



Authority Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Formosa Administrative Office

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85800592942?pwd=wpkyTtH5Zo4ccyEvYBfHrayKH8O6K1.1>

1. Land Acknowledgement

We begin our meeting today by respectfully acknowledging the Anishinaabeg Nation, the Haudenosaunee, the Neutral, and the Petun peoples as the traditional keepers of this land. We are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Recommendation: THAT the agenda for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, November 20, 2025, be adopted as presented.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1 Authority meeting – October 16, 2025

Recommendation: THAT the minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting October 16, 2025, be adopted as presented.

5. Delegation – Huron-Kinloss Citizens Concerns: Flood Map, Michael Bayer

Note: Delegations are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes. A group can request to attend as a delegation, but only one person is allowed to present. The Board of Directors may ask questions but will not debate the presentation. Decisions are not rendered at the meeting where a delegation is given, but the Authority may direct staff to return a report on the matter, to be considered for future decision making.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

7. New Business

Corporate Services

7.1 GM-2025-25: 2026 SVCA Budget Communications – Erik Downing

7.2 GM-2025-26: 2026 SVCA Budget – Erik Downing

Recommendation: THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the 2026 draft budget in principle; and

further THAT staff be authorized to forward the draft budget to the Authority's watershed municipalities for a 30-day review and commenting period and include the offer of a delegation if requested.

7.3 CS-2025-14: 2026 Fee Schedule – Erik Downing

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Directors of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approve the amendments to the attached Fee Policy, and approve the following fee schedules to take effect on January 1, 2026 (Schedules A, C and D).

7.4 CS-2025-15: 2026 Finance Report – Erik Downing

7.5 GM-2025-29: SVCA Operational Plan – Erik Downing

7.6 GM-2025-30: Program Report – Erik Downing

7.7 GM-2025-31: 2026 Provincial Announcement on Conservation Authority Restructuring – Erik Downing

Environmental Planning and Regulations

7.8 EPR-2025-12: Proposed Changes to Huron-Kinloss Regulation Mapping – Matt Armstrong

Recommendation: THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approves the proposed changes to the Huron-Kinloss Regulation Mapping.

7.9 EPR-2025-13: Status of Active Violations – Darren Kenny

Water Resources

7.10 WR-2025-11: 2024 Water Quality Annual Report – Emily Williamson

8. Other Business

9. Adjournment

Recommendation: THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Public Notice:

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) is committed to providing accessible information and communications in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). If the format of this document interferes with your ability to access the information, please contact us at www.saugeenconservation.ca/access, email accessibility@scva.on.ca or call 519-364-1255. We will provide or arrange for the provision of an accessible format or communication support, at no additional cost, in a timely manner.



Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Minutes – Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Thursday October 16, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Location: 1078 Bruce Rd 12, Formosa, ON, N0G 1W0 and hybrid

Chair: Tom Hutchinson

Members present: Barbara Dobreen (virtual until 3:14pm), Paul Allen (virtual), Steve McCabe (virtual until 2:01pm), Moiken Penner, Gregory McLean, Kevin Eccles, Mike Niesen, Peter Whitten, Larry Allison, Dave Myette, Bud Halpin, Bill Stewart

Members absent: Sue Paterson, Jennifer Prenger

Staff present: Erik Downing, Adam Chalmers, Donna Lacey, Matt Armstrong, Katie Thomas, Ashley Richards, Jody Duncan

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

1. Land Acknowledgement – read by Kevin Eccles

We begin our meeting today by respectfully acknowledging the Anishinaabeg Nation, the Haudenosaunee, the Neutral, and the Petun peoples as the traditional keepers of this land. We are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion #G25-73

Moved by Dave Myette

Seconded by Bill Stewart

THAT the agenda for the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, October 16, 2025, be adopted as amended.

Carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest relative to any item on the agenda.

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1 Authority meeting September 18, 2025

Motion #G25-74

Moved by Greg McLean

Seconded by Peter Whitten

THAT the minutes of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority meeting, September 18, 2025, be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes – none

6. New Business

6.1 GM-2025-21: SVCA Operational Plan

Inquiry was made regarding the progress of the agreement with the Kincardine Cross Country Ski Club and its new executive. Staff confirmed that a meeting is imminent and that discussions appear to be progressing positively.

6.2 GM-2025-22 Program Report

Further inquiry was made regarding the Stoney Island Conservation Area and the work undertaken without a permit by the Kincardine Cross Country Ski Club. Staff confirmed that SVCA completed the necessary remediation work and that costs were kept to a minimum.

Inquiry was made regarding the status of the Varney Conservation Area. Staff advised that the review of property parcels and potential disposal remains ongoing.

Inquiry was made regarding the Children’s Safety Village agreement. Staff confirmed that this operational matter is currently in progress.

It was reported that the Corporate Services Department continues to manage workload pressures due to two vacant positions. A retired staff member has returned on a part-time basis to assist with operations, and interviews for the vacant positions are underway.

Interest was expressed by several Directors in receiving information regarding permits within their respective municipalities. Staff advised that legal counsel has cautioned against this practice, as it may create conflicts with statutory obligations and could render Directors ineligible to participate in hearings should matters be appealed. It was noted that Directors have the option to recuse themselves from hearings if they wish to receive such information. Concern was also expressed regarding the limited information provided to the Board when asked to endorse staff-approved permits on a monthly basis.

Director Eccles inquired whether SVCA staff were conducting forestry work in the Municipality of Kincardine at no cost. Staff confirmed that the work is being completed on a fee-for-service basis.

6.3 GM-2025-23: 2026 SVCA Budget Update

Director Dobreen inquired regarding the absence of a budget for approval at the October 16, 2025 meeting, noting that municipalities are experiencing increased pressure due to strong mayoral powers and expedited timelines. Concern was raised that member municipalities may not be aware of the Board’s direction to approve an increase of up to six percent, and clarification was requested as to why SVCA staff were awaiting financial information from member municipalities.

GM/S-T responded that, at the previous Board meeting, Directors had requested that municipal financial context be provided to support their communications at their respective council tables. Several Directors noted that the proposed draft budget had already been shared with their municipalities. The Board was assured that the full draft budget would be presented at the November meeting, and that a communications toolkit to assist Directors in municipal discussions would be circulated.

Director Stewart inquired whether there had been any update regarding the Provincial fee freeze on Environmental Planning and Regulations-related fees being lifted. Staff confirmed that there has been no change. It was noted that the 2026 Fee Schedule, excluding campground fees

previously approved at the last Board meeting and the frozen Environmental Planning and Regulations fees, will be brought forward for consideration at the November meeting.

Chair Hutchinson inquired about the SVCA budget approval process. The GM/S-T explained that Directors act as representatives of their respective municipalities and that while the draft budget is circulated to municipalities for comment, no council vote is required. The SVCA budget is approved by a weighted majority vote of the SVCA Board of Directors.

6.4 EPR-2025-11: Permits Issued

Motion #G25-75

Moved by Larry Allison

Seconded by Bud Halpin

THAT SVCA permit applications 25-176 to 25-214 as approved by staff, be endorsed by the SVCA Board of Directors.

Carried

Concern was expressed by several Directors that they are being asked to endorse permits they have not reviewed, noting that the process may not be an efficient use of staff or Board time and resources. Directors observed that permit approvals are operational in nature rather than governance matters.

An amendment to the motion was introduced by Directors Myette and Penner to change the term “endorsed” to “received.” Following discussion, the amendment was withdrawn, as it was noted that this would be the final batch of permits for which Directors had been copied on related email correspondence. Some Directors indicated they would be unable to endorse permits in the future under the current process.

Manager Armstrong advised that staff time associated with the reporting process is minimal, as the new content management system automates much of the preparation. Staff will further review legislative requirements related to permit reporting and endorsement.

6.5 WR-2025-09: Durham Upper Dam: Winter Configuration

Motion #G25-76

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Moiken Penner

THAT as the SVCA Water Resources Committee on October 8, 2025 unanimously recommended to the SVCA Board of Directors that in alignment with ongoing engineering assessments and to uphold health and safety obligations, THAT the Board approve the continued cessation of winter operations at the Durham Upper Dam on an indefinite basis; AND THAT staff be directed to continue working with the Municipality of West Grey through the Class Environmental Assessment process to evaluate and advance preferred long-term solutions for the structure.

Carried

Direct Director Stewart thanked staff for their continued hard work and expressed interest in seeing the potential positive impacts and outcomes of the mitigating efforts undertaken by SVCA to date. Director Eccles commented that cameras were not a solution and inquired whether safety concerns were as significant in the spring or fall as they are in winter. Staff explained that the dam was not designed to withstand iceload, and that operation of the dam presents an acute risk, as identified by multiple engineering firms and the Ministry of the Environment.

Director Myette inquired about the risk of structural failure. Staff advised that engineering reports estimate catastrophic damage in the event of failure, with financial impacts ranging from \$3M to \$30M, and potential loss of life exceeding 100 people.

Director Dobreen suggested that the Ministry should bear some financial responsibility in the management of the structure. Director Eccles confirmed that the Municipality of West Grey had reached out and was advised that the cost of recent frazil ice remediation did not meet the threshold required to qualify for financial assistance.

Director Stewart acknowledged the complexity of the issue and noted that further clarity is expected through the third phase of the Environmental Assessment. The General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer advised that several options, including potential weir configurations, will be developed through the upcoming Class EA process.

6.6 WR-2025-10: Low Water Response Program

Motion #G25-77

Moved by Bill Stewart

Seconded by Mike Niesen

THAT as the SVCA Water Resources Committee on October 8, 2025 unanimously selected Option 2 to define the membership of the SVCA Water Response Team, THAT the SVCA Board of Directors directs staff to proceed with Option 2 (Full Membership) to support the formation and membership of SVCA's Water Response Team (WRT), a provincially mandated program, on the basis that quorum is based on Mandatory Membership requirements.

Carried

Director Eccles requested clarification regarding the purpose of the Low Water Response Program and the associated Water Response Team. Staff explained that the program's intent is to coordinate activities between the Province, municipalities, and local stakeholders during periods of low water conditions. Directors were reminded that the program is mandatory under O.Reg 686/21 (Mandatory Programs and Services) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

The General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer confirmed that the program was previously funded by the Province but no longer receives provincial funding. In response to a request for an example of when the program would be useful, the SVCA Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator volunteered that while SVCA has been able to confirm current level one drought conditions with the MNR, SVCA is unable to escalate warnings beyond that level without an active committee, despite worsening conditions in the watershed.

6.7 Other Business – none

7. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m. following a motion by Paul Allen and seconded by Gregory McLean.

Tom Hutchinson
Chair

Ashley Richards
Recording Secretary

Administrative Bylaws of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

11. Delegations

Any person or organization who wishes to address the Authority may make a request in writing or email to the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer that is received no less than ten (10) calendar days in advance of the scheduled meeting at which the person or organization wishes to speak.

A delegation request must include:

- the name of the individual who will be speaking; the name of the organization the individual will be speaking on behalf; a written summary of the issue; a written statement identifying the organization's position on the issue; and any presentation material the speaker wishes to rely on.

Presentation materials submitted shall be in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The request will be reviewed by the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer for completeness, relevance, and appropriateness. The General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer may refuse a delegation request or require modification of the delegation presentation and materials where:

- a) The request is not submitted within the stated time limits;
- b) The subject matter is unrelated to or beyond the purview of the Authority's mandate; or
- c) The issue or subject matter being considered relates to or qualifies as a matter suitable for a closed meeting.

The General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer shall advise the organization or individual whether they are listed on the meeting agenda and the appropriateness of their presentation and material no later than two (2) days before the scheduled meeting.

Accepted delegation submissions (including names but excluding personal contact information) form part of the public record and shall be made available to the Board of Directors and the public.

A maximum of two (2) delegations shall be permitted at any regular meeting of the Authority.

A delegation shall be limited to one (1) speaker whose presentation may not exceed ten (10) minutes except by leave of the Chair.

