

**North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Committee (SPC)
Meeting for Friday, March 27, 2026 at 9:00 am – Hybrid meeting
NBMCA’s Marc Charron Boardroom & MS Teams
15 Janey Avenue, North Bay, Ontario**

AGENDA

Administration

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance Record and Quorum (minimum 6 members, plus chair)
3. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Traditional and Treaty Lands
4. Explanation of online meeting procedures – Angela Mills
5. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
6. Approval of the Agenda
7. Approval of the Minutes from March December 11, 2025
8. Business Arising
 - a. Code of Conduct acknowledgement
 - b. MECP announcement and updates regarding Conservation Authority Consolidation
9. Delegation(s)

Other Business

10. Project Manager (PM) updates – Liza Vandermeer
 - a. NBMCA report of research and monitoring in the Callander ICA – Angela Mills (Report 26-SPC-01)
 - b. Annual Report discussion and review (Report 26-SPC-02)
 - c. S.36 Update – review of Consultation feedback.
 - d. Source Protection Policies: Risk Management (Report 26-SPC-03)
11. New Business
12. Adjournment

Microsoft Teams

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24191551194085?p=SsWbrwlu9rx3pVCytW>

Meeting ID: 241 915 511 940 85

Passcode: 9ZV3xQ7x

**DRAFT Minutes of the Eighty-Third Meeting of the North Bay-Mattawa
Source Protection Committee (SPC)**

9:00 am, Thursday, December 11, 2025

Held at NBMCA Boardroom and via MS Teams

Administration

1. Election of acting Chair

Maurice nominated Peter Murray as Acting Chair. He accepted the nomination and there were no other nominations. There were no objections to him being acting Chair.

2. Meeting called to order at 9:09

3. Attendance Record and Quorum (minimum number for quorum is 6 SPC Members plus Chair)

Present:

Peter Murray (Acting Chair); Beverley Hillier; Simon Foster; Sheldon Crawford; Maurice Schlosser; Andrea Labelle (online); Tim McKenna (online)

NBMCA Staff:

Liza Vandermeer, Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection; Angela Mills, Water Resources Specialist.

Regrets:

Brent Allan (NBPSDHU); Monika Lemke (MECP Program Analyst)

4. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands

Bev read a statement of acknowledgement of traditional, ancestral and treaty lands.

5. Explanation of Online Procedures

The Angela Mills reviewed procedures for those participating online for requesting to speak and voting.

6. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest – none

7. Approval of Agenda

It was noted that Business arising should have been included in the agenda for updates in response to previous meeting's minutes.

It was noted that Andrea would have to step away from the meeting between 10:30 and 11:00. It was agreed that discussion would pivot to updates on the Annual Reporting process as no motion would be required and return to S.36 update review upon her return to the meeting.

Motion: That the amended Agenda for the meeting be approved.

Moved by Maurice, seconded by Bev (**Resolution 83-01**). **Carried**

8. Approval of Minutes

Deferred to next meeting. No comments received for any edits.

9. Business Arising

- a. Emails may not be reaching all members as intended. Distribution list to be reviewed.

10. Delegations

No delegations present.

Other Business

11. Project Manager updates

a. S.36 Update – Review Source Protection Plan and Explanatory Document prior to Public Consultation

Angela provided an update on the Policy amendments. A thorough review of the draft documents with track changes review was done to

ensure all changes from the 2015 approved version have been adequately noted. Changes to policies were reviewed in detail, reviewing additions and deletions.

A full consultation will occur with mail outs, open houses, meetings with municipal staff and councillors, including full consultation with Nipissing First Nation. SPC Members were advised that during consultation, it will be preferable to have some SPC members attending the various meetings and public open houses.

Motion: That staff be directed to publish these draft revised documents as amended online and initiate a 35-day public consultation period in January 2026.

