



## Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region

### Source Protection Committee Meeting Agenda

March 27, 2024

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 January 17, 2024 1-4
  7. New Business
    - a. Project Manager's Update: Lisa Van De Ligt 5
    - b. SPC Membership Update: Lisa Van De Ligt 6-7
    - c. 2023 Risk Management Official Annual Report Summary:  
Phil Barnes & Alison McDonald 8-10
    - d. Draft 2023 Annual Progress Report: Lisa Van De Ligt & Jason Symington 11-23
    - e. New/Modified Drinking Water Systems Update: Jason Symington 24-25
  8. Community Engagement: Roundtable
  9. Correspondence
    - a. Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region. Letter to Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs re. the Recommended Phase Out of Free Well Testing in the 2023 Auditor General's Report. February 26, 2024. 26-28
  10. Date of Next SPC Meeting: TBC
  11. Adjournment



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

### **Draft Minutes**

**January 17, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**

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

- PRESENT:** Raymond Beauregard, Chair  
Theresa Bergeron, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry  
Michel Kearney, City of Ottawa (virtual)  
Elaine Kennedy, Great River Network  
Dominique Lefebvre, United Counties of Prescott and Russell  
Chris McDonell, General Public  
Idalia Milan, Eastern Ontario Health Unit Liaison (virtual)  
Don Munro, General Public  
Walter Oeggerli, Agriculture  
Jacqueline Pemberton, Agriculture  
Robert Rathbun, City of Cornwall  
Tom Van Dusen, General Public (virtual)  
Blair Walker, Aggregates  
Stephen Wilson, Commercial / Industrial  
Mary Wooding, Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks
- REGRETS:** François St-Amour, South Nation Source Protection Authority Liaison
- ABSENT:** Lawrence Levere, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville  
Martin Lang, Raisin Region Source Protection Authority Liaison
- STAFF:** Phil Barnes, Team Lead, RRCA  
Megan Beehler, Approvals and Administrative Assistant  
Laura Crites, Environmental Planner, SNC  
James Holland, Senior Planner, SNC  
Claire Lemay, Senior Planner, SNC  
Alison McDonald, Managing Director, SNC  
Jason Symington, Resource Specialist, RRCA  
Erin Thorne, Communications Specialist, SNC  
Lisa Van De Ligt, Project Manager, RRCA
- GUESTS :** Glenn Mackey



## 1. Call to Order

Raymond Beauregard, Chair, welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

## 2. Chairman's Remarks

Raymond Beauregard, Chair, welcomed all in attendance and provided a verbal update on recent happenings with the Drinking Water Source Protection program. Ray congratulated Mary Wooding, MECP Liaison, on her upcoming retirement.

## 3. Approval of Agenda

Resolution #01/24

Moved by: Elaine Kennedy  
Seconded: Jacqueline Pemberton

CARRIED

## 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

## 5. Delegations / Presentations

a) Staff presented project and program updates

## 6. Approval of Minutes

Resolution #02/24

Moved by: Jacqueline Pemberton  
Seconded: Theresa Bergeron

That the minutes of the June 8, 2023 meeting of the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee be approved.

CARRIED

## 7. New Business

### a) Project Manager's Update

Resolution #03/24

Moved by: Walter Oeggerli  
Seconded: Dominique Tremblay

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

CARRIED



## **b) Membership Update**

Resolution #04/24

Moved by: Elaine Kennedy

Seconded: Don Monro

THAT the Source Protection Committee receive and file the Committee membership update report;

AND FURTHER THAT the Source Protection Committee support replacing the SNC Clean Water Committee representative seat with a General Public representative seat and direct staff to provide the amended Committee Procedural Manual and membership composition to the Source Protection Authorities for approval.

CARRIED

## **c) Revised Draft Salt and Snow Policies**

Resolution #05/24

Moved by: Jacqueline Pemberton

Seconded: Chris McDonell

THAT the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee approve the proposed Salt and Snow policy updates and direct staff to prepare draft policies for consultation.

CARRIED

## **d) Municipal Working Group Update**

Resolution #06/24

Moved by: Elaine Kennedy

Seconded: Walter Oeggerli

THAT the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee receive and file the Municipal Working Group Update report.

CARRIED

## **8. Community Engagement: Roundtable Discussion**

### **9. Correspondence**

- Comments from the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee on ERO posting number 019-6813 - Review of proposed policies adapted from A Place to Grow and Provincial Policy Statement to form a new provincial planning policy instrument. August 4, 2023.



