

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

Minutes of the Seventy-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee held on March 12, 2026, at the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority and via Microsoft Teams (virtual).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Bowles, Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge
Walter Turek, City of Thunder Bay
Ashleigh Marchl (virtual), Industrial Representative
Bernie Kamphof, Agricultural Representative, Acting Chair
Mike Fabius (virtual), General Public Representative
Shanley Thompson (virtual), Environmental Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bill Potruff (Liaison Member), Thunder Bay District Health Unit
Monika Lemke (Program Analyst) Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Source Protection Branch

LIAISON MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tammy Cook, CAO, LRCA

ALSO PRESENT:

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

1. VACANCY OF SPC CHAIR

The term of the Source Protection Committee (SPC) Chair (Lucy Kloosterhuis) expired on August 20, 2025. The Chair of the SPC can only be appointed or re-appointed by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks. At the time of the meeting, a Chair for the Lakehead SPC had not been appointed, therefore an election was held for the committee to elect an Acting Chair. The election process followed the Procedure for Election of Acting Chair developed by Lakehead Source Protection program staff; the document was provided to SPC members in the Agenda package.

As outlined in the Procedure for Election of an Acting Chair, Melissa Hughson, Lakehead's Source Protection Program Manager, assumed the position of Chair for the purpose of the election of the Acting Chair.

2. ELECTION OF SCRUTINEER

In the event of an election, SPC members appointed Ryan Mackett Communication Manager of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority as scrutineer.

***THAT:** Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager be appointed as scrutineer of the March 12, 2026 election for Acting Chair of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee.*

Motion: #01/26

Motion moved by Ashley Marchl motion seconded by Walter Turek. **CARRIED.**

3. NOMINATIONS FOR SPC ACTING CHAIR

The Program Manager, Election Chair, requested nominations for the position of Acting Chair a first time.

Chris Bowles nominated Bernie Kamphof for the position of Acting Chair.

Nominations for the position of Acting Chair were requested a second time by the Election Chair.

Bernie Kamphof nominated Chris Bowles for the position of Acting Chair.

Nominations for the position of Acting Chair were called a third time. No nominations were made for the third call. Nominations were closed after the third call for nominations.

***THAT:** the nominations for the position of Acting Chair be closed.*

Motion: #02/26

Motion moved by Mike Fabius and motion seconded by Shanley Thompson. **CARRIED.**

4. ELECTION OF SPC ACTING CHAIR

The nominees were asked if they would like to have their names stand for the position of Acting Chair.

Nominee #1 Bernie Kamphof agreed to have his name stand for the position of Acting Chair.

Nominee #2 Chris Bowles did not agree to have his name stand for the position of Acting Chair.

A Motion was put forward to elect Bernie Kamphof as Acting Chair.

***THAT:** Bernie Kamphof is elected as Acting Chair of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee until such time as the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks appoints a new Chair, or the Source Protection Committee membership expires.*

Motion: #03/26

Motion moved by Ashley Marchl and motion seconded by Chris Bowls. **CARRIED.**

Bernie Kamphof, newly elected Acting Chair of the SPC, Chaired the remainder of the SPC meeting.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda adopted by consensus.

6. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Lakehead Source Protection Committee (SPC) Seventy-Fifth Regular Meeting held on March 5, 2025 were adopted as published, by consensus.

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

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

It was noted that there was no additional information related to the proposed lithium hydroxide processing facility near Bare Point since the last meeting. A Feasibility Study is currently underway and is anticipated to be completed by early 2027.

Hydro One Expansion Project

Hydro One is planning an expansion project to the Hydro One Port Arthur Transmission Station at 170 Bare Point Road next to Bare Point Water Treatment Plant. Walter Turek, City of Thunder Bay, noted that construction commenced in late fall of 2025.

LRCA staff received correspondence and had follow up discussions with Synergy North in July 2025 regarding the project; as requested by staff, Synergy North reviewed the list of 22 drinking water threats and confirmed that the work would not entail activities considered a drinking water threat.

Lakeshore Developments

The proposed Lakeshore Developments project is still in the planning process with lots proposed with private septic's within IPZ-1. Shuniah Council denied the application for Vacant Land Condominium and associated Zoning By-law amendments at their February 27, 2024 council meeting. The Applicant appealed the Notice of Decision. A hearing with the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) took place in September 2025. The OLT ordered the application undergo mediation, which is currently underway. It was noted that Tammy Cook, CAO, is participating in the mediation on behalf of the LRCA. Staff will continue to stay apprised of the project.

Arsenic Rosslyn Village Municipal Drinking Water System

A verbal update was provided by Chris Bowles, Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge, related to the arsenic in the Rosslyn Village Municipal Drinking Water System. The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge installed an arsenic treatment system in 2025; sampling is currently underway to ensure that the newly installed system is operating as required (removal of arsenic). Once samples confirm arsenic levels less than 0.010 mg/L as per the Ontario Drinking Water Standard (ODWS), the TBDHU will terminate the drinking water advisory related to arsenic.

9. MECP LIAISON'S UPDATE

It was noted that Monika Lemke, Program Analyst, from the MECP's Conservation and Source Protection Branch was unavailable to attend the meeting. In an email provided to the Source Water Protection Manager, Melissa Hughson, it was noted that regional consolidation of Ontario's thirty-six conservation authorities is planned to move forward. Provincially mandated programs, including drinking water source protection under the *Clean Water Act* will continue. Melissa further noted that there will be consequential amendments to the *Clean Water Act* required due to the proposed regional consolidation.

10. SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM

Source Protection Funding

It was noted that Lakehead's Source Protection Program is approaching the third year of its funding agreement with MECP. Work for the section 36 update has evolved from Lakehead's original workplan. Additional funds and resources are required to complete a full comprehensive update to the Assessment Report (AR) and the Source Protection Plan (SPP) to ensure that the documents align with the 2021 technical rules. Staff are in consultation with MECP to amend the TPA to hire a consultant to complete the section 36 update.

