September LRCA Board Meeting

Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams
2026-09-23 16:30 - 18:00 EDT

Table of Contents

1. CALL TO ORDER

Declaration: “The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority respectfully acknowledges that the lands on which we live and work are the traditional lands of the Anishinabek Nation and the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation, signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

As partners in the conservation and protection of the Lakehead Watershed along with First Nations communities, the Métis Nation of Ontario, and other Indigenous peoples, the LRCA is committed to the common vision of a healthy, safe and sustainable Lakehead Watershed.”

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

THAT: the Agenda is adopted as published.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.....3

THAT: the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Eighth Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, be adopted as published.

08-26-26 Minutes.pdf.....3

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

There will be no In-Camera meeting.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1. OPCA letter re: Board Governance during Election.....9

CA Board Governance, OPCA letter dated September 9, 2026.pdf.....9

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Drinking Water Source Protection - General Update.....10

THAT: Staff Report SWP-03-2026 titled 'Drinking Water Source Protection – General Update' be received for information.

SWP-03-2026 - DWSP - General Update.pdf.....10

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report.....41

Monthly Financial Report.pdf.....41

9.2. Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities - September Update

A verbal update will be provided.

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS.....42

THAT: having examined the accounts for the period August 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026 cheque #3934 to #3954 for $55,872.78 and preauthorized payments of $177,651.22 for a total of $235,524.00, we approve their payment.

Passing of Accounts August.pdf.....42

11. REGULATORY ROLE

Plan Review program comments and Section 28 permits issued since last meeting summaries.

11.1. Plan Review Commenting Summary.....43

Plan Input and Review Monthly Summary, August 2026.pdf.....43

Plan Input and Review Monthly Summary, September 1 to 17 2026.pdf.....44

11.2. Section 28 Permit Summary.....45

September 2026, Monthly Permit Summary.pdf.....45

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

12.1. Communications Manager Projects Update.....46

Communications Manager September 2026 Agenda Project Update.pdf.....46

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update.....48

Lands Manager September 2026 Agenda Project Update.pdf.....48

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update.....49

Watershed Manager September 2026 Agenda Project Update.pdf.....49

13. NEW BUSINESS

14. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: the time being _____ AND FURTHER THAT there being no further business we adjourn.

August LRCA Board Meeting
Lakehead Region Conservation Authority
August 26, 2026, at 4:30 PM
130 Conservation Road/Microsoft Teams

Members Present:
Robert Beatty, Donna Blunt, Dan Calvert, Sheelagh Hendrick, Greg Johnsen, Brian Kurikka, Jim Vezina

Members Not Present:
Albert Aiello, Grant Arnold, Rudy Buitenhuis, Trevor Giertuga

Also Present:
Tammy Cook, Chief Administrative Officer
Mark Ambrose, Finance Manager
Ryne Gilliam, Lands Manager
Melissa Hughson, Watershed Manager
Ryan Mackett, Communications Manager
Melanie O'Riley, Administrative Clerk/Receptionist, recorder of Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

THAT: *the Agenda be adopted as published.*

Motion: #84/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Greg Johnsen. ***CARRIED.***

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT: *the Minutes of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority Sixth Regular Meeting held on Thursday, June 25, 2026 be adopted as published.*

Motion: #85/26

Motion moved by Greg Johnsen and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. ***CARRIED.***

5. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

No In-Camera meeting was held.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

None.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area Deputation Considerations

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CONAREA-02-2026 related to the Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area Deputation provided by Gary Ramsdale at the June 25, 2026 Board Meeting.

THAT: *Staff Report CONAREA-02-2026 entitled Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area Deputation Considerations* ***AND FURTHER THAT*** *the staff recommendations in the report are approved.*

Motion: #86/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Greg Johnsen. ***CARRIED.***

8.2. Traffic Counter Report – 2025

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CONAREA-03-2026 related to the 2025 Traffic Counter Report. It was noted that approximately 39% of visitors pay the parking fee/day use fee via pay and display, coin box, online or Explore Card. It was also noted that revenue had decreased by 7% compared to 2024.

THAT: *the Staff Report CONAREA-03-2026 entitled Traffic Counter Report-2025 be received for information.*

Motion: #87/26

Motion moved by Greg Johnsen and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. ***CARRIED.***

8.3. Neebing McIntyre Floodway Vegetation Clearing and Site Grading - Consultant Services Award

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report NMFC-03-2026 related to the Neebing/McIntyre Floodway Vegetation Clearing and Site Grading Project. As per Resolution #79/26, the Chief Administrative Officer had awarded the Contract for the Design, Tender and Contract Administration of the 2026 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Channel Vegetation Removal project to North Rock Engineering.

THAT: *for information and as per Resolution #79/26, the Chief Administrative Officer has awarded the Contract for the Design, Tender and Contract Administration of the 2026 Neebing-McIntyre Floodway Diversion Channel Vegetation Removal project to North Rock Engineering.*

Motion: #88/26

Motion moved by Sheelagh Hendrick and motion seconded by Greg Johnsen. ***CARRIED.***

8.4. Current River Floodplain Mapping - Proposal to Combine Phase I and Phase II in 2026

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FPMAP-02-2026 related to the Current River Floodplain Mapping, with Phase I and Phase II being completed together. It was noted that completing Phase I and Phase II combined would result in approximately a $25,000.00 (not including HST) cost saving.

THAT: *Phase I and Phase II of the Current River Floodplain Mapping study be completed in conjunction for a total cost of $232,048.00, not including HST.*

Motion: #89/26

Motion moved by Greg Johnsen and motion seconded by Sheelagh Hendrick. ***CARRIED.***

9. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

9.1. Monthly Treasurer's Report

Members were provided with the Monthly Treasurer's Report for June’s Administration and Capital.

9.2. Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities - August Update

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report CORP-07-2026 related to the Consolidation of Conservation Authorities August Update. It was noted that OPCA has hired 8 Project Executives to lead the consolidation of the 8 other regional Conservation Authorities. It was noted that Tammy Cook, CAO, will fill the role of both Project Executive and local CAO for the LRCA during the transition to NWORCA.

Members reviewed and discussed the LRCA's comments on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Posting #026-0740 which was included in the Staff Report CORP-07-2026. Comments will be submitted supporting the proposed NWORCA Board Structure.

THAT: *Report CORP-07-2026 entitled Consolidation of Conservation Authorities August Update, be received for information.*

Motion: #90/26

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. ***CARRIED.***

THAT: *proposed LRCA comments on Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Posting #026-0740 included in report CORP-07-2026 are approved* ***AND FURTHER THAT*** *the comments will be posted on the ERO.*

Motion: #91/26

Motion moved by Jim Vezina and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. ***CARRIED.***

9.3. 2027 Draft Budget

Members reviewed and discussed Staff Report FIN-10-2026 related to LRCA's 2027 draft budget, for consultation purposes. The 2027 Draft Budget proposed a 4.07% increase to levy-all compared to 2026, with the City's projected increase including their sole-benefitting levy at 11.17%. It was noted that the increase to the City of Thunder Bay is primarily due to recovering floodplain mapping fees paid by the LRCA to complete City of Thunder Bay requested updates to the Current River Floodplain Mapping. The final budget will be considered at the November Meeting. The Draft Budget will be distributed to all Member Municipalities.

