

## LONG POINT REGION SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY MEETING

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

LPRCA Tillsonburg Administration Office Boardroom

### AGENDA

Agenda Page

1. Welcome and Call to Order
2. Additional Agenda Items
3. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest
4. Approval of Minutes:
  - a) Long Point Region Source Protection Authority Meeting-  
May 7, 2025 1-4
5. Business Arising: none
6. Correspondence:
  - a) Minister's letter Re: Amended timeline for the review and update to  
the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan 5-10
  - b) Source Protection Committee re: 11-12  
Annual Progress Reporting (Attachments referred to in  
this correspondence are included with the report at agenda  
item 7.a)
7. New Business:
  - a) Submission of the 2025 Long Point Region Annual Progress  
Report (S. Rahman) 13-22
8. Adjournment



# LONG POINT REGION SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY

## Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2025

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### Members in attendance:

Dave Beres, Chair  
Doug Brunton, Vice-Chair  
Shelley Ann Bentley  
Robert Chambers  
Michael Columbus  
Tom Masschaele  
Debera McKeen  
Jim Palmer  
Chris Van Paassen  
Rainey Weisler  
Peter Ypma

Town of Tillsonburg  
Norfolk County  
Haldimand County  
County of Brant  
Norfolk County  
Norfolk County  
Haldimand County  
Township of Norwich  
Norfolk County  
Municipality of Bayham/Township of Malahide  
Township of South-West Oxford

**Regrets:** None

### Staff in attendance:

Judy Maxwell, General Manager  
Aaron LeDuc, Manager of Corporate Services  
Leigh-Anne Mauthe, Manager of Watershed Services  
Saifur Rahman, Manager of Engineering and Infrastructure  
Jessica King, Social Media and Marketing Associate  
Nicole Sullivan, HR Coordinator/Executive Assistant

### Guests in attendance:

Shari Dahmer, Source Protection Program Manager  
Kaitlyn Rosebrugh, Source Protection Program Coordinator

### **1. Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

New Long Point Region Conservation Authority Board member Debera McKeen was introduced to the Board.

### **2. Additional Agenda Items**

There were no additional agenda items.

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

#### **SPA- 1/25**

moved: J. Palmer  
seconded: P. Ypma

THAT the Long Point Region Source Protection Authority approves the agenda as circulated.

**Carried**

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### **SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus,  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Rainey Weisler, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

**4. Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest:**

None were declared.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**SPA- 2/25**

moved: M. Columbus  
seconded: D. McKeen

There were no errors or omissions noted in the minutes.

THAT the minutes of the Long Point Region Source Protection Authority held May 1, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried**

**6. Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

**7. Correspondence**

- a) Source Protection Committee re: Annual Progress Reporting.

**SPA- 3/25**

moved: C. Van Paassen  
seconded: S. Bentley

THAT the correspondence outlined in the Long Point Region Source Protection Authority Agenda of May 7, 2025 be received as information.

**Carried**

**8. New Business**

- a) Submission of the 2024 Long Point Region Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form

\*R. Weisler entered the meeting at 6:08 pm

Saifur Rahman presented the report and introduced Shari Dahmer (Source Protection Program Manager) and Kaitlyn Rosebrugh (Source Protection Program Coordinator) from the Lake Erie Source Protection Region.

Peter Ypma asked about page 3 of the annual report and wanted clarification on the meaning of the sentence: "two significant drinking water threat activities related to the handling and storage of dense non-aqueous phase liquids and organic solvents"

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**SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus,  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Rainey Weisler, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

Shari Dahmer explained to the board that this refers to a class of organic chemicals, like motor oil, when we identify these threats for drinking water source protection, the technical rules in the Clean Water Act, 2006, allows for rules and a list of activities where these chemicals may be used. These are chemicals that the committee does not want to see in drinking water.

Peter Ypma asked staff why we decided to decline to answer some of the questions listed in the form, and how is that acceptable and if the Ministry was satisfied with this response. Shari Dahmer informed the Board that the same response was given for all four of the Conservation Authorities that are captured by the Lake Erie Source Protection Authority (Long Point Region CA, Grand River CA, Kettle Creek CA, Cat Fish Creek CA). The response has been the standing position of the committee to not provide responses to optional questions due to the expense of staff time and resources and the questions did not contribute to the plans nor provide new information. The Ministry has had no issues in the past with the non-responses and have given no further feedback on the non-responses.