## 10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is March 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM.

## 11. Adjournment

Resolution #07/24

Moved by: Elaine Kennedy

THAT the Source Protection Committee meeting of January 17, 2024 be adjourned at 11:35 AM.

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Raymond Beauregard  
Chair

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Lisa Van De Ligt  
Project Manager

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**To:** Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee  
**From:** Lisa Van De Ligt, Project Manager  
**Date:** March 11, 2024  
**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 January 17, 2024. Since then, staff have continued to meet deliverables identified in the 2022-2024 agreement with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and on-going Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) initiatives. Below are the highlights:

- Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Plan Section 36 (Minister's Order) amendments underway. A draft amended Source Protection Plan and Assessment Reports were submitted to MECP for early engagement. Staff received feedback on November 22, 2023 from MECP and revised draft Plan and Reports considering MECP, municipal, and SPC feedback. Staff are preparing for the next phase of the required consultation process (i.e. pre-consultation).
- Staff are currently working with MECP on the 2024-2027 DWSP workplan and funding agreement.
- Staff have reviewed the 2023 Risk Management Official reports which were submitted to Source Protection Authorities by February 1 and have prepared the draft 2023 Annual Progress Report for SPC discussion. The final report must be submitted to MECP by May 1 following SPC and SPA approval.
- Staff held a third Drinking Water Source Protection Municipal Working Group meetings in March 2024.
- Additional meeting occurrences: Monthly Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Team meetings, monthly Eastern Region project managers meetings, quarterly provincial project manager and communications meetings.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa Van De Ligt".

Lisa Van De Ligt,  
Project Manager  
Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region



**To:** South Nation Source Protection Authority  
**From:** Lisa Van De Ligt, Project Manager  
**Date:** March 11, 2024  
**Subject:** SPC Membership Update

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## RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Source Protection Committee receive and file the Committee membership update report.

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## Background:

As outlined in the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, under Ontario Regulation 288/07, the Raisin-South Source Protection Committee (SPC) was created to develop a Source Protection Plan to protect municipal sources of drinking water in the region. The SPC oversees the source protection program, and the composition ensures that a variety of local interests are represented at the decision-making table. The SPC is comprised of 15 members, 4 liaisons and the Chair.

The current membership consists of:

- Five municipal representatives
  - City of Ottawa (1)
  - City of Cornwall (1)
  - United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (1)
  - United Counties of Prescott and Russell (1)
  - United Counties of Leeds and Grenville (1)
- Five economic sector representatives
  - Agricultural sector (3)
  - Aggregate sector (1)
  - Industrial/commercial sector (1)
- Five other interest representatives
  - South Nation Conservation (SNC) Clean Water Committee (1)
  - Great River Network (1)
  - General Public (3)



**Discussion:**

There was a vacancy for one of the agriculture representative seats on the SPC. On September 9, 2023, the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region published a notice of the vacancy on the Region's website, Conservation Authority websites, and social media. A notice was also circulated to media and local agriculture organizations. An application was received, and the candidate was endorsed by five agriculture organizations located throughout the Region.

On February 15, 2024, the Raisin Region and South Nation Source Protection Authorities appointed Jeannette Mongeon as an agricultural representative on the SPC.

Jeannette Mongeon is a farm owner in the Township of Russell. Jeannette is currently the Chair of the Farm Management Canada Election Committee and a Director with the Russell Federation of Agriculture. She is a past Director with the Agriculture Management Institute.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Van De Ligt".

Lisa Van De Ligt,  
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  
 Alison McDonald, Managing Director, Approvals, South Nation SPA  
**Date:** March 7, 2024  
**Subject:** 2023 Risk Management Official Annual Report Summary

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee receive and file the 2023 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 2023 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 2023 within the Source Protection Region.
2. In previous reporting years, there was one outstanding RMP. This threat was eliminated in 2023; a RMP is no longer required.
3. The Risk Management Offices continued to screen *Planning Act* or *Building Act* applications within the Region and issue Section 59 Notices as required.
4. 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 2022</b>	<b>New in 2023</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	136	28	164
Section 59 Notices Issued	23	1	24
Orders Issued	0	0	0

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

Risk Management Office Highlights for South Nation Source Protection Area	Up to end of 2022	New in 2023	Total
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	218	12	230
Orders Issued	0	0	0

The following table breaks down the number of Risk Management Plans and the number of parcels managed throughout the region by Source Protection Area and municipality.

