



## Essex Region Conservation Authority

### Essex Region Source Protection Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm

Location and Details: via Zoom Video Conferencing

<b>List of Business</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
<b>1. Land Acknowledgement</b>	
<b>2. Call to Order</b>	
<b>3. Chair's Welcome</b>	
<b>4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest</b>	
<b>5. Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>1-2</b>
THAT the agenda for the Wednesday, March 9, 2022 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee (SPC) be approved.	
<b>6. Adoption of Minutes</b>	
<b>A. Essex Region Source Protection Committee (SPC)</b>	<b>3-8</b>
2022-02-09 Meeting Minutes	
THAT the minutes of the Source Protection Committee held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 be approved as presented.	
<b>7. Correspondence</b>	
None.	

**8. MECP Liaison's Update**

Catherine Eby, MECP, will provide a brief update to the SPC.

**9. Presentations**

**Catherine Eby, MECP Liaison**

*MECP Results of 2020 Annual Progress Reporting*

**10. Reports**

**A. SPC 02/22**

**9-14**

*Draft responses for the 2021 Annual Reporting Template*

THAT the 2021 Essex Region Source Protection Authority Annual Progress Report be submitted to the MECP on or before May 1, 2022 pending suggested changes and additions made by the SPC, and endorsement by the SPA.

**11. New Business**

None.

**12. Other Business**

None.

**13. Adjournment**

THAT the March 9, 2022 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee be adjourned.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee is to be held on June 8, 2022.



## Essex Region Source Protection Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm

Location and Details: via Zoom Video Conferencing

### Attendance

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**Members Present:** Tom Fuerth (Chair)  
Nelson Santos  
John Barnett  
Matthew Merrett  
Bill Dukes  
Chad Quinlan

Albert Dionne  
Kevin Webb (proxy for Thom Hunt)  
Chris Snip  
Jim Drummond  
Tim Mousseau (proxy for Cynthia Ouellett)  
Ron Barrette

Larry Verbeke (SPA Liaison)  
Mary Wooding (MECP Liaison)  
Catherine Eby (new MECP Liaison)  
Victoria Pezculis (WECHU Liaison)

**Absent:** Aaron Coristine, Antonietta Giofu, Cynthia Ouellett, Thom Hunt

**Staff Present:** Katie Stammer, Water Quality Scientist/Project Manager Source Water Protection  
Aaron Zimmer, Multimedia Specialist  
Lisa Pavan, Administrative Associate

**Others:** Heather Crewe  
Warren Higgins

## 1. Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that this land is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, the Odawa, and the Potawatomie Peoples.

We acknowledge the harms and mistakes of our past as we continue to move forward in the spirit of reconciliation.

As we do at our meetings, I'll begin with a statement of hope and a statement of gratitude. I'm grateful that we have the opportunity to meet together in this digital format, which allows us to still get our work done and I hope that we all have a good 2022 ahead of us.

## 2. Call to Order

Good evening and welcome to the February 9, 2022 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee.

I will call the meeting to order at this time, 4:10 pm.

## 3. Chair's Welcome

I have something that has nothing to do with Source Protection, but I would like to bring it to your attention. I received a notice this week advising that every Conservation Authority in Ontario is to have an appointment available of a local representative from the farm community to their board. This is something new. It looks like there is going to be an opportunity for the farming community to have some kind of input in an organized manner to the ERCA Board. This is a provincial appointment and, for those of you present from the farming community who might wish to participate in another way, I will be happy to send you the information regarding applying for this position.

We'd like to welcome our new MECP Liaison, Catherine Eby. Mary will introduce Catherine and help us to get to know her a little better later in the meeting.

## 4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

## 5. Approval of Agenda

### **Resolution SPC 01/22**

Moved by Matthew Merrett  
Seconded by Jim Drummond



tool will be accompanied by a survey so that we can gather more information and feedback to help us continually improve the document.

On the funding front, the transfer payment agreements for the 2021/2022 fiscal year are in place and we are working under them until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The draft final report for that funding is due to the Ministry on February 28, 2022.

We have received all of the workplans on a go-forward basis for the 2022/2024 fiscal year and we are in the process of reviewing them in consultation with the Source Protection Authorities, should we have questions.

