South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

SEVERN SOUND SOURCE PROTECTION AUTHORITY
MEETING NO. 02-26-SS SPA
AGENDA
October 22nd, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Location: Bourgeois Community Centre, 527 Len Self Blvd (Midland)

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1. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPT AGENDA

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

4. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the SSSPA meeting held April 30, 2026, were approved at the July 30, 2026, SSEA Board Meeting (Motion 2026-038).

5. DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION UPDATE

5.1 Staff Report No. 05-26-SSSPA from SSEA Manager, Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI.

6. CHANGES TO THE CLEAN WATER ACT

6.1 Staff Report No. 06-26-SSSPA and presentation from SSEA Manager, Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI.

7. ADJOURN

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

Severn Sound Source Protection Authority (SPA)
Meeting No. 02-26-SS SPA
October 22nd, 2026

STAFF REPORT

No: 05-26-SSSPA
Date: October 22nd, 2026
To: Chair and Members of the SS SPA Board of Directors
From: Melissa Carruthers, Manager Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI
SUBJECT: **Drinking Water Source Protection 2026 Q3 Update**

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:
Discover - Sound Science
Connect - Supportive Partnerships

RECOMMENDATION:
THAT: Staff Report No. 05-26-SSSPA regarding an update on SSEA drinking water source protection activities, during Q3 of 2026, be received for information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To provide an update on the activities that SSEA drinking water source protection staff have undertaken during the third quarter of 2026.

Background

Risk Management Services

SSEA staff have been delegated by 8 municipalities (District Municipality of Muskoka, Townships of Georgian Bay, Severn, Oro-Medonte, Tay, Tiny, and Towns of Midland and Penetanguishene) to preform risk management services on behalf of their municipality under Part IV of the Clean Water Act. Although Georgian Bay is no longer a member of the SSEA, Risk Management Services remain in place for 2026.
Funding: Risk Management services are charged to individual municipalities based on the work required and fluctuate yearly.

Source Protection Authority

As a Source Protection Authority one of SSEAs main roles is leading the process of revising the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Plan and associated Assessment Reports, when updates are needed due to changes to municipal drinking water systems. There are many sub steps but in general the process is as follows:

- Step 1: Early Planning
- Step 2: Notification from Owner

- Step 3: Source Protection Technical Work
- Step 4: Notice from Source Protection Authority
- Step 5: Source Protection Plan Updates
    - Step 5a: Early Engagement with MECP
    - Step 5b: Endorsement from Local Source Protection Committee
    - Step 5c: Discretionary Early Engagement with municipality and implementers
    - Step 5d: Pre-consultation with Implementing Bodies
    - Step 5e: Municipal Endorsement (both upper and lower tier)
    - Step 5f: Public Consultation
    - Step 5g: Finalize Amendment Package
- Step 6: Source Protection Authority Submission to MECP
- Step 7: Approval from MECP Ministry and Provision of Water

Funding: Historically funding from the province to support Source Protection Authority work has been done on a one-year basis. The last funding agreement was for two years; the current agreement and work plan is for a three-year term (April 2024 to March 2027). Negotiations have not yet begun regarding the next funding agreement but are anticipated to start in Q4 of 2026.

Analysis/Discussion

Risk Management Services Q3 activities

- To ensure compliance with the local Source Protection Plan, risk management staff monitored 36 sites through windshield surveys, answered 26 inquiries, commented on 18 development applications, and attended 2 pre-consultation meetings. The average turnaround time for responding to development applications and inquiries, during this quarter, was 3.7 business days.

Source Protection Authority Q3 activities

- Made progress on the following municipal water system changes:
    - Township of Tiny – Lafontaine: completed steps 5d and 5e
- Continue to work on preapproved work plan tasks as part of the fulsome update of the local Source Protection Plan and associated Assessment Reports

Conclusions

SSEA risk management staff continue to fulfill their duties as both a Risk Management Official/Inspector and as a Source Protection Authority.

Prepared by:

Original signed by
Melissa Carruthers, Manager
Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI

Approved for submission by:

Original signed by
Julie Cayley, Executive Director

South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

Severn Sound Source Protection Authority (SPA)
Meeting No. 02-26-SS SPA
October 22nd, 2026

STAFF REPORT

No: 06-26-SSSPA
Date: October 22nd, 2026
To: Chair and Members of the SS SPA Board of Directors
From: Melissa Carruthers, Manager Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI
SUBJECT: **Clean Water Act Changes**

APPLICABLE STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:
Discover - Sound Science
Connect - Supportive Partnerships

RECOMMENDATION:
THAT: Staff Report No. 06-26-SSSPA regarding changes to the Clean Water Act, be received for information.

Purpose of Staff Report

To provide an overview of Changes to the Clean Water Act that either took effect on July 1, 2026 or will take effect on January 1, 2027.