Table 3: Risk Management Plans (RMPs) and Affected Parcels within the Source Protection Region

	End of 2022		2023		Total	
	RMPs	Parcels	RMPs	Parcels	RMPs	Parcels
<b>Raisin Region Source Protection Area</b>						
Cornwall	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Glengarry	3	4	-	-	3	4
South Glengarry	1	2	-	-	1	2
South Stormont	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>South Nation Source Protection Area</b>						
Alfred and Plantagenet	4	5	-	-	4	5
Augusta	-	-	-	-	-	-
Casselman †	0	1	-	-	0	1
Champlain	1	1	-	-	1	1
Clarence-Rockland	-	-	-	-	-	-
East Hawkesbury †	-	-	-	-	-	-
Edwardsburgh/Cardinal	2	2	-	-	2	2
Elizabethtown-Kitley †	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hawkesbury	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Nation / La Nation	31	74	-	-	31	74
North Dundas	30	51	-	-	30	51
North Grenville †	-	-	-	-	-	-
North Stormont	11	26	-	-	11	26
Ottawa	1	1	-	-	1	1
Prescott	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russell	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Dundas	-	-	-	-	-	-

† These municipalities, or the portion within the Source Protection Area, do not have drinking water systems that are subject to the *Clean Water Act*.



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‡ There are no Risk Management Plans within the Village of Casselman; however, there is one parcel within the village that is subject to an RMP that is negotiated within The Nation Municipality.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Barnes".

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison McDonald".

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Alison McDonald  
Managing Director, Approvals  
South Nation Source Protection Area



**To:** Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Committee  
**From:** Lisa Van De Ligt, Project Manager  
Jason Symington, RRCA Resource Specialist  
**Date:** March 5, 2024  
**Subject:** 2023 Annual Progress Report

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Source Protection Committee receive the 2023 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 2023 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 2023 Annual Progress Report will be the seventh 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, 2023.

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 2023 Annual Progress Report on February 27, 2024 (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, 2024, and will be posted to the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region website ([yourdrinkingwater.ca](http://yourdrinkingwater.ca)).

Lisa Van De Ligt,  
Project Manager, Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region

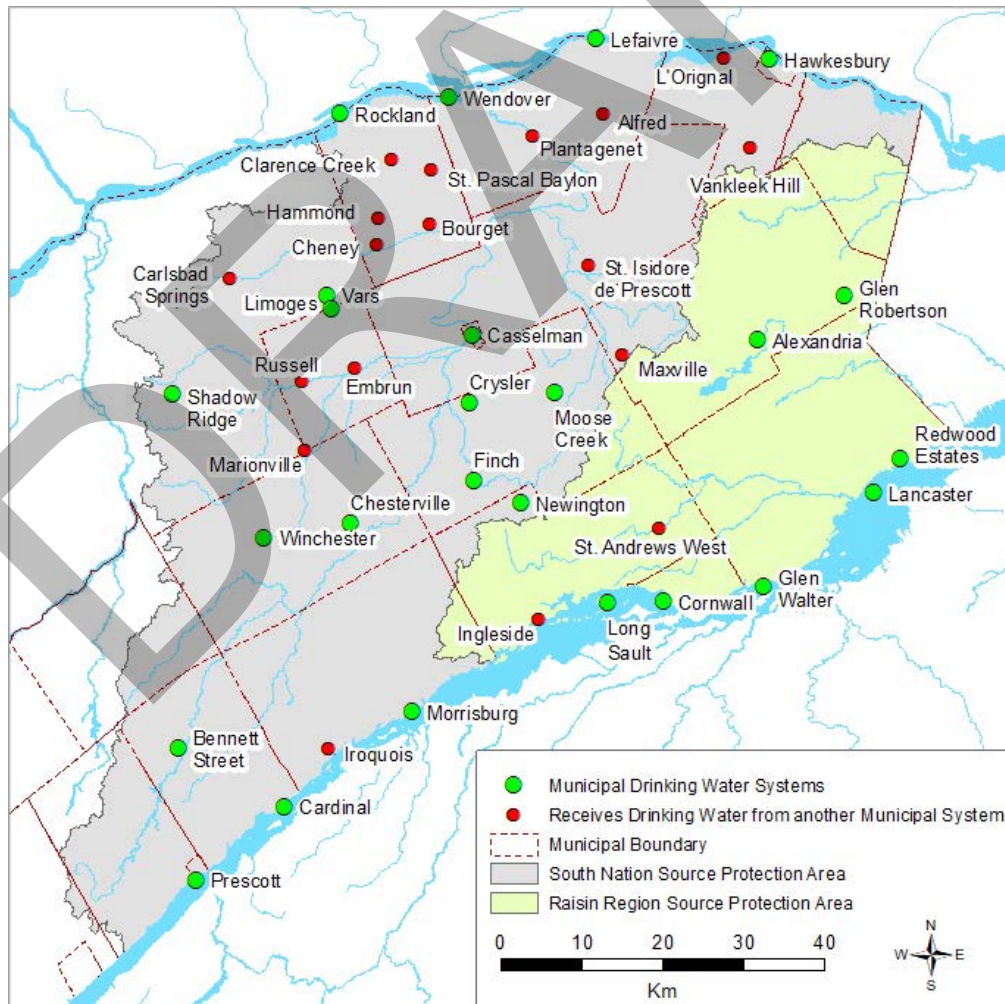
Jason Symington  
Resource Specialist, RRCA  
Attachment: Source Protection Draft 2023 Annual Progress Report