Speakers shall only address the Chair and shall be respectful at all times.

Speakers shall not:

- a) Address Directors directly without permission;
- b) Interrupt any speaker or action of the Board, or any other person addressing the Board;
- c) Display or have in possession picket signs or placards in the meeting room;
- d) Repeat what has been said by previous speakers at a meeting;
- e) Speak disrespectfully of any person;
- f) Use offensive language;
- g) Disobey a direction or decision of the Chair; or
- h) Enter into cross debate with the Chair, Directors, Staff, or members of the public.

The Chair has discretion to end consideration of a delegation and its request where the information offered is inconsistent with the submission materials or is inappropriate in any manner, as may be determined by the Chair acting reasonably. Recurring delegations are not permitted unless the Chair determines new, relevant information on the issue has become available. The Board shall defer any decisions or action on information received from a delegation to a subsequent meeting.

Delegation Request Form

You can register as a Delegation by submitting a Delegation Request Form to the Executive Assistant no later than two Mondays preceding the preferred meeting of the Board. To view meeting dates [please click here](#). Failure to provide the required information on time will result in loss of privilege to appear as a delegation.

By submitting this form, I am claiming that I have read and understood the [delegation protocol](#) and acknowledge that the information contained on this form, including any attachments will become public documents and listed on Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's meeting agenda.

Date of Request

11/11/2025



Board Meeting Date Requested

11/20/2025



Delegate's Name

Michael Bayer

Organization (if applicable)

Email address

Phone number *

Address *

Summary of Delegation

Huron Kinloss citizens concerns on HK flood mapping policies

Desired action of the Authority on this issue

Refinement of the HK and SVCA building standards and flood map policy.

Purpose of Presentation

- Information only
- Request support
- Other

Presentation Materials

File Name



[HK Flood map concerns - SVCA.pdf](#)

103.1 KB

Huron Kinloss Citizens concerns - SVCA Flood Map Project

October 31st, 2025

Agenda

- ▶ Background and Concerns
- ▶ Why the petition and impacts
- ▶ What the petition calls for

Background & Concerns

- ▶ Huron Kinloss (HK) township was one of only three out of 17 municipalities in the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) jurisdiction to voluntarily request a flood map redrawing from the SVCA.
- ▶ SVCA flood maps and floodplains have been revised, and the MNR and MOE now require SVCA building permits for areas within a 15-37 metres offset of hazard and dynamic beach lines. This new set back applies to your property regardless if hazard exists or not.
- ▶ The flood maps are colour coded. If you are in a yellow/green zone plus the offset, you need permits from both HK and SVCA. Red lines....there are complications and you may not be able to build or rebuild.
- ▶ Communication has been lacking from HK and SVCA on this project
 - ▶ No public consultation was conducted regarding Huron Kinloss's participation in this process and the approval process to do this is unclear.
 - ▶ Public input meetings took place in November 2024 and February 2025, but attendance was limited due to stakeholders not being there and poor weather and road closures in February. I personally stumbled across the meeting.
 - ▶ The clerk asked that the SVCA do a public input session on Oct 3rd, 2025.
 - ▶ Some regulations were implemented by the SVCA as early as last autumn, even though the sessions for public feedback had not yet begun or finished
 - ▶ HK councillors did not communicate and were unaware of the implications of the new regulations and have requested another meeting with the SVCA.
 - ▶ At the Point Clark (PCBA) meeting, council members just communicated as an aside that this was coming and council members did not communicate the implications.
- ▶ The SVCA public information session held on October 3rd, 2025 was not intended to gather feedback as stated and to review draft flood maps. SVCA indicated that the decision had already been made.
- ▶ People are already impacted by the new flood maps and dynamic beach lines definition
- ▶ The Petition addresses the concerns of a group of residents.

Why the petition and impacts?

- ▶ People have been impacted already
 - ▶ Insurance eligibility: insurance denied or quadrupled for flood insurance because of the flood plains redefinition.
 - ▶ Mortgage Renewal Denial: You may need to go to secondary market at higher rates as financial institution require full insurance.
 - ▶ Long approval processes: up to 6 months to 2 years have been reported. People have reported jumping through hoops with site maps, engineering studies, native artifact studies, soil engineers, etc.
 - ▶ You must now use approved SVCA contractors to build on your property.
 - ▶ Residents have spent over \$20,000 on shoreline engineers to challenge SVCA's flooding assumptions for property development.
 - ▶ The new mandated arbitrary set back extends SVCA regulatory area and the floodplain and maps by 15 to 37 metres and we were not informed of this policy change
 - ▶ HK and SVCA have inconsistent approvals - some people are confined to their existing footprint while others are not. Some are allowed to build large buildings.
 - ▶ HK SVCA personnel were not aware of the property owners spending thousands of dollars on remediation already (installing road drains, moving buildings back, raising lot fills and grading, and installing drains on properties to prevent flooding)
 - ▶ These existing remediation efforts were not considered in the development of the policy.
 - ▶ Risk mitigation efforts were not included in the new policy. Cost for mitigation, budgets were not defined in this new policy.
 - ▶ There is no independent review process - you can only appeal to the SVCA board.

What the petition - calls for

- ▶ Remove the arbitrary 15-37 metre hazard line setback as mandated by the Ontario Government from hazard lines and refine SVCA floodplain maps.
- ▶ Compensate property owners for de facto land seizures, property value reduction and require municipalities reduce their property taxes for land usage denial.
- ▶ Validate mapping methodology with on-site checks and stakeholder input, as aerial surveys have led to errors in defining landmarks as natural as input into flood models when they were man made.
- ▶ Test new computer flood map models against historical data and local knowledge. The external review by another engineering company is not sufficient.
- ▶ Confirm proposal maps are correct and match property owner surveys and address known contradictions when developing a flood map policy.
- ▶ Provide funding to municipalities and property owners to mitigate flooding risks.
- ▶ Include risk mitigation, stakeholder impact analysis, and cost assessment in the new policy and proposals.
- ▶ Allow independent appeals beyond the SVCA board to prevent potential misuse.
- ▶ Require municipalities to maintain historical records to support model validation and track prior remediation efforts.
- ▶ Enact legislation to prevent municipalities using Conservation authorities to de facto seize and sell property owners' property to increase tax revenue.

Petition status and asks

- ▶ Ask Huron-Kinloss Council support for our petition to the legislature.
- ▶ 3 MPPs are involved and will present petition to the legislature.
- ▶ 500 plus signatures in support of our petition from Huron Kinloss, Saugeen Shores, and Arran E. Majority come from Huron-Kinloss with strong support from Saugeen shores,
- ▶ Petition status and asks:
 - ▶ Targeting 1000 signatures
 - ▶ Support from local councillors and Mayors 6 signatures already.
- ▶ Participate in public hearings on the almalgamation of conseration authority. We have requested a public delegation.

How to regain trust

- ▶ Understanding the history and validate models against historical input
- ▶ Clearly define flood plain policies and rules to prevent inconsistent decisions.
 - ▶ Neighbour gets an engineering study and approval, while another neighbour is denied with the same engineering and demands for new studies.
 - ▶ Neighbour is not allowed to add to their footprint while another neighbour is allowed to build a monster home
 - ▶ Neighbour is not allowed to add a bedroom for a disabled person and wheelchair ramp.
- ▶ SVCA and HK need to stop coming on to people's properties and say that is not allowed when it has been permitted in the past and ask for more studies to delay needed building.
- ▶ No more holding meetings in February when no one can attend. Inform people before decisions have been made.
- ▶ Check assumptions with site studies - not validating a computer model with another firm.
- ▶ Validate the computer models against actuals and local knowledge.
- ▶ Don't use statistical outliers to develop policies
- ▶ Do an impact analysis on stakeholders
- ▶ Have costed risk mitigation, probability and budgets.
- ▶ Recognize previous remediation efforts and historical knowledge when developing policies.
- ▶ Compensate people for economic losses.
- ▶ Recognize the supreme court decision on property rights

Examples of inconsistent policies.

- ▶ Inconsistent grading requirements
- ▶ Cutting down trees on crown land that protected flooding
- ▶ Other Inconsistent decisions.

Asks for petitioners - What you can do to help

- ▶ Sign the petition.
- ▶ Attend council meetings when this issue is discussed.
- ▶ Contact Mayor Don Murray and councillor Larry Alison responsible assigned to the SVCA board to express your concerns.
 - ▶ dmurray@huronkinloss.coZm
 - ▶ lallison@huronkinloss.com
- ▶ Provide feedback to the SVCA authority on their website and Matt Armstrong of the SVCA,
 - ▶ m.armstrong@svca.on.ca

GM-2025-25

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: November 20, 2025
Subject: 2026 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Budget Communications
Purpose: To provide an update on the 2026 budget communications process and materials developed to support consistent, transparent engagement with member municipalities.

Background

At its meeting on September 18, 2025, the SVCA Board of Directors endorsed a preliminary draft 2026 budget increase of up to six percent, with the understanding that the final figure would be lower once refined. This early direction allowed staff to begin preparing communication materials to ensure clarity and consistency across SVCA's fifteen member municipalities as each enters its own local budget process.

In response to Board direction, staff developed a 2026 Budget Communications Toolkit. The toolkit provides plain-language explanations, municipal comparison tables, and suggested talking points for Directors to use in discussions with councils and municipal staff. It outlines how apportionment works under Ontario Regulation 402/22 (Modified Current Value Assessment, or MCVA) and demonstrates how each municipality's contribution relates to its overall budget at a maximum increase of 6%.

Analysis

The purpose of this communication initiative is to improve transparency, accuracy, and trust between SVCA and its municipal partners. Municipal budgets are complex and heavily scrutinized, and clear explanation of the Conservation Authority's apportionment model helps maintain confidence in SVCA's accountability and fairness.

Under the MCVA model, municipal contributions are distributed proportionally based on each municipality's share of the watershed's total weighted property assessment. This ensures that municipalities with larger or higher-assessed tax bases contribute a higher share, while those with smaller or predominantly agricultural tax bases contribute less.

To assist Directors in communicating this, the toolkit includes two key tables:

1. SVCA Budget Apportionment Table: shows how each municipality's share of the SVCA budget is derived from its MCVA weighting and compares 2025 to 2026 values.

2. Municipal Budget Comparison Table: places each municipality’s contribution in the context of its total municipal budget. For most, SVCA’s costs represent less than one percent of total expenditures, illustrating the modest scale and affordability of conservation services.

This communication effort also recognizes the growing influence of strong mayor powers in Ontario municipalities and the need for concise, information that supports efficient decision-making.

The toolkit and associated correspondence were distributed to all Directors on October 27, 2025, following the Board’s October 16, 2025 discussion emphasizing the importance of consistent messaging.

Updated information will be made publicly available through the SVCA 2026 Budget report and presentation to promote transparency and allow residents to better understand how SVCA’s work is funded and apportioned among municipalities.

Financial Implications

There are no new direct costs associated with this communication initiative beyond standard staff resources. The materials were produced internally using existing data and communications capacity.

The communication process itself strengthens long-term fiscal relationships with municipalities by demonstrating transparency, consistency, and value for money. This proactive approach reduces the risk of misinterpretation or conflict during municipal budget deliberations and reinforces confidence in SVCA’s cost-sharing framework.

Strategic Plan Linkages

R1.0 – Resiliency; Development of a Robust, Stable Organization

Prepared by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

GM-2025-26

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: November 20, 2025
Subject: 2026 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Budget
Purpose: To seek Board approval of the 2026 draft budget in principle, allowing staff to circulate the document to all watershed municipalities for a 30-day review and comment period, and to offer delegations upon request to support transparency and engagement in the budget process.

Recommendation

THAT the SVCA Board of Directors approve the 2026 draft budget in principle; and further THAT staff be authorized to forward the draft budget to the Authority's watershed municipalities for a 30-day review and commenting period and include the offer of a delegation if requested.