Moved by Simon, seconded by Sheldon (**Resolution 83-02**). Carried

b. Annual Reporting process

At 10:30 when Andrea Labelle had to step away from the meeting, the conversation pivoted to an update on the Annual Reporting process for this year. This year we are asking municipalities to enter their own answers on the portal with staff available to assist as needed. Bev requested a demonstration and has had some difficulties with marking questions as completed. NBMCA staff to provide answers for questions 400-440 as they pertain to mandatory maintenance inspections. Conversation reverted to reviewing the Source Protection Plan upon Andrea's return at 11:00.

c. Annual Reporting process

12. New Business and Wrap Up

Liza provided an update on the MECP appointment of the SPC Chair. There are currently many Source Protection Areas and Regions who do not have a Chair and there is no timeline for when those appointments may occur.

Liza reviewed options for Proxy votes should SPC members not be able to attend a meeting, since full attendance is currently required for quorum with our vacancies. It's critical that members prioritize attending meetings (or forwarding their proxy votes in advance). Recruitment to fill those vacancies is to occur in January.

13. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 11:59
Moved by Tim, seconded by Andrea.

Peter Murray, SPC Acting Chair

Liza Vandermeer, Project Manager

DRAFT

To: The Chairperson and Members of the Source Protection Committee

Origin: Angela Mills, Water Resources Specialist

Date: March 20, 2026

Report: 26-SPC-01

Subject: Callander Issue Contributing Area – 2025 Annual Report of Research and Monitoring

Background:

Microcystin is an identified issue for the Callander municipal drinking water supply. This is a toxin that comes from cyanobacteria, also referred to as Blue-green algae in Callander Bay. High concentrations of phosphorus contribute to the growth of cyanobacteria. Activities that may contribute phosphorus to Callander Bay are considered significant threats to drinking water in the North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Plan (SP Plan). The SP Plan (2015) requires that NBMCA in collaboration with the relevant municipalities provide an annual report to the Source Protection Authority on the activities and findings regarding research and/or monitoring undertaken with respect to the drinking water issue.

The interim total phosphorus Provincial Water Quality Objectives are as follows:

- Average (mean) total phosphorus concentrations in lakes for the ice-free period should not exceed 20 µg/L to avoid nuisance concentrations of algae;
- Where lakes naturally have total phosphorus concentrations below 10 µg/L, this should be maintained to provide a high level of protection against aesthetic deterioration; and
- Total phosphorus concentration below 30 µg/L to eliminate excessive plant growth in rivers and streams.

Analysis:

The monitoring programs as currently maintained by NBMCA were established in 2018. Lake water quality has been monitored at one site in the middle of Callander Bay and one site in the middle of Wasi Lake in partnership with the Lake Partner Program. Water samples are collected for Total Phosphorus analysis in May and August and measurements of the vertical profile of the water column using a sonde device with multiple sensors during monthly site visits, including a record of temperature and dissolved oxygen.

As has been shown from sample results prior to 2021, total phosphorus can be higher for samples collected in late summer relative to those collected in early to mid-spring in Callander Bay (true in 2023, 2024, and 2025) and Wasi Lake (true for all years 2021-2024). Results shown in Figure 1 indicate total phosphorus concentrations are more variable in Wasi Lake with higher mean and median concentrations.

