



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, April 13, 2023

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Chair's Welcome and Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement Statement
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
5. Disclosure of intention to record this meeting by video and/or audio device
6. Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2023
7. Business Out of the Minutes

8. **Presentation – Investments Update** – Adam Skillen, *Skillen Wealth Management*

9. **Program Reports**
 - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg147/06) – Daniel King
(b) Violations/Appeals Update – Geoff Cade/Daniel King
 - Report 2: Resource-Based Watershed Management Strategy – Kate Monk
 - Report 3: Supporting ABCA's Conservation Areas – Nathan Schoelier
 - Report 4: 1st Quarter Profit and Loss Statement – Brian Horner
 - Report 5: Flood Emergency Planning Meeting – Davin Heinbuck

10. **Committee Reports**
 - Source Protection Committee (2) – Mary Lynn MacDonald
 - Friends of the South Huron Trail – Nathan Schoelier

11. Correspondence
12. New Business
13. **Committee of the Whole** – *property matter*
14. Adjournment

Source Protection Authority Meeting to follow

Upcoming Meetings and Events

April 20, 2023	Conservation Dinner and Auction
May 18, 2023	Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
June 15, 2023	Board of Directors Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Jim Ginn, Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins, Greg Lamport, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tracey McPherson, Nathan Schoelier, Angela Van Niekerk, Mari Veliz, Ross Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul Seebach, *Seebach & Company*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 20/23

**Moved Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Dave Marsh**

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the March 16, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting be approved,”

Carried.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest at this meeting or from the previous meeting.

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO RECORD

None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**MOTION #BD 21/23****Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Jim Ginn**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on February 16, 2023 and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PRESENTATION

Paul Seebach, of Seebach and Company, presented the 2022 audited financial statement for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. There were no audit issues found or unusual transactions. The statements of financial position and operations were reviewed. The Board asked about the reserve funds to better understand where they can be used, and Brian Horner provided an explanation.

MOTION #BD 22/23**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the 2022 audited financial statement be approved as presented.”

Carried.PROGRAM REPORTS1. (a) Development Review

Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator, presented the Development Review report pursuant to Ontario Regulation 147/06 *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses*. Through the application process, proposed developments within regulated areas are protected from flooding and erosion hazards. Staff granted permission for 10 *Applications for Permission* and 10 *Minor Works Applications*.

(b) Violations/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade, Water and Planning Manager, advised that staff are continuing to work on a number of violations, and are hopeful that some resolutions will be forthcoming soon.

MOTION #BD 23/23**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Jim Ginn**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors affirm the approval of applications as presented in Program Report # 1 – a) Development Review and receive the Violations and Appeals update as presented.”

Carried.

2. Conservation Authorities Act Update

Brian Horner, General Manager, provided an update on the progress for the Conservation Authorities (CA) Act changes. A quarterly progress report will be submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) by April 1, 2023. Conservation Authority staff are in the process of meeting with municipal councils to present the Draft Cost Apportioning Agreement for Category 3 programs and services, with the intent of signing agreements in Summer 2023. Finally, the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was circulated to municipal staff for input in Summer 2022 needs to be revised to reflect the changes to the Act through Bill 23, which prohibits the Conservation Authorities from providing natural heritage comments to municipalities.

MOTION #BD 24/23

Moved by Dave Marsh

Seconded by Steve Herold

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Conservation Authorities Act Update be received as presented.”

Carried.

3. Stewardship Projects Update

Angela Van Niekerk presented an update on funding and stewardship efforts since the last report. One wetland restoration, two erosion control projects and one cattle fence project received funding through Canada Nature Fund for Ausable watershed projects. One wetland restoration received funding through Canada Nature Fund for Bayfield watershed projects. Angela noted that there were projects completed at 137 sites throughout the watershed for the funding year.

MOTION #BD 25/23

Moved by Ray Chartrand

Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

“RESOLVED, THAT the Stewardship Project update report be received as presented.”

Carried.

4. Parkhill Conservation Area Recreational Trails

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, noted that there is some community interest in developing the recreational trails at the Parkhill Conservation Area. These are environmentally significant lands that provide habitat for species-at-risk plants, trees and wildlife. Trails were developed at this conservation area in the 1970s and 1980s. Eventually they were used for ATV and off-road motorcycles for the Ausable River Riders Club, but with the extensive damage caused by unauthorized vehicle use, the agreement with the club was

terminated. These trails were then abandoned, as there was extensive repair needed and very little community interest to help with trail maintenance. Unauthorized access remains a challenge.

In February 2022, Nathan made a presentation to the Municipality of North Middlesex's Recreation Committee in advance of their development of a Recreational Development Master Plan. At that time he provided background on the Parkhill Conservation Area and the potential for revitalizing the trail system. Since then, community interest in the project has been growing and a local group are interested in collaborating with the appropriate parties to support this project. Staff recommend continuing to collaborate with interested parties to revitalize the Parkhill Conservation Area recreational trails.

MOTION #BD 26/23

**Moved by Adrian Cornelissen
Seconded by Jim Ginn**

“RESOLVED, THAT report on the Parkhill Conservation Areas recreational trails be received as presented, and that the ABCA collaborates with the interested parties to revitalize the Parkhill Conservation Area recreational trails.”

Carried.

5. Utility Vehicle Tender Results

Nathan Schoelier reported that the 2023 ABCA budget included funds for the capital purchase of a utility vehicle to replace the 2011 John Deere Gator at Rock Glen Conservation Area (RGCA). This purchase is funded through the motor vehicle pool, which operates on a cost-recovery by equipment use basis to support the maintenance and replacement of vehicles and equipment. Requests for quotations were sent on February 8, to watershed equipment dealers with a closing date of March 1. Nathan Schoelier, Jeff Van Niekerk and Reese Thompson met on March 1 to open and review the tenders. Staff selected the quote submitted by Hyde Brothers Farm Equipment Limited, in Hensall, for one Kubota RTV520, which meets specifications listed by staff. This tender also came in at the lowest cost of \$15,309.73, plus applicable taxes and fees.

MOTION #BD 27/23

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the report on the Utility Vehicle Tender Results be received as presented, and that the Board of Directors affirm the purchase of the winning tender of a Kubota RTV520 from Hyde Brothers Farm Equipment Ltd for \$15, 309.73, plus taxes and fees.”

Carried.

6. WECI Application – Walker Drain Slope Stabilization

In the 1970s, an erosion control structure was constructed at Walker Drain in Grand Bend to stabilize the creek and reinforce the culvert. This structure is inspected yearly, and some work was completed on the gabion baskets in 2020. The 2021 inspection by the consulting firm, Ecosystem

Recover Inc., noted a need for tree removal in one of the more inaccessible stretches of the site. These trees have self-established over the years; however they can cause problems if they collapse into the drain, and their removal will ensure a more suitable groundcover can be installed to further stabilize the bank. Staff propose an application to the province's WECl (Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure) program to potentially meet 50 percent of the estimated costs.

MOTION #BD 28/23**Moved by Jim Ginn****Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

"RESOLVED, THAT the ABCA Board of Directors approve this work as a project of the ABCA and that WECl funding be applied for this project in the 2023/2024 fiscal year, and

"FURTHER, THAT the money is taken from reserves to complete the project in 2023 and that money is returned to reserves through the 2024 budget."

Carried.

7. ABCA Standing Committees and Meeting Schedules for 2022-2023

The meeting schedule for the ABCA Board of Directors and Standing Committees are typically set by the Striking Committee at the beginning of each year. The Striking Committee is composed of the Chair, Vice Chair and Past Chair of the Board of Directors. Due to the outcome of municipal elections, a Past Chair is not available at this time. Thus, the Standing Committees and meeting dates are being presented to the Board as a whole for approval. The Striking Committee typically considered jurisdictional locations where possible when appointing members and all Board members sit on at least one committee.

MOTION #BD 29/23**Moved by Dave Marsh****Seconded by Greg Lamport**

"RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors approve the appointments to Standing Committees and meeting dates as revised."

Carried.

PRESENTATION

Mari Veliz, Healthy Watersheds Manager, presented information to the Board on why conservation authorities work in watersheds. It gave a brief overview of the work that conservation authorities do and the purpose behind their efforts.

MOTION #BD 30/23**Moved by Jim Ginn****Seconded by Jaden Hodgins**

“RESOLVED, THAT the presentation be received as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

CORRESPONDANCE

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Brian Horner reminded Directors that staff are available and willing to present on a variety of topics to the Board of Directors, and that if there are any topics for which they would like to receive more information, we can arrange a presentation.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 30/23

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 4:10 p.m. to discuss a property matter with Nathan Schoelier, Brian Horner and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 31/23

**Moved by Jim Ginn
Seconded by Greg Lamport**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report at 4:14 p.m.”

Carried.

MOTION #BD 32/23

**Moved by Wayne Shipley
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“RESOLVED, THAT the information on the property matter be received as presented.”

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Corporate Services Coordinator

*Copies of program reports are available upon request.
Contact Abigail Gutteridge, Corporate Services Coordinator*

DRAFT

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: April 13, 2023
From: Daniel King, Regulations Coordinator
Subject: Applications for Permission - Ontario Regulation 147/06 - *Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alteration to Shorelines and Watercourses*

The following *Applications for Permission* have been issued by staff since the last Board of Directors Meeting.