Background

At the September 2025 meeting, the Board of Directors endorsed an *up to* 6% increase for the 2026 apportionment budget. This represents the lowest budget increase approved in the past five years and reflects the Board's commitment to maintaining organizational stability while being mindful of municipal constraints. Corporate Services staff developed tools to help directors speak confidently about the SVCA budget within their own municipalities. These materials summarized levy context, and service value, supporting clear and consistent communication across the watershed.

Analysis

Following direction from the Board in September 2025 to target an increase of up to 6 percent from the 2025 apportionment budget of \$2,785,664, staff completed a comprehensive review of departmental budgets and capital allocations. Through continued internal collaboration, the overall apportionment increase has been reduced to 4.6%, at \$2,913,657, while maintaining all current levels of service delivery.

This reduction was achieved through careful cost containment and internal realignment rather than service cuts. No programs have been discontinued, and staffing levels remain stable across all departments. The finalized 2026 draft budget continues to support SVCA's four core program areas, Environmental Planning and Regulations, Water Resources, Forestry and Lands, and Corporate Services, along with governance and mandatory administrative functions under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and applicable Ontario Regulations.

Operational efficiency measures, including the consolidation of vehicle and equipment purchases and financing, deferral of select non-critical projects, and continued reliance on self-generated revenue, have helped offset inflationary pressures and maintain financial stability. Despite ongoing provincial fee freezes on planning and permitting services, SVCA remains positioned to deliver legislated and municipally supported services.

The 2026 budget reflects prudent fiscal management that balances affordability for municipalities with the Authority's responsibility to sustain core programming.

Financial Implications

The proposed 4.6% increase to apportionment will enable SVCA to maintain operational capacity, support staff workloads, and deliver mandatory programs and services under the Conservation Authorities Act. It reflects a balanced approach that maintains service levels while remaining well below the double-digit increases of recent years.

Strategic Plan Linkages

R1.0 – Resiliency; Development of a Robust, Stable Organization

Prepared by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

2026 SVCA Budget

SVCA Board of Directors

Erik Downing

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Saugen Valley Conservation Authority

November 20th, 2025



01

Background



Programs and Services

- Prescribed as mandatory by the Province through O.Reg. 686/21
- Funded through cost apportionment (previously called general levy)

Category 1



- Delivered on behalf of a municipality
- For which the authority may establish and charge a fee, through MOU or other agreement

Category 2

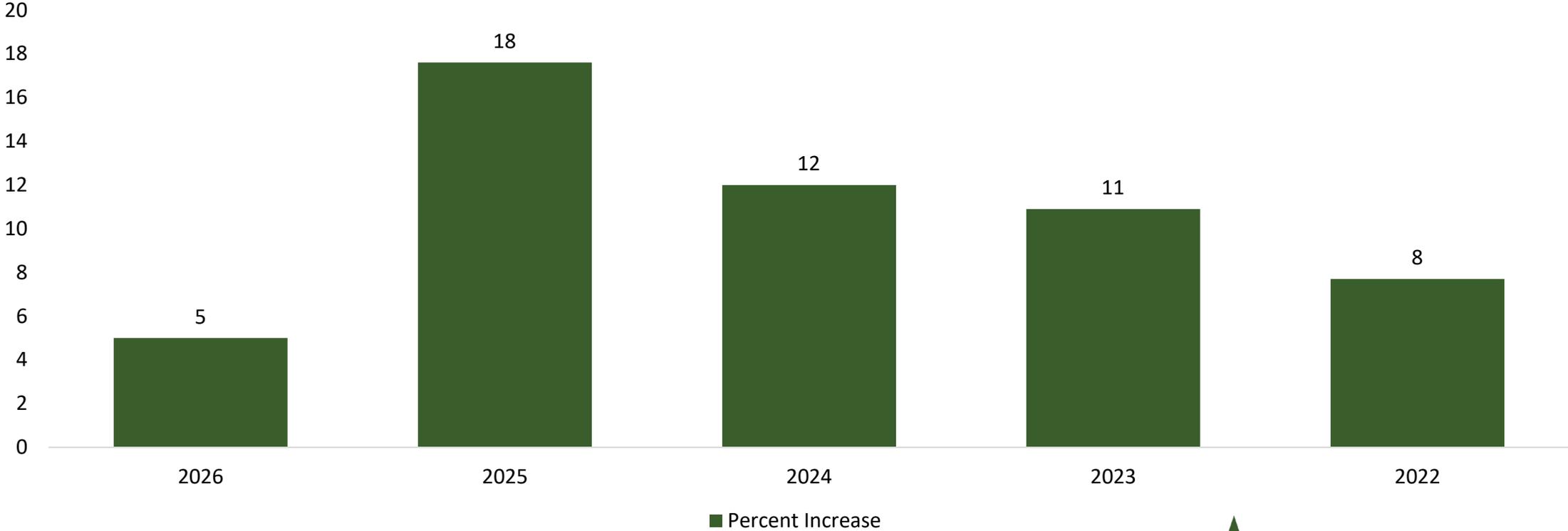


- Programs that further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources
- Funded by self-generated revenue, OR through cost apportioning agreements

Category 3



5 Year Apportionment Comparison



Determination of Revenue Through O.Reg. 402/22



Cost Apportionment

- Formerly called general levy
- Operating expenses and capital costs divided over all 15 watershed municipalities through the Modified Current Value (MCVA) method
- Current value assessment of properties in a municipality, applying property class weighting factors set by regulation, divided by the total weighted assessment

Special Benefitting - Maintenance

- For projects owned by a Conservation Authority that directly benefit a municipality
- 60/40 split between the benefitting municipality and general levy (cost apportioning) for maintenance projects only

Special Benefitting – Capital Projects

- For projects owned by a Conservation Authority that directly benefit a municipality
- At 100% to the municipality
- Should grant funding be available, funding is split between grant and the municipality (I.e., WECI funding at 50/50 between the municipality and the Province of Ontario)

MOUs, Category 2 & 3 Agreements

- **MOUs** for planning services are billed to the participating county or municipality
- **Category 2** – for projects owned by municipalities that SVCA assists in maintaining; billed 100% to the participating municipality (these are optional, 5-year transitional agreements)
- **Category 3** – for programs or services run by SVCA, paid for through 5-year cost apportioning agreements
- **Category 3** – for programs paid through self-generated revenue

Budget Approval Process



Draft Budget - O.Reg. 402/22 (13)

- Total annual revenue and sources
- Operating expenses and capital costs by category
- Municipal apportionments (participating and specified)
- Self-generated revenue opportunities and other details

Meeting on Draft Budget - O.Reg. 402/22 (14)

- Meeting held to review and approve draft budget for circulation
- Authority votes on approval for circulation to municipalities

Consultations - O.Reg. 402/22 (15)

- Draft budget and financial details sent to all participating and specified municipalities
- Draft budget and financial info posted publicly on Governance section of website
- Authority conducts requested delegations to municipal councils

Approval of Apportionment and Final Budget – O.Reg. 402/22 (16-24), CA Act 25 (1), 27 (1), 27.2 (2)

- Members meet to approve the final budget
- Vote held — carried by weighted majority
- All votes are recorded
- Once approved, final budget is sent to the Minister and municipalities, and posted publicly

Member Attendance



SVCA Administrative Bylaws

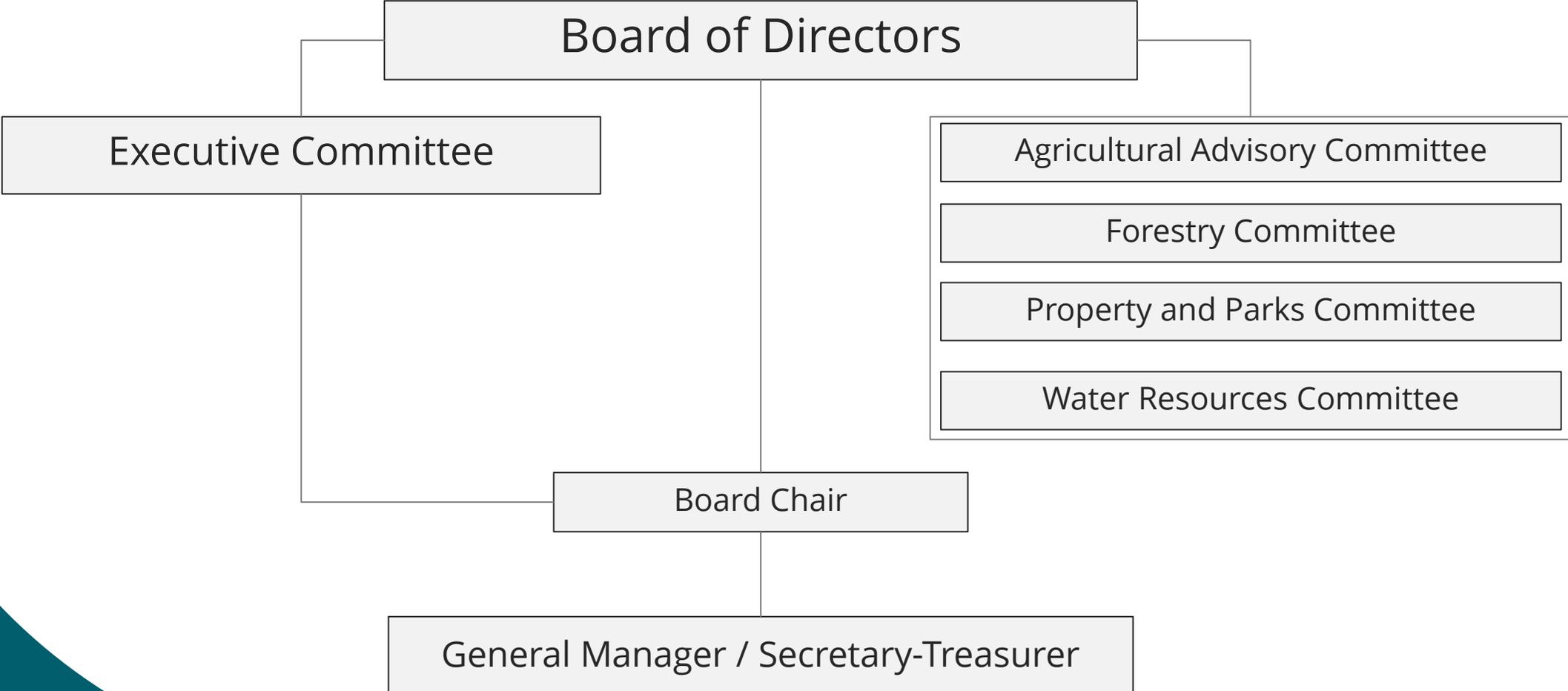
1. The *CA Act* and O.Reg. 402/22 outline budget process, weighted voting and apportionment but do not address member absences from budget votes
2. Administrative Bylaws govern procedure, define quorum requirements and clarify that votes apply to those present and eligible to vote
3. Absent members are simply not counted in the vote; for budget purposes it is the weighted majority of members present
4. As budget voting is recorded, an absent member will have an absent notation
5. If unable to attend, a member can send written or emailed comments to the Chair or GM/ST before the meeting, and the correspondence will be read aloud without comment

