



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

10:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Chair's Welcome and Call to Order
2. Land Acknowledgement Statement
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest
5. Disclosure of intention to record this meeting by video and/or audio device
6. Approval of Minutes from March 20, 2025
7. Business Out of the Minutes
8. **Program Reports**
 - Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg 41/24) – Andrew Bicknell
(b) Violations/Appeals Update – Geoff Cade
 - Report 2: 1st Quarter Profit & Loss Statement – Tina Crown
9. **Staff Presentation:** *March and April Flood Events Retrospective* – Daniel King/Christie Brown
10. **Committee Reports**
 - Joint Management Committee (2 meetings) – Elizabeth Balfour
 - Source Protection Committee – Elizabeth Balfour
11. **Correspondence**
12. New Business
13. Committee of the Whole
14. Adjournment

Source Protection Authority Meeting to Follow

Upcoming Meetings and Events

May 12 – 15, 2025	Conservation Auction - Online
May, 15 2025	Board of Directors Meeting
June 19, 2025	Board of Directors Meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Steve Herold, Joey Groot, Dave Jewitt, Dave Marsh, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Jaden Hodgins

STAFF PRESENT

Geoff Cade, Tina Crown, Cassie Greidanus, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Daniel King, Nathan Schoelier, Julie Stellingwerff, Erik Strahl, Ellen Westelaken.

OTHERS PRESENT

Paul Seebach, *Seebach & Company*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ray Chartrand called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 19/25

Moved Joey Groot

Seconded by Dave Jewitt

“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the March 20, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting be approved.”

Carried.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO RECORD

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Abbie Gutteridge reported that there had been a spelling error on a name in the previous minutes, which would be corrected in the finalized minutes.

MOTION #BD 20/25**Moved by David Marsh****Seconded by Adrian Cornelissen**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on February 20, 2025, and the motions therein be approved as amended.”

Carried.**BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES**

None.

PRESENTATION

Paul Seebach, of Seebach and Company, presented the 2024 audited financial statement for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. There were no audit issues found or unusual transactions. The statements of financial position and operations were reviewed. The Drinking Water Source Protection program audit was also reviewed at this time.

MOTION 21/25**Moved by Wayne Shipley****Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the 2024 audited financial statement be approved as presented.”

Carried.**PROGRAM REPORTS****1. (a) Development Review**

Ellen Westelaken, Water & Planning Technician, presented the Development Review report pursuant to Ontario Regulation Ontario Regulation 41/24 *Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits*. Through the application process, proposed developments within regulated areas are protected from flooding and erosion hazards. Staff granted permission for 1 *Application for Permission* and 8 *Minor Works Applications*.

Board members asked how ABCA staff were fairing in permit turn around time in comparison with the standard. Geoff Cade noted that staff are typically reviewing permits in a much shorter time than the standard.

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Geoff Cade noted that there was no update on ongoing violations at the current time.

MOTION #BD 22/25**Moved by Wayne Shipley****Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

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

Carried.

2. Process for Updating Conservation Areas Master Plans

Nathan Schoelier, Stewardship and Conservation Lands Manager, provided a report outlining the process to update the Master Plans for each of ABCAs Conservation Areas. These plans will contain site level management information and will provides specific guidance and direction. The 2025 budget included funds for updating master plans for three conservation areas (Morrison Dam, Rock Glen and Ausable River Cut). The process for development of these plans will include consulting the recently approved Conservation Lands Strategy, posted for both Board of Directors and public feedback, engagement with the public and stakeholders through various methods, summarizing the feedback and submitting the final plan to the Board of Directors for approval.

MOTION #BD 23/25**Moved by Steve Herold****Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the process for updating conservation areas master plans as detailed in this report.”

Carried.

3. Conservation Education Update

Cassie Greidanus, Conservation Education Coordinator, provided a comprehensive update on the activities of the Conservation Education department over the fall and winter months. She introduced Julie Stellingwerff, Education Instructor, to the Board. Julie will be with the ABCA part time and will be helping deliver a variety of programs to local schools. Julie led the Conservation Education department from 2005 – 2014, so comes with extensive background knowledge of conservation education programming. Education staff were busy with 49 school programs in the fall, as well as running a full Oaks and Acorns program. The Avon Maitland District School Board hosted two environmental forums in fall 2024, which ABCA staff helped to run. There were also community group programs, such as owl prowls and local library programs. Winter programming proved to be challenging this year due to bus cancellations for inclement weather; however, there

were several snowshoeing programs, Spring Water Awareness Programs, as well as a PA Day event at the Exeter Library. A week of Day Camp was also run over March break with eight campers.

Education staff have another two sessions of Oaks and Acorns planned for spring, as well as a full schedule of school programming and class trips. ABCA will also be hosting Envirothon again in 2025, which is planned for April 24 and May 7. Finally, staff will be running 6 weeks of Summer Day Camp, which is almost completely booked.

MOTION #BD 24/25

**Moved by Marissa Vaughan
Seconded by Wayne Shipley**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the Conservation Education Update for information as presented.”

Carried.

4. Flood Emergency Planning Meeting

Daniel King, Water Resources Engineer, provided an update on the annual Flood Emergency Meeting held on February 24, 2025. Member municipalities and other stakeholders were invited to the meeting. The 22 attendees included representatives from seven municipalities, three counties and two other conservation authorities. Roles and Responsibilities during a flooding event were reviewed, as well as an update on current watershed conditions and the upcoming flood outlook. Of note this year, was a presentation by James Bryant and Lina Florian from Essex Region Conservation Authority on some of their major recent flooding events. Attendees noted that they find this meeting worthwhile, and it reminds them to revisit their own emergency plans.

MOTION #25/25

**Moved by Dave Marsh
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the Flood Emergency Planning Meeting report for information as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Davin Heinbuck, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, provided a report with a brief update on the progress of various projects, staff training, upcoming meetings and events, and general activities of ABCA staff.

MOTION #26/25

**Moved by Joey Groot
Seconded by Steve Herold**

“RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the General Manager’s Report for information as presented.”

