



## Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region

### Source Protection Committee Meeting Agenda

March 27, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Location: South Nation Conservation Administration Office  
38 Victoria Street, Finch, Ontario

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1. Call to Order
2. Chair's Remarks
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
5. Delegations / Presentations
  - a. Program Update - PowerPoint Presentation: Staff
6. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Source Protection Committee Minutes of November 13, 2025 1-3
7. New Business
  - a. Project Manager's Update: Jason Symington 4
  - b. 2025 Risk Management Official Annual Report Summary: Phil Barnes & Claire Lemay 5-6
  - c. Draft 2025 Annual Progress Report: Jason Symington 7-18
  - d. New/Modified Drinking Water Systems Update: Jason Symington 19-20
8. Community Engagement: Roundtable
  - a. Source Water Protection Agricultural Reps Workshop Summary: Walter Oeggerli 21-31
9. Date of Next SPC Meeting: TBC
10. Adjournment



## **Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee**

### **Draft Minutes**

**November 13, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.**

### **Location: Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams**

**PRESENT:** Theresa Bergeron, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry  
Jeannette Mongeon, Agriculture  
Don Munro, General Public  
Walter Oeggerli, Agriculture (virtual)  
Dominique Lefebvre, United Counties of Prescott and Russell (virtual)  
Jacqueline Pemberton, Agriculture  
Robert Rathbun, City of Cornwall  
Tom Van Dusen, General Public (virtual)  
Elaine Kennedy, Great River Network  
Glenn Mackey, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville  
Blair Walker, Aggregates  
Stephen Wilson, Commercial / Industrial  
Brian McGillis, Raisin Region Source Protection Authority Liaison  
Bilal Kidwai, Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks Liaison

**REGRETS:** François St-Amour, South Nation Source Protection Authority Liaison  
Michel Kearney, City of Ottawa  
Idalia Milan, Eastern Ontario Health Unit Liaison

**STAFF:** Jen Boyer, Managing Director, Approvals, SNC  
Claire Lemay, Senior Planner, SNC  
Laura Grant, Project Manager, RRCA  
Jason Symington, Drinking Water Source Protection Project Manager, RRCA

**GUESTS :** Tessa Di Iorio, City of Ottawa  
Raymond Beauregard, Past Chair



## 1. Call to Order

Jacqueline Pemberton was voted as Acting Chair and called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

## 2. Chairman's Remarks

Jacqueline Pemberton welcomed all in attendance and highlighted the importance of attending SPC meetings.

## 3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution #10/25

Moved by: Elaine Kennedy  
Seconded: Don Munro

CARRIED

## 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None.

## 5. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #11/25

Moved by: Steve Wilson  
Seconded: Jeanette Mongeon

That the minutes of the April 2, 2025 meeting of the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee be approved

CARRIED

## 6. New Business

### a) Section 36 Amendment Update

Resolution #12/25

Moved by: Dominique Lefebvre  
Seconded: Elaine Kennedy

That the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee receive and file the Project Manager's Update.

CARRIED



**b) Bill 56 Discussion (verbal)**

Jason Symington provided a verbal update regarding proposed changes to the Clean Water Act.

**c) Low Water Response Discussion**

Brian McGillis discussed items related to low water in the Region prompting a group discussion on the role of Source Water Protection program.

**7. Community Engagement: Roundtable Discussion**

- Jacqueline Pemberton has been busy with Low Water Response Team and the associated challenges.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

To be confirmed.

**9. Adjournment**

Resolution #13/25

Moved by: Glen Mackey

THAT the Source Protection Committee meeting of November 13, 2025 be adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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Jacqueline Pemberton  
Acting Chair

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Jason Symington  
Project Manager

/js



**To:** Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee  
**From:** Jason Symington, Project Manager  
**Date:** March 9, 2026  
**Subject:** Project Manager's Update

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee receive and file the Project Manager's Update.

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The last Source Protection Committee (SPC) meeting was held on November 13, 2025. Since then, staff continue to meet deliverables identified in the new 2024-2027 agreement and ongoing Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) initiatives. Below are the highlights:

- Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan Section 36 (Minister's Order) amendments have been completed. Following comments received after public-consultation, the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports were finalized and submitted to the Province for final review and approval.
- Risk Management Officials/Inspectors and Project Managers Virtual Seminar was held March 11, 2026. Staff reviewed case studies, participated in breakout sessions, and attended regional presentations highlighting local projects.
- Risk Management Assessment program being rolled out to the region's municipalities. With the revised Source Protection Plan aligning with the new technical rules, properties will be re-evaluated for potential drinking water threats and new Risk Management Plans will be negotiated or revised as required.
- Staff are participating in Clean Water Act (CWA) and Education and Outreach working groups. These groups are helping to assess how proposed CWA amendments may impact Source Protection Regions and to guide the development of Education and Outreach materials.
- Additional meeting occurrences: Monthly Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Team meetings, monthly Eastern Region project managers meetings, quarterly provincial project manager and communications meetings.
- In addition, staff continue to be involved with Emergency Management Training with our local municipalities.

