



**SAUGEEN, GREY SAUBLE, NORTHERN BRUCE PENINSULA
SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING #101**

A G E N D A

July 24, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Kimberley Memorial Hall and Library
235309 Grey Road 13

CALL TO ORDER

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Declaration of Pecuniary or Conflict of Interest
3. Adoption of Minutes of March 27, 2026 meeting
4. Matters Arising from the Minutes
5. Correspondence
 - SVCA Low Water Response Team Letter
6. Reports
 - Administration Report – Report 6a attached
 - Communications Report – Report 6b attached
7. New Business
 - Chesley Wellhead Protection Area Update – Report 7a attached
 - Kimberley & Shallow Lake Karst Study- Report 7b attached
 - Site Visit – Kimberley Water Treatment Plant
8. Other Business
9. Next Meeting and Adjournment

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 Craighleith 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

REPORT #6a

TO: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: JULY 24, 2026

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Municipal Well Updates

Arran Elderslie – Chesley Well

See Report 7a.

Kincardine – Tiverton Drinking Water System

The municipality 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.

South Bruce – Teeswater

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 municipality is planning to drill the new well by end of October.

Town of the Blue Mountains – Craigeleith

The Town 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).

West Grey – Durham Well

Staff completed 'Early Engagement' consultation with MECP technical staff on the proposed new Durham Well 1C. Proposed Sec.34 amendments to the Source Protection Plan for Well 1C went into Pre-Consultation phase on June 19, 2026, with plans to move into Public Consultation in August. Staff presented the new WHPA delineation and technical updates to West Grey Council on July 7, 2026.

Hanover

Staff were recently informed that the Town of Hanover is working with consultants (Ainley Group) to replace 2 of it's wells, likely in close proximity to existing wells. These wells are located in the municipality of Brockton, so staff will need to coordinate consultation efforts between the 2 municipalities. No timeline for the well replacement has been identified yet.

Clean Water Act (CWA) Changes

Recent regulatory changes under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (CWA) and the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* that will come into effect on July 1, 2026 and on January 1, 2027. These regulatory changes implement legislative amendments to the Clean Water Act that were passed in fall 2025.

These amendments support timely approvals and process improvements while continuing to ensure safeguards remain in place to protect drinking water sources.

Regulatory amendments will:

- Accelerate protection of drinking water sources by streamlining the source protection plan amendment process. These regulatory changes will come into effect on July 1, 2026. This will include:
 - o Expanding the types of minor amendments that can proceed without approval or consultation.
 - o Specifying the types of plan amendments where source protection authorities (i.e., generally conservation authorities) approve certain amendments.
 - o Specifying the process for how a source protection authority approves plan amendments, including that the source protection authority must first obtain the Director's approval of the assessment report.
 - o Simplifying and speeding up consultation requirements by combining the two phases of public consultation into one, while maintaining meaningful opportunities for public and Indigenous community input.
 - o Modernizing consultation requirements by maintaining the requirement to publish documents on the Internet and requiring publication of notices in a manner that will bring the notice to the attention of the public.
- Specifying documents and information that comprise a "complete submission" of a proposed source protection plan amendment that requires Minister's approval. The Act provides that upon a "complete submission" of the proposed amendment to the Minister, the Minister has 120 days to exercise an option to approve the amendment or require revisions and re-submission, otherwise the amendment is deemed to be approved.
- Enable the use of new municipal drinking water sources (such as wells and intakes) faster, where protections are already in place, including by providing an exception to when the prohibition on supplying drinking water must be imposed in a municipal drinking water system licence or permit, if the source protection authority is of the opinion that such a condition is not necessary. This regulatory change will come into effect on July 1, 2026.
- Improve and streamline how policies affecting "prescribed instruments" (such as permits and licences issued by MECP and other ministries) can be used to manage risks to municipal drinking water, including increasing transparency regarding how significant threats are managed. This regulatory change will come into effect on January 1, 2027.

