants on September 24th to provide an overview of the project and discuss data needs vs. gaps. Staff provided copies of previous groundwater/karst studies conducted in the area; namely

- Wodehouse Creek Study, Cowell 1975
- SPC Meeting Reports - Kimberly & Shallow Lake Reports
- Assessment of Groundwater Velocities - Walkerton Wells - Worthington 2002 (estimates for hydraulic conductivity for karst)
- Updated Karst Evaluation Report - South Wodehouse Creek Subdivision, 2009
- Supplementary Hydrogeological Evaluation, 2009
- Shallow Lake Karst Investigation Parts 1 & 2, 2006 & 2007 S

Staff provided recent data collected for stream flows and rainfall/snowmelt events (courtesy of GSCA water monitoring unit) in comparison to turbidity data at the water treatment plant for use in determining time-of-travel (ToT) estimates for the WHPA-E area. Additionally, staff discussed recent (August 2025) spikes in E.Coli and Total Coliforms that were observed in raw water samples taken in the springs feeding the Kimberley-Amik-Talisman (KAT) water treatment plant. It was noted that there had been recent applications of biosolids in the area, but the fact that pathogen levels in this product were extremely low, means that there must be other potential source affecting groundwater quality in the area.

The consultants provided information from the AgMaps website for the Kimberley system and noted some important observations. Systematic tile drains have recently (2022 and 2023) been installed within the WHPA for KAT system.

- The soil drainage information, based on hydrologic soil groups, indicates that the area generally has slow to moderate drainage, with one central zone noted as having high drainage potential.
- With the switch to cash crops, tile drainage would likely have been implemented to be able to plant earlier in the season and avoid compaction issues.

Possible policy options were also discussed, based on conversations with MECF technical staff, whereby the option to subdivide the WHPA-E into multiple zones (e.g. 2 and 4 hour ToT) with different policy considerations for the respective zones. This may be useful depending on the extent of the WHPA-E and possible groundwater impacts for activities in these zones.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-294**

**Moved by Amy Harrison
Seconded by Paul McQueen**

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Kimberley/Shallow Lake Karst Study Update Report 7a for information.

Carried

SPC Acting Chair Appointment - Report 7b

Chair Kuhnke noted that as he has moved out of the region, it is necessary to elect a temporary Chair until the Minister, MECP appoints a new chair.

Karen Gillan had been selected to act as scrutineer. Mr. Seider reviewed the process.

Chair Kuhnke called for nominations

- Paul McQueen nominated John Rogers.
 - John Rogers accepted the nomination.
- John Rogers nominated Amy Harrison.
 - Amy Harrison declined the nomination.
- Gord Timmerman nominated Dick Hibma by proxy.
 - Dick Hibma accepted the nomination.

Chair Kuhnke closed the nominations.

Nominee Dick Hibma expressed his keen interest in the source water mandate.

John Rogers expressed his interest in serving as interim chair.

Mr. Seider directed members to send their vote via text to Karen Gillan.

Dick Hibma received the greatest number of votes. Chair Kuhnke declared Dick Hibma as Interim Chair via vote. Dick thanked the members for their show of support and thanked Carl Kunke for his service as Chair of the Source Protection Committee.

Carl Kuhnke thanked the SPC members for their work and support.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-295**

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

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee appoints Acting Chair Dick Hibma until such time as the Minister appoints a replacement Chair.

Carried

8. Other Business

Mr. Seider spoke with regard to the current changes to the CAA and how they impact the Source Protection committees. Feedback has been that amalgamating all DSWP would be unmanageable. Ministry communications have been that they do not intend to merge DSWP along with the CAs.

9. Confirmation of Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Committee meeting will be held on March 27, 2026, to be held at the Harmony Centre.

Chair Carl Kuhnke adjourned the meeting at 2:42 pm.

Approved by Acting Chair Dick Hibma



Carl Kuhnke
Chair

Valerie Coleman
Recording Secretary