

Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River

Source Protection Authority

Meeting No. SPA-01-25

Friday, May 23, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket

I. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory

II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and Conflicts of Interest

III. Approval of Agenda

Pages 1 – 3

Recommended: That the agenda for the meeting of Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority held on May 23, 2025 be approved as presented.

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Source Protection Authority

Pages 4 – 8

Recommended: That the minutes of the Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority Meeting No. SPA-01-24 held April 26, 2024 be approved as circulated.

b) Source Protection Committee

Pages 9 – 32

Recommended: That the minutes of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Protection Region Source Protection Committee Meetings held March 28, 2024 and October 10, 2024 be received for information.

V. General Updates

a) Source Protection Committee Chair's Update

Page 33

Included in the agenda is an update from South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee Chair, Innisfil Mayor Lynn Dollin.

Recommended: That the report by South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee Chair Lynn Dollin regarding Source Protection Committee updates be received for information.

b) 2024 Annual Source Water Protection Progress Report

Pages 34 - 44

Source Water Protection Specialist, Mystaya Touw, will provide a presentation regarding the 2024 Source Water Protection Annual Report to the Ministry. This presentation will be provided at the meeting.

Recommended: That the presentation by Source Water Protection Specialist, Mystaya Touw, regarding the 2024 Annual Source Water Protection Progress Report be received for information.

Included in the agenda is Staff Report No. 02-25-SPA regarding the 2024 Annual Source Water Protection Report.

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 02-25-SPA regarding the 2024 Source Water Protection Annual Report to the Ministry be received for information.

c) Source Protection Committee - Municipal Member Appointment

Pages 45 - 46

Included in the agenda is Staff Report No. 03-25-SPA regarding appointments to the Source Protection Committee.

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 03-25-SPA regarding the appointment of members to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee be received; and

Further That the appointment of Tom Bradley to the South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee for a five-year term beginning June 1, 2025 be approved.

d) Source Protection Plan Amendment Updates

Pages 47 - 48

Included in the agenda is Staff Report No. 04-25-SPA regarding the regarding Source Protection Plan amendments.

Recommended: That Staff Report No. 04-25-SPA regarding amendments to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan submitted to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks be received for information.

VI. Other Business

VII. Adjournment

Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River

Source Protection Authority

Meeting No. SPA-01-24

Friday, April 26, 2024

Hybrid meeting

Meeting Minutes

Source Protection Authority Board Members Present

Councillor C. Riepma (Chair), Mayor R. Greenlaw (Vice Chair), Councillor F. Drodge, Councillor J. Durnford, Councillor A. Eek, Regional Chairman W. Emmerson, Councillor P. Ferragine, Mayor V. Hackson, Councillor S. Harrison-McIntyre, Councillor D. Le Roy, Mayor I. Lovatt, Councillor C. Pettingill, Mayor M. Quirk, Councillor E. Strength, Councillor M. Taylor, Councillor M. Thompson

Source Protection Authority Board Members Absent

Councillor S. Bell, Councillor A. Courser, Councillor J. Dailloux, Regional Councillor B. Garrod, Deputy Mayor and Regional Councillor T. Vegh, Councillor E. Yeo

LSRCA Staff Present

R. Baldwin, T. Barnett, D. Goodyear, B. Thompson, M. Wilson

Guests in Attendance

Mayor L. Dollin, South Georgina Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee Chair

I. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory

Chair Riepma acknowledged the Lake Simcoe watershed as traditional Indigenous territory and thanked all generations of Indigenous peoples for their enduring and unwavering care for this land and water.

II. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

None noted for this meeting.

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: F. Drodge

Seconded by: P. Ferragine

SPA-01-24 **Resolved That** the agenda for the meeting of Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority held on April 26, 2024 be approved as presented. **Carried**

IV. Adoption of Minutes

a) Source Protection Authority

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: W. Emmerson

SPA-02-24 **Resolved That** the minutes of the Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority Meeting No. SPA-01-23 held April 28, 2023 be approved as circulated. **Carried**

b) Source Protection Committee

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: W. Emmerson

SPA-03-24 **Resolved That** the minutes of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Protection Region Source Protection Committee Meetings held March 30, 2023, June 1, 2023, September 21, 2023, and November 2, 2023 be received for information. **Carried**

V. General Updates

a) Correspondence

Included in the agenda were two letters from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks dated January 23, 2023 and November 28, 2023, as well as one letter from Source protection staff to Source Protection Region CAOs dated December 15, 2023.

Moved by: R. Greenlaw

Seconded by: C. Pettingill

SPA-04-24 **Resolved That** Correspondence items i), ii) and iii) be received for information. **Carried**

b) Source Protection Committee Chair's Report

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee Chair Lynn Dollin's gave a brief overview of her report, which was included in the agenda.

Moved by: A. Eek

Seconded by: M. Thompson

SPA-05-24 **Resolved That** the report by South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee Chair Lynn Dollin regarding Source Protection Committee updates be received for information. **Carried**

c) Annual Source Water Protection Progress Report

Source Water Protection Hydrogeologist, Mike Wilson, provided a presentation regarding the 2023 Source Water Protection Annual Report to the Ministry, noting a primary objective of monitoring and reporting is to assess if threats to municipal drinking water sources are being reduced through the implementation of the Source Protection Plan's (Plan) policies.

He reviewed some essential implementation actions that have been completed, such as establishing a Risk Management Office and drafting policies for municipal Official Plans across the Source Protection Region. All municipalities have begun negotiating risk management plans with landowners, and many municipalities have successfully completed some or all of their required risk management plans. Ontario Ministries have reviewed previously issued provincial approvals that were identified to address existing activities that may pose a risk to sources of drinking water. A review by the Source Protection Committee of data provided identified the following key findings:

- All municipalities have submitted annual reports to Source Protection Authority staff.
- Most policies (98%) that address significant drinking water threats in the Plan have been or are in the process of being implemented in accordance with the timelines set out in the Plan or otherwise amended.
- An estimated 94% (4,070 of 4,317) of existing significant drinking water threats have been mitigated through policy implementation.
- A total of 271 risk management plans have been established, with an estimated 92 remaining to be negotiated across the Source Protection Region. Risk Management Officials have workplans indicating the remaining risk management plans will be established by the July 2024 deadline.
- Approximately 94% (1,954 of 2,083) of the round-two on-site sewage (septic) system inspections required have been completed, with the deadline having passed in the current reporting year (2022).

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks approved an extension to the risk management plan deadline to July 1, 2024 for all municipalities (except for York Region, who had not sought an extension) in the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region. This extension was granted along with a request that the Source Protection Authority submit a workplan for completing all remaining risk management plans. Risk Management Officials worked with Source Protection Authority staff and developed a comprehensive workplan that was presented to the Source Protection Committee on March 30, 2023. Based on the workplan, all remaining risk management plans will be established by the July 2024 deadline.

Source Protection Authority staff continues to bring progress reports to the Source Protection Committee, and the Committee is satisfied with the current rate of progress on plan implementation.

Moved by: J. Durnford

Seconded by: M. Taylor

SPA-06-24 **Resolved That** the presentation by Source Water Protection Hydrogeologist, Mike Wilson, regarding the Annual Source Water Protection Progress Report be received for information. **Carried**

Staff Report No. 01-24-SPA regarding the 2023 Source Water Protection Annual Report to the Ministry was included in the agenda.

Moved by: E. Strength

Seconded by: W. Emmerson

SPA-07-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 01-24-SPA regarding the 2023 Source Water Protection Annual Report to the Ministry be received; and

Further that the Annual Report be approved for submission to the Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. **Carried**

d) Source Protection Committee Member Appointments

Included in the agenda is Staff Report No. 02-24-SPA regarding appointments to the Source Protection Committee.

Moved by: M. Quirk

Seconded by: F. Drodge

SPA-08-24 **Resolved That** That Staff Report No. 02-24-SPA regarding the appointment of members to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee be received; and

Further That the appointment of Michelle Flaherty to the South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee for a term of five years beginning May 1, 2024 be approved. **Carried**

e) Source Protection Plan Amendments Update

Staff Report No. 03-24-SPA regarding an update to Source Protection Plan Amendments was included in the agenda. The Lakes Simcoe/Couchiching Black River Source Protection Authority is responsible for ensuring that the Source Protection Plan is amended to account for new or expanded municipal drinking water systems. Over the course of the last year, four amendments to the source protection plan to address changes in municipal drinking water systems were submitted to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks for approval, three of which were approved as of the meeting date.

