



South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

Source Protection Committee (SPC)

Minutes of Meeting SPC-01-2026

April 2, 2026

The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

Members Present:

Peter Dance, Acting Chair

Municipal

Jeff Hamelin, Jennifer Best, Michelle Flaherty, Katie Thompson

Economic/Development

John Hemsted, Samantha Archibald, Sarah Kurtz

Public Sector

Cate Root, David Ketcheson, Geoff Allen, Ian Chadwick, Karen Koornneef, Stephanie Hobbs

First Nations

Chad McRae

Liaisons

Don Goodyear, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)

Julie Cayley, Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA)

Jennifer Vincent, Liaison, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA)

Jeneé Wallace, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU)

Staff Present

Bill Thompson, LSRCA

Ian Ockenden, NVCA

Mystaya Touw, LSRCA

Sheri Steinginga, NVCA

Kathy Hillis, LSRCA (minutes)

Melissa Carruthers, SSEA

Guests

Jae Park, York Region Public Health Branch

Emily Goncalves, York Region

Shelly Cuddy, Durham Region

Joanna Miron, York Region

Sarah Lavoie-Bernstein, Kawartha Conservation

Regrets:

David Ritchie, Economic/Development – Proxy to John Hemsted

Michelle Jakobi, Municipal – Proxy to Katie Thompson

Tom Bradley, Municipal – Proxy to Jennifer Best

Chris Gerrits, Municipal
Colin Elliott, Economic/Development
Rick Newlove, Economic/Development
Jessica Neto, Economic/Development

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

- a) Thank you to Lynn Dollin for her contributions during her years as Chair of the Source Protection Committee from 2007-2025.
- b) Introduction of new Members: Samantha Archibald, Sarah Kurtz, Ian Chadwick and Chad McRae.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair recited the Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Conflict of Interest

None declared.

4. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: John Hemsted

Seconded by: Ian Chadwick

SPC-01-26 **Resolved That** the agenda for the April 2, 2026 meeting of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) be approved as presented. **Carried**

5. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by: Geoff Allen

Seconded by: Stephanie Hobbs

SPC-02-26 **Resolved That** the minutes of the December 11, 2025 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be approved as circulated. **Carried**

6. Announcements

- a) Lynn Dollin has not been reappointed as Chair with no indication as to why, and this also happened with two other Chairs. Four of the 17 source protection committees (SPC) have had Chair's appointed. There is a rule that all appointments must happen within six months of the position being posted, and that did not happen, so they will all be posted on the [Public Appointments Secretariat's webpage](#). If anyone is interested, submit an application. Peter Dance has offered to stay on in the interim, but if anyone else is interested please advise Bill Thompson. Two committees have had vacancies for four years, so this could take some time.

7. Deputations

There were none.

8. Presentations

- a) A presentation by Mystaya Touw regarding Staff Report SPC2.1 – Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2025).

Link to the presentation – [Annual Report to the Ministry -Progress Made in Protecting Sources of Drinking Water](#)

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Ian Chadwick: When they need to have some remedial work done on septic tanks, is that made public and are neighbours alerted of a condition that they should be made aware of as well?

Some of the Official Plans (OP) have been in the works for a long time and as there is a five-year timeline for review, why are some updates still ongoing? Are Upper Tier municipalities in the same boat?

Bill Thompson responded that we are not advised of the results of septic inspections and we have not heard of any neighbours being advised. Jennifer Best confirmed that it is a letter between the municipal building department and the landowner.

Jennifer Best advised that some Official Plan updates are outstanding due to the number of provincial Bills that have delayed a number of OPs. Often when progress is made more changes are made by the province requiring staff to go back to the drawing board. Peter Dance advised sometimes the upper tier OPs are changed or delayed which results in delays for the lower tier municipalities.

David Ketcheson: How many Risk Management Plans (RMP) did we have when we started? How many are still to be completed?

