

Report To: Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee
Report No.: SPC-24-03-01
From: Martin Keller, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Source Protection
Date: March 19, 2024
Subject: Source Protection Program Updates

Recommendation

THAT the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Committee receives for information the staff report SPC-24-03-01 Source Protection Program Updates

Executive Summary

This program update report includes information about progress addressing the 2021 Technical Rules changes, the distribution of the Agrichemical Warehouse Standards Association Source Protection Primer, progress in developing communication products and an update on the 2024-27 funding application.

Report

Annual Reporting and Policy Database

Staff have completed the analysis for the 2023 Annual Report year. Details regarding Annual Reporting are contained in a separate report on this meeting's agenda.

2021 Technical Rules

Staff continued work analysing and discussing the changes to the 2021 Technical Rules with the Halton-Hamilton Municipal Working Group at meetings on January 17 and February 14, 2024. Details of the proposed revisions for each of the prescribed drinking water threat activities are contained in separate reports on this meeting's agenda.

Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association (AWSA)

Staff finalized the AWSA primer following the December 2024 Source Protection Committee meeting. The AWSA has now distributed the primer to facility owners/operators and auditors responsible for inspecting the AWSA facilities. Staff will also engage AWSA about responses to the primer and to gauge interest on a webinar for Agrichemical Warehouse owner/operator and AWSA auditors as a follow up to the Primer.

Communication Products

Staff continue to develop new and update existing communication products. Recently, staff published an updated [Source Protection Story Map](#) for the Halton Hamilton Source

Protection Region on Conservation Halton's Open Data hub. The story map is a publicly accessible online application that provides an overview of the source protection program through contextual information and interactive maps. A formal launch of the site will occur in early spring with postings on social media. The story map will also be included in Conservation Ontario's bi-weekly newsletter. Staff will also embed the story map on Halton Hamilton Source Protection Region's website protectingwater.ca. In addition, staff are in the process of producing new story boards to be used at in person outreach events. Each board will present information on different aspects of the source protection program and the Halton-Hamilton Source Protection Region, and combined will provide an overview and explain the program and importance of protecting drinking water sources.

Transfer Payment Application

In January 2024, staff submitted a funding application for the next three years of provincial funding (April 2024 to March 2027). Staff are currently in negotiations with MECP staff. A final agreement is anticipated in April 2024.

Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Tool

Additional funding received by the province as part of the 2022-24 funding agreement allowed staff to undertake a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) using the tool developed by Conservation Ontario in 2020. Progress update and preliminary results are presented in a separate report on this meeting's agenda.

Signed & respectfully submitted:



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Mardi Bergen
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