Background

Changes to the Clean Water Act were announced by the Province on June 30, 2026 regarding three areas:

1. Prescribed instrument policies
2. Source Protection Plan amendment approval process
3. Use of sources of drinking water

Analysis/Discussion

1.Prescribed instrument policies

Prescribed Instruments are legal documents issued by Ministries to manage site-specific activities. New Regulation requires Source Protection Authorities to:

- Use standardized wording
- Remove any prohibitions on existing activities
- Remove any policies that apply to moderate / low threats
- Remove all Monitoring policies

These rules come into effect January 1, 2027, and Source Protection Authorities will have 30 days to conform.

Implications to the SSEA: There will be limited impact within the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region, as prohibitions on existing activities and moderate- and low-threat policies have been used sparingly. The standardized wording and monitoring policies are expected to align closely with current policies. Any changes to these policies will require approval by the local Source Protection Committee and will be brought forward by the lead Source Protection Authority, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

2.Source Protection Plan amendment approval process
New Regulation Includes:

- Expanded minor amendments
    - Previous approach: administrative amendments can be used to fix errors
    - New approach: Replace an existing well or intake if only the WHPA-A or IPZ-1 changes; Address an amendment in neighbouring Source Protection Region that extend into another
- Simplified consultation
    - Previous approach: Two stages of consultation required (Pre-consultation with Implementing Bodies and Public consultation, including both Implementing Bodies and affected landowners)
    - New approach: One phase of consultation
- Option for local approval by Source Protection Authority
    - Previous approach: All amendments approved by Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks
    - New approach: Local Source Protection Authority can now approve if:
        - No new policies proposed, or
        - Committee is proposing to change a *Prohibition* policy to a *Manage* policy
- Timeline for Minister approval
    - Previous approach: No timeline provided
    - New Approach: Ministerial decision will happen within 120 days

Implications to the SSEA: A process will need to be established to identify who within the Severn Sound Source Protection Authority is responsible for approvals required by the Authority and how those approvals will be made.

3.Use of sources of drinking water
Ontario Regulation 205/18 requires that any new / expanded municipal drinking water system be included in the Source Protection Plan before coming into use.

- Previous approach: Amendment needed to be approved before well/intake could provide water to residents
- New approach: Source Protection Authority recommend to MECP if system can come into use prior to Plan approval, if the Source Protection Authority think the prohibition unnecessary

Implications to the SSEA: It is anticipated that the proposed changes to the use of sources, could help eliminate unnecessary delays and deadlines.

Conclusions

SSEA risk management staff continue to fulfill their duties as a Source Protection Authority as required and will continue to monitor and analyse impacts due to changes to the Clean Water Act.

Prepared by:

Original signed by
Melissa Carruthers, Manager
Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI

Approved for submission by:

Original signed by
Julie Cayley, Executive Director

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
ACT FOR CLEAN WATER
South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

Severn Sound Environmental Association

Clean Water Act Changes

Melissa Carruthers,
Manager Source Water Protection, RMO/RMI

October 22, 2026

Water is life. Protect Yours.

Changes to the Clean Water Act

Changes to the Clean Water Act

- Announced October 31, 2025
- Provided overall intent of the changes
  - Speeding up approval of amendments
  - Providing consistency in Provincial Instruments

Changes to the Regulations

- Provide the detail of how the overall intent is delivered
- Announced June 30, 2026
- Enforced July 1, 2026

Changes apply to three areas

1. Prescribed instrument policies
2. Source Protection Plan amendment approval process
3. Use of sources of drinking water

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1. Prescribed Instrument Policies

- Prescribed Instruments are legal documents issued by Ministries to manage site-specific activities
- New Regulation requires Source Protection Authorities to
  - Use standardized wording
  - Remove any prohibitions on existing activities
  - Remove any policies that apply to moderate / low threats
  - Remove all Monitoring policies
- These rules come into effect January 1, 2027, and Source Protection Authorities will have 30 days to conform

Limited impact in the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region. Lead Source Protection Authority in our Region (Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority) will handle most of this, SSEA would be in a supporting role.

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2. Plan Amendment Process

- Amendment process had followed the approval process for the original plan
- That level of effort does not always seem necessary with amendments
- New Regulation Includes:
  a) Expanded minor amendments
  b) Simplified consultation
  c) Option for local approval by Source Protection Authority
  d) Timeline for Minister approval

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2a. Expanded Minor Amendments Approaches

- Previous approach
  - Administrative amendments can be used to fix errors

- New approach
  - Replace an existing well or intake if only the WHPA-A or IPZ-1 changes
  - Address an amendment in neighbouring Source Protection Region that extend into another

Will have limited impact to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

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2b. Simplified Consultation Implications

- Previous approach
  - Two stages of consultation required
    - Pre-consultation with Implementing Bodies
    - Public consultation, including both Implementing Bodies and affected landowners

- New approach
  - Once phase of consultation

Impact to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

- Shorter process to follow
- Removed a step that has seemed unnecessary

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2c. Local Approval by Source Protection Authority Approaches

- Previous approach
  - All amendments approved by Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks

- New approach
  - Local Source Protection Authority can now approve if:
    - No new policies proposed, or
    - Committee is proposing to change a Prohibition policy to a Manage policy