Doug Brunton asked about the Simcoe Well Supply as listed on page 15 of the Appendix and the nitrate levels of that well and how that compares to Lake Erie. Shari Dahmer was less familiar with the levels of nitrate in Lake Erie as the focus of the committee was on the Lake Erie Source protection, the tributaries and water supply that flows to Lake Erie.

Peter Ypma notes that Source Water is very important and if anything goes wrong with the water in the area it can have a significant impact. Peter Ypma asks staff to identify what is the primary threat to drinking water in the area, how it is being address, and what can be done. Shari Dahmer informs the Board that there are 22 significant threats under of the Clean Water Act and these committees create and implement policies across multiple levels of government to manage the threats and to bring the threat level to zero. The Long Point Region Source Protection is currently going through a comprehensive update under Section 36 of the Clean Water Act to look at these threats to determine how many of them have been managed, how many may no longer be there, and any new ones that have come up. This update should come forward in the next year or two. All current policies are implemented or in progress and most have to do with risk management, especially in the agricultural sector. The ones in progress tend to be risk management plans which also involves the municipality and the landowner, which can be a lengthy progress if the landowner changes, or activities on the land change.

Peter Ypma asked staff how landowners are made aware of issues that they may view as standard practice, but in actuality are a threat to drinking water. Shari Dahmer informs the Board that there are many processes that involve the municipality from public consultations, to risk management. If a landowner is identified as being in an area of risk, the municipality will reach out to begin negotiations towards aligning with the drinking safety plans.

Robert Chambers asked staff why Brant County was not listed in the progress for assessing risk. Shari Dahmer informed Robert Chambers that Brant County has no

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**SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus,  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Rainey Weisler, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma

vulnerable areas in the Long Point Region, but does have some in Grand River Region, and Brant County can be found on the Grand River Region submission.

**SPA-5/25**

moved: C. Van Paassen  
seconded: T. Masschaele

THAT the Long Point Region Source Protection Authority is satisfied that the 2024 Long Point Region Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form meets the requirements of S.46 of the Clean Water Act, 2006 and any Director's instructions established under O. Reg. 287/07 S.52.;

AND

THAT Lake Erie Region staff be directed to submit the 2024 Long Point Region Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form to the Director of Conservation and Source Protection, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks along with any Source Protection Committee comments, in accordance with S.46 of the Clean Water Act, 2006 and any Director's instructions established under O. Reg. 287/07 S.52.

**Carried**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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Dave Beres  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judy Maxwell  
General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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**SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Shelley Ann Bentley, Dave Beres, Doug Brunton, Robert Chambers, Michael Columbus,  
Tom Masschaele, Debera McKeen, Jim Palmer, Rainey Weisler, Chris Van Paassen, Peter Ypma



Office of the Minister

Bureau du ministre

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357-2025-934

June 5, 2025

Ms. Shari Dahmer, M.Sc.  
Source Protection Program Manager  
Lake Erie Source Protection Region  
c/o Grand River Conservation Authority  
400 Clyde Road, PO Box 729  
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

Ms. Samantha Lawson  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Grand River Source Protection Authority  
400 Clyde Road, PO Box 729  
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

Ms. Judy Maxwell, General Manager  
Long Point Conservation Authority  
400 Clyde Road, PO Box 729  
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

Mr. Steve Walsh, Chair  
Lake Erie Region Source Protection  
Committee  
400 Clyde Road, PO Box 729  
Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

Dear Ms. Dahmer, Ms. Lawson, Ms. Maxwell and Mr. Walsh:

I am pleased to follow up on the request from Ms. Shari Dahmer at the Lake Erie Source Protection Region for an amended Minister's order under section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (CWA) to amend the timeline for the review and update to the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan.

Pursuant to subsection 36 (1) of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, I am amending the order to establish requirements governing the content and timeframes of the review and the process to be followed for any updates to your source protection plan, including the assessment report ("the plan").

The source protection committee and source protection authority shall proceed with the review and update of the plan, including following the amendment process and consultation requirements, in accordance with the attachment to this order and not the attachment to the section 36 order dated December 17, 2019.

