

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

MINUTES – MEETING # 100

MEETING: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: March 27, 2026

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION: HARMONY CENTER & VIRTUALLY

CALL TO ORDER

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

Attendance: Chair, Dick Hibma
John Fruin, Dan Orr, John Rogers, Gord Timmerman, Paul McQueen,
Harley Greenfield, Amy Harrison, Andrew Barton

Proxy Appointed By: Jim Hanna

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 Authority, Erik Downing,
CAO, Saugeen Valley Conservation, Scott Greig

Regrets: Jim Hanna, Troy Pelletier, Les Nichols

The Chair introduced and welcomed Members and attendees.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Motion No.
SPC-26-296

Moved by Amy Harrison
Seconded by John Fruin

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-26-297**

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

THAT the Minutes of the November 28, 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 provided an update on well projects in the region and the consolidation of Conservation Authorities across the province.

Well updates:

- 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.
- 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 Craigeleith 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). Staff recently received a water quality study completed by Hutchinson Environment, which shows the area to be a good candidate of the new intake.

- Staff noted that there would be more detail in Report 7a on the Durham well.
- In Wellington North a broader review of wellhead protection areas is underway. The review is being funded by the County of Wellington

CA Act Amendments:

Staff gave an update on the province's consolidation of Conservation Authorities. It was noted that the consolidation had been put into legislation on March 27, 2026. The provincial proposal groups the Ausable Bayfield, Maitland Valley, Saugeen Valley, Grey Sauble, Nottawasaga Valley, and Lake Simcoe Region conservation authorities into a single Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority. This regional CA would encompass the jurisdictions of the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, NBP Region Source Protection Area (SPA), Ausable Bayfield, Maitland Valley Region SPA, and South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe SPA.

Staff noted that the key elements of the governance of the source water program are defined in the CWA and regulations with reference to current CA boundaries.

Justice O'Connor's Walkerton Inquiry report recommended watershed-based drinking water source protection planning at the local level by those most directly affected. To ensure that source protection planning and implementation remain responsive to local issues and policy approaches, and to minimize the need for time consuming administrative changes and conformity exercises, the Province should consider:

- Retaining the current geographic scale of Source Protection Areas. This would ensure that Assessment Reports (ARs) and Source Protection Plans (SPPs) would continue to be reflective of local drinking water threats, vulnerabilities, and policy approaches. It would also help to ensure that conformity exercises and consequential amendments to ARs and SPPs would be minimized. Consolidation of ARs and SPPs to reflect changed Source Protection Area boundaries would be time consuming and contribute little to the outcomes of the source protection program.
- Retaining the current geographic scale of Source Protection Regions (SPRs) as the working administrative scale for source protection program delivery. SPRs have been established to address inequities in resourcing of local conservation authorities and SPR staff teams have developed local knowledge and relationships with municipalities that are essential to facilitate updates to the SPPs and address implementation challenges. This knowledge is rooted in a deep understanding of historic and current land uses, and the community values, needs, and priorities that shape local decision-making.

- Maintaining local representation on Source Protection Committees (SPCs) to ensure that municipal, economic, and public interest holders and implementation bodies continue to have a voice in identifying needed amendments to plans and overseeing progress towards achieving the objectives of SPPs. Continued alignment of SPCs with Source Protection Region jurisdictions would help ensure local representation and accountability.
- Adopting the current scale of Source Protection Regions as the largest geographic extent for the proposed regional Conservation Authorities. A single regional Source Protection Authority spanning numerous municipalities risks weakening local accountability, distancing decision-making from watershed-specific realities, and diluting the local focus that is foundational to effective watershed management. Local accountability will be even more important given Source Protection Authorities’.
- The Province has advised that regional consolidation of CAs is not expected to be initiated until after the municipal elections in October 2026. The Province further notes that where and how CAs receive funding (e.g., municipal apportionment for mandatory programs, excluding source water protection) would not change. It is recommended that the Province continue to fund the conservation authority-delivered source protection program. Any and all transitional costs that arise within the source protection program resulting from the consolidation of CAs should be borne by the Province.

**Motion No.
SPC-26-298**

**Moved by John Fruin
Seconded by Gord Timmerman**

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee directs staff to compose and send a letter to the Minister and local Municipal Councils with respect to maintaining the vision of the Source Water Act.

Carried

Communications Report 6b

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

Staff attended the Farmer’s Week 2026, Crops Day with a booth on January 12, 2026. The total attendance for the multi-day event was 1090, 292 on Crops Day with about 80 people streaming the content virtually for the event. The Spills Action Centre Stickers for fuel tanks were quite a popular giveaway this year.

A brief was sent to the Grey Bruce Politician's Meeting, held March 21st 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.

Staff noted that the winter nine-week campaign's objective was to raise awareness of road salt issues including the promotion of salt reduction. The campaign began on Wednesday January 28th and ended on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

Staff requested any Members who have time to volunteer at the 2026 Grey Bruce Children's Water Festival to reach out to Ms. Gillan. In addition, the event is always looking for sponsors.

**Motion No.
SPC-26-299**

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

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

Carried

8. New Business

Durham WHPA Delineation Update – Report 7a

Mr. Seider gave an overview and update on the WHPA delineation for Durham.