We continue to review and consult on the submissions under Section 34 of the Act. Most SPC committees are working on their Section 36 updates with 3 committees having completed and submitted them for our review.

Annual Reporting for the Ministry for the 2021 reporting year is completed. These reports were submitted to all of the Source Protection Authorities across the province.

The appointment of agricultural representatives to Conservation Authority Boards is part of the Conservation Authorities Act update. New regulations were filed to implement the changes to the Conservation Authorities Act in October of 2021 as a first phase, so these regulations set out details on the framework and the programs and services that support the core mandates of Conservation Authorities. One of these core mandates is source protection. Building on that progress and to support a smooth transition by Conservation Authorities to move funding framework by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the second phase of the regulatory and policy proposals were posted for consultation in late January.

We are really excited to have Catherine Eby join us. She has been with the ministry for 17 or 18 years. She has an Honours Bachelors Degree in Environmental Science from the University of Guelph with a major in Earth and Atmospheric Science and a minor in Environmental Economics and Policy. After working briefly in the private sector as an environmental consultant, she started with the ministry as a terrestrial scientist and she has spent the last 17 years as a senior environmental officer. For 10 years, she worked with the spills action centre, the last seven of those being in the Toronto District office. She has a busy life outside of work with her three teenagers. Catherine is a quick study and we are sure you will quite enjoy having Catherine as your new liaison.

## **9. Delegations**

None.



That the February 9, 2022 meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Authority be adjourned at 4:50 pm. **Carried**

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Essex Region Source Protection Committee is to be held on March 9, 2022 starting at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom web conferencing



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**Tom Fuerth**  
Chair



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**Katie Stammler**  
Water Quality Scientist/  
Project Manager Source Water Protection





## Essex Region Source Protection Committee

### Report 02/22

From: Katie Stammer, Source Water Project Manager

Date: Monday, February 28, 2022

**Subject: Draft responses for the 2021 Annual Reporting Template**

#### Recommendation

**THAT the 2021 Essex Region Source Protection Authority Annual Progress Report be submitted to the MECP on or before May 1, 2022 pending suggested changes and additions made by the SPC, and endorsement by the SPA**

#### Summary

- The Director of the Source Protection Branch approved an updated Source Protection Annual Progress Report Template and Supplemental Form that must be used for annual reporting
- Implementing Bodies provided progress reports to the SPA on or before February 1, 2022
- The 2020 Annual Progress Report for the Essex Region SPA is due May 1, 2022

#### Discussion

The Essex Region Source Protection Authority is required to submit an Annual Progress Report to the MECP under S.46 of the Clean Water Act on or before May 1, 2022. Annual Progress Reports describe the measures taken to implement the Source Protection Plan (SPP), the results of any monitoring programs, the extent to which the objectives in the SPP are being achieved and any other information required in the Regulations. The Director of the Source Protection Branch of the MECP has authority under s.52 (5) of Regulation 287/07 to approve a form to be used for these reports. The Source Protection Authority will be submitting all supplementary data to the MECP via an electronic database called EAR, which was approved in 2018.

The information used to prepare the Annual Progress Report comes from Implementing Bodies, who are required by Monitoring Policies in the SPP to prepare and submit a progress report to the SPA by February 1 of each year. All of the Implementing Bodies provided these reports on or before February 1, 2022.

The SPA is required to submit the Annual Progress Report to the SPC at least 30 days prior to submitting it to the MECP. The draft Annual Progress Report is attached for review by the SPC. Comments will be received at this meeting and via email over the next 30 days until at least April 11, 2022. The SPA will receive the draft Annual Progress Report at their meeting on April 14, 2022 where they will be asked to endorse the submission of the Report pending any final editorial changes. The SPC will receive the final Annual Progress Report via email prior to submission to the MECP.

Based on the information in the draft Annual Progress Report, the SPC must agree to an overall progress score as well as progress score for some individual sections.

Where questions require a letter grade, the following options are available:

**P** – Progressing Well

**S** – Satisfactory

**L** – Limited Progress

#### Part I – Introduction

See attached – no change since 2018.

#### Part II: A message from your local SPC

This is an opportunity for the SPC to provide an overall letter grade as described above. This section will be completed once the SPC has been provided with the opportunity to review the draft Annual Progress Report and accompanying supplemental material, which will be circulated via email. The written portion of this section is limited to 200 words.