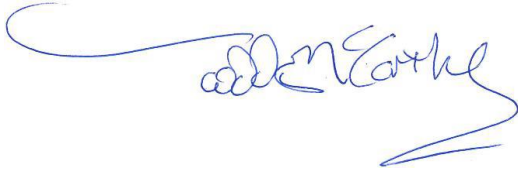
Due to the relatively minor policy changes proposed as part of the update, the consultation requirements have been revised since the section 36 order dated December 17, 2019, to require only a single phase of consultation, to allow for consultation with implementing bodies, persons/businesses engaged in significant drinking water threats and the general public to occur simultaneously. The updated source protection plan shall be submitted to the Ministry by December 31, 2026, replacing the previous deadline of December 15, 2024.

...2

Ms. Shari Dahmer, Ms. Samantha Lawson, Ms. Judy Maxwell and Mr. Steve Walsh  
Page 2.

Thank you for the continued efforts of the source protection authority, committee, and local communities to ensure sources of drinking water are protected. The province thanks you for your dedication and looks forward to continuing to work with you and all stakeholders to protect sources of drinking water.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left and a tail extending to the right.

Todd McCarthy  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Enclosure

c: Kirsten Service, Director, Conservation and Source Protection Branch, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation & Parks

## **Attachment: Long Point Region Updates under Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006***

### Mandatory updates to the source protection plan:

The Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee and the Grand River Source Protection Authority (lead source protection authority for the region), shall ensure that the review includes updates to the Long Point Region source protection plan including the assessment report (“the plan”), to:

- Comply with the Director’s Technical Rules, published on the Environmental Registry of Ontario in December 2021 under posting number [019-2219](#). This would include updating the assessment report and remainder of the source protection plan to revise references to circumstances, chemicals of concern or thresholds that may have changed as a result of changes to the Director’s Technical Rules, where they have not been done yet through an amendment under section 34.
- Assess drinking water threats related to pipelines as they were added to the list of prescribed activities in the General Regulation (O. Reg. 287/07) under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, which took effect on July 1, 2018. Existing pipeline threats in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area were previously included as a local threat in the plan. Pipelines will now be assessed consistently across all source protection areas and the plan will be updated where necessary.

### Discretionary updates to the source protection plan:

The following are updates that the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee and the Grand River Source Protection Authority proposed in the workplan and can be, but are not required to be, included in this review and update of the plan:

- Changes to drinking water systems to address growth and infrastructure changes have been addressed through recent amendments to the source protection plan under section 34 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Additional changes to the source protection plan to reflect changes to drinking water systems during the period of this section 36 review and update may also be made through this update.
- Reviewing the vulnerability of Great Lakes intakes, revisiting the assessment of potential drinking water issues based on available water monitoring results in the Norfolk County section of the assessment report, and incorporating climate change considerations into the assessment report.

### Amendment Process for Updates including Consultation:

As with locally initiated amendments, any proposed updates to an assessment report and the remainder of the source protection plan are to be consulted on concurrently and submitted together as one package to the Ministry by the source protection authority. Only those provisions of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and General Regulation referred to below apply to the update of your assessment report and remainder of the source protection plan. For example, as no terms of reference is being required for the review and update of the assessment report and remainder of the source protection plan, subsection 36 (3) of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* does not apply.

The following provisions apply in respect of the contents of the updated source protection plan including the assessment report and the submission and approval of proposed updates to the source protection plan:

- Assessment report content outlined in section 15 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and sections 11 to 14 of the General Regulation.
- Source protection plan content outlined in subsections 22 (2) to (15) of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and sections 20 to 34 of the General Regulation.
- Sections 27 to 32 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and section 47 of the General Regulation.