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Jason Symington,  
Project Manager  
Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region



**To:** Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee  
**From:** Phil Barnes, Team Lead, Watershed Management, Raisin Region SPA  
 Claire Lemay, Senior Planner, South Nation SPA  
**Date:** March 6, 2026  
**Subject:** 2025 Risk Management Official Annual Report Summary

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee receive and file the 2025 Risk Management Official Annual Report Summary.

**Background:**

As per O. Reg. 287/07 under Section 65 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, Risk Management Officials (RMO) must submit an annual report to the Source Protection Authority (SPA) by February 1. Below is a summary of the 2025 risk management highlights for the Raisin Region Source Protection Area and South Nation Source Protection Area.

**Discussion:**

All (100%) of the significant drinking water threats, subject to a Risk Management Plan (RMP), are considered managed.

Highlights:

1. There were no new RMPs negotiated in 2025 within the Source Protection Region.
2. The Risk Management Offices continued to screen *Planning Act* or *Building Act* applications within the Region and issue Section 59 Notices as required.
3. There were no new orders issued through the powers of the *Clean Water Act*.

*Table 1: Risk Management Office Activity for Raisin Region Source Protection Area*

<b>Risk Management Office Highlights for Raisin Region Source Protection Area</b>	<b>Up to end of 2024</b>	<b>New in 2025</b>	<b>Total</b>
Risk Management Plans established	4	0	4
Parcels managed by a Risk Management Plan	6	0	6
Activities managed by a Risk Management Plan	11	0	11
Safe Septic Inspections	164	0	164
Section 59 Notices Issued	26	0	26
Orders Issued	0	0	0



Table 2: Risk Management Office Activity for South Nation Source Protection Area

<b>Risk Management Office Highlights for South Nation Source Protection Area</b>	<b>Up to end of 2024</b>	<b>New in 2025</b>	<b>Total</b>
Risk Management Plans established	80	0	80
Parcels managed by a Risk Management Plan	217	0	217
Activities managed by a Risk Management Plan	301	0	301
Safe Septic Inspections	219	0	219
Section 59 Notices Issued	236	9	245
Orders Issued	0	0	0

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Phil Barnes, P.Eng.  
Team Lead, Watershed Management  
Raisin Region Source Protection Area

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Claire Lemay  
Senior Planner  
South Nation Source Protection Area



**To:** Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee  
**From:** Jason Symington, Project Manager  
**Date:** March 6, 2026  
**Subject:** 2025 Annual Progress Report

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Source Protection Committee receive the 2025 Annual Progress Report;

AND FURTHER THAT, in the opinion of the Source Protection Committee, implementation of the Source Protection Plan is progressing well/on target;

AND FURTHER THAT staff be directed to include the Source Protection Committee's comments on implementation progress in the 2025 Annual Report for to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

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## **Purpose:**

To review and seek the Source Protection Committee's opinion on progress towards achieving the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan's objectives.

## **Background:**

The Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan came into effect April 1, 2015, providing a framework of policies to protect the quality and quantity of the source waters for municipal drinking water systems located in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region.

Ontario Regulation 287/07, Section 22 (1) lists the following two objectives for all Source Protection Plans developed in Ontario:

- “1. To protect existing and future drinking water sources in the source protection area.
2. To ensure that, for every area identified in an assessment report as an area where an activity is or would be a significant drinking water threat,
  - i. the activity never becomes a significant drinking water threat, or*
  - ii. if the activity is occurring when the source protection plan takes effect, the activity ceases to be a significant drinking water threat. O. Reg. 246/10, s. 12.”*



Source Protection Authorities (SPA) are required to submit annual reports on implementation progress to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) under section 46 of the *Clean Water Act (2006)*. The 2025 Annual Progress Report will be the ninth report on implementation progress since the Plan came into effect.

Annual progress reports are prepared using data provided by municipalities, provincial ministries, and other implementing bodies as required. Municipal and provincial reports are required to be submitted to the SPAs annually by February 1st and reflect implementation efforts from the previous calendar year, January 1 to December 31, 2025.

Staff collect and evaluate implementation data to populate two reporting templates provided by the MECP: 1) a summary-level annual progress report and 2) a more detailed supplemental form. The summary-level annual progress reports must be shared with the Source Protection Committee (SPC) at least 30 days before being submitted to MECP.

The Committee is required to review the annual progress report and provide written comments about the extent to which, in the opinion of the Committee, the objectives set out in the plan are being achieved by the measures described in the report.

**Discussion:**

The Raisin-South Nation SPC was circulated the draft 2025 Annual Progress Report on February 27, 2026 (Attached) along with a comment form with 2 questions:

1. *In the opinion of the SPC, to what extent have the objectives of the source protection plan been achieved in this reporting period?*

Three response options are provided by the MECP:

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

Staff recommend a response of progressing well/on target, similarly to past reporting years. The rationale for this assessment is described further below.