Moved by: C. Pettingill

Seconded by: D. Le Roy

SPA-09-24 **Resolved That** Staff Report No. 03-24-SPA regarding amendments to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan submitted to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks be received for information. **Carried**

VI. Adjournment

Moved by: V. Hackson

Seconded by: M. Quirk

SPA-10-24 **Resolved That** the meeting be adjourned at 9:20 a.m. **Carried**

Councillor Clare Riepma
Chair

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer



South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

Source Protection Committee (SPC)

Minutes of Meeting SPC-01-2024

March 28, 2024

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Members Present:

Lynn Dollin, Chair

Municipal

Jeff Hamelin

Economic/Development

John Hemsted, Amanda Kellett, David Ketcheson, Jessica Neto, Rick Newlove, David Ritchie

Public Sector

Geoff Allen, Peter Dance, Bob Duncanson, Tom Kurtz, Cate Root

First Nations

Vacant

Liaisons

Karen Kivilahti, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU)
Don Goodyear, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)
Laura Collings, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Staff Present

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bill Thompson, LSRCA | Kathy Hillis, LSRCA (minutes) | Kirsten MacLeod, SSEA |
| Mike Wilson, LSRCA | Sarah Thompson, NVCA | |
| Mystaya Touw, LSRCA | Melissa Carruthers, SSEA | |

Guests

Colin Hall, Region of Durham Lee Roberts, City of Barrie

Regrets:

Scott Lister, Municipal – proxy to Jeff Hamelin
Katie Thompson, Municipal - proxy to David Ketcheson
Chris Gerrits, Municipal – proxy to Amanda Kellett
Stephanie Hobbs, Public Sector – proxy to Peter Dance
Colin Elliott, Economic/Development – proxy to David Ritchie
Julie Cayley, Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA)
Doug Hevenor, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA)

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

- a) Dave Greenwood and Andy Campbell have resigned from the SPC. Jessica Neto has returned from maternity leave. Colin Elliott is attending an NVCA meeting today. SPA staff will be going through the process of replacing vacant positions on the SPC.
- b) Laura Collings is attending representing MECP.
- c) Melissa Carruthers is acting liaison for Doug Hevenor and Sara Thompson is acting liaison for Julie Cayley.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair recited the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

None declared.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Rick Newlove
Seconded by: John Hemsted

SPC-01-24 **Resolved That** the agenda for the March 28, 2024 meeting of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) be approved as presented. **Carried**

5. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by: Cate Root
Seconded by: Amanda Kellett

SPC-02-24 **Resolved That** the minutes of the November 2, 2023 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be approved as amended and circulated. **Carried**

6. Announcements

- a) Melissa made an excellent presentation to a Lake Lands Realty Group yesterday.

7. Deputations

There were none.

8. Presentations

- a) A presentation by Mike Wilson, LSRCA, regarding Staff Report SPC2.1 – Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2023).

Presentation available on the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe (SGBLS) Source Protection Region (SPR) website at https://ourwatershed.ca/assets/uploads/2024/03/a-2024-02-26-AR-Presi_SPC-Mar-28.pdf.

Progress is submitted on the online tool, the results are rolled up for this presentation to the SPC and a report is posted on the SGBLS SPR website. Some municipalities prepare their own annual Risk Management Official (RMO) report to post on their websites.

In 2023, 43 RMPs were completed, and RMOs estimate that 27 are still required to be completed with three months to go. We are on track to complete them all this year.

There are a total of 188 Threats still to be addressed. 96% of existing Threats were addressed through policy implementation. Handling of DNAPLs and Agricultural Threats are the majority of those remaining. Application of Commercial Fertilizer Threats are kept on the books until the change in policy is approved by MECP.

Upper tier municipalities: York, Simcoe and Peel have completed their Official Plan updates, and Durham is in progress.

Zoning Bylaw Amendments have not been started by five municipalities.

Most municipalities have not started their third round septic inspections, but still have three warm seasons to complete them, so the expectation is they will be completed on time. LSRCA will do education and outreach with RMOs on septic inspections to ensure completion.

Very few Orders have been issued in the SGBLS SPR. Some Orders may be issued to encourage landowners to complete Risk Management Plans (RMP) by the deadline.

This is the first year that the recommendation is Progressing Well/On Target, which is due to the expectation of completion in 2024 for Risk Management Plans.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Peter Dance: As RMPs are completed, will it not be reviewed annually due to changes on the landscape? If we get more RMPs needed in the future, what is the timeline for completion?

Mike confirmed that existing RMPs and Threats will be completed this year, but there are always new ones coming forward as there are changes to drinking water systems. The new timeline is five years from approval of the new source protection plan (SPP) for the changed systems. As RMOs discover new threats, a new RMP will begin.

Peter Dance: Five years seemed reasonable when the process began, but if there are new Threats five years seems like a long time. Should staff come back with a recommendation of a new timeline?

Bill advised the timeline is set by this Committee in the SPP. If the Committee wishes to revisit this timeline it can be brought back to a future meeting, and any new recommendation will require Ministry approval.

Lynn Dollin: When does the clock start ticking?

Bill advised the start date begins when the amendment is posted on the Registry.

David Ketcheson: Can the SPC discuss, in consultation with the RMOs, what would be reasonable timeline to address them as they appear on the landscape?

Peter Dance: Can staff report back after consultation with the RMOs?

Bill advised this can happen. The intent is to bring a full report on amendments to the SPP to the May 16th meeting, so Bill will add this to that report. Often the agricultural RMPs can take two years to complete, as the landowners timelines need to be factored into it, not just the RMOs availability.

Cate Root: The type of Threat may need to factor into it which may affect timing.

Amanda Kellett: Is there a deadline for the Official Plan Amendments (OPA) to be completed?

Bill advised that it is defined in the SPP but that timeline is driven by the municipal process.

Amanda Kellett: Are there municipalities that have not completed this task in the timeline which triggers updates?

Mike advised the OP work has been delayed by the Province. There have been cases where the SPP work has been incorporated into the OP but then there have been changes on the landscape.

Geoff Allen: Is there a timeline for completion of the third round of septic inspections, and who does the septic inspections?

Mike advised some municipalities were delayed due to Covid restrictions. Municipalities have a plan to complete them, and the work should not be onerous since they have already been inspected. They are completed by staff or consultants for municipalities who are trained. To ensure they are completed, education and outreach (E&O) is occurring to ensure this requirement is not forgotten. Lynn advised that in Innisfil they are required to be completed for the SPP as well as the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP). Inspectors have been met with a lot of aggression from some landowners about accessing their property, so on occasion have had to send Police with the inspector.

Rick Newlove: It is quite a process due to all of the updates and appeals.

Dave Ketcheson: From the previous two rounds of septic inspections, what kind of problems were identified? Are the inspections becoming more routine?

Mike advised that in the past two or three years there have only been a handful of minor maintenance requirements as most major maintenance issues were dealt with after the first round of inspections. Melissa advised that the number of septic inspections is across the entire region, so it is a doable task by the municipalities. Often it is other requirements outside of the SPP that cause the delays.

Peter Dance: Is it worth reaching out to Ramara and Springwater to find out their timelines for the Zoning updates so we understand the status?

Mike confirmed these types of discussions help as it is often not top of mind for municipalities.

Jessica Neto: For the landowners that are not cooperating, is there a general theme for these, and is there anything SPC Members can do to assist?

Mike can not provide specifics as this is information that RMOs have. There are a few landowners that will wait until they are forced to complete. Melissa advised some are willing to come to the table and want it done quickly, whereas others may meet and complete the RMP quickly, but when it comes to signing they are not quick to complete. Lynn commented that often this is due to lack of trust with government.

David Ritchie: What Threats regarding Commercial Fertilizer were removed in the City of Barrie?

Mike advised that there was one particular well surrounded by a golf course, and on the other side of the Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) was a lot of residential homes. The second methodology reduced the percent managed lands which removed many of the Threats. Bill advised that there were six townhomes across from the golf course, and fertilizer was not applied on the rough of the course, so it did not make sense in this case.

David Ritchie: RMOs should discuss the SPP with the lawn care companies due to the amount they are applying on residential lots.

Mike agrees that this is a good idea. It is similar to the action that was taken with fuel providers to educate them on where the WHPAs are.

Amanda Kellett: The annual report is a bit static and does not recognize that policy changes are made that have the potential to decrease Threats.