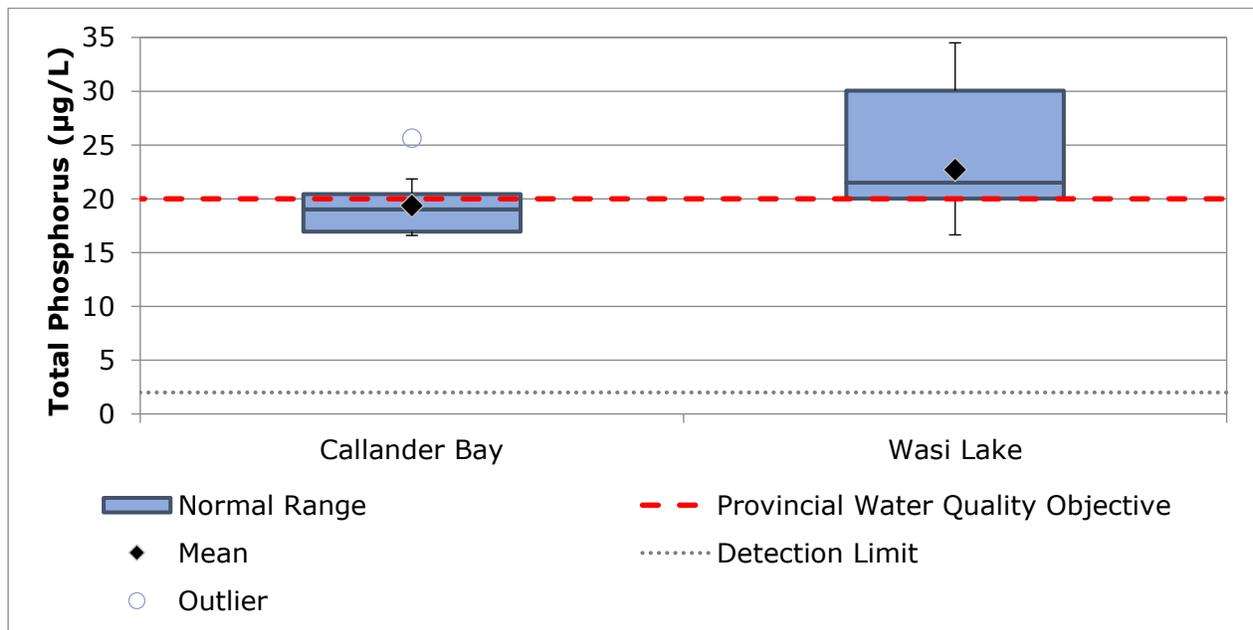


Figure 1: Lake sampling results for Total Phosphorus (2021-2025)

It has not been uncommon for water near the lakebed in Callander Bay to have anoxic conditions (<0.5 mg/L) that extend upward from the lakebed by as much as 1 m and temperatures approaching and sometimes exceeding 20 °C. The shallower Wasi Lake does not generally experience such extreme dissolved oxygen conditions and can experience warmer water temperature at the lakebed, especially in late summer.

A study was presented at the Blue-Green Algae symposium hosted by the municipality of Callander in 2025 by Dr. Elizabeth Favot (Sediment records from Lake Nipissing {ON, Canada} register a lake-wide multi-trophic response to climate change and reveal its possible role for increased cyanobacterial blooms from the Journal of Great Lakes Research, published in 2024). It concluded that cyanobacterial blooms have complex dynamics and environmental change including temperature and wind impact the water column, its temperature, stratification, and resulting dissolved oxygen concentrations at the lakebed. When lake sediments and the water column above it become anoxic, chemical reactions occur that release phosphorus from lake sediments. The data we are collecting aligns with this. Additional studies have been conducted by Dr. Dan Walters with Nipissing University, in Callander Bay.

Water quality samples are collected by NBMCA for Total Phosphorus analysis from the streams that flow into Callander Bay monthly between April and November, each year. These sites include Burford Creek, Lansdowne Creek (added in 2024), Wasi River, and Windsor Creek. Wasi River is sampled as part of the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program and is often also sampled through the winter. A summary of the results 2021-2025 is presented in Figure 2 and Table 1.