02

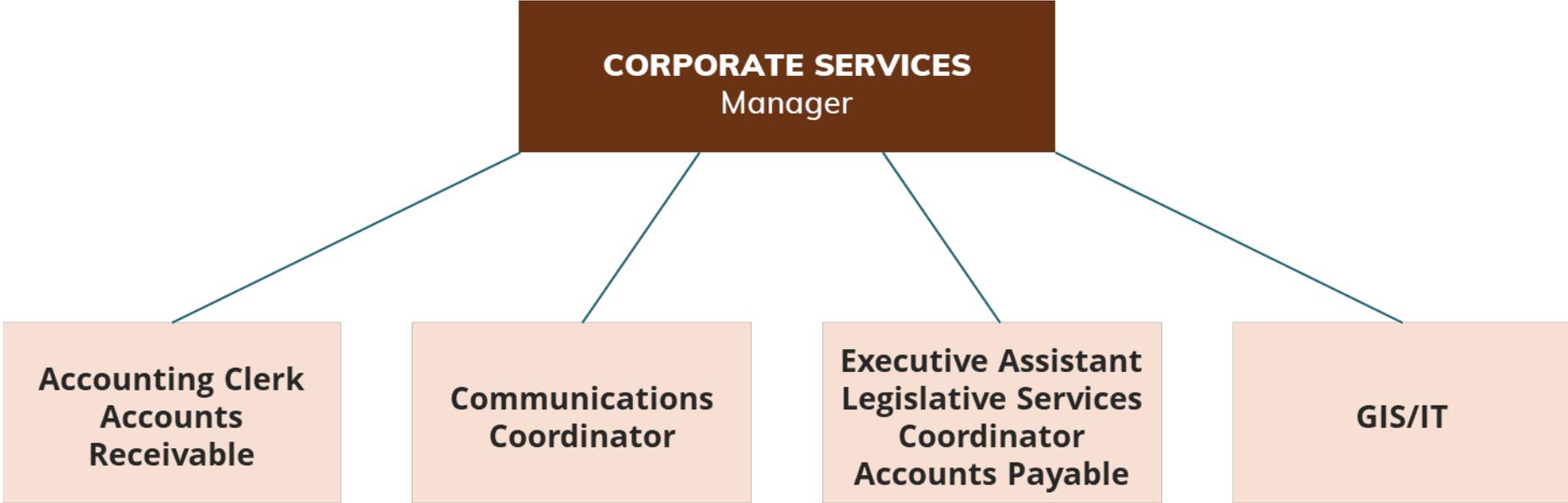
Organizational Structure



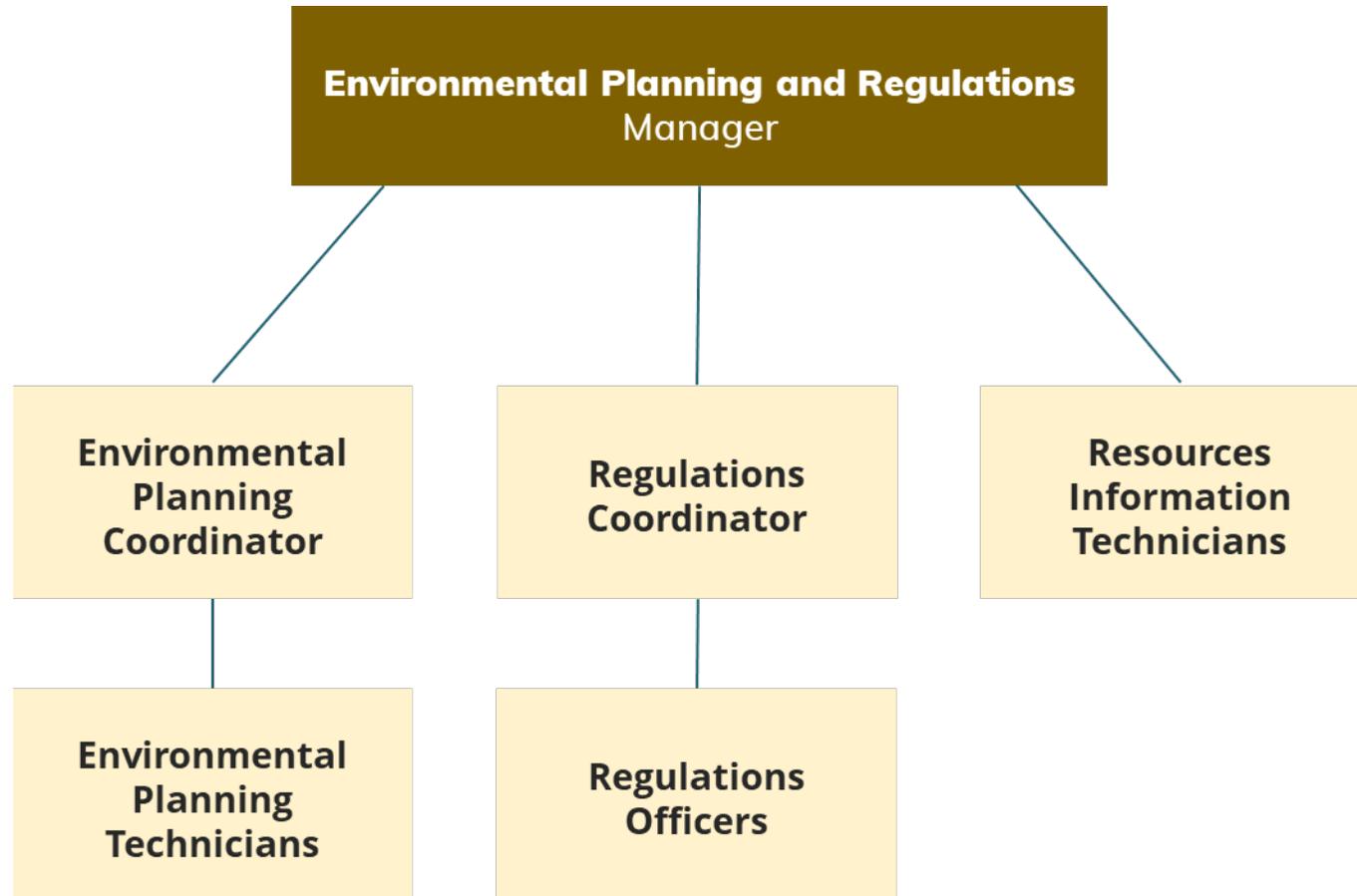
Organizational Structure of Governance



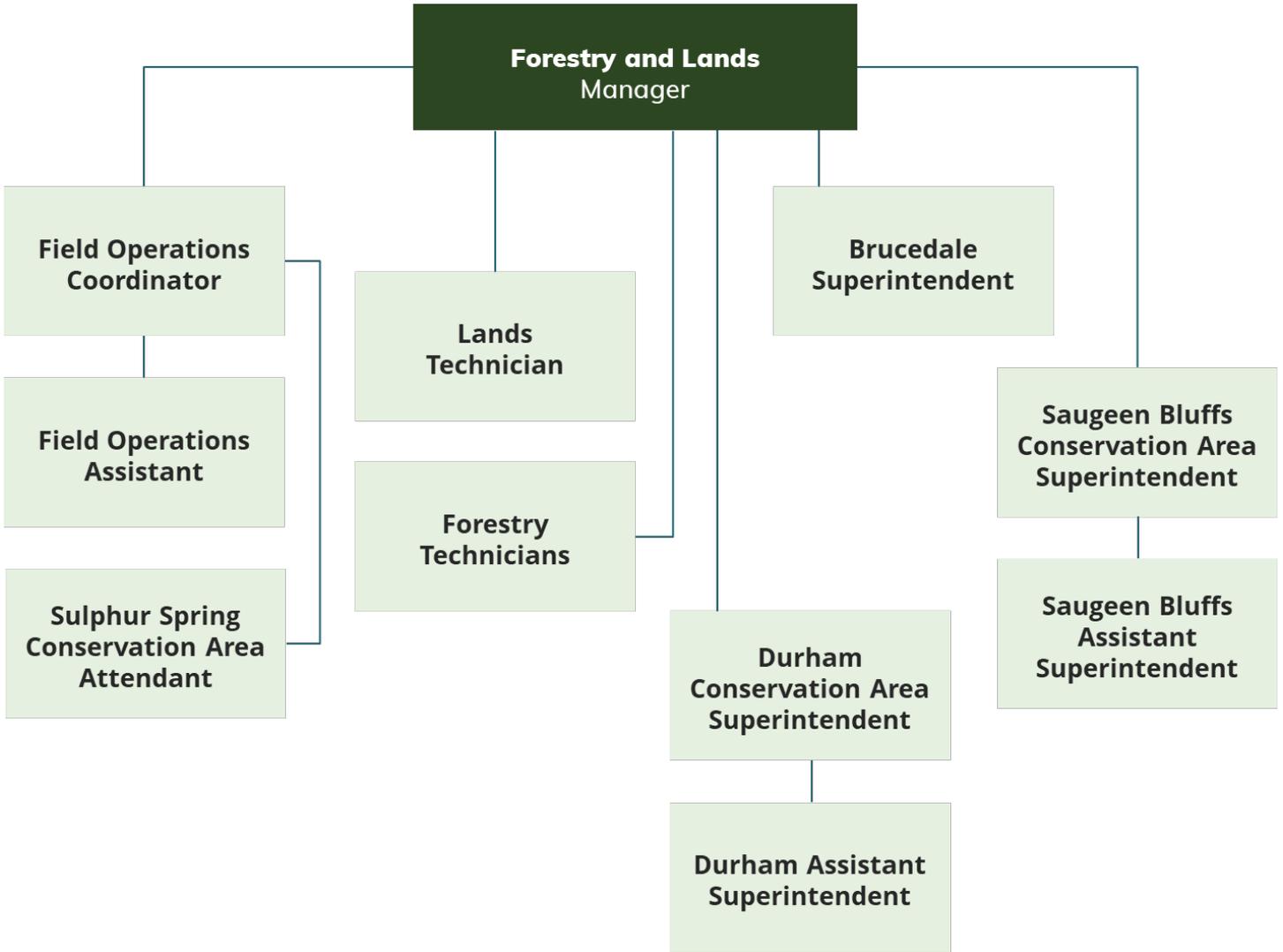
Organizational Structure of Corporate Services



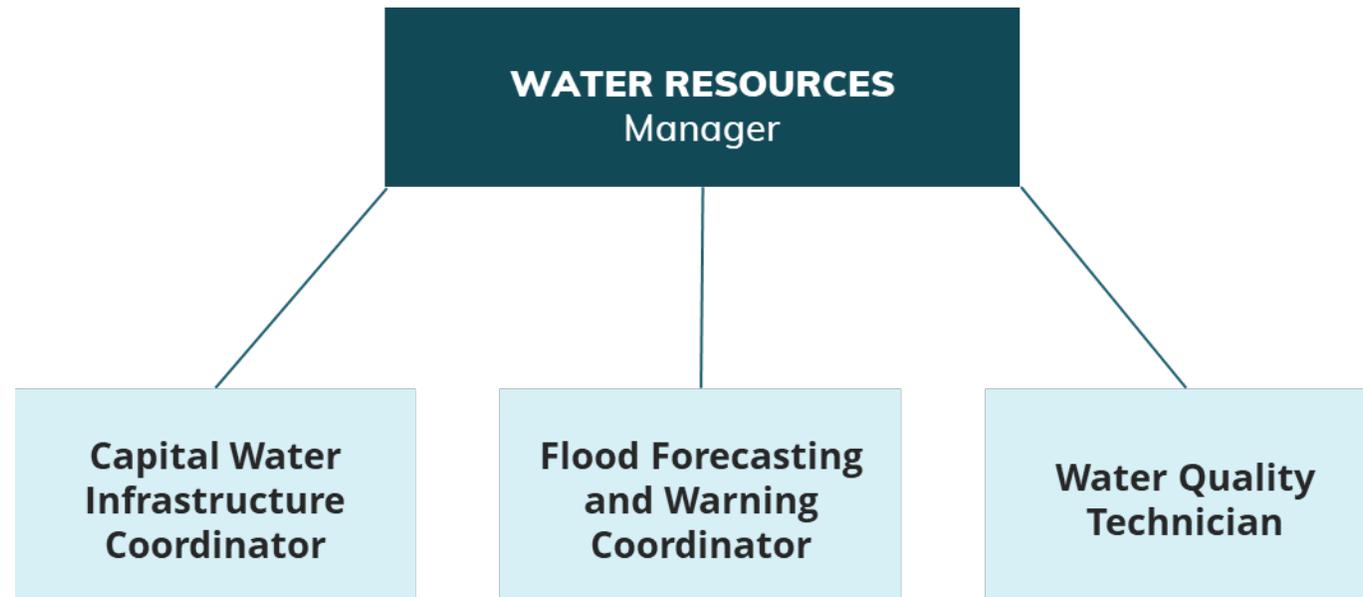
Organizational Structure of Environmental Planning and Regulations