Bill advised that part of the report card includes a place for the SPCs opinion. If the Committee wanted to make comments on changes to policies that could be included. Bill will circulate to the SPC for agreement of the SPC Members, and will provide and take suggestions of comments to include with the Annual Report.

David Ketcheson: Would like to have a meeting with RMOs involved on whether the policies and the policy changes have achieved the goals, and what has or has not been effective.

Bill advised that a joint meeting of the SPC and RMO working group can be arranged. Will reach out to the Chairs of the working group to arrange.

Moved by: Rick Newlove
Seconded by: Peter Dance

SPC-03-24 **Resolved That** presentation a) and Staff Report SPC2.1 regarding Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2023) be received for information; and

Further That Source Protection Authority staff be directed to rate progress as “Progressing Well/On Target”; and

Further That the Source Protection Committee utilize section II of the Annual Report to comment on the progress made to date, as described in the Issues section.

Moved by: Rick Newlove
Seconded by: Peter Dance

AMENDMENT

SPC-04-24 **That** the following be added after the last paragraph of the main motion:

Further That in consultation with the Risk Management Officials the Source Protection Committee reconsider the timeline for mitigating new Threats.

The Amendment was Carried

The Main Motion, As Amended, was Carried

The Resultant Motion Reads as Follows:

Resolved That presentation a) and Staff Report SPC2.1 regarding Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2023) be received for information; and

Further That Source Protection Authority staff be directed to rate progress as “Progressing Well/On Target”; and

Further That the Source Protection Committee utilize section II of the Annual Report to comment on the progress made to date, as described in the Issues section; and

Further That in consultation with the Risk Management Officials the Source Protection Committee reconsider the timeline for mitigating new Threats.

b) A presentation by Mystaya Touw and Mike Wilson, LSRCA, regarding a draft Water Budget Screening Process.

Presentation available on the SGBLS SPR website at
https://ourwatershed.ca/assets/uploads/2024/03/b-2024-03-14_WB-Review.pdf.

Overall Tier 1 & 2 review did not identify any new big red flags. Will continue to monitoring demand through Section 34 amendments, and are proposing to do this review on a five year cycle.

Midhurst is currently undergoing a Tier 3 risk assessment.

Tier 3 review approach: Can calculate demand. Change in supply is estimated. Changes in baseflow over time is analyzed. Look at change in risk and changes in the water table in the vicinity of wells since the Tier 3 was done. This provides the Percent Water Demand.

Have tools to calculate changes to surface water levels. In the Midland/Penetanguishene example presented, have a data gap so are unable to complete the analysis. The Oak Ridges Moraine Groundwater Program has the best groundwater data available in the Province. They can present to the SPC if wanted.

The City of Barrie example presented of climate change impacts shows no significant impact of weather changes on water takings for a heavily urban municipality. A review of Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network wells in the Region did not show large changes since the early 2000s. Overall climate change could result in lower recharge to aquifers. In the SPR, there are about 10 wells in the high risk category of vulnerability to climate change.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

John Hemsted: How good was the modelling at the beginning that we based our decisions on?

Mike advised that the Barrie area Tier 3 is being updated and the conceptual model is really good. Since that Tier 3 was done, the Ontario Geological Survey was done and little needed to be adjusted.

Peter Dance: This is a really good exercise.

Rick Newlove: Midland/Penetang could build a water surface treatment plant and will have lots of water. So should we focus on the areas that do not have these types of capabilities?

Mike advised that these challenges are coming forward.

Dave Ritchie: Where is the Willow Creek subwatershed review at in terms of quality? What is happening with projections for where the wastewater is going?

Mike advised that his focus has been on water quantity and not yet on quality, but he is working with the Township of Springwater on this type of review. Bill advised that we will continue to look at water quality and will report back. Wastewater is not really dealt with in the source water program.

Jessica Neto: When looking at aggregate washing, are you looking at changes in provincial policies and regulations?

Mystaya advised that the 2020 actual takings data is available, and we could determine surface vs. groundwater takings. With the aggregate washings we could determine what was returning to the subwatershed, and most of it is returning as it is not leaving the site. We have consumptive use data available and have used this to determine how consumptive the aggregate washing was, and it was determined to not be very significant.

Bob Duncanson: Is someone doing something similar in the Shelburne area and will this review be presented to the SPC, as it is rapidly growing community?

Mystaya advised staff looked at the portion of Shelburne in the SGBLS SPR but not the other SPRs, but there is interest in presenting this work with the other SPRs to feed into the water budget update process. Don advised that this SPC and staff have a lot of information, tools and perspectives around the big picture of water quantity taking stresses, and would like to work more closely with the Ministry staff who are processing water taking permits, as a greater linkage between water takings and the Permit to Take Water (PTTW) approvals process would be beneficial.

David Ketcheson: Would like to see this information given to municipalities so they are aware in advance that they could come into a Threat situation. 97% of water from aggregate washing is returned onsite. Identifying monitoring municipal groundwater levels is important to future generations. If we have good surface water station data, that helps us to be more predictive in this kind of thing in future. We need the long term data to do these types of analyses, so if the Ministry could take this under advisement that would be helpful.

Mystaya advised that we have the 2051 population projections for our SPR, and future demand projections for 2051 were done. We estimated municipal takings but cannot estimate non-municipal and small takings. The annual usage was available so an average day calculation was done. Lynn advised that the projections are changing due to changes in growth scenarios.

Rick Newlove: Do we have any municipalities that get their drinking water from rivers?

Mystaya advised all of the surface takings in our SPR are from the Lakes.

Amanda Kellett: Because the PTTW rules have changed, have Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) water takings been considered?

Mystaya advised the EASR takings were not considered, and is not sure if the actual EASR takings data is available.

Moved by: Bob Duncanson
Seconded by: John Hemsted

SPC-05-24 **Resolved That** presentation b) be received for information. **Carried**

c) A presentation by Mike Wilson, LSRCA, regarding an update on the review of the Willow Creek subwatershed water budget.

Presentation available on the SGBLS SPR website at

https://ourwatershed.ca/assets/uploads/2024/03/c-2024-03-04_Willow-Creek-Tier-3-update.pdf.

The Source Protection Committee has been worried about cumulative takings in the area as approvals have come forward individually. We can use the Barrie groundwater flow model update project to update data to inform the Tier 3 model, and both projects have been awarded to the same consultant which will provide efficiencies and consistency in the reports.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

David Ritchie: The map did not show where the Willow Creek dumps into the Minesing Swamp.

Mike advised that the consultant is aware of this.

Rick Newlove: When digging out a creek, in Innisfil landowners had to contribute.

Lynn advised this is the case when it is a municipal drain, but this is not a municipal drain.

Lynn Dollin: Have the main municipal developers in the Midhurst Secondary Plan area been involved in the project?

Mike indicated no due to the timing of the project. Getting the data from Golder and the Township took time. This is a great idea for the future.

Tom Kurtz: Through what process is water quality being addressed?

Bill advised that staff is continuing to look into water quality concerns in Midhurst at Carson Road but not within the context of the Willow Creek Water Budget, which is a water quantity study.

Tom: Am more concerned about the discharge. In order to speed up development the Province approved exempting from Environmental Assessment requirements.

Bill advised this is out of scope for source water as we do not get involved in discharge unless it affects drinking water.

Moved by: Rick Newlove

Seconded by: David Ritchie

SPC-06-24 **Resolved That** presentation c) be received for information. **Carried**

d) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA, regarding Source Protection Region Update.

Presentation available on the SGBLS SPR website at
https://ourwatershed.ca/assets/uploads/2024/03/d-2024-03-01_SPRupdate.pdf.

The source water program is now working under 3-year funding agreements rather than year-to-year agreements. The Province is still really confident in the program.

Province is proposing to change from the current municipal class environmental assessment process to a municipal project assessment process. Under the new process it is not clear if you have to look at alternatives, including the Threats process. Likely we will find this process does not get triggered very often due to the many circumstances where it does not apply.

May be cases where we consult with the public, but it will be at the very last stage of the process.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Peter Dance: Midland decommissioned a well, and that amendment went through but the process was lengthy. Was this addressed?

Bill confirmed that this decommissioning meant the WHPA no longer existed. Removal of the well required an SPP amendment, which can be a change made by SPA staff without approval of the Ministry. Midland was complicated and we had to take it to the Ministry as a technical amendment that the Province was okay with. Future changes will be simpler.

Cate Root: Will there be funding available for the baseline system monitoring in Tiny?

Bill clarified that there is not new funding, but additional funding for the same areas. We can seek funding to support municipalities in doing work, but not work they are required to do. Monitoring is something the Province is still reluctant to fund as it is long term work. Bill will get back to Cate if there is any opportunity there.