Notification and publication of the proposed updates shall be undertaken in accordance with the provisions in the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, including the General Regulation, for source protection plans as described below. This includes making the proposed updates available on the internet and in locations that are accessible to give the public and other interested parties an opportunity to inspect and comment on the updates. Specifically, sections 24 and 25 of the Act and sections 35-41 and 45 of the General Regulation apply with modifications noted below:

- References to a draft or proposed source protection plan shall be read as references to the proposed updates to the source protection plan (including the assessment report) that result from the review carried out under section 36 of the Act.
- Generally, the publication of and consultation on the proposed updates to the source protection plan and initial update to the explanatory document may be carried out by a source protection authority, the source protection committee, or the authority and the committee together.
  - As a result, a reference to a source protection committee in sections 35-41 of the General Regulation, with respect to requirements imposed on the source protection committee, can be read as a reference to the source protection authority, source protection committee, or both the authority and committee.
  - For greater certainty, only one round of public consultation on the proposed updates to the plan is required and as such, subsection 22(16) and section 23 of the Act and section 42 of the General Regulation do not apply.
- Consultation with implementing bodies under sections 35 to 39 of the General Regulation must either be completed before public consultation under section 41 or be undertaken concurrently with the public consultation under section 41, during the same minimum 35-day period.
  - If consultation with implementing bodies under sections 35 to 39 is undertaken concurrently with the public consultation under section 41, the notices described in clause 41 (2) (a) along with the notices described in sections 35 to 39 must still be provided to those respective implementing bodies and any comments received must be considered.

- With respect to section 40 of the General Regulation, the explanatory document that accompanies the plan shall be updated to reflect the proposed updates to the plan and made available for inspection, at a minimum during the public consultation period under section 41.
  - If the explanatory document is published for inspection before comments have been received on the proposed updates to the plan from implementing bodies mentioned in sections 35-39 of the General Regulation, for example because consultation with implementing bodies will be undertaken concurrently with public consultation under section 41, the explanatory document that is published for inspection does not need to include the information in paragraph 3 of subsection 40(2) of the General Regulation.
  - However, in that case, the explanatory document that is submitted to the Minister under section 45 of the General Regulation must include the information in paragraph 3 of subsection 40(2) of the General Regulation.
- With respect to the persons and bodies that must be notified under clause 41(2)(c) of the General Regulation, a copy of the notice referred to in clause 41(2)(a) shall be provided to the clerk of each municipality in which any part of the source protection area is located, and all other persons and bodies listed in subclauses 41(2)(c)(ii) to (ix) that are affected by the proposed updates.
- A public meeting referred to in clause 41 (3) (c) and in subsection 41 (7) of the General Regulation is optional as determined by the source protection committee or source protection authority or both in consideration of the nature and scope of the proposed updates.
- After public consultation under section 41 of the General Regulation and before the explanatory document is submitted to the Minister under section 45, the source protection authority shall update the explanatory document to reflect any changes made to the proposed updates to the plan and include in the explanatory document a brief explanation of the effect, if any, of comments received during consultation on the proposed updates to the source protection plan.
- Before the package including the proposed updates to the source protection plan is submitted by the source protection authority to the Minister for approval, concurrence from the source protection committee for the package must be obtained.
- When the proposed updates to the source protection plan are submitted by the source protection authority to the Minister for approval section 25 of the Act:
  - Clauses 25(a) and (b) of the Act do not apply.
  - Section 44 of the General Regulation does not apply.
  - Section 45 of the General Regulation applies but the explanatory document that must be submitted to the Minister under subsection 45(1) of is the explanatory document that has been updated after public consultation under section 41 and not an explanatory document received under section 43.

- The source protection authority must also submit to the Minister a summary of the comments received during consultation on the proposed updates to the plan and how each comment was addressed in the proposed updates to the plan that are being submitted.

April 1, 2026

Doug Brunton  
Chair, Long Point Region Source Protection Authority  
4 Elm Street  
Tillsonburg ON, N4G 0C4

Dear Chair Brunton,

**RE: Annual Progress Reporting**

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The Long Point Source Protection Plan (the Plan) has been in effect since 2015 with the primary objective to protect current and future sources of drinking water from contamination and overuse.

In accordance with Section 52 of Ontario Regulation 287/07, the Long Point Region Source Protection Authority (SPA) is required to submit an Annual Progress Report on implementation of the Plan to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) by May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

This report is comprised of the Long Point Region **Annual Progress Report** and the **Supplemental Form** and reflects implementation efforts from January 1 to December 31, 2025. The Annual Progress Report is a public-facing document that is provided as **Appendix A**. The Supplemental Form is not posted publicly, but is provided separately as supplemental information for the Authority's consideration.