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Reference: Perth County Stewardship Program
File: A.5.1
Brief: A letter of thanks directed to Nathan Schoelier and the ABCA for support for the Perth County Stewardship Program, and looking forward to continuing the partnership in the future.
- b) Reference: Letter of Resignation
File: P.1.1
Brief: A letter from Erik Strahl, announcing his intent to resign from the ABCA on April 25, 2025. He thanked the Board and staff for their support and for such a welcoming work environment. He indicated that his resignation is due to a change in life plans and wishes staff at the ABCA all the best in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Davin Heinbuck informed the Board of Directors that Conservation Authorities have moved back to be under the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.
2. Davin Heinbuck reported that the Ontario Professional Planners Institute used the ABCA Shoreline Management Plan as a case study in their recent publication. He noted that staff will circulate this document to the Directors for their reference.
3. Davin Heinbuck and Daniel King gave a brief update regarding the recent snow and ice melt and the flooding associated with the event in Lambton Shores. Staff agreed to provide a more fulsome report at a future meeting.
4. Ray Chartrand presented Dave Jewitt with an award for Six Years of Service on the ABCA Board of Directors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

Ray Chartrand
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

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

DRAFT

ABCA Program Report

To: Board of Directors
Date: April 17, 2025
From: Andrew Bicknell, Acting Water and Planning Supervisor
Subject: Applications for Permission
Ontario Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors affirm the approval of the permits issued by ABCA staff as outlined in the *Applications for Permission* Program Report.

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

*A Coastal Assessment was provided as part of the application

**Work commenced without a permit

Major Permits

(1) PERMIT # 2025-03
NAME: Sue Brooks, c/o Spencer Weidig
ADDRESS: 7250 Seth Lane, Port Franks
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: Construct a minor addition to the primary residence.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 21, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 3, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 7
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl

- (2) PERMIT # 2025-08
NAME: Geoff King, c/o Streamline Engineering
ADDRESS: Lot 4, Concession 3-4
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: Shapton Drain improvement and Shroeders Branch 2025, including open channel enclosures.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 14, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 18, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (3) PERMIT # 2025-07
NAME: Municipality of South Huron c/o Don Giberson
ADDRESS: Concession Road 2, 656 m South of Thames Road
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron
PERMISSION TO: Rehabilitation of the existing Morrison Dam Bridge and associated work.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 3, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 19, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 31
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (4) PERMIT # 2025-01
NAME: County of Huron c/o R.J. Burnside & Associates Ltd.
ADDRESS: Mill Road (CR 3) approximately 145m east of Bannockburn Line
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: Rehabilitation of the existing Bannockburn Bridge and associated work.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 17, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 21, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl

- (5) PERMIT # 2025-02
NAME: Kyle Ford (Simply Paradise Interior Design)
ADDRESS: 21 Eighty One Cr. , Grand Bend
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: redevelopment in a regulated area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: January 9, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: January 30, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 15
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (6) PERMIT # 2025-10
NAME: Pat Schoonderwoerd
ADDRESS: 3867 Road 179
MUNICIPALITY: West Perth
PERMISSION TO: construct a replacement roof system on existing foundation structure
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 17, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 20, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 3
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell
- (7) PERMIT # 2025-09
NAME: Alexandra Sherritt, Xavier O’Krafka
ADDRESS: Lot 8, Plan 563 Central Huron
MUNICIPALITY: Central Huron
PERMISSION TO: Construct a residence in a regulated area
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 27, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 24, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 17
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell

Minor Permits

- (1) PERMIT # MW2025-18
NAME: Dynamic Septic and Drainage (c/o Devon Webb)
ADDRESS: 71467 Shoreline Drive
MUNICIPALITY: Bluewater
PERMISSION TO: Install a replacement septic system
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 24, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 28, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 4
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken
- (2) PERMIT #MW2025-09
NAME: North Frontenac Telephone Company
ADDRESS: 34219 Neil Rd.
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex
PERMISSION TO: Construct an Aerial River Crossing in Municipal Road Allowance.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: February 12, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 3, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 14
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl
- (3) PERMIT #MW2025-11
NAME: North Frontenac Telephone Company
ADDRESS: 4381 Elginfield Rd.
MUNICIPALITY: North Middlesex
PERMISSION TO: Construct an Aerial River Crossing in Municipal Road Allowance.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 1, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 7, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl

(4) PERMIT #MW2025-16
NAME: Jordan Quick
ADDRESS: 34077 Saintsbury Line, Lucan
MUNICIPALITY: Lucan Biddulph
PERMISSION TO: Construct an accessory building within a regulated area.
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 14, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 21, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 6
STAFF NAME: Erik Strahl

(5) PERMIT #MW2025-14
NAME: Janice and Alan Gillis
ADDRESS: 7014 Katherine Cr, Port Franks
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores
PERMISSION TO: Undertake maintenance dredge of a docking slip
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: March 13, 2025
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: March 18, 2025
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Andrew Bicknell



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

Statement of Profit & Loss

January through March, 2025

Accrual Basis

Table 1: Consolidated

	2024 Actual		2025 Annual	
	1st Qtr	1st Qtr	Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
Grant, and Contributions	759,096	604,477	1,352,597	45%
Operating Levy - Category 1	-	-	1,128,580	0%
Operating Levy - Category 1 Projects	-	-	176,025	0%
Operating Levy - Category 3	-	-	172,616	0%
Levy, Capital	-	-	20,045	0%
Levy, Special Benefit	-	-	93,961	0%
Rental	2,495	25,272	60,587	42%
Conservation Area User Fees	2,683	2,094	142,600	1%
Sales & Service	386,564	376,639	832,080	45%
Donations	356	416	1,000	42%
Interest	17,439	10,994	79,000	14%
Deferred from Prior Year - Revenue	1,198,470	1,268,133	1,088,885	116%
Deferred to Future Year - Expense	-	-	(505,790)	0%
Total Revenue	2,367,102	2,288,026	4,642,186	49%
Expense				
Purchased Services	69,150	65,941	450,825	15%
Advertising	2,226	1,176	8,283	14%
Memberships, Dues, Licenses	18,708	19,064	63,509	30%
Maintenance and Repair	8,022	9,897	25,395	39%
Property Taxes	11,983	12,611	55,000	23%
Office Operations	48,408	34,088	138,418	25%
Rental	3,075	3,420	12,320	28%
Staff Development	4,680	7,350	32,082	23%
Travel Costs	1,893	3,665	19,700	19%
Utilities	10,374	11,779	43,145	27%
Vehicles and Field Equipment	19,481	12,527	122,845	10%
Program	301,582	431,662	693,436	62%
Board Of Director's	813	9,041	26,477	34%
Wages and Benefits	663,175	693,670	3,010,561	23%
Total Operating Expense	1,163,570	1,315,889	4,701,996	28%
Net Operating Income	1,203,532	972,137	(59,810)	-1625%
Other (Income) Expense				
Capital	199,345	16,376	114,502	14%
Amortization	42,067	40,264	160,620	25%
Investment Income - Earned	(32,435)	(49,202)	-	0%
Investment Income - Unearned	(148,221)	30,635	-	0%
From Reserve - Revenue	(30,330)	(62,734)	(250,937)	25%
Reserves - Expenses	10,893	12,773	76,624	17%
Total Other Expense	41,318	(11,888)	100,809	-12%
Net Income	1,162,215	984,026	(160,619)	-613%