* A Coastal Assessment was required as part of the application

Major Permits

- (1) PERMIT #: 2022-62
NAME: Ecoworks Web Architecture Inc.
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: construct an exterior deck and renovate an existing structure
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 24, 2022
DRAFT PERMIT ISSUED TO APPLICANT FOR REVIEW: November 21, 2022
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 7, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 20
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

- (2) PERMIT #: 2023-15
NAME: Arkona Orchards Inc Darren Brown
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: construct a commercial building addition
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 3, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 24, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 15
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

- (3) PERMIT #: 2023-13
NAME: James and Katherine Steeper
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: construct a residential building
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 23, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 29, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 24
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

- (4) PERMIT #: 2023-18
NAME: Municipality of Huron East
MUNICIPALITY: Huron East
PERMISSION TO: replace culvert structure T19
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 27, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 30, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 23
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (5) *PERMIT #: 2023-09
NAME: Southcott Pines Park Association
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: replace an existing shoreline groyne structure
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 18, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 8, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 13
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (6) PERMIT #: 2023-11
NAME: Daven Hannon
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: construct a shed
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 16, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 17, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 1
STAFF NAME: Daniel King
- (7) PERMIT #: 2023-16
NAME: Cinthia Gelinias & Laurie Morrison
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: replace a dwelling destroyed by fire
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 21, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 24, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 3
STAFF NAME: Daniel King

Minor Permits

- (1) PERMIT #: MW2023-12
NAME: Jack Ciommo
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: Construct armour stone landscaping retaining walls
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 23, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 10, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 12
STAFF NAME: Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk
- (2) PERMIT #: MW2023-13
NAME: Wynja Dairy Inc.
MUNICIPALITY: Huron East
PERMISSION TO: construct a new drive shed in a regulated area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 15, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 6, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 13
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (3) PERMIT #: MW2023-15
NAME: Skylar Van Osch
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: Replace a holding tank
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 2, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 10, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 7
STAFF NAME: Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk
- (4) PERMIT #: MW2023-14
NAME: Matt Rushton
MUNICIPALITY: Middlesex Centre
PERMISSION TO: Develop a walking trail
COMPLETE APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 14, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 29, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 31
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

- (5) PERMIT #: MW2023-16
NAME: Enbridge Gas Inc.
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: install gas utility
COMPLETE APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 24, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 29, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (6) PERMIT #: MW2023-11
NAME: Huron District Contracting Ltd.
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: repair existing shore protection
COMPLETE APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 3, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 9, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 23
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (7) PERMIT #: MW2013-48G
NAME: Stebeck Inc.
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: Renewal to construct a new dwelling
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 10, 2023
STAFF NAME: Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk
- (8) PERMIT #: MW2023-17
NAME: Municipality of Bluewater
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: repair pier wash-out
COMPLETE APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 31, 2023
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: April 4, 2023
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 2
STAFF NAME: Daniel King

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: April 13, 2023
From: Kate Monk, Projects Coordinator
Subject: Resource-Based Watershed Management Strategy

Background

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) staff are undertaking a watershed strategy in 2023. This is a mandatory (Category 1) program in the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act) and is included in the 2023 budget. The project is being completed internally, rather than using a consultant. The project is being led by Kate Monk, with input from other staff. This report is an introduction to the process and additional reports will be presented to the board throughout the year.

The Resource-Based Watershed Management Strategy (RBWMS) guides the management and operations of the ABCA. This document will meet the requirements of the CA Act and the needs of the ABCA. It will provide a framework to integrate the inventory of programs and services, mandatory programs and the other programs needed to conserve the watershed resources in the future.

It goes beyond a traditional a watershed planning document. It is also a business plan for the ABCA and informs the five-year budget forecast and yearly budgets as well as identifying opportunities to collaborate with other organizations and engage landowners to achieve the objectives.

In a nutshell, the strategy framework includes characterizing the system (what we know), setting goals and objectives (where we want to go), assessing and identifying gaps (what is missing), and creating action plans (what we need to do to get there).

Conservation Authorities Act

Subsections 12(4)-(7) of Ontario Regulation 686/21 set out the required components to be included in the WBRMS. Each individual conservation authority can determine the strategy framework and format.

Required Components

The regulation states that the Strategy must include:

1. Guiding principles and objectives that inform the design and delivery of a Conservation Authority's mandatory programs and services (s.12(4) paragraph 1).

2. A summary of existing technical studies, monitoring programs and other information on the natural resources the authority relies on within its area of jurisdiction or in specific watersheds that directly informs and supports the delivery of the Conservation Authority's mandatory programs and services (s.12(4) paragraph 2).
3. A review of the Conservation Authority's mandatory programs and services for the purposes of determining if they comply with the mandatory programs and services regulation. This includes: an assessment of the effectiveness of the delivery of Category 1 programs; identifying actions and risk mitigation to address identified issues/risks that limit the effectiveness of delivery. A cost estimate for the implementation of those actions must be included (i.e., supporting Category 1, 2 and/or 3 programs to support mandatory program delivery) (s.12(4) paragraph 3, i, ii, iii).
The Strategy will include both Category 2 and 3 programs and services provided by the CA, where there is an agreement with municipalities (s.12(5),12(6), 12(7)).
4. A process for periodic review and updates to the Strategy by the CA, including procedures to consult with stakeholders and the public during these periodic reviews (s.12(4) paragraph 4).
5. Consult with stakeholders and the public during the preparation of the Strategy in a manner that the authority considers advisable.
6. Ensure the Strategy is made publicly available on their websites or by other means the authority considers advisable.

Conservation Authority

The ABCA's most recent Watershed Management Strategy was completed in 2015 by staff as a method of implementing the recommendations of the Conservation Strategy which was developed by the community. Unfortunately, the 2015 document does not meet the requirements of the CA Act. The 2023 project can build on the 2015 document.

The Strategy will meet the future needs of the ABCA by:

1. Creating a document staff and directors can use in terms of format, content, links to other information, and practical recommendations and action plans. This document can also be a resource for municipalities and other agencies.
2. Integrating climate change adaptation and resiliency into watershed management.
3. Improving our understanding of integrated watershed management and how the subwatersheds influence each other, for example how the headwaters influence the lower reaches of the rivers.
4. Providing strategic direction by evaluating programs and recommending future programs and services to address watershed and municipal issues. Identifying ways that the CA, municipalities and agencies can work together effectively to conserve the watersheds.

5. Identifying infrastructure needs such as stream gauges, flood forecasting communications, water and erosion control projects, maintenance of existing projects and building new projects.
6. Identifying future studies and knowledge needs such as subwatershed studies, inventories, research, stormwater management and subwatershed plans.
7. Identifying opportunities to modernize operations.
8. Including a business plan for delivering programs and services.

Consultation and Communications

Conservation Ontario has provided guidance documents for public consultation and engaging Indigenous communities. Posting information on the ABCA website is the minimal requirement for consultation but additional consultation tailored to the stakeholders and information and/or input required by the ABCA will be completed as necessary. The approach is to receive feedback from stakeholders at different phases of the project rather than asking stakeholders to develop the document.

Consultation and the project communications plan are linked closely. While there will not be any open houses, public meetings or workshops, personal communication is always an option.

Board of Directors

The board will receive periodic updates and will be asked to provide guidance at different phases of the project. The board has the responsibility to approve the final document.

ABCA – Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: March 16, 2023
From: Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship & Lands Manager
Subject: Supporting ABCA's Conservation Areas

Background

Balancing ecological function with recreational opportunities

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) has the mandate to ensure the conservation, restoration, and responsible management of Ontario's water, land, and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental, and economic needs. Owning and managing ecologically significant lands, is one of the ways ABCA contributes to this mandate, and the underlying goal of watershed management. The properties that ABCA owns and manages, positively contribute towards the health of the watershed by:

- Provide opportunities for water attenuation, retention, filtration, and infiltration to protect and improve water quality within the watershed. These attributes also help mitigate downstream erosion, and natural hazards, such as flooding.
- Positively contribute towards forest, and wetland cover within the watershed
- Provide valuable habitat for flora and fauna, including species-at-risk

It is important for ABCA to manage this land in a manner that demonstrates a high level of environmental stewardship, consistent with the leadership that ABCA displays as watershed managers. Often, these properties act as the face of the organization, connecting positive visitor experiences to the role of the conservation authority.

Access to public nature spaces is limited within southwestern Ontario, underlining the importance of managing these areas to the benefit of the community. Many of these properties are utilized by the public to varying degrees for passive, outdoor recreation activities. The ABCA Community Conservation Strategy includes the importance of these areas to the community, and the increasing visitor levels in recent years further demonstrates the value of these areas to the community. Providing these opportunities may better connect the community to the environment, increasing their awareness, and education for land stewardship, and help promote the conservation authority in a positive manner.

Properties owned by the ABCA offer permitted, passive outdoor recreation opportunities such as:

- Hiking
- Fishing
- Snowshoeing
- Bicycling
- Canoeing
- Hunting – where permitted, with the required ABCA permit
- Birdwatching
- Cross-country skiing

These properties provide public access to more than 30 kilometres of trails, with varying levels of infrastructure to increase the quality of visitor experience. Permitted uses are balanced across the properties, and across the watershed, to ensure safe and enjoyable experiences for visitors, while minimizing the ecological footprint of recreational activities.

Supporting property maintenance

Ageing infrastructure is a challenge across ABCA's Conservation Areas. It is important to maintain this infrastructure to ensure the safety, visitor experience, and outdoor recreation opportunities for the community.

ABCA maintains important relations with community groups to support property maintenance and fundraising efforts to ensure access to these properties to the benefit of the community.

- The Friends of South Huron Trail group was formed in 2005, continuing the work of the former Friends of the Morrison, formed in 1998. The group provides volunteer support for clean up days, work parties, and fundraises for the trail. The Exeter Lions work with, and further support trail initiatives.
- Lambton Shores Nature Trails was founded in 2011 by a group of local nature and hiking enthusiasts. The group manages the trails at Ausable River Cut Conservation Area, L-Lake Management Area, and Mystery Falls Management Area. In 2022, the group contributed 410 volunteer hours to maintaining and improving ABCA properties.

ABCA staff work diligently to best utilize the resources to provide passive, outdoor recreation opportunities on its properties. Property expenses are supported through cost-recovery efforts such as the sale of timber from forest improvement harvests; gate fees charged at Rock Glen Conservation Area; the sale of hunting permits; and rent received from an agricultural lease at Linfield Wildlife Area. Fundraising is also a vital component of property maintenance and management to provide outdoor recreation opportunities.

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation (ABCF) was incorporated in 1974 as a registered, charitable, non-profit organization whose aim is to promote conservation projects in the Ausable Bayfield watershed. ABCF seeks the support of individuals, groups, and corporations who are

interested in contributing toward projects that will benefit the residents of the watershed. ABCF is an important supporting body of the ABCA, and its conservation areas through fundraising efforts. Donations are acknowledged by a charitable receipt.

ABCF contains the infrastructure required to facilitate donations from engaged individuals towards trail maintenance, and other watershed conservation projects. ABCA's conservation areas provide a unique opportunity to facilitate these donations, from conservation area visitors who wish to support the trails, and other watershed management initiatives. Installing the signage, that is depicted below, would provide a user-friendly, passive, opportunity for people to contribute towards the trails, and other watershed management initiatives. It is estimated that the signs will cost between \$40-50, which would be subsequently offset by contributions.



Recommendation

Recommended that the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the installation of signage depicted in this report, at its conservation areas.



Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
 71108 Morrison Line, RR 3
 Exeter, ON N0M 1S5

Statement of Profit & Loss
 January through March, 2023

Accrual Basis

Table 1: Consolidated

	2022 Actual	1st Qtr	2023 Annual	Budget	% of Budget
	1st Qtr	1st Qtr	1st Qtr	1st Qtr	1st Qtr
Revenue					
Grant, Provincial/Federal	71,003	68,560	373,313	18%	
Levy, General	0	0	1,069,361	0%	
Levy, Projects	0	0	333,340	0%	
Levy, Special Benefit	0	0	83,506	0%	
Levy, Special Benefit, WECl	0	0	0	100%	
Rental	3,974	2,843	61,969	5%	
Conservation Area User Fees	3,049	2,049	110,900	2%	
Sales & Service	335,553	360,030	714,311	50%	
Donations	4,659	137	1,000	14%	
Interest	5,246	13,063	25,000	52%	
Partnership Contributions	185,632	279,025	1,039,196	27%	
Sundry	38	0	0	100%	
Deferred from Prior Year - Revenue	1,367,944	1,322,720	1,355,612	98%	
Deferred to Future Year - Expense	0	0	(769,977)	0%	
Total Revenue	1,977,096	2,048,427	4,397,531	47%	
Expense					
Purchased Services	50,300	121,694	448,574	27%	
Advertising	2,357	852	9,021	9%	
Bad Debts	0	0	0	100%	
Memberships, Dues, Licenses	22,687	18,579	58,095	32%	
Maintenance and Repair	18,752	17,025	49,999	34%	
Property Taxes	12,680	12,503	62,129	20%	
Office Operations	38,310	39,800	122,396	33%	
Rental	2,882	3,076	12,039	26%	
Training and Development	1,308	1,300	19,603	7%	
Travel Costs and Accommodations	679	3,502	12,937	27%	
Uniforms	238	512	7,850	7%	
Utilities	9,472	10,363	39,925	26%	
Vehicles and Field Equipment	11,772	8,402	97,492	9%	
Program	150,822	186,678	748,528	25%	
Board Of Director's	1,628	3,768	26,027	14%	
Wages and Benefits	603,594	661,940	2,707,640	24%	
Total Operating Expense	927,481	1,089,995	4,422,255	25%	
Net Operating Income	1,049,615	958,432	(24,724)	-3877%	
Other (Income) Expense					
Capital	5,009	2,439	102,105	2%	
Amortization	44,784	42,252	160,599	26%	
From Reserve - Revenue	(36,602)	(40,531)	(162,124)	25%	
Reserves - Expenses	9,914	7,501	35,295	21%	
Total Other Expense	23,104	11,660	135,875	9%	
Net Income	1,026,511	946,772	(160,599)	-590%	



Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

71108 Morrison Line, RR 3

Exeter, ON N0M 1S5

Statement of Profit & Loss

January through March, 2023

Accrual Basis

Table 2: Drinking Water Source Protection

	2022 Actual		2023 Annual	
	1st Qtr	1st Qtr	Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
Grant, Provincial/Federal	0	0	251,504	0%
Interest	174	147	1,000	15%
Deferred from Prior Year - Revenue	47,261	120,595	31,150	387%
Deferred to Future Year - Expenses	0	0	(15,755)	0%
Total Revenue	47,435	120,742	267,899	45%
Expense				
Purchased Services	4,242	4,098	23,500	17%
Advertising	0	172	800	21%
Memberships, Dues, Licenses	139	67	0	100%
Office Operations	12,913	13,099	20,604	64%
Rental	1,800	1,742	7,000	25%
Training and Development	0	0	300	0%
Travel Costs and Accommodations	0	227	1,100	21%
Uniforms	0	0	350	0%
Utilities	345	345	1,407	25%
Vehicles and Field Equipment	41	0	1,020	0%
Program	0	0	50	0%
Board Of Director's	0	446	13,689	3%
Wages and Benefits	36,719	51,142	198,079	26%
Total Operating Expense	56,198	71,338	267,899	27%
Net Operating Income	(8,763)	49,404	0	100%
Other (Income) Expense				
From Reserves	0	0	0	100%
Reserves	0	0	0	100%
Total Other Expense	0	0	0	100%
Net Income	(8,763)	49,404	0	100%



Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
 71108 Morrison Line, RR 3
 Exeter, ON N0M 1S5

Statement of Profit & Loss
 January through March, 2023

Accrual Basis

Table 3: ABCA Excluding DWSP

	2022 Actual		2023 Annual	
	1st Qtr	1st Qtr	Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
Grant, Provincial/Federal	71,003	68,560	121,809	56%
Levy, General	0	0	1,069,361	0%
Levy, Projects	0	0	333,340	0%
Levy, Special Benefit	0	0	83,506	0%
Levy, Special Benefit, WECl	0	0	0	100%
Rental	3,974	2,843	61,969	5%
Conservation Area User Fees	3,049	2,049	110,900	2%
Sales & Service	335,553	360,030	714,311	50%
Donations	4,659	137	1,000	14%
Interest	5,072	12,916	24,000	54%
Partnership Contributions	185,632	279,025	1,039,196	27%
Sundry	38	0	0	100%
Deferred from Prior Year - Revenue	1,320,683	1,202,125	1,324,462	91%
Deferred to Future Year - Expense	0	0	(754,222)	0%
Total Revenue	1,929,661	1,927,685	4,129,632	47%
Expense				
Purchased Services	46,059	117,596	425,074	28%
Advertising	2,357	680	8,221	8%
Memberships, Dues, Licenses	22,548	18,512	58,095	32%
Maintenance and Repair	18,752	17,025	49,999	34%
Property Taxes	12,680	12,503	62,129	20%
Office Operations	25,397	26,701	101,792	26%
Rental	1,082	1,334	5,039	26%
Training and Development	1,308	1,300	19,303	7%
Travel Costs and Accommodations	679	3,275	11,837	28%
Uniforms	238	512	7,500	7%
Utilities	9,127	10,018	38,518	26%
Vehicles and Field Equipment	11,732	8,402	96,472	9%
Program	150,822	186,678	748,478	25%
Board Of Director's	1,628	3,322	12,338	27%
Wages and Benefits	566,875	610,799	2,509,561	24%
Total Operating Expense	871,282	1,018,657	4,154,356	25%
Net Operating Income	1,058,379	909,028	(24,724)	-3677%
Other (Income) Expense				
Capital	5,009	2,439	102,105	2%
Amortization	44,784	42,252	160,599	26%
From Reserve	(36,602)	(40,531)	(162,124)	25%
Reserves	9,914	7,501	35,295	21%
Total Other Expense	23,104	11,660	135,875	9%
Net Income	1,035,274	897,368	(160,599)	-559%

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: April 13, 2023
From: Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator
Subject: Flood Emergency Planning Meeting

BACKGROUND

The 2023 annual Flood Emergency Planning meeting was held in person on March 28, 2023. ABCA Member Municipalities and various stakeholders were invited to attend and participate in the meeting. The 47 attendees included reps from 8 watershed municipalities as well as staff and/or CEMC from 3 of 4 counties, Emergency Management Ontario, Lambton OPP and 3 neighbouring Conservation Authorities.

ABCA staff members presented or led discussion on the following agenda items:

- Welcome and Opening Remarks by Marissa Vaughan – ABCA Chair
- Roles and Responsibilities in Flood Emergencies - Davin Heinbuck, ABCA
- Watershed Conditions Update and Flood Outlook -Davin Heinbuck
- ABCA’s Flood Forecasting and Warning Network – Ross Wilson and Davin Heinbuck, ABCA
- Feature Presentation: Extreme Weather in the Great Lakes Region – Mark Robinson, The Weather Network
- Closing remarks – Davin Heinbuck

Discussion Highlights:

- We always ask our partners if they feel that it is worthwhile hosting this flood emergency planning meeting. Based on discussion with those in attendance, they find the meeting to be a valuable opportunity to discuss emergency preparedness, and to make face to face connections between the various supporting agencies.
- Between both the ABCA presentations, and Mark’s presentation, a valuable connection was made considering our watershed’s geographic location in the Great Lakes basin and the challenges it presents us when forecasting extreme weather and it’s impact.

The meeting notes and attendees are attached for your information.

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting
March 28, 2023, 1:15 pm, Masonic Hall, Exeter
Meeting Notes

AGENDA

1) Opening Remarks, Marissa Vaughan, Chair ABCA Board of Directors - 1:30 pm

Marissa welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly discussed the purpose of the meeting. She introduced the topics and speakers for the afternoon, and then she turned the meeting over to Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator, ABCA.

2) Roles and Responsibilities and ABCA Flood Emergency Plan, Davin Heinbuck, Water Resources Coordinator, ABCA

Davin outlined the key players (the province (MNRF), the municipalities, Conservation Authorities) and their respective roles in the comprehensive flood forecasting and warning program. He presented the contents of the 2023 Flood Emergency Plan, specifically the roles and responsibilities of each partner (Province, Municipality, CA) in a flood emergency. Additional items presented included a watershed overview, flood messages and messaging protocols.

In addition to the contents of the Flood Emergency Plan, he provided photographic examples from both recent and past flooding events throughout the watershed. He explained that the three most common types of flood events that we see are heavy rains, rain and snowmelt, and ice jams. With lake levels being near or exceeding record highs in previous years, there were examples of lake and coastal flooding.

3) ABCA Watershed Conditions, Davin Heinbuck

Davin provided an overview of the current watershed conditions with respect to:

- Ground conditions – very saturated ground, so quicker runoff with larger rain events is possible.
- River ice – ice in all rivers is now gone
- Ice jams – no risk
- Snow pack – 0 cm depth (average for this time would be 4 cm).

4) Flood Forecasting and Warning Network (FFWN), Davin Heinbuck and Ross Wilson, ABCA Water and Soils Resource Coordinator

Davin provided an overview of the process for ABCA's flood forecasting and warning program. He noted how and where the data is acquired to feed into the models, which help to determine

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting
March 28, 2023, 1:15 pm, Masonic Hall, Exeter
Meeting Notes

the potential for flood risk. A variety of weather forecasting sources are used including those from Environment Canada, MNRF, the Weather Network, and NOAA. Once a forecast is complete, it may then be determined by ABCA staff to issue a flood message depending on the severity of the expected flooding. There are three levels of messages that increase in severity ranging from a Watershed Conditions Statement, Flood Watch, to the most severe and often localized, Flood Warning. Other monitoring networks are an integral part of the overall FFWN at ABCA and they include the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network, the Parkhill Climate Change Station, Snow Survey Sites, ice measurements and the Volunteer Rain Gauge Network. He also noted some of the challenges associated with flood forecasting, specifically the summer thunderstorms.