11. 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 5, 2026 and January 23, 2026, respectively.

It was noted that the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge had no Official Plan or Zoning By-Law amendment applications with respect to WHPA-A in 2025. The TBDHU reported that there were no septic system inspections undertaken in 2025; all 25 on-site sewage treatments systems within WHPA-A have had an initial inspection as well as follow up inspections. No sewage system failures have been detected to date. During 2023 inspections, three (3) systems of concern were identified as being out of compliance with maintenance requirements for Advance Sewage Treatment systems as outlined in Section 8.9.2 of the Ontario Building Code. Two of the three

systems of concern have been resolved; the maintenance status of one (1) advanced sewage treatment system remains to be determined through consultation with the maintenance providers and the system owner; the TBDHU will follow up with the property owner in 2026. It was noted that the liaison member for TBDHU was unable to attend the meeting, however, they didn't have any updates for the SPC.

Staff have reviewed the 2025 reports and have concluded that the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit have met the requirements of the Plan to date.

Eleventh Annual Lakehead Source Protection Plan Reporting

It was noted that the eleventh annual progress report has been prepared for submission by the Lakehead Source Protection Authority (LSPA) for the period of January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025, utilizing the prepared templates from MECP. It was noted that the Lakehead SPA 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 SPA.

It was requested that all SPC written comments be received at the LRCA by April 9, 2026, 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 29, 2026, SPA Board Meeting. Final comments or edits will be incorporated into the report with submission to the MECP prior to May 1, 2026.

It was noted that MECP implemented changes to the Electronic Annual Reporting (EAR) system in 2025/2026. Implementing bodies are now able to enter annual reporting directly to the EAR; however, Lakehead SPA staff will continue to receive template reporting from the implementing bodies and enter the required information on their behalf. EAR generated reporting was not yet finalized at the time of the SPC meeting, however, information was entered based on the annual reporting received from both the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the TBDHU. Information entered into EAR reflects that the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit have met the requirements of the Plan to date.

Section 36 Updates

It was noted that the Lakehead's Section 36 Workplan submitted to MECP on April 25, 2023 proposed minor updates to the Source Protection Plan (SPP) policies. At the last SPC meeting held March 5, 2025, it was discussed that a more comprehensive update to the SPP would be undertaken.

Since the last meeting (March 2025), staff have been advised that the Assessment Report also requires a comprehensive update to ensure the document addresses and follows the 2021 technical rules. MECP is receptive to hiring a consultant to help with the revised scope of work and is reviewing options to amend Lakehead's current TPA to help support the work.

Placement of Buoy's (Lake Superior Intake) - General Interest

Photos of the buoy's placed in 2025 at the Lake Superior intake for the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant were shared during the meeting.

12. SOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

SPC Chair

It was noted that the SPC Chair term expired on August 20, 2025. The Chair of the SPC can only be appointed or re-appointed by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks. In the absence of an appointed Chair, the SPC elected Bernie Kamphof as Acting Chair at the beginning of the meeting, who will assume all powers and duties of the Chair until such time as a Chair is appointed by the Minister, or the membership term on the SPC expires.

Non-municipal SPC Members

It was noted that the non-municipal SPC members' term will expire November 30, 2026. Source protection staff will be undergoing the process to fill the positions in the fall of 2026.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that the 2024-2025 Chief Drinking Water Inspector Annual Report and the 2025 Minister's Annual Report on Drinking Water can be found by visiting the following website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/drinking-water>. It was noted that neither Bare Point Water Treatment Plant, nor the Rosslyn Village Subdivision Water Treatment Plant are specifically mentioned within either report. The data associated with both reports is available from Ontario's Data Catalogue: <https://data.ontario.ca/dataset/drinking-water-quality-and-enforcement>

Bare Point Road DWS Annual Inspection Report 2025-2026

Members were provided with the Bare Point Water Treatment Plant Annual Inspection Report 2025-2026. It was noted that there were no instances of non-compliance or non-conformance, and records showed that all water sample results met the Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards (ODWQS).

Rosslyn Village Subdivision DWS 2025-26 Inspection Report

Members were provided with the Rosslyn Village Subdivision Drinking Water System 2025-2026 Inspection Report. It was noted that there was one incidence of non-compliance related to the required immediate verbal notification requirements for adverse water quality incidents. Corrective actions have been undertaken.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Drinking Water Protection Zone Signage

Drinking water source protection zone signage was developed through education and outreach initiatives as source protection plans were being approved to help bring awareness about our drinking water sources in Ontario. The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge advised that there are currently four signs installed within or near the wellhead protection area (WHPA). There are no signs installed at Bare Point Water Treatment Plant within the intake protection zone (IPZ). It is up to the municipality to install signage.

Drinking Water Advisory

A Drinking Water Advisory Notice was issued by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) on February 11, 2026 to notify residents using the Rosslyn Village Subdivision Drinking Water System that recent water samples had indicated sodium levels to exceed 20 mg/l which is a concern for people who are on a sodium restricted diet.

The Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge explained that sodium levels have always been above 20 mg/l; the exceedance was highlighted during the five-year inspection cycle. The Notice is an advisory for those that have adverse health effects to elevated levels of sodium in their day to day lives. No corrective action or increased frequency of testing is being entertained at this time.

Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

Members were provided with an update on the proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities. The LRCA will remain a stand-alone Region and become the Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority.

15. OPEN DISCUSSION

No comments.

16. NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2027. A meeting may be held prior to that to review draft section 36 updates to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan; date to be determined.

17. ADJOURNMENT BY CONSENSUS

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