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

Statement of Profit & Loss
 January through March, 2025

Accrual Basis

Table 2: Drinking Water Source Protection

	2024 Actual		2025 Annual	
	1st Qtr	1st Qtr	Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
Grants and Contributions	92,687	100,808	302,425	33%
Interest	348	501	1,000	50%
Deferred from Prior Year - Revenue	0	34,721	35,108	99%
Deferred to Future Year - Expenses	0	0	(28,983)	0%
Total Revenue	93,034	136,030	309,550	44%
Expense				
Purchased Services	10,273	7,165	28,200	25%
Advertising	409	0	800	0%
Memberships, Dues, Licenses	25	30	0	100%
Office Operations	17,253	6,445	21,020	31%
Rental	1,836	1,846	7,140	26%
Staff Development	0	51	1,350	4%
Travel Costs	703	0	3,000	0%
Utilities	345	345	1,600	22%
Vehicles and Field Equipment	174	97	500	19%
Program	1,186	0	300	0%
Board Of Director's	449	714	13,940	5%
Wages and Benefits	60,950	41,113	231,700	18%
Total Operating Expense	93,603	57,806	309,550	19%
Net Operating Income	(569)	78,225	0	100%
Other (Income) Expense				
From Reserves	0	0	0	100%
Reserves	0	0	0	100%
Total Other Expense	0	0	0	100%
Net Income	(569)	78,225	0	100%



Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

71108 Morrison Line, RR 3

Exeter, ON N0M 1S5

Statement of Profit & Loss

January through March, 2025

Accrual Basis

Table 3: ABCA Excluding DWSP

	2024 Actual		2025 Annual	
	1st Qtr	1st Qtr	Budget	% of Budget
Revenue				
Grants and Contributions	666,409	503,669	1,050,172	48%
Operating Levy - Category 1	0	0	1,128,580	0%
Operating Levy - Category 1 Projects	0	0	176,025	0%
Operating Levy - Category 3	0	0	172,616	0%
Levy, Capital	0	0	20,045	0%
Levy, Special Benefit	0	0	93,961	0%
Rental	2,495	25,272	60,587	42%
Conservation Area User Fees	2,683	2,094	142,600	1%
Sales & Service	386,564	376,639	832,080	45%
Donations	356	416	1,000	42%
Interest	17,092	10,493	78,000	13%
Deferred from Prior Year - Revenue	1,198,470	1,233,413	1,053,777	117%
Deferred to Future Year - Expense	0	0	(476,807)	0%
Total Revenue	2,274,068	2,151,996	4,332,636	50%
Expense				
Purchased Services	58,878	58,776	422,625	14%
Advertising	1,817	1,176	7,483	16%
Memberships, Dues, Licenses	18,682	19,034	63,509	30%
Maintenance and Repair	8,023	9,897	25,395	39%
Property Taxes	11,983	12,611	55,000	23%
Office Operations	31,154	27,643	117,398	24%
Rental	1,239	1,573	5,180	30%
Staff Development	4,680	7,299	30,732	24%
Travel Costs	1,190	3,665	16,700	22%
Utilities	10,029	11,434	41,545	28%
Vehicles and Field Equipment	19,308	12,430	122,345	10%
Program	300,396	431,662	693,136	62%
Board Of Director's	364	8,327	12,537	66%
Wages and Benefits	602,223	652,557	2,778,861	23%
Total Operating Expense	1,069,966	1,258,083	4,392,446	29%
Net Operating Income	1,204,102	893,913	(59,810)	-1495%
Other (Income) Expense				
Capital	199,345	16,376	114,502	14%
Amortization	42,067	40,264	160,620	25%
Investment Income - Earned	(32,435)	(49,202)	0	0%
Investment Income - Unearned	(148,221)	30,635	0	0%
From Reserve	(30,330)	(62,734)	(250,937)	25%
Reserves	10,893	12,773	76,624	17%
Total Other Expense	41,318	(11,888)	100,809	-12%
Net Income	1,162,784	905,801	(160,619)	-564%



Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (ABCA-MVCA)

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Via Video Conferencing

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Beard, Ray Chartrand, Matt Duncan, Davin Heinbuck, Ed McGugan, Matt Pearson, Marissa Vaughan

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Balfour, Donna Clarkson

OTHERS PRESENT

Abigail Gutteridge, Recording Secretary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 10:0 a.m. Acting Chair Ed McGugan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #JMC: 2025-01-01

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

"That the agenda for the January 15, 2025 meeting of the Joint Management Committee be approved as circulated."

Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #JMC: 2025-01-02

**Moved by Matt Duncan
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“That the minutes of the August 8, 2024 Joint Management Committee meeting be approved.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE – REVIEW OF VACANCY PROCESS

Elizabeth Balfour, DWSP Co-Supervisor, reminded the Joint Management Committee (JMC) that they are responsible for interviewing candidates for the Source Protection Committee (SPC). Four members of the SPC were up for renewal in January 2025. Three indicated that they would like to continue to serve on the SPC, but John Graham, Environmental representative, indicated that he would not be seeking reappointment. A call for applications was posted on November 13, and remained open for 30 days. Six applications were received. The purpose of this meeting is to choose how many candidates to interview, and which candidates to invite for an interview.

Due to the sensitive information being discussed in this process, it was suggested that the JMC go into Committee of the Whole.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #JMC 2025-01-03

“That the Joint Management Committee go into Committee of the Whole at 10:05 a.m. to discuss applications for the Environmental Representative on the Source Protection Committee, with Elizabeth Balfour, Donna Clarkson and Abigail Gutteridge remaining.”

Carried by Consensus.

MOTION #JMC 2025-01-04

“That the Joint Management Committee rise and report at 10:20 a.m.”

Carried by Consensus

Acting Chair McGugan noted that the JMC decided to offer interviews to four of the six candidates and asked staff to reach out to the candidates and coordinate interviews for either

the last week of January or the second week of February. The preference is for in-person interviews, and it was decided that interviews would be held at the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority office.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the JMC will be to conduct the interviews, and will be at the call of the SPC Chair or staff. Matt Duncan adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

Ed McGugan
Acting Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Recording Secretary



Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (ABCA-MVCA)

**Friday, January 31, 2025
9:00 a.m.**

Maitland Valley Conservation Authority Boardroom

MEMBERS PRESENT

Phil Beard, Ray Chartrand, Matt Duncan, Davin Heinbuck, Ed McGugan, Matt Pearson, Marissa Vaughan

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Balfour, Donna Clarkson

OTHERS PRESENT

Abigail Gutteridge, Recording Secretary

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. Acting Chair Ed McGugan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #JMC: 2025-01-05

**Moved by Matt Duncan
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan**

“That the agenda for the January 31, 2025 meeting of the Joint Management Committee be approved as amended.”

Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #JMC: 2025-01-06

Moved by Ray Chartrand

Seconded by Matt Duncan

“That the minutes of the January 15, 2025 Joint Management Committee meeting be approved.”

Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

INTERVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATION TO SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY FOR NEW ENVIRONMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Elizabeth Balfour reminded the Joint Management Committee (JMC) that the primary reason for today’s meeting is to conduct interviews for the Environmental representative on the Source Protection Committee (SPC). In total, six applications were received, and the JMC chose four candidates to interview. Three interviews will be in person, and one will be conducted via Zoom. She noted that Matt Pearson agreed to lead the interviews, and that JMC members would also be permitted to ask questions.

As interviews are not made public, they will be conducted in Committee of the Whole, and notes from the interviews will be kept on file.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #JMC 2025-01-07

**Moved by Matt Duncan
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“That the Joint Management Committee go into Committee of the Whole to conduct Source Protection Committee interviews at 9:10 a.m. with Abigail Gutteridge, and Elizabeth Balfour remaining in attendance.”

Carried.

MOTION #JMC 2025-01-08

**Moved by Matt Duncan
Seconded by Ray Chartrand**

“That the Joint Management Committee rise and report at 11:18 a.m.”

Carried.

Interviews were conducted for all four candidates, and each had unique qualities that would contribute to the SPC; however, the Joint Management Committee felt that Ms. Joy Rutherford’s experience on various local committees, interpersonal skills, and connections within the local environmental sector would make her an ideal candidate for this position.

MOTION #JMC 2025-01-09

**Moved by Ray Chartrand
Seconded by Matt Duncan**

“That the Joint Management Committee recommend Joy Rutherford be appointed to the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee, as representative for the Environmental Sector.”

Carried.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Elizabeth Balfour provided a brief program update for the JMC. She noted that we are nearing the end of the first year of a three-year workplan and budget. The first interim report was submitted in October 2024, and that the second interim report is due today, January 31, 2025, and would be submitted later this afternoon. In general, the program is on track with expenditures for the first year.

Elizabeth also reminded the JMC that there are three other member on the SPC that are at the end of their five-year term. These include Alyssa Keller, representative for Public-at-Large, Rowland Howe, representative for Economic – Industry sector, and Philip Keightley, representative for the Economic – Commerce sector. All three members have expressed their intent to remain on the SPC for another five-year term. As such, staff recommend that the JMC recommend the reappointment of these members for another five-year term.

MOTION #JMC 2025-01-10

**Moved by Marissa Vaughan
Seconded by Matt Duncan**

“That the Joint Management Committee recommend Alyssa Keller (Public-at Large), Rowland Howe (Economic – Industry), and Philip Keightley (Economic – Commerce) be reappointed to the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee for a five-year term.”

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be at the call of the SPC Chair or staff. Matt Duncan adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Ed McGugan
Acting Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Recording Secretary

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2025

The White Carnation, Holmesville ON

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Ellen Foran, Dave Frayne, Paul Heffer, Doug Hocking, Philip Keightley, Alyssa Keller, Matt Pearson, Allan Rothwell, John Thompson, Jennette Walker, Joy Rutherford

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rowland Howe, Carol Leeming

LIAISONS PRESENT

Patrick Landry – Huron Perth Public Health Liaison

Davin Heinbuck – Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison

Phil Beard – Maitland Valley SPA Liaison

DWSP STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Balfour, Donna Clarkson, Tim Cumming, Abigail Gutteridge

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Christie Brown, *Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA)*, and Ellen Westelaken, *ABCA*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He also welcomed Joy Rutherford, who was the successful candidate for the Environmental representative on the Source Protection Committee (SPC). He reminded the SPC that John Graham would not be renewing his term as Environmental representative.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2025-03-01

Moved by Dave Frayne

Seconded by Allan Rothwell

“That the agenda for the March 26, 2025 meeting be approved.”

Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2025-03-02

Moved by Paul Heffer

Seconded by Philip Keightley

“THAT the SPC minutes from September 25, 2024 be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. An infographic titled “Protecting Ontario’s Sources of Drinking Water” showing the progress of the Drinking Water Source Protection program was received from the Source Protection Branch of the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

CHAIR’S UPDATE

Chair Matt Pearson noted that it has been a quiet winter for Source Protection and that the program remains in a steady state for the present. He reminded the SPC that the first Source Protection Plans were approved 10 years ago in April, which have been updated since. In addition, 2025 marks the 25-year anniversary of the Walkerton Tragedy. Finally, he reminded the SPC that staff advertised the Environmental representative position on the SPC over the winter, and that the Joint Management Committee was encouraged to receive six applications and conduct four interviews. He noted that he is pleased that Joy Rutherford was the successful candidate, and again welcomed her to the SPC.

PROGRAM UPATE

Elizabeth Balfour, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Program Co-Supervisor, provided a program update to SPC members. She reminded the SPC that we are at the end of the first year of a three-year workplan and budget and noted that two interim reports were submitted in October 2024 and January 2025. Of note, the Province has not provided any additional funding for education and outreach on “Best Practices” for private water wells.

Elizabeth also noted that along with the appointment Joy Rutherford, who was the successful candidate for the Environmental Sector representative, three other SPC members have been reappointed to the committee. In February, the Source Protection Authority (SPA) reappointed Alyssa Keller (Public-at-Large), Rowland Howe (Economic – Industry), and Philip Keightley (Economic – Commerce) for an additional five-year term. She also thanked John Graham for his ten years as Environmental representative on the SPC.

Elizabeth also reported, that while there are no new amendments to the Source Protection Plans at present, the Town of Minto has drilled one additional production well in Palmerston and one well in Harriston, due to development growth. Wellhead protection areas will need to be delineated around these two wells, and mapping will need to be incorporated into the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan. The amendment is likely to occur in 2026.

Also of note, due to the recent Provincial Election, there has been some cabinet changes, and the new Minister for Environment, Conservation and Parks is the Honourable Todd McCarthy. Finally, the Dublin Lion’s Club approached staff about holding another Water Wise event in Dublin, after the success of their first event in 2023. This event will likely be held toward the end of April or beginning of May 2025. Since part of Dublin is within Huron County, Huron County Clean Water Project funding can be used for this event.