The SPC has rated the overall progress as '**P**' – Progressing Well – every year since 2017.

### Part III – Our Watershed

See attached – no change since 2018.

### Part IV – Progress on Source Protection Plan Implementation

#### *Q1. Source Protection Plan Policies and Addressing Significant Risks*

There are 44 policies in the Essex Region SPP that address significant drinking water threats (SDWTs), 4 policies address low/moderate drinking water threats, and 2 policies are not directly associated with specific drinking water threat activities (i.e. microcystin policies).

Of the 44 policies in the Essex Region SPP that address SDWTs, 29 (66%) are now fully implemented. This is an increase of two policies since 2020 that were previously considered to be in progress. The two policies that were directed at the City of Windsor to address combined sewer discharge are now considered implemented with the finalization of their Sewer and Coastal Flood Management Plan and 2021-2028 implementation plan. There are 13 (30%) policies in progress and on target to be fully implemented in 2022. The remaining two policies have been reviewed and it has been determined that no further action is required. One policy that does not require further action requires ERCA to apply for funding to provide grants for improvements to fuel tanks. As no such funding opportunity exists, no action can be taken. The other policy is related to the use of airplane de-icer chemicals and is applicable in areas where these chemicals are not used. Because commercial airports are not a permitted use in these areas, this policy does not require any further action. The airplane de-icer policy was previously identified as 'no progress made'.

The RMO/I is responsible for implementing 14 of the 44 SDWT policies in the Essex Region SPP (and 12 of the 13 policies considered to be 'in progress'). The two (2) Section 59 policies are considered to be 'implemented' because there are processes in place to screen building permits and planning applications for activities that could be a SDWT. All section 57 and 58 policies remain 'in progress' as existing threats continue to be addressed. One (1) policy uses section 58 to address fuel threats and all remaining fuel threats are expected to be addressed with RMPs in 2022 (see SPC Report 06/21 for detailed information). Screening for activities that would be subject to section 57 and section 58 policies has been completed for Lakeshore IPZ-1 and Amherstburg IPZ-1 and is underway for Windsor IPZ-1 and IPZ-2. Once this information is collected and any SDWTs identified are addressed (none expected), all six (6) policies that use section 57 to prohibit SDWT activities and all five (5) policies that use section 58 to manage SDWT activities will be considered implemented.

One (1) policy is considered in progress that requires Windsor, Lakeshore and Amherstburg to prohibit sewage treatment tanks in IPZ-1's, this policy is implemented in Windsor and Lakeshore and will be included in Amherstburg's next Official Plan update.

A letter grade of 'P' – progressing well – was assigned in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 and is recommended based on the information above.

## Q2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

This section is a summary of the progress that municipalities have made towards integrating Source Protection Plan policies with their day-to-day planning processes, Official Plan and Zoning By-laws. There has been little change since 2018 as the process for developing and approving Official Plans takes several years.

All lower tier and single tier municipalities in the Essex Region are responsible for day-to-day land use planning and building permit decisions and have integrated source protection requirements into these decisions. All municipalities have received and should be using the written direction and “Building Information Sheet” provided by the RMO to aid in the implementation of section 59 policies. The responses in the 2021 indicate that all Planning Departments are incorporating s.59 screening, but some Building Departments are not. Refresher training was provided in 2021 and will be offered again in 2022 for municipal staff. In 2021, an updated s.59 Written Direction was provided to Lakeshore and Amherstburg along with a special training session. A new Written Direction is in preparation for Windsor.

In the Essex Region, all municipalities have vulnerable areas where significant drinking threat policies apply, and are required to ensure their Official Plan conforms with the Source Protection Plan the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the Planning Act.

Most of the municipalities in the Essex Region (7 of 11) are in the process of completing their Official Plan (OP) conformity exercises, and have been for several years. The County of Essex and Town of Essex completed their required OP conformity exercise in 2018, LaSalle completed their OP conformity exercise in 2019 and Tecumseh completed their OP conformity exercise in 2021. Zoning by-law (ZBL) conformity exercises are in progress for most municipalities (7 of 10); two municipalities (Tecumseh and Leamington) have not yet begun their ZBL conformity exercise. The Town of Essex has completed their zoning by-law conformity exercise. The County of Essex is an upper tier municipal jurisdiction with the majority of Source Protection planning responsibilities left to the lower tier municipalities, therefore no ZBL amendments are required. A summary of progress toward OP and ZBL conformity is provided below.