2. *Please provide comments to explain how the Source Protection Committee arrived at its opinion. Include a summary of any discussions that might have been had amongst the Source Protection Committee members, especially where no consensus was reached.*

Staff recommend the following response, similarly to past reporting years:

The objectives of the Source Protection Plan, as per Ontario Regulation 287/07, Section 22(1) are:

1. To protect existing and future drinking water sources in the source protection area; and,
2. To ensure that, for every area identified in an assessment report as an area where an activity is or would be a significant drinking water threat that,
  - i. *The activity never becomes a significant drinking water threat, or*
  - ii. *If the activity is occurring when the source protection plan takes effect, the activity ceases to be a significant drinking water threat.*

The policies were developed by taking into consideration the following three guiding principles:

1. Effectiveness (does the policy effectively protect sources of drinking water).
2. Appropriateness (is the policy practical and does it avoid regulatory duplication).
3. Fiscal Responsibility (is the policy cost-effective and reasonable).

All (100%) of the activities identified as significant drinking water threats in the Assessment Reports for the source protection areas have been removed or mitigated through risk management measures. The risk management measures implemented are effective, appropriate, and fiscally responsible.

Following Source Protection Authority endorsement, the Annual Report will be sent to the MECP by May 1, 2026, and will be posted to the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region website ([yourdrinkingwater.ca](http://yourdrinkingwater.ca)).



Jason Symington  
Project Manager, Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region

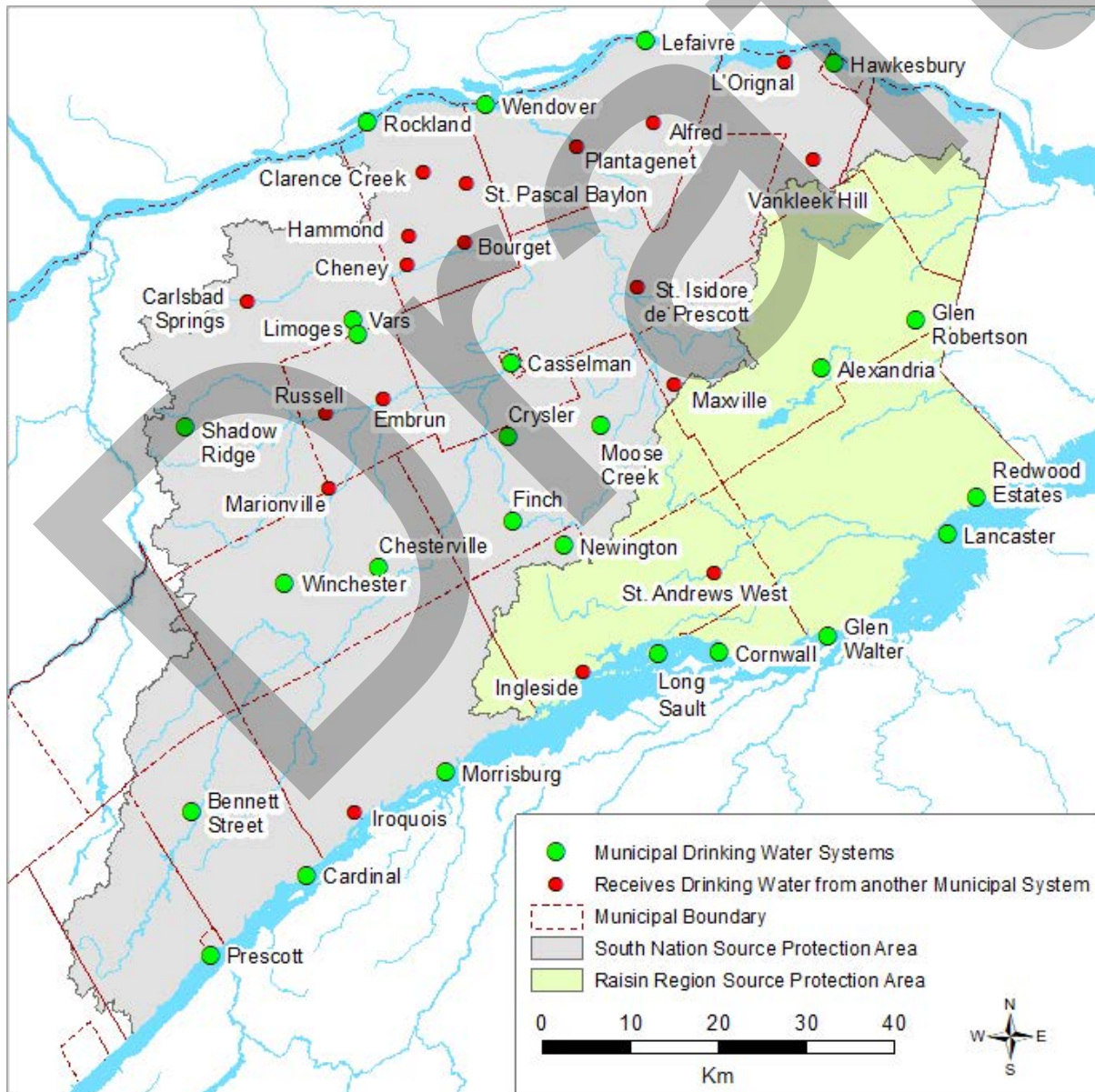
Attachment: Source Protection Draft 2025 Annual Progress Report