SPP IMPLEMENTATION REPORT AND 2024 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Donna Clarkson DWSP Program Co-Supervisor presented the Source Protection Plan Implementation Report, and Annual Progress Report for 2024. The annual progress report is a standardized report that amalgamates information from all implementing

bodies and summarizes the progress on implementation. In 2024, there were still 80 risk management plans (RMPs) in place, and work focused on inspections to monitor activities and RMPs, as well as risk assessment for both new WHPAs and new threats (including salt, snow and fuel). Municipalities reported that they are on their third cycle of septic inspections (10 of 28 required were complete), and that their new policy for Salt Management Plans were in progress. In addition, 10 of 12 municipalities have completed their Official Plan updates, and the final two are in progress.

The percent of progress to addressing significant drinking water threats (SDWT) is 81 percent, and prior to 2024, all had been addressed. The remaining SDWT are new threats due to WHPA changes and the added SDWT.

Donna presented that draft of the Annual Report to the SPC for their review. In general, all reporting categories in the Annual Report are listed as progressing well. Donna reviewed a draft comment and made one addition. Once approved by the SPC, staff will take the reports to the SPAs for their support to submit the Annual Report to the MECP by May 1, 2025.

MOTION #SPC: 2025-03-03

**Moved by Jennette Walker
Seconded by John Thompson**

**“THAT the ABMV Source Protection Committee endorse report #9b:
Annual Progress Report 2024, and**

**“FURTHER, THAT the Source Protection Committee direct Staff to present
the 2024 Annual Progress Report to the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source
Protection Authorities for submission to the Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks.”**

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH UPDATE

Tim Cumming, Communications Specialist, provided an update on the 2024 education and outreach opportunities. Of note, 2024 saw the implementation of six “Water Wise” events, which was made possible with Best Practices funding from the Province and funding from the Huron County Clean Water Project. These events encouraged private water well owners to test their wells. In total, the events saw 305 attendees, and 350 water well samples collected for testing by Huron Perth Public Health.

The ABMV Source Protection Region also engages in various social media campaigns and had more than 50 source protection social media posts in 2024. Communications staff also issue media and news releases when needed and has an e-newsletter that is periodically distributed, noting there were seven public e-newsletters in 2024. Tim also reviewed some website analytics, noting that some of the top visited pages were the best practices page, the drinking water protection zone signs page, and the source protection plans. Finally, Tim noted that in-person education remains an important tool for source protection, and reminded SPC members that education done by Risk Management Officials is an effective means of education.

PRESENTATION – HURON COUNTY SENTINEL WELL PROGRAM AND PROVINCIAL GROUNDWATER MONITORING NETWORK

Davin Heinbuck, ABCA General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, and Christie Brown, ABCA Water Resources Technologist, presented on two groundwater monitoring programs that the ABCA has been involved with for several decades. The Huron County Sentinel Well Program's purpose was to collect data from six wells, which were representative of six well clusters, on a seasonal basis. This is the only county where this program is still running, albeit on an annual basis. Some of the key parameters studied include lead, arsenic, uranium, fluoride, sodium, nitrates and *E. coli*. In general, concentrations of these parameters have remained typical, but there have been instances when fluoride, sodium, and arsenic have been found to be elevated.

The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network Program (PGMN) began in 2001, following some low water conditions, as well as the Walkerton Tragedy. Throughout the province 474 wells are monitored, 16 in the Ausable Bayfield watersheds, and 9 in the Maitland Valley watersheds. Originally, samples were collected three or four times annually, but now they are sampled one or two times per year, often in the fall. This baseline data is used for nutrient management, and can help explain changes due to land use and climate change. In 2023, Health Canada added some pesticide monitoring at five different wells in the ABCA watershed, and since then there has only been one trace detection in Parkhill.

CONSERVATION ONTARIO UPDATE

Leslie Rich, Manager of the Source Water Protection for Conservation Ontario, provided an update on Conservation Ontario. It was founded in 1980 as a not-for-profit to provide support for conservation authorities. The Drinking Water Source Protection

program is funded by the Province, and Conservation Ontario provides opportunities for liaising between the Province and Source Protection Regions. They also provide communication products for Source Protection Regions to use, such as the Water Wednesday social media campaign. Leslie noted that there has been planning to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Walkerton Tragedy, but due to the provincial elections, those plans are on pause until new staff and the new Minister have been brought up-to-date.

LIAISON UPDATES

Patrick Landry, from Huron Perth Public Health, noted that inspections will be starting soon. He also advised that the beach sampling program for Huron County will again be running through the summer months.

Phil Beard, from Maitland Valley Conservation Authority, did not have an update, but noted that it might be of interest to have Ted Briggs present to the SPC on the Healthy Lake Huron initiative, of which both MVCA and ABCA have been heavily involved for several years.

Davin Heinbuck provided a brief update from Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. He noted that the ABCA recently held it's Annual Meeting and that Ray Chartrand (Huron East) is the new Chair, and Adrian Cornelissen (North Middlesex) is the new Vice Chair of the ABCA Board of Directors. He also noted that ABCA's 2024 Annual Report is now available. He also reported that conservation authorities are once again reporting to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

NEXT MEETING

As the region is in a steady state for Source Protection, a meeting will not be warranted in the summer. Therefore, the next meeting will most likely be September 24, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Matt Pearson
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Source Protection Authority Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2025

11:30 a.m.

Administration Centre Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda for April 17, 2025
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
4. Adoption of Minutes from February 20, 2025
5. Business Out of the Minutes
6. Program Reports – Elizabeth Balfour
 - Program Update – for Information
 - Annual Progress Report on Implementation of Source Protection Plans – for Approval
7. New Business
8. Adjournment

SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Thursday February 20, 2025

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Joey Groot, Jaden Hodgins, Dave Jewitt, Dave Marsh,
Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Steve Herold, Wayne Shipley

STAFF PRESENT

Elizabeth Balfour, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marissa Vaughan called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #SPA 01/25

**Moved by Jaden Hodgins
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

**“RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the February 20, 2025 Source Protection
Authority meeting be approved.”**

Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPA 02/25

**Moved by Marissa Vaughan
Seconded by Dave Jewitt**

“RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Authority meeting held on September 19, 2024 and the motions therein be approved.”

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PROGRAM UPDATE

Elizabeth Balfour, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Program Co-Supervisor, provided a brief program update. She reported that the second interim report for the current Transfer Payment Agreement was submitted on January 31, 2025, and that the workplan tasks and expenditures are on track. She also reminded the Source Protection Authority (SPA) that the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Region is again participating in the #WaterWednesday social media campaign. This campaign was developed by Conservation Ontario to promote the smart use of salt in winter and will run until March 2025. Also of note, 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the water contamination event in Walkerton Ontario in May 2000. A video to reflect on not only this tragedy, but also the subsequent achievements in protecting sources of water will be released in April 2025.