Organizational Structure of Forestry and Lands



Organizational Structure of Water Resources



03

2026 Budget



Total Combined 2026 Budget

Category of Program or Service – Summary	Apportionment	Self-Generated	Reserves	Special Benefitting Maintenance	Special Benefitting Capital	Category 2, 3 and MOU
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$2,913,657	\$1,554,050	\$92,360	\$122,850	\$201,328	\$0
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality through an agreement						\$116,144
Category 3: Programs and services are cost-apportioned with municipalities		\$1,142,611	\$275,000			\$116,883
SUBTOTAL	\$2,913,657	\$2,696,661	\$367,360	\$122,850	\$201,328	\$233,027
TOTAL 2026 SVCA BUDGET \$6,534,883						

Apportionment Percentages



Calculated using the Modified Current Value Assessment (MCVA) method per O.Reg. 402/22

Municipality	2025 Apportionment	2026 Apportionment	Apportionment \$ Change	2026 Category 3 Cost Apportioning	Apportionment % Change	MCVA Assessment % Change
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie	\$69,251	\$72,433	\$3,182	\$2,818	3.72%	0.87%
Municipality of Brockton	\$239,920	\$250,943	\$11,023	\$9,761	2.62%	1.97%
Township of Chatsworth	\$81,860	\$85,621	\$3,761	\$3,330	4.31%	0.29%
Municipality of Grey Highlands	\$119,901	\$125,410	\$5,509	\$4,878	2.25%	2.34%
Town of Hanover	\$179,831	\$188,094	\$8,263	\$7,316	3.99%	0.60%
Township of Howick	\$7,356	\$7,694	\$338	\$299	4.10%	0.51%
Township of Huron-Kinloss	\$154,952	\$162,071	\$7,119	\$6,304	3.44%	1.16%
Municipality of Kincardine	\$480,746	\$502,835	\$22,089	\$19,559	3.10%	1.50%
Town of Minto	\$77,038	\$80,578	\$3,540	\$3,134	2.78%	1.82%
Municipality of Morris-Turnberry	\$5,201	\$5,440	\$239	\$212	1.52%	3.08%
Town of Saugeen Shores	\$594,050	\$621,344	\$27,294	\$24,169	1.55%	3.04%
Municipality of South Bruce	\$134,147	\$140,310	\$6,163	\$5,458	4.88%	-0.29%
Township of Southgate	\$202,843	\$212,163	\$9,320	\$8,253	-2.81%	7.41%
Township of Wellington North	\$109,253	\$114,273	\$5,020	\$4,445	-3.04%	7.64%
Municipality of West Grey	\$329,317	\$344,448	\$15,131	\$13,398	3.42%	1.18%
TOTAL	\$2,785,664	\$2,913,657	\$127,993	\$113,335	2.39%	2.21%

The total percentage increase between apportionment and MCVA assessment change is 4.6%.

2026 SVCA to 2025 Member Municipality Budget Comparison

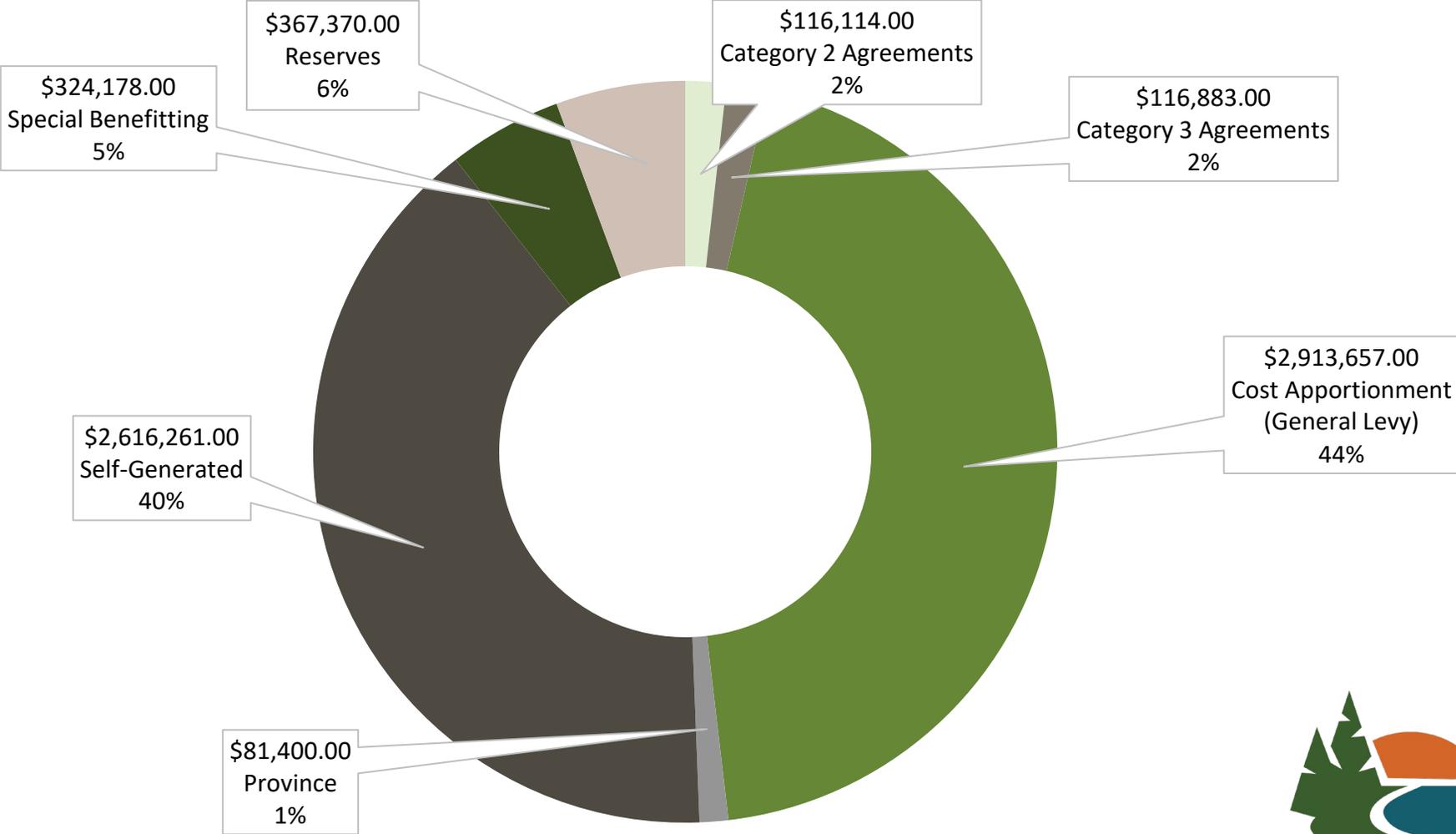


Municipality	2025 Municipal Budget	1% of total Budget in Dollars	2026 SVCA Apportionment	Apportionment Change in Dollars	Comparative Budget Increase	Apportionment Comparison to Municipal Budget	Note *
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie	\$19,772,700	\$197,727	\$72,433	\$3,182	0.02%	0.37%	Est. Amt
Municipality of Brockton	\$27,167,425	\$271,674	\$250,943	\$11,023	0.04%	0.92%	Est. Amt
Township of Chatsworth	\$13,873,958	\$138,740	\$85,621	\$3,761	0.03%	0.62%	
Municipality of Grey Highlands	\$33,912,461	\$339,125	\$125,410	\$5,509	0.02%	0.37%	
Town of Hanover	\$36,473,400	\$364,734	\$188,094	\$8,263	0.02%	0.52%	
Township of Howick	\$10,307,789	\$103,078	\$7,694	\$338	0.00%	0.07%	
Township of Huron-Kinloss	\$24,089,434	\$240,894	\$162,071	\$7,119	0.03%	0.67%	
Municipality of Kincardine	\$68,336,490	\$683,365	\$502,835	\$22,089	0.03%	0.74%	
Town of Minto	\$17,534,708	\$175,347	\$80,578	\$3,540	0.02%	0.46%	
Municipality of Morris-Turnberry	\$15,461,069	\$154,611	\$5,440	\$239	0.00%	0.04%	
Town of Saugeen Shores	\$70,000,000	\$700,000	\$621,344	\$27,294	0.04%	0.89%	Est. Amt
Municipality of South Bruce	\$20,773,763	\$207,738	\$140,310	\$6,163	0.03%	0.68%	
Township of Southgate	\$20,361,594	\$203,616	\$212,163	\$9,320	0.05%	1.04%	
Township of Wellington North	\$22,310,587	\$223,106	\$114,273	\$5,020	0.02%	0.51%	
Municipality of West Grey	\$33,696,796	\$336,968	\$344,448	\$15,131	0.04%	1.02%	

*Note: Amounts have been estimated where the total budget figure was not provided by the member municipality. Published communications, operations and capital budgets were used.

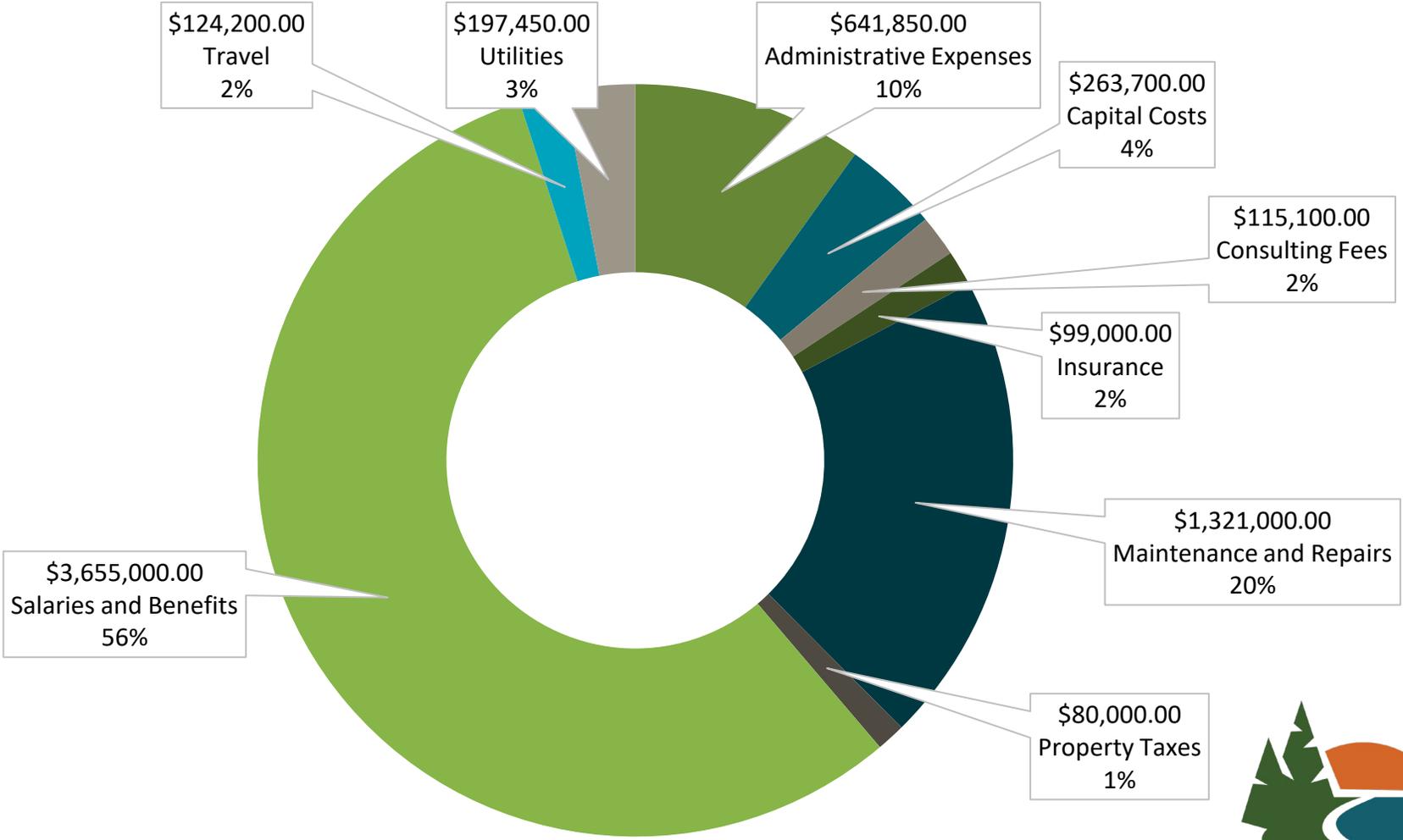
Illustrates each municipality's share of the SVCA budget and how that contribution relates to its overall 2025 municipal budget.