Peter Dance: We identified WHPAs through capture zone mapping that is no longer correct. Would some of the targetted municipal support help get the WHPAs in line with the capture zones?

Bill would call that technical work. It would be on a case-by-case basis. Smaller, more rural municipalities are more likely to get this support.

Amanda Kellett: Can the process improvements paper be shared with the Committee?

Bill will check with the co-authors as to whether it is a public document or just for the municipalities.

Moved by: Cate

Seconded by: Jeff Hamelin

SPC-07-24 **Resolved That** presentation d) be received for information. **Carried**

9. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No items were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

10. Adoption of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion

Items SPC1.1 – SPC1.6, inclusive, were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

SPC1.1 – A letter dated November 14, 2023 to Kirsten Service, MECP, regarding Streamlining Environmental Permissions for Stormwater Management (ERO Posting #019-6928)

SPC1.2 – A letter dated December 7, 2023 to Kirsten Service, MECP, regarding Periodic review and update to Wellhead Protection Areas

SPC1.3 – A letter dated December 7, 2023 from Andrea Khanjin, MECP, regarding approval of amendments to the Source Protection Plan for the Nottawasaga Valley Source Protection Area

SPC1.4 – A letter dated December 15, 2023 from Andrea Khanjin, MECP, regarding approval of amendments to the Lake Simcoe Assessment Report and South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan

SPC1.5 – A letter dated February 7, 2024 from Kirsten Service, MECP, regarding concerns relating to potential changes to vulnerable areas and the importance of keeping the foundational science current

SPC1.6 – A letter dated February 26, 2023 (actually 2024) from Matthew Pearson, Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee, regarding Recommended Phase Out of Free Well Water Testing in the 2023 Auditor General's Report

Moved by: Peter Dance

Seconded by: David Ritchie

SPC-08-24 **Resolved That** correspondence SPC1.1 – SPC1.6, inclusive, as listed in the agenda be received for information. **Carried**

11. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

There were no items requiring separate discussion.

12. Other Business

- a) Lynn Dollin paid tribute to Stan Wells, SPC Member who passed away in December 2023. Committee Members were invited to share their memories of Stan and to recognize his significant contributions to the source water program.
- b) Lynn advised that she has invited Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to attend an SPC meeting, and will continue to reach out as she was unable to attend today's meeting.

13. Closed Session

None.

14. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Moved by: Rick Newlove

Seconded by: John Hemsted

SPC-09-24 **Resolved That** the next meeting of the Source Protection Committee is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at West Orillia Sports Complex, Rotary Place Arena located at 100 University Avenue, Orillia, in the Tournament Room; and

Further that the March 28, 2024 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be adjourned at 11:50 am. **Carried**



South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

Source Protection Committee (SPC)

Minutes of Meeting SPC-02-2024

October 10, 2024

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

Members Present:

Lynn Dollin, Chair

Municipal

Chris Gerrits, Jeff Hamelin, Michelle Flaherty, Michelle Jakobi, Jennifer Best

Economic/Development

Colin Elliott, John Hemsted, Amanda Kellett, Rick Newlove, David Ritchie

Public Sector

Geoff Allen, Peter Dance, Bob Duncanson, Cate Root

First Nations

Vacant

Liaisons

Karen Kivilahti, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU)

Don Goodyear, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)

Julie Cayley, Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA)

Laura Collings, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Chris Hibberd, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA)

Staff Present

Bill Thompson, LSRCA

Mystaya Touw, LSRCA

Kathy Hillis, LSRCA (minutes)

Melissa Carruthers, SSEA

Kirsten MacLeod, SSEA

Guests

Christina Wieder, York Region Public Health Branch

Shelly Cuddy, Durham Region

Tom Bradley, York Region

Stephanie Sabeau, City of Barrie

Regrets:

Scott Lister, Municipal

Stephanie Hobbs, Public Sector – proxy to Peter Dance

Tom Kurtz, Public Sector – proxy to Geoff Allen

Katie Thompson, Municipal

David Ketcheson, Economic/Development

Jessica Neto, Economic/Development

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

The Chair introduced the new members (Michelle Jakobi, Michelle Flaherty and Jennifer Best) and advised that David Greenwood has resigned, so we are recruiting for a new Public Sector member.

Bill announced that Mike Wilson has retired.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair recited the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

None declared.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Rick Newlove

Seconded by: John Hemsted

SPC-10-24 **Resolved That** the agenda for the October 10, 2024 meeting of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) be approved as presented. **Carried**

5. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by: Bob Duncanson

Seconded by: Peter Dance

SPC-11-24 **Resolved That** the minutes of the March 28, 2024 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be approved as circulated; and

Further That it be noted that there are no minutes of the Thursday, July 11, 2024 meeting as it was cancelled after the agenda was circulated. **Carried**

6. Announcements

a) Chair

- i) The Chair's meeting was yesterday. Received an update from the Province on where we are with the program. The Chairs thanked the Province for confirming three-year funding. Lynn advised about the Risk Management Officials (RMO) session in the spring where they provided feedback on how the RMOs are working on the ground. There has been a lot of change in Committees and Chairs. Cate asked if the funding to do the work on the ground is enough? Bill advised that the funding that this SPC receives is part of a provincial envelope of funding but it has not increased with inflation. Municipalities that implement the plans do not get any funding, so this is where the pressure is felt. Cate asked if there is something the SPC can do to support the municipalities in advocating

for more funding, especially given there is significant liability to ensuring water quality is maintained? Bill advised that now that Risk Management Plans (RMP) are in place that municipalities may think they can step back, but this is not the case as there are still inspections and additional RMPs to be done. Staff and SPC Members can keep bringing this to their municipalities to remind them of the importance of continuing this work. Cate asked if there is not a more formal organized process for this? Lynn feels that if you bring it to municipalities they would respond that they do need more funding, but for many more programs than source water. Having it come from the Source Protection Authorities may be more direct than coming from a municipality. If you go to municipalities it may get put low down on the list. Cate is suggesting that we advocate with the municipalities. Chris confirmed that infrastructure is a municipal priority, but the SPC can remind municipalities of the importance of source water.

7. Deputations

There were none.

8. Presentations

a) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA, regarding Willow Creek Water Budget Update.

Link to the presentation - [Willow Creek Water Budget Update](#)

Every drinking water system gets a Tier 1 assessment, if there are any concerns it gets promoted to Tier 2, if there is any indication of a risk it gets promoted to Tier 3, and if it is found to have a risk then the Source Protection Plan kicks in.

The Committee has seen a number of proposals for new wells, and with expected future plans, there is a projected 13% increase in demand on groundwater.

The Risk Assessment Results table is indicating the amount of the water table above the well level, so if it is negative it is below the level of the well.

Barrie is doing an update to their water budget and advised us to model with the assumption that all pumps are running all the time at full volume, which is an extreme use assumption, so we have likely over estimated the actual and future use. When we get more accurate numbers when they finish their water budget in 1 – 1.5 years, staff will update the water budget.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Colin: There are five new wells coming online with approximately 5% reduction in baseflow for each well, for approximately an additional 30% strain on the creek. Is that not a concern?

Bill advised that the number Colin quoted was the consultant's estimate for one well. It will not necessarily translate into all wells together causing a 30% reduction in baseflow as it depends on the location of the other wells with respect to the watercourse. We are waiting

on the consultants to provide their report. Lynn advised that we will get the information but we do not have it yet. Colin advised that he believes it is a 30% reduction in baseflow.

Amanda: Is there a process where the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) or another agency reviews the consultants modelling?

Don advised that in terms of the Tier 3 modelling results they get reviewed as part of the assessment report, so the consultants reports do not get reviewed. However they are reviewing them as cumulative impact of water takings when they review Permits to Take Water (PTTW).

Geoff: Who is the consultant working for?

Bill advised we hire the consultant.

Cate: If we determine there is a risk, what kind of solutions are there?

We have policies in the Source Protection Plan about ensuring water recharge is maintained, and that PTTW's are reviewed. The Committee can use these policies or can recommend new policies.

Cate: Can this Committee restrict growth?

Bill advised no, this Committee's job is to protect the aquifer, recognizing that the growth is happening. We provide best practices to help manage the growth.

Rick: Advised that Barrie could take water from Lake Simcoe if needed, which Bill confirmed is correct.

Colin: Can water be pumped up to North Barrie?