Finally, Elizabeth reported that four members of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) had expiring terms in January 2025. Three of the four members expressed interest in standing for reappointment including, Alyssa Keller (Environment), Philip Keightley (Commerce), and Rowland Howe (Industry). However, one member, John Graham (Environment), did not wish to renew for another term. As the position became vacant, it was posted in November and December and the Joint Management Committee (JMC) held interviews at the end of January. There were six applicants for the position and the JMC chose to interview four. The JMC are recommending that Joy Rutherford be appointed to the ABMV SPC as the second Environment representative. Ms. Rutherford has experience as a hydrogeologist and was member of early Drinking Water Source Protection working group, which made her the preferred candidate.

MOTION #SPA 03/25

Moved by Dave Jewitt

Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

“RESOLVED, THAT Joint Management Committee recommendation to reappoint Alyssa Keller (Environment), Rowland Howe (Economic-Industry) and Philip Keightley (Economic-Commerce) to the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee for a 5-year term be accepted, and

“FURTHER, THAT Joy Rutherford be appointed to the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee, as representative for the Other-

Environment sector for a 5-year term as recommended by the Joint Management Committee.”

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Ray Chartrand
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

To: Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (AB SPA)
Date: April 17, 2025
From: Donna Clarkson and Elizabeth Balfour, DWSP Co-Supervisors
Subject: Program Update– Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP)

Purpose: For Information

A. Update - Source Protection Committee (SPC)

SPC Meeting: March 26th, 2025

The Source Protection Committee met on March 26, 2025, in Holmesville. The agenda included the following items:

- Report on implementation of the Source Protection Plan, plus Annual Progress Report, by DWSP staff
- Presentation and staff report on DWSP Education & Outreach activities, by Tim Cumming, ABCA Communications Coordinator
- Presentation on Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network and Huron County Sentinel Well Update, by Davin Heinbuck, ABCA GM and Christie Brown, ABCA Water Resources Technologist
- Conservation Ontario Update from Leslie Rich, Source Water Protection Manager at Conservation Ontario

B. For Information - Recent Auditor General Report

On March 31st the Auditor General published a news release about the Safety of Non-Municipal Drinking Water which ties in the 'Water Wise' sampling events that Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region have been facilitating over the last two years. Owners of non-municipal drinking-water systems, including those regulated by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) or the Ministry of Health (MOH), are required to sample their drinking water at a prescribed frequency for testing. The audit report contains 17 recommendations for implementation by the two ministries, and the public health entities they oversee.

The audit found that:

- Some small drinking-water systems have not been identified, assessed and inspected by Public Health Units (PHUs)

- Many owners of small drinking-water systems did not sample their water as required, and PHUs rarely enforced compliance
- MECP has effective processes to monitor and enforce compliance with sampling requirements of the non-municipal drinking-water systems that it regulates, but lacks the capacity to regularly inspect all systems
- Studies indicate that less than one-third of the 1.3 million Ontarians that get their water from private wells test their drinking water. Of those who do test their water, 35% of samples test positive for indicators of bacterial contamination.
- MECP does not review well records for completeness and accuracy or for compliance with well construction requirements
- Potentially hundreds of thousands of abandoned wells have never been properly decommissioned,
- MECP has not fully assessed the feasibility of applying source water protection to non-municipal sources.

The link to the full audit is here:

https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/audits/en2025/AR-PA_drinkingwater_en25.html

To: Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (AB SPA)
From: Donna Clarkson and Elizabeth Balfour, DWSP Co-Supervisors
Date: April 17, 2025
Subject: Annual Progress Report on Implementation of Source Protection Plans

Purpose: For Approval

To report on implementation of the Source Protection Plans (SPP) and to **obtain approval** to submit the eight Annual Progress Report for the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Region, to MECP. **See attached Annual Progress Report.**

A. Background

The requirement for annual progress reporting is established in the Clean Water Act, 2006 (CWA). Source Protection Authorities (SPA) are required to provide annual reports to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) in accordance with the Act. Collectively, the information generated provides valuable information about the implementation of source protection plans (SPP) and the overall success of the program.

The Province provides an online reporting interface and templates to facilitate the reporting requirements. The data is collected from the monitoring reports that are submitted to DWSP staff annually by implementing bodies. The monitoring reports provides the Source Protection Committee and Source Protection Authorities with data to gauge the effectiveness of the policies and implementation progress.

B. Key Findings:

Information gathered from the monitoring reports has been summarized below, to provide an overview of the progress made toward SPP implementation in 2024. Note that the Source Protection Plan were updated in 2024, resulting in new/revised policies to be implemented and additional drinking water threats to be addressed.

i. Risk Management Officials – Implementing Clean Water Act (CWA), Part IV Policies

Risk Management Officials and Inspectors (RMO / RMI) are responsible for implementing the policies that prohibit or manage activities identified as significant drinking water threats (SDWTs). In the AB-MV Source Protection Region (SPR), the Town of Minto delivers risk management services themselves. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) provides this service for the other eight municipalities that have wellhead protection areas.

Table 1: Summary of Risk Management Official (RMO) Reporting

Reportables	Minto -2024	ABCA - 2024	Tally – 2015 to 2024
# of RMPs	0	1	128
# Notices issued for building & development reviews	3	24	662
# Inspections	21	33	503
# Orders	0	0	1

Prior to 2024, all of the risk management plans (RMPs) for identified threats were complete. Of 128 RMPs established since 2015, 80 remain in effect.

Following approval of the amended Source Protection Plans in March 2024, RMO's commenced risk assessments to identify activities that may require a RMP per the updated Plans. This includes properties in new wellhead protection areas, plus activities that are now considered significant threats per the updated provincial Technical Rules (e.g. road salt). Their progress is reflected in Table 2 below, which enumerates the number of significant drinking water threats.

ii. Education and Outreach Policies

SPP policies include requirements for outreach to promote source water protection and provide information to landowners and member municipalities.