Completed OP conformity exercise:	4 (County of Essex, Town of Essex, LaSalle, Tecumseh)
OP conformity exercise in process:	7
Not started OP conformity exercise:	0
Completed ZBL conformity exercises:	1 (Town of Essex)
ZBL conformity exercise in process:	7
ZBL conformity exercise not required:	1 (County of Essex)
Not started ZBL conformity exercise:	2 (Tecumseh, Leamington)

A letter grade of ‘P’ – progressing well – was assigned in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and is recommended for 2021.

### *Q3: Septic Inspections*

There are currently no polices in the Essex Region SPP that require mandatory septic inspections, so this section is not applicable. However, the Committee has requested the addition of a note regarding high levels of *E.coli* in local waterways and beaches in previous reports. Given that conditions have not changed, the same note can be included in the 2021 report.

### *Q4: Risk Management Plans*

In addition to the information required for the Annual Progress Report, the RMO has also prepared a supplemental report with more detail similar to their 2016 – 2020 Annual Reports. (See Report 06/21)

The RMO/I made significant progress and was able to complete RMPs for all but two remaining sites, which are close to completion. Of the seven RMPs established in 2021, four were established by Order due to continued lack of response from land owners. As in previous years, a more detailed report will be prepared by the RMO, and delivered to municipalities along with the Source Protection Plan Annual Progress Report.

A letter grade of 'P' – progressing well – was assigned in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and is recommended based on the information above.

### *Q5: Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground*

The Essex Region Source Protection Plan contains 17 policies directing the use of Provincial Instruments to address both future and existing drinking water threats. The date of compliance for future threat policies was October 1, 2015 (the date the Plan came into effect). The date of compliance for existing threat policies was October 1, 2020. All 17 of these policies have been fully implemented since 2018.

All provincial ministries now have a screening mechanism in place to address future threats. And all existing Prescribed Instruments created before the SPP took effect have been reviewed to ensure that they conform with SDWT policies. Provincial Ministries examined three (3) applications for wastewater/sewage works in vulnerable areas of the Essex Region, all were determined not to be a SDWT.

A letter grade of 'P' – progressing well – has been assigned every year since 2018 and is recommended based on the information above.

### *Q6: Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour*

All municipalities in the Essex Region are required to install approved road signage in particular vulnerable areas. The MTO is also responsible for installing signs on Provincial Highways in the Essex Region. There are roughly 60 signs on municipal roads and the MTO installed all of the approved signs in the region on Hwy 401, Hwy 77 and Hwy 3 in 2017/18.

*Q7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays*

Information presented above in Q1 will be included in this section of the public report if the SPC feels it is necessary to highlight delays.

*Q8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions*

The content will be based water quality monitoring programs carried out by ERCA's Water Quality Team as well as information available from other regional, Provincial, State and Federal agencies who are studying and/or monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie. It will be an update to the content included in the 2017-2020 reports and will be largely based on information presented in SPC Report 05/21 – Evaluating microcystin as a drinking water issue for Lake St. Clair drinking water intakes.

*Q9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans*

The Essex Region SPA continues to make progress towards completing our s.36 update with a goal of finalizing the update by the end of 2023. Technical work that was planned for 2021 was pushed to 2022 due to a delay in publication of the 2021 Director Technical Rules, which were finalized in December, 2021. Report 01/22 provides a detailed workplan to achieve this goal.