THAT*: the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority approves the 2027 Draft Budget, Version 1.0, dated August 26, 2026, for consultation purposes.*

Motion: #92/26

Motion moved by Robert Beatty and motion seconded by Jim Vezina. ***CARRIED.***

10. PASSING OF ACCOUNTS

THAT: *having examined the accounts for the period June 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026 cheque #3880 to #3902 for $143,403.19 and preauthorized payments of $174,642 for a total of $318,045.19, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #93/26

Motion moved by Jim Vezina and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. ***CARRIED.***

THAT: *having examined the accounts for the period July 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026 cheque #3903 to #3933 for $174,946.14 and preauthorized payments of $185,528.41 for a total of $360,474.55, we approve their payment.*

Motion: #94/26

Motion moved by Brian Kurikka and motion seconded by Robert Beatty. ***CARRIED.***

11. REGULATORY ROLE

Members were provided with the Plan Review program comments and Section 28 permits issued since last meeting.

12. PROJECTS UPDATE

12.1. Communications Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the Mills Block Conservation Area Grand Re-Opening was well attended and a huge success with the LRCA Chair and CAO, MPP Kevin Holland, Mayor Ken Boscoff, Paul Pepe all participating in the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

It was noted that all 10 Conservation Areas have new merchandise available for sale online or in person at the LRCA's Administrative Office.

It was noted that Silver Harbour Day was cancelled due to lack of participating organizations and staff capacity.

It was noted that the 2026 Little Trout Bay Fish Derby was a huge success with 27 teams registered. It was also noted that the number of spectators coming out for the weight-in has been steadily increasing over the last 3 years.

It was noted that the Communications Manager and Lands Manager will attend the Lakehead University student orientation on September 3, 2026.

It was noted that the LRCA will host a Tequila Tasting Fundraising Event at Whitewater Golf Course on October 9, 2026.

12.2. Lands Manager Projects Update

Members were provided with an update on the completed Mills Block Conservation Area Re-Development project.

It was noted that trail brushing was completed Wishart Conservation Area and Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area.

12.3. Watershed Manager Projects Update

It was noted that the Neebing-McIntyre Floodway annual inspection was conducted on July 24, 2026, with the City of Thunder Bay.

It was noted that the LRCA hosted a regional Water Day in conjunction with the Ontario Hydrometric Program Coordinating Committee.

It was noted that a Level I Low Water Condition was declared on August 17, 2026.

12.4. Stewardship Manager/Biologist Projects Update

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Members were advised that the LRCA will be changing their benefit provider on October 1, 2026.

14. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

THAT: *the time being 5:34 p.m.* ***AND FURTHER THAT*** *there being no further business we adjourn.*

Motion: #95/26

Motion moved by Robert Beatty and motion seconded by Brian Kurikka. ***CARRIED.***

_____ _____

Chair Chief Administrative Officer

Ontario

Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

l'Agence ontarienne de protection de la nature

September 9, 2026

Dear Conservation Authority CAOs and GMs:

We have received several inquiries regarding CA board governance in light of the upcoming municipal election and would like to provide clarification. Specifically, we have heard concerns related to a potential "lame duck" status of municipal council members during the election period and resulting impacts for CA board responsibilities including the approval of 2027 budgets.

These concerns appear to stem from Section 275 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, which establishes that if less than three quarters of the members of an outgoing council are returning, the outgoing council is restricted from specific actions, including making expenditures or incurring liabilities.

It is important to note that CAs are independent organizations and for that reason, this provision of the Act does not apply to CA's budgets or expenditures. In addition, Section 14(4.2) of the *Conservation Authorities Act* sets out that a municipal council member remains a member until they are replaced. This means that existing board members continue to hold their responsibilities as members of the conservation authority board, including participating in the budget process.

For these reasons, the municipal election this October will not affect the current composition or operation of CA boards. Existing board members will remain in their positions throughout the fall and until consolidation in February 2027.

To be clear, whether a current board member chooses not to seek re-election or is unsuccessful in their re-election, does not affect the CA board prior to consolidation. Current board membership remains unchanged until that time.

We hope this clarification is helpful and addresses any questions that may have arisen. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration as we continue our transition planning.

Sincerely,

Hassaan Basit
CEO
Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

PROGRAM AREA	Drinking Water Source Protection	**REPORT NO.**	SWP-03-2026
DATE PREPARED	September 9, 2026	**FILE NO.**	
MEETING DATE	September 23, 2026		
SUBJECT	Drinking Water Source Protection – General Update		

RECOMMENDATION

Suggested Resolution

***"THAT**: Staff Report SWP-02-2026 titled Drinking Water Source Protection – General Update be received for information."*

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN (2023-2027)

Conserve and Sustain

- *Collaborate and partner with agencies and community organizations to take action in the protection of natural habitats and ecosystems, share decision-making, and address emerging issues that impact the health and sustainability of the Lakehead watershed.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This staff report has been prepared to provide an update to the Source Protection Authority (SPA) regarding Lakehead's Source Water Protection program and work that has taken place over the last several months.

In November 2025, statutory amendments were made to the *Clean Water Act* (CWA), followed by regulations in June 2026, 'to accelerate and modernize how sources of drinking water are protected.' MECP Source Water Protection Branch staff have completed a virtual presentation of the changes and have initiated discussion regarding the implementation of those changes. At this time, it is anticipated that there will be minimal impacts, if any, to Lakehead's Drinking Water Source Protection program.

The Source Protection Committee (SPC) membership term will expire on November 30, 2026. Staff will be advertising a call for applications in the coming weeks to fill the positions on the SPC. All applications will be screened and recommendations for appointments will be brought forward to the SPA for approval during a SPA meeting later this fall. The Chair of the SPC has been vacant since Lucy Kloosterhuis's 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. At the last SPC meeting held in March 2026, the SPC appointed SPC member Bernie Kamphof as Acting Chair until the Minister appoints a Chair to the Lakehead SPC or until his term on the SPC expires.

Lakehead's Section 36 update is on hold until additional resources are secured to complete the comprehensive update to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan. The regional consolidation of conservation authorities will require consequential amendments to the CWA.

DISCUSSION

Summarized below is the ongoing work and recent items of interest related to Lakehead's Source Water Protection program including: recent changes to the *Clean Water Act* (CWA) and implementation of those changes; Source Protection Committee (SPC) membership term expiry and appointment of new members or re-appointment of existing members for the next term of the SPC; SPC Chair vacancy, status of Section 36 work; and regional consolidation of conservation authorities.

