BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, November 19, 2026

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

10:00 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 October 22, 2026
7. Business Out of the Minutes

8. ***Presentation – Investments Update –*** Adam Skillen, Skillen Investments Management

9. **Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority Progress Update** – Don Goodyear

10. **Program Reports**
    Report 1: (a) Development Review (O Reg 41/24) – Jaden Schoelier
    (b) Violations/Appeals Update – Andrew Bicknell
    Report 2: Motorized Vehicle Use at Armstrong East – Nathan Schoelier
    Report 3: Current Consultation Opportunities – RCA Transition – Nathan Schoelier

11. **Committee Reports**
    - Source Protection Committee – Ellen Westelaken
12. **Correspondence**
13. **New Business**
    - Ausable Bayfield Conservation Foundation
14. Committee of the Whole – *if needed*
15. Adjournment

Source Protection Authority Meeting to follow

Upcoming Meetings and Events	
December 17, 2026	Board of Directors Meeting – 2:30 p.m. (Christmas Dinner to follow)

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, October 22, 2026
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT
Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Joey Groot, Steve Herold (via Zoom), Dave Jewitt, David Marsh, Marissa Vaughan, Wayne Shipley

DIRECTORS ABSENT
Jaden Hodgins

STAFF PRESENT
Andrew Bicknell, Tina Crown, Millie Ghorbankhani, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Brian Horner, Jaden Schoelier, Nathan Schoelier

OTHERS PRESENT
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Clemmer

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Ray Chartrand called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone in attendance, and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #BD 91/26 **Moved David Marsh**
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan

"RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the October 22, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting be approved as amended."

Carried.

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest at this meeting or from the previous meeting.

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DISCLOSURE OF INTENTION TO RECORD
None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #BD 92/26 **Moved by Joey Groot**
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

"RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on September 17, 2026, and the motions therein be approved as circulated."

Carried.

DELEGATION
Mr. Fred Clemmer asked to speak to the Board of Directors representing the Armstrong Properties Association. He noted that this group split from the other Armstrong Property Owners Association due to a disagreement. He took a few minutes to explain the area known as Armstrong East and Armstrong West. Mr. Clemmer expressed his concerns regarding access to his property, as he has no legal access from the river. He commented that there are a number of Provincial Acts that would entitle him to access, such as the Ontario Road Access Act (Mr. Clemmer provided excerpts from these.

He referenced that the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) does not permit motorized vehicles on its property. Mr. Clemmer noted that under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006, O. Reg. 319/07, ATVs may be driven on existing roads or trails. He reported that he consulted with the OPP, and he is also permitted to drive along the beach, but that access is difficult, especially during seasons of high water levels. Mr. Clemmer also referenced some dredging work completed permitted by the ABCA in 2013, which, in his opinion, caused environmental damage. He expressed concern that the ABCA would permit that work, but not permit a vehicle to drive on its property for access. He noted that because of access challenges, he may need to sell in the future, but fears that the access issues will prevent the cottage from selling.

Chair Ray Chartrand thanked Mr. Clemmer for his presentation. He asked Mr. Clemmer what authorization he had to speak on behalf of the Armstrong Properties Association. Mr. Clemmer noted that his wife was the president of the Association and had authorized him to speak. Chair Chartrand reminded Mr. Clemmer and ABCA Board members of O. Reg. 688/21, noting that "No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle, an off-road vehicle or a motorized snow vehicle in a conservation area." Chair Chartrand also noted that thirteen years had passed since the referenced dredging work, and that the area has returned to a natural state. Chair Chartrand also asked how many private properties Mr. Clemmer would have to cross if taking the beach access. He replied that there would be none, but that they were not able to do that during high water conditions.

Chair Chartrand confirmed with staff that it was ABCA's policy to not permit motorized vehicles on ABCA lands. He also asked that staff bring back a report regarding this issue in November.

Mr. and Mrs. Clemmer left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

Vote on 2027 Proposed Operating Levies (Category 1 and 3), Capital Levy and Budget

Nathan Schoelier, Acting General Manager, reviewed the process to date for the ABCA Proposed 2027 Budget, and advised that the approval for the operating levies for both Category 1 and 3, as well as the Capital Levy is by weighted vote. He noted that the total proposed budget increase over 2026 is 3.06%.

MOTION #BD 93/26 **Moved by Adrian Cornelissen**
Seconded by David Marsh

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors vote on the 2027 Budget, including the Operating (Category 1 and 3) and Capital Levies."

Carried.

2027 Proposed Operating Levies and Capital Levy Vote

MOTION #BD 94/25 **Moved by Wayne Shipley**
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

"RESOLVED, THAT the 2027 Operating Levy for Category 1 be approved at $1,345,987."

	Yea	Nay	Absent
Adelaide Metcalfe	✓		
Bluewater	✓		
Central Huron	✓		
Huron East	✓		
Lambton Shores	✓		
Lucan Biddulph			✓
Middlesex Centre	✓		
North Middlesex	✓		
Perth South	✓		
South Huron	✓		
Warwick	✓		
West Perth	✓		

"The result was Yea 100% based on the current value assessment apportionment schedule."

Carried.

MOTION #BD 95/25 **Moved by David Marsh**
Seconded by Steve Herold

"RESOLVED, THAT the 2026 Operating Levy for Category 3 be approved at $197,558."

	Yea	Nay	Absent
Adelaide Metcalfe	✓		
Bluewater	✓		
Central Huron	✓		
Huron East	✓		
Lambton Shores	✓		
Lucan Biddulph			✓
Middlesex Centre	✓		
North Middlesex	✓		
Perth South	✓		
South Huron	✓		
Warwick	✓		
West Perth	✓		

"The result was Yea 100% based on the current value assessment apportionment schedule."

Carried.

MOTION #BD 96/25 **Moved by Dave Jewitt**
Seconded by Wayne Shipley

"RESOLVED, THAT the 2026 Capital Levy be approved at $60,144."

	Yea	Nay	Absent
Adelaide Metcalfe	✓		
Bluewater	✓		
Central Huron	✓		

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Huron East	✓	
Lambton Shores	✓	
Lucan Biddulph		✓
Middlesex Centre	✓	
North Middlesex	✓	
Perth South	✓	
South Huron	✓	
Warwick	✓	
West Perth	✓	

"The result was Yea 100% based on the current value assessment apportionment schedule."