Summary of Education & Outreach by source water staff in 2024:

- Issued nine news releases: SPP amendments approved; SPC members; Water Wise events to support water protection.
- Released two municipal newsletters plus seven electronic newsletters
- Website: The local drinking water source protection website (sourcewaterinfo.on.ca) had more than 12,000 page views in 2024. Top pages included Best Practices page; drinking water protection zone signs; maps; source protection plans.
- Social Media: ABMV Source Protection Region produced 50+ social media posts in 2024
- Events: ABMV staff partnered with service group and local public health on six 'Water Wise' events in 2024. Minto staff participated in the Palmerston Agricultural Awareness Day and Wellington children's groundwater festival.

iii. Municipal Reporting

Source Protection Authority staff collect policy implementation status from municipalities with drinking water systems. The following is a summary of the information submitted by municipalities:

- Official Plan updates: Twelve municipalities/counties in the ABMV source protection region are required to update their Official Plans and Zoning Bylaws to ensure they conform to the local source protection plans. Ten have completed their OP amendment and the remainder underwent consultation in 2024.

- Mandatory On-Site Sewage System Maintenance Inspection Program: Septic systems inspection must be conducted every five years for systems located close to municipal wells, in zones A and B of the wellhead protection areas where the vulnerability is high (vulnerability score of 10). Across the ABMV source protection region, 202 on-site septic systems require inspection. The third 5-year cycle of septic system inspections is underway. In 2024, 28 septic systems were due for inspection; 10 were completed. The remainder will be inspected in 2025.
- New Policy for Salt Management Plan: Staff have reviewed this new requirement with the municipalities where salt application is a significant drinking water threat.

iv. Provincial Implementation: Prescribed Instrument Policies

Prescribed Instrument policies in the SPPs use provincially issued documents to address potential significant drinking water threats (e.g., per Environmental Compliance Approvals for sewage and hazardous waste; Aggregate Licenses; Nutrient Management Strategies, etc.). Provincial ministries screen these approvals and permits to ensure that any activities that pose a significant drinking water threat (SDWT) are identified, and that decisions conform to the SPP policies.

v. Progress: Addressing Significant Drinking Water Threats

The table below shows progress made from 2015 to 2024, to verify and address significant drinking water threats (SDWT) in the ABMV Source Protection Region. Percent progress in addressing SDWT is 81%. Prior to 2024, all identified significant drinking water threats had been addressed (i.e 100% progress). The SPPs were amended in March 2024 (via CWA section 36), resulting in additional threats, particularly for salt and snow activities. Additional septic threats were added per the July SPP amendment (CWA section 34), for a new well in Saltford plus revised Lucknow wellhead protection area.

Table 2: Tally of Significant Drinking Water Threats

Threat Type	*A. Estimated Threat #	B. # threats added	C. # threats removed	D. # threats addressed	E. # threats remaining
Hazardous Waste	7	0	0	3	4
Sewage	226	0	0	217	9
Application of manure	8	0	0	7	1
Storage of manure	0	0	0	0	0
Non-agricultural source material (eg sewage biosolids; compost)	0	0	0	0	0
Application of fertilizer	4	0	0	3	1
Storage of commercial fertilizer	0	0	0	0	0
Application of pesticide to land	10	0	0	9	1
Storage of pesticide	0	0	0	0	0

Threat Type	*A. Estimated Threat #	B. # threats added	C. # threats removed	D. # threats addressed	E. # threats remaining
Livestock grazing; barnyard	8	0	3	5	0
Application of road salt	49	0	15	0	34
Storage of road salt	32	0	16	0	16
Storage of snow	29	0	15	0	14
Fuel storage	28	0	2	20	6
Chemical storage (dense non-aqueous phase liquid; solvents)	43	0	0	43	0
Water taking from an aquifer	0	0	0	0	0
Total	444	0	51	307	86

*A = Estimate of SDWT engaged in/enumerated when SPP amendment is approved (**2024**)

B = Additional SDWT identified after SPP approval, as a result of field verification

C = Threat removed – activity no longer occurring

D = SDWT addressed because policy is implemented (e.g. RMP; septic inspection; prohibition)

E: Remaining number of SDWT to address (as of Dec. 2024)

Note that salt and snow numbers are expected to drop as Risk Management Officials complete the threat verification process.

C. Annual Progress Report – see attached

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

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

Summary of eight Annual Progress Report:

(For comparison, results of the previous Annual Progress Reports are included)

Category	3rd Annual Progress Report: 2015 to 2019	7th Annual Progress Report: 2023	8th Annual Progress Report: 2024
Overall score	P: Progressing Well	P: Progressing Well	P: Progressing Well
1. Policy implementation	93 % of SDWT* policies implemented	100 % of SDWT* policies implemented / in progress; 100 % of threats addressed	Progressing Well All policies implemented or in progress; 81% of threats addressed, per amended SPPs

Category	3rd Annual Progress Report: 2015 to 2019	7th Annual Progress Report: 2023	8th Annual Progress Report: 2024
2. Municipal Progress	62% of ZBlaw & OP's updated	10 of 12 Official Plans updated	Progressing Well; remaining Official Plans updates underwent consultation in 2024
3. Septic inspections (5-year cycle)	99 % of first round complete;	Round 3 of inspections begins. Progressing well	Progressing well; inspections continue
4. Risk management plans (RMP)	20 RMPs completed in 2019; Total = 99	3 RMPs completed in 2023 Total = 127; 0 remaining	1 RMP replaced in 2024; began risk assessments for new WHPAs and amended (2024) SPP
5. Provincial progress	100% of Prescribed Instrument reviews are complete	Ongoing review of new ECA etc applications P: Progressing Well	No change; P: Progressing Well
6. Source Protection Awareness	88 road signs installed; Education ongoing	Education ongoing P: Progressing Well	Education ongoing; P: Progressing Well

*SDWT = significant drinking water threat

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) met in March 2025 to review and add comments to the Annual Progress Report prepared by staff. The SPC approved the report as presented and recommended it be forwarded to the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley SPAs for their approval and submission to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). As the majority of the source protection plan policies are implemented or in progress, the SPC is confident that the objectives of the Source Protection Plans are “Progressing Well/On Target”.

See attached – 8th Annual Progress Report, to be submitted to MECP, and made publicly available.

Recommendation: That the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority approve the attached Annual Progress Report for submission to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

Source Protection Annual Progress Report - 2024

I. Introduction

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

Protecting the sources of our drinking water is the first step in a multi-barrier approach to safeguard the quality and quantity of our water supplies. The source protection plans are the culmination of extensive science-based assessment, research, consultation with the community, and collaboration with local stakeholders and the Province of Ontario.

This is the eighth annual progress report submitted for the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Region. It covers the period of April 2015 to December 31st, 2024, and summarizes progress made in the year 2024.



II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

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

The Source Protection Committee is pleased to mark the completion of two amendments to the Source Protection Plans (SPPs) in 2024. These updates, completed per sections 34 and 36 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), include updated mapping of wellhead protection areas, plus considerable policy changes to meet current Technical Rules.