Impact to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region

- Majority of amendment will meet this category
- Consultation and Source Protection Committee agreement still required
- MECP Director needs to authorize Source Protection Authority approval
- May lead to quicker decisions

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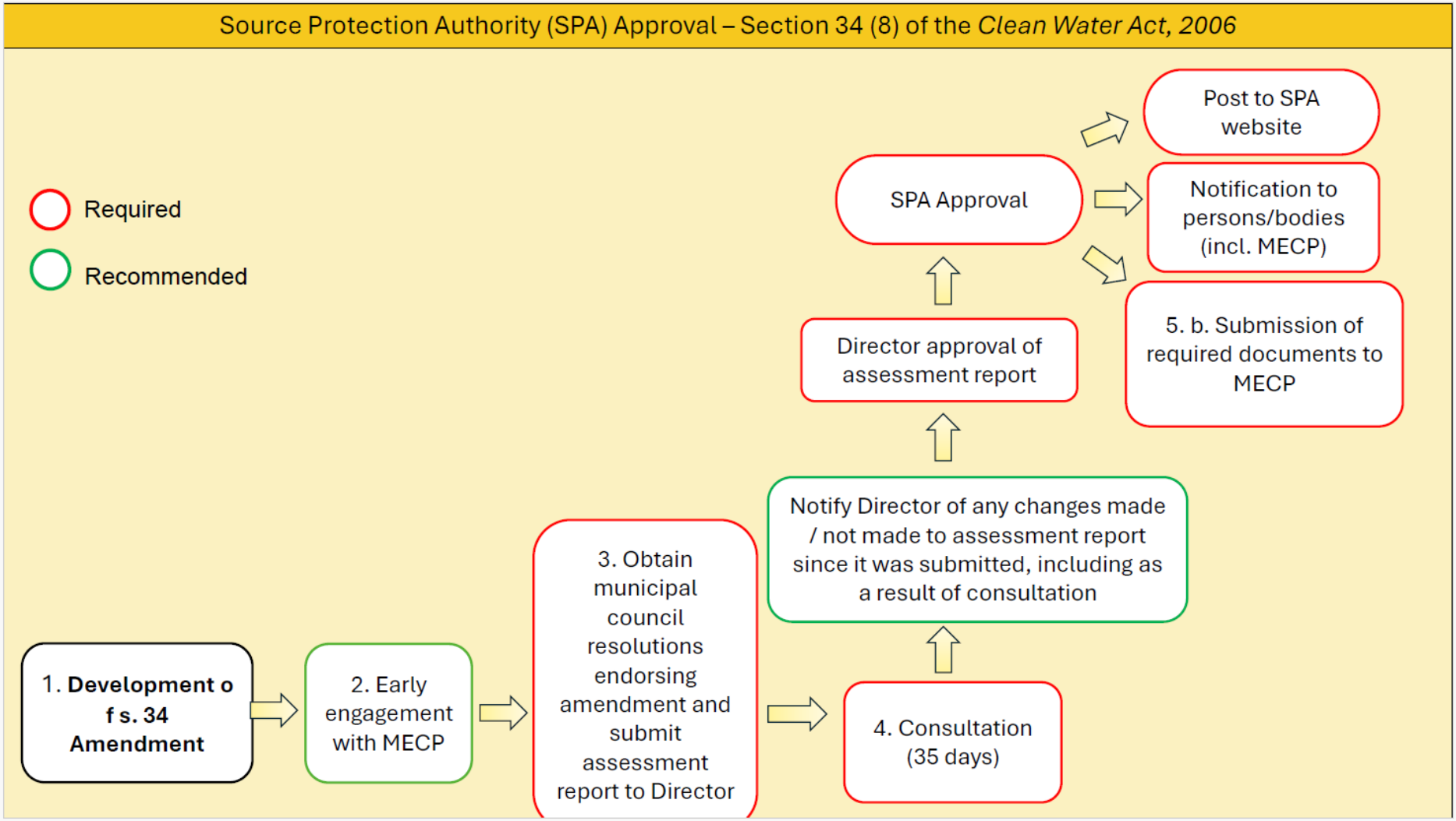
2c. Local Approval by Source Protection Authority Proposed Process



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2d. Timeline for Ministerial Approval

- Previous approach
  - No timeline provided

- New approach
  - Ministerial decision will happen within 120 days

Impact to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region
- Likely minor
- May lead to quicker decisions

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3. Use of Source

Regulation 205/18 requires that any new / expanded municipal drinking water system be included in the Source Protection Plan before coming into use

- Previous approach
  - Amendment needed to be approved before well/intake could provide water to residents

- New approach
  - Source Protection Authority recommend to MECP if system can come into use prior to Plan approval, if the Source Protection Authority think the prohibition unnecessary

Impact to the South Georgian Bay Lake Simcoe Source Protection Region
- Could eliminate unnecessary delays and deadlines
- Could allow Source Protection Authority staff to prioritize amendments

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A clean glass of water starts long before you turn on the tap

Thank you!

Questions?

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