Changes to the *Clean Water Act* (CWA)

In November 2025, statutory amendments were made to the CWA, followed by regulations in June 2026, 'to accelerate and modernize how sources of drinking water are protected.' In August 2026, MECP's Drinking Water Source Protection Branch staff virtually presented the changes to the CWA and discussed implementation of the changes with Source Protection Program Managers and staff across Ontario. In general, it is anticipated that there will be minimal impacts, if any, to Lakehead's Drinking Water Source Protection program. To summarize, the following areas have been affected:

- Section 51 updates – expansion of updates that can be completed under a s.51 update where the formal MECP approval process is not required.
- Approval process guidelines are in place to make the approval process faster (mostly related to s.34 updates (new drinking water systems)) – 120-day timeline for MECP staff to review packages submitted by the SPA
- Use of Source – O. Reg. 205/18 under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* (SDWA) – previously it was required that new drinking water systems could not supply water until the affected Source Protection Plan (SPP) was amended and approved. Now, with changes to the regulation, under certain conditions/circumstances this will not be required (generally when the recommendation comes from the SPA that this isn't necessary).
- Changes to Prescribed Instrument (PI) Policies within Source Protection Plans – PI policies are legal documents to manage site specific activities (i.e., Environmental Compliance Approval, Drinking Water Works Permit, Permits to Take Water, etc.) – Lakehead's SPP does not have any PI policies.

The MECP slide deck attached provides additional information regarding the changes.

SPC Membership Term Expiry

Source Protection Committee's (SPC's) are locally driven, multi-stakeholder groups established under the CWA, 2006 to write and oversee science-based plans that protect municipal drinking water sources. Lakehead's SPC is composed of six members; O. Reg. 288/07 stipulates that one

third of SPC members be from the Municipal Sector, one third from agricultural, industrial or commercial sector and one third from other interest groups including environmental, health and the general public. It is indicated in the Regulation that SPC members may be appointed for a term of not less than six months and not more than five years. Lakehead's SPC members are typically appointed for a five-year term.

Lakehead's SPC membership term is set to expire November 30, 2026. Staff will be advertising a call for applications in the coming weeks to fill the positions on the SPC. All applications will be screened and recommendations for appointments will be brought forward to the Source Protection Authority (SPA) for approval during a SPA meeting later this fall. If the recommendations are approved, new members will be appointed to the SPC and existing members re-appointed where appropriate.

SPC Chair Vacancy

Lucy Kloosterhuis's term as Chair of the SPC expired on August 20, 2025 and the position remains vacant. The Chair of the SPC can only be appointed or re-appointed by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks. In May 2026, Lakehead's DWSP Program Manager responded to MECP Source Protection Branch staff that the Source Protection Authority supported the re-appointment of Lucy Kloosterhuis as Chair of the Lakehead SPC. There has been no update since that time. In the interim, SPC member Bernie Kamphof was appointed as Acting Chair by the SPC during the March 12, 2026 SPC meeting. His position of Acting Chair will remain until the Minister appoints a new Chair to the SPC or his term on the SPC expires.

Section 36 Update

Lakehead's Section 36 update is on hold until additional resources are secured to complete the comprehensive update to the Assessment Report and Source Protection Plan.

Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

The regional consolidation of conservation authorities will require consequential amendments to the CWA. It is unknown at this time what those changes are and how and if Lakehead's Source Protection Authority and Source Protection Committee will be affected.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time required to complete all drinking water source protection program work falls within the current drinking water source protection funding agreement with MECP, (DWSP 2024-2027 Lakehead Region). Future budget requests will consider future required funding.

CONCLUSION

Staff will continue to administer Lakehead's drinking water source protection program as per the 2024-2027 funding agreement with MECP and will keep the Source Protection Authority apprised of changes to the program as they arise.

BACKGROUND

The Ontario government enacted the *Clean Water Act*, (CWA) 2006 in order to protect sources of water supplying municipal drinking water systems and ultimately human health and the environment. This was in response to the Walkerton tragedy, in which the municipal drinking water system became contaminated resulting in the death of seven residents and thousands falling ill.

Ontario's Conservation Authorities were provided funding from the MECP to acquire the resources necessary to implement the proposed "protection of water at its source". The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks appointed Chairs for SPCs. Subsequently, representatives from the watershed community were appointed to the SPCs.

The first step of the Source Protection Planning process required each SPC to prepare Terms of Reference. These documents outlined all necessary steps that document and implement the Source Protection Plan. Upon completion of the Terms of Reference, the Assessment Report, Watershed Characterization Report, and Water Budget and Water Quantity Stress Assessment were completed. The technical studies were utilized to determine vulnerable areas where contamination or shortages of water could be an issue for Municipal Drinking Water Sources. Technical studies were also used to establish a list of threats that were located within the vulnerable areas. The completed studies were then used to develop the Source Protection Plan (SPP).

The Lakehead SPP is the culmination of the Lakehead SPC's efforts to draft policies to ensure that significant threats to Municipal Drinking Water Sources in the Lakehead source protection area cease to be or never become significant drinking water threats. The Lakehead SPP applies to the two Municipal Drinking Water Sources located within the Lakehead Source Protection Area that include: Bare Point Water Treatment facility providing drinking water to the City of Thunder Bay and the Rosslyn Village Drinking Water Facility, which provides drinking water to 32 homes within Rosslyn Village. The Plan describes the actions that must be taken by various agencies to protect surface water and groundwater sources that supply municipal drinking water.

The Plan contains six legally binding policies that apply to two implementing bodies: the Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge and the Thunder Bay District Health Unit. Two non-legally binding policies are included in the Plan that apply to the City of Thunder Bay, which were considered "best management practices" and are not mandatory but recommended.

In order to monitor the progress of the policies in the Plan, the implementing bodies are required to provide annual reports to the SPA by February 1st of every reporting year, summarizing the activities of the previous year. Annual reports have been received by the Lakehead SPA from the implementing bodies since 2013.

As a requirement under the CWA, 2006, SPAs are required to provide an annual progress report to the Director of MECP by May 1st of every given reporting year. The report must also be provided to the Source Protection Committee (SPC) at least 30 days prior to submitting to the

Director and be provided to the public as soon as reasonably possible after submission to the Director.

Copies of all completed technical studies, the Lakehead Source Protection Plan, and previous Annual Progress Reports are available on-line at www.lakeheadca.com.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

Changes to the Clean Water Act – Implementation Discussion, July 2026. MECP Slide Deck presented virtually to Source Protection Program Managers and staff on August 19, 2026.

PREPARED BY: Melissa Hughson, Drinking Water Source Protection Program Manager

THIS REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY:	DATE:
Tammy Cook Tammy Cook Chief Administrative Officer	September 17, 2026

Changes to the Clean Water Act Implementation Discussion

July 2026

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Ontario

Land Acknowledgement

Agenda

1. Background
2. Current Status, Engagement and Consultation
3. Content and Overview of Current Process
4. 1 – Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process
5. 2 – Use of Source
6. 3 – Prescribed Instruments
7. Questions

Background

- The purpose of the *Clean Water Act*, *2006* (CWA) is to protect Ontario's existing and future sources of municipal drinking water (i.e., wells and intakes) from contamination and depletion.
- Locally developed source protection plans are a key focus of the legislation and include both a science-based assessment report and locally developed policies.
    - The assessment report identifies vulnerable areas and the activities that may contaminate or deplete a source of drinking water.
    - The policies mitigate risks in vulnerable areas by either managing or prohibiting specific activities. Implementing bodies are identified to carry out the policies, which can be mandatory or non-mandatory to apply.
- Amendments are periodically required to the plans for various reasons, with the most common being to expand an existing drinking water system to service new developments by incorporating a new well or intake to supply municipal drinking water.
- In November 2025, statutory amendments were made to the CWA, followed by regulations in June 2026, to accelerate and modernize how sources of drinking water are protected.