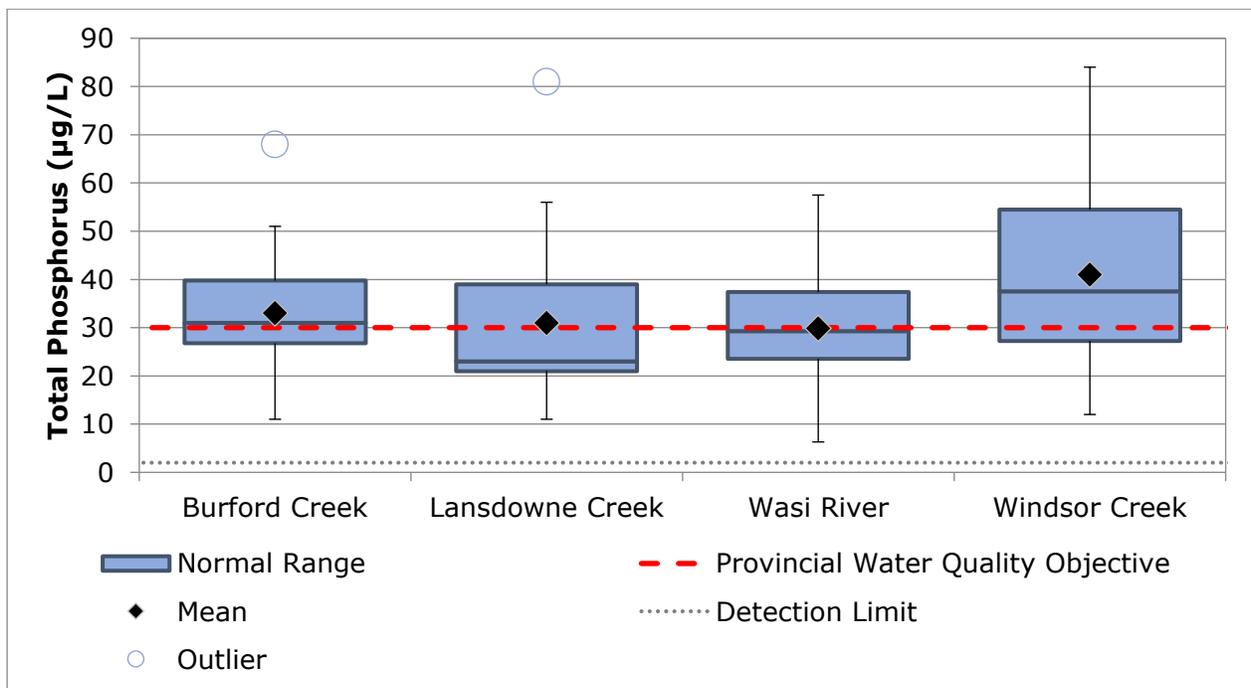


Figure 2: Overview of stream phosphorus sampled 2021-2025 in Callander Bay Tributaries (Lansdowne Creek 2024-2025 only).

Table 1: Summary of stream phosphorus samples (2021-2025)

Stream	Number of samples (2021-2025)	Average Total Phosphorus concentration (µg/L)
Burford Creek	38	33.0
Lansdowne Creek	15	31.0
Wasi River	51	30.1
Windsor Creek	38	41.1

Though Wasi River has the highest flow and therefore has the greatest absolute contribution of phosphorus to Callander Bay, Burford Creek, Lansdowne Creek and Wasi River have reported similar phosphorus concentrations. Windsor Creek has reported higher total phosphorus concentrations over a greater range. Basic analysis of applying a linear trendline to the datasets indicates Wasi River and Windsor Creek may have a decreasing trend of phosphorus concentration, however, it can be challenging to capture peak response to rain events, when turbidity and phosphorus concentrations would be highest in monthly sampling initiatives. The dataset for Burford Creek is stable. More data is required for Lansdowne Creek before trend analysis may be reliable. Comprehensive trend analysis is recommended, especially for Wasi River, where there is a long-term dataset.

Dr. April James and her students at Nipissing University, have conducted in-depth studies for the Wasi River watershed, including monitoring turbidity in Wasi River and developing relationships between phosphorus loading and real-time turbidity.

Looking ahead to 2026, staff intend to continue the monitoring programs. A request has been submitted to the Lake Partner Program to increase TP sampling on Callander Bay to monthly for May-August for TP analyses, coinciding with routine sonde measurements in June and July, with a potential extension of the field season into September for better assessment of ice-off mean TP concentration. Callander Bay had previously been sampled bi-weekly May to October for 2007 to 2017.

Recommendation/Recommended Resolution:

That the Source Protection Committee accept the report and direct staff to present this report to the Source Protection Authority.

Reviewed by:

Liza Vandermeer, Project Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection

To: The Chairperson and Members of the Source Protection Committee

Origin: Angela Mills, Water Resources Specialist

Date: March 20, 2026

Report: 26-SPC-02

Subject: North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Area Annual Progress Report

Background:

The North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Authority is required to submit Annual Progress Reports to the MECP and post online annually for May 1. Since 2017, our annual progress reports have been nearly identical. Upon review this year, it has been found that reporting has indicated that policies have been fully implemented but this does not reflect actual progress across the watershed. The draft 2025 Annual Progress Report is attached.