*Q10. More from the Watershed*

This section is an opportunity to highlight an aspect of implementation of the Essex Region SPP. Suggestion to include the very successful road sign media campaign that was run by CO in partnership with SPA/Rs including our own road sign video and online mapping tool.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the 2021 Essex Region Source Protection Authority Annual Progress Report be submitted to the MECP on or before May 1, 2022 pending suggested changes and additions made by the SPC, and endorsement by the SPA



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Katie Stammler, PhD

Project Manager, Source Water Protection/  
Water Quality Scientist

Attachment:

1. DRAFT 2021 Essex Region Source Protection Plan Annual Progress Report

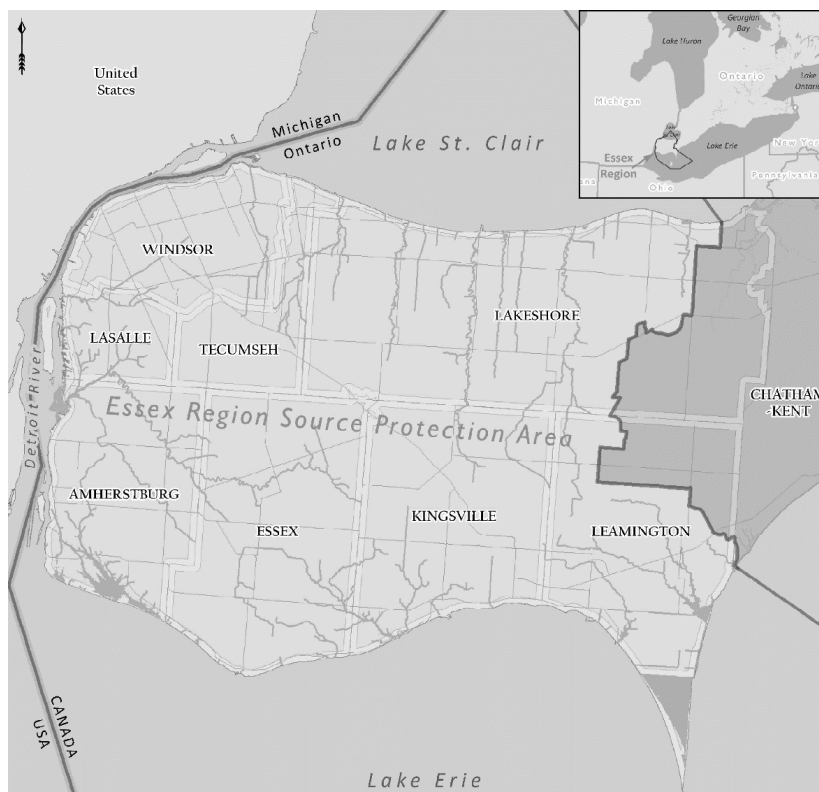


# 2021 Source Protection Annual Progress Report |

05/01/2022

## I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made toward implementing the policies in the Essex Region Source Protection Plan (SPP) for the Essex Region Source Protection Area(ERSPA), as required by the Clean Water Act and its Regulations. Our policies work by either eliminating or managing activities that could be considered a threat to our sources of drinking water and are based on the foundational knowledge that the actions we take on land have an impact on our local waterways and ultimately our sources of drinking water. Following an extensive process that included broad public input, the Essex Region SPP came into effect on October 1, 2015. This report highlights progress made toward implementation up to December 31, 2021, and highlights the actions taken from January 1 to December 31, 2021.



Scoring for certain elements of the Annual Progress Reports is based on the following options:

**Progressing Well/On Target (P)** – Most of the policies have been implemented &/or are progressing.

**Satisfactory (S)** – Some of the policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

**Limited progress (L)** – A few of policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

## II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

Since our first Annual Report in 2017, the SPC has given the SPP a score of 'P' – Progressing Well. Chair Fuerth will prepare a statement from the SPC with input from its members.

## III. Our Watershed

The Essex Region Source Protection Area (ERSPA) is approximately 1681 km<sup>2</sup> and coincides with the watershed boundaries of the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA). The ERSPA is comprised of 28 smaller sub-watersheds, flowing northward into Lake St. Clair, westward into the Detroit River, or southward into Lake Erie. The area predominantly consists of a flat clay plain with the exception of some sandy areas, primarily in the southern portion of the Region. The predominant land use in the watershed is agriculture, due to the region's excellent farmland and growing conditions.