# Source Protection 2025 Annual Progress Report

## I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing the source protection plans for the Raisin Region Source Protection Area and the South Nation Source Protection Area in 2025 as required by the Clean Water Act and regulations. Drinking water source protection protects existing and future sources of municipal drinking water from overuse and contamination, ensuring an adequate supply of clean water for both current and future generations.

This report is written for submission to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks as required, but also informs the residents, municipalities, stakeholders, etc. of progress made on implementation to date.



II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

Draft

### III. Our Watershed

To learn more, please read our assessment report(s) and source protection plan(s)

To learn more, please read our assessment report(s) and source protection plan(s)

The Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region encompasses a land mass of over 7,000km<sup>2</sup> and is comprised of two Source Protection Areas: Raisin Region Source Protection Area(2,000 km<sup>2</sup>) and South Nation Source Protection Area (5,000 km<sup>2</sup>). The total population of the region as per the 2016 census was 273,687. The total population served by municipal drinking water systems is 129,239.

#### Raisin Region Source Protection Area

The Raisin Region Source Protection Area is comprised of the Raisin Region Conservation Authority's jurisdiction, plus additional watershed-based areas to the south west (Nash Creek) and north (Rigaud River).

The following municipal drinking water sources are protected by the source protection plan:

- Redwood Estates (Township of South Glengarry): 1 groundwater well
- Glen Robertson (Township of North Glengarry): 1 groundwater well
- Long Sault (Township of South Stormont): 1 surface water intake
- Cornwall (City of Cornwall): 1 surface water intake
- Glen Walter (Township of South Glengarry): 1 surface water intake
- Lancaster (Township of South Glengarry): 1 surface water intake
- Alexandria (Township of North Glengarry): 1 surface water intake

#### South Nation Source Protection Area

The South Nation Source Protection Area includes the jurisdiction of South Nation Conservation with the addition of the Town of Prescott and additional watershed-based area to the north east along the Ottawa River.

The following municipal drinking water sources are protected by the source protection plan:

- Vars (City of Ottawa): 2 groundwater wells
- Limoges (The Nation Municipality): 2 groundwater wells
- Shadow Ridge, Greely (City of Ottawa): 1 groundwater well
- Crysler (Township of North Stormont): 2 groundwater wells
- Moose Creek (Township of North Stormont): 3 groundwater wells
- Finch (Township of North Stormont): 2 groundwater wells
- Winchester (Township of North Dundas): 6 groundwater wells
- Chesterville (Township of North Dundas): 2 groundwater wells
- Newington (Township of South Stormont): 2 groundwater wells
- Bennett St., Spencerville (Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal): 1 groundwater well
- Prescott (Town of Prescott): 1 surface water intake
- Cardinal (Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal): 1 surface water intake
- Morrisburg (Township of South Dundas): 1 surface water intake
- Rockland (City of Rockland): 1 surface water intake
- Wendover (Township of Alfred-Plantagenet): 1 surface water intake
- Lefavre (Township of Alfred-Plantagenet): 1 surface water intake
- Hawkesbury (Town of Hawkesbury): 1 surface water intake
- Casselman (Village of Casselman): 1 surface water intake

There are communities within the South Nation Source Protection Area that are serviced through regional distribution systems where the municipal sources of water are protected through the Source Protection Plan of the Mississippi-Rideau Source Protection Region).

To learn more about the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region, or to read the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report, visit [www.yourdrinkingwater.ca](http://www.yourdrinkingwater.ca).

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

### 1. Source Protection Plan Policies

P : Progressing Well/On Target

All of the policies (100%) that address significant drinking water threats are implemented, in progress or have been evaluated and determined to require no further action(s).

Pursuant to subsection 36 (1) of the Clean Water Act, Source Protection Regions were directed by the Province to amend their Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report to comply with amendments to the Province's General Regulations and Director's Technical Rules and include approved local interest updates. Amendments are currently in progress by the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee and Source Protection Region.

### 2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

Eighteen (18) municipalities in our source protection region have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply. These municipalities include: City of Cornwall, City of Ottawa, City of Clarence-Rockland, Village of Casselman, Town of Prescott, Town of Hawkesbury, Champlain Township, Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal, Township of Alfred and Plantagenet, Russell Township, The Nation Municipality, Augusta Township, Township of North Dundas, Township of South Dundas, Township of North Stormont, Township of South Stormont, Township of North Glengarry and the Township of South Glengarry.