Mystaya Touw confirmed that the number to be completed changes because when Threats are investigated it is often found they are not doing that activity, but there was well over 300 at the start. There are 286 RMPs active right now, in that the plan is in place, signed off and completed. The number to be completed changes every time there is a section 34 amendment, but it is approximately 15-20. There are only two from when the source protection plan was originally approved that are outstanding. One is due to a change in the Livestock Policy under section 36 but technically that is not a Risk Management Plan policy until the section 36 change is approved, so this will be an RMP in future. The second one is an abandoned property that the Risk Management

Official (RMO) does not have access to. None of the other outstanding ones are from 2016.

Moved by: Cate Root

Seconded by: John Hemsted

SPC-03-26 **Resolved That** presentation a) and Staff Report SPC2.1 regarding Annual Report on Plan Implementation (to December 31, 2025) be received for information; and

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

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

b) A presentation by Joanna Miron and Emily Goncalves, York Region, regarding Navigating the World of Risk Management Plan Inspections.

Link to the presentation – [Navigating the World of Risk Management Plan Inspections](#)

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

John Hemsted: How many other regions within the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region have an Incentive funding program?

Bill Thompson advised that no others provide funding. Peter Dance acknowledged that this confirms a best practice which perhaps we can spread the word about?

Geoff Allen: How is the funding broken down? Is there a maximum funding for a business or a farm?

Joanna Miron responded that \$1,300 and below is 100% covered, and \$1,300 – \$10,000 is 80% covered. Most have been 100% funded from the municipal funding.

Jeff Hamelin: How do you deal with the leased properties?

Joanna Miron advised that they usually deal with the farmer, but sometimes the owner.

Don Goodyear: How much are you spending on the funding program? The number is much smaller than you might assume so it may be helpful to provide this number to municipalities that are shying away from the program.

Joanna Miron responded that she is not sure of the exact number, but it is much smaller than was anticipated when the program started, and it has gone down over time. The number can be provided to Members as it is reported out annually.

Moved by: Jennifer Best
Seconded by: David Ketcheson

SPC-04-26 **Resolved That** presentation b) regarding Navigating the World of Risk Management Plan Inspections be received for information. **Carried**

c) A presentation by Bill Thompson, LSRCA regarding Staff Report SPC2.2 –Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry monitoring policy be received for information.

Link to the presentation – [Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry policy](#)

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Ian Chadwick: The province advised they are making changes with the hopes of speeding up the development process. Is the SPC collaborating on any of that or is the province dictating it? Is there anything you are aware of that is collateral to this that affects the kind of work that we do? Bill 56 and Bill 60 are both up for review and they both involve changes in how water facilities are managed. Ian requests a report on how these changes will affect the work of this Committee.

Bill Thompson advised that the next presentation on the *Clean Water Act* will outline some collateral situations. We are seeing a government that is very interested in refining some of the policies that affect land use planning so we will likely see more changes. This government is not as collaborative as other governments and a lot of these decisions are being made by Cabinet or Minister, and we are tasked with responding. The changes are posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry for comment and there have been a number of times when the SPC has provided comments on the Registry. This particular case is unique where Ministry and source protection staff worked together to write the policy.

Katie Thompson: Has the province provided clarification on how we are getting updated Threat counts in the table? We should make it clear that the municipalities should not be held responsible for keeping track of these Threats.

Bill Thompson believes it is the Monitoring policy that allows us to keep track of these Threats. Without that the only other option would be to direct staff or RMOs to monitor. Bill agrees that municipalities should not be held responsible.

Peter Dance: Is this something we need to consider as a Committee or has it been managed?

Bill Thompson responded that both the policies that we have as draft and the policy that the province has as draft requires the Minister to report to the Source Protection

Authority, who would then report to the Committee and the RMOs. If the Committee wishes to send a general comment back to the Ministry that this should be a responsibility of the Ministry and the source protection authority, rather than being downloaded to RMOs, that is something the SPC can do.

Geoff Allen: Who does the audit or inspection after the fact, and do they have any enforcement power?