Rick advised that water can be pumped almost anywhere, but has not reviewed it yet so cannot say if it can be pumped up to North Barrie. Peter indicated that if you build a water station you can pump anywhere, but he does not believe that they have the capacity to do that significantly right now in this case, but yes it can be done in the future.

Peter: Due to the cumulative impacts on baseflow and the potential degradation to the watercourse, does the SPC have the mandate or authority to protect the environmental side of Willow Creek, if it is not impacting water quality?

Bill advised that the Committee does have the mandate and authority to manage water quantity as well as water quality, and one of the issues the Committee is supposed to be aware of is the impact to receiving waterways. The Province has set a threshold 10% reduction, which is within the range of variation of normal stream flow. We do the cumulative models to determine if there are any concerns with proposed development when there are several reductions over the years. We do not have concerns in Willow Creek as of yet. Don confirmed that the Barrie takings are the only ones of concern, but given the

proposed wells in Midhurst and Oro-Medonte are not exacerbating the impacts on Willow Creek, he believes that it is okay to wait for the consultants report.

Amanda: In terms of the water taking and quantity policies, is there monitoring in York Region WHPAs to know if those policies are protecting recharge?

Bill does not have a definitive answer for this. It does not appear that there is a requirement to monitor some of these watercourse features.

David: Where is the one well with a water quality concern?

Bill advised it is one of the Snow Valley wells. It is still borderline so we continuing to work with Springwater staff, and a report will be brought to a future meeting.

Colin: Is that well being diluted, given the nitrate level?

Bill advised it is being treated, not diluted. They are testing and using the well. The testing shows that when the water goes to the public it meets the drinking water standard. Lynn advised the health unit would be involved if it is a problem and it is their responsibility to notify well users of any risks. Bill confirmed that it is not above the level.

Colin: The health unit did not get involved when their was a quality problem in the Lafontaine area, in an Issue Contributing Area (ICA).

Bill advised that an ICA brings in policy with respect to managing threats related to nitrate if it is above the objective or trending toward becoming above the objective. A report on this well will be coming to the Committee in the future.

Geoff: Since the Committee does not have the ability to affect growth, but growth is affecting quantity, so how does that relate to us?

Bill advised that it can be argued that is not growth that is affecting quantity, but rather it is either the amount of pavement or consumption. We have the ability to control pavement in that we can require low impact development and stormwater management to ensure water continues to recharge despite the pavement, and we can control consumption through putting terms and conditions on PTTWs.

Moved by: Chris Gerrits

Seconded by: John Hemsted

SPC-12-24 **Resolved That** presentation a) be received for information. **Carried**

b) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA, with an opening overview of the day.

Link to the presentation - [Opening Overview of the Day](#)

Document accessibility will result in some changes to the look of the document so that it will work with document readers, but it may make them a little less user friendly to those visually reading them.

The consultation process is spelled out in the Act. It is scaled back a bit since we are not bringing forward a new plan, but are just updating it.

Moved by: David Ritchie

Seconded by: Peter Dance

SPC-13-24 **Resolved That** presentation b) be received for information. **Carried**

c) A presentation by Melissa Carruthers, SSEA, regarding Staff Report SPC 2.1 - Rope Subdivision IPZ – Vulnerability Score Increase.

Link to the presentation - [Rope Subdivision IPZ – Vulnerability Score Increase](#)

This is the furthest from shore but shallowest of the three intakes in the area. The other two have a vulnerability score of 10 and are deeper. Local Councils indicated that if we are doing a review of Rope, we need to do all of the intakes in the area.

Approximately an additional 500 septic tanks would need to be inspected. It is not anticipated that this review would result in any additional Risk Management Plans (RMPs) being required on private lands.

All municipalities were in support of a vulnerability score increase.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Colin: By increasing the vulnerability score, how do you propose to increase the protection? Can you not spread manure close to shore? In the Rope area there is not a lot of agriculture, so could this use be transported to another area?

Melissa advised that there does not appear to be any agricultural uses in the Rope area, they are just septic tanks. Will work with municipalities on agreement for protections.

Colin: Can you not protect the Rope intake directly?

Melissa advised that the municipality would need to review this, but given the traffic in the area this may not be feasible. Peter indicated that there may not be anything that can physically be done at the intake.

Rick: Would Barrie trigger the septic policy?

Melissa advised Barrie is one of the areas that would not trigger septic tanks, so it would go from 8 to 9 which is not high enough for the septic tanks. They might have storage of pesticides. Lynn advised Innisfil already has the septic inspection from the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, for it would not make any difference for that intake.

Cate: The Town is considering a well for the cottagers in this area, so would this have an impact on Rope? Historically the Town has had to give water to the residents due to quality.

Melissa can not speak to this yet, but this is something that the Town is hoping to address in their review, in terms of can they support development and maintain water quality. Peter advised that prior to Rope being built, they looked at a well but could not get good enough water quantity in the area, so they built Rope. Another option is to see about bringing water from Tay.

Colin: Will this affect agricultural and the ability to spray manure in the area?

Melissa advised that even if it goes to a level 10, there are no agricultural properties that will be impacted.

Moved by: Chris Gerrits
Seconded by: John Hemsted

SPC-14-24 **Resolved That** presentation c) and Staff Report SPC2.1 regarding a vulnerability score increase to the Rope Subdivision Intake Protection Zone be received for information; and

Further That the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee endorse the utilization of Directors Technical Rule 95.1 to increase the vulnerability score of Rope Subdivision, Beaverton, Lagoon City Water Treatment Plant, Orillia Water Treatment Plant, and Sandcastle Estates from 9 to 10; and

Further That the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee endorse the utilization of Directors Technical Rule 95.1 to increase the vulnerability score of West Shore and the Barrie, Alcona, Georgina, and Keswick Water Treatment Plants from 8 to 9. **Carried**

d) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA, regarding Staff Report SPC2.2 - Grazing and Pasturing of Livestock.

Link to the presentation - [Grazing and Pasturing of Livestock](#)

The Policy in the plan does not meet the test of what is fair and reasonable, because we are more restrictive on grazing livestock than confined animals, and this is regardless of the quantity of manure being deposited on the landscape.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Rick: If a farmer sells their land, does the new farmer know that there is an RMP in place? How often are the RMPs reviewed?

Bill advised that no, there is no measure in place to put this on title. We have worked with real estate agents to ensure they are aware of these issues so they can protect their clients.

The RMO determines the period of time before they go back and do a new inspection. However, if an RMO knows that there has been an ownership change, they will make review of the RMP a priority. John advised that this scenario occurred in Cannington where a new owner was not aware that they are in a vulnerable area, so this prompted this recommendation by staff. Rick suggested that municipalities could work with the assessment office, as that office is aware of changes in ownership. Peter believes that the only way to catch this is for the municipalities and assessment office to work together such that the municipalities are advised of changes in ownership so they can check their records. Don advised that the York Region website has a mapping tool where people can zoom in to see what policies apply. We could reach out to municipalities to advise them of the availability of these types of tools, and reach out to real estate agents to have them advise clients of these tools or use them themselves.

Jennifer: Have a desktop exercise been done on the impact on this change?

Bill advised this has been done and it is limited impact.

Colin: Spoke to the Ontario Real Estate Board who advised that they will not disclose this to prospective buyers since real estate agents have enough to do. Colin disagrees with the plan to fence off 100 acres around a well as it is impractical.

Bill advised that this prohibition is currently in place to not pasture at all in a WHPA-A, and he is proposing to not change that part of the policy.

David: We have recommended that this be on title so it would be found in a title search, but it has not been implemented.

Geoff advised that lawyers are not doing title searches anymore because they are selling title insurance. It is real estate agents responsibility to find these things out. Would be good to do an education session on how to use the tools to find out about restrictions to land.

Chris: Is the pasturing restriction only a small area around a municipal well?

Bill advised this is correct, and that it would be approximately 3 acres. Bill indicated that this is only one tool available, and that it is rare in our jurisdiction for this scenario to occur. Lynn reminded that this is already in the policy and if it was a concern we would have heard about it.

Peter: The recommended change is actually lessening restrictions, correct?

Bill responded yes.

Moved by: John Hemsted

Seconded by: Rick Newlove

SPC-15-24 **Resolved That** presentation d) and Staff Report SPC2.2 regarding Grazing and Pasturing of Livestock be received for information; and

Further That staff be directed to revise policy LSTOCK-1 to allow the management of livestock grazing where it would be a significant drinking water threat (outside a WHPA-A) through risk management plans, rather than prohibiting it; and

Further That staff be directed to incorporate the revised policy in the forthcoming amendment to the Source Protection Plan, under Section 36 of the Clean Water Act. **Carried**

e) A presentation by Mystaya Touw, LSRCA, regarding Staff Report SPC2.3 - Overview of Section 36 Updates.