2026 Budgeted Revenue Sources



These numbers have been rounded.

2026 Budgeted Expenses



These numbers have been rounded.

SVCA Reserves



Category of Program or Service	2024 Audited Reserves	2025 Budgeted Reserve Use	Projected 2025 Year End Reserves	2026 Budgeted Reserve Use	Projected 2026 Reserves
Category 1: Mandatory programs and services	\$2,980,870	-\$290,205	\$2,690,665	-\$92,360	\$2,598,305
Category 3: Programs and services that are cost apportioned with municipalities through agreement	\$799,763	-\$52,000	\$747,763	-\$275,000	\$472,763
Other Reserves: Special projects	\$539,425	-\$397,200	\$142,225	\$0	\$142,225
TOTAL	\$4,320,058	-\$739,405	\$3,580,653	-\$367,360	\$3,213,293

2026 Corporate Services Workplan Highlights

2026 goals include ongoing SOP creation to support departmental resilience efforts. Phase 2-3 Workplace Culture Assessment response. Customer service standards review and continued public consultation. Internal mentoring program development. Stewardship of past gifts in line with fundraising strategy. Onboarding software investigation.



2026 Corporate Services Budget

Program Area	Provision	Description	Legislation	Category	2025	2026	Funding	Agreement
Administration, Finance, HR	Corporate services	Administrative, human resources, employee health and safety, operating and capital costs which are not directly related to the delivery of any specific program or service, but are the overhead and support costs of the CA.	Enabling Service	1	\$570,985	\$559,350	Apportionment: 73% Self-Generated: 27%	No
	Financial services	Accounting and payroll.	Enabling Service	1				No
	Asset management	Asset management planning, facilities, fleet, and property management.	Enabling Service	1				No
Communications	Natural hazards communications, outreach, and education	Promoting public awareness of natural hazards including flooding, drought, and erosion. Inclusive of public events, materials, social media services, and general media relations.	Reg. 686/21 s.1(2) Reg. 686/21 s.1(3)3,4	1	\$137,100	\$146,530	Apportionment: 100%	No
	Communications and marketing	General communications and marketing support for the CA.	Enabling Service	1				No
	Education and community events	Public education, community event development, execution, and support of Category 1 related activities and programs.	Reg. 686/21 s.1(2) Reg. 686/21 s.1(3)3,4	1				No
	Public awareness and communications	General communications, marketing and awareness campaigns for non-mandatory programs and services (support for water quality, private forestry/planting, education, stewardship).	CAA s.21(1)(q)	3	\$7,100	\$7,220	Category 3: 100%	Yes
Governance	Office of the GM/S-T	Administration and coordination of total program of SVCA, financial management, human resources, business activities, Conservation Ontario dues for the Authority.	Enabling Service	1	\$315,975	\$341,100	Apportionment: 90% Self-Generated: 10%	No
	Legal expenses	Costs related to agreements/contracts, administrative by-law updates or other similar legal expenses.	Enabling Service	1				No
	CA Board of Directors and Advisory Committees	Supporting presence and activities of the SVCA Board of Directors and members and administration of Advisory Committees	Enabling Service	1				No
GIS/IT/IM	Information technology & management / GIS	Data management, records retention. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide geospatial representations of data.	Reg. 686/21 s.1(3)	1	\$195,800	\$203,500	Apportionment: 100%	No
	Natural hazards technical Studies and information management	Data collection and study of designs to mitigate natural hazards. Development and use of systems to collect and store data and to provide geospatial representations of data.	Reg. 686/21 s.5(1)1 Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1				No
				TOTAL	\$1,226,960	\$1,257,700		

2026 Corporate Services Apportionment

Category of Program or Service – Corporate Services	2026 Apportionment
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$1,041,550
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality as requested through an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding	\$0
Category 3: Programs and services that are either not receiving any municipal funding or services that are cost-apportioned with municipalities – other than Category 1 or 2 services	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,041,550

2026 Environmental Planning and Regulations Workplan Highlights

2026 goals Digitize and upload 2018-2022 hard copy files to Content Management System. Continue Amish/Mennonite outreach initiative. Update Regulation Mapping for Southampton and Durham. Investigate procurement of regulations mapping for rural areas of watershed.



2026 Environmental Planning and Regulations Budget

Program Area	Provision	Description	Legislation	Category	2025	2026	Funding	Agreement
Environmental Planning	Section 28.1 - permit administration and compliance activities	Reviewing and processing permit applications, associated technical reports, conducting site inspections, communication with applicants, agents, and consultants. Investigation and enforcement of regulatory compliance.	Reg. 686/21 s.8	1	\$1,013,300	\$1,032,750	Apportionment: 59% Self-Generated: 41%	No
	Review under other legislation	Input to the review and approval processes under other applicable law, with comments principally related to natural hazards, wetlands, watercourses, and Section 28 permit requirements.	Reg. 686/21 s.6	1				
	Municipal plan input and review	Technical information and advice to municipalities on circulated municipal land use planning applications (Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, Subdivisions, Condominium, Site Plan Approvals, Consents, Minor Variances, etc.) and input to municipal land-use planning documents (OP, Comprehensive ZB, Secondary plans) related to natural hazards, on behalf of MNMNR.	Reg. 686/21 s.7	1				
	Technical studies and policy review	Studies and projects to inform natural hazards management programs including floodplain management, watershed hydrology, regulations areas mapping update, flood forecasting system assessment, floodplain policy, and Lake Huron shoreline management.	Reg. 686/21 s.1	1				
TOTAL					\$1,013,300	\$1,032,750		

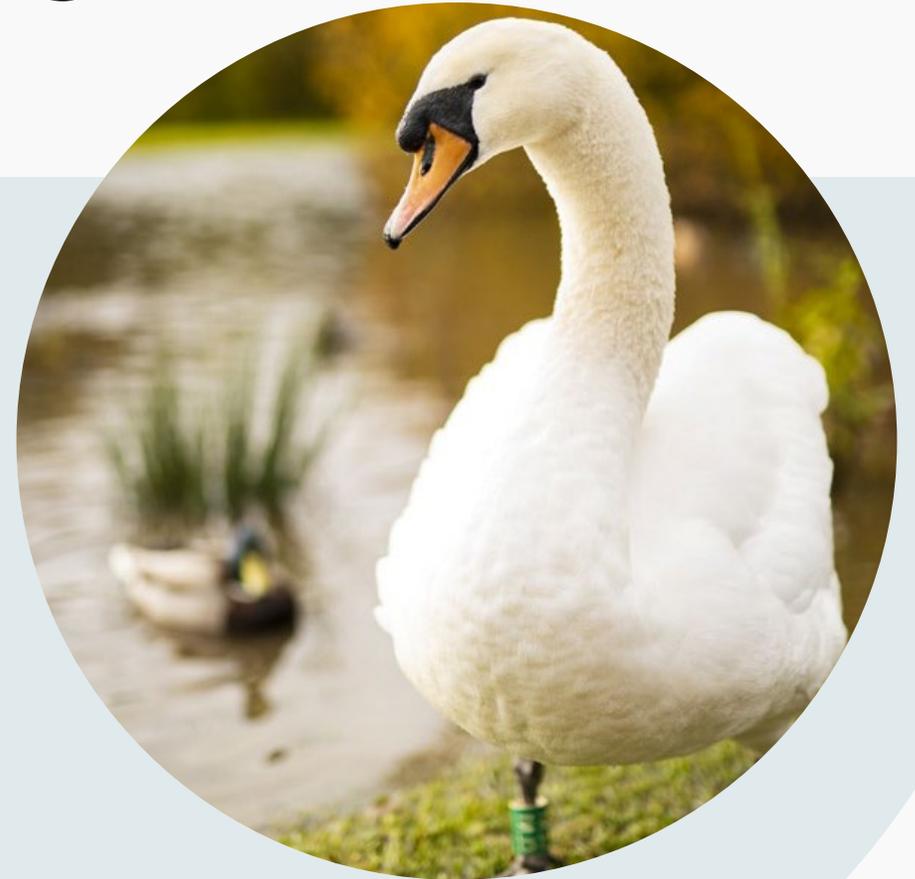
2026 Environmental Planning and Regulations Apportionment

Category of Program or Service – Environmental Planning and Regulations	2026 Apportionment
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$424,042
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality as requested through an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding	\$0
Category 3: Programs and services that are either not receiving any municipal funding or services that are cost-apportioned with municipalities – other than Category 1 or 2 services	\$0
TOTAL	\$424,042

2026 Forestry, Lands, Campgrounds and Motorpool Workplan Highlights

2026 goals Accessibility improvements to the Durham CA washroom and installation of a backup water system. Laneway improvements at Brucedale. Updated playground for Saugeen Bluffs.

2026 motorpool plan targets the purchase of a tow-behind mower, and a truck to replace the current vehicle past its lifespan.