Analysis:

Sections I to III have had minimal edits relative to the 2024 Annual Progress Report. Changes to Section II, A message from your local Source Protection Committee are welcome if desired.

Section IV.1 Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground has long been reported as Progressing Well/On Target with 100 % of municipalities having implemented Land Use Planning policies with updated Official Plan and Zoning By-laws; however, this is actually five of eight municipalities with vulnerable areas with significant threat potential. Past reporting has also indicated education and outreach policies have been fully implemented, however, as outlined in Section IV.5, only two municipal websites link to the actforcleanwater.ca website and one more links to NBMCA's home page. Five municipal websites have no reference to source protection and staff are not aware of ongoing municipal education programs for Source Protection.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend downgrading the Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground to Satisfactory. Staff welcome any discussion and changes proposed by the Source Protection Committee.

Recommended Resolution:

That staff circulate the 2025 Annual Progress Report as amended to the Source Protection Committee via email after this meeting and the Source Protection Committee accept the amended 2025 Annual Progress Report by email response by noon on March 31 and direct staff to present this amended report to the Source Protection Authority prior to submission to the MECP.

Reviewed by:

Liza Vandermeer, Project Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection

As required by the Minister's revised order under section 36 of the Clean Water Act, the Source Protection Committee has been working on updates and improvements to the Source Protection Plan and Assessment Report. The proposed revised Source Protection Plan has had agency and public consultation and is expected to be submitted in early 2025.

II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

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

The provincial Ministries have reviewed existing permit approvals near vulnerable areas to determine if adequate measures are in place to manage activities so that they do not pose a significant threat to municipal drinking water sources. The Ministries have also established protocols, procedures, training, and guidelines to screen applications, undertake detailed reviews and impose conditions on permits if deemed appropriate to ensure compliance with source protection plan policies.

All eight municipalities have implemented all significant threat policies. However, the education and outreach approach used for the implementation of Policy SMF1, related to land application of nutrients, does not technically meet the policy intent of prohibiting this activity. A full explanation is provided later in section IV.6.



Figure 2: NBMCA staff returning to the dock after collecting water samples on Callander Bay for total phosphorus analysis

III. Our Watershed

To learn more, please read our assessment report and source protection plan.

The North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Area (SP Area) covers 4,000 km² and is home to about 80,000 residents. It is located 350 km north of Toronto and 360 km west of Ottawa. The SP Area includes the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) administrative area (2,800 km²) with its ten member municipalities, as well as the South River watershed. Extending the Source Protection Area to include the latter watershed brought additional sections of the Municipality of Powassan and the Village of South River into the program and added portions of five more municipalities, giving each the opportunity to participate in the project.

In total the Source Protection Authority includes fifteen (15) municipalities, namely: Township of Bonfield, Municipality of Callander, Municipality of Calvin, Township of Chisholm, Municipality of East Ferris, Township of Joly, Township of Machar, Town of Mattawa, Municipality of Mattawan, Township of Papineau- Cameron, Municipality of Powassan, Township of Nipissing, City of North Bay, Village of South River, and Township of Strong. Not all municipalities in the South River watershed currently have members sitting on the Source Protection Authority board. The Source Protection Area crosses a major watershed divide in Ontario with 85% of the territory draining to the Ottawa River basin via the Mattawa River and the remaining 15% draining to Lake Nipissing, which is part of the Great Lakes basin.

Five (5) municipal drinking water systems are included in the SP Plan: Municipality of Callander, Town of Mattawa, City of North Bay, Powassan and the Village of South River. The City of North Bay draws drinking water from Trout Lake at the headwaters of the Mattawa River. The Municipality of Callander takes water from Callander Bay, which is a confined bay of Lake Nipissing that is fed by the Wasi River. The Village of South River obtains drinking water from the South River. Both the Town of Mattawa and the Municipality of Powassan get their water from wells. Many residents who live outside these five communities rely on their own private wells or intakes.