# Draft Source Protection 2023 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 2023 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

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### III. Our Watershed

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 7,000 km<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
- Lefaivre (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 (i.e. Carlsbad Springs, Russell, Embrun, Marionville).

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).

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## 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, 252 of 274 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 with 28 occurring in 2023.

### 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 2023.

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 Rural Affairs) 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.

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## 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 newsletter 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)
- Online guest lecture for St. Lawrence College Environmental Technician course
- 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 lead to better overall planning and development decisions.

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

This is not applicable to our source protection region.

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## 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 pro-actively 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 workplans were required to be implemented for our assessment report.

## 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, RRCA Resource Specialist  
**Date:** March 8, 2024  
**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:**

The *Clean Water Act* (CWA) offers four methods for revising source protection plans and assessment reports:

1. Local initiation under section 34;
2. Minister-ordered amendments under section 35;
3. Updates resulting from reviews under section 36; or
4. Amendments under section 51 of O. Reg. 287/07 for minor or administrative revisions.

The method used will depend on factors such as the level of complexity of the revisions and how time sensitive they are.

*Municipal Expression of Intent*

In the event an amendment must be undertaken through Section 34, the process initiates with discussions between the owner of the municipal drinking water system and the local Source Protection Region (SPR) regarding the establishment or modification of the drinking water system. The design process, technical studies and other requirements required to update the plan are established.

*Work by the System Owner*

The municipality (System Owner) undertakes the required studies and submits them to the SPR for review. A formal notice is also provided to the SPR identifying the municipality's intention to seek a drinking water permit from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) under the *Safe Drinking Water Act*.

### SPR Review

The SPR validates the required technical work for updating the Source Protection Plan. Upon completion, the Authority issues a formal notice to the System Owner, allowing them to apply for a drinking water works permit.

### Source Protection Plan Update

The SPR undertakes early engagement with the Conservation and Source Protection Branch (CSPB) to ensure the technical reports and information that supports the assessment report changes are evaluated and meet the requirements of the Technical Rules, regulations and CWA.

Pre-consultation with implementing bodies is required and the SPR provides responses to outstanding comments from early engagement to the CSPB. Implementing bodies are to be made aware of the plan and assessment report revisions and given an opportunity to provide feedback as early in the process as possible.

For locally-initiated amendments under Section 34 of the CWA, a municipal council resolution is required from each municipality affected by the amendments.

The public is then given 35 days to review the amendments or updates to the plan and to ensure awareness of recent developments in source water protection.

A submission package is sent to the Ministry for review and approval. The Source Protection Committee and Source Protection Authorities are notified by the Ministry of the approved amendments to the Source Protection Plan. Subsequently, the drinking water system owner is authorized to supply water to the public.

### **Discussion:**

The SPR works closely with member municipalities to ensure Source Protection Plan amendments are considered in their planning when a new/modified drinking water system is proposed. An update on the status of the potential new/modified drinking water systems in the SPR will be provided at the meeting.



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Jason Symington  
Resource Specialist, RRCA

February 26th, 2023

**Honourable Lisa Thompson, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs**

Via e-mail: [lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org)

**Re: Recommended Phase Out of Free Well Water Testing in the 2023 Auditor General's Report**

Dear Minister Thompson,

In the 2023 Auditor General's Value-for-Money Audit of Public Health Ontario (PHO) released in December 2023, recommendation number 5 states that PHO, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health (MOH), are to update and implement a laboratory modernization plan within 12 months to streamline the laboratory's operations.