Bill Thompson confirmed that it is ministry staff who does the inspection and enforcement.

Peter Dance: We need to consider whether we want to request that our draft policy be amended to reflect the Lake Erie policy, whereby we get notification right away, and staff can then determine what needs to be brought to the Committee.

Cate Root: How open do you think the Ministry will be to the Lake Erie proposal? Would it be better to have a date that is clear rather than what they have now which can be loose?

Bill Thompson advised that Ministry staff wrote the wording, but by a different branch of the Ministry than does the inspections, so it may be considered a little loose. Bill Thompson believes they will approve it since the Ministry staff wrote it.

Moved by: Cate Root
Seconded by: Jeff Hamelin

SPC-05-26 **Resolved That** presentation c) and Staff Report SPC2.2 regarding Opportunity to comment on draft Environmental Activity and Sector Registry monitoring policy be received for information. **Carried**

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

Link to the presentation – [Source Protection Region General Update](#)

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Ian Chadwick: Collingwood is not listed on the source protection plan, but there is a new plant and they are increasing the water intake, so has that work been done?

How will the local watershed councils be structured? How many watersheds are in this new expanded conservation authority? Ian is very concerned about the local input and how smaller municipalities can still have some sort of say. The counties cannot adequately provide full representation of the lower tier municipalities.

Bill Thompson advised the Collingwood work has been done.

Jennifer Vincent advised that we do not have any clear direction on what they mean by watershed councils, just that the minimum requirement is for their to be one for each

regional conservation authority. There is a meeting next week between the province and chief administrative officers of the 36 conservation authorities, where we hope to get clarity about what they are thinking. We do know that within 90-days of the budget passing, transition committees for each of the nine regional conservation authorities must be established. The board governance will be representation by population. The challenge for the new Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority is that the new population projections are such that east of Highway 400 is projected to over 1 million residents by 2040, but west of Highway 400 will be considerably less. There will be a jurisdiction where more than 50% of the representation, in theory, will represent less than 20% of the geography, so we are working with the province on this nuance for our regional conservation authority.

Peter Dance reminded that some of these conservation authority issues are outside of our mandate to provide input on.

Moved by: John Hemsted

Seconded by: Geoff Allen

SPC-06-26 **Resolved That** presentation d) regarding a Source Protection Region Update be received for information. **Carried**

9. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

No items were identified under items requiring separate discussion.

10. Adoption of Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion

Items SPC1.1 – SPC1.4 were identified under items not requiring separate discussion.

SPC1.1 – A letter dated December 4, 2025 from Leslie Rich, Manager of Source Water Protection, Conservation Ontario, regarding Conservation Ontario’s comments on the “Regulatory changes for accelerating and improving protections for Ontario’s drinking water sources” (ERO# 025-1104).

SPC1.2 – A letter dated December 22, 2025 from Bill Thompson, Project Manager, South Georgian Bay – Lake Simcoe Source Protection Program, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority regarding the Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario’s conservation authorities (ERO #025-1257).

SPC1.3 – Protecting Ontario’s Sources of Drinking Water Progress Summary (2017-2024).

SPC1.4 – 2024 Annual Progress Report Results Summary.

Moved by: Ian Chadwick

Seconded by: Stephanie Hobbs

SPC-07-26 **Resolved That** correspondence SPC1.1 – SPC1.4 as listed in the agenda be received for information. **Carried**

11. Consideration of Items Requiring Separate Discussion

There were no items requiring separate discussion.

12. Other Business

a) If anyone wishes their bio or picture to be updated on the website, provide it to Kathy Hillis.

13. Closed Session

None.

14. Next Meeting and Adjournment

Moved by: Geoff Allen
Seconded by: John Hemsted

SPC-08-26 **Resolved That** the next meeting of the Source Protection Committee scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026 from 1-4 pm, virtually via Zoom; and

Further that the April 2, 2026 meeting of the Source Protection Committee be adjourned at 2:38 pm. **Carried**