Ross Wilson providing information on shoreline monitoring and messaging, which is a relatively new tool developed by the ABCA. The main challenge along the northern portion of the shoreline is slope instability, and dynamic beaches in the southern portion. The watershed condition statements for the shoreline are specific to those locations. Some of the data used to determine ABCA action is NOAA's Storm Surge model as well as the stream gauge located at Port Franks. Ross also described the process for monitoring the watershed during an event, referred to as River Watch. He also described ice jams, and the risk factors that contribute to ice jams. Finally, he noted the responsibility to operate the Parkhill Dam when warranted.

5) FEATURE PRESENTATION – [Extreme Weather in the Great Lakes Region](#), Mark Robinson, The Weather Network

Mark Robinson, a meteorologist with The Weather Network and a professional storm chaser, was the feature speaker of this year's meeting. Mark presented on extreme weather in the great lakes region and the challenges with forecasting this weather. While severe weather is likely to increase in southern Ontario, the population increases will make us even more susceptible to the impacts of severe weather. Overall though, the great lakes may provide a climate change 'refuge' as overall impacts are expected to be less than many other areas. This may also drive up the population and risk factors though.

Further complicating the forecasting scenarios is the influence of the great lakes on high precipitation events as storms pick up a boost of moisture as they cross the lakes. Of interest to the ABCA's watershed, we often lie on the boundary of the lake breeze off of Lake Huron. Many of the storms that we see in southwestern Ontario develop along these lake breezes, and have the potential to cause severe weather, and in particular, heavy rains, notably along the lake breezes.

Mark's presentation was a great insight into the influences and challenges of weather forecasting in an area that he calls "tricky". From a flood forecasting and warning perspective, this creates challenges when interpreting the variability in forecasts, and modelling stream flows.

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting
March 28, 2023, 1:15 pm, Masonic Hall, Exeter
Meeting Notes

Questions/Comments:

1. From Jaden Hodgins (Lucan Biddulph/North Middlesex): Will the ABIFFS system in place at the ABCA be replaced in the near future considering it's age?
 - a. Davin Heinbuck answered that even though it is older, it is very reliable and well calibrated to our watershed conditions. However, eventually the support needed for the ABIFFS will no longer be available and a new system will be needed. A newer system will be costly, and it is likely that both systems will be needed for a period of time while the new system is calibrated.
2. From John Elston (Middlesex County): Does the increase in agricultural and municipal tile drainage affect flooding in the watershed?
 - a. Ross Wilson answered that the tile system and surface water system are typically disconnected, and typically water from tile systems is seen following surface flooding. They are two different parts of the water cycle.
3. From Mary Lynn MacDonald (ABCA): Are we getting more winter thunderstorms?
 - a. Mark Robinson answered that this was a very unusual year and we did have more winter "thundersnow" storms. He wonders if there is a correlation between the storms and windfarms. However, this is just anecdotal evidence at present.

Closing Remarks, Davin Heinbuck

Davin provided a brief summary of the presentations and thanked each of the presenters for their contributions.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:40 pm.

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting
March 28, 2023, 1:15 pm, Masonic Hall, Exeter
Meeting Notes

Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Mike Barnier	Adelaide Metcalfe
Alex Basciano	Bluewater
Dave Kester	Bluewater
Mayor Paul Klopp	Bluewater
Dave Renner	Central Huron
Mayor Jim Ginn	Central Huron
Chad Kregar	Huron County
Dave Campbell	Huron County - Goderich
Barry Mills	Huron East
Jason Cole	Lambton County
Jay VanKlinken	Lambton County
Staff Sgt Rick Mathieson	Lambton OPP
Dave Larkin	Lambton Public Health
Dave Marsh	Lambton Shores
Lawrence Swift	Lambton Shores
Nick Verhoeven	Lambton Shores
Jeff Little	Lucan-Biddulph
Julie Overholt	Lucan-Biddulph
Jaden Hodgins	Lucan-Biddulph/N. Middlesex
Jeff Winzenried	Maitland Valley CA
Sarah Gunnewiek	Maitland Valley CA
Bettina Weber	Middlesex County
John Elston	Middlesex County
Marc Resendes	MLHU
Kent Readman	North Huron/Huron East
Bobby de Hetre	Ontario Field Services
Brendan MacMullin	Ontario Field Services
Alyssa Keller	South Huron
Dan Brannon	South Huron
Jeremy Becker	South Huron
Marissa Vaughan	South Huron
Mayor George Finch	South Huron
Rebekah Msuya-Collison	South Huron
Scott Currie	South Huron
Emily DeCloet	St. Clair Region CA

Flood Emergency Planning Meeting
March 28, 2023, 1:15 pm, Masonic Hall, Exeter
Meeting Notes

Mark Robinson
Will Morrow
Daniel Hobson
Hannah Cann

The Weather Network
Upper Thames River CA
West Perth
West Perth



SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES

March 1st, 2023

**IN PERSON and
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matt Pearson, Doug Hocking, Allan Rothwell, Jennette Walker, Bert Dykstra, Philip Keightley, John Thompson, Mary Ellen Foran, Rowland Howe

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Dave Frayne, John Graham, Alyssa Keller

MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul Heffer

LIAISONS PRESENT

Maitland Valley Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison – Phil Beard
Huron Perth Public Health Liaison – Patrick Landry

LIAISONS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Liaison Officer – Beth Forrest

LIAISONS ABSENT

Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison – Brian Horner

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tim Cumming, Abigail Gutteridge

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Deb Balika – Conservation Ontario
Lisa Courtney – BM Ross

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m., and welcomed members and liaisons to the meeting. Introductions were made for: Doug Hocking (Property Owner), John Thompson (Municipal North Representative), Deb Balika (Conservation Ontario), and Patrick Landry (Huron Perth Public Health).

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2023-03-01

“That the agenda for the March 1, 2023 meeting be approved as presented.”

Carried by Consensus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2023-03-02

**Moved by Jennette Walker
Seconded by Rowland Howe**

“That the SPC minutes from November 30th, 2022 be approved as presented.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CHAIR’S UPDATE

Chair Matt Pearson reported that 12 out of 19 Chairs for the Source Protection Regions have been reappointed. March 31, 2023 will mark the end of the first year of funding under the current two-year agreement.

PROGRAM UPATE

SPC Vacancies

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, provided an update on the Source Protection Committee vacancies. With the retirement of Ian Brebner, the Property Owner position became vacant. Advertisements for the position were posted in local newspapers in December 2022, as well as, the Source Protection website, social media, and newsletters. The application period was extended until January 23 after no applications were received by the original posting deadline. Advertisements were re-posted and two applications were received. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Joint Management Committee (JMC) met to interview candidates on January 31, 2023. The Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (ABMV SPCA) received the JMC's recommendation, and appointed Doug Hocking to the SPC as the Property Owner representative on February 16, 2023.

In addition to the Property Owner vacancy, re-appointment of municipal representatives was also required following the October 2022 municipal elections. DWSP staff sent emails to clerks in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region (ABMV SPR) informing them that a municipal representative would need to be chosen for their designated municipal grouping (*i.e.*, Central, East, North or South West). Resolutions were passed to re-appoint Paul Heffer (Central), Allan Rothwell (East), and Dave Frayne (South-West). The North grouping required the appointing of a new representative, as Myles Murdoch stepped down from the SPC due to his appointment to the Maitland Valley SPA. On February 21, 2023 John Thompson was appointed as the North representative.

Future Wellhead Protection Areas and SPP Changes

Mary Lynn also provided an update on future changes to the Wellhead Protection Areas that are not a part of the current Section 36 amendment. Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh (ACW) is adding another well to the Century Heights water supply system in Saltford because of a new residential development. A consultant retained by ACW is completing a technical report and mapping delineation which is expected in March 2023. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Technical Team will review the report and determine if the technical work is complete, although the province must issue final approval of the technical work. The Source Protection Plan for Century Heights will be updated via a Section 34 amendment. The Township of Huron-Kinloss has submitted an application to the province to increase their permit-to-take-water (PTTW) for the Lucknow water

supply. BM Ross and Matrix are assessing the data to determine if the Lucknow WHPA requires re-modelling. Changes to the WHPA would also require a Section 34 amendment. The Municipality of Bluewater plans to decommission the Zurich well in 2023 after their switch to the Lake Huron Water Supply. The SPP for Zurich is an administrative change, and can be amended through a Section 51. SPC Environment representative, Jennette Walker, reported that the switch to lake water in Zurich took place in February.

Best Practices – Non-municipal Water Systems

In 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) released 'Best Practices for Source Water Protection' this document is for properties not serviced by municipal wells, and therefore, protected under the Clean Water Act. It provides guidance, tools, and tips for protecting private drinking water systems. Conservation Ontario has been developing a 'tool kit' to assist with this initiative, and the 2023 approved workplan for ABMV includes promotion of these 'best practices.'

SPP CONSULTATION SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

Donna Clarkson, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, provided an update on the consultation process for the current Section 36 underway. Early Engagement occurred from April to June 2022 with the proposed updates to the Source Protection Plans and associated documents being submitted to MECP for preliminary review. Comments were received in July and further revisions were made. Pre-consultation occurred from August to October 2022 with the draft updated documents being uploaded to ABMV's Source Protection website, and circulated to municipalities and other implementing bodies. A few written comments were received during pre-consultation, and minor policy revisions were made in November 2022 by the SPC. Public Consultation began on January 3 with the comment period open until February 10, 2023. Notices of consultation were posted online and in print. Municipalities, ministries, and implementing bodies were notified of the public consultation. Notices were mailed to affected property owners. A webinar was hosted on January 11 and two open houses, January 18 (Wingham) and January 25 (Clinton), were held.

SPP POLICY CHANGES

Upon completion of the successful consultation phase, staff suggested a few minor edits before forwarding to the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority for final submission of the amendment to the province for approval. One minor edit to Policy

AC.9.10 will address a comment received from OMAFRA with other edits addressing comments from MECP.

MOTION #SPC: 2023-03-03

Moved by Dave Frayne

Seconded by Allan Rothwell

“That the Source Protection Committee supports noted changes to the Source Protection Plans and associated documents to address comments received;

And Further: That the Source Protection Committee directs staff to submit the proposed updates to the Source Protection Plans and associated documents to the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority for consideration prior to submission to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks”

Carried.