Current Status

- On June 29, 2026, amendments to O. Reg. 287/07 under the CWA and O. Reg. 205/18 under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* (SDWA), and a new regulation (O. Reg. 210/26) under the CWA, were filed. The amendments to O. Reg. 287/07 and O. Reg. 205/18 came into force on July 1, 2026. O. Reg. 210/26 will come into force on January 1, 2027. This stems from:
  - Consultation on two proposals posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on October 20th, 2025, to accelerate and modernize how sources of drinking water are protected by amending the CWA, the general Regulation under this Act (O. Reg. 287/07), O. Reg. 205/18 under the SDWA, and to develop a new Minister's regulation:
    - ERO Number 025-1060: *Accelerating and improving protections for Ontario's drinking water sources*
    - ERO Number 025-1104: *Regulatory changes for accelerating and improving protections for Ontario's drinking water sources*
  - In fall 2025, legislative changes were made through the *Building a More Competitive Economy Act, 2025*, to accelerate and improve how drinking water sources are protected under the CWA,

Engagement and Consultation

- Emails sent to source protection stakeholders, municipalities, ENGOs, various sectors (water, agricultural, development, etc.) and Indigenous communities.
- Interministerial engagement
- Stakeholder information sessions (2)
- Indigenous engagement session (1)
- Sessions with technical experts from source protection authorities (3)
- ERO posting (32 comments)

<u>General Comments/Feedback</u>

- Strong support from stakeholders most familiar with the source protection framework.
- Some generally supportive comments of the proposal but mixed or concerned comments about length of consultation on legislative proposal and a request for more details on provincial implementation of prescribed instrument policy.
- Some unsupportive comments regarding perceived lessening of environmental protections, government downloading and the expansion of government powers.

Context

- The legislative and regulatory changes streamlined source protection plan amendment approvals under the CWA, so that sources of drinking water are protected faster, and process redundancies were removed to support development.
- Strong and proactive protection of sources of municipal drinking water continue across the province.
- Focus areas of change include:

1. Source protection plan amendment approval process (including consultation)
2. Use of sources of drinking water (Regulation 205/18)
3. Prescribed instruments (to come into force January 1, 2027)

Overview of Past Process and Changes

Approvals Process

- All source protection plans for the 38 source protection areas have been thoroughly reviewed and approved by MECP.
- The process to amend a source protection plan was lengthy (~21+ months) and previously contained duplicative processes, causing unnecessary delays to put protections in place for sources of drinking water.
- Statutory and regulatory amendments have been made to accelerate the approvals process for certain scenarios.

Use of Source

- O. Reg. 205/18 under the SDWA prohibited municipal residential drinking water systems from supplying drinking water from a new or altered well or intake that involves source protection plan mapping changes until the source protection plan is amended.
- This process delayed the supply of drinking water from new wells or intakes for new developments even in cases where it may not have been necessary.
- Amendments to this regulation and O. Reg. 287/07 now provide exceptions from this prohibition so that drinking water may be supplied, prior to plan amendment, in select circumstances if conditions can be met.

Prescribed Instruments

- Source protection plans may contain policies that require the issuer/creator (e.g., ministry) of a prescribed instrument (PI) to prohibit an activity or manage an activity through terms/conditions in the instrument to ensure the activity ceases to be or never becomes a significant drinking water threat.
- These policies vary across the province which can cause implementation inconsistencies.
- The new Minister's regulation has been created to standardize language for PI policies that manage drinking water threats. This new regulation will come into force on January 1, 2027.

1 - Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process

Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process

Minor amendments

Previous Use

Section 51 of O. Reg. 287/07 under the CWA provided that certain types of minor changes could be made to a source protection plan without requiring consultation or approval.

Current Use

- The types of source protection plan amendments listed under s. 51 ("Typographical and other changes") has been expanded to capture more types of changes that are administrative and/or do not affect current protections. See in particular the new paragraphs 11 to 14 under s. 51(1) and the following slides.

- More administrative types of changes to source protection plans can now be made through this process rather than the longer, more burdensome formal amendment process.
- This change will speed up the time it takes to make these types of minor changes by up to 12 months.

Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process

Minor amendments types

- The following types of source protection plan amendments can now also be made under s. 51 of O. Reg. 287/07:
  1. Changes to the narrative sections of the source protection plans, without changing the policies themselves or the assessment report.
  2. Where the minister or their delegate has provided an extension to a deadline in a source protection plan policy, changes to reflect that extension.
  3. Changes to reflect the replacement of an existing well or intake if:
     a. The delineation of the existing WHPA or IPZ would need to change but there is only a change to the area immediately surrounding the well or intake (i.e., a WHPA –A or IPZ-1),
     b. the revised delineation does not capture new activities that are considered new significant drinking water threats (i.e., either there are no new significant threat activities in that revised WHPA-A or IPZ-1, there is no reasonable prospect of a person engaging in that activity), and
     c. the previous delineation of the wellhead protection area or intake protection zone and identification of threats had already incorporated the most recent technical rules

Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process

Minor amendments types continued

4. Changes to the plan involving a new or revised delineation of a WHPA or IPZ to address and protect a new, or change in, a well or intake located in a neighbouring source protection area if:

    a. The amendment to the source protection plan for the source protection area where the well or intake is located, to reflect that new or change in the well or intake, has already been approved.

    b. The technical work to support the plan amendment for the source protection area where the well or intake is located included a delineation of the entire WHPA or IPZ and the identification of threats in the WHPA or IPZ, including the parts that extend into the source protection area where the well or intake is not located.

        a. If any new significant drinking water threats are identified in the source protection area where the well or intake is not located, it is not eligible for this streamlined process (s.51).

- If a plan amendment is made to reflect a replacement well or intake where only the delineation of the WHPA-A or IPZ-1 is changing (#3), a written rationale must be provided to the ministry to explain why it is only the WHPA-A or IPZ-1 (and not other parts of the WHPA or IPZ) that needs to be re-delineated.
- If a plan amendment is made to include a well or intake that is replacing an existing well or intake (#3) or to reflect and protect a new or changing well or intake located in a neighbouring source protection area (#4), the source protection authority (SPA) must send a copy of the amendment notice to every municipality affected by the new or changed protection area/ zone, provide data supporting the delineation of the vulnerable areas to the ministry and update the explanatory document to reflect the amendment.

Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process

Consultation

Previous Requirement

- Two formal stages of consultation were required to amend a source protection plan:
  - Pre-consultation with implementing bodies (i.e., those responsible for implementing policies in the plan)
  - Public consultation, including mandatory newspaper notifications and making drafts available for review at a public location at specific times

Current Requirement

- One phase of consultation for all plan amendments (except for the amendments listed under s. 51, which do not require consultation).
- Updated to reflect modern practice (e.g., no requirement for the proposed amendment to be available at a public location)

- Requiring only one phase of consultation shortens the time it takes to complete the plan amendment process by ~2.5 months while continuing to ensure the right people are consulted at the right time.
- Receiving notification of plan amendments once decreases the risk of confusion implementing bodies have reported experiencing creating efficiencies for both SPAs and implementing bodies.

Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process

Plan Amendment Approval

Previous Approval Authority

- All amendments (aside from minor changes described under s.51 “Typographical and other changes” of O. Reg. 287/07) required minister approval.