Carried.

2027 Proposed Budget

MOTION #BD 97/25 **Moved by Wayne Shipley**
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

"RESOLVED, THAT Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approved the proposed 2027 Budget, as well as the 2027 Pay Grid and 2027 Fee Schedule."

Carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS

1. (a) Development Review

Jaden Schoelier, Water & Planning Technician, presented the Development Review report pursuant to 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 6 *Applications for Permission* and 7 *Minor Works Applications.*

(b) Violation/Appeals Update

Andrew Bicknell, Water and Planning Manager, did not have any updates on specific violations, but noted that staff were working through several at present. He did, however, let the Board of Directors know that staff were prepared to extend a permit for an additional year. This was a permit for a development in the St. Joseph area that had come before the Board of Directors, and was approved.

MOTION #BD 98/26 **Moved by Marissa Vaughan**
Seconded by Wayne Shipley

"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. 3rd Quarter Profit and Loss Statement

Tina Crown, Financial Services Coordinator, provided the profit and loss statement to September 20, 2026, including a projection for the remaining quarter of 2026. She noted that the final billing for the 2026 levy has been issued to municipalities, and that the Special Benefitting levy will be issued in December. In general, she reported that the ABCA is consistent with previous years, and is on track with the 2026 budget. Board members asked if the rising cost of fuel has had any impact on the budget, but staff noted that, while there have been increases, it is not a cause for concern.

MOTION #BD 99/26 **Moved by David Marsh**
Seconded by Marissa Vaugahn

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the financial statement to September 30, 2026 as presented."

Carried.

3. Morrison Dam Conservation Area Master Plan (2026 – 2036)

Nathan Schoelier presented the final draft of the updated Master Plan for Morrison Dam Conservation Area. Following the approval of the draft plan in July, staff engaged the public and various stakeholders for feedback. Any suggestions were very minor in nature, and were incorporated into the final draft. Once approved, it will be made available on the ABCA website.

MOTION #BD 85/26 **Moved by Marissa Vaughan**
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors approves the Morrison Dam Conservation Area Master Plan (2026 – 2036)."

Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MOTION #BD 100/26 **Moved by Joey Groot**
Seconded by Wayne Shipley

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"RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Arkona Lions Club Museum Management Committee meeting held on October 5, 2026, and the motions therein be approved as circulated."

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Reference: Letter from Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) about CA Board Governance
File: A.39.1
Brief: A letter from Hassaan Basit, CEO of the OPCA, sent a letter to all Conservation Authority (CA) CAOs and General Managers regarding Board Governance through the Transition Period following Municipal Elections. This letter will be sent out to all ABCA Member Municipalities.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Nathan Schoelier provided a brief update on the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority (LHRCA) Transition Committee. He reported that the Committee had their second meeting on October 20, 2026 via Teams. While they do not yet have the minutes, they will be shared once available. Chair Chartrand also noted that he has kept asking about the Watershed Councils, but at present that topic is parked for discussion later. Chair Chartrand and Nathan noted that they had an excellent day touring the watershed with Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority Project Executive Don Goodyear.

   It was discussed that the Board Members would like to send some positive correspondence to OPCA noting the importance of having Watershed Councils in place early in the process to help with a smooth transition.

MOTION #BD 101/26 **Moved by Adrian Cornelissen**
Seconded by Wayne Shipley

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorizes staff to draft a letter regarding the importance of Watershed Councils to send to OPCA."

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION #BD 102/26 **Moved by Steve Herold**
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors go into Committee of the Whole at 11:05 a.m. to discuss a property matter with Nathan Schoelier and Abbie Gutteridge remaining in attendance."

Carried.

MOTION #BD 103/26 **Moved by Joey Groot**
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors rise and report at 11:15 a.m."

Carried.

MOTION #BD 104/26 **Moved by Adrian Cornelissen**
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

"RESOLVED, THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors authorize staff to proceed with the acquisition of two properties in the Municipality of South Huron, subject to approval of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency."

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by David Marsh at 11:16 a.m.

_____ _____

Ray Chartrand
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

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

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ABCA Program Report

To: **Board of Directors**
Date: **November 19, 2026**
From: **Andrew Bicknell, Manager of Water and Planning**
Subject: **Applications for Permission**
Ontario Regulation 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits
Report Type: **ACTION REQUIRED**

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 #2026-38
NAME: Samir Kadri
ADDRESS: 7420 Bond Road, Port Franks
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Replace groyne structure

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	September 11, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE:	October 7, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW:	18
STAFF NAME:	Jaden Schoelier

(2) PERMIT #2026-40
NAME: Maros & Laurie Luzak
ADDRESS: 9903 Shore Court, Grand Bend
MUNICIPALITY: Lambton Shores (Bosanquet)
PERMISSION TO: Develop vacant lot

COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE:	September 24, 2026

PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: October 8, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 10
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

Minor Permits

(1) PERMIT #MW2024-20-81
NAME: Magnus Homes
ADDRESS: 154 Dearing Drive, Grand Bend
MUNICIPALITY: South Huron (Stephen)
PERMISSION TO: Develop vacant lot
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: September 30, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: October 7, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Jaden Schoelier

(2) PERMIT #MW2026-66
NAME: Dynamic Septic and Drainage (c/o Devon Webb)
ADDRESS: 77795 Norma Street
MUNICIPALITY: Central Huron (Goderich)
PERMISSION TO: Install a replacement septic system
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: October 9, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: October 14, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 3
STAFF NAME: Ellen Westelaken

(3) PERMIT #MW2026-65
NAME: Wayne Burgsma
ADDRESS: 78055 Bluewater Hwy, Bayfield
MUNICIPALITY: Central Huron (Goderich)
PERMISSION TO: Install a new septic system
COMPLETED APPLICATION RECEIVED ON DATE: September 28, 2026
PERMISSION GRANTED BY STAFF DATE: October 05, 2026
NUMBER OF BUSINESS DAYS TO REVIEW: 5
STAFF NAME: Millie Ghorbankhani

ABCA Program Report

To: **Board of Directors**
Date: **November 19, 2026**
From: **Nathan Schoelier, Interim General Manager, Secretary – Treasurer**
Subject: **Motorized Vehicle Use at Armstrong East**
Report Type: **ACTION REQUIRED**

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors reaffirms that all-terrain vehicles and off-road vehicles are not permitted on any Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority properties.