CONSERVATION ONTARIO SOURCE PROTECTION EDUCATION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

Deb Balika, from Conservation Ontario (CO), gave a presentation on the collaboration between the MECP, Source Protection Project Managers and staff and the campaigns being used to support the Drinking Water Source Protection program. Deb opened by explaining the role of Conservation Ontario which is the umbrella agency for Conservation Authorities; providing support and leadership for all 36 Conservation Authorities. Conservation Ontario supports DWSP through coordination of the 19 Source Protection Regions (SPR) at the regional and provincial level. CO also supports the DWSP Communications Working Group for Education and Outreach. Through this working group, social media campaigns, fact sheets, infographics, and videos are all created that the SPRs can use and adopt to their local areas. The education video featuring Matt and Buddy, Water Wednesday and Winter Wednesday on-going social media campaign, and the salt bin stickers development are all examples of products produced through the collaborative approach of the various working groups. CO has a goal to double its reach in 2023 with its information sharing campaigns.

A focus going forward will be promoting and sharing the Best Practices released by the province for private well systems. This campaign will include best practice infographics,

social media posts, letters to municipalities, online resources such as videos, presentation slide decks, school contest templates, and more. Deb acknowledged the participation of the ABMV SPA through the Transport Pathway Working Group, Seaforth Well Case Study (Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool), Pesticide Working Group, and Salt Working Group.

CENTURY HEIGHTS EA UPDATE

Lisa Courtney, of BM Ross and Associates Ltd., presented on the Century Heights Water System upgrades and Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA). The environmental assessment is conducted to understand the existing water demands, project future demands, understand existing system constraints, and determine the mechanisms needed to ensure adequate pressure and water flow through the system. Municipalities must follow the prescribed MCEA process, and consultation is a key component of the process. The current Century Heights water supply is relatively small servicing about 85 properties/225 people, and the wells are considered GUDI (Groundwater Under Direct Influence). The wells currently do not have any fire protection or water storage capacity.

Future growth is estimated at 156 properties requiring servicing. Increasing water storage is not enough to meet the future growth demands. Increased water storage would not address the current system deficiencies: poor water pressure, and smaller watermains acting as “bottlenecks”. Infrastructure upgrades could address the water pressure and watermain issue; however, upgrades are not enough to resolve the water supply deficiency. Three alternative solutions were proposed: expand existing well; construct a new well; do nothing. Constructing a new well is the proposed solution, and, of the three sites suggested, site one located off Maitland Ave is the preferred location.

A test well was dug at the proposed site, and initial results demonstrate water quantity amounts to be sufficient for future development demands. Initial indications also show that the well is non-GUDI. Some existing Source Protection Plan policies will affect residents around the new well such as septic inspections, fuel storage, and storage and handling of DNAPLs. Also, as per existing policy, no new lot creation would be allowed in the 100m zone around the new well. Costs for the new well are expected to be paid through development charges, and upgrades that benefit existing users are expected to be paid through rate and reserves. Following completion of the EA, a design will occur in 2023, with expected construction in 2024.

LIAISON UPDATES

Beth Forrest, MECP Liaison, noted that the TSSA is trying to implement recommendations for private fuel outlets, and trying to find a way to pass this information onto SPAs and RMOs will be important. Beth also noted that for Chair appointments: 12 reappointments are confirmed, 7 are waiting reappointment, and 3 were recently appointed. There have been some staffing changes at the Source Protection Branch and the Ministry is working through a list of Section 36s and Section 34s. There is an RMO training session coming up, as well as engagement with First Nations group in regards to the release of the 'Best Practices' document for private well systems.

Phil Beard, Maitland Valley SPA Liaison, noted that in regards to communication efforts that the Source Protection committee and staff may want to identify some outcomes that they would like to see and then evaluate.

Patrick Landry, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) Liaison, had no update at this time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be March 29, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Matt Pearson
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES

March 27th, 2023

IN PERSON and

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

LIBRO COMMUNITY HALL, CLINTON

MEMBERS PRESENT

Matt Pearson, Doug Hocking, Paul Heffer, Jennette Walker, Bert Dykstra, Philip Keightley, John Thompson, Mary Ellen Foran

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Allan Rothwell, Rowland Howe

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave Frayne, John Graham, Alyssa Keller

LIAISONS PRESENT

Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison – Brian Horner
Maitland Valley Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison – Phil Beard
Huron Perth Public Health Liaison – Patrick Landry

LIAISONS PRESENT VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Liaison Officer – Beth Forrest

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Donna Clarkson, Mary Lynn MacDonald, Tim Cumming, Elizabeth Balfour

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Kyle Davis – Wellington County, RMO

Sandra Edelsward - Program Coordinator, Drinking Water Testing, Public Health Ontario

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2023-03B-01

“That the agenda for the March 29th, 2023 meeting be approved with correction.”

Carried by Consensus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2023-03B-02

**Moved by Bert Dykstra
Seconded by Mary Ellen Foran**

“That the SPC minutes from March 1st, 2023 be approved as presented.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

CHAIR’S UPDATE

Chair Matt Pearson reported that he along with Mary Lynn MacDonald, Donna Clarkson, Doug Hocking, and John Thompson attended a Climate Change webinar presented by Conservation Ontario March 28th which was very interesting and informative.

PROGRAM UPATE

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, reported on the progress of proposed updates to Source Protection Plans (SPP). The amendment to the SPP was approved by the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) during a meeting held on March 16th, 2023. The SPP and associated documents was submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) on Friday, March 24th, 2023 by Source Protection staff. Staff have been meeting with each implementing municipality, in-person or via Zoom, for an annual update of the program and review of Risk Management Services. A municipal newsletter has been circulated to municipalities with updates on Source Protection Committee appointments, and submission of the Proposed Updated Source Protection Plan and an introduction to the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) Best Practices. Staff working with SPC members, municipalities and businesses have created another video for distribution to the public via social media. This video titled “Be Part of the Water Team” highlights the steps and many people involved in providing residences and businesses with safe municipal drinking water. A thank you to Paul Heffer, Central Municipal Representative, being narrator and the many municipalities, business, and organizations featured in the video.

SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Donna Clarkson, Co-DWSP Program Supervisor, provided a summary on the implementation of Source Protection Plans (SPPs) for the 2022 reporting period. For each significant threat policy in the Source Protection Plans, there is a corresponding monitoring policy. Municipalities, provincial ministries, conservation authorities and source protection authorities must submit annual progress reports relating to policy implementation. The Town of Minto delivers its risk management services through Wellington Water Risk Management Officials. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority is delivering Part IV Risk Management services on behalf of eight municipalities. In 2022, 36 development review notices were issued under Section 59 of the *Clean Water Act*. Ten Risk Management Plans were completed (7 renewals, and 3 new plans). One RMP remains outstanding, and one was recently completed prior to this meeting. Municipalities are also required to report on policies where they are named the implementing body. Ten municipalities have updated their Official plans to incorporate SPP policies. For septic inspections, which fall under the Ontario Building Code, 154 of 204 septic systems within a vulnerability score of 10 were inspected. Fifty systems were not inspected due to COVID delays from prior years, staffing issues, and lack of landowner cooperation. MECP continues to screen for Prescribed Instruments (PI) applications that

pose a threat to drinking water. In 2022, they reviewed 10 applications for sewage related threats.

2022 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Donna Clarkson outlined the draft 2022 Annual Progress Report for comment. As per the *Clean Water Act*, SPAs are required to provide regular reports to MECP on the implementation of SPP and the overall success of the program. The SPC must provide written comment to the SPA about the extent to which the committee feels the objectives set out in the Source Protection Plan are being achieved. Progress is to be scored according to three possible grades: Progressing Well/On Target, Satisfactory, or Limited Progress.

By consensus, the following comments from the SPC members will be included in the annual report:

We acknowledge and thank the local municipalities, stakeholders, and other implementing bodies for their contribution to this annual progress report, and for their ongoing efforts to implement the Source Protection Plan.

Following approval of the SPPs in 2015, the Committee has focused on tasks related to implementation and amendments. This includes assessing progress made by stakeholders in implementing the SPP policies, identifying areas for improvement, and overseeing technical updates and amendments.

The Source Protection Committee for the ABMV Source Protection Region reviewed the recent implementation results, noting that significant progress has been made since the SPPs came into effect in 2015. Although the Covid-19 pandemic has created daunting challenges, implementing bodies continued their efforts to ensure that municipal drinking water is well protected. The majority of the SPP policies have been implemented and 98% of significant drinking water threats have been addressed. For these reasons, the SPC feels confident in their assessment that implementation of the Source Protection Plans is progressing well or on target.

MOTION #SPC: 2023-03B-03

**Moved by Jennette Walker
Seconded by Doug Hocking**

“That the Source Protection Committee approve the SPC comments on the annual report as drafted and direct staff to submit the Annual Progress Report to the Source Protection Authorities for submission to the Province”

Carried.

BE PART OF THE WATER TEAM!

Staff along with the SPC members watched the draft video of “Be Part of the Water Team” featuring Paul Heffer. The video will be sent to all groups that participated in the footage for review and approval. Once approval is received the video will be sent to municipalities and promoted through social media.

WHAT’S IN MY WELL?

Chair Matt Pearson welcomed and introduced Sandy Edelsward, Program Coordinator Drinking Water Testing for Public Health Ontario. Sandy provided a presentation on Public Health Ontario’s role in private well water testing. For context, private well water is tested for free through Health Units for bacteria if the private landowner submits a sample. These samples are sent to Public Health Ontario’s laboratory for analysis, and Public Health Ontario collects and analyzes results for regions across the province. A review of the incidents leading up to and after the Walkerton tragedy were presented, as well as the perspective from the lab during that time. At present, bacteria data has been analyzed for different regions from 2003 to 2022 with an average bacterial contamination rate of 35% for southwestern Ontario. Bacterial contamination rates vary at different scales with some local Public Health Units having rates as low as 17%. Public Health Ontario also engaged in a spatial analysis of microbial hotspots, and five hotspots were identified. These hotspots do not always align with the highest incidence rates of microbial contamination, but they do align with karst formations (highly soluble rock with empty pockets throughout). Going forward, Public Health Ontario would like to see increased testing of private wells as testing has decreased year after year since 2002. Increased well stewardship and maintenance also remains a hope going forward.