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

1. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

S : Satisfactory - Some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

Eight (8) municipalities in our source protection area have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply. Five municipalities (63%) in our source protection area have fully implemented the Land Use Planning policies in the SP Plan through either Official Plan Amendments or Zoning By-Laws and have processes in place to ensure that their day-to-day planning decisions conform with the source protection plan. This process is underway in two municipalities, and not yet completed in one municipality.

An update to source protection plan policies and vulnerable area mapping is ongoing and will require further updates for municipalities.

2. Septic Inspections

P : Progressing Well/On Target

The Ontario Building Code requires periodic inspections of all septic systems located in areas where treatment or disposal of sewage could pose a significant threat to a source of municipal drinking water. The NBMCA is the principal authority within the North Bay- Mattawa SP Area. Inspections are required for:

- two (2) septic systems within municipal Wellhead Protection Areas where there would be a concern about pathogens; and
- 545 septic systems within the Callander Issue Contributing Area where the concern is the potential to release phosphorus, which might increase the growth of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae).

The number of systems is divided into roughly five parts so that all systems are inspected over a five-year cycle. The third, five-year cycle commenced in this Source Protection Area in 2022.

In 2025, no properties had inspections. This was the fifth year after the 2020 season which was postponed due to the COVID19 pandemic.

3. Risk Management Plans

Not applicable to the North Bay-Mattawa SP Area.

4. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well/On Target

A total of six SP Plan policies require Ontario ministries to review previously issued provincial approvals, prescribed instruments (PIs), and have processes in place to review new applications for activities that could pose a significant threat to source water.

The Ministries have completed the review of existing prescribed instruments (100%).

Ministries have instituted processes to ensure screening of new applications in areas affected by SP Plan policies and to apply appropriate conditions. These processes include: staff training; guidance documents; resource library; protocols; mapping tools; and standard operating policies.

For 2025, the Ontario ministries have reported that the following number of applications within the North Bay-Mattawa SP Area: three (3) applications for a pesticide permit were reviewed resulting in all three (3) of those applicants being issued a permit where a significant threat was managed through conditions on the permit.

Additionally, one (1) existing Nutrient Management Strategy (NMS) was newly identified that may be subject to significant drinking water threat policies and was reviewed in 2025, concluding the NMS had cropland overlapping the vulnerable area, but no NMS-regulated activities occurring in the vulnerable area. Standard conditions were included in the approval.

5. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Public awareness and education about actions that can be taken to help protect source water are key pillars of the local Source Protection Plan. Information has been posted online by the North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Authority at actforcleanwater.ca regarding: safe use of fuel oil

tanks and heating systems; awareness of the threats posed by organic solvents and dense non-aqueous phase liquids (DNAPLs); application of pesticides; proper disposal of hazardous waste; and the potential risk from pathogens in uncomposted manure. Two municipal websites are still linked to this information and one more links to NBMCA's homepage. Five municipal websites do not link to NBMCA's Source Protection page.

Five local municipalities with have installed road signs at the boundaries of vulnerable areas and one has installed a sign in an additional location. The objective is twofold: to alert emergency responders if a spill occurs in a vulnerable area, and to increase public awareness of these areas. Of the twelve (12) Drinking Water Protection Zone signs that were installed by municipalities within North Bay, Callander, Mattawa, South River, and Machar, eight (8) are known to remain. As well, three (3) signs have been installed by the Ministry of Transportation on Highway 11 in Powassan and on Highway 63 east of North Bay.

The most substantive efforts to change behaviour are related to addressing the microcystin issue in the source water for the Municipality of Callander. Policy ICA1 specifies that a community-based social marketing approach be used to identify changes in behaviour that would be effective, identify barriers to adoption of desired behaviors, and then reduce or remove those barriers.

6. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

Implementation of all policies appears to be on schedule except for policy SMF1.