Background:

Delegation

At the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Board of Directors meeting on October 22, 2026, Mr. Fred Clemmer appeared before the Board as a delegation. Mr. Clemmer spoke about his desire to use all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs) on ABCA-owned properties in the Port Franks area, to access his private property. Mr. Clemmer represented the Armstrong Properties Association, one of two associations that represent the Armstrong East area.

Mr. Clemmer presented excerpts from several pieces of provincial legislature and policy, including:

- Road Access Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. 34
- Highway Traffic Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter H.8
- Release and voidance of restrictions in land grants (Policy PL 4.03.01)
- Ontario Regulation 319/07 Conservation Reserves: General Provisions under Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006
- Ontario Regulation 135/15 under the Highway Traffic Act
- Exercise of Percentage Reservations for Roads (Policy PL 3.01.01)
- Municipal Act, 2001

Mr. Clemmer believes the legislation and policies that he referenced entitle him to operate an ATV or ORV on ABCA-owned property.

Prior Discussions and Access Decisions

The cottages located at Armstrong East, on the north side of the Ausable River, near Port Franks, must be accessed by water. Upon docking their boat, cottage owners and visitors must walk to their

cottages. This includes walking across ABCA-owned properties, as well as unopened, municipal road allowances. Figure 1, below, provides an overview of the area being discussed.



Figure 1: 2025 aerial image of the Armstrong East area. The green polygons denote ABCA property, the yellow polygons denote private parcels.

Accessing these properties is a long-standing challenge that ABCA has worked with the community on. The following provides an overview:

- In 2006, the ABCA Board of Directors approved of a Special Use Permit for use of motorized vehicles on its land to access private properties in Armstrong East
- At a meeting of the ABCA Property Committee on August 21, 2008, this was revisited and at that time, a delegation presented a petition from the local landowners requesting that the Special Use Permit system be rescinded
- At the September 18, 2008 Board of Directors meeting the Property Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the use of motorized vehicles on ABCA lands in the former Cut be discontinued. The recommendation was approved and effective immediately no further permits were issued, and all existing permits expired on December 31, 2008.

- At the March 23, 2017 meeting, the Board decided unanimously to support the decision to not allow the use of motorized vehicles on ABCA land.

Applicable Legislation

It is important to note that the legislation referenced by Mr. Clemmer on October 22, 2026, is not applicable to conservation authority owned and managed properties. For example, legislation, regulations and policies were referenced that applies to land owned and managed by the province (e.g., Provincial Parks, crown reserves), rather than conservation authorities. Mr. Clemmer also referred to legislation (e.g., Highway Traffic Act) that was determined to not apply during previous discussions about this matter.

Ontario Regulation 688/21 Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas, under the Conservation Authorities Act, is the applicable legislation for governing permitted and prohibited uses of conservation authority lands. *Ontario Regulation 688/21* states the following:

All-terrain, off-road or motorized snow vehicles

15. No person shall operate an all-terrain vehicle, an off-road vehicle or a motorized snow vehicle in a conservation area, except,

(a) under a permit issued by an authority and in a place designated by the authority for the operation, with permits, of all-terrain vehicles, off-road vehicles or motorized snow vehicles; or

(b) in a place designated by an authority for the operation, without permits, of all-terrain vehicles, off-road vehicles or motorized snow vehicles

ABCA does not permit ATVs or ORVs on any of its properties. ABCA Provincial Offences Officers and Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) enforce this regulation.

ABCA permits motorized snow vehicles (snowmobiles) on its properties, where there is a current agreement with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC), and snowmobile riders are members of the OFSC. OPP enforces OFSC trails.

Current Situation

Ontario Regulation 688/21 enables the ABCA Board of Directors to authorize ATV and ORV use on its properties, by either issuing a permit to allow for access; or designating the area as a place that ATV and ORV use is permitted. However, several factors must be considered. These factors include:

- ATV and ORV use remains a concern amongst the broader community.
    - Historically, the community has been supportive of prohibiting ATV and ORV access. Staff continue to receive concerns about ATVs and ORVs, and enquiries from

community members wishing to confirm that ABCA has maintained the vehicle prohibition.

- Consistency with neighbouring and partner organizations.
    - The Pinery Provincial Park does not permit ATV or ORV use.
- The potential liability concerns presented by this activity
- The administration required for facilitating this activity through a permit system
- Ecological degradation by ATVs and ORVs

Should the Board choose to revisit its decision to prohibit ATVs and ORVs from ABCA properties, further discussions should be conducted amongst the broader community, and partner organizations (i.e., Pinery Provincial Park and Municipality of Lambton Shores). The discussions should be facilitated through a Property Committee, consistent with previous discussions.

Staff do not believe there to be a strong interest amongst the community in revisiting these discussions. Staff also do not advise that this is the appropriate time to direct organization resources towards these discussions.

It is understood that pedestrian access, ATV and ORV access for medical emergencies is permitted on ABCA-properties in Armstrong East.

ABCA Program Report

To: **Board of Directors**
Date: **November 19, 2026**
From: **Nathan Schoelier, Interim General Manager, Secretary – Treasurer**
Subject: **Current Consultation Opportunities – RCA Transition**
Report Type: **INFORMATION REPORT**

Recommendation:

THAT the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the *Current Consultation Opportunities* report for information as presented.

Background:

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) posted several proposals to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on Thursday, October 22, 2026. The postings include regulatory amendments and proposals, as well as early feedback opportunities. The following legislation is impacted by the proposals:

- Lake Simcoe Protection Act
- Clean Water Act
- Conservation Authorities Act

Bill 143, *A Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026 (No. 2),* was also announced and on November 5, passed its second reading and was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.