Current Approval Authority

- Source protection authorities are the approval authority for certain routine plan amendments.
- Where minister approval is required, minister has 120 days to exercise one of the following options or the amendment is deemed approved:
  - Approve
  - Require changes/additional consultation and re-submission

- Faster (up to 6 months), simplified approvals for plan amendments, while empowering local decision making.
- Make the amendment process more efficient and effective, while enhancing transparency and accountability.
- Ensure certainty in process and timelines.

Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process

Local Approval

- Circumstances are defined in regulation where a SPA (not the Minister) makes the decision on whether to approve a source protection plan amendment. These circumstances are:
  - Delineation of a new or modified protection area around a well or intake and application of existing source protection plan policies in that area, and
  - Revising a significant threat policy that prohibits a significant threat activity or land use to a policy that manages or regulates the activity (for example, when allowing an activity will result in better environmental outcomes than prohibiting it).
- The usual consultation process would apply, but before the SPA begins consultation, the assessment report for the proposed amendment must be submitted to the Director. Approval of the assessment report by the MECP Director is required before the SPA approves a plan amendment.
- Following a decision to approve the plan amendment, the SPA is required to send a notice of approval to the MECP Director, appropriate municipalities and any implementing person or body responsible for implementing a policy that is affected by the amendment.
  - Other information, outlined in regulation, is required to be submitted by the SPA to the MECP Director such as any municipal council resolutions, summary of approved amendment, consultation records (including how comments led to changes, if any, to the final proposed amendment), data to support the new or altered delineation, and an update to the explanatory document (if applicable).

Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process

Minister Approval

- For source protection plan amendments where Minister's approval is still required, the SPA cannot submit the amendment to the Minister for approval until the SPA receives a statement from the Director confirming that their amendment package is considered complete and accurate.
    - The regulation prescribes documents and information required to be included by the SPA with a proposed plan amendment to constitute a complete and accurate submission (see next slide).
- The 120-day period for the Minister to exercise an option on a source protection plan amendment (approve or require revisions or additional consultation and re-submission) begins when the SPA submits the plan amendment to the Minister for approval (the amendment package will have already been confirmed by the Director to be complete/accurate).
- In cases where the minister requires additional consultation and/or revisions, the Minister similarly will have 120 days once the re-submission is submitted to decide whether to approve the re-submission or approve it with additional revisions, otherwise the re-submission is deemed approved.
- After the amendment is approved or deemed approved, a notice will be published on the environmental registry.

Source Protection Plan Amendment Approval Process

Minister Approval

- O. Reg. 287/07 prescribes documents that constitute a complete and accurate proposed plan amendment submission:
  - Covering letter from the SPA that includes:
    - summary of proposed amendment, including a brief description of any policy changes or revisions to the assessment report,
    - relevant implementation timelines, and
    - summary of written comments sent to the SPA about the proposed amendment, and how those comments led to changes, if any, to the final proposed amendment.
  - Document(s) that clearly identifies the proposed amendment, including:
    - Any new policies or changes to policy text
    - Any changes to the list of policies that must be set out in the appendix of the approved plan including those policies that have a legal effect (i.e., legal effect list), and
    - Any revisions to the assessment report in the plan.
  - Any technical reports or studies prepared for revisions to assessment report.
  - A copy of every written comment received regarding the proposed amendment.
  - A copy of any municipal council resolution regarding the proposed amendment.
  - All data supporting the delineation of a new vulnerable area or change to an existing area, if applicable to the amendment.

2 – Use of Source

Use of Source

Enable supply of drinking water prior to amending the source protection plan

Previous

- O. Reg. 205/18, under the SDWA, required that where a drinking water works permit amendment is granted for a new or altered well or intake that involves a new or change in the mapping of the WHPA or IPZ, the SDWA Director must include a condition prohibiting municipal residential drinking water systems from supplying drinking water from that well or intake until the source protection plan was amended in all cases.
- The requirement to include the prohibition condition only applied to the drinking water works permit ("permit").

Current

- In certain circumstances, the SDWA Director will not be required to include the prohibition condition in the SDWA instrument. For example, where the SPA has provided their opinion that the prohibition condition would not be necessary.
- When and how the prohibition condition must be included has been clarified. For example, the prohibition condition must also be included in drinking water licences ("licence") when an amendment to the licence is granted. A condition prohibiting using increased rated capacity until the plan is amended must be included if there is an increase in the rated capacity of the drinking water system involving a WHPA or IPZ mapping change. In addition, if a vulnerable area spans more than one source protection area, the prohibition needs to be applied until all advisable amendments to all affected source protection plans have been made.

- Enables the supply of municipal drinking water more quickly in circumstances where there are already existing protections in place.

Use of Source

Enable supply of drinking water prior to amending the source protection plan

Process

- Under O. Reg. 205/18 and s. 48(1.1) of O. Reg. 287/07, when the municipal drinking water system owner intends to establish a new drinking water system or make certain changes to the drinking water system (add a new or alter a well or intake, or increase the rated capacity of the system) that would involve a change in the mapping of WHPAs or IPZs, a notification process exists wherein the owner will notify the SPA and the SPA provides the municipal drinking water system owner with a notice indicating that technical work for the source protection plan amendment reflecting the new or changing drinking water system is complete and any source protection plan amendments that would be advisable.
- A copy of this notice must accompany an application for a permit or licence for a new system or an amendment to an existing permit. Regulatory changes extended this requirement to include an application for an amendment to an existing licence as well.
- If, in this notice, the SPA indicates one of the following, then when granting an amendment to a licence or permit, the SDWA Director is no longer required to include a condition in the permit or licence prohibiting the supply of water or use of increased rated capacity until source protection plan amendments have been made:
    - That the SPA is of the opinion that the prohibition condition is not necessary, having regard to:
        - The nature of the technical work
        - The nature of any advisable plan amendments
        - Existing policies in the source protection plan, if any, that apply to the identified drinking water threats
        - If a neighbouring source protection area and authority would be impacted by this drinking water system change and related WHPA or IPZ mapping changes, information on any advisable plan amendments received from the neighbouring SPA
    - That the application involves the replacement of an existing well or intake and meets the criteria under paragraph 13 of s.51 (where the only mapping change is to the WHPA-A or IPZ-1, with no new significant threats identified, etc.).

3 – Prescribed Instruments

Overview of Prescribed Instruments under the Clean Water Act

Instruments are legal documents created or issued by different persons with the relevant statutory authority (e.g., Minister, delegated person) to manage site specific activities. Certain instruments (see below) are prescribed for the purposes of the CWA which provide a means to address drinking water threats, as outlined in source protection plan policies.

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Environmental Compliance Approval

- Sewage works (Ontario Water Resources Act (OWRA))
- Waste disposal site (Environmental Protection Act (EPA))
- Waste management system (EPA)

Municipal Drinking Water Licence and Drinking Water Works Permit (Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA))

Renewable Energy Approval (EPA)

Permits to Take Water (OWRA)

Pesticide Permits (Pesticide Act)

Ministry of Natural Resources

Aggregate Instruments

- Licence (Aggregate Resources Act (ARA))
- Permit (ARA)
- Site Plan (ARA)

Ministry of Transportation

Aggregate Instruments

- Wayside Permit (ARA)

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness/Certified Consultant

Nutrient Management Instruments

- Nutrient Management Strategy (Nutrient Management Act (NMA))
- Nutrient Management Plan (NMA)
- Non-Agricultural Source Material Plan (NMA)

Prescribed Instruments

Standardization and/or removal of prescribed instrument policies

Previous Approach

- Source protection plans contain varied policies that use prescribed instrument decisions to mitigate existing and future threats (significant, moderate and low) to sources of drinking water.