Additional Planned Clean Water Act Changes

Staff are currently participating on a small working group of Project Managers led by Conservation Ontario to help identify possible options for Clean Water Act (CWA) amendments as a result of the recent changes to CA Boundaries. Overall, the group supports the need to maintain the organizational structure of Source Protection Programs as much as possible, with the understanding that roles and responsibilities may shift up a level for Source Protection Authorities / Regional oversight to the new Regional CA Boards. Some of the key points expressed by the working group are as follows:

- Strong support for the maintenance of Source Protection Committees
 - Recognition that the role could be further clarified /actual role could be formalized, including adding education and outreach activities
 - Reviewing comments received through consultation
 - Maintaining the explanatory document
 - Further clarity around their role in determining when a SPP amendment is advisable
- Strong support to keep existing Source Protection Plans (SPP)
 - Maintains and reflects the provincial and municipal investment that has gone into the plan's creation and update(s)
 - The plans have been developed to meet local needs
 - Local decision-making is reflective of the direction coming from the Walkerton Inquiry

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

Respectfully submitted,



Carl Seider
Project Manager
Drinking Water Source Protection

REPORT #6b

TO: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: July 24, 2026

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS

Local Responses to letter to MECP

Town of the Blue Mountains and South Bruce Councils received media coverage in May that related to their support at regular meetings for the letter and its contents that the Committee sent to the Minister. Other source protection regions have also been urging Ministry to respect current region sizes and representation. Link to Essex Region’s CBC interview -

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/windsor/essex-region-source-protection-committee-conservation-authority-merger-opposition-9.7147516> (local media articles, see attached)

Grey Bruce Children’s Water Festival

Another great festival, it was very windy during set-up but sunny days for the event. Close to 1200 elementary students visited the festival over the three-day event, with about 186 high school volunteers plus adult volunteers to help run this event from stations to snacks to first aid and site maintenance. Festival could not proceed without the valued sponsors that cover costs of the event.



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Gold	
Silver	
• ENBRIDGE • OPG • MUNICIPALITY OF ARRAN-ELDERSLIE	
Bronze	
• HOWICK MUTUAL INSURANCE • CHESLEY KIDSSEN • MIDWAY OPTIMIST CLUB • GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY • BIRD RIVER CHEVROLET • WALKERTON CLEAN WATER CENTRE • CHEPSTON LION'S PARK • CARDILL DISTRICT COMMUNITY CENTRE	• VIOLETA • DODM TRANSPORT • CHESLEY HOMECOMING • BELUSTADT LION'S CLUB • STROEDER'S TRUCK & TRAILER • WEATHERALL ENTERPRISES • GREG DIETZ MEMORIAL • ACES HEAVY TOWING
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Social Media

The spring/summer seven-week campaign supports source protection plan implementation and promotes public awareness across Ontario. It includes seven daily (once weekly) posts (June 3–July 15) on themes such as road signs, spring cleaning, lawn care, well testing, and pet waste.



Post for photo: Heading to the cottage? Protect your drinking water by maintaining your septic system, heating oil fuel tanks, and private wells. Explore best practices for drinking water protection:

<https://bit.ly/4eUv3KR>

#SourceWaterON

#DrinkingWaterSources

#WaterWednesdays

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

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Gillan
Program Supervisor/Risk Management Inspector
Drinking Water Source Protection

TBM council warns conservation authority overhaul could weaken water protection

[Chris Fell](#)

about 21 hours ago



[Listen to this article](#)

00:03:02

The Blue Mountains council is concerned that provincial government changes to conservation authorities are going to have a negative impact on the protection of local sources of drinking water.

At its meeting on May 11, council passed a resolution indicating its support for a [letter it received from Dick Hibma](#), the acting chair of the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, North Bruce Peninsula Source

Protection committee.

In the letter addressed to Todd McCarthy - the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks - Hibma outlined multiple concerns his committee has with the province's [plans to reduce the number of conservation authorities in Ontario](#) from 36 to nine much larger regional bodies. The letter calls on the government to ensure that any changes to the conservation authority sector align with Justice O'Connor's recommendations in the Walkerton Inquiry Report.

"The integrity of the drinking water source protection program is local, watershed-based committees that include members from the agriculture, business/commerce/industry, municipal, environment and health sectors. These members have a vested interest in the sources and drinking water systems that supply their families, neighbours and constituents with a safe supply of drinking water," Hibma states in the letter. "Dilution of this oversight to the new regional conservation authority scale will not serve the recommendations made by Justice O'Connor following the tragedy that happened in Walkerton in our Source Protection Region."

The letter raises a number of concerns about the government's plans including:

- The reduction of local accountability and decision-making
- The geographic size of the new regional conservation authorities
- The possibility of reduced local representative on source protection committees

"The Source Protection Committee has deep concerns about possible implications to the Clean Water Act as a result of the recent Conservation Authority Act changes," Hibma said in the letter. "It is our intent to continue to work with the province, local municipalities and local source protection authorities to protect our local sources of drinking water in the spirit of Justice O'Connor's recommendations."