Staff intend to provide a subsequent update and recommend next steps at the November 19 Board of Directors meeting. Upon reviewing the information, staff determined that ERO#026-1075, *Discussion questions to seek early input for the development of a future regulation governing watershed councils under the Conservation Authorities Act,* aligns with previously identified priorities of ABCA.

The following table provides an overview of the proposals:

ERO	Proposal	Comments Due
Bill 143	**A Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026 (No. 2)**	**November 18, 2026**
Key Information	• Updated provisions related to the process for the restructuring of CA boundaries should this be considered at a future date	

	• Refinements to direction making powers of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). For example, restricting OPCA from issuing binding direction such as directing a CA to acquire land or appoint or terminate employees • Lieutenant Governor in Council regulation making power to prescribe instances where the minimum of one member appointment to a CA by a participating municipality does not apply • Removal of the requirement that at least 70% of a participating municipality's appointees to a CA are selected from among the members of municipal council • Alignment of the Lake Simcoe Protections Act with Regional CA terminology • Enables Watershed Councils to fulfil the role of Source Protection Committees (SPC)	
#026-1067	**Regulatory Proposal under the Conservation Authorities Act to support the implementation of the Regional Conservation Authority Framework**	**December 6, 2026**
Key Information	• Proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 41/24 that focus on the continuity of technical standards, correction of previous errors, service continuity during and following transition; clarity on regulatory interpretation • Proposed amendments to Budget and Apportionment Regulations that focus on the transition to RCAs and designation of single-tier and upper-tier municipalities as participating municipalities; as well as implement a December 31 deadline for annual budget approval and notification • A proposed new regulation to govern cost recovery from CA's for OPCA's Operational Costs	
#026-1070	**Proposed regulatory changes under the Clean Water Act, 2006, to align with new regional structure of conservation authorities**	**December 6, 2026**
Key Information	• Alignment of the Clean Water Act with the consolidation of CA's under the Conservation Authorities Act • Remove reference to the lead Source Protection Authorities as this role is transferred to the Region upon consolidation • Identify the SPC(s) that each RCA, as the SPA, will be responsible for supporting during the period before watershed councils are established	
#026-1071	**Proposed regulatory amendments under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act to align with regional conservation**	**December 6, 2026**

	authorities	
Key Information	• Alignment of the Lake Simcoe Protections Act with Regional CA terminology	
#026-1075	**Discussion questions to seek early input for the development of a future regulation governing watershed councils under the Conservation Authorities Act**	**December 6, 2026**
Key Information	• The MECP is seeking input on the development of a future regulation under the Conservation Authorities Act for the watershed councils to be established by RCAs • Proposed regulation is expected Spring 2027, followed by a consultation opportunity through the ERO	

The information in this report is based upon the information available as of November 8, 2026, at the time the report was written.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
Our Actions Matter

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2026
Clinton Fire Station, 401 Beech Street Clinton ON

MEMBERS PRESENT
Dave Frayne, Doug Hocking, Roland Howe, Philip Keightley, Carol Leeming, Matt Pearson, Allan Rothwell, Joy Rutherford, John Thompson, Jennette Walker

MEMBERS ABSENT
Mary Ellen Foran, Alyssa Keller, Paul Heffer

LIAISONS PRESENT
Nathan Schoelier – Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (SPA) Liaison
Patrick Landry – Huron Perth Public Health Liaison

LIAISONS ABSENT
Phil Beard – Maitland Valley SPA Liaison

DWSP STAFF PRESENT
Elizabeth Balfour, Abigail Gutteridge, Ellen Westelaken

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Matt Pearson called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. He noted that this was his first SPC meeting following his reappointment as Chair.

AGENDA

MOTION #SPC: 2026-10-01

"That the agenda for the March 25, 2026 meeting be approved."

Carried by Consensus.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPC: 2026-10-02 **Moved by Philip Keightley**
Seconded by Rowland Howe

"THAT the SPC minutes from March 25, 2026 be approved as circulated."

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES
None

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A Letter to Minister McCarthy, Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) from Dick Hibma, Acting Chair of the Saugeen, Gey Sauble and Northern Bruce Peninsula, urging the Province to consider maintaining the Source Protection Program as it is, considering the consolidation of conservation authorities.
2. A Letter to the Province from Lower Trent Source Protection Authority regarding the use of road salt in Ontario.
3. A letter to Matt Pearson from Minister McCarthy, noting his reappointment as Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee.
4. An Email from Leo Luong, Director of the Program Delivery Division of the MECP, noting that the Source Protection Program now falls under this division.
5. An email invitation from Cataraqui Conservation to a webinar regarding road salt use and legislation in Ontario.

CHAIR'S UPDATE
Chair Matt Pearson noted that, while he was not expecting his re-appointment as Chair, it was certainly welcome, and he is glad to be back working with the SPC. He noted that there have been several Chair appointments throughout Ontario, but not many overall.

PROGRAM UPATE
Ellen Westelaken, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Specialist, provided a program update to SPC members. She reminded members about some recent staff

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changes to the program. Donna Clarkson, who worked in DWSP and conservation authorities for 16 years, retired in July 2026, and Elizabeth Balfour returned as DWSP Program Supervisor after finishing her parental leave. Ellen noted that she will be remaining in the DSWP Program as the Specialist and RMO, and that Tim Cumming and Aaron Clarke are also remaining as Communications Specialist and GIS/Database Specialist respectively. As Chair Matt previously mentioned, he received his reappointment from the Province on June 19, 2026, and will remain as Chair of the SPC for a period of two years.

Ellen noted that, with municipal elections being held later this month, municipalities will need to appoint or re-confirm their four representatives on the SPC. Staff will follow up with municipalities following the election to begin this process. Municipal representatives on the SPC may be either elected officials, or an appointed community member. All four current municipal representatives have expressed interest in remaining on the committee if the municipalities within their respective groupings are agreeable to their reappointment.

Ellen reported that staff just submitted an interim report to the Province, covering expenditures from May 1 until August 31. These reports are due every four to five months. The current Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) is in place until March 31, 2027, and staff are waiting on direction from the Province for the next workplan and budget submission. Additionally, a new agreement has also been signed for RMO services for eight municipalities within the Source Protection Region. Staff visited all municipalities in May and June, and all were in agreement to renew these service. This agreement was renewed for three years, and will expire December 31, 2029.