All of the municipalities (100%) in our source protection region have processes in place to ensure that their day-to-day planning decisions conform with our source protection plans. The two largest municipalities (City of Ottawa and the City of Cornwall) have designated their own Risk Management Officials for this purpose, while the remaining municipalities have designated the local conservation authorities for risk management duties. Risk Management Officials screen building permits and planning applications in the vulnerable areas.

Municipalities in our source protection region are also required to update their Official Plan to ensure conformity with the local source protection plan. Seventeen (17) of 18 municipalities have finalized their Official Plan update, and one is in progress.

### 3. Septic Inspections

P : Progressing Well/On Target

The Ontario Building Code requires all septic systems within highly vulnerable areas be included in a Mandatory On-site Sewage System Inspection Program. Under the program, inspections are required on a five (5) year cycle.

The on-site sewage inspection program varies across the Source Protection Region. Septic systems within the City of Ottawa are inspected by the Ottawa Septic System Office(OSSO). The Townships of North Glengarry and South Glengarry retain their own septic inspectors. The remaining municipalities where septic systems are considered a significant threat have delegated septic inspection to South Nation Conservation (SNC).

Municipalities in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region have completed most of the initial round of inspections. To date, 235 of 257 total septic systems have been inspected as per the Ontario Building Code. Of those outstanding initial inspections, 22 were not inspected due to non-responsive or non-compliant landowners.

To date, 132 re-inspections were completed.

### 4. Risk Management Plans

P : Progressing Well/On Target

A risk management plan is a document that outlines the actions required to address an activity that has the potential to contaminate drinking water. These actions manage the risk associated with the activity so that all threats to drinking water are properly managed. A Risk Management Official(RMO) works with the person engaging in the threat activity to decide on the necessary components of the risk management plan.

Since the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan took effect in 2015, a total of 108 risk management plans have been established. A single risk management plan can apply to multiple properties. The total number of properties covered by a risk management plan is 222. There were no new Risk Management Plans established in 2025.

Staff anticipate there is a 100% compliance rate with the Risk Management Plans established in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region.

## 5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P : Progressing Well/On Target

Provincial ministries (e.g. Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks; and Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness) are responsible for the implementation of source protection policies included in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan that use prescribed instruments to reduce the risk of significant threat activities.

Ontario ministries are reviewing 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 provincial approvals are being amended or revoked where necessary to conform with plan policies. Our policies set out a timeline of 3 years to complete the review and make any necessary changes. The ministries have reported full completion (100%) of the review of previously issued provincial approvals in the source protection region.

Provincial ministries are implementing their respective review protocols to screen all applicable new applications.

## 6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Conservation Authority partners have worked to develop tools and resources which satisfy the Education and Outreach Policies and help establish permanent resources for future Source Water Protection program delivery.

### Print Media and Landowner Resources

- Risk Management Plan Binder and Toolkit for property owners
- Six (6) activity fact sheets (DNAPLs, organic solvents, etc.)
- Distribution of SWP brochure series (Agri-Action, Fuel Tools, Pesticide Wise, Septic Solutions, Water Smart, Well Informed)
- Distribution of fuel tags and stickers for homeowners
- Boater Awareness Campaign postcards, keychains, and boat stickers with Spills Action Response Centre contact information

### Signage

- Boater Awareness Campaign signage displayed at river access points (boat launches and public and private marinas) – approximately 40 signs distributed
- Road Signage (displayed on roadways outside vulnerable drinking water protection zones) – approximately 100 in the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region

### Media, Website, and Newsletters

- Issued local press releases
- Maintained the Source Protection Region's website ([yourdrinkingwater.ca](http://yourdrinkingwater.ca))
- Maintained social media presence (province-wide campaigns)
- Circulated second annual Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region news letter update to member municipalities
- Programming promoted in Conservation Authority monthly digital newsletters

### Education and Outreach

- Licensed to deliver Yellow Fish Road community program, educating community members on storm drains (South Nation SPA)
- Licensed to deliver Stream of Dreams Community Art and Environmental Education Program (subsidized with other grants and partners) (South Nation SPA)
- Guest lecture for St. Lawrence College Environmental Technician course
- Presented Source Protection Program at the Geoscience Open House in Ottawa
- Launched Salt Awareness Campaign including; Media releases, handouts, Salt cups and signage posted throughout libraries and stores in the region
- Event attendance: local fairs, Children's Water Festivals, Ontario East Municipal Conference, International Plowing Match, River Symposium, etc.

### Land Use Planning

- Source water protection has become an integral part of the municipal planning process. Pre-consultation processes taking into account source water protection implications have led to better overall planning and development decisions.

## 7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

This is not applicable to our source protection region.

Draft

## 8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

In the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region, there were no issues identified in the local assessment report(s) regarding the quality of the source(s) of municipal drinking water.