Policy SMF1, Municipal Action to Prohibit Land Application of Nutrients, is currently being implemented through an education and outreach program. The policy text requires municipalities to prohibit the application of agricultural source material (ASM), non-agricultural source material (NASM), and commercial fertilizer, where such applications could pose a significant threat to drinking water. However, prohibition of the application of agricultural source materials using a municipal by-law was considered complicated for the public to interpret and a by-law officer to enforce.

When balanced against the unlikelihood of a threat occurring, an education and outreach was chosen as the appropriate tool to implement SMF1. In that

regard, information has been posted on the Source Protection website actforcleanwater.ca to inform residents of the potential risk of applying uncomposted manure and other forms of ASM near sources of drinking water. The affected municipalities have installed links from their websites.

The Source Protection Committee considers significant threats from the application of nutrients to be sufficiently addressed through this Education and Outreach approach. During the Section 36 review of the SP Plan, the SPC will bring forward policy revisions to policy SMF1.

Note that this SP Plan does not provide for a Risk Management approach under Part IV of the Clean Water Act.

7. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

Callander Bay Phosphorous Issue

A drinking water issue was identified for the risk of the toxin microcystin-LR in the source water for Callander due to the periodic incidence of cyanobacteria blooms (blue-green algae) in Callander Bay. When the risk was identified the Municipality upgraded its water treatment plant to include charcoal filtration on all treated water. However, the SP Plan still needs to address the issue in the source. Problematic growth of cyanobacteria is generally attributed to levels of phosphorus in excess of Provincial Water Quality Objectives. The SP Plan includes four policies directed specifically to addressing the issue and requires consideration of the issue through several other policies such as approvals for sewage treatment facilities and waste disposal sites.

The area in which activities could contribute to the issue is called the Issue Contributing Area (ICA). The contributing watershed is 300 km² and includes territories of five municipalities.

The four specific ICA policies are:

ICA1: Education - Issue Contributing Area,

ICA2: Nutrient Management Act Tools to Implement Phosphorous Best Management in Issue Contributing Area,

ICA3: Governing Research in the Issue Contributing Area, and

ICA4: Monitor Issue in Callander ICA - Phosphorous Contribution Related to Microcystin LR.

Phosphorus is a fundamental nutrient for most organisms. The intent of these policies takes a multi-prong approach: improve understanding of the factors contributing to the issue; inform residents; and encourage positive action to both reduce inputs of phosphorus and enhance attenuation mechanisms. Local research since 2008 has provided a wealth of data on water quality parameters, including phosphorus. Phosphorus loading in watercourses has been found to be associated with high turbidity following storm events and during high flows. Stream bank erosion is a major contributor of phosphorus to the Wasi River watershed. The Wasi River provides 70% of the inflow to Callander Bay. An Erosion and Runoff Mitigation Study completed in 2016 identified specific practices with respect to ditching, bridge design and culvert installation as contributing to the erosion problem. Education and outreach activities with municipal public works staff are being undertaken to improve practices and lessen erosion. Internal loading of phosphorus from organic deposits in Callander Bay appears to be a significant contributor. The phosphorus is cycled back into the water column when anoxic conditions occur near the sediment.

An education and outreach initiative encourages property owners to plant shorelines with trees, shrubs and perennials to intercept overland flows and help stabilize banks. The NBMCA conducted the Restore Your Shore program (RYS) over a five-year period through 2019 with funding provided by grants from various organizations. RYS provided shoreline assessments, planting plans, planting stock, and planting assistance to eligible shoreline and stream bank property owners.

8. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

No work plans were required to be implemented for our assessment report.

9. More from the Watershed

To learn more about the North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Area, visit actforcleanwater.ca.



Figure 3: Municipal road signs marking intake protection zone and wellhead protection areas (South River Reservoir)

To: The Chairperson and Members of the Source Protection Committee

Origin: Angela Mills, Water Resources Specialist

Date: March 20, 2026

Report: 26-SPC-03

Subject: Source Protection Plan Policies: Risk Management

Background:

Part IV of the *Clean Water Act* empowers municipalities to manage significant drinking water threats through restrictions and prohibitions of activities in vulnerable areas. It includes Risk Management Officials (RMOs) who can work with property owners to develop Risk Management Plans (RMPs) to address significant drinking water threat activities, engage in education programs, and manage threats with best practices and preparedness to prevent spills from becoming significant drinking water threats.