There are several future amendments that will be needed for Source Protection Plans. Technical work is to be completed for the Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) for Harriston and Palmerston, which is part of a larger modelling project for North Wellington. The technical work is expected by the end of the year, and the Town of Minto received funds for the work through the current TPA, and more funds will be disbursed upon the completion of certain deliverables. A new well will be drilled in Atwood this fall, and there will be work to delineate a WHPA in 2027. Depending on timing, an SPP amendment could occur in 2027. The Dundass well system in the Municipality of Central Huron is also being expanded from five to 20 customers, which will subject it to the Clean

Water Act. An initial report for the newly drilled well should be received later in 2026, and will need to be incorporated in the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan.

Finally, Ellen reported that, along with regular social media campaigns and other education and outreach to municipalities, ABCA staff joined Joy Rutherford, SPC member, at the Elementary School Fair in Belgrave. They were demonstrating how water moves through the ground using the groundwater model and the "Great Water Race."

The SPC members had some discussion regarding the continuing work of the Source Protection Committee in light of the changes coming to conservation authorities, and advised staff to draft some wording to post to the website and social media.

MOTION #SPC: 2026-10-02 **Moved by Rowland Howe**
Seconded by Carol Leeming

"That staff be directed to draft wording to promote the ongoing work of the Source Protection Region, circulated it to the SPC, and then post it on the website, as well as social media platforms."

Carried.

CHANGES TO THE CLEAN WATER ACT

Elizabeth Balfour, DWSP Program Supervisor, provided some further updates regarding the changes to the Clean Water Act. She reminded the SPC that amendments were made to the *Clean Water Act* (CWA) and *Safe Drinking Water Act* (SDWA), that took effect July 1, 2026, and a new regulation under the CWA will come into effect January 1, 2027.

Amendment O. Reg.205/18 noted that drinking water systems under the CWA cannot begin supplying drinking water to users until the WHPA/IPZ is added to Source Protection Plans and approved by the Minister. Under new regulations, the Source Protection Authority (SPA) may provide their opinion as to why the prohibition condition in the drinking water license is not needed. The SDWA Director will then use that information to determine whether the prohibition is required. This could be very helpful in getting municipal drinking water to customers in a timely manner.

An amendment to O. Reg 287/06 was expanded to allow Source Protection Plans to be updated for Section 51 amendments without Ministry approval, where a well has been replaced, and only the WHPA-A is changing, and no new threats are identified. Section 34

amendments may also now be approved by the SPA under certain conditions. This can be used for new or altered well systems, as long as no policies are being added to the SPP. Otherwise, the process for these amendments remains largely the same. Finally, standardized language for prescribed instruments has been written under O. Reg 210/26, and will come into effect in the new year.

ONTARIO REGULATION 210/26 – PRESCRIBED INSTRUMENTS

Elizabeth Balfour reported on O. Reg. 210/26 – Prescribed Instruments, which comes into effect on January 1, 2027. A prescribed instrument is a government-issued legal document, such as a permit, license or approval, created under a different act, but can be used under the *Clean Water Act*. Some significant drinking water threats identified through Source Protection Plans (SPPs) are already regulated under another Act or approval system, and the SPPs direct that implementing body to ensure that the activity does not become a drinking water threat. There are some upcoming wording changes for Prescribed Instruments under O. Reg. 210/26. Policies that prohibit an existing threat, must be changed to manage them, but the prohibition of future polices remains. Additionally, any Prescribed Instrument policies for moderate and low threats must now be removed. The ABMV Region has one such threat for future large septic systems that staff will remove from the SPPs. Finally, monitoring policies for Prescribed Instruments must also be removed. These are in relation to the Annual Reporting.

The meeting was paused for a break at 10:42 a.m.

PRESENTATION – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT – JENNETTE WALKER

Jennette Walker, Environment Representative on the SPC, took some time to present about issues surrounding stormwater management, which she encounters regularly with her work at B.M. Ross and Associates Ltd. Jennette went through the basics of the purpose of stormwater management, which deals with both water quantity and water quality. She noted that stormwater management design is important to help with growth in both urban and rural settings. As growth intensifies, there will be more impervious surfaces, which causes more intense runoff. A changing climate can also impact stormwater, with changes to the frequency, intensity and duration of precipitation, wind and heat. There are more conventional types of stormwater management, including source control for initial collection, and then conventional methods involving stormwater ponds. The MECP and Conservation Authorities are now promoting Low Impact Development as part of new or redeveloped sites, and it is anticipated that these approaches will also be adopted into municipal processes for stormwater management.

DRAFT

Philip Keightly left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY AND SECTOR REGISTRY MONITORING POLICY

Elizabeth Balfour provided an update regarding reporting related to stormwater management registrations on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR). As previously reported, certain new stormwater management (SWM) works now register under EASR rather than applying for an Environmental Compliance Approval. The MECP has offered that Source Protection Regions can use a SWM monitoring policy in their SPPs, for those facilities that are a significant drinking water threat, and are eligible for registration on EASR. Registrations in EASR are not reviewed by the MECP, nor are they required to be posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario. However, the Province has indicated that they will implement an auditing process for verifying the information submitted to the registry. There is also a subscription service that will allow DWSP staff to receive notification of registries based on keywords. EASR registrations will not be included in Annual Reporting, as it is not considered a Prescribed Instrument under O. Reg 210/26. However, the Ministry has provided a policy that the MECP will provide a report to the SPA for stormwater management works that meet the criteria for EASR and may be a significant drinking water threat. However, as the existing ABMV prohibition policy for sewage works (including stormwater management) prevents the establishment of new facilities where it would be a significant threat, there should be no works that meet EASR requirements. Therefore, staff are not recommending amending the SPPs to incorporate the new policy. However, it is an option the SPC can consider in the future should the current policy in the SPPs ever change.