The Source Protection Authorities continue to work with municipalities to proactively identify trends in source water quality which could trigger a formal issues evaluation process, and require additional environmental monitoring.

## 9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

No work plans were required to be implemented for our assessment report(s).

## 10. More from the Watershed

The Region's success with implementing the source protection plan can be attributed to a coordinated and consistent effort in addressing the activities listed as drinking water threats. Small municipalities within the source protection region have benefited from delegating municipal enforcement of the Clean Water Act to the respective conservation authorities. Staff at both conservation authorities have worked together to develop streamlined risk management practices, documentation, data management systems, and education and outreach materials.

Funding for initial source protection implementation was made possible for small municipalities through the provincial Source Protection Municipal Implementation Fund. Without this fund, municipalities in our region would have faced financial challenges establishing the risk management plans. The fund removed the burden of a potential surcharge to landowners requiring risk management plans. This resulted in a more expedient and agreeable risk management plan negotiation process.

While some large municipalities may potentially have the capacity to deliver source protection programs, many medium and small sized municipalities will struggle to afford the additional cost.

Continued provincial funding and support for the Source Protection Program is essential to empower small and rural municipalities to mitigate risk and deliver safe, clean, drinking water.



**To:** Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee  
**From:** Jason Symington, Project Manager  
**Date:** March 9, 2026  
**Subject:** New/Modified Drinking Water Systems Update

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Source Protection Committee receive the New/Modified Drinking Water Systems Update.

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### **Purpose:**

To update the Source Protection Committee on new drinking water systems in the Region.

### **Background:**

Section 34 amendments are locally initiated and typically driven by the construction of new or changing municipal drinking water systems. The steps for completing the amendment approval process are outlined below:

- Identifying the Need for Section 34 Amendments: The SPA identifies the need for an amendment.
- Early Engagement with MECP: SPAs are encouraged to engage early with MECP to seek feedback on technical work and proposed policy changes.
- Pre-Consultation: SPAs engage implementing bodies (e.g., government agencies or others that will implement the plan policies) to seek feedback on proposed amendments.
- Public Consultation: Publication of the proposed amendments and providing an opportunity for the public to comment for at least 35 days.
- Final Submission to MECP: The final amendment package is submitted to MECP for Minister's approval.

### **Discussion:**

The SPR works closely with member municipalities to ensure Source Protection Plan amendments are considered in their planning when a new or modified drinking water system is proposed.

Staff will follow the guidance set out in the MECP's *Source Protection Planning Bulletin: Overview of Requirements for Amendments to Assessment Reports and Source Protection Plans under Section 34 of the Clean Water Act, 2006 (October 2024)* to ensure new or modified systems align with current regulations and technical standards.



An update on the status of the potential new or modified drinking water systems in the SPR will be provided at the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JS'.

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Jason Symington  
Project Manager  
Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region

# Source Water Protection Agricultural Reps Workshop Summary.

I had the privilege of attending in person the Source Water Protection, Workshop in Guelph on Feb 20, 2026.

The day started with a recap of why and how SWP came into being. Tina Schankula policy analyst with OFA led this presentation. Numerous times during the presentation Tina referred us back to Justice O Conner's remarks from his report on the Walkerton tragedy.

We were reminded of the 5 Barrier Approach.

- 1- Source – Clean Water Act
- 2- Treatment
- 3- Distribution system
- 4- Monitoring
- 5- Response.

Numbers, 2-5 - Safe Drinking Water Act

## **Takeaways:**

Each barrier offers a level of protection- no single barrier is perfect..... removing all risk is not possible.

Tina reminded us that there are multiple pieces of legislation that deal with the risks and protection of our waters. Provincial and on the Federal side as well. SWP is one of the tools in the toolbox not the only tool.

Education plays a major role, as well education to homeowners on private wells and septic. Re-education for new and long-time serving representatives in Ag as well as other committee members.

Concern's: Regulation creep – easier to only use SWP as the tool and prohibiting an activity may be the easy way out as opposed to spending the time and energy to manage an activity.

## **The next item on the agenda was**

Changers to the clean water act and proposed regulatory changes

Led by MOECP. Beth and Erin

We were reminded that the CWA is in place to protect Ontario's existing and future sources of drinking water from contamination AND depletion. By managing threats and if necessary prohibiting activities.

In a fast-paced presentation they walked us through some of the proposed amendments to stream line the various CWA regulations.

