

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING SUMMARY

MARCH 27, 2025– NORWOOD-ASPHODEL COMMUNITY CENTRE

1. Chairs Report

- Chair J. Hunt addressed the changes in the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks with new minister Todd McCarthy being appointed.

2. Annual Progress Reports

Trent Source Protection Plan

- K. Taylor reviewed the 2025 Annual Progress Report for the Trent Source Protection Plan, providing a scoring for each section of the report: Implementation of Source Protection Plan policies, Municipal Progress, Septic Inspection Program, Risk Management Reports, Education and Outreach, and an overall progress scoring. All sections were given a score of “Progressing Well / On Target.”
- K. Taylor addressed the shortcomings of the current way of reporting and tracking on Septic Inspections from a Source Protection Annual Progress Report standpoint, noting this is looking to be addressed before the 2025 reporting is initiated.
- K. Taylor spoke to the Risk Management Plan progress, noting delays in the Township of Minden Hills and what is being done to address them coming into compliance.
- K. Taylor noted that significant progress has been made in establishing risk management plans in the Township of Minden Hill, in early 2025, now that the municipality has hired a consultant to act as their Risk Management Official.
- K. Taylor suggested that a note reflecting the progress made in early 2025 by the Township should be included in the Annual Report.
- K. Taylor addressed the implementation progress of Source Protection Plan policies by the provincial ministries and the processes in place to address those policies and prescribed instruments, however noted issues with the lack of details provided in their reporting. Staff recommended a scoring of “Satisfactory”, noting the MECP’s commitment to improve their reporting will help to upgrade this score in the future.
- There was a brief discussion of a possible provisional recommendation to change the score if the April 7, 2025 negotiations with the MECP resolved the future reporting and Prescribed Instrument issues, however the Committee rejected this idea.

Ganaraska Source Protection Plan

- J. Mueller reviewed the 2025 Annual Progress Report for the Ganaraska Source Protection Plan, providing a scoring for each section of the report: Implementation of Source Protection Plan policies, Municipal Progress, Septic Inspection Program, Risk Management Reports, Education and Outreach, and an overall progress scoring. All sections were given a score of “Progressing Well / On Target.”

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- K. Taylor addressed the next steps, noting the annual reports will be presented to the Lead Source Protection Authority (Lower Trent) on April 10th, 2025, and the Lead Source Protection Authority will then approve submitting the reports to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

3. Leads Report

- Each Source Protection Authority (SPA) Lead Staff member provided a verbal report on the status of their local source protection implementation, including:
 - a. Update on municipal working groups;
 - b. Potential updates or amendments to drinking water systems;
 - c. Update on risk management plans and RMO progress, managing new threats;
 - d. Current issues or challenges;
 - e. Progress on updating new municipal staff on the Source Protection Program;
 - f. Update on education and outreach efforts, events.
- M. Carter noted they continue to work with Peterborough Public Health regarding septic inspections as they are being transferred from public health to the municipalities.
- A. Anderson noted they're working with Stirling and Grafton in the early stages of drinking water system updates.

4. Section 36 Update

- K. Taylor provided an update on the Section 36 Amendment, noting the amendment package was submitted in December 2023 and is currently being reviewed. K. Taylor noted the one sticking point is related to our minimum requirement proposal for the Prescribed Instrument Policies. The proposed policy would set a minimum requirement that prescribed instruments include reference to the applicable source protection vulnerable area in which the significant threat activity is occurring and where not already required, protocols for emergency responses related to protecting the drinking water source.
- K. Taylor mentioned that the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ministry) is taking the position that these minimum requirements would be too onerous, and the prescribed instruments are good enough, as is, to protect the drinking water sources.
- K. Taylor contended that it would not be too onerous particularly when the introduction of Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Approvals has drastically reduced the total number of prescribed instruments,
- K. Taylor also pointed out that the Consolidated Linear Infrastructure Approvals, which are for lower risk activities, contain the minimum requirements that are being recommended in the Prescribed Instruments amendments.
- During negotiations with the MECP, K. Taylor have provided the Ministry with a new proposal to lessen the potential workload on addressing the proposed prescribed instruments and still meet the intent of the proposed amendments. K. Taylor noted the Ministry is considering this compromise.
- F. Langmaid suggested not calling the new proposal a "compromise" but refer to it just as a "proposal".

5. Program Update

Section 34 Amendment Updates

- King's Bay
 - K. Taylor noted the Section 34 Amendment for a new well at King's Bay was submitted on December 20, 2024. The program coordinator has been working with the Ministry to help the approval process and hopes the Minister's approval will be received by late April or May.
- K. Taylor noted some potential new well amendments in the following municipalities and that will require a S.34 Amendment in the future:
 - Grafton
 - Stirling
 - Asphodel-Norwood
 - Port Perry

6. Best Practices For Other Systems

- T. Bos provided an update on the Best Practices Program to the committee, including an update on the Drinking Water Wise Webinar series with details on the upcoming session on April 9th, 2025 on Well Testing and Drinking Water Safety.

7. Rural Source Protection MECP Pilot Project Presentation – Terry Rees

- T. Rees provided a presentation on a Rural Source Protection project in coordination with MECP and Dillon Consulting to conduct a rural source protection analysis of Lake Crego in the Kawartha-Haliburton area. T. Rees noted the plan is to expand this project to other rural lakes.

8. Roundtable

- F. Langmaid noted concern that due to the cutbacks to college programs in Ontario there is only one remaining college program for Water Treatment in Ontario, at Niagara College.
- M. Richmond noted an ongoing challenge for water treatment staff in smaller municipalities is the retainment of staff.
- Chair J. Hunt asked the Program Coordinator to draft a letter to the appropriate Cabinet Ministers to express this concern.

8. Next Meeting

- K. Taylor noted there is no set date as of now.