SPC MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Joy Rutherford reported that she and Ellen Westelaken attended the Belgrave Elementary School Fair, and that they had good interactions with the children regarding our sources of water and how water travels through the ground and the watershed. John Thompson noted that he attended the anniversary event of the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority at Wawanosh Conservation Area, where the new pavilion, “Phil’s Place” was dedicated to Phil Beard for his many years of work at MVCA.

LIAISON UPDATES

Patrick Landry provided a brief update from Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH). He noted that HPPH once again conducted monitoring at 17 beach locations between June and

August. He also noted that the non-municipal drinking water subgroup, developed from the 2025 audit, has developed some new indicators. Also, the portal for online drinking water testings submissions is running well. He said they still have paper forms, but are actively promoting the online portal.

Nathan Schoelier provided an update on behalf of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. He reported that the consolidation of conservation authorities is still set to happen on February 1, 2027, and that Don Goodyear has been appointed as Project Executive (and future CAO) of the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority. He noted that the Transition Committee has been actively meeting, and that there are several subcommittees comprised of various staff from our six conservation authorities.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is anticipated for March 2027.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Dave Frayne at 12:05 p.m.

Matt Pearson
Chair

Abigail Gutteridge
Secretary

DRAFT

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
Our Actions Matter

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Source Protection Authority Meeting

Thursday, November 19, 2026

11:45 a.m.

Administration Centre Boardroom

Morrison Dam Conservation Area

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda for November 19, 2026
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
4. Adoption of Minutes from April 16, 2026
5. Business Out of the Minutes
6. Program Reports – Elizabeth Balfour
   - Program Update – for Information
   - O. Reg. 210/26 – Prescribed Instruments – for Information
7. Correspondence
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
Our Actions Matter

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Thursday April 16, 2026

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre
Morrison Dam Conservation Area

DIRECTORS PRESENT
Ray Chartrand, Adrian Cornelissen, Steve Herold, Jaden Hodgins (via Zoom), Dave Jewitt, Wayne Shipley, Marissa Vaughan

DIRECTORS ABSENT
Joey Groot, Dave Marsh

STAFF PRESENT
Donna Clarkson, Abbie Gutteridge, Davin Heinbuck, Ellen Westelaken

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Ray Chartrand called the meeting to order at 11:54 a.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION #SPA 04/26 **Moved by Marissa Vaughan**
Seconded by Dave Jewitt

"RESOLVED, THAT the agenda for the April 16, 2026 Source Protection Authority meeting be approved."

Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST
None

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION #SPA 05/26 **Moved by Dave Jewitt**
Seconded by Jaden Hodgins

"RESOLVED, THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Authority meeting held on February 19, 2026 and the motions therein be approved."

Carried.

BUSINESS OUT OF THE MINUTES

None

PROGRAM UPDATE

Donna Clarkson, Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Program Co-Supervisor, noted that a Chair of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) has not yet been appointed, or reappointed, for our Source Protection Region. Fifteen regions are still waiting for Chair appointment. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection region is into the last year of the current workplan and budget. Staff are still waiting to hear about any changes needed to Source Protection Plans regarding changes to wellhead protection areas, such as the Dundass well in Central Huron.

Source Protection staff and Committees are also beginning to consider the potential impacts of the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. At present, Source Protection Regions are based on current conservation authority boundaries. As boundaries change, changes may be needed in the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, if boundaries become realigned with new conservation regions.

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SOURCE PROTECTION PLANS

Donna Clarkson presented the 2025 Annual Progress Report for the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region. The Progress Report came before the SPC at their meeting on March 25, and they recommended it be presented to the Source Protection Authorities for approval for submission to the MECP. Staff compile data that is collected yearly from each implementing body of the Source Protection Plans regarding progress on implementation and compile it into a single report (attached). In summary, it was noted that across all reporting categories the ABMV Region is Progressing Well. Approximately 86% of threats have been addressed throughout the region, and all Official Plan updates have been completed except for one that is in progress. There was one new Risk Management Plan (RMP) in 2025 for salt management, as well as many in progress for salt and fuel threats. In addition, several RMPs were rescinded.

MOTION #SPA 06/26 **Moved by Adrian Cornelissen**
Seconded by Marissa Vaughan

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

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Wayne Shipley adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

_____	_____
Ray Chartrand	Abigail Gutteridge
Chair	Secretary

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
Our Actions Matter

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

To:	Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (AB SPA)
From:	Elizabeth Balfour, DWSP Supervisor
Date:	November 19, 2026
Subject:	Program Update – Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP)

Purpose: For Information

A. Source Protection Committee (SPC)

Chair Appointment

On June 19th, 2026, the Province reappointed Matt Pearson to the position of Chair of the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee (SPC) for a term of two years. Ten positions for SPC Chair remain vacant and/or are waiting for an appointment.

SPC Membership

As required under the Clean Water Act, one-third of the 12 member Source Protection Committee must be filled by municipal representatives. For the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley region, there are four municipal groupings – Central, East, North and South West. Following a municipal election, the municipalities must appoint or re-confirm their representative for the SPC. DWSP staff have contacted all clerks in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Region to inform them that a municipal representative to the Source Protection Committee needs to be chosen for their designated municipal grouping. Municipal representatives can be elected officials or an appointed person.

B. Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) workplan progress

DWSP staff submitted an interim report with financials to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on October 2nd, 2026. The current three-year agreement ends on March 31st, 2027. Staff have received a letter from Leo Luong, the new Director for Source Protection, saying that the ministry will soon be engaging with SPAs on workplans for future funding arrangements, including multi-year agreements. SPAs are being encouraged to begin work planning activities as soon as possible. DWSP staff will begin contacting Public Works staff at municipalities to ask about their 1, 2, and 3 year plans for well systems to assist us in developing a future workplan.

Workplan tasks and expenditures are generally on track. The timelines for completing planned amendments to the source protection plans are delayed, as the municipalities have not yet completed the technical work to identify changes to the wellhead protection areas.

