

**Region of Waterloo**  
**Engineering and Environmental Services**  
**Water and Wastewater Services**

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**To:** Planning and Works Committee  
**Meeting Date:** May 7, 2024  
**Report Title:** Approval of the 2024 Grand River Source Protection Plan Amendment

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**1. Recommendation**

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo support the updated Source Protection technical assessment that applies within the Region of Waterloo in the draft amended Grand River Source Protection Plan, as described in Report EES-WAS-24-005, dated May 7, 2024.

**2. Purpose / Issue:**

The Region of Waterloo, through the Lake Erie Region Source Protection Authority (SPA), is proposing to amend the Grand River Source Protection Plan (SPP) to update protection areas. The Clean Water Act requires that this type of amendment, made under Section 34 of the Act and hereby referred to as a S.34 amendment, include council resolutions supporting the update from all municipalities impacted by the change. The S.34 amendment is required to support operational changes at four well fields, and to support the installation of one new water supply well. These changes were developed using the Region's "Tier 3" numerical groundwater flow models, and affect protection areas in Cambridge, Kitchener, North Dumfries, and Waterloo.

**3. Strategic Plan:**

The Source Protection Plan S.34 amendment supports the Region's Strategic Plan priority area for Climate Aligned Growth.

**4. Report Highlights:**

- The Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act require protection areas be delineated and included in an approved SPP prior to issuing a Drinking Water Works Permit, which is required to connect a new municipal water supply well or change permitted pumping rates at an existing supply well.
- New replacement wells at the Greenbrook and Strange Street well fields in Kitchener will result in a slight shift in the protection zone immediately around the

new wells. No additional impact is anticipated as a result of these changes.

- Updated protection areas have been delineated for the Blair Road well field in Cambridge to reflect a proposed increase in the permitted pumping at the supply wells. This change will impact protection areas in Cambridge and North Dumfries. A map depicting these changes can be found in Appendix A.
- Updated protection areas have been delineated for the William Street well field in Waterloo to reflect the installation of a new supply well, along with two new replacement wells. This change will impact protection areas in Kitchener and Waterloo. A map depicting these changes can be found in Appendix A.
- The Source Protection Plan S.34 amendment requires municipal council approval from Regional council along with approvals from the four impacted Area Municipal councils prior to the public consultation process led by the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) in their capacity as the SPA. Endorsements from all five councils are being sought concurrently.

## 5. Background:

The original, approved Grand River SPP came into effect on July 1, 2016. The SPP has been updated multiple times since the original approval, including the most recent amendment that included changes to protection areas and new water taking policies. Regional Council approved this amendment of the Grand River SPP on December 8, 2020 (TES-WAS-20-19).

The SPA oversees the process for updating SPPs within the Lake Erie Source Protection Region (LESPR). As part of the S.34 amendment process, municipal council resolutions are required to support the update prior to undertaking stakeholder consultation. Property owners potentially affected by the SPP S.34 amendment will be notified by the SPA through the public consultation process.

## 6. Communication and Engagement with Area Municipalities and the Public

**Area Municipalities:** Planning staff at Cambridge, Kitchener, North Dumfries, and Waterloo have been advised on the new protection areas through discussions and information sharing with Region staff. Initial notification occurred in late 2023, and on-going discussions and support has occurred since that time. Cambridge, Kitchener, North Dumfries, and Waterloo staff are preparing separate reports for their respective councils seeking council endorsement of the proposed changes. It is expected that these reports will be taken to their respective councils concurrently with this report.

**Public:** The SPA will be notifying property owners potentially affected by the SPP S.34 amendment in the summer of 2024 as part of the formal consultation period required by the Clean Water Act. Previous SPP updates, particularly prior to the initial SPP approval and again prior to the 2020 update, have included notification letters and public consultation centres for property owners who may have been potentially impacted.

**7. Financial Implications:**

The Region's approved 2024-2033 Water Services Capital Program includes a budget of \$122,000 in 2024 for Clean Water Act Implementation (project #04165) to be funded from the Water Capital Reserve (73%; \$89,060) and the Water Development Charge Reserve fund (27%; \$32,940). This budget is allocated to various components of the Plan implementation, including support of the Risk Management Office, technical studies and reviews, and Plan promotion and outreach.

**8. Conclusion / Next Steps:**

Subject to Regional Council approval of the SPP S.34 amendment Region staff will support the SPA through the consultation process. The public consultation period is scheduled for summer 2024. The submission of the updated Grand River SPP to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks for approval is anticipated for the end of 2024.

Region staff are also working on a subsequent amendment to the SPP, made under Section 36 of the Act and hereby referred to as a S.36 amendment. All SPAs in Ontario must complete a S.36 amendment 10 years after approval of their initial SPPs. The S.36 amendment must be submitted for approval by October 2025, and more information on this update will be provided to Regional Council later in 2024.

**9. Attachments:**

Appendix A: Updated Protection Areas

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