On March 26, 2026 the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee (SPC) passed the following resolution:

THAT in the opinion of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, implementation of the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan is progressing well and is on target towards achieving the plan objectives;

AND THAT the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee direct staff to present the 2025 Annual Progress Report to the Source Protection Authority for submission.

As such, this letter serves as notice of submission of the 2025 Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form to the Long Point Region SPA, as per the annual reporting administrative protocol adopted by the Lake Erie Region Management Committee (Report No. 17-01-03).

### **Achievement of Source Protection Plan Objectives:**

Each year, the SPC considers information provided by policy implementors and rates the extent to which Plan objectives are being achieved. A key component to the SPC's approach is that the overall rating for meeting Plan objectives is determined by the percentage of policies that are implemented or in-progress.

It is the opinion of the SPC that implementation of the Plan is progressing well and is on target towards achieving Plan objectives. As of December 31, 2025, 100% of legally binding Plan policies that address significant drinking water threats are implemented or in progress for the Long Point Region Source Protection Area.

The Long Point Region SPA is now tasked with considering the Annual Progress Report and submitting it to MECP, along with any comments the SPA wishes to make.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the Long Point Region Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form, please contact Kaitlyn Rosebrugh 519-621-2763 ext. 2318 or [krosebrugh@grandriver.ca](mailto:krosebrugh@grandriver.ca).

Sincerely,



Steve Walsh  
Chair, Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee

c.c. Judy Maxwell, General Manager, Long Point Region Conservation Authority



## LONG POINT REGION SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY

**Date:** May 6, 2026

**File:** 3.9.9

**To:** Chair and Members LPRSPA

**From:** General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, LPRCA

**Re:** **Submission of the 2025 Long Point Region Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form**

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### **Recommendation:**

**THAT the Long Point Region Source Protection Authority is satisfied that the 2025 Long Point Region Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form meets the requirements of S.46 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and any Director's instructions established under O. Reg. 287/07 S.52.;**

**AND**

**THAT Lake Erie Region staff be directed to submit the 2025 Long Point Region Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form to the Director of Conservation and Source Protection, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks along with any Source Protection Committee comments, in accordance with S.46 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and any Director's instructions established under O. Reg. 287/07 S.52.**

### **Strategic Direction:**

Strategic Direction #2 – Deliver Exceptional Service and Experiences  
Strategic Direction #4 – Organizational Excellence

### **Background:**

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 287/07 s.52, all four Lake Erie Region Source Protection Authorities (Long Point Region, Catfish Creek, Kettle Creek and Grand River) are required to submit an Annual Progress Report on the implementation progress to the Director by May 1. Both the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Source Protection Annual Progress Report and the Supplemental Form are to be submitted as they are considered "prescribed forms" under O. Reg. 287/07 s.52(5).

The Long Point Region Annual Progress Report is a public-facing document developed by the MECP and prepared by Lake Erie Region staff. The report provides valuable information about the implementation of the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan and the overall success of the program

**(Appendix A).** The Long Point Region Annual Progress Report reflects implementation efforts from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Information presented in the progress report is intended to be a high-level reflection of annual reporting results collected through the Long Point Region Supplemental Form. The Supplemental Form is a tool to collect key information from implementing bodies to help convey the story of progress made in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area using a series of questions. The Supplemental Form is not a public facing document and is **provided separately** from this report.

On March 26, 2026 the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee (SPC) passed the following resolution:

*THAT in the opinion of the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee, implementation of the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan is progressing well and is on target towards achieving plan objectives;*

*AND THAT the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Committee direct staff to present the 2025 Annual Progress Report to the Source Protection Authority for submission.*

The Source Protection Committee did not have any additional comments to include as part of the submission of the 2025 Long Point Region Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form.

