

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH REGULAR LAKEHEAD SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

Minutes of the Seventy-Fifth Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee held on March 5, 2025, at the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and via Microsoft Teams (virtual). The Chair called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lucy Kloosterhuis, Chair  
Chris Bowles  
Walter Turek  
Ashleigh Marchl (virtual)  
Bernie Kamphof (virtual)  
Mike Fabius (virtual)  
Shanley Thompson (virtual)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None.

**LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tammy Cook, CAO, LRCA  
Bill Potruff, Thunder Bay District Health Unit

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager/ DWSP Project Manager  
Melanie O’Riley, Administrative Clerk, recorder of Minutes  
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager, IT operations

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA BY CONSENSUS**

Agenda adopted by consensus.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Seventy-Fourth Regular Meeting held on March 11, 2024 were adopted by consensus.

## **7. SOURCE PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION – TBDHU UPDATE**

With permission from the Committee Item 7 Source Protection Implementation – Update from Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) was brought forward as there was a schedule conflict.

It was noted that TBDHU completed three septic system inspections in 2023; all three advanced treatment septic systems were found to be non-compliant with the Manufacturer Annual Inspection and Maintenance requirements outlined in the Ontario Building Code. TBDHU reported that two of the three systems have been resolved in 2024 with one requiring follow-up investigations in 2025. TBDHU is working with the manufacturers and property owners to work towards compliance. Thirteen (13) septic inspections occurred in 2024. There has been no evidence of sewage system failure.

## **4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### Best Practices Campaign

It was noted that the Drinking Water Source Protection Best Practices project was finalized. Additional funding was received from MECP in late 2024. LRCA staff developed three fact sheets; Best Practices: Caring for Wells & Conventional Septic Systems; Drinking Water Source Protection - Private Wells; and Drinking Water Source Protection – Septic Systems. The fact sheets and private well drinking water sampling kits have been made available to the public at LRCA community events, and copies of the fact sheets were distributed to member municipalities for their use.

### Proposed Lithium Hydroxide Processing Facility – IPZ-1/IPZ-2

It was noted that there are no new updates to the proposed Lithium Hydroxide Processing Facility.

### Hydro One Expansion Project

It was noted that construction is anticipated to begin in 2026 on the Hydro One expansion project to the Hydro One Port Arthur Transmission Station at Bare Point Road next to the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant.

### Proposed Phase Out of Free Water Testing for Private Wells

Members were advised that in April 2024 Health Minister Sylvia Jones stated that the province would continue to provide free private well water testing for the presence of bacterial indicators of contamination (i.e. E. coli and total coliform).

## Lakeshore Developments

It was noted that Lakeshore Developments had proposed a Vacant Land Condominium. Shuniah Council denied the application and associated Zoning By-Law amendments. The Applicant appealed the Notice of Decision and had a hearing with the Ontario Land Tribunal scheduled for April 2025 which has been deferred to September 2025. Tammy Cook, CAO of the LRCA, will be attending the Hearing on behalf of the LRCA with respect to Plan Review comments that were provided to the Municipality of Shuniah. LRCA has concerns with the proposed lot sizes within LRCAs regulated area. Walter Turek noted that the City of Thunder Bay has concerns with the emerging issue of blue-green algae and septic systems.

## Arsenic Rosslyn Village Municipal Drinking Water System

A verbal update was provided by Chris Bowles, Director of Operations, Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, related to the arsenic in the Rosslyn Village Municipal Drinking Water System. Slightly elevated levels of arsenic are still present in the drinking water system. The Municipality is working on installing an arsenic treatment system. Mike Fabius questioned if there had been any confirmation on the source of the arsenic. Bernie Kamphoff explained that the arsenic source is considered to be naturally occurring. It was further noted that the Ontario Drinking Water Standard (ODWS) for arsenic changed from 0.025 mg/L to 0.010 mg/L (*Post Meeting Note: this change happened on January 1, 2018*); this change has led to an arsenic treatment system being required to ensure that arsenic concentrations found in the Rosslyn Village drinking water are below the 0.010 mg/L ODWS.

The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge confirmed that there are currently 32 users on the Municipal Drinking Water System, and there are 25 septic systems within WHPA-A.

## **5. MECP LIAISON'S UPDATE**

It was noted that Monika Lemke (Program Analyst), from the MECP's Conservation and Source Protection Branch was unavailable to provide an update from MECP.

## **6. SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM**

### Source Protection Funding

It was noted that the 2024-2027 transfer payment agreement (TPA) for the Lakehead drinking water source protection program was finalized in July 2024 with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Source Protection Branch. This is the first time in the history of the program that there has been a 3-year agreement.

## **7. SOURCE PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION**

### Implementing Bodies Annual Reports

It was noted that the two Implementing Bodies of the Lakehead Source Protection Plan (SPP), the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, submitted their Annual Reports on January 3, 2025 and January 14, 2025, respectively. It was noted that the

LRCA also completes a comprehensive summary of the program to date in a detailed report using a format developed by LRCA staff. Both reports will be posted on the LRCA website once approved by the Lakehead Source Protection Authority.

Staff reviewed the submitted annual reports and concluded that both Implementing Bodies have met the requirements of the Plan to date.

### Tenth Annual Lakehead Source Protection Plan Reporting

It was noted that the tenth annual progress report has been prepared for submission by the Lakehead Source Protection Authority (LSPA) for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, utilizing the prepared templates from MECP. It was noted that the LSPA also completes a comprehensive summary of the program to date in a detailed report using a format developed by LRCA staff. Both reports will be posted on the LRCA website once approved by the LSPA.

It is requested that all SPC written comments be received at the LRCA by April 17, 2025 for consideration to be included in the Annual Report. Staff will be presenting the final Annual Report to the SPA for adoption at the April 30, 2025, Board Meeting. Final comments or edits will be incorporated into the report with submission to the MECP prior to May 1, 2025.

### Section 36 Updates

The proposed Section 36 updates were discussed. The updates consist of minor administrative updates to the Source Protection Plan (SPP) policies. It was discussed at the March 11, 2024 SPC Meeting that the updates to the policies in the source protection plan as summarized in the Section 36 Workplan would be completed pending available funding. Funding was secured in the 2024-2027 TPA and therefore the SPC will proceed with the Section 36 updates.

Melissa Hughson, Program Manager of the Lakehead DWSP program explained that further review of the Source Protection Plan will be completed to ensure a comprehensive update is undertaken while the opportunity exists.

A SPC meeting will be held in the fall of 2025 to discuss and approve proposed changes to the Source Protection Plan and policies under Section 36 prior to initiating public consultation.

## **8. SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

### Committee Procedural Manual

It was noted that Staff updated the Drinking Water Source Protection SPC Procedural Manual in 2023. Updates included the allowance of members to participate electronically in SPC meetings and administrative changes related to the source protection website, notice of meetings, and member term of appointment. The procedural manual was forwarded to members upon approval by the SPA in April 2024.

Prior to the meeting, Mike Fabius had provided a couple of comments regarding the updated manual including announcement of the SPC meetings as well as the public being able to attend virtually. The Program Manager will review these two items prior to the next meeting.

## SPC Membership

It was noted that there were no changes to the SPC membership during 2024. The SPC Chair term expires August 20, 2025 as determined by the Minister of the MECP, and the remaining SPC members term expire November 30, 2026.

### **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

### **10. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

### **11. OPEN DISCUSSION**

None.

### **12. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for the fall of 2025 (date to be determined). It was noted that two SPC Meetings will be held in 2025.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT BY CONSENSUS**

Meeting adjourned by consensus at 10:37 a.m.