The Committee reviewed the implementation results for the ABMV Source Protection Region, noting the important progress made since the SPPs came into effect. All SPP policies are implemented or in progress. Threats to drinking water are being addressed, and the objectives of the CWA are being achieved. The SPC feels confident in their assessment that SPP implementation is 'progressing well / on target'.

The Committee was pleased to support local 'Water Wise' events in 2024, in support of the Best Practices for Non-municipal Water Systems initiative. These events were an excellent opportunity to increase awareness about drinking water threats, and encourage private well owners to test their water. We are pleased that the province continues to provide free bacterial water testing for private well owners, as this is a vital service to our rural communities.

The Committee would like to acknowledge the ministries, municipalities, and other implementing bodies for their contribution to this report, and for their ongoing efforts to protect drinking water. The great progress made on SPP implementation would not have been possible without their strong support.

III. Our Watershed

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

The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley (ABMV) Source Protection Region (SPR) is made up of the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley source protection areas (SPAs). The two SPAs overlie the same jurisdiction as the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley conservation authorities. Their jurisdictions abut and their major rivers flow into Lake Huron. The combined watersheds are approximately 5,690 square kilometres in size, with a combined population of 105,000. There are six counties and 24 lower-tier municipalities entirely or partly within the SPR. The Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Area is adjacent to the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation.

Land uses can have a significant impact on water quality and quantity. Agriculture is the major land use in the region, with small urban areas scattered throughout. Their watersheds share common patterns of landscapes and natural systems. Their towns are small; their economies are based on the economic driver of a thriving agricultural sector, a significant manufacturing sector as well as the additional economic pillars of tourism, heritage and culture. Lake Huron is a major driver of the tourism industry.

In the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region there are 25 municipal groundwater well systems and two Lake Huron intakes. Approximately half of the population is served by these systems; the remainder receive their water from private or communal wells and intakes. There are two great lake intakes - Lake Huron Primary Water Supply System (in Port Blake, near Grand Bend); and the Goderich Water Supply.

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

The source of water for the wells is typically deep bedrock aquifers, which are protected by a thick overburden. There have been no Issue Contributing Areas identified in the SPR. There has been a number of changes to these well systems since approval of the source protection plans in 2015, triggering the need for several amendments to the Source Protection Plans. An amendment under Section 34 of the Clean Water Act, 2006 (CWA) was approved by the Province in 2019. In 2023, the Zurich groundwater system was removed from the Plan, via a 'section 51' amendment. In March 2024, an update per section 36 of the CWA was approved, following extensive consultation. In July 2024, an amendment per section 34 of the CWA was approved, incorporating changes to the Century Heights and Lucknow wellhead protection areas.

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

1. Source Protection Plan Policies

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

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

All of the policies that address moderate and low drinking water threats are implemented or have been evaluated with no further action required.

More than 80% of policies that are not directly related to drinking water threat activities are implemented, and the remainder have been reviewed and require no further action. Note that these policies are 'non-binding' on implementing bodies.

Approximately 80% of significant threats are addressed. This decrease from 100% in the previous year is due to new or revised wellhead protection areas, plus changes to the provincial Technical Rules that define the risk level.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P : Progressing Well / On Target

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

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

Twelve municipalities in our source protection region are required to review and amend their Official Plans to ensure they conform to the local source protection plans (SPPs). Ten of the municipalities (lower and upper tier) have completed the required Official Plan update. The remainder are in progress, and underwent consultation in 2024. Nine municipalities are required to update their Zoning Bylaws to conform to the SPP; eight are complete. It is anticipated that the remaining Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw updates will be completed within the next year.

3. Septic Inspections

P: Progressing well / On target.

In areas where an on-site sewage system (septic system) is considered a significant drinking water threat, inspections are required once every five years in accordance with the Ontario Building Code. In the ABMV SPR, the inspections were carried out by municipal staff or B.M. Ross and Associates Limited (for the Township of Huron-Kinloss). Educational materials were reviewed with the landowner at the time of the initial inspection.

In the ABMV Source Protection Region, 202 on-site sewage systems are subject to the mandatory inspection program. For the first round of inspections, 99% of these systems were inspected within the five-year timeline, in accordance with the Ontario Building Code. The inspection results found the majority are functioning as designed and carrying out regular pump-outs.

The third round of septic system inspections is now underway. In 2024, 10 of 29 planned inspections were completed. Delays are attributed to difficulties contacting some landowners; Orders will be issued for compliance where necessary.

4. Risk Management Plans

P : Progressing Well/On Target

In the 2024 reporting period, one risk management plans (RMP) was renewed in our source protection region. Since our source protection plans took effect in April 2015, a total of 128 risk management plans have been established, with 80 remaining in effect.

Since our Source Protection Plans took effect in 2015, Risk Management Official/Inspectors have carried out 503 inspections for prohibited or regulated activities. In 2024, 54 inspections were conducted. This includes inspections required for risk management plans, to ensure compliance with prohibition and to verify threat activities. To date, there is a 100% compliance rate with the risk management plans established in our source protection region.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P : Progressing Well/On Target

The Ontario ministries have reviewed previously issued provincial approvals (e.g. 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 activities that pose a significant risk to sources of drinking water. The ministries have identified prescribed instruments that may be subject to significant drinking water threat policies and require further review. The provincial approvals are amended or revoked where necessary to conform to Source Protection Plan policies.

No significant threats were identified in 2024 through screening by the provincial ministries.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

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

Ongoing efforts are made by source protection authority staff to implement the education and outreach policies in the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Plans. Education and Outreach tools include an updated website and active social media presence. Fact sheets were created for specific activities as well as for individual well systems. This focused outreach aims to improve awareness about local sources of water.

Between 2020 and 2023, a series of 10 videos, featuring members of the Source Protection Committee, was created to promote source water protection.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

Significant progress has been made on implementing all policies related to significant drinking water threats. In 2024, all Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan (SPP) policies that directly address significant drinking water threats are implemented or in progress.

Several municipalities encountered delays regarding the Official Plan updates required to conform to the SPPs. However, steady progress has been made, and the remaining two Plans underwent consultation in 2024, with anticipated approval in 2025.

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8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

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

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

No work plans related to water budget, GUDI (groundwater under direct influence) systems or ICA (Issue Contributing Area) were required to be implemented for our assessment report(s).

A comprehensive update to the Source Protection Plans and associated Assessment Reports was completed in March 2024, per section 36 of the Clean Water Act, as directed by the province. In addition, a locally initiated update per section 34 of the Act was approved in July 2024 to incorporate changes to two water supply systems.

10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about our source protection region/area, visit our local website home page: <https://www.sourcewaterinfo.on.ca>