The Long Point Region Source Protection Authority has the responsibility to submit the 2025 Long Point Region Annual Progress Report and Supplemental Form to the Director of Conservation and Source Protection, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

**Financial Implications:**

N/A

**Prepared by:**

*Saifur Rahman*

Saifur Rahman, M.Eng., P.Eng.  
Manager of Engineering and  
Infrastructure

**Approved and submitted by:**

*Judy Maxwell*

Judy Maxwell, CPA, CGA  
General Manager

# **Appendix A**

## **2025 Annual Progress Report – Long Point Region Source Protection Area**

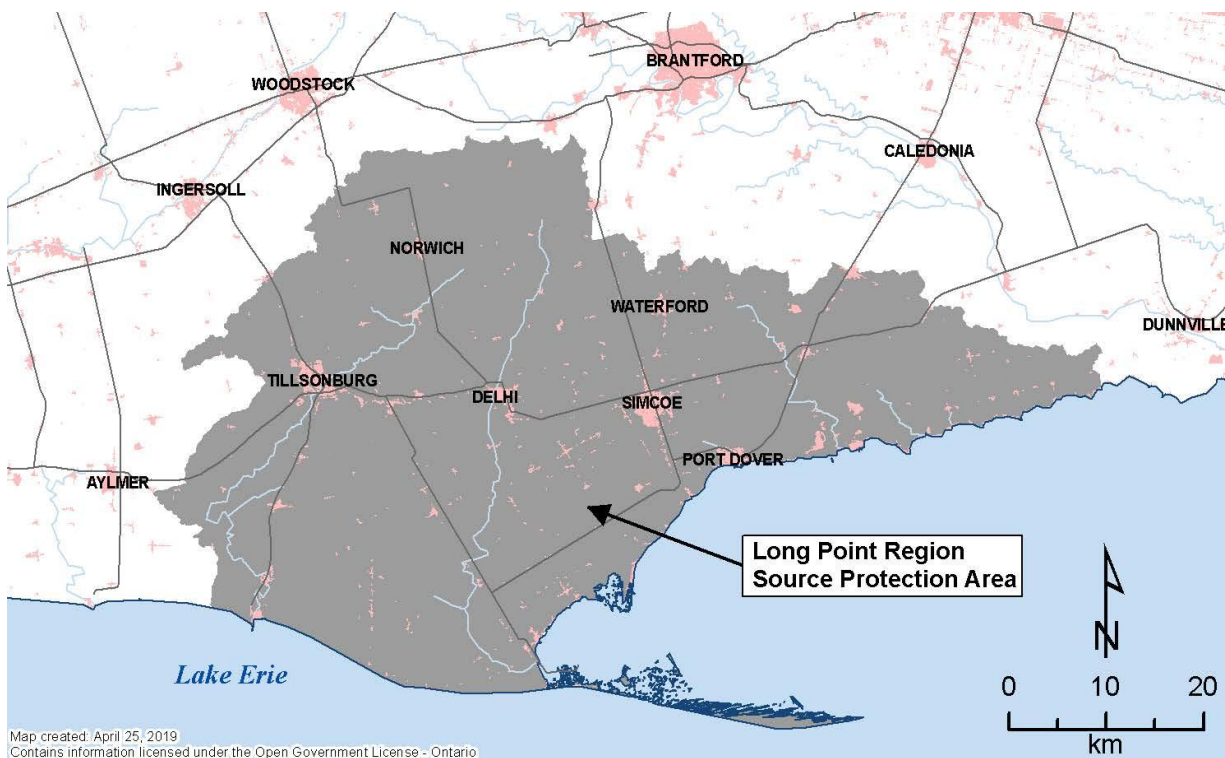
# Long Point Region Source Protection Annual Progress Report 2025

## I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing our Source Protection Plan for the Long Point Region Source Protection Area, as required by the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and its regulations.

The Source Protection Plan (the Plan) is the culmination of extensive science-based assessment, research, consultation, and collaboration with local stakeholders and the provincial government. When policies in the Plan are implemented, it ensures that activities carried out near municipal wells and surface water intakes will not pose significant risk to the sources of our drinking water.

We acknowledge and recognize the efforts made by our local municipalities, stakeholders, and Source Protection Committee in the development and implementation of the Plan.



**Map 1 Long Point Region Source Protection Area**

## II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

**P: Progressing Well / On Target** – The majority of the Plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

Each year, the Source Protection Committee considers information provided by policy implementors and rates the extent to which Source Protection Plan objectives are being achieved. A key component to the Committee’s approach is that the overall rating for meeting Plan objectives is determined by the percentage of policies that are implemented or in-progress.

As of December 31, 2025, **100%** of legally binding Plan policies that address significant drinking water threats are implemented or in progress for the Long Point Region Source Protection Area.