Approach as of January 1, 2027

- SPAs will be required to review, remove and/or replace the following types of policies in their plans:
  - existing prescribed instrument policies that do not prohibit activities will need to use standardized language (included in new Minister's regulation) which places responsibility on the issuer/creator of the prescribed instrument to achieve the objective that the activity ceases to be or never becomes a significant drinking water threat
  - prescribed instrument policies that prohibit existing activities (with some exceptions such as activities governed under the Nutrient Management Act, and policies already established in source protection plans that are undergoing implementation) will need to be removed and replaced with prescribed instrument policies that "manage" the activity,
  - all moderate/low threat policies affecting prescribed instruments need to be removed
  - monitoring policies related to prescribed instruments need to be removed
- Remove the requirement for decisions on prescribed instruments to conform with designated Great Lakes policies*
- Revisions to be completed within 30 days (by January 31, 2027) and SPAs must provide notice to the MECP Director and publish the amended plan upon completion.

*there are no designated Great Lake policies in a source protection plan because no Great Lakes target has been set under the CWA

Prescribed Instruments

Documentation and reporting

Current

- No requirement for issuer/creator to document how prescribed instrument policies were considered in the issuance of instruments.
- Varied/inconsistent reporting from issuers/creators of instruments on the implementation of prescribed instrument policies.

Approach as of January 1, 2027

- Requires the issuer or creator that implements a prescribed instrument significant threat policy to document how their decision on the instrument considered source protection.
- Standardized requirement for prescribed instrument decision makers to report annually to the SPA on prescribed instruments through regulation and removes the ability for plans to include specific policies governing reporting on how prescribed instrument policies are implemented.

- Increased transparency through documentation of how the instrument considered source protection
- Increased consistency in annual reporting on prescribed instrument policies

Prescribed Instruments

Review of existing instruments

Current

- When source protection plans undergo amendments, this may create new areas where prescribed instrument policies apply.
  - Each prescribed instrument decision-maker has their own process to review existing instruments to ensure conformity with source protection plan policies

Approach as of January 1, 2027

- Continues to require the review of previously issued instruments to determine whether amendments to the instrument are required to be made to implement significant threat prescribed instrument policies.
- Establish a standardized timeline of three years for these reviews to be conducted.
- Where the review of existing instruments is underway that timeframe would continue (rather than re-starting with a three-year timeline).
- The generally administrative amendments that would be made to prescribed instrument policies as described on slide 24 would not require decision-makers to review their existing instruments to implement those revised policies.

- Timely and consistent reviews of existing prescribed instruments over time to ensure conformity with source protection plan policies.

Questions and Answers

2026 TREASURER'S REPORT MONTHLY EXPENSES				
	2026 BUDGET	August	TOTAL TO DATE	BALANCE REMAINING
REVENUE				
Provincial Grants	376,753	25,426	398,032	- 21,279
Municipal Levy	1,963,882	-	1,963,882	-
Self Generated	623,356	68,264	552,468	70,888
Other Revenue	1,061,688	9,221	341,482	720,206
TOTAL REVENUE	4,025,679	102,911	3,255,864	769,815
EXPENSES				
Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services				
Corporate Services	986,758	64,465	688,427	298,331
Risk of Natural Hazards	1,741,074	31,955	992,517	748,557
Conservation and Management of Lands owned and controlled by the Authority	714,724	90,871	762,133	- 47,409
Source Water Protection	77,313	4,326	44,581	32,732
Other Programs and Services	27,105	1,763	11,003	16,102
Total Category 1 Mandatory Programs and Services	3,546,974	193,379	2,498,661	1,048,313
Category 2 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services at the Request of a Municipality				
Mapping Services	21,742	1,600	4,268	17,474
Total Category 2 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services at the Request of a Municipality	21,742	1,600	4,268	17,474
Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services				
Education	110,965	2,364	71,276	39,689
Stewardship	345,998	30,220	255,971	90,027
Total Category 3 Non-Mandatory Programs and Services	456,963	32,584	327,247	129,716
Total All Expenses	4,025,679	227,564	2,830,176	1,195,503

LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

September 23, 2026

Moved By _____

Seconded By _____

*"**THAT:** having examined the accounts for the period August 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026 cheque #3934 to #3954 for $55,872.78 and preauthorized payments of $177,651.22 for a total of $235,524.00, we approve their payment."*

3934	Equipment World	Forklift rental for shed delivery	829.54
3935	Evolution AV	Updated Audio Visual element of Board Room Renovation.	1,875.65
3936	Hartley Road Rescue Inc.	Moving of forklift and delivery of office sheds	593.25
3937	Helen Hill	Workshop	2,222.00
3938	Innovated Solutions	Cloud backup	887.05
3939	Intola Safety	ATV Training for five LRCA staff members	1,271.25
3940	Lowery's	Photocopying Charges	669.68
3941	Municipality Of Oliver Paipoonge	Final 2026 Property tax bills	1,855.23
3942	North Rock Engineering Inc.	Bathymetric Sediment Survey Neebing Floodway and AMP	21,696.00
3943	Paradis Incorporated	Supply and install solar powered street light on 30 foot pole at Mills Block Conservation Area	4,678.20
3944	Paul Boers Manufacturing	HST for previous purchases not charged.	1,090.76
3945	SGC Inc.	Install Gate at old driveway at Mills Block	2,463.85
3946	Thunder Bay & Superior Professional	Janitorial July	678.00
3947	Thunder Bay Answering Service Inc.	4 Months Answering Service (May-August)	1,115.00
3948	2611943 Ontario Ltd.	In ground waste containers at Mission and Cascades	452.00
3949	Hartley Road Rescue Inc.	Delivery of 3 office sheds from Confederation College to LRCA Administration Office	661.05
3950	Pine View Nurseries	Replacement trees for Mills Block teardrop planters	442.17
3951	SGC Inc.	Construction and Installation of Main Road Sign and Planter Box at Mills Block	4,942.06
3952	Township of Dorion	Final Tax bill	485.13
3953	Pine View Nurseries	Various Plant Purchases	8,286.91
3954	Shelby Gagnon	Community Bench Mural	678.00
			57,872.78
PA	Payroll and Per Diems		112,546.56
PA	Royal Bank Group Retirement RRSP and TFSA		1,360.32
PA	RWAM and Lifeworks Benefits		6,648.11
PA	Enbridge		68.13
PA	Synergy North		-
PA	Esso		4,319.64
PA	Visa Routine Monthly Expenses		17,297.99
PA	Banking and Visa Fees		266.08
PA	Postage		
PA	Omers July		25,694.80
PA	Photocopier Lease		278.59
PA	Property Taxes		9,171.00
			177,651.22
			235,524.00