THE WATER YOU DRINK: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO KEEPING IT SAFE

Chair Matt Pearson welcomed and introduced Patrick Landry, Health Inspector from Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH). Patrick reviewed HPPH's role which includes private well testing, but also vaccinations, food inspections, beach/lake testing, pool inspections, and more. Under HPPH's role, there are two different protocols for water: one ensure safe drinking water, and the other safe recreational water. For regulated water systems, jurisdiction either falls under MECP or Public Health. For regulated systems under Public Health, these are usually small drinking water systems such as campgrounds or communal wells. These samples are submitted to a private lab for testing and include more than bacterial analysis. Unregulated systems include private wells and Public Health protocols are related to testing of the water, not maintenance of the well system. For private wells, sampling for bacteria is free, and collected samples can be submitted to the Health Unit within 24-48hrs of collection. For additional analysis like sodium, chloride, or nitrate, private landowners would need to submit a sample to a private lab at their own expense. HPPH is reviewing gaps and barriers that may be preventing private landowners from testing their well water for bacteria.

LIAISON UPDATES

Beth Forrest, MECP Liaison, noted that MECP liaisons have been busy attending many SPC meetings this month and that the Ministry is still working through Section 36 and Section 34 amendments.

Phil Beard, Maitland Valley SPA Liaison, and Brian Horner, Ausable Bayfield SPA Liaison, did not have an update at this time.

Patrick Landry, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) Liaison, had no update at this time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be June 14th, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Matt Pearson
Chair

Elizabeth Balfour
Secretary



MINUTES DRAFT

Friends of the South Huron Trail Meeting **DRAFT**

Monday, March 27, 2023 – Morrison Dam Conservation Area (MDCA) Pavilion

PRESENT IN PERSON

Members: Dave Frayne; Peter Moseley-Williams; Norm Eckel; Linda Wilhelm; George Godbolt.

Staff: Nathan Schoelier; Tim Cumming

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chairperson Dave Frayne.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #1/23 Moved by Linda Wilhelm; Seconded by Norm Eckel
“RESOLVED, THAT the March 27, 2023 meeting agenda be adopted as circulated.”

Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOTION #2/23 Moved by Linda Wilhelm; Seconded by George Godbolt
“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the November 7, 2022 meeting and the motions therein be adopted.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None.

REPORTS – 2023 PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND COMPLETED PROJECTS – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Nathan Schoelier, Manager of Stewardship and Conservation Lands with Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), provided the Trail Maintenance and Completed Projects Report. Nathan reported the trail is in good condition post-winter, and reports were positive from visitors. Nathan reported that no major maintenance projects are planned, only regular, ongoing maintenance activities such as garbage cleanup and pruning. There was a question about continued drainage issues behind Pryde Boulevard. Nathan said this can be looked at as part of a larger project approach.

TRAIL USE AND ACTIVITIES – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Nathan provided the Trail Use and Activities Report. Nathan reported that the trail continues to be well-used, and activities have been appropriate and responsible.

OTHER TRAIL PROJECTS – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Staff plan to remove the rail tie crossing along the south side of the MacNaughton-Morrison section of the trail and replace it with granular material. The rail ties are beginning to rot and further degradation may begin to pose a risk to trail users. The timing of this project will be weather-dependent.

SOUTH HURON TRAIL MOBILE – NORM ECKEL

Volunteer driver Norm Eckel, on behalf of himself and fellow volunteer driver Jim Hayter, reported on the South Huron Trail Mobile. He said the 2022 year was a busy year for the Trail Mobile.

TRAIL PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY – TIM CUMMING

Tim Cumming, Communications Specialist, provided the Trail Promotion Report. He touched upon the cancellation, due to mild weather, of the free family snowshoeing event (part of Family Day WinterFest South Huron) and how we advised the public of the cancellation and informed the public of an alternate self-guided activity (walking the South Huron Trail and looking at the interpretive tree signs). He also touched upon public participation in the Giving Tuesday fundraising campaign with #UnSelfie photos. He also spoke to promotion of upcoming fundraising activities benefitting the trail (including the Conservation Dinner on April 20, 2023 and the 50-50 Raffle Draw). He also advised members of the availability of new Annual Report documents and a new, updated Watershed Report Card.

FAMILY DAY WINTERFEST SOUTH HURON

The Friends of the South Huron Trail's free family snowshoeing event, as part of Family Day WinterFest South Huron, was cancelled in 2023 as the weather was too mild. In lieu of a snowshoeing event, the public was invited to walk the South Huron Trail and check out the interpretive tree signs along the trail.

FUNDRAISING – FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Tim provided a fundraising update as part of the Promotions Report. The Conservation Dinner Committee looks forward to returning to an in-person live auction and dinner on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at the South Huron Recreation Centre. Tim shared a social media post made by community member Janet Clarke about the trail as part of Giving Tuesday Canada on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. Tickets for the 50-50 Raffle Draw are for sale.

FUNDRAISING – 'ROUND-UP-AT-THE-TILL' INITIATIVE

Nathan said he had spoken to a local business that would be willing to take part in a donate-at-the-till campaign in support of the trail. Nathan suggested Tim could prepare a flyer and poster about the campaign. Dave recommended that a letter be sent to regional office of LCBO to ask if they would be willing to take part. The charity golf tournament for the trail is no longer happening so a fundraiser, in its place, could support maintenance of the trail. If it works for the interested local business, it was felt that Ontario Hiking Week, which takes place the first week in October, might be a good time to have the round-up-at-the-till initiative. It was suggested volunteers might hold an activity, or 'kick-off event,' along the trail, e.g., free hot chocolate and a hike, in order to coincide with the trail initiative. The Exeter BIA could also be approached about this initiative.

SOUTH HURON TRAIL FIELD GUIDE

Nathan said volunteers had recommended a field guide for the wildflowers and trees along the distance markers of the trail. It would take time to prepare the guide to ensure details are correct, after consulting Ausable Bayfield Conservation staff with the appropriate expertise. In discussion, it was felt this might be a good activity for the 20th anniversary of the trail in 2024.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY – NATHAN SCHOELIER

Nathan said Tim will create and circulate a Doodle poll survey to find a date that works for members of Friends of the South Huron Trail to take part in a spring cleanup day.

SOUTH HURON TRAIL 20TH ANNIVERSARY (2004-2024) – TIM CUMMING

In 2024, we celebrate 20 years of the MacNaughton-Morrison Section of the South Huron Trail (2004-2024). In 2014, there was a tenth anniversary celebration, for the trail, planned by a community committee. That committee's work resulted in legacy projects including a DVD of interviews with trail builders. Volunteers Jim O'Toole and Lorne Rideout created a trail brochure with 1,000 copies printed thanks to a donation from the Exeter Lions Club. Volunteer Dorothy Brown Henderson wrote a series of popular columns about the trail. Volunteer photographers, including Bonnie Sitter, took photos which were included in the DVD, brochure, and a photo book about the trail. Volunteers hosted *South Huron Trail Get-Active Challenge: Turn Over a New Leaf*. There was also a breakfast and a guided hike and a ceremony to honour the landowners along the trail and other people in the community who have made the trail possible. There was also an art event and a Daffodil Trail, thanks to memorial donation of daffodil bulbs that were planted along the trail at Morrison Dam Conservation Area in the Morrison Reservoir (Morrison Lake) spillway to commemorate the trail anniversary and the 25th Conservation Dinner. A committee may need to be formed this year (2023) to plan activities for a celebration next year (2024). Friends of the South Huron Trail members are encouraged to consider project activities. Creation of a detailed guide to flora along the trail might be a project for this celebration. So products don't get 'dated,' it was suggested wording could be along the lines of '... *growing and maintaining the trail since 2004* ...' so it remains current even as the years go by.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Friends of South Huron Trail is on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #6/22

Moved by Peter Moseley-Williams

Seconded by George Godbolt.

“RESOLVED, THAT the March 27, 2023 meeting of the Friends of the South Huron Trail be adjourned.”

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Dave Frayne, Chair

Tim Cumming, Recording Secretary



Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Source Protection Authority Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2023

11:45 a.m.

Administration Centre Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda for April 13, 2023
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
4. Adoption of Minutes from March 16, 2023
5. Business Out of the Minutes
6. Annual Progress Report - Mary Lynn MacDonald
7. New Business
8. Adjournment



SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Thursday March 16, 2023

**Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre
Morrison Dam Conservation Area**

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Jim Ginn, Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins, Greg Lamport, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Abbie Gutteridge, Brian Horner, Mary Lynn MacDonald

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 4:22 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #SPA 06/23

Moved Jim Ginn

Seconded by Greg Lamport

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the March 16, 2023 Source Protection Authority meeting be approved.”

Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPA 07/23

Moved by Steve Herold

Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Authority meeting held on February 16, 2023, and the motions therein be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PROGRAM REPORT

1. Source Protection Committee (SPC) Meeting Update

Mary Lynn MacDonald, Drinking Water Source Protection Co-Supervisor, provided a brief update on the Source Protection Committee Meeting held on March 1, 2023. Two new members, Doug Hocking (Property Owner representative) and John Thompson (North Municipal Group representative) were introduced to the SPC. Staff provided updates on the anticipated wellhead protection area changes for Century Heights and Lucknow, and Jennette Walker noted that Zurich households have been receiving their water from Lake Huron for two weeks. Once the Municipality of Bluewater decommissions the wells, the wellhead protection area will be removed from the Source Protection Plan through a section 51 and Risk Management Plans for that wellhead protection area will be voided.

Deb Balika, Source Protection Manager and Conservation Ontario, provided a presentation regarding the education and outreach materials and social media campaigns developed with assistance from working groups. In addition, Lisa Courtney from B.M. Ross provided a presentation on the Environmental Assessment process for the new Century Heights well in Saltford, and noted how Source Protection policies informed the process.

2. Source Protection Plan Amendment

The proposed updates to the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Plans (SPPs) have been completed. Included in these updates are:

- A comprehensive review of the Source Protection Plans and Assessment Reports in accordance with the Section 36 Order as part of the Minister’s approval of the Source Protection Plans on January 19, 2015 to address implementation challenges
- New Technical Work: updated Wellhead Protection Areas for Auburn, Belgrave, Palmerston and Wingham
- Policy changes and updated risk assessment to incorporate significant changes to the new provincial Technical Rules (amended in 2021), under the Clean Water Act, 2006 especially for salt, snow, fuel and waste threats
- Restructuring of Plans for ease of use and better understanding

A summary of the proposed changes was provided to the SPA, as well as a link to the full updated SPPs. At their March 1st meeting, the Source Protection Committee approved the

updated SPPs and directed them to be provided to the SPA for review and subsequently submitted to the MECP.