2026 Forestry and Lands Budget

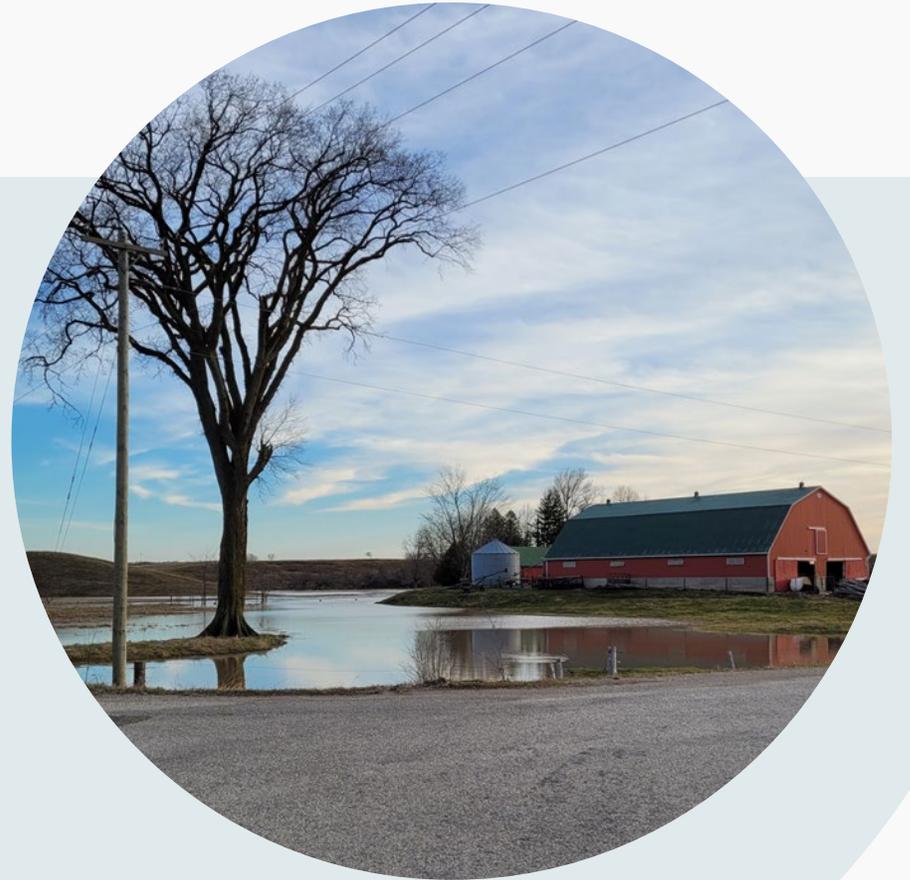
Program Area	Provision	Description	Legislation	Category	2025	2026	Funding	Agreement
Conservation Lands	Strategy for CA owned or controlled lands and management plans	Guiding principles, objectives, including for an authority's land acquisition and disposition strategy, land use categories on conservation authority owned land, recommended management principles for different land categories.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)1	1	\$43,500	\$43,500	Apportionment: 100%	No
	Development and maintenance of a land inventory	Development and maintenance of an inventory of every parcel of land that the Authority owns or controls including, location, surveys, site plans, maps, acquisition date, and how the parcel was acquired.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)3	1	\$43,500	\$43,500	Apportionment: 100%	No
	Section 29 Minister's regulation for CAs	Conservation areas enforcement and compliance.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)4	1	\$783,500	\$646,400	Apportionment: 97% Self-Generated: 3%	No
	Management, operation, and maintenance of CA owned lands	Management and maintenance of CA owned lands including stewardship, restoration, and ecological monitoring.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1				No
	Passive recreation use, infrastructure and management planning	Management and maintenance of CA owned recreational assets including trails, parking, washroom facilities, pavilions, and other capital assets.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)1	1				No
	Land acquisition and disposition policy	The development of one or more policies governing land acquisitions and land dispositions.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)1	1				No
	Forestry – hazard tree and biodiversity management	Management of hazard/diseased trees and the management of biodiversity and invasive species on CA owned lands.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1				No
	Campgrounds	Management, operation, and maintenance of campgrounds on CA owned land.	CAA s. 21(1)(m)	3	\$1,429,400	\$1,417,611	Self-Generated: 100%	No
	Land acquisition and disposition	Acquisition and management of lands containing important natural heritage features or strategically aligned with existing CA land holdings. Disposition of lands considered surplus to the vision, mandate, and strategic goals of the CA.	CAA s.21(1)(c)	3	Variable	Variable	N/A	Yes
	Land lease and agreement management	Management of current and future land leases and property agreements. These leases and agreements help drive land-based revenues to offset the costs associated with management and maintenance of CA land holdings.	CAA s.21(1)(c) & (d)	3	\$30,000	\$30,300	Self-Generated: 100%	No
Forestry	Forestry – forest management operations on CA owned lands	Forestry services, planting and/or woodlot management on CA owned land.	Reg. 686/21 s.9(1)2	1	\$269,250	\$289,750	Apportionment: 100%	No
	Forestry – for private landowners	Forestry services and/or woodlot management for private landowners. Reforestation, tree sales, management planning, MFTIP, advice, tree marking.	CAA s.21(1)(g) & (o)	3	\$228,000	\$228,000	Self-Generated: 100%	No
Fleet	Fleet	Management and maintenance of CA fleet.	Enabling service	1	\$242,600	\$220,400	Apportionment: 100%	No
				TOTAL	\$3,069,750	\$2,919,461		

2026 Forestry and Lands Apportionment

Category of Program or Service – Forestry and Lands	2026 Apportionment
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$995,350
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality as requested through an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding	\$0
Category 3: Programs and services that are either not receiving any municipal funding or services that are cost-apportioned with municipalities – other than Category 1 or 2 services	\$0
TOTAL	\$995,350

2026 Flood Forecasting and Warning Workplan Highlights

2026 goals include municipal training of the Collaborative Water Data Viewer and Flood Forecasting and Warning Program, continued network improvements, improvements to forecasting and modelling in watershed, improvements to rain gauge network.



2026 Water Resources Workplan Highlights

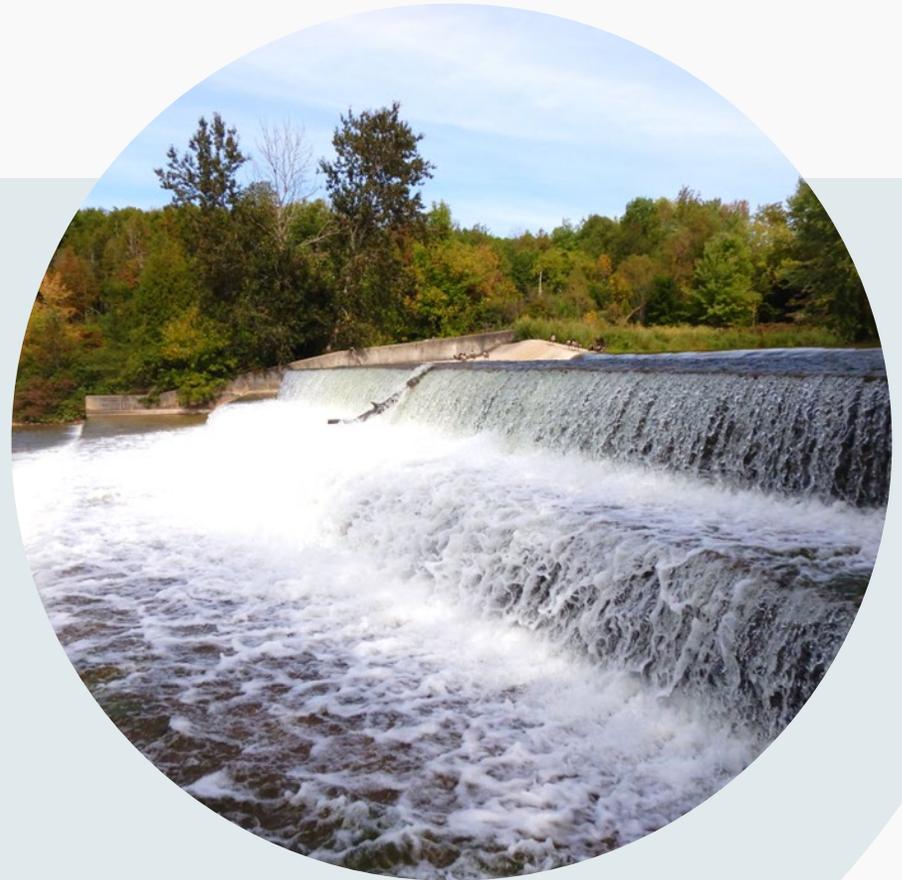
2026 goals include department communications plan, continued easement research, public information sessions for key infrastructure, WECl applications for infrastructure and capital works projects, completion of Durham Upper Dam Class EA including identification of actionable preferred solution(s), debris boom for Durham Upper Dam, Inverhuron feasibility study, Paisley Dyke Project, OMS Manuals for all SVCA structures, ongoing maintenance and inspections on infrastructure projects.



2026 Category 2 & 3 Project Highlights

2026 Category 2 goals include continued inspection and maintenance per agreements, tree removal plans for Hanover Dam and Walkerton Dyke, implementation of public safety measures at Hanover Dam, Paisley Dyke Improvement Project.

2026 Category 3 goals include beginning planning for next round of Watershed Report Cards, continuation of delegations, agreement re-negotiation planning, and continued collaboration with external clients.



2026 Water Resources Budget

Program Area	Provision	Description	Legislation	Category	2025	2026	Funding	Agreement
Water Management	Flood forecasting and warning	Daily data collection and monitoring of weather forecasts, provincial & local water level forecasts and watershed conditions; including flood event forecasting. Flood warning and communications. Maintenance of equipment.	Reg. 686/21 s.2	1	\$273,800	\$273,300	Apportionment: 76% Self-Generated: 24%	No
	Low water response	Conditions monitoring/analysis. Technical & administrative support to the Water Response Team.	Reg. 686/21 s.3	1	\$713,588	\$603,061	Apportionment: 56% Self-Generated: 44%	No
	Water and erosion infrastructure operational plan	Develop and implementation of plan. Annual reporting.	Reg. 686/21 s.5					No
	Flood and erosion control infrastructure	Maintenance and inspection on flood and erosion control structures, as required. Including projects dependent on Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding from the province and from municipal partners.						No
	Technical studies and policy review	Studies and projects to inform natural hazards management programs including floodplain management, watershed hydrology, regulations areas mapping update, flood forecasting system assessment, floodplain policy, and Lake Huron shoreline management.	Reg. 686/21 s.1					No
	Category 2 programs and services	Programs and services provided by a CA on behalf of a municipality.	Reg. 687/21					2
DWSP	Source protection authority role as set out in the Clean Water Act	Source Protection Area and Region liaison, technical support, support to the source protection committee, preparation of reports and attendance at meetings, activities required by the Clean Water Act, 2006 and its regulations.	Reg. 686/21 s.13	1	\$6,450	\$6,450	Self-Generated: 100%	No
Watershed Monitoring	Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN)	Administration and coordination of total program of SVCA, financial management, human resources, business activities, Conservation Ontario dues for the Authority.	Reg. 686/21 s.12(1)2, Reg. 686/21 s.12(3)	1	\$32,037	\$32,037	Apportionment: 100%	No
	Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network (PGMN)	20+ year CA/MECP partnership for groundwater level and quality monitoring. CA maintains equipment, data transfer to MECP, water sampling; MECP provides equipment, standards, data management.	Reg. 686/21 s.12(1)1 Reg. 686/21 s.12(2)					
	SVCA Water Quality Monitoring Network – chemistry	Surface water quality sampling and reporting over 15 sites.	CAA s.21(1)(a)	3	\$104,013	\$109,663	Category 3: 100%	Yes
	SVCA Water Quality Monitoring Network - benthic	Benthic collection and reporting at 20 sites. 20+ year CA/MECP partnership in the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network.						
	Conservation Ontario Watershed Report Cards	A plain language, data driven reporting document released every 5 years describing watershed conditions in a CA.						
				TOTAL	\$1,159,888	\$1,140,655	56	

2026 Water Resources Apportionment

Category of Program or Service – Water Resources	2026 Apportionment
Category 1: Mandatory Programs and Services	\$452,715
Category 2: Non-mandated program or service delivered to municipality as requested through an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding	\$0
Category 3: Programs and services that are either not receiving any municipal funding or services that are cost-apportioned with municipalities – other than Category 1 or 2 services	\$0
TOTAL	\$452,715

04

Voting



Weighted Majority Voting



Ontario Regulation 402/22 (19)

1. Each member's vote shall be weighted according to the ratio that the modified current value assessment for the municipality that appointed the member bears to the authority's modified current value assessment
2. A weighted majority requires 51 per cent or more of the total weighted value for all of the votes cast
3. In the case of tie vote, the vote is lost
4. If a municipality appoints more than one member to the authority, each of those members' votes shall be equal to the municipality's weighted vote divided by the number of members the municipality appoints to the authority
5. A municipality shall not have a weighted vote of more than 50 per cent of the total weighted value for all of the votes to be cast unless the municipality appoints more than 50 per cent of the members to the authority

Sample Voting Calculation



Meeting Date: SAMPLE

MCVA Weighted Vote - 51% of the weight in attendance is required to approve apportionment

% in Attendance 74.02A

51% of A 37.75E

Municipality	Director	SAMPLE NUMBERS		SAMPLE VOTE		
		Sample Apportionment	Attendance % Value	Nay	Yea	Absent
Arran-Elderslie	Moiken Penner	2.4860	2.4860		2.4860	
Brockton	Gregory McLean	8.6127	8.6127	8.6127		
Chatsworth	Peter Whitten	2.9386	2.9386		2.9386	
Grey-Highlands	Paul Allen	4.3042	4.3042		4.3042	
Hanover	Sue Paterson	6.4556	6.4556		6.4556	
Howick	Mike Niesen	0.2640	0.2640		0.2640	
Huron-Kinloss	Larry Allison	5.5625	5.5625	5.5625		
Kincardine	Jennifer Prenger	8.6290	8.6290		8.6290	
Kincardine	Bill Stewart	8.6290				8.6290
Minto	Steve McCabe	2.7655				2.7655
Morris-Turnberry	Mike Niesen	0.1867	0.1867		0.1867	
Saugeen Shores	Bud Halpin	10.6626	10.6626		10.6626	
Saugeen Shores	Dave Myette	10.6626				10.6626
South Bruce	Mike Niesen	4.8156	4.8156	4.8156		
Southgate	Barbara Dobreen	7.2817	7.2817		7.2817	
Wellington North	Steve McCabe	3.9220				3.9220
West Grey	Tom Hutchinson	5.9110	5.9110		5.9110	
West Grey	Kevin Eccles	5.9110	5.9110	5.9110		
		100.00	74.02	24.9018	49.12	25.9791
			A	B	C	D

A + D = 100% 100.00

C/A = % in Favour 66.3586%

if C > E Budget Passes

C = 49.12

E = 37.75

EXAMPLE ONLY

Therefore the SVCA budget passed with 66.3586% of those present in favour.