The three focus area's are :

1-Source protection plan amendment approval process

2- Use of Sources drinking water

3- Prescribed instruments

1- Source protection plan amendment approval process

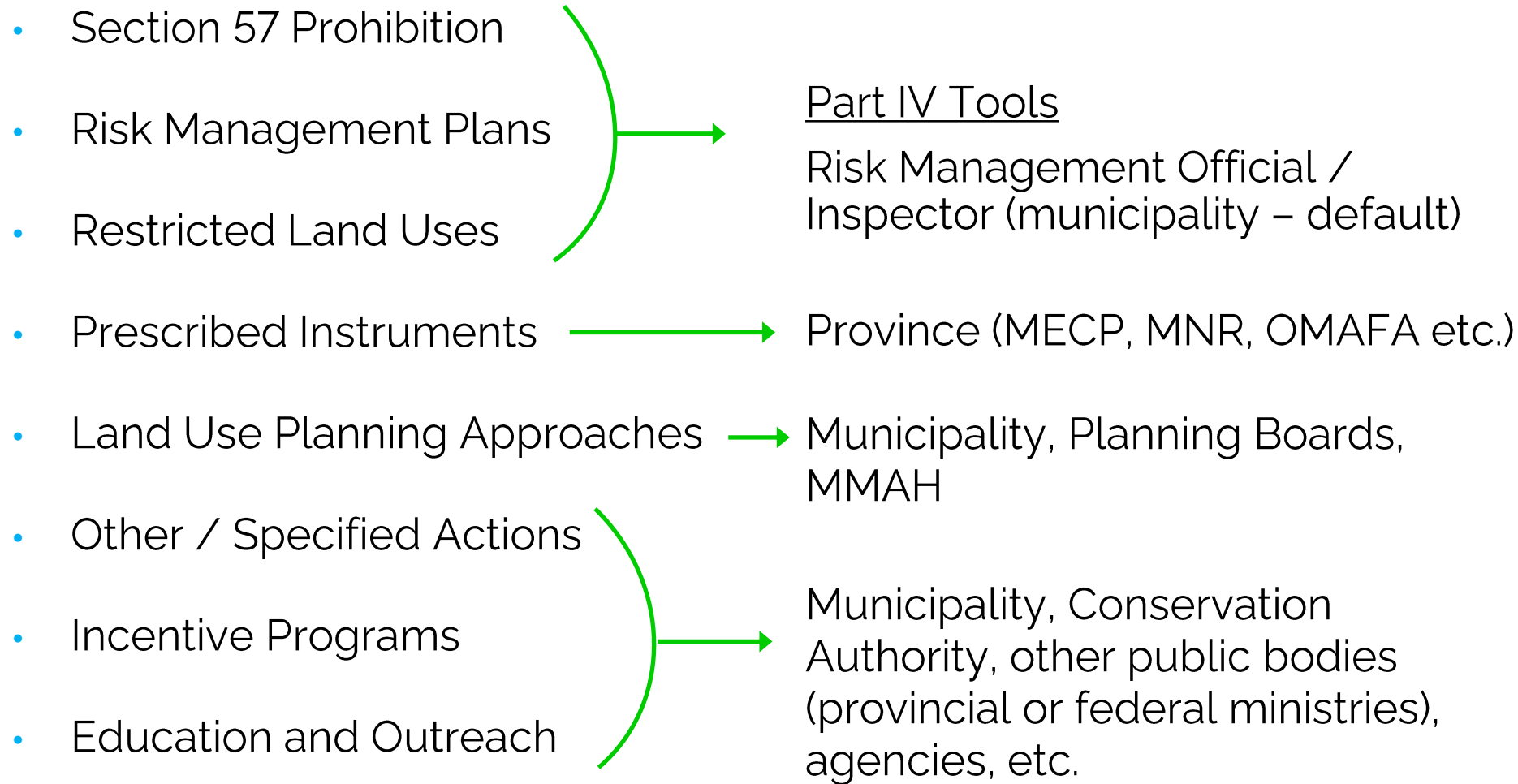
Not dealing with fundamental changes, more textual, streamlining consultation process's, shortened response time, 120 day response.

2- Use of Sources drinking water

In case of supply emergencies more flexibility to fill demand faster/sooner. Timeliness that if a new system is brought on for this reason the plan has 3 years to get caught up.

3-Prescribed instruments.

# Policy Tools and Implementers



# Overview of Prescribed Instruments under the Clean Water Act

Instruments are legal documents issued by different levels of government (e.g., Minister, delegated person) to manage site specific activities. Certain instruments (see below) are prescribed for the purposes of the CWA which provide a means to address drinking water threats, as outlined in source protection plan policies.

## Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

- ❖ Environmental Compliance Approval
  - Sewage works (Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA))
  - Waste disposal site (Environmental Protection Act (EPA))
  - Waste management system (EPA)
- ❖ Municipal Drinking Water Licence and Drinking Water Works Permit (Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA))
- ❖ Renewable Energy Approval (EPA)
- ❖ Permits to Take Water (OWRA)
- ❖ Pesticide Permits (Pesticide Act)

## Ministry of Transportation

- ❖ Aggregate Instruments
  - Wayside Permit (ARA)

## Ministry of Natural Resources

- ❖ Aggregate Instruments
  - Licence (Aggregate Resources Act (ARA))
  - Permit (ARA)
  - Site Plan (ARA)

## Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

- ❖ Nutrient Management Instruments
  - Nutrient Management Strategy (Nutrient Management Act (NMA))
  - Nutrient Management Plan (NMA)
  - Non-Agricultural Source Material Plan (NMA)



## Standardization and/or removal of prescribed instrument policies

## Legislative Changes

### Current

- Source protection plans include varied policies that use prescribed instruments to manage existing and future threats to sources of drinking water. These policies can address significant, moderate and low threats.