Res# _____/26

Monthly Plan Input/Review and Fill Regulations Administration
August 1 to 31, 2026

UPDATED CC 08/24

Municipality	Minor Variance (A)	Consent (B)	Official Plan	Official Plan/ Zoning By-Law Comprehensive Review	Zoning By-Law (Z)	Subdivisions	Clearances	Reality Services	Lawyer Inquiries	Letter of Opinion (Other)	Total
City of Thunder Bay		B-70-2026				Central Avenue Development Lands		243 Manitou Street			
		B-72-2026									
		A-83-2026									
Total	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**5**
Oliver Paipoonge		1B-14-26									
		1B-15-26									
		1B-16-26									
		1B-17-26									
		1B-18-26									
		1B-19-26									
		1B-20-26									
Total	**0**	**7**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**
O'Connor											
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Neebing		B09-2026			Z02-2026						
		B10-2026									
		B11-2026									
		B12-2026									
Total	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**
Shuniah	A26-3										
Total	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**
Conmee											
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Gillies											
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Dorion											
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Rural Planning Board											
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Monthly Total	**1**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**16**

Monthly Plan Input/Review and Fill Regulations Administration
September 1 to 17, 2026

Municipality	Minor Variance (A)	Consent (B)	Official Plan	Official Plan/ Zoning By-Law Comprehensive Review	Zoning By-Law (Z)	Subdivisions	Clearances	Reality Services	Lawyer Inquiries	Letter of Opinion (Other)	Total
City of Thunder Bay								96 High Street North			
								231 Simpson Street			
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Oliver Paipoonge		1B-21-26									
Total	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
O'Connor											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neebing		B13-2026			Z03-2026						
Total	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Shuniah			OPA-3		Z26-1						
Total	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Conmee											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gillies											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorion											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Planning Board											
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monthly Total	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	7

Prohibited Activities, Exceptions and Permits- Ontarion Regulation 41/24

Year: 2026

Permit #	Category	Fee	Municipality	Subject Property Address	Type of Work	Key Dates					Minor OR Major Application (Timeline BP Minor = 30d Major = 90d)	Within Timelines	Notes (violation, reason for timeline, etc.)
						Complete Application Received with Permit Fee Paid (YYYY-MM-DD)	Notice of Complete/ Incomplete Application ISSUED (YYYY-MM-DD)	Days to Issue Notice of Complete/ Incomplete Application (21 day timeline)	Permit Issued / Refused (YYYY-MM-DD)	Days to Issue /Refuse Permit (90 day timeline)			
#46/26	Standard	**$300.00**	Neebing	65 Willowdale Road	Garage Construction	2026-08-17	2026-08-17	0	2026-08-20	3	Minor	Yes	
#54/26	Standard	**$300.00**	Shuniah	Lakeshore Drive lot	Fill Placement and Site Grading	2026-08-07	2026-08-31	**24**	2026-09-02	2	Minor	No	**Reuested updated drawing including dimensions, which was submitted 1 working day after 21 day timeline.**
#59/26	Large	**$600.00**	City of Thunder Bay	209 Bruin Crescent	Dwelling Construction	2026-08-20	2026-08-25	5	2026-08-27	2	Minor	Yes	
#60/26	Small	**$300.00**	City of Thunder Bay	6480 Townlinw Road	Driveway Construction	2026-08-19	2026-08-31	12	2026-09-09	9	Minor	Yes	**Violation; Work done before obtaining a permit. 2X Small Permit fee**
#61/26	Standard	**$300.00**	Neebing	768 Cloud Lake Road	Cottage Reconstruction	2026-08-21	2026-08-24	3	2026-08-25	1	Minor	Yes	
#64/26	Small	**N/A**	City of Thunder Bay	Whalen Street at McVicar Creek	Stormwater Outlet Replacement	2026-08-26	2026-09-02	7	2026-09-03	1	Minor	Yes	
#65/26	Small	**N/A**	City of Thunder Bay	311 Waterloo Street North	Low Impact Development Facility	2026-08-26	2026-09-02	7	2026-09-09	7	Minor	Yes	
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			
								0		0			

LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Monthly Project Update

MEETING DATE	September 23, 2026
STAFF NAME	Ryan Mackett
POSITION	Communications Manager

Fall Mushroom Hike

The popular Fall Mushroom Hike occurred on Sunday, September 13, 2026, at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area, with 43 people participating. The hike was led by fungi expert Dr. Leonard Hutchison of Lakehead University, who had assistance from former grad student Wren Mangelli and local expert Kevin Sidlar. This event completely fills up every year it is held and is limited only by the number of participants Dr. Hutchison is comfortable leading in a single hike.

2026 Fundraising Calendar

For your information, work is proceeding on the 2027 annual fundraising calendar. Typically, 10,000 copies of this extremely popular calendar are produced and distributed each November, with the cost of printing covered by calendar advertising sales. As with previous years, the cost of printing has increased substantially, which will potentially necessitate ordering fewer than 10,000 copies for the 2027 calendar. The number of copies produced will correlate with the amount of ad revenue generated through the program, however some unused advertising and promotion budget may be used to offset costs if available, as the calendar is one of the most popular and successful outreach items produced by the Authority.

LU Student Orientation

The Communications Manager and Lands Manager attended the Lakehead University Student Orientation Fair at The Outpost this month to promote the Conservation Areas as well as to encourage sign-ups for the LRCA Jobs and Volunteering e-newsletter.

TD Watershed Explorers Programs

Staff are continuing with the remaining programs as part of the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation-funded Watershed Explorers programs. Recently, staff worked with Lakehead University to bus international students to Hazelwood Lake for the “Fall Nature Hike” program on September 17. The Fall Photography Workshop with a focus on Macro and Mushroom Photography is scheduled for Thursday, September 24. A “Sunset Birding” program is scheduled for October 8th, and a Night Sky Photography Workshop on November 5 (subject to guest speaker

availability- Kay Lee recently re-located to Southern Ontario, however he may be back up in Thunder Bay at this time).

For the next round of TD Friends of the Environment Foundation funding applications, staff will continue to expand the Watershed Explorers program to include more new and international students from Lakehead University.

Tequila Tasting

Tickets are still available for the Tequila Tasting Fundraising Dinner at Whitewater on Friday, October 9, 2026. Tickets are available for order here: https://lakeheadca.com/event/2026-tequila/.

LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Monthly Project Update

MEETING DATE	September 23, 2026
STAFF NAME	Ryne Gilliam
POSITION	Lands Manager

Asset Management Update Draft Report

The LRCA has received the first draft of the 2026 five-year Asset Management Plan Update by North Rock Engineering. The Asset Management Plan will work as a key planning tool to assist staff with future maintenance, budgeting, and long-term capital decision-making processes. Its importance is in providing a clear, organized picture of the condition, lifecycle, replacement timing, and financial needs of LRCA-owned assets. This allows staff to identify which assets require immediate attention, which can be monitored over time, and where future investments should be prioritized based on risk, service needs, available funding, and organizational capacity. A strong Asset Management Plan also supports financial sustainability by helping the organization forecast capital pressures before they become urgent or disruptive. It provides a defensible basis for annual budget requests, reserve planning, grant applications, and discussions with the Board regarding future infrastructure needs. A full Staff Report on the Asset Management Update is forthcoming.