The primary consideration is whether forward progress is being made on policy implementation and whether implementing bodies have processes in place for addressing significant drinking water threats. All municipalities in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area have internal processes in place to ensure planning decisions conform to the Plan and are managing or prohibiting new threats as appropriate. Similarly, provincial ministries continue to implement standard operational procedures to address significant threats regulated under provincial approvals.

Previous annual reports quantified the number of significant drinking water threats identified and managed within the Source Protection Area. While the number of threats are still considered, it is not the primary measure for rating overall progress. The reason for this is that year-over-year comparisons of threat counts can be misleading. Several factors affect the number of identified threats and whether they are reported as managed, such as Plan amendments (can result in addition or removal of vulnerable areas and threats), changes in property ownership, and updates to the Technical Rules for identifying threats.

## III. Our Watershed

The Long Point Region Source Protection Area (watershed) is drained by more than 30 creeks and tributaries. These creeks drain an area of 2,782 square kilometres in portions of Brant, Elgin, Haldimand, Norfolk, and Oxford counties.

The watershed has ten municipal drinking water systems. Three systems are located in Oxford County in the communities of Dereham Centre, Oxford South (communities of Norwich, Otterville and Springford), and the Town of Tillsonburg, all of which are groundwater systems. Norfolk County has groundwater sourced municipal drinking water systems in the communities of Delhi, Simcoe and Waterford and surface water sourced municipal drinking water systems (Lake Erie intakes) in the communities of Port Dover and Port Rowan. Haldimand County and Elgin County each have one municipal-

residential drinking water system within the watershed, the former of which is a surface water system (Lake Erie Intake) and the latter of which is a groundwater system. There are also two other municipal drinking water systems serving Long Point Region residents that are sourced outside of the watershed: Mount Elgin and the Bayham Distribution System.

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

### 1. Source Protection Plan Policies and Addressing Significant Risks

#### **P: Progressing Well / On Target**

Of the legally binding Plan policies that address significant drinking water threats, 100% are implemented, in progress, or implemented because policy outcome(s) have been evaluated and it is determined that no further action(s) is required.

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

#### **P: Progressing Well / On Target**

Eight municipalities in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply. Planning departments and building officials are screening applications for locations within vulnerable areas where threats to drinking water sources are possible and Plan policies may apply.

Five municipalities are required to review and update their Official Plan to ensure it conforms with the Source Protection Plan the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the *Planning Act, 1990*. As of December 31, 2025, the Municipality of Bayham, Norfolk County, Oxford County, Haldimand County, and the Township of Malahide have confirmed that their Official Plans conform to the Source Protection Plan.

### 3. Septic Inspections

#### **P: Progressing Well / On Target**

There are 73 on-site sewage systems in the Long Point Source Protection Area that are significant drinking water threats and require inspection every five years in accordance with the Ontario Building Code.

Of the 47 systems that were due for inspection in 2025, 39 (83%) of the inspections were completed. None of the systems inspected required any remedial action (e.g. maintenance work).

Norfolk County will work with landowners to obtain additional information to complete outstanding inspections. Where landowners refused entry, compliance orders are being sought. There are only two septic systems in the Municipality of Bayham that require inspection. These two systems were not inspected in 2025 as a result of staffing changes and will be inspected in 2026.

#### 4. Risk Management Plans

##### **P: Progressing Well / On Target**

The Long Point Region Source Protection Plan contains policies that require the development of Risk Management Plans to manage certain drinking water threats. All Plan policies that require a Risk Management Plan have been reported as implemented or in progress.

A total of 20 Risk Management Plans are in place in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area. In 2025, three new Risk Management Plans were agreed to that manage four significant drinking water threat activities.

There is no timeline for establishing Risk Management Plans in the Lake Erie Source Protection Region. Municipalities continue to prioritize areas and properties that pose the highest risk when establishing Risk Management Plans. Additionally, significant effort is spent on conducting inspections to verify whether perceived threats are actually occurring on the ground. If threats are determined to no longer exist, Risk Management Plans are revoked. This impacts the cumulative total of reported Risk Management Plans in place each year.

In 2025, Risk Management Officials completed a total of 237 inspections to achieve compliance or to verify threats for activities designated under Section 58 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Zero cases of contravention or non-compliance were reported. An additional 218 inspections were carried out for activities prohibited under Section 57 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*. Zero cases of contravention were reported.