Future Source Protection Plan updates:

- Harriston and Palmerston drinking water systems in the Town of Minto; MVCA: DWSP staff have been informed that the town of Palmerston has will not be drilling a new production well this year due to finances as well as high levels of arsenic in their drilled test wells. An additional well has been drilled for Harriston. Technical work will likely be received at the end of the year or early next year.
- Atwood drinking water system in the Municipality of North Perth; MVCA: North Perth has drilled a new well in Atwood and the municipality anticipates delineating the new wellhead protection area sometime in 2027. Depending on timelines an SPP amendment will likely occur in 2027.
- Dundass well in the Municipality of Central Huron; ABCA: A new well has been drilled next to the existing well and an initial hydrogeological report has been completed. The wellhead protection area delineation is expected by late November/early December. This new well system will need to be incorporated into the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan through an amendment.

C. Risk Management Services Agreement

Through a Risk Management Services agreement, eight municipalities delegate their responsibility under Part IV to Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) and its respective RMO staff. This servicing agreement has been renewed for another 3-year term and will expire December 31st, 2029.

D. Changes to the Clean Water Act, 2006

On June 29, 2026, amendments to O. Reg. 287/07 – General under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (CWA) and O. Reg 205/18 – Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems in Source Protection Areas under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* (SDWA), and a new regulation O. Reg 210/26 under CWA were filed.

On July 1st, 2026, the amendments to O. Reg. 287/07 and O. Reg 205/18 came into effect. The new regulation (O. Reg 210/26) will come into force on January 1st, 2027.

The amendments include the following:

- **Amendment to O. Reg 205/18 – Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems in Source Protection Areas, *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* (in effect)**

  Currently, drinking water systems under the CWA cannot begin supplying drinking water to users until the updated WHPA/IPZ is added to the Source Protection Plan (SPP), and the amendment is approved by the Minister. The Source Protection Authority (SPA) can

now provide their opinion with rationale that the prohibition condition included in the drinking water license is not necessary.

- **Amendment to O. Reg 287/06 – General, *Clean Water Act, 2006* (in effect)**
  - **Section 51** of O. Reg 287/06 under the CWA was expanded to include new situations in which the Source Protection Plan can be updated through an administrative update. Previously, Section 51 amendments included fixing typographical errors or removing decommissioned wells. These amendments do not require Ministry approval. Section 51 amendments can now be used to reflect changes where a well has been replaced and only the WHPA-A is changing and no new threats are identified
  - **Section 34** under the CWA was also amended to allow SPAs to approve SPP amendments, if the update meets certain conditions. It is our understanding that the local SPA approval pathway can be used for new or altered well systems/WHPAs as long as no new policies are being added to the SPP, and the existing policies within the SPP will manage the threats identified in the new/altered well system.

- **Amendment to O. Reg 210/26 – Prescribed Instruments, Clean Water Act, 2006 (not in effect)**
  Standardized language for prescribed instruments has been written in to the regulation. Policies that prohibit an existing threat (none in ABMV) must be changed to manage while prohibition policies of future threats may remain. For policies that manage an existing threat. More information contained in the Prescribed Instruments Report written by DWSP staff.

E. Regulatory Amendments and Proposals under the Clean Water Act, 2006

On October 22, 2026, The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks posted several proposed regulatory proposals to the Environmental Registry of Ontario, including ERO#026-1070 “Proposed regulatory changed under the Clean Water Act, 2006 to align with new regional structure of conservation authorities”.

The proposal includes changes to Ontario Regulation 284/07 and 288/07 under the Clean Water Act.

The proposed amendments to O.Reg 284/07 include:

- Removing references to the predecessor CAs (i.e., the 36 CAs) and lead source protection authorities.
- Adding in reference to the nine regional CAs and the source protection areas that these regional CAs are responsible for as the source protection authority (which would be provided for in the planned statutory amendments).

- For each regional CA, designate, for the purposes of the CWA, the participating municipalities of the regional CA, which will be only single-tier and upper-tier municipalities, to align with changes to the CAA.

The proposed amendments to O.Reg 288/07 include :

- Removing reference to the lead source protection authorities.
- Identifying the source protection committee(s) that each regional conservation authority, as the source protection authority, will be responsible for supporting during the period before watershed councils are established

The planned amendments to the Clean Water Act would maintain the current 19 Source Protection Committees (SPC) until watershed councils are established by the regional CAs, at which point certain SPC responsibilities under the CWA would be fulfilled by watershed councils. As such, the ministry is also seeking early input related to watershed councils through a series of discussion questions (ERO#026-1075). These discussion questions allow for input on transitioning the roles and responsibilities of the SPC to the watershed councils.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
Our Actions Matter

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region

To:	Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority (AB SPA)
From:	Elizabeth Balfour, DWSP Supervisor
Date:	November 19, 2026
Subject:	O. Reg. 210/26 – Prescribed Instruments

Purpose: For Information

To provide an overview of the new Prescribed Instrument Regulation and its effects on the ABMV Source Protection Plans.

A. Background

Overview of Prescribed Instruments

A prescribed instrument is a government-issued legal document, such as a permit, license, or approval, that has been designated as a "prescribed instrument" for the purposes of the *Clean Water Act*. The instrument (i.e., permit) itself is issued or created under another Act or its regulations. Source Protection Plans contain policies that protect drinking water from activities that are identified as significant drinking water threats (SWDT). For those activities already regulated under another Act or approval system, a prescribed instrument policy in the SPP directs the implementing body (i.e., Ministry) to make a decision about the activity in a way that ensures the activity does not become or ceases to be a significant drinking water threat.