The letter appeared as an item of correspondence on council's agenda, but Coun. Alex Maxwell pulled the letter for further discussion.

“It’s very important,” said Maxwell. “We need to make sure the fundamentals are kept in place for the Clean Water Act at the local level.”

Other members of council were also concerned with the government’s actions.

“Water is the next oil. It’s that important,” said Coun. June Porter, who said the “increasing number of government appointees as opposed to having representatives of the grass roots” was a significant concern.

Coun. Paula Hope said the issue must remain in the spotlight.

“We have to be very careful when it comes to safe drinking water,” said Hope. “We need to keep our eyes on this very closely.”

Comments (0)

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If you would like to apply to become a **Verified Commenter**, please [fill out this form](#).

Trending

831	Collingwood pays \$50K to lease 90 private parking spots for downtown pilot
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691	Collingwood high school breaks team record at track and field qualifier
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664	LETTER: Collingwood should return to municipal policing
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April 30, 2026

Sent by Email: mail@waterprotection.ca

Dick Hibma
Acting Chair, Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula
Source Protection Committee

Re: Town of Saugeen Shores Support Resolution for the Source Protection Committee, Letter of Concern

At the April 27, 2026 Regular Council meeting for the Town of Saugeen Shores, the following resolution was passed:

Resolution 128-2026

Moved by: Councillor B. Halpin

Seconded by: Councillor R. Stack

The Council supports Item 12.8.10. Source Protection Committee Letter of Concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SBonderud".

Sarah Bonderud
Deputy Clerk

Encl.

CC: Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Kirsten Service, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Saugeen Conservation Authority

https://www.pentictonherald.ca/spare_news/article_895963c7-0fbb-58c2-986b-bb4e5e63cd57.html

South Bruce council weighs source water protection concerns, advances rate study plans

Emily Bowen, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter Mildmay Town Crier
May 8, 2026

TEESWATER - South Bruce council reviewed a letter raising concerns about provincial changes to conservation authorities, and approved steps toward a new water and wastewater rate study during its April 28 meeting.

The letter, dated April 13 and addressed to Environment, Conservation and Parks Minister Todd J. McCarthy, was submitted by the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee. In the letter, the committee said drinking water protection in Ontario has improved significantly over the past 25 years, but warned that continued vigilance is needed as environmental conditions change.

“Source Water Protection is a combination of local watersheds in our area, and at this point they don't know which direction they're going to be sent because of all the conservation amalgamation that's going on,” said Councillor Mike Niesan. “So it's kind of just more about information right now. But it wouldn't hurt to support it either, because they're kind of standing in limbo right now.”

The committee expressed concern that recent and proposed changes to conservation authority boundaries could weaken the local, watershed-based approach recommended after the Walkerton tragedy. It urged the province to ensure any restructuring aligns with the findings of Justice Dennis O'Connor's Walkerton Inquiry, which emphasized that drinking water protection should remain rooted in local watersheds and informed by those directly affected.

The committee argued that expanding to larger regional conservation authorities could reduce accountability and disconnect decision-making from local conditions. It also warned that consolidating source protection regions and plans could lead to time-consuming administrative changes without improving outcomes.

“Their worry is the same thing as the conservation authorities, that they’re going to get lumped into a larger area, and our smaller sort of protection areas are going to get gobbled up,” Niesan said. “I think they’re just bringing it to the province’s attention.”

Among its recommendations, the committee called on the province to maintain current source protection region boundaries as the maximum size for conservation authorities, retain existing source protection areas, and preserve local representation on source protection committees.

Members stressed that local stakeholders - including those from agriculture, industry, municipalities, environmental groups and public health - play an important role in safeguarding drinking water systems.

The letter also raised concerns about possible implications for the Clean Water Act, stating the committee intends to continue working with the province and municipalities to uphold the principles established after the Walkerton crisis.

Wastewater study and system updates reviewed

Alongside the discussion on source water protection, council reviewed an activity report on water and wastewater operations prepared by manager of operations Stu Moffat.

The report included a recommendation to hire Hemson Consulting Ltd. to complete a comprehensive water and wastewater rate study at a cost of \$26,400 plus HST. Staff also requested an additional \$8,800 from municipal reserves to cover costs beyond the \$20,000 already allocated in the 2026 capital budget.

“We’re just in need of a water wastewater rate study. The last one that was completed was in 2016,” said Moffat.

The study is required under Ontario regulation to maintain water licensing and ensure the financial sustainability of the system. It will examine operating costs, revenues and user rates across residential, commercial and industrial categories.