MOTION #SPA 08/23

Moved by Wayne Shipley

Seconded by Jim Ginn

“RESOLVED, THAT the Source Protection Authority receive the reports on the Source Protection Committee Meeting and the Source Protection Plan Amendment as presented.”

Carried.

MOTION #SPA 09/23

Moved by Ray Chartrand

Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen

“RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Directors for the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority approve the proposed updates to the Source Protection Plans, and

AND FURTHER, THAT staff be directed to submit the proposed updated Source Protection plans and supporting documentation to the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks for his approval.”

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Marissa Vaughan
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

TO: Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority
FROM: Donna Clarkson and Mary Lynn MacDonald, DWSP Co-Supervisors
DATE: Apr. 13, 2023
SUBJECT: Annual Progress Report on SPP Implementation

A. Background

As per the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Source Protection Authority (SPA) must prepare and submit an annual progress report to the Source Protection Committee and the Province. The report will also be made publicly available. The report outlines the progress made in implementing the Source Protection Plans (SPPs) and provides valuable information about the overall success of the Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) program.

This sixth annual report covers the 2022 reporting period and builds on implementation progress since April 1st, 2015, the effective date of the SPPs. It covers the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley source protection areas. The progress report is based on the information collected through annual monitoring reports submitted by implementing bodies. Note that the report is very similar to the previous year. With proposed changes to the SPPs in the recently submitted amendment and new well delineations, Significant Drinking Water Threat enumeration will change in the future.

B. Summary of Monitoring Reports from Implementing Bodies

Information gathered from the monitoring reports has been summarized below, to provide an overview of the progress made toward SPP implementation.

Risk Management Officials: Risk Management Officials (RMOs) are responsible for implementing the policies that prohibit (Section 57, Clean Water Act) or manage (Section 58, CWA) activities identified as significant drinking water threats (SDWTs). In 2022, RMOs issued 36 development review notices and completed 10 risk management plans (RMPs). Since 2015, 124 RMPs have been completed across this Region; there are two remaining in progress.

Municipalities / Counties: Twelve municipalities/counties in the ABMV source protection region are required to update their Official Plans and Zoning Bylaws to ensure they conform with the local source protection plans. As per SPP policy, the update is required within five years from the date the Plans comes into effect, i.e. by

April 2020. Ten have completed their OP amendment and the remainder are in progress.

Septic systems inspection must be conducted every five years for systems located close to municipal wells, in zones A and B of the wellhead protection areas where the vulnerability is high (vulnerability score of 10). Across the ABMV source protection region, 204 on-site septic systems require inspection. The second round of inspection is underway, with 76% completed; 73 systems were inspected in 2022. Fifty systems were not inspected within the required 5-year timeframe. Delays are attributed to staffing issues, lack of landowner cooperation plus lingering impacts related to the pandemic. Municipalities have indicated they will make every effort to complete the remaining inspections in 2023.

Provincial Implementation: The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) ensures that all prescribed instrument decisions (e.g. Environmental Compliance Approvals (ECA), Pesticide Permits, Municipal Drinking Water Licenses, etc.) conform to policies in the Source Protection Plans. All incoming Prescribed Instrument (PI) applications are screened to determine if any activities associated with the prescribed instrument could be a significant drinking water threat.

The following is a summary of 2022 MECP reporting for PIs, for the ABMV SPR:

Prescribed Instrument (PI)	# Applications reviewed	# Applications that are SDWT	# PI confirmed to be SDWT*
	2022	2022	Sum: 2016-2022
MRDWS** – Fuel Storage at well	0	0	1
Permit to Take Water	0	0	0
Pesticides	0	0	0
Wastewater/ Sewage	2	1	9
Hauled Sewage	8	0	0
Waste Disposal Site	0	0	0
SUM	10	1	10

* SDWT = Significant Drinking Water Threat;

PI = Prescribed Instrument

**MRDWS = municipal residential drinking water systems.

Progress - Addressing Drinking Water Threats

The table below shows progress made from 2015 to 2022, to verify and address significant drinking water threats (SDWT) in the ABMV Source Protection Region. Percent progress in addressing SDWT is 99%.

	A*	B	C	D	E
Threat Type per Clean Water Act (CWA)	Estimated Threat #	# threats added	# threats removed	# threats addressed	# threats remaining
Hazardous Waste	28	0	22	6	0
Sewage	229	14	24	219	0
Application of agricultural source material (ASM)	23	0	8	15	0
Storage of ASM (manure)	2	0	1	1	0
Application of NASM	0	0	0	0	0
Handling and storage of NASM	1	0	1	0	0
Application of commercial fertilizer	4	1	1	4	0
Storage of commercial fertilizer	0	2	1	1	0
Application of pesticide to land	14	2	6	10	0
Handling and storage of pesticide	0	0	0	0	0
Application of road salt	0	0	0	0	0
Handling and storage of road salt	0	0	0	0	0
Storage of snow	0	0	0	0	0
Handling and storage of fuel	75	1	64	12	0
Dense non-aqueous phase liquid	76	15	42	47	2
Organic solvent	0	0	0	0	0
De-icing of aircraft	0	0	0	0	0
Livestock grazing; barnyard	12	0	2	10	0
Water taking from an aquifer	0	0	0	0	0
Reducing recharge of an aquifer	0	0	0	0	0
Total	464	35	172	325	2

*A = estimate of SDWT engaged in/enumerated when SPP approved

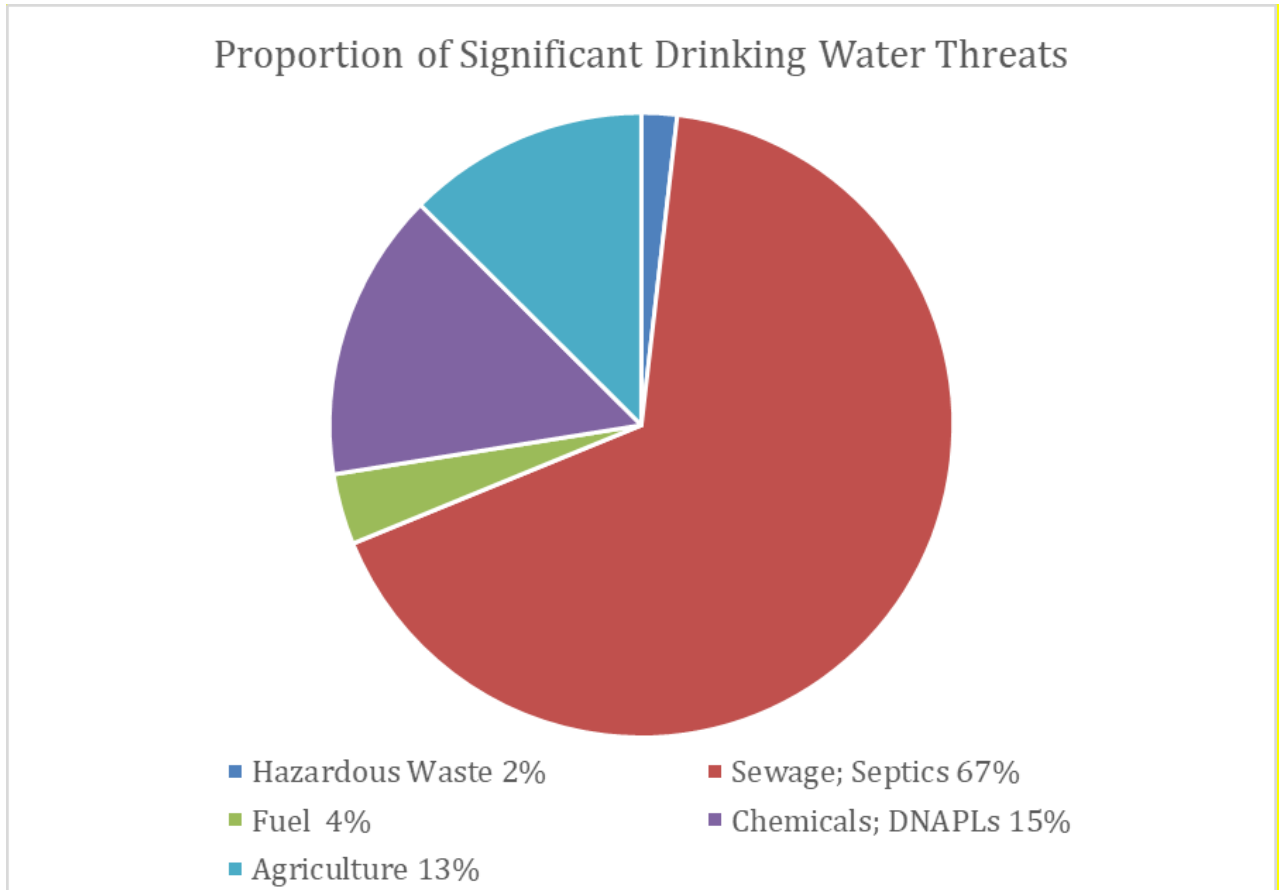
B = Additional SDWT identified after first SPP approved as a result of field verification or change in activity

C = Threat removed – activity no longer occurring

D = SDWT addressed because policy is implemented.

E: Remaining number of SDWT to address (as of Dec. 2022)

The following chart illustrates the relative proportion of significant drinking water threat types in the ABMV region. The 22 categories of drinking water threats are grouped for simplicity.



C. Annual Progress Report – see attached Report

The report format, key reportables and targets are set out by MECP. The report is to be available to the public. As per MECP direction, implementation progress is to be scored according to three possible grades:

P: Progressing Well or **S:** Satisfactory or **L:** Limited progress

*SDWT = significant drinking water threat

Summary of sixth Annual Progress Report

Category	3rd Annual Progress Report: 2015 to 2019	5th Annual Progress Report: 2021	6th Annual Progress Report: 2022
Overall score	P: Progressing Well	P: Progressing Well	P: Progressing Well
1. Policy implementation	93 % of SDWT* policies implemented P: Progressing well	97 % of SDWT* policies implemented P: Progressing Well	P: Progressing Well 100 % of SDWT* policies implemented / in progress
2. Municipal Progress	62% of ZBlaw & OP's updated	70 % of Official Plans updated	P: Progressing Well 10 of 12 Official Plans updated
3. Septic inspections	99 % of first round complete;	Round 2: 79/ 206 inspected (38%). P: Progressing well	Round 2: 75% inspected; 73 in 2022 P: Progressing well
4. Risk management plans (RMP)	20 RMPs completed in 2019; Total = 99 P: Progressing well	9 RMPs in 2021; Total=115; 8 left P: Progressing well	10 RMPs completed in 2022; Total=124; 2 remaining
5. Provincial progress	100% of Prescribed Instrument reviews are complete; P: Progressing well	No change P: Progressing well	No change P: Progressing Well
6. Source Protection Awareness	88 road signs installed; Education ongoing P: Progressing well	Education ongoing P: Progressing well	Education ongoing P: Progressing Well

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) met March 29th, 2023 to review and added the following comments to the Annual Progress Report submission.