Risk Management Plan negotiations are complex and lengthy processes. In some cases, landowners voluntarily address threat activities on their property; however, executing the formal agreement is a challenge. Under Section 61 of Ontario Regulation 287/07, a landowner may request an exemption from a Risk Management Plan if their provincial approval already includes source protection risk management measures. Risk Management Officials must wait to receive this statement of conformity before reporting a threat as addressed, even if the risk to drinking water is being managed.

To manage future threat activities, municipalities have screening processes in place to ensure development applications are reviewed for potential threat activities and for the applicability of Plan policies.

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

### **P: Progressing Well / On Target**

Ontario ministries review applications for new or amended provincial approvals (i.e. prescribed instruments, such as Environmental Compliance Approvals issued under the Environmental Protection Act) where they have been identified as a tool in our Plan to address activities that pose a significant risk to source water.

The Province has established Standard Operating Policies to ensure that approvals take into account the science generated through the Drinking Water Source Protection Program and policies in the Source Protection Plan. Provincial approvals are issued, denied, amended, or revoked to conform to Plan policies. Where necessary, conditions are added to approvals to ensure that the activity does not pose a significant threat to sources of drinking water.

The Plan sets a timeline of three years to complete a review of previously issued approvals and make any necessary changes to address source protection requirements. In 2021, the Technical Rules for identifying threats was updated. Most ministries have completed a review of previously issued approvals under the 2021 Technical Rules; however, some branches within the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) are still completing this process. In 2025, there were no newly identified existing instruments that required a review for source protection.

MECP also reported three new Environmental Compliance Approval applications that underwent a detailed review for source protection in 2025. The three applications were determined not to be significant drinking water threats and/or did not have source protection implementation requirements.

## 6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

To raise awareness about the protection of local drinking water sources, source protection signs have been installed on Provincial highways and municipal roads surrounding vulnerable areas. Oxford County installed four new signs in 2025 and paired their installation with a social and traditional media campaign.

Municipalities across the Long Point Region Source Protection Area continue to establish and implement education and outreach programs, which contribute to enhancing awareness of source water protection.

In addition, a nitrate study completed as part of a research initiative in the Municipality of Bayham has made a positive difference in the nitrate concentrations observed in the municipality's drinking water sources.

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

Not applicable to the Long Point Region Source Protection Area.

## 8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

Drinking water quality Issues have been identified for nitrate at the Richmond Community Water System, Simcoe Well Supply, Oxford South Water System, and Tillsonburg Well Supply. In 2025, most of these systems have reported an increasing concentration/trend; however a decreasing concentration/trend was reported at the Simcoe Well Supply. Issue Contributing Areas (WHPA-ICAs) have been delineated for all nitrate Issues in the Long Point Region Source Protection Area.

Municipalities continue to implement risk management strategies to address threat activities associated with WHPA-ICAs. All municipalities have monitoring and treatments systems in place to ensure that municipal drinking water meets the requirements of the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*. Oxford County reported that water from wells with increasing nitrate concentrations are blended with other wells to ensure that drinking water meets safe standards.

Municipalities have used the results of ongoing monitoring to determine where further investigation is needed and to conduct assessments to identify sources and/or explain concentration variability. Continuous, long-term monitoring will help determine if implementation of Plan policies and other actions are improving raw water quality for these systems. For example, the Municipality of Bayham indicated that while nitrate concentrations appear to increase between 2024 and 2025 for the Richmond Water Supply wells, the long term trend is a decreasing concentration since monitoring first began in 2014.

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

An order was received from the Ministry in June 2020 (revised June 2025) providing for a comprehensive review and update to the Long Point Region Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan under Section 36 of the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

Examples of tasks in the workplan include incorporation of:

- Growth and infrastructure changes (e.g. new drinking water supply wells)
- Technical Rule changes

- Transport pathway updates
- Results of environmental monitoring programs (e.g. review of monitoring data to evaluate existing or the potential for Issues identified at municipal drinking water wells)

The Section 36 update is currently underway and is expected to be submitted to the Ministry for approval in 2026.

## 10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about the Long Point Source Protection Area, visit the [Lake Erie Source Protection website](#).