Municipal drinking water supplies in the Essex Region Watershed are drawn from surface water intakes in the Great Lakes system - Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River. There are seven municipal Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) in the ERSPA, and one WTP outside of the ERSPA in Wheatley serving part of the Municipality of Leamington. Stoney Point and Lakeshore (Belle River) WTPs have their water intakes located in Lake St. Clair; the A. H. Weeks (Windsor) and Amherstburg WTPs have their intakes in the Detroit River; and the Harrow-Colchester South, Union, Pelee Island West Shore and the Wheatley WTPs have their intakes in Lake Erie. These municipal WTPs serve over 95 percent of the population in the ERSPA. The remaining population, less than five percent, depends on groundwater or hauled water.

In the ERSPA, the handling and storage of large volumes of liquid fuel (>15,000 L) was identified as a significant drinking water threat (SDWT). Modeling exercises showed that a spill of this volume of fuel close to any body of water could result in contamination of the source water at our drinking water intakes. This resulted in the delineation of an extensive Event Based Area (EBA) in which large volumes of fuel are considered a threat to our drinking water. To mitigate these threats, Risk Management Plans (RMPs) that show actions are being taken to prevent spills are required to be established in consultation with a Risk Management Official.

To learn more about Source Protection in the Essex Region, please visit our website:

<https://essexregionconservation.ca/source-water-protection/>



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

### 1. Source Protection Plan Policies and Addressing Significant Risks

#### **P – Progressing Well - suggested**

Of the 44 policies in the Essex Region SPP that address SDWTs, 29 (66%) are now fully implemented and 13 (30%) are in progress and on target to be fully implemented in 2022. The remaining two policies have been reviewed and it has been determined that no further action is required. All section 57 and 58 policies remain 'in progress' as existing threats continue to be addressed. Section 59 policies are considered to be 'implemented' because there are processes in place to screen building permits and planning applications for new activities that could be a SDWT.

Two policies moved from 'in-progress' to 'implemented' in 2021. These are two policies that were directed at the City of Windsor to address combined sewer discharge. Policy 36 required the City to initiate the development of a sewer and stormwater management plan. Policy 37 required the City to initiate a research program to characterize CSOs to provide input to the sewer master plan. In 2021, the Sewer and Coastal Flood Management Plan was approved by City Council along with the 2021-2028 implementation plan. In addition, the West Windsor RTB has been put forward for funding under Infrastructure Canada. These actions satisfy the intent of the above named policies. The airplane de-icer policy was moved from 'No progress made' to 'Implemented – policy outcome evaluated; no further action required' as commercial airports are not a permitted use in the identified vulnerable areas.

### 2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

#### **P – Progressing Well - suggested**

All of the 11 municipalities in the ERSPA have vulnerable areas where SDWT policies apply. Municipalities are required to ensure that their planning and building decisions conform with the Essex Region SPP and must also ensure that their Official Plan conforms with the SPP upon the next Planning Act review.

The County of Essex, Town of Essex, Town of LaSalle and Town of Tecumseh have completed their required Official Plan conformity exercises. The remaining municipalities (7 of 11) are in the process of amending their Official Plan to conform with the policies in the Essex Region SPP. Municipalities have been undergoing this process for several years and ERSPA have had the opportunity to review some draft OP revisions, but it is unknown when the revisions will be complete.

All lower tier municipalities are responsible for day-to-day land use planning and building permit decisions and have integrated source protection requirements to ensure that their planning and building decisions conform with the policies in the Essex Region SPP. The Essex Region Conservation Authority has been delegated by all of these municipalities to implement Part IV policies on their behalf. At the request of municipalities, ERSPA will deliver additional training to municipal staff in 2022.

### 3. Septic Inspections

Not applicable to the ERSPA. There are currently no polices in the Essex Region SPP that require mandatory septic inspections. However, the Committee notes that high levels of E.coli remain a concern for our local waterways and beaches. Landowners are encouraged to have their septic systems inspected and maintained regularly.

### 4. Risk Management Plans

#### **P – Progressing Well - suggested**

As of January 2019, threat verification inspections were carried out in accordance with the *Clean Water Act* by the RMO/I for all 384 existing properties originally identified in the ERSPA to determine whether or not existing activities identified in the Source Protection Plan meet the criteria to be considered a SWDT (the handling & storage of fuel). Of these, 96 were identified to be SDWTs.