Based on the technical report from Aqua Insight there were several updates including refinement of model layers and simulating future pumping rates at municipal wells, along with updated particle tracking and the completion of 3 uncertainty cases in an effort to increase the overall confidence of the groundwater model. Additionally, pump tests for Well 1C which identified moderate hydraulic connections between Wells 2A and B (located to the north), versus Well 1B, which is approximately 400m to the west). A recent study conducted by Brunton and Brintnell, 2020), identified Durham as being located within an ancient Barrier Reef Complex. Such karst features have the potential to result in high porosity zones within the aquifer.

Several key differences were identified as reasons for the changes in the resulting WHPA:

- 1) The refined conceptualization of the regional bedrock layer structure result in wider WHPAs in the north-south direction.
- 2) Given the proximity of Wells 2 and 2A to the Saugeen River, the northern component of the current WHPAs indicates that these wells capture a portion of their source water from north of Saugeen River, which was not simulated in the previous modelling effort.

- 3) The current model extends further east to include the furthest conceptual recharge source waters from the Singhampton Moraine and groundwater inflow rate within the previous model was un-calibrated.
- 4) The inclusion of pumping from Well 1C, which was not constructed at the time of the previous assessment, captures groundwater that would otherwise be captured by Well 1B (located approximately 400 m west and downgradient of Well 1C). This further broadens the WPHA south of Well 1C.
- 5) Finally, the currently applied pumping rates, based on a greater future average daily water demand in accordance with future (2052) population projection, were greater than those applied for the previous WPHA delineation (WHI, 2003). This greater total pumping rate results in larger WHPAs, both in breadth and length.

The surface to well advective travel time (SWAT) method was used to evaluate the groundwater vulnerability of the updated WPHA. This method utilizes the three-dimensional hydrogeologic characterization.

Staff used the updated WPHA and Vulnerability mapping to complete a threats assessment and update draft source protection plan mapping in preparation for Sec. 34 Plan Amendment requirements. Based on the preliminary threats assessment work, staff identified the following additional potential threats that may need to be addressed within the updated WPHA for Durham. Staff recommended beginning pre-consultation work with the Ministry and other key stakeholder groups.

**Motion No.
SPC-26-300**

**Moved by Andrew Barton
Seconded by Amy Harrison**

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Durham WPHA Delineation Update Report 7a for information and direct staff to begin pre-consultation work with the Ministry and key stakeholders in preparation for planned Sec. 34 Plan amendments.

Carried

Annual Progress Report - Report 7b

Mr. Seider presented the 2025 annual progress report and noted that it is required to be submitted to MECP by May 1, 2026.

Staff provided a summary of the draft Annual Progress Report:

- Over the last 25 years, protection of municipal drinking water sources in Ontario has improved dramatically. However, as the landscape and the climate changes, we must remain vigilant and continue with drinking water source protection measures to ensure that there continues to be safe water available for public consumption. Recently, the Province announced changes to boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. This reconfiguration reinforces the importance of Justice O'Connor's Walkerton Inquiry report recommendation to maintain watershed-based drinking water source protection at the local level. As a Source Protection Committee, we strongly advocate that Justice O'Connor's recommendations are respected to ensure that source protection planning and implementation remain responsive to local issues and policy approaches.
- As of December 31, 2025, 222 Risk Management Plans have been established across the Region. In 2025, DWSP Staff continued with 5-year renewals of existing risk management plans, with a total of 3 plans renewed or transferred to new owners/tenants and 6 new plans were established. In 2025, there are additional risk management plans required to address salt application and storage threats for municipal roads and private parking lots.
- In 2025, 50 inspections were carried out by Risk Management Inspectors for prohibited or regulated activities, with a 100% compliance rate.
- All twenty-one upper/lower-tier municipalities across the Region have completed or are in the process of completing Official Plan/Zoning By-law updates. Twenty have fully completed Official Plan updates, with plans to finalize Bruce County's OP this year. In 2024, Kincardine completed their Zoning by-law amendments.
- 100% of septic inspections have been completed as required under the *Clean Water Act* and *Building Code Act* within vulnerable source protection areas. In 2025, 67 septic systems were inspected, 20 of which required minor maintenance and 2 replaced. Staff have connected with municipalities to ensure ongoing mandatory septic inspections are completed as required. An increased number of inspections scheduled for 2026 as part of the second round.
- In 2025, detailed reviews were completed by MECP staff for one fuel handling and storage activity and one wastewater/sewage works and determined them to not be Significant Drinking Water Threats. Furthermore, 3 hauled sewage permits were reviewed, whereby 2 were determined to not be a Significant Drinking Water Threat, and 1 applied as a medium drinking water threat with conditions added to their approval. Furthermore, OMAFRA issued 1 Non-Agricultural Source Material Plan and 3 Nutrient Management Strategies, with source water conditions added to their approval.
- 100% of the significant drinking water threat policies have been implemented. Of these, 86% have been fully implemented and 6% require no further action. The remainder are

in-progress (8%) and are salt-related activities that were recently amended in the Source Protection Plan due to 2021 Technical Rule changes.

**Motion No.
SPC-25-301**

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

THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives a copy of the draft Source Protection Annual Progress Report 2025 and directs Staff to provide the Report, along with any comments, to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks by May 1, 2026.

Carried

8. Other Business

9. Confirmation of Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next Committee meeting will be held on July 24, 2026.

Chair Dick Hibma adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.

Dick Hibma
Chair

Valerie Coleman
Recording Secretary