The North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Plan is one of a few (if not the only Source Protection Plan) across Ontario that does not currently use Part IV powers and where no policies require Risk Management Plans. With the ongoing Section 36 update and consultation feedback, it is time to reassess whether the Source Protection Plan policies are effective in addressing the significant drinking water threats in the North Bay-Mattawa Source Protection Area.

Analysis:

Feedback from municipalities has indicated that the Source Protection Plan can be difficult to implement for local municipalities. As highlighted in the 2025 Annual Progress Report, Education and Outreach programs do not seem to be actively engaging the public.

An excerpt from the Thames-Sydenham and Region's Explanatory Document: Risk Management Plans, in accordance with Section 58 of the Clean Water Act, are used as a tool to manage existing and future drinking

water threats. This tool is used to “fill the gap” where a land use planning policy or other existing legislation cannot adequately regulate a significant drinking water threat. This tool is particularly effective in dealing with existing significant drinking water threat activities, where prohibition would likely impose undue hardship on property owners, businesses, etc. Risk Management Plans also provide an opportunity to work with property owners/proponents to manage a threat.

The RMP process also serves as a site-specific education and outreach opportunity by allowing the RMO to comprehensively review and discuss potential alternatives (e.g. processes, substances or locations) that might eliminate the significant threat, as well as best management practices and any available local incentives with the person undertaking the activity. The policies that use Section 58 generally do not outline the contents of a RMP so that the RMO has flexibility to negotiate a RMP that reduces the risk at an appropriate level based on the site-specific situation. A more prescriptive policy may either, not allow the RMO the latitude to satisfy the regulatory requirements that the risk be managed to the point of no longer being significant, or result in the imposition of requirements that may not be necessary in every situation. In some cases, suggested approaches are provided in the policies; however, these are not intended to limit the flexibility of the RMO to negotiate an appropriate RMP with the person engaged in the activity.

An example of policy text as it relates to agricultural activities and Risk Management Plans from the Grand River Source Protection Authority:

To ensure the following future significant drinking water threats:

- The application of agricultural source material (not phased-in under the *Nutrient Management Act*)
- The application, handling and storage of commercial fertilizer
- The application of pesticide
- The use of land as livestock grazing or pasturing land, an outdoor confinement area or a farm animal yard

within WHPA-B with a vulnerability score equal to ten (10), never become significant drinking water threats, these activities shall be designated for the purpose of Section 58 of the Clean Water Act, 2006 and a Risk Management Plan shall be required.

The requirements of the Risk Management Plan for the application of agricultural source material will generally be based on the requirements of a

Nutrient Management Plan and/or Strategy under the Nutrient Management Act but may also include any modifications or additional requirements deemed necessary or appropriate by the Risk Management Official.

With the 2021 Technical Rules, additional activities have the potential to be significant drinking water threats in the Callander, South River, and North Bay Intake Protection Zones. Existing Land use planning prohibition policies in the drafted updated Source Protection Plan can only prohibit future activities; this leaves Municipal education and outreach policies to manage existing threats that are not regulated by provincial ministries through Prescribed Instruments. As demonstrated with the Annual Progress reporting, the education and outreach policies may not be effective in managing the existing significant drinking water threats. Municipalities would be responsible for implementing programs under Part IV of the *Clean Water Act*. Many municipalities in Southern Ontario have appointed Conservation Authority staff as Risk Management Official/Risk Management Inspector (RMO/RMI) as an efficiency to minimize costs through a joint program.

Recommendation/Recommended Resolution:

The Source Protection Committee would like to include Part IV policies in the Source Protection Plan and directs staff to draft policies incorporating RMO/RMI to manage significant drinking water threats.

Or

The Source Protection Committee would not like to include Part IV policies in the Source Protection Plan and directs staff to maintain existing policies to manage significant drinking water threats.

Reviewed by:

Liza Vandermeer, Project Manager, Drinking Water Source Protection