Following approval of the Source Protection Plans (SPPs) in 2015, the Committee has focused on tasks related to implementation and amendments. This includes assessing progress made by stakeholders in implementing the SPP policies, identifying areas for improvement, and overseeing amendments. In 2022, consultation was conducted on proposed updates to the SPP, as per section 36 of the Clean Water Act. The Committee was pleased with the positive comments received regarding the proposed policy changes.

The Source Protection Committee for the ABMV Source Protection Region reviewed the recent implementation results, noting that significant progress has been made since the SPPs came into effect in 2015. The majority of the SPP policies have been implemented and

99% of significant drinking water threats have been addressed. For these reasons, the SPC feels confident in their assessment that implementation of the Source Protection Plans is progressing well.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the local municipalities, stakeholders, and other implementing bodies for their contribution to this annual progress report, and for their ongoing efforts to implement the SPP policies. The great progress made to-date on SPP implementation would not have been possible without their strong support.

The SPC approved the report as presented and recommended it be forwarded to the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley SPAs for approval and submission to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. As the majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented or are in progress, the SPC is confident that the objectives of the Source Protection Plans are “Progressing Well/On Target”.

Recommendation:

That the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority approve the 2022 Annual Progress Report for submission to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

2022 Source Protection Annual Progress Report

I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing the source protection plans for the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Areas, as required by the Ontario Clean Water Act, 2006 and its regulations. It highlights actions taken to protect the sources of our drinking water, the groundwater aquifers and Lake Huron.

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 assessment, research, consultation with the community, and collaboration with local stakeholders and the Province.

This is the sixth annual progress report submitted for the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Region. It covers the period of April 2015 to December 31st, 2022, and summarizes progress made in the year 2022.



II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

Overall Score: P – Progressing Well / On Target: The majority of the source protection plan policies have been implemented or are progressing.

Following approval of the Source Protection Plans (SPPs) in 2015, the Committee has focused on tasks related to implementation and amendments. This includes assessing progress made by stakeholders in implementing the SPP policies, identifying areas for improvement, and overseeing amendments. In 2022, consultation was conducted on proposed updates to the SPP, as per section 36 of the Clean Water Act. The Committee was pleased with the positive comments received regarding the proposed policy changes.

The Source Protection Committee for the ABMV Source Protection Region reviewed the recent implementation results, noting that significant progress has been made since the SPPs came into effect in 2015. The majority of the SPP policies have been implemented and 99% of significant drinking water threats have been addressed. For these reasons, the SPC feels confident in their assessment that implementation of the Source Protection Plans is progressing well.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the local municipalities, stakeholders, and other implementing bodies for their contribution to this annual progress report, and for their ongoing efforts to implement the SPP policies. The great progress made to-date on SPP implementation would not have been possible without their strong support.

III. Our Watershed

The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Region (SPR) is made up of the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Areas (SPA). The two SPAs overlie the same jurisdiction as the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley conservation authorities. Their jurisdictions abut and their major rivers flow into Lake Huron. The combined watersheds are approximately 5,690 square kilometres in size, with a combined population of 105,000. There are six counties and 24 lower-tier municipalities entirely or partly within the SPR. There are no First Nations within the two watershed areas. The Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Area is adjacent to the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation.

Land uses can have a significant impact on water quality and quantity. Agriculture is the major land use in the region, with small urban area scattered throughout. Their watersheds share common patterns of landscapes and natural systems. Their towns are small; their economies are based on the economic driver of a thriving agricultural sector, a significant manufacturing sector as well as the additional economic pillars of tourism, heritage and culture. Lake Huron is a major driver of the tourism industry. In the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region there are 26 municipal groundwater well systems as well as two Lake Huron intakes. Approximately half of the population is served by these systems; the remainder receive their water from private or communal wells and intakes. There are two great lake intakes - Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System (in Port Blake, near Grand Bend) and the Goderich Water Supply.

The Wellhead Protection Areas for the municipal well systems are: Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh: Century Heights, Dungannon, Huron Sands; Municipality of Bluewater: Zurich, Varna; Municipality of Central Huron: Auburn, Benmiller, Clinton, Kelly, McClinchey, SAM, Vandewetering; Municipality of Huron East: Brucefield, Brussels, Seaforth; Township of Huron-Kinloss: Lucknow, Whitechurch, Ripley (well system itself is outside ABMV SPR); Town of Minto: Clifford (well system itself is outside ABMV SPR), Harriston, Palmerston; Municipality of Morris-Turnberry: Belgrave; Township of North Huron: Blyth, Wingham; Municipality of North Perth: Atwood, Gowanstown, Listowel, Molesworth.

The source of water for the wells is typically deep bedrock aquifers, which are protected by a thick overburden. There have been no Issue Contributing Areas identified in the SPR. There have been a number of changes to these well systems since approval of the source protection plans in 2015, triggering the need for amendment under Section 34 of the Clean Water Act, 2006. This amendment was submitted to the Province in February, 2018 following extensive consultation. The amendment was approved by the Province in 2019, with effective date of February, 5, 2019.

IV. At a Glance: Progress on Source Protection Plan Implementation

1. Source Protection Plan Policies

P – Progressing Well

The overall progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives in this reporting period is: P - Progressing Well/On Target

All of the legally binding policies that address significant drinking water threats are implemented.

All of the policies that address moderate and low drinking water threats are implemented or have been evaluated with no further action required. Over 80% of policies that are not directly related to drinking water threat activities are implemented, and the remainder have been reviewed and require no further action. Note that these policies are 'non-binding' on implementing bodies.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P – Progressing Well

The Region contains almost the full extent of Huron County, plus portions of Bruce, Perth, Wellington, Lambton and Middlesex Counties. Nine lower-tier municipalities and four upper-tier municipalities in our source protection region have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply.

All of the municipalities in our source protection region have indicated that they have processes in place to ensure that their day-to-day planning decisions conform to our source protection plans.

Twelve municipalities in our source protection region are required to review and amend their Official Plan to ensure it conforms to the local source protection plans. Ten of the municipalities (lower and upper tier) have completed the required Official Plan amendment. The remainder are in progress. It is anticipated that most of the remaining Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw amendments will be completed within the next year.

3. Septic Inspections

P: Progressing well

In areas where an on-site sewage system (septic system) is considered a significant drinking water threat, inspections are required once every five years in accordance with the Ontario Building Code's mandatory on-site sewage system inspection program.

In the ABMV Source Protection Region, 204 on-site sewage systems are subject to the mandatory inspection program. For the first round of inspections, 99% of these systems were inspected within the five-year timeline, in accordance with the Ontario Building Code. The inspection results found the majority are functioning as designed and carrying out regular pump-outs.

The second round of inspections is underway, with 73 inspections completed in 2022. Over 75 per cent of systems have been re-inspected in the second five-year timeline. Although all systems have received an initial inspection, there have been delays in completing the second round of septic inspections. Delays are attributed to staffing issues as well as lingering impacts related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the ABMV SPR, the inspections were carried out by municipal staff or B.M. Ross and Associates Ltd (for the Township of Huron-Kinloss). Educational materials are reviewed with the landowner at the time of the inspection.

4. Risk Management Plans

P – Progressing Well

In the 2022 reporting period, ten risk management plans (RMP) were established in our source protection region; three were new RMPs and seven were replacements. Since our source protection plans took effect in April 2015, a total of 124 risk management plans have been established, with 91 remaining in effect. Over 98% of the required risk management plans are in place and the remaining two RMPs are in progress.

Since our Source Protection Plans took effect in 2015, Risk Management Official/Inspectors have carried out 390 inspections for prohibited or regulated activities. In 2022, 59 inspections were conducted. This includes inspections required for risk management plans, to ensure compliance with prohibition and to verify threat activities. To date, there is a 100% compliance rate with the risk management plans established in our source protection region.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P – Progressing Well

The Ontario ministries have reviewed 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 existing activities that pose a significant risk to sources of drinking water. The ministries have identified prescribed Instruments that may be subject to significant drinking water threat policies and require further review. The provincial approvals are being amended or revoked where necessary to conform to Source Protection Plan policies. Our policies set out a timeline of three years to complete the review and make any necessary amendments. The ministries have completed this for 100% of previously issued prescribed instruments in our source protection region.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Eighty-eight Drinking Water Protection Zone signs have been installed in our source protection region. The signs are installed on roads near municipal water sources to alert citizens that their actions in these zones can have an impact on a municipal drinking water source. The signs are an effective way to educate and remind everyone of the need to protect our sources of water. Several of the municipalities in this region have included information about the signs and the Drinking Water Source Protection program on their websites.

Significant efforts have been made by source protection authority staff to implement the education and outreach policies in the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Plans. This successful Education and Outreach program - developed in collaboration between municipalities and conservation authorities - includes an updated website and active social media presence. Fact sheets were created for specific sectors as well as for individual well systems. This focused outreach aims to improve awareness about local sources of water.

Between 2020 and 2022, a series of eight videos, featuring members of the Source Protection Committee, was created to promote source water protection. The series has received more than 20,000 views to date.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delay

Significant progress has been made on implementing all policies related to significant drinking water threats.

With our Region's Source Protection Plans coming into effect in April of 2015, we are in year seven of the established five-year timeline for implementation of our significant drinking water threat policies. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several implementing bodies were unable to meet these timelines. An extension of the implementation timeline policies until December 31, 2022 was granted for completion of the remaining risk management plans. Several municipalities encountered delays regarding Official Plan updates and septic re-inspections. However, steady progress has been made, despite the delays created by the pandemic.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

In our source protection region, no Issues have been identified in our local science-based assessment reports regarding the quality of the sources of municipal drinking water.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

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

10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about our source protection region, visit our Homepage.

<http://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca>