Mills Block Re-development Update

A presentation will be delivered at the meeting providing an update on the Mills Block re-development project.

LAKEHEAD REGION
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Monthly Project Update

MEETING DATE	September 23, 2026
STAFF NAME	Melissa Hughson
POSITION	Watershed Manager

Flood Forecasting and Warning Program

LRCA's Flood Forecasting Team attended the Provincial Flood Forecasting and Warning Program Conference held in Burlington, Ontario on September 15 and 16, 2026. The workshop takes place annually with the goal of providing links between agencies responsible for flood forecasting and warning, emergency management and data collection. The workshop is designed to address policy and implementation needs and issues and to facilitate training.

Professionals in flood forecasting from across the industry were in attendance including Conservation Authorities across Ontario, the MNR, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), emergency management professionals, etc. The workshop provided an important opportunity to network and learn from others across Ontario in their experiences relating to forecasting and managing flood events, as well as innovations in data collection and analysis with respect to flood forecasting.

Coastal Study Update

KGS Group and the consultant team are continuing to work on the Coastal Study. Below is a summary of work that has been completed over the last couple of months:

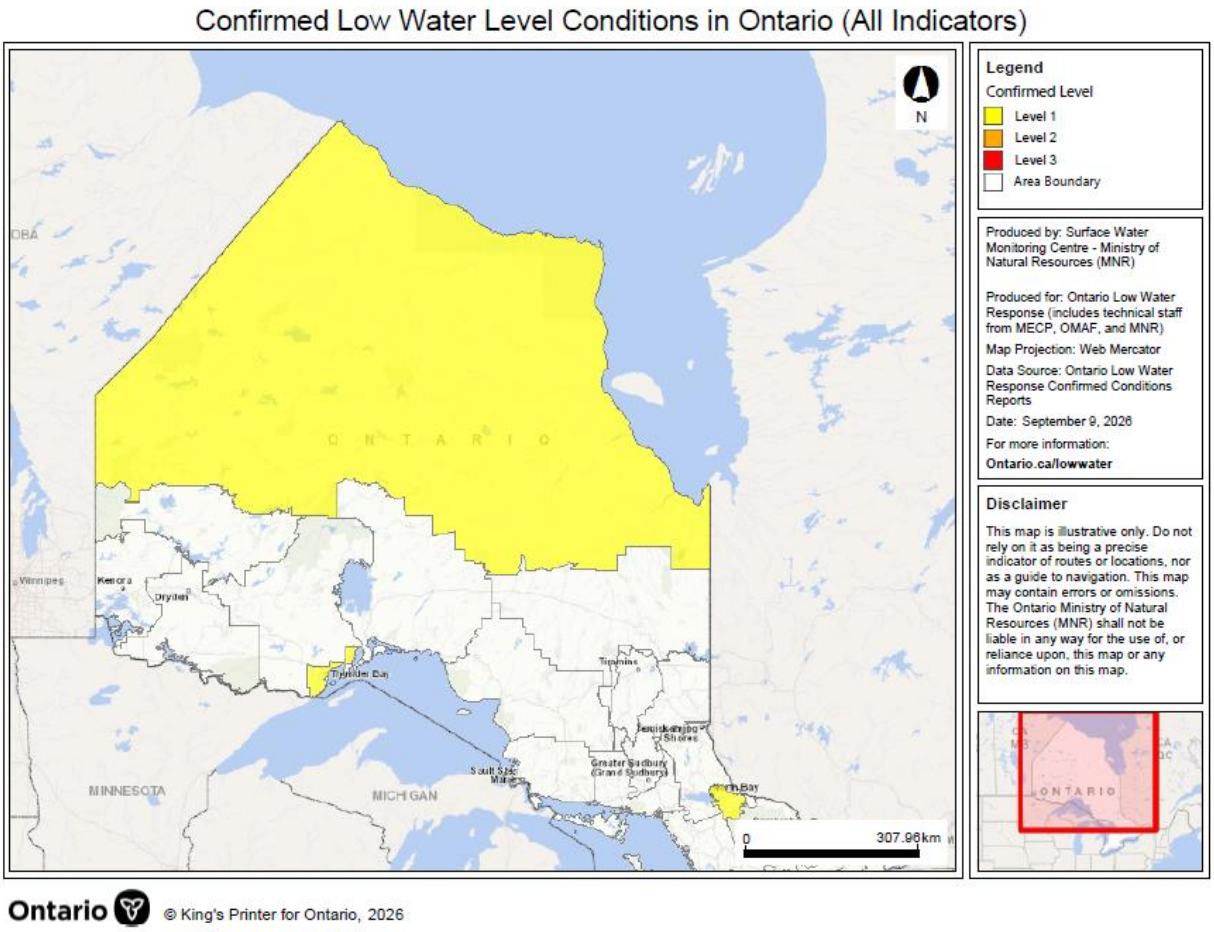
- DHI has completed their flood modelling and has submitted inundation shapefiles to KGS for review. KGS and DHI are currently working through the final draft of the inundation information.
- Erosion studies are still ongoing. Historical analysis has been completed. Working on devising methodology to apply historical rates throughout the study area appropriately.
- Dynamic beach assessment was started last month as well. It is progressing in tandem with erosion study.
- Working towards mapping completion by end of September/Mid October and targeting to host an Open House to display draft maps towards the end of November.

Low Water

The Lakehead Region continues to be in a Level I Low Water Condition. August conditions are summarized as follows:

- 1-month Summary (August) = 63% of the monthly average
- 3-month summary (June, July, August) = 63% of the 3-month average
- 18-month summary = 94% of the 18-month average
- Flow Summary (August) = 37% of actual flow compared to the lowest average summer flow for area gauged streams

The Level 1 Low Water Condition was issued on August 17, 2026, and remains in place. Below is a map issued by the Surface Water Monitoring Centre (MNR) that shows where low water conditions have been issued in northern Ontario for the month of August. Staff will continue to monitor low water conditions.



<u>Stewardship and Seeds for Conservation</u>

The Stewardship program collaborated with Lakehead University field school students to restore the southern bank of the Floodway mouth through the removal of invasive species and addition of native species in early September. Projects at the office grounds are scheduled this fall including the installation of a cold frame greenhouse with volunteer support and funding from the Rotary Club of Thunder Bay, and the planting of native fruit-bearing shrubs and plant species with edible components to establish an "urban food forest."

Several Stewardship Volunteer events are planned for this fall:

- September 17th: Hurkett Cove shoreline planting with funds from MECP Cyanobacteria Shoreline Protection Program
- Mid-September: Indigenous Community Medicine Garden planting with DFC students in collaboration with LRCA Education Program with funds from Canada Water Agency
- September 21st: Invasive species pull at Mountdale Boat Launch in collaboration with FWFN and the City of Thunder Bay
- September 25th: Urban Food Forest LRCA office planting with funds from Tree Canada
- September 28th: Invasive species pull at North Mission restoration site with FWFN
- October 2nd: Planting at Mountdale Boat Launch in collaboration with FWFN and the City of Thunder Bay
- October 16th: Indigenous Community Medicine Garden planting with community partners with funds from Canada Water Agency
- End of October: Planting at Wishart CA with funds from Tree Canada