Thank you

Erik Downing

General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

e.downing@svca.on.ca

www.saugeenconservation.ca



Report CS-2025-14

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: November 20, 2025
Subject: 2026 Fee Schedules
Purpose: To approve 2026 Fee schedules for SVCA's programs and services.

Recommendation

THAT the Board of Directors of Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approve the amendments to the attached Fee Policy, and approve the following fee schedules to take effect on January 1, 2026:

- Schedule A – Environmental Planning and Permitting Services
- Schedule C – Forestry Services
- Schedule D – Corporate Services

Background

Section 21.2 of the Conservation Authorities Act requires every conservation authority to prepare and make publicly available fee schedules for programs and services it provides, with approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 6.3 of SVCA's Fee Policy, Environmental Planning and Permitting, is being updated to reflect current status. Effective January 1, 2023, the Province froze Conservation Authority planning and regulations fees, and this freeze remains in place. As such, no fee adjustments have been made since that time.

To ensure ongoing transparency and alignment with regulatory and operational needs, the Fee Policy and its associated schedules are reviewed annually by SVCA staff as part of the annual budget process. Individual schedules may also be updated on alternate timelines as required to support specific programs or services. Any amendments to the policy or its schedules will be brought forward to the SVCA Board of Directors for review and endorsement.

Analysis

There are four fee schedules: Corporate Services, Forestry Services, Environmental Planning and Permitting, and Campground and Associated Fees. The 2026 Campground and Associated Fees, Schedule B, were approved at the September 2025 Board of Directors Meeting. These fees are reviewed annually in comparison to private and public campgrounds, as well as

adjacent conservation authorities and municipal use venues. The remaining three schedules have been prepared for Board approval at this meeting.

- **Environmental Planning and Permitting Services** – In 2023, Watson and Associates Economists completed a comprehensive review of SVCA’s plan review and permitting fees, identifying that current rates achieve approximately 45 percent cost recovery, with a projected 70 percent recovery under the recommended fee structure. The analysis demonstrated that while proposed increases would move SVCA closer to cost recovery and remain competitive with peer conservation authorities, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has not permitted any changes to Conservation Authority planning or permitting fees since January 1, 2023. This provincial fee freeze remains in place. Cost of living increases, or minor increases or decreases are not permitted in these fees until directed by the minister.
- **Forestry Services** – Each year, staff compare expenses and revenues for private land forestry services and benchmark rates against comparable agencies. In some areas, costs have increased or are projected to increase. Staff are proposing fee adjustments to accommodate these changes while ensuring SVCA remains competitive and affordable.
- **Corporate Services** - These fees cover data management, mapping, GIS, administrative services, and the rental of the administrative office boardroom. Fees are developed based on market value, demand, and operational needs, and reviewed annually to ensure operational and financial sustainability. For 2026, a 1.7 percent increase is proposed to maintain cost recovery and support the revenue targets established in SVCA’s 2026 Budget.

Financial Implications

SVCA’s Fee Schedule outlines user fees that support the continued delivery of programs and services and reduce reliance on the municipal levy. These revenues are an essential component of SVCA’s long-term financial sustainability, offsetting the loss of provincial funding that has occurred over the past decade.

Since January 1, 2023, Conservation Authorities have been under a provincial fee freeze for all planning and permitting services. The ongoing freeze on planning and permitting fees has prevented SVCA from recovering approximately \$300,000 in annual revenue, resulting in an estimated minimum of \$930,000 in lost cost-recovery opportunity since 2023 and continued reliance on municipal support each year.

As a result, the fee freeze continues to place pressure on SVCA’s budget, limiting flexibility to sustain or enhance regulatory and planning functions while maintaining compliance with provincial service standards.

Strategic Plan Linkages

R1.6 - Resiliency – Financial Processing Policy and Action

Prepared by:

[Original Signed By]

Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Approved by:

[Original Signed By]

Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



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SVCA Fee Policy

Policy approved on: December 15, 2022

Policy amended on: November 20, 2025

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) is committed to providing accessible information and communications in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). If the format of this document interferes with your ability to access the information, please contact us at www.saugeenconservation.ca/access email accessibility@scva.on.ca or call 519-364-1255.

We will provide or arrange for the provision of an accessible format or communication support, at no additional cost, in a timely manner.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Fee Policy and Schedules

1.0 Background

Amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* were undertaken in 2020 to clarify the programs and services that conservation authorities (CAs) deliver. In 2021, Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services provided additional clarity regarding the programs and services that CAs are required to provide. In April 2022, the Minister released Policy: Minister's list of classes of programs and services in respect of which conservation authorities may charge a fee ("Minister's List"). CAs may only charge a fee for a program or services that it provides if it is set out in the Minister's List. The Minister's List identifies that CAs may charge a fee for mandatory, municipal, and other programs and services where the user-pay principle is appropriate.

The Minister's List replaces the 1997 *Policies and Procedures for the Charging of Conservation Authority Fees* which was approved by the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. The new Minister's List will come into effect on January 1, 2023.

On January 1, 2023, the *Conservation Authorities Act* is amended by enacting section 21.2 (1) – (12) "Fees for Programs and Services. Subsection (1) enables the Minister to determine the classes of programs and services in respect of which an authority may charge a fee and (2) requires the minister to publish a List in a policy document. CAs may only charge a fee for a program or service that it provides if it falls within this list.

Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, programs and services delivered by conservation authorities include:

- Mandatory programs and services. Mandatory programs and services that the conservation authority is required to provide. These services are further defined in Ontario Regulation 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services and may be funded by provincial grants, other sources, municipal apportionment and/or conservation authority self-generated revenue (e.g., user fees) where the user pay principle is appropriate.
- Municipal programs and services. Programs and services that an authority agrees to provide on behalf of a municipality under a MOU or agreement. The program or service may be funded by the municipality or by other funding mechanisms (e.g., user fees where the user-pay principle is appropriate) as per the MOU or agreement.
- Other programs and services. Programs and services that an authority determines are advisable to further the purposes of the *Conservation Authorities Act*. The program or

service may be funded by the municipality or by other funding mechanisms as per the cost apportioning agreement and the Minister's List.

2.0 Introduction

Section 21.2 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA) empowers Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) to charge fees for programs and services. The purpose of these fees is to offset the direct and indirect costs of offering programs and services or to generate revenue for the Authority.

Section 21.2 of the CAA requires SVCA to develop a written policy with respect to the fees that it charges for the programs and services it provides. This policy includes fee schedules that list the programs and services for which SVCA charges a fee and the amount to be charged.

In this fee policy, SVCA will set out the frequency with which it will conduct a review of the policy, including its fee schedules, the process for carrying out a review of the fee policy, including the rules for giving notice of the review and any changes as a result of a review, and the circumstances under which any person may make a request to SVCA to reconsider a fee that was charged to the person and the procedures applicable to the reconsideration. Decisions regarding the fee policy and fee schedules are made by the SVCA Board of Directors.

Under Section 21.2 of the CAA, a conservation authority may determine the amount of a fee to be charged for a program or service it provides. If a fee is to be charged for a program or service, the amount to be charged or the manner for determining the amount must be listed in the conservation authority's fee schedule.

3.0 Policy Scope

This policy applies to all classes of programs and services for which SVCA charges a fee.

4.0 Policy Principles

The SVCA Fee Policy and its associated Schedules are based on the following principles:

4.1 User-Pay

The fees that SVCA charges, in accordance with the Minister's Fee Classes Policy, are considered user fees. User fees are fees paid to SVCA by a person or organization for a service that they benefit from. Such benefits include use of a public resource (e.g., park access or facility rental) or the ability to undertake development (e.g., receive an approval through a permit to undertake a regulated activity).

4.2 Transparency

Making information publicly available is empowering and encourages engagement. The methods for calculating fees for services will be robust and transparent. For example, direct

and indirect costs associated with the program or service will be included in the calculation of the overall fee. Further, fee increases will consider inflation.

4.3 Cost Recovery

Fees for programs and services offered have been established to recover costs associated with administering and delivering the program or service.

5.0 Exemptions

The Authority may waive fees for non-profit conservation groups contributing to the protection and restoration of the natural environment as approved by the Board of Directors and / or General Manager on a case-by-case basis.

6.0 Calculation of Fees

SVCA will use a variety of methods to determine fees for its programs and services depending on the nature of the program or service. Fees collected are based on the approved fee schedule in effect on the date the application was deemed complete or when the program or service commenced.

6.1 Corporate Services Fees

These are fees related data management, mapping, geographic information systems (GIS), administrative services, educational services, and the rental of the Administrative Office Boardroom. These fees are generally developed considering appropriate market value, market willingness, and operational needs. Fees related to education services are primarily determined to ensure cost-recovery. Fees will be reviewed annually and adjusted appropriately to ensure operational and financial sustainability.

6.2 Forestry Services

Forestry service fees are determined largely on a combination of cost-recovery, market value, and comparable service rates. Fees are reviewed annually, in consultation with neighbouring conservation authorities, to ensure program sustainability.

6.3 Environmental Planning and Permitting

Through Minister's Direction, enabled by an amendment to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, contained within the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23)*, effective January 1, 2023 conservation authority Planning and Regulations fees for the year were frozen. Through Minister's Direction, the fee freeze has continued through to date.

The February 2023 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority's fee review performed by Watson and Associates Economists assessed the full cost of providing plan review and permitting services and recommended updates to align with legislation, Planning Act requirements, and cost recovery principles.

The analysis showed annual program costs of about \$1.2 million, with a 45 percent cost recovery rate under current fees and a projected 70 percent recovery under recommended adjustments. Proposed increases, ranging from 10 to 68 percent for permitting and up to several hundred percent for some planning application categories, would bring SVCA's fees closer to peer conservation authorities while keeping them among the lowest overall.

6.4 Camping and Lands

Fees for these services are based on cost-recovery, market value, and comparable service rates. Fees are reviewed annually in comparison to private and public campgrounds, as well as adjacent conservation authorities and municipal use venues.

7.0 Non-Payment

SVCA may withhold services or programs until payment is received.

Non-payment may result in an application being deemed incomplete.

8.0 Reconsideration of Fees

8.1 Overview

The *Conservation Authorities Act* requires that a conservation authority's fee policy must define the circumstances in which a person may request that the authority reconsider a fee that was charged and the procedures applicable to the reconsideration.

A person (applicant, client, customer, proponent, or developer) has the right to appeal a fee should they be dissatisfied with the prescribed fee. The person may request either a reduction or waiving of the fee. To appeal a fee, a person must submit, in writing, the reasons for the appeal.

8.2 Procedure for Requesting a Reconsideration of a Fee

Any person requesting the SVCA to reconsider the fee it charged that person must be doing so for the following reasons:

- It is contrary to the authority's fee schedule; or,
- It is excessive in relation to the program or service for which it was charged.

Requests for reconsideration of a fee will first be held by the General Manager or their designate. To submit a request for reconsideration to the General Manager or their designate, an individual will:

- Make their request in writing;
- Identify what the fee was for;
- Provide any relevant supporting documentation;
- State why they believe the fee should