According to the report, the study will also help the municipality plan for infrastructure upgrades, balance affordability with revenue needs and develop a long-term financial strategy that incorporates funding sources such as reserves, debt and government programs.

Staff reviewed proposals from three consulting firms, including Hemson Consulting Ltd., PSD City Wide Inc. and Waterworth. Hemson, based in Toronto, was recommended based on its experience and feedback from the Municipality of Kincardine, where it has completed similar work. The firm's proposal includes scheduled presentations to council and a project timeline running from June to December.

PSD City Wide, which has previously worked with South Bruce, submitted a higher bid and noted a four-month project timeline, though staff pointed to past delays due to staffing changes.

Waterworth offered the lowest initial cost but included an ongoing annual subscription fee and did not provide requested examples of similar work. Staff also raised concerns about the firm's familiarity with Ontario regulations.

The operations report also included a summary of March water and wastewater system performance prepared by Veolia Water Canada.

All laboratory results for drinking water systems in Mildmay and Teeswater met regulatory standards during the reporting period, with no compliance issues reported.

Routine maintenance and testing were carried out across water, wastewater and collection systems. However, the report noted periods of high flow in March due to rain and snowmelt, which led to increased system activity and, in one instance, a temporary bypass in the Mildmay collection system. The appropriate authorities were notified and mitigation measures were implemented.

Moffat noted that while the systems are designed to operate as closed systems, there can be external factors that affect performance.

"It's a closed system, but there's possible pumps that people hook into their septic sanitary system," he said.

Council received the report for information as it continues to monitor infrastructure needs and regulatory requirements tied to water and wastewater services.

Mildmay Town Crier

REPORT #7a

TO: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: JULY 24, 2026

SUBJECT: CHESLEY WHPA UPDATE REPORT

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. On June 2, 2026 Staff received a report from Burnside and Associates Ltd. with technical advice to incorporate the new Chesley Well #4 into the existing WHPA delineation, with modifications to account for the new/amended WHPA-A zone.

A wellhead protection area (WHPA) for the Arran-Elderslie (Chesley) DWS was first developed as part of the Grey Bruce Groundwater Study (WHI, 2003) for Well #1. The initial WHPA was updated using the existing groundwater model for the area, in order to account for revised pumping rates and the addition of Wells #2 and #3 as part of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie Groundwater Vulnerability Study (GENIVAR, 2009).

The total combined pumping rate of 2,228 m³/day used in the groundwater modelling was approximately 80% higher than the average combined pumping rate of 1,230 m³/day recorded for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. In 2022 the maximum day pumping rate was 1,687 m³/d and the average day rate was 954 m³/day. This water use continues to be significantly less than the modelled pumping rates. Once Well #4 comes online, the municipality plans to decommission Well #1. Well #2 will be operated with Well #3 or Well #4 to handle higher summer demands. The combined rate and volume of water taking from Well #3 and Well #4 shall not exceed 4,078 m³/day for a maximum PTTW of 6,206 m³/day for the system.

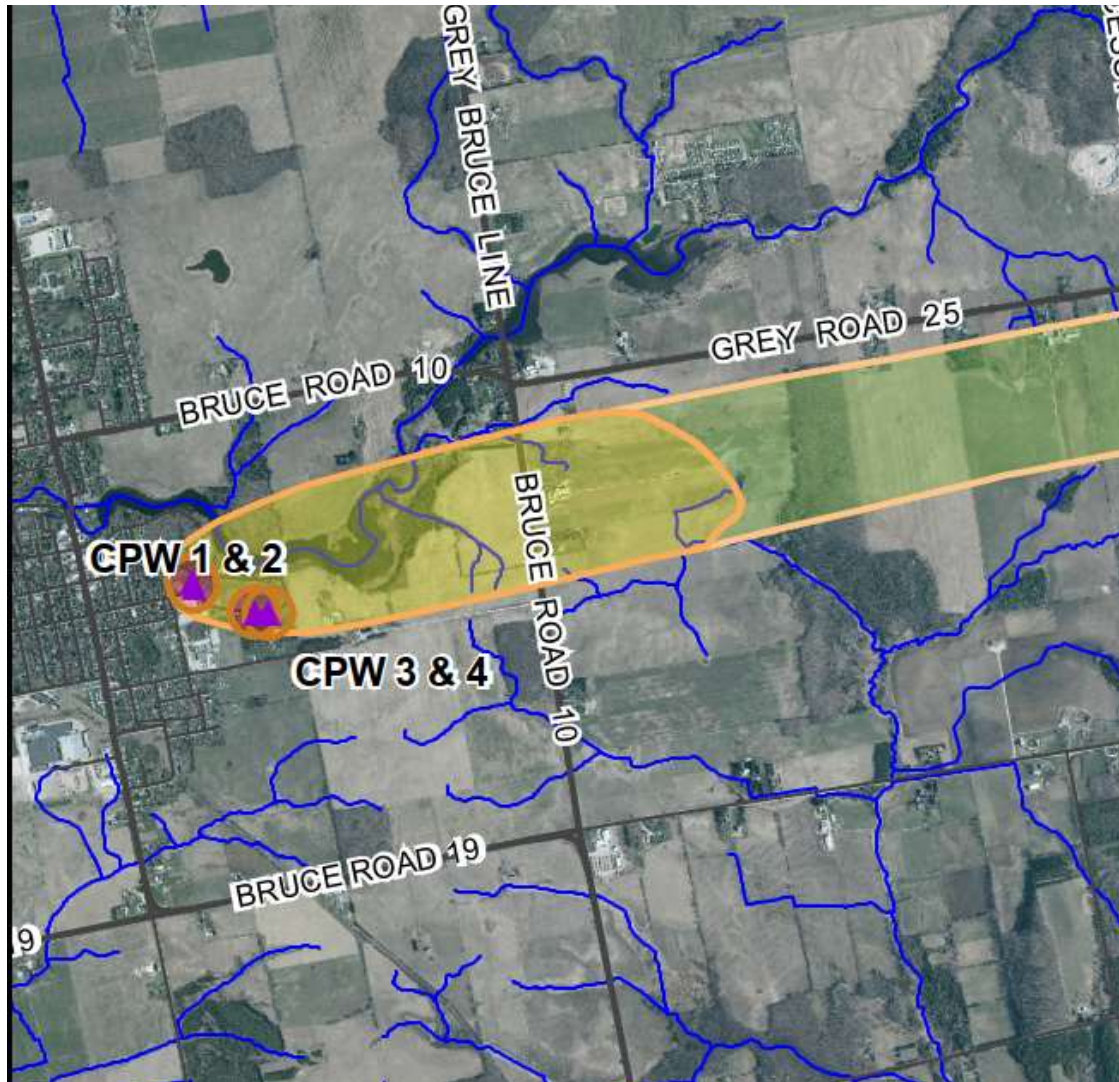
Based on the pump test results for Well #4, it was noted that water quality results indicate that the contact aquifer is a secure source of groundwater, and not a GUDI water source. It was also determined that the groundwater source is essentially the same as Well #3, as Well #4 is located at a similar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

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, the current WHPA provides suitable protection for the new water supply, with a slight extension to the WHPA-A around Well #4 at the South end of the area. The addition of a new WHPA-A for Well #4 affects the same properties and does not

result in the addition of any new properties or threats. Staff will present this technical update to the Arran-Elderslie Municipal Council on August 10, 2026.

Below is a map of the proposed new WHPA for Chesley, with the addition of Well #4.



RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the Administrative Report 7a for information and direct staff to begin Public Consultation in preparation for Sec.34 Plan Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Seider
Project Manager
Drinking Water Source Protection