Link to the presentation - [Overview of Section 36 Updates](#)

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Peter: Is the enforcement deadline 5 years? Peter believes this is too long.

Mystaya confirms it is 5 years and we are not proposing a change. Lynn commented that we went to RMO/RMIs and they advised that reducing this timeline would be stress on their workplans.

David: For non-agricultural materials placed on non-agricultural land, what are we doing to regulate the material coming out of Toronto for the past 10 years? Are we keeping an eye on this and regulating it?

Mystaya advised that fill from a construction site does not fall into this category. Construction fill might be more in the land disposal category. Chris Hibberd advised that MECP and Conservation Authority regulations would apply, but that things like airports are exempt. Chris Gerrits advised that the Credit Valley – Toronto and Region – Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Committee asked that excess soil be dealt with as a threat, but has not received a response as of yet. In his municipality there was an application to put excess soil in a gravel pit, and neither MECP nor MNR would take responsibility. It does not fall under source protection. Geoff advised that the soils are usually tested where they originate from and not where they are delivered to. Bill advised that the source protection plan also does not apply to airports.

Colin: Discharge from meat processing plant are now restricted and in future will be prohibited. We are having trouble keeping plants open. Why is discharge prohibited as they have to discharge?

Mystaya advised that the prohibition policy predates inclusion of sewage from a meat plant, but this can be updated if the Committee wishes. It is in a very restricted area for the policies to apply, so it would be very limited to application of the policy.

Colin: Is there not more than 500 tonnes of salt in salt domes? Are we restricting something that cannot be restricted?

Mystaya advised the 500 tonnes would only be prohibited if it is in the salt vulnerable area for Barrie, or if it reaches the threshold of say a WHPA-10 with 30% impervious cover, so it is limited as to where it would apply, and would not be restricted everywhere. Mystaya is unaware of any push back from the City of Barrie on this policy. We will be engaging in the future with anyone that this policy affects.

Lynn: Are the threshold changes a requirement of the Province?

Bill confirmed that the threshold changes were done by the Province. The original rules introduced a threshold of 500 tonnes to be a significant threat. The changes in thresholds are a significant change as they say more than 10 kg of salt is a significant threat. Staff recommends that the new smaller volumes be managed and the larger volumes continue to be prohibited, so it is not a new prohibition. None of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) cones are in an area where prohibitions apply as they are all far away from municipal wells. City of Barrie domes are existing activities and are managed, and therefore are not prohibited.

Peter: The salt from the domes are being distributed in the Lake Simcoe watershed, but the Lake has not been classified as an issue contributing area. This is a big issue that is not being addressed by the current changes, and not sure how this can be addressed by source water protection.

Bill advised that approximately 100,000 tonnes of salt is distributed in and around Lake Simcoe each year. We have advised Barrie that they should develop a salt management plan, and are taking this thinking to other municipalities. Bill is working with companies on trying to change occupiers liability for application of salt as this is the main reason that so much salt is being applied. Lynn advised that AMO (Association of Municipalities in Ontario) has been working for years on liability concerns for municipalities in many areas, not just salt. The Ministry of the Attorney General sent surveys to municipalities pre-2020 but nothing has come of it. Getting salt out of the picture may help. Rama did a pilot project of reducing salt by 50% and used more sand, but they had push back from cleaners of the casino, and they are being sued from one slip and fall, but Lynn is not aware if the incidents of slips and falls are up or down at this location.

Jennifer: Getting to commercial operators, is there an impetus to go after them on how to manage the lowering of the thresholds?

Bill advised that we have been working with Landscape Ontario for many years. They are feeling a real crisis on the liability side. They are leading the charge on the regulation changes, as they want to ensure commercial operators will not lose their business over slips and falls. Bill is engaged with Smart About Salt to try to help bring about change.

Lynn: If you are next to parking lot with salt on it, but are instituting stormwater infiltration policies, what is the impact?

Mystaya advised the policies are through Environmental Compliancy Approvals. Bill advised that conservation authorities are strong advocates for stormwater infiltration facilities, but they do not do anything for chloride. As a result they need to be handled on a case-by-case basis, and if it is near a WHPA then infiltration into groundwater is not the right solution. Don advised that it does not always need to be either/or as you can seasonally change where stormwater is directed. City of Barrie is an example where this type of engineered solution is in place.

Lynn: 30-days would be difficult if it needs to go to Council, but maybe not if it just goes to staff. What newspapers, so do you mean online publications?

Mystaya advised online publications will do. 30-days is for initial thoughts, but further comments can be provided after that.

Moved by: Rick Newlove
Seconded by: Peter Dance

SPC-16-24 **Resolved That** presentation e) and Staff Report SPC2.3 regarding an Overview of Section 36 Updates and supporting documents be received for information; and
Further That the updates to the Source Protection Plan, Explanatory Document, and Assessment Reports also be received for information; and
Further That the Source Protection Committee endorse the Draft Source Protection Plan and accompanying documents as written for submission to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks for early engagement as part of the amendment to the Plan under section 36 of the Clean Water Act. **Carried**

9. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No items were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

10. Adoption of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion

Items SPC1.1 - SPC1.3, inclusive, were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

SPC1.1 – Protection Ontario’s Sources of Drinking Water Progress Summary (2017-2022).

SPC1.2 – A letter from Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, regarding approval of section 34 amendments to the Palgrave – Caledon East drinking water system in Palgrave.

SPC1.3 - A letter dated September 9, 2024 from Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, regarding approval of section 34 amendments to the Shelburne drinking water system.

Moved by: Chris Gerrits

Seconded by: Jeff Hamelin

SPC-17-24 **Resolved That** correspondence SPC1.1 - SPC1.3, inclusive, as listed in the agenda be received for information. **Carried**

11. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

There were no items requiring separate discussion.

12. Other Business

- a) Peter drafted a letter with respect to thresholds in WHPAs. Has this letter gone to the Minister and have we heard back? Bill advised that it did go to the Ministry several months ago, and the Ministry acknowledged receipt of the letter. Bill and other SPAs have flagged funding for this as an issue. The Ministry has created a working group to develop a working document to ensure things do not go out of date and to ensure issues are brought forward. Bill will bring items to the Committee as appropriate.

13. Closed Session

None.

14. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Moved by: Colin Elliot

Seconded by: Peter Dance

SPC-18-23 **Resolved That** the next meeting of the Source Protection Committee scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024 from 1-4 pm; and

Further that the October 10, 2024 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be adjourned at 11:45 am **Carried**

Source Protection Committee Chair's Update

To: Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority

From: Lynn Dollin, Chair – South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee

Date: May 23, 2025

Subject

Source Protection Committee Chair's Update

Recommendation

That the report by South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee Chair Lynn Dollin regarding Source Protection Committee updates be received for information.

Chair's Update

Below is a brief update from the Source Protection Committee since the last Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority Board meeting held in April 2024.

The Source Protection Committee has met three times in the past year, and I'm happy to say the Committee remains engaged and committed to ensuring the protection of municipal sources of drinking water. Vacancies occasionally arise on the committee, and fortunately qualified applicants continue to come forward to fill those vacancies.

The Committee continues reviewing and updating the Source Protection Plan to ensure it remains compliant with changes to Provincial policy. Such policy changes have led to the introduction of new activities that need to be managed and a broadened definition of some of the existing activities. In developing new policies, the Committee has kept its approach of managing existing threats and prohibiting new ones from becoming established, as well as ensuring those responsible for implementing the plan are spending their limited time on those issues of the greatest importance.

This year, the Committee was pleased to hear that for the first time all Risk Management Plans required to manage existing threats on the landscape have been completed. The Committee recognizes this is a monumental task, from creating job descriptions and hiring staff to meet entirely new responsibilities, to developing necessary new policies and procedures, building relationships with hundreds of residents, and ultimately working through the complexities of the COVID-19 pandemic. Municipalities have borne the largest workload in implementing the Source Protection Plan, and municipal staff should be congratulated for all their hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Dollin, Chair

Source Protection Authority Staff Report

To: Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority

From: Bill Thompson, Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies

Date: May 23, 2025

Subject

2024 Annual Source Water Protection Progress Report

Recommendation

That Staff Report No. 02-25-SPA regarding the 2024 Source Water Protection Annual Report to the Ministry be received for information.