### New

- Two types of policies affecting decisions on prescribed instruments can be included in plans:
  - 1) Policies to prohibit future activities
  - 2) Policies requiring the decision maker to ensure their decision is designed to achieve the objectives of ensuring the activity never becomes or ceases to be a significant drinking water threat.
- Remove ability for plans to include policies that:
  - prohibit existing activities
  - address moderate/low threats
  - require decisions on prescribed instruments to conform with designated Great Lakes policies\*

\*there are no designated Great Lake policies in a source protection plan because no Great Lakes target has been set under the CWA



- Increased consistency in how source protection is considered when issuing prescribed instruments, while still maintaining key protections



## Standardization and/or removal of prescribed instrument policies

Regulatory Changes

### Current

- Source protection plans include varied policies that use prescribed instruments to manage existing and future threats to sources of drinking water. These policies can address significant, moderate and low threats.



### Proposed

- Require revisions to policies to include standardized language (proposed to be included in new Minister's regulations).
- Require the review, removal and/or replacement of existing prescribed instrument and reporting policies within 2 years and provide notice to MECP Director upon completion.



- Increased consistency in how source protection is considered when issuing prescribed instruments, while still maintaining key protections



### Current

- There is no requirement for the issuer/creator to document how prescribed instrument policies are considered in the issuance of instruments
- Varied/inconsistent reporting from issuers/creators of instruments on the implementation of prescribed instrument policies.



### New

- Enabled through legislation

### Proposed

- Require the issuer or creator to document how the instrument considered source protection.
- Reporting on prescribed instruments would be standardized through regulation. Remove the ability for plans to include specific policies governing reporting on how prescribed instrument policies are implemented.



### Benefits

- Increased transparency through documentation of how the instrument considered source protection
- Increased consistency in annual reporting on prescribed instrument policies



### Current

- When source protection plans undergo amendments, this may create new areas where prescribed instrument policies apply.
  - Each program area has their own process to review existing instruments to ensure conformity with source protection plan policies



### New

- Enabled through legislation

### Proposed

- Standardize the review of previously issued instruments to determine whether modifications are required to mitigate risks to sources of drinking water.
- Establish a timeline of three years for these reviews to be conducted.



- Timely and consistent reviews of existing prescribed instruments over time to ensure conformity with source protection plan policies.



### Duplication in use of policy tools

#### Current

- In some cases, a Part IV policy tool (i.e., risk management plan (RMP) or prohibition) can be in place where the threat is also managed through a prescribed instrument.
- To address this possible duplication, an exemption process exists in O. Reg. 287/07 whereby an exemption from requiring an RMP can be obtained if the person can show that the activity is governed by a prescribed instrument and that the instrument conforms to significant threat policies in the source protection plan



#### Proposed

- Set out circumstances where Part IV policy tools cannot be used where the activity is managed through a prescribed instrument\*.
- If the prescribed instrument is not issued by a provincial body (e.g., Nutrient Management Plans), the risk management official may review it to determine if the provisions meet the same test for establishing a risk management plan. If they determine the provisions do not meet the same test, the risk management official may require a risk management plan for the activity.

\*This restriction is already in place in the regulation for certain activities (i.e., waste disposal sites and sewage works)

#### Benefits



- Removes duplicative policies and ensures clarity for those responsible for implementing the policies
- In cases where an instrument is not issued by a provincial body, the risk management official can ensure that source protection has been considered

# Appendix A: Current Source Protection Plan Amendment Process

- Source Protection Plans may be amended for numerous reasons, with the most common being to add a new or expand an existing drinking water system (e.g. to support a new housing development).
- There are five stages to the amendment process led by source protection authorities.



Note: Some exceptions to each stage apply

Total time to supply water from a new well/intake to users of the system (~ 21+ months)

The last workshop of the day was the Siting of new wells -and by extension intakes.

Led by Hugh Simpson

The presentation challenged us to consider how much we know or don't know about Water flows below the ground. How water intakes affect water flows, surrounding wells, water behaviour. Protective barriers and permeability as well as depletion of aquifers. The overall focus was that the first part of SWP was to do what we could to quickly protect the water supplies, now we should shift some focus on where new wells are being sited in order to minimize impacts on surrounding landowners and minimizing threats. Most of the time wells are situated where it is least cost drill them and not best location.

First generation SPP's mitigated risk associated with threats using – Prohibition and – Risk management

Second generation SPP's could focus on risk avoidance

Hugh Simpson

The presentation is available for internal use not external publication.

Walter Oeggerli SWP Ag rep.