[https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en23/AR\\_publichealth\\_en23.pdf](https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en23/AR_publichealth_en23.pdf)

This stemmed from a 2017 proposal by PHO, collaboratively with the MOH at the request of the Deputy Minister to close six of the 11 public health laboratory sites (Hamilton, Kingston, Orillia, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins) and gradually discontinue private drinking water testing. The justification:

- Mitigating rising costs of maintaining facilities
- Establishing a more efficient operating model that reduces the rerouting of samples to other PHO laboratory sites

About 50% of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Region population is serviced by private wells. The proposed removal of PHO's free private drinking water testing is of concern to our Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Committee, particularly when Source Protection Regions have been directed by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Source Protection Branch, to deliver education and outreach to private well owners under the new Best Practices initiative.

In our region, we have been working with service and community organizations such as the Lions, Optimists and Lakeshore Residents Associations to co-host very successful Best Practices 'Water Wise' events that encourage private well owners to sample their drinking water using the free microbial testing provided by the province. By distributing water sample bottles ahead of the event and delivering the samples to Huron Perth Public Health for lab analysis, most of

the barriers to water sampling are removed. At these events 25% to 50% of a communities well water will be sampled in one day or night.

Well owners understand the importance of testing their well water; it is the inconvenience of doing so that is the barrier. One of the goals of the 'Water Wise' events is to encourage well owners to get in the habit of testing their water regularly as part of Best Practices for protecting their drinking water. The hope is that the community groups and service clubs that Source Protection staff work with will make Water Wise water sampling events part of their regular activities.

Private drinking water systems in Ontario do not have the legislated safeguards that are required for municipal/communal/public systems under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*. Only municipal water supply systems fall under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and the Source Water Protection program. Health Canada's guidance on waterborne pathogens references three studies that determine that private systems are vulnerable and there is evidence that demonstrates they are more likely to contribute to gastrointestinal illness than public drinking water systems.

If the free water testing phase out recommendation is approved, well owners would have to use a commercial lab for a fee, which disincentivizes testing. When water is not monitored regularly, there is no way to know the true quality of the water, which puts people at increased risk of becoming ill. With private systems being stand-alone systems, any associated illnesses are isolated sporadic events and do not come to public attention like those seen during the Walkerton outbreak.

The private drinking water test data maintained by PHO has been used by researchers to publish evidence that helps support public health policy. Source Protection Committees can access data associated with their area, as was presented at our March 2023 meeting. The data can be used to inform well owners of regional water quality concerns and associated health risks. If PHO stops testing, this data and affiliated research will no longer be available.

In the Walkerton Inquiry Report Part 2, Justice O'Connor concluded the privatization of laboratory testing of drinking water samples connected directly to the *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak in Walkerton Ontario in May 2000. Twenty-four years later, there is a proposal to privatize water testing once again.

At the January 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee the following resolution was unanimously approved:

**MOTION #SPC: 2024-02-04**

**Moved by Philip Keightley**

**Seconded by Mary Ellen Foran**

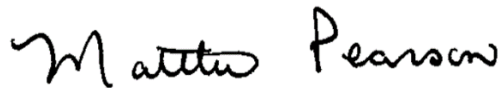
**“THAT the Source Protection Committee direct a letter to Minister Thompson requesting that the province not proceed with the recommended phase out of free private well testing in Ontario, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT area municipalities, the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, other Source Protection Committees, and local health units be forwarded the letter and asked for their support. “**

**Carried.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely



Matthew Pearson

Chair

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee

Cc Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Municipalities of Adelaide Metcalfe, Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, Bluewater, Central Huron, Goderich, Howick, Huron East, Lambton Shores, Lucan Biddulph, Mapleton, Middlesex Centre, Minto, Morris-Turnberry, North Middlesex, North Perth, Perth South, South Bruce, South Huron, Warwick, West Perth, Wellington North  
Townships of Huron-Kinloss and North Huron

Huron Perth Public Health, Lambton Public Health, Middlesex-London Health Unit, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health

Source Protection Regions: Cataraqui; Central Lake Ontario, Toronto, Credit Valley; Essex; Hamilton Halton; Grey Sauble, Saugeen, Northern Bruce Peninsula; Lake Erie; Lakehead; Mattagami; Mississippi-Rideau; Niagara; North Bay; Quinte; Raisin South Nation; Sault Ste. Marie; South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe; Sudbury; Thames -Sydenham and Region; Trent Conservation Coalition