B. Amendment to O. Reg 210/26 – Prescribed Instruments, *Clean Water Act, 2006*

O. Reg 210/26 is a new regulation under the *Clean Water Act (CWA)* and was filed on June 29th, 2026, alongside amendments to O. Reg. 287/07 – General (CWA) and O. Reg 205/18 – Municipal Residential Drinking Water Systems in Source Protection Areas under the *Safe Drinking Water Act*, 2002 (SDWA). While this specific regulation will come into force on January 1st, 2027, staff will have until June 30th, 2027 to complete the necessary work discussed below and post the amended Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan (AB SPP) and Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan (MV SPP) to the sourcewater.on.ca website. Staff have begun to undertake this regulatory amendment in accordance with direction from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

Prescribed Instrument Policy Wording Changes

Under O. Reg 210/26, policies that prohibit an existing threat (none in ABMV) must be changed to manage while prohibition policies of future threats may remain. For policies that manage an existing threat, the wording for the policy has been standardized and written directly into the

regulation. As an example, for ABMV, the PI policy for sewage systems or sewage works currently reads:

> **Policy RAC.4.6 –** *Within three years of the Plan coming into effect the MECP shall review and amend as required, all existing Environmental Compliance Approvals issued sewage systems and sewage works where they are a significant drinking water threat.*
>
> *For full circumstance details refer to the Tables of Drinking Water Threats in the Technical Rules.*
>
> *The Environmental Compliance Approval shall include terms and conditions which when implemented will adequately manage the risk to sources of municipal drinking water.*

Following the language provided in the new regulation, the policy will now read:

> **Policy RAC.4.6 -** *Where [**sewage systems or sewage works**] are a significant drinking water threat [**in a wellhead protection area with a vulnerability score of 10**] and where the activity is governed by [**an Environmental Compliance Approval**] the [**Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks**] shall ensure that every decision to issue, otherwise create or amend the [**Environmental Compliance Approval**] is designed to achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 2 of subsection 22 (2) of the Act.*

Note: items that are bold and contained within the square brackets are to be adjusted; all other text to remain unchanged.

Additional changes under the Prescribed Instrument Regulation

- PI policies for moderate and low threats must be removed. ABMV has one mod/low threat for future large septic systems and staff will remove it from the AB SPP and the MV SPP.
- Monitoring policies for PIs (which are in relation to Annual Reporting) must be removed. The new regulation includes a section to address Annual Reporting with reporting requirements written directly into the regulation, as such the monitoring policy is no longer required. Staff will remove the policy accordingly.

Provincial Direction and Plan Revisions

As directed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, staff will amend the prescribed instrument policies in the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Plan and the Maitland Valley Source Protection Plan. The revised Plans will be posted to the ABMV Source Water website by June 30, 2027 to meet the requirements of O.Reg 210/26.

Recommendation: That the Ausable Bayfield Source Protection Authority receive the report "O. Reg. 210/26 – Prescribed Instruments" as information.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Great Lakes and Inland Waters Branch
8th Floor
40 St. Clair Avenue
Toronto ON M4V 1M2

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Direction des Grands Lacs et des eaux intérieures
8e étage
40, avenue St. Clair
Toronto (Ontario) M4V 1M2

Ontario

November 4, 2026

Angela M. Coleman
Chief Administrative Officer/General Manager
Conservation Ontario
120 Bayview Parkway
Newmarket, ON L3Y 3W3

Re: Drinking Water Source Protection Updates and Regulatory Changes under the Clean Water Act, 2006

Dear Ms. Coleman,

Thank you for your letter dated October 14, 2026 regarding implementation of the new Minister's regulation under the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (CWA), O. Reg. 210/26, and funding arrangements supporting source protection program delivery. We appreciate the continued collaboration of Conservation Ontario and source protection authorities (SPAs) in protecting existing and future sources of drinking water across Ontario.

Source Protection Plan Amendments Related to O. Reg. 210/26

The ministry recognizes the implementation challenges related to the need for coordinated provincial guidance to assist SPAs with this exercise. In consideration of these circumstances, I am granting an extension to the deadline for all SPAs to complete the required source protection plan amendments set out in subsections 1(2), 2(1), and 3(2) of O. Reg. 210/26. The new deadline for these required amendments will be June 30, 2027. However, it is important to note that unlike amendments that are proposed and then approved by a source protection authority under section 34 of the CWA, the amendments set out under O. Reg. 210/26 are required to be made in order to ensure that source protection plans comply with the recent statutory amendments and the new regulation. The amendments that are required to be made under O. Reg. 210/26 are not required to be brought to the members of the source protection authority for their consideration and a vote. However, staff may keep the members of the source protection authority apprised of the work staff is doing to carry out the reviews of and changes to policies mandated by O. Reg. 210/26.

The ministry acknowledges that some SPAs may be in a position to complete their review and amendments required under O. Reg. 210/26 before June 30, 2027. SPAs are encouraged to proceed with the required amendments as soon as they are able. As of January 1, 2027, only the types of prescribed instrument policies that are set out in s. 22(8.1) of the CWA will be allowed to be included in source protection plans, and only those types of prescribed instrument policies will have legal effect going forward, even if existing prescribed instrument policies remain in a source protection plan until the necessary amendments are made to remove or adjust those policies in accordance with O. Reg. 210/26. Starting January 1, 2027, decision makers for prescribed instruments will be required to comply with their obligations set out in the new s. 42.1 of the CWA.

Transfer Payment Agreements
Thank you for your feedback regarding the next transfer payment agreements (TPAs) for source protection program delivery.

Maintaining the strong safeguards in place to protect sources of drinking water is a guiding principle of this consolidation of conservation authorities and is a government priority. As such, the ministry will continue to provide funding to support source water protection across the province, including to conservation authorities for source protection programs.

We recognize the importance of funding certainty and program stability to support conservation authorities and SPAs as they continue to deliver source protection responsibilities while preparing for the transition to a regional framework. We appreciate your input regarding the potential benefits of extending existing agreements and the importance of timely funding decisions for budget planning, staffing, and ongoing program delivery.

The ministry will soon be engaging SPAs on work planning activities to inform options for future funding arrangements, including multi-year agreements. As part of this work, we are considering the operational realities and transition-related risks identified by stakeholders. We encourage SPAs to begin work planning activities as early as possible to help facilitate future agreement development.

We also recognize that organizations will be managing multiple priorities during this period of change. The ministry intends to continue engaging with stakeholders to better understand transition-related considerations and implementation challenges.

Thank you again for your letter and for the ongoing efforts of Conservation Ontario, SPAs, source protection committees, municipalities, and other partners in implementing Ontario's source water protection program. We look forward to continuing to work together to protect sources of drinking water and support effective implementation of the CWA.

Sincerely,

Leo Luong
Director, Great Lakes and Inland Waters Branch
Program Delivery Division

Cc: CA Members of the Joint Advisory Committee
Wendy Lavender, Manager, Source Protection Section, GLIWB
Sue Edwards, Manager, Technical and Program Delivery Section, GLIWB