REPORT #7b

TO: SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

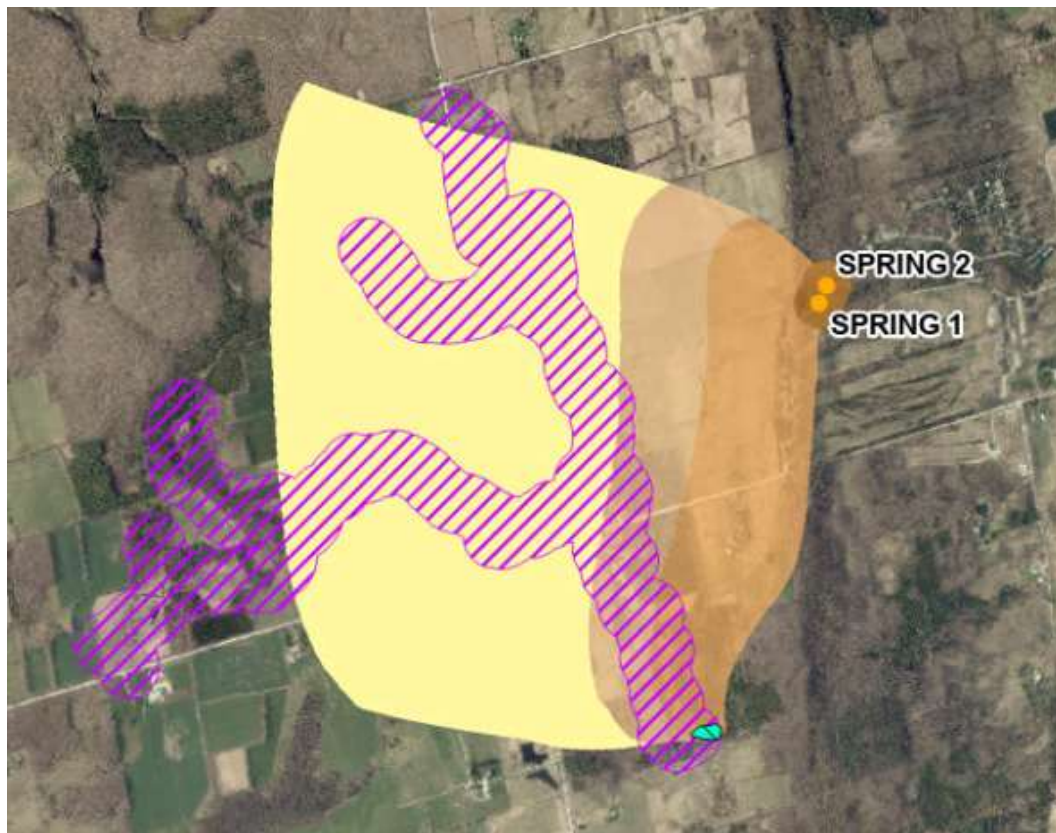
DATE: JULY 24, 2026

SUBJECT: KIMBERLEY & SHALLOW LAKE KARST STUDY UPDATE

On April 10, 2026, staff received a draft technical report from BluMetric for the Review and Delineation of the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) for the Kimberley-Amik-Talisman and Shallow Lake Drinking Water Systems.

The Kimberley and Shallow Lake WHPAs were originally delineated using a numerical groundwater flow model developed in 2003, and subsequent peer review identified limitations that led to the updated modelling presented in this report.

The updated steady-state groundwater flow model was built using USGS MODFLOW and calibrated using an expanded set of groundwater level data obtained from the MECP WWIS. The calibrated model was subsequently coupled with USGS MODPATH backward particle tracking program to conduct time-of-travel capture zone analysis and delineate updated WHPAs in accordance with the 2021 Ministry Technical Rules.



Compared to the previous delineation, the updated Kimberley WHPAs are elongated, reflecting high recharge areas from karst features resulting in groundwater discharge to the springs. The orientation of the revised delineation is driven by updates to the numerical model that explicitly incorporate karst features, specifically the karstic hydraulic connection between Upper Wodehouse Creek and the Talisman springs, allowing surface water to more rapidly influence groundwater flow.

Accordingly, WHPA-E was delineated using surface water flow and velocity data collected at a GSCA monitoring station on Upper Wodehouse Creek. The updated WHPAs provide revised delineations that can be used as part of ongoing source water protection planning for the Kimberley municipal drinking water system.

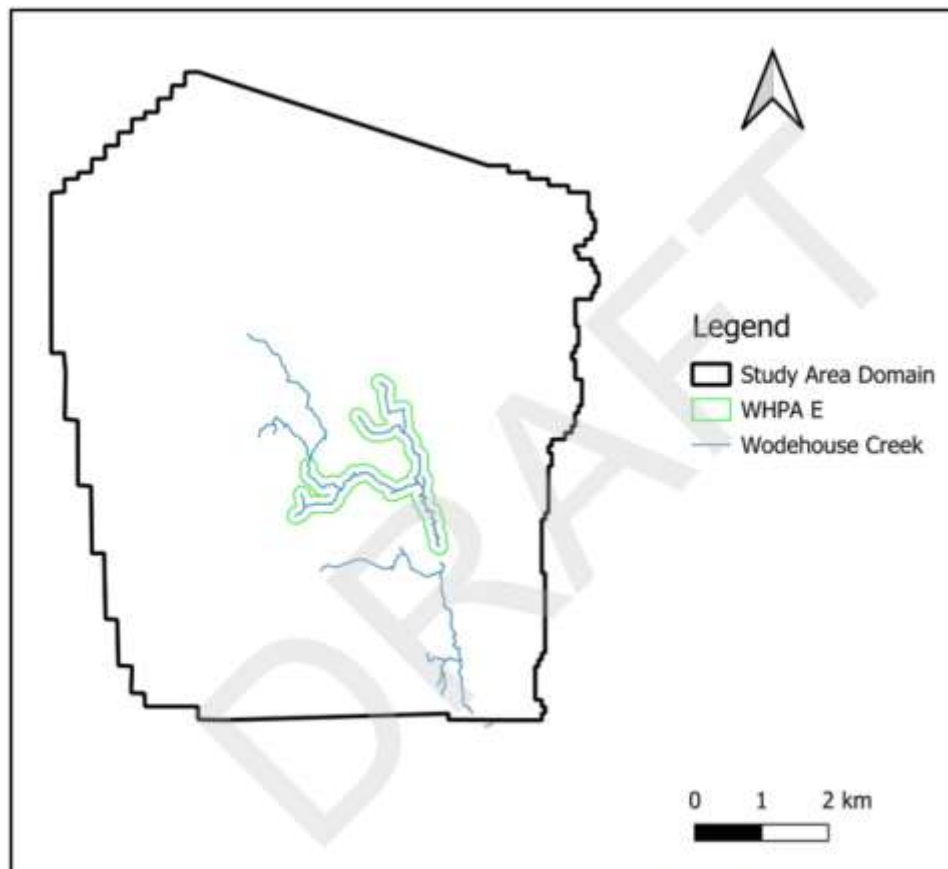


Figure 13: WHPA-E for the Kimberley-Amik-Talisman drinking water system

Shallow Lake Delineation

For the Shallow Lake drinking water system, four modelling scenarios were simulated, comprising high-flow (winter) and low-flow (summer) conditions, combined with average and peak pumping rate scenarios. Updated WHPA-B, WHPA-C, and WHPA-D capture zones were delineated for each scenario. Compared to the 2003 model, the updated WHPAs exhibit changes in both direction and extent, reflecting revised conceptualization.

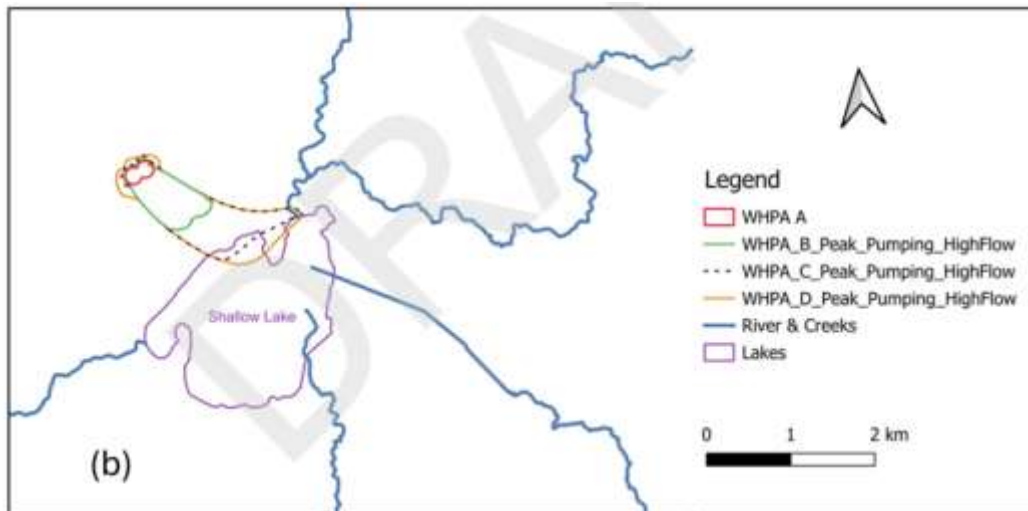
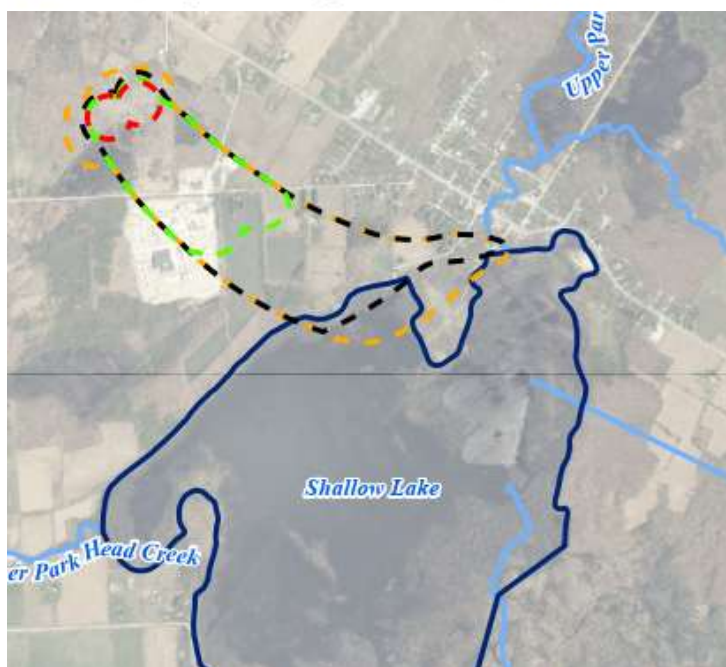
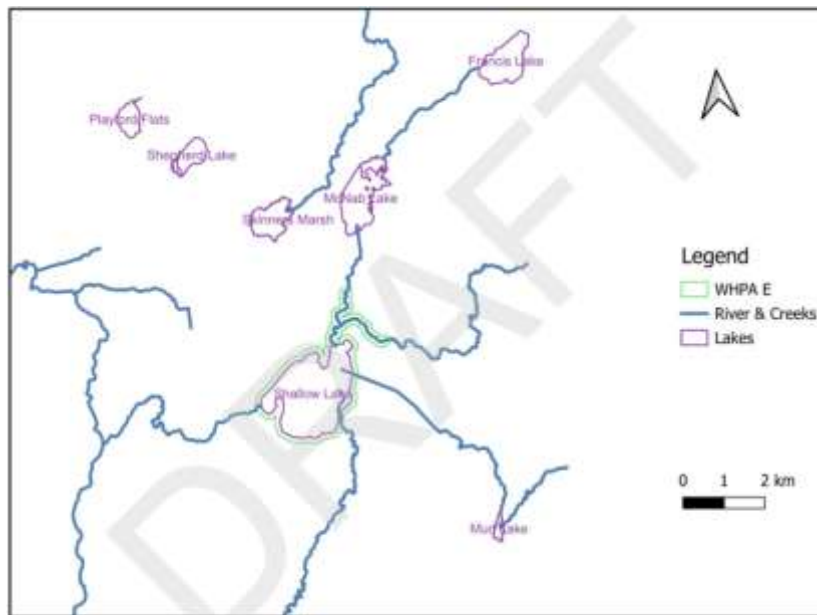


Figure 10: WHPA-A, WHPA-B, WHPA-C and WHPA-D from two municipal wells under (a) average pumping rate (conjunctive usage of 260 m³/d) and (b) peak pumping rate (conjunctive usage of 300 m³/d) when the Shallow Lake is in full flow during winter



At Shallow Lake, a conceptual hydraulic connection between the lake and the municipal wells through the karst network was assumed, allowing surface water to rapidly influence groundwater flow. Accordingly, WHPA-E was delineated using surface water flow and velocity data collected at a GSCA monitoring station on the upper reach of Park Head Creek, a tributary to Shallow Lake. The updated WHPAs provide revised delineations as part of ongoing source water protection planning for the Shallow Lake municipal drinking water system.



12: WHPA-E when the Shallow Lake is in full flow during winter

It was also noted that the following recommendations would help to improve the accuracy of this study.

- Determination of hydraulic conductivity and effective porosity within the karst zone between Upper Wodehouse Creek and the Kimberley–Amik–Talisman Spring system would provide improved estimates of groundwater velocity in that area, as well as refined delineation of WHPAs, excluding WHPA-A and WHPA-E.
- Surface water monitoring near the inlet to Shallow Lake along Davidson Creek and Cashmore Creek is recommended to support WHPA-E delineation along these watercourses.
- Further refinement of recharge estimates across different soil types using water-balance methods and supplemental numerical tools (e.g., HYDRUS-1D) may improve groundwater velocity estimates and WHPA delineation results, excluding WHPA-A and WHPA-E.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Committee receives the draft Kimberley and Shallow Lake WHPA Delineation Update Report 7b for information and direct staff to being early engagement work with the Ministry and key stakeholders in preparation for planned Sec. 34 Source Protection Plan amendments.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Seider, Project Manager Drinking Water Source Protection

APPENDIX

Upper Wodehouse Creek – Sideroad 7a Downstream (April 17, 2026)



Upper Wodehouse Creek – Sideroad 7a Downstream (October 2025)



Current Kimberley WHPA



Current Shallow Lake WHPA