In 2021, seven (7) RMPs were established to address existing threats, and two (2) RMPs remain outstanding. Of the seven RMPs established, four (4) were completed by Order. These were cannabis operations where the landowner had been unresponsive. The remaining two properties are Petroleum Wells and the process for establishing RMPs is nearing completion. A total of 94 RMPs have been established for existing threats since our SPP took effect. RMPs for all existing threats were required to be established by October 1, 2020.

In 2021, 8 RMPs were established for future (new) fuel threat(s) through s.59 municipal screening processes. Since the SPP took affect, 16 RMPs have been established through the s. 59 process for new (future) threats. Ten (10) inspections were carried out by the RMO for regulated activities in 2020. The inspections that were carried out resulted in the Notice of Intent and RMO Official Order to Establish a Risk Management Plan for four properties with cannabis operations. There have been no cases of non-compliance with the established RMPs.

Please refer to the supplementary Part IV 2021 Risk Management Services Report for further information and details.

## 5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

### **P – Progressing Well - suggested**

The Essex Region SPP includes 17 policies that use Provincial Instruments (e.g. Environmental Compliance Approvals) to address future (new) and existing SDWTs. Screening for future threats became mandatory the date the SPP came into effect (October 1, 2015). Ontario ministries have a screening mechanism in place for new applications and they amend Prescribed Instruments (PI) as needed to address any new SDWTs. Our policies set out a timeline of 5 years (October 1, 2020) to review and make necessary changes to previously issued PIs to address existing SDWTs. All of the identified existing threats have been addressed and there is a procedure in place to address any new threats. As a result, all of the policies that use Provincial Instruments in the Essex Region SPP have been considered to be fully implemented since 2018.

As of December 2018, all 38 of the existing PIs were reviewed. Five of these were considered to be SDWTs where the PI was sufficient and no additional conditions were required to mitigate the SDWT. In 2021, Provincial Ministries examined three (3) applications for wastewater/sewage works in vulnerable areas of the Essex Region; all were determined not to be a SDWT. Since 2016, 33 new applications for PIs have been reviewed in the ERSPA. No new SDWTs have been identified through this process.

## 6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

Road signs have been installed across the ERSPA as part of a provincial awareness initiative. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) installed signs on provincial roads near Drinking Water Protection Zones, while municipalities coordinated installation on local municipal and county roads. Our municipalities have either completed road sign installation, are in the process of installation, or have determined that no signage is necessary. The MTO installed five signs in the Essex Region in 2017 and 2018 on Hwy 401, Hwy 77 and Hwy 3, and there are over 60 signs on municipal roads. In 2021, four new signs were placed in Kingsville in addition to existing signs.

The new road signs identify sections of road where accidental spills could contaminate our sources of drinking water. As part of the Essex Region Source Protection Plan implementation, emergency responders have been notified about these zones so that our sources of drinking water can be protected in the event of a spill. The use of a standardized signs throughout Ontario will help to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting our local sources of drinking water.

The main risk to drinking water in our local area has been identified as the handling and storage of liquid fuel. If a spill is observed, residents are advised to contact the Spills Action Center at 1-800-268-6060.

## 7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delay

All policies in the Essex Region Source Protection Plan are on track to be fully implemented by the dates specified in the Plan.

## 8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

To be written – highlighting HABs and Work in Lake St.Clair

## 9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

The Essex Region SPA continues to make progress towards completing our s.36 update with a goal of finalizing the update by the end of 2023. Technical work that was planned for 2021 was pushed to 2022 due to a delay in publication of the 2021 Director Technical Rules, which were finalized in December, 2021.

## 10. More from the Watershed

Suggestion: Road sign campaign, map and video

To learn more about our source protection region/area, visit our homepage:  
<https://essexregionconservation.ca/source-water-protection/>



### Have you see this Drinking Water Protection Sign?

These signs are appearing across Ontario to raise awareness about the vulnerability of our municipal drinking water sources. Governments at the local and provincial level are placing signs along roadways where a pollution spill could have a negative impact on our drinking water sources. The main risk to drinking water in the Essex Region Source Protection Area has been identified as the handling and storing of liquid fuel. These signs indicate areas where a spill of a large volume of liquid fuel could impact one of our drinking water intakes. If a spill is identified, residents should contact the Spills Action Centre at 1-800-268-6060.