Purpose of this Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 02-25-SPA is to provide an overview of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan annual progress report, submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks to meet its Regulatory deadline of May 1.

Background

The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan (the Plan) has been in effect since July 1, 2015. The *Clean Water Act* (Section 46) requires that the lead Source Protection Authority report to the Director on the implementation of all policies each year. It also requires that the Source Protection Committee be provided an opportunity to comment on the draft report before its submission (draft report attached).

A primary objective of monitoring and reporting is to assess if threats to municipal drinking water sources are being managed through the implementation of the Plan's policies. This information will help support any future amendments to the Plan and provide accountability and transparency to stakeholders.

Essential implementation actions, such as establishing a Risk Management Office and drafting policies for municipal Official Plans, have been completed across the Source Protection Region. Risk Management Officials, on behalf of applicable municipalities, have been negotiating risk management plans with landowners. Similarly, Ontario ministries have completed the task of reviewing previously issued provincial approvals (prescribed instruments such as Nutrient Management Plans and Environmental Compliance Approvals), where they have been identified to address existing activities that may pose risks to sources of drinking water.

Issues

At their most recent meeting, the Source Protection Committee reviewed source protection plan implementation progress data and identified the following key findings:

- All municipalities have submitted their annual reports to Source Protection Authority staff.
- Most policies (98%) that address significant drinking water threats in the Plan have been or are in the process of being implemented in accordance with the timelines set out in the Plan or otherwise amended.
- It is estimated that over 99% of existing significant drinking water threats have been mitigated through policy implementation.
- A total of 346 risk management plans have been established to date and with 32 completed in 2024. Three remain outstanding after the July 1, 2024 deadline due to extenuating circumstances.
- Moving forward, approximately an additional 57 risk management plans associated with approved new wells and drinking water systems are estimated to be required, as well as some to address changeover in owners, businesses, or activities.
- All initial inspections of septic systems required by the Source Protection Plan for sourcewater have been completed. All municipalities are now in the phase of re-inspecting these systems every five years, with most on their third round of inspections. The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan also requires inspections of septic systems located within 100m of Lake Simcoe or its tributaries; the status of those inspections is not tracked by the Conservation Authority.

The Source Protection Committee has indicated it is confident that Plan implementation is progressing well.

Summary and Recommendations

The various implementers of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan have submitted their 2024 annual reports to the Source Protection Authority as required under the *Clean Water Act*. These reports show that implementation of the Plan is currently progressing well as detailed in this report.

It is therefore **Recommended that** Staff Report No. 01-25-SPA regarding the 2024 Source Water Protection Annual Report to the Ministry be received for information.

Pre-Submission Review

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Signed by:

Don Goodyear
General Manager, Integrated Watershed
Management

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

1. Source Protection Annual Progress Report, South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region

Source Protection Annual Progress Report

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Region



On the Implementation of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan

Reporting period January 1 to December 31, 2024

Ourwatershed.ca



2024 Source Protection Annual Progress Report

Introduction

This annual report briefly summarizes the progress made in implementing the source protection plan for the Lakes Simcoe & Couchiching Black River, Nottawasaga Valley and Severn Sound source protection areas, as required by the *Clean Water Act* and its regulations for the 2024 calendar year.

Protecting the sources of our drinking water is the first step in a multi-barrier approach to safeguard the quality and quantity of our water supplies. The source protection plan is the culmination of extensive science-based assessments, consultation with the community, collaboration with local stakeholders and the province, and research. The implementation of the policies contained in the source protection plan ensure that activities carried out in the vicinity of municipal drinking water supply wells and lake-based drinking water intakes do not pose a significant risk to those supplies.



A Message from your local Source Protection Committee

Our source protection committee was asked to provide a progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives this reporting period, with three progress scores to choose from as follows:

- **Progressing Well/On Target** – The majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing
- **Satisfactory** – Some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing
- **Limited progress** – A few of source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing

The progress score selected for achieving source protection plan objectives this reporting period is **progressing well/on target**.

All municipalities submitted their 2024 annual reports to the Source Protection Authority. Municipalities in our source protection region have processes in place to ensure planning decisions conform to our source protection plan. Ninety-eight percent of the policies that address significant drinking water threats in our Plan have been or are being implemented. Approximately 99% or more of the 3,313 significant drinking water threats that existed at the time of source protection plan approval have been addressed through policy implementation. A total of 346 risk management plans have been established as of December 31, 2024.

Our Watershed

The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region contains four watersheds and spans over 10,000 km², from the Oak Ridges Moraine in the south to the Canadian Shield in the north and is comprised of the Black-Severn, Lake Simcoe, Nottawasaga Valley and Severn Sound watersheds. The region contains portions of the Niagara Escarpment, Oak Ridges Moraine, Oro Moraine, Peterborough Drumlin Fields, Simcoe Uplands and Lowlands and the Canadian Shield. The region includes:

- 4 watersheds
- 52 municipalities
- 3 First Nations communities
- 107 drinking water systems
- 289 municipal supply wells
- 16 municipal surface water intakes
- More than 50,000 private wells

All told, the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe region has about one third of the municipal drinking water systems in the province.

The region is complex and diverse in terms of geology, physiography, population, and development pressures, with many, often conflicting, water uses including drinking water supply, recreation, irrigation, agriculture, commercial and industrial uses, as well as ecosystem needs.

These differences represent a significant challenge for the development of a source protection plan because of the associated variability of available information upon which to base the technical work, the differing stresses on water resources related to development pressure and population growth, and the differences in the nature, density and locations of threats to the quality and quantity of water resources.

To learn more, please read our assessment reports and source protection plan.

At a Glance: Progress on Source Protection Plan Implementation

Source Protection Plan Policies and Addressing Significant Risks

The South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee included 129 policies in their source protection plan to address 22 prescribed threats, protect sources of drinking water and monitor the progress of policy implementation.

Since the source protection plan took effect over nine years ago, much has been accomplished. To date, 100% of the legally binding policies that address significant drinking water threat activities have been or are being acted upon. 42% have been implemented, 51% are in the process of being implemented, and 7% have been evaluated and determined no further action is required.

The progress score for implementing Plan policies is progressing well/on target.

Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Of the 52 municipalities (upper, lower and single-tier) within the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region, 43 of these are subject to one or more source protection plan policies. The remaining nine municipalities do not have vulnerable areas where policies apply.

Planning departments and building officials are screening applications for locations within vulnerable areas where threats to drinking water sources are possible and policies may apply.

Municipalities in our source protection region are also required to review and update their Official Plan to ensure it conforms with the local source protection plans the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the *Planning Act*. All 43 of the municipalities that are subject to source protection plan policies have amended or are in the process of amending their Official Plan to conform with the source protection plan for our region.

The municipal progress score is progressing well/on target.

Septic Inspections

620 septic inspections were completed within our source protection region in 2024. Most were third-round inspections. An estimated 2,132 septic systems are required to be inspected as part of each 5-year inspection cycle. We are three years into the third 5-year inspection cycle and approximately 835 (39%) on-site sewage systems have been inspected in accordance with the Ontario Building Code. Many municipalities have plans to complete all of their round-three inspection in 2025 or 2026.

The progress score for the septic inspection program is progressing well/on target.

Risk Management Plans

346 risk management plans were established in our source protection region as of December 31, 2024 with 32 of those being completed within the 2024 calendar year. 99% of the risk management plans estimated to be required to manage existing significant threat activities have been established.

56 inspections were carried out in 2024 by a Risk Management Official/Inspector for regulated activities. Nine of these inspections demonstrated non-compliance with the contents of a risk management plan, but were brought back into compliance within the year. Some inspections showed a need for improving staff training, resulting in Risk Management Officials looking to improve their approach regarding risk management plan training. Officials are working with business owners to facilitate source water training in the future. The three outstanding risk management plans will be revisited as soon as possible.

An additional approximately 57 risk management plans are estimated to be required to address section 34 Amendments to the plan, as well as some to address 'future threats.' Risk management plans for Threats associated with Amendments have a 5-year timeline for completion from the date of amendment approval.

The progress score for establishing risk management plans is progressing well/on target.

Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Ontario ministries are reviewing applications for new or amended and previously issued provincial approvals (i.e. prescribed instruments, such as environmental compliance approvals under the *Environmental Protection Act*) where they have been identified as a tool in our plan to address activities that pose a significant risk to sources of drinking water. The provincial approvals are being issued, denied, amended or revoked, where necessary, to conform to plan policies. Our policies set out a timeline of five years from the date the source protection plan took effect (July 1, 2015) to complete the review of existing activities and make any necessary changes to previously issued approvals. The timeline for new or amended prescribed instruments is outlined in the Plan as the day the Source Protection Plan took effect. The ministries have reported 100% completion of previously issued provincial approvals in our source protection region and have a review protocol in place to screen all new applicable approval applications.

The progress score for the addressing risks using prescribed instruments is progressing well/on target.

Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Staff from Severn Sound Environmental Association met with staff and councillors from five of their member municipalities to deliver 'Source Water 101' education and outreach programming. This programming increases the awareness of the source water program for new staff and councillors and reminds existing staff and councillors of their roles and responsibilities in the process. More than 30 councillors and 30 municipal staff were engaged as well as residents in person and online via YouTube streams and email inquiries. This initiative builds relationships and increases communication between municipal partner and Source Protection Authority staff. A presentation was also provided to Lakeland realtors with 85 members on the call and circulation after the fact to their full membership of over 1,550 members.

Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

Of the 129 policies included in the Source Protection Plan, all (with the exception of one) are currently being implemented or are in the process of being implemented. The only policy that has had no progress made to date is the non-legally binding policy on transport pathways (TP-1). This policy only applies to one municipality in the Severn Sound Source Protection Area. Within this area there are numerous significant drinking water threats and managing these threats through the use of legally binding policies has been the main priority to date. This policy will continue to be considered in future work plans.

Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

City of Barrie - Barrie Well Supply - Central Well Field Issue Contributing Area for:

Sodium and Chloride

An increasing concentration/trend has been observed.

Risk management plans are being developed for large users of salt to ensure best practices are implemented for storage and application. The City of Barrie staff follow Smart About Salt practices.

Town of Penetanguishene - Robert Street West Supply Well Issue Contributing Area for:

Trichloroethylene

Not enough data is available to determine changes in concentration/trend.

Township of Brock – Cannington Well Supply – Arena Well Field Issue Contributing Area for: Trichloroethylene

A decreasing concentration/trend has been observed.

Township of Brock – Cannington Well Supply – Emerging Issue for: Nitrate

An increasing concentration/trend has been observed. The potential Issue is being investigated.

Township of Severn - Coldwater Well Supply Issue Contributing Area for:

Trichloroethylene

No change in concentration/trend.

Tiny Township - Lafontaine Well Supply Issue Contributing Area for:

Nitrate

Decreasing concentration/trend.

Tiny Township - Georgian Sands Well Supply Issue Contributing Area for:

Nitrate

Increasing concentration/trend.

Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

No work plans were required to be implemented for our assessment reports.

More from the Watershed

To learn more about the South Georgian Bay-Lake Simcoe Protection Region, visit:

www.ourwatershed.ca

Education and outreach are an important part of implementing source protection. Source protection authorities, municipalities and Risk Management Officials within the region continue to engage the community through site visits, social media, and workshops.

Source Protection Authority Staff Report

To: Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority

From: Bill Thompson, Manager, Watershed Plans and Strategies

Date: May 23, 2025

Subject

Source Protection Committee – Municipal Member Appointment

Recommendation

That Staff Report No. 03-25-SPA regarding the appointment of members to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee be received; and

Further That the appointment of Tom Bradley to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee for a five-year term beginning June 1, 2025 be approved.

Purpose of this Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 03-25-SPA is to seek the Source Protection Authority's approval of the appointment of a member to the Source Protection Committee.

Background

The *Clean Water Act* directs all Source Protection Regions to establish a Source Protection Committee, the members of which shall be responsible for developing and monitoring the implementation of a Source Protection Plan. In the case of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region, the Committee has been defined as being composed of one Chair, plus 22 members. Furthermore, members are to include one First Nation representative and seven representatives each from the municipal, economic/industrial sectors, and the public at large. In the case of Source Protection Regions, the Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority as the lead Source Protection Authority is responsible for appointing members to the Source Protection Committee, as well as filling vacancies which may arise due to members reaching the ends of their terms, changing jobs, moving outside of the Source Protection Region, or otherwise becoming ineligible to participate on the Committee.

Issues

A vacancy has arisen on the Source Protection Committee, with one municipal member having resigned due to a job change. To ensure the Committee achieves quorum and represents a broad range of interests, this vacancy should be filled as soon as possible.

Regulation 288/07 under the *Clean Water Act* specifies the process for Source Protection Authorities to follow when appointing members to the Committee. Municipal sector representatives are to be appointed by local (rather than lead) Source Protection Authorities, from a slate of candidates put forward by municipalities in the respective watershed.

Following the standard process, letters seeking nominees were sent to Chief Administrative Officers of all municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed. As a result of that process, Mr. Tom Bradley from York Region was recommended for appointment.

Mr. Bradley has worked in source water protection for over 10 years, and his work includes the implementation of the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan in York Region, along with coordination of the York Region Tier 3 Water Budget and Local Area Risk Assessment. Mr. Bradley also serves as a member of the Credit Valley, Toronto and Region, Central Lake Source Protection Committee, and his appointment to the South Georgian Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee is expected to promote policy consistency between the two Source Protection Regions. Additionally, he is a licensed professional geoscientist with more than 20 years experience working on groundwater projects.

Summary and Recommendations

As the lead Source Protection Authority, the Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority is responsible for ensuring the Source Protection Committee meets the size and structure guidelines of the *Clean Water Act*. There is currently a vacancy for a municipal representative to join the Committee which requires filling. Tom Bradley has been nominated for appointment to fill that vacancy.

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 03-25-SPA regarding the appointment of members to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee be received; and **Further that** the appointment of Tom Bradley to the South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Committee for a five-year term beginning June 1, 2025 be approved.

Pre-Submission Review

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Don Goodyear
General Manager, Integrated Watershed
Management

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer

Source Protection Authority Staff Report

To: Lakes Simcoe and Couchiching/Black River Source Protection Authority

From: Bill Thompson, Manager of Watershed Plans and Strategies

Date: May 23, 2025

Subject

Source Protection Plan Amendment Updates

Recommendation

That Staff Report No. 04-25-SPA regarding amendments to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan submitted to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks be received for information.

Purpose of this Staff Report

The purpose of this Staff Report No. 04-25-SPA is to provide an update on amendments to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan that have recently been submitted for approval.

Background

Regulation 205/18 under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* requires that any amendments to municipal residential Drinking Water Works Licences and Permits be accompanied by an amendment to the appropriate Source Protection Plan. The intent of this Regulation is to ensure that raw sources of municipal drinking water remain protected, even as drinking water systems change (or expand). As such, new or upgraded municipal wells or water treatment plants generally require new or revised Wellhead Protection Areas and Intake Protection Zones in Source Protection Plans and may lead to new restrictions associated with Source Protection Plan policies in those areas.

As the lead Source Protection Authority for the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region, staff are responsible for ensuring these amendments are completed and ultimately approved by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ministry). The process that staff are directed to follow is a consultation-rich one, with engagement occurring with the Source Protection Committee, Ministry staff, municipal staff and Councils, and affected local landowners. After completing the consultation and drafting the amendment to the Plan, with the Committee's agreement the amendments are submitted to the Minister for approval.

Issues

At the February 26, 2021 meeting of the Source Protection Authority, staff were delegated the authority to submit such amendments after consultation is complete. In return, staff committed to providing annual updates on any such amendments submitted.

Over the course of the past year, Source Protection Authority staff have submitted and received Ministerial approval for the following two Source Protection Plan amendments:

- Peel Region, to allow for increased demand in the Palgrave drinking water system, to support growth in that community. This amendment was submitted in January 2024 and approved in September 2024
- Town of Shelburne, to allow for increased demand in their drinking water system to support growth in that community. This amendment was submitted in March 2023 and approved September 2024

Summary and Recommendations

As the lead Source Protection Authority, the Lakes Simcoe/Couchiching Black River Source Protection Authority is responsible for ensuring that the Source Protection Plan is amended to account for new or expanded municipal drinking water systems. Over the course of the last year, two amendments to the source protection plan to address changes in municipal drinking water systems were submitted to, and approved by, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

It is therefore **Recommended That** Staff Report No. 04-25-SPA regarding amendments to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan submitted to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks be received for information.

Pre-Submission Review

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the General Manager, Integrated Watershed Management and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Signed by:

Don Goodyear
General Manager, Integrated Watershed
Management

Signed by:

Rob Baldwin
Chief Administrative Officer