

Municipality of Lakeshore – Report to Council

Operations

Water Management



To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Jason Barlow, Division Leader – Water Management
Date: May 30, 2024
Subject: Source Water Protection 2023 Annual Reports

Recommendation

This report is presented at the July 9, 2024 Council meeting, for information only.

Strategic Objectives

This does not relate to a Strategic Objective however it is a core service of the Municipality.

Background

The Essex Region Source Protection Committee (Committee) consists of 15 members plus a Chair and represents a broad range of interests within the region. Members are appointed by the Source Protection Authority (SPA) and reflect diverse sectors as outlined in Section 2 of O. Reg 288/07 whereby:

- 1/3 of the members must represent the interests of local municipalities;
- 1/3 of the members must represent the local economy, including agriculture, commerce, industry, and small business; and
- 1/3 of the members must represent other interests, such as environmental, health, and other public interests.

Municipal sector representatives are recommended by municipalities. The committee includes:

- Two representatives from the City of Windsor;
- One representative from Amherstburg;
- One representative from Lakeshore; and
- One representative from Union System Water Supply (representing Kingsville, Leamington, Lakeshore, and Essex).

Lakeshore's appointed Committee member is the Division Leader – Water Management. Based on recent changes in Administration, the process is currently underway to finalize this appointment through the Committee.

The staff at the Essex Region SPA carry out the technical requirements of the Clean Water Act. The Essex Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors is designated as the SPA in the Essex Region.

The SPA is required to prepare an annual progress report under S.46 of the Clean Water Act by May 1st of each year. The reports are required to describe the measures taken to implement the Essex Region Source Protection Plan (SPP), the results of any monitoring program, the extent to which the objectives in the SPP are being achieved, and other information required in the Regulations.

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.

Lakeshore delegated their authority to implement policies under Part IV of the Clean Water Act to the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) through an agreement that began in 2015 and has been extended to December 31, 2024. The most recent extended agreement has been in effect since January 1st, 2022, due to expire or be extended as of December 31st, 2024.

Others Consulted

Within the attached Source Protection Committee's annual progress report, there is information detailing the municipalities' requirements to address considerations for Source Water Protection in their next Official Plan update as per Section 40 of the Clean Water Act. Zoning by-law conformity may also be required for certain policies in the SPP as per Section 42 of the Clean Water Act.

Lakeshore has recently finalized an updated Official Plan and is currently awaiting approval from the County of Essex. This revised plan incorporates references and policies that satisfy the updated requirements of the Clean Water Act, as endorsed by both the ERCA and the Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA).

Notably, it includes new sections on Source Water Protection and updated mapping.

Others Consulted

Katie Stammler, Water Quality Scientist/Source Water Protection Project Manager and Tom Fuerth, Chair Source Protection Committee were consulted as part of this report.

Financial Impacts

The program has a total cost of \$6,900 over the term of the current three-year agreement, funded from the Water Operating Budget at \$2,300 per year. It is anticipated that future agreements will follow the current fee structure with ERCA, set at \$2,300 per year plus any annual or inflationary increases.

Attachments

Attachment #1 – Source Water Protection 2023 Annual Reports

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Source Water Protection 2023 Annual Progress Reports - July 9th.docx
Attachments:	- Attachment 1 - Municipalities ERSPA 2023 Annual Progress Reports.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 27, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Prepared by Jason Barlow

Submitted by Krystal Kalbol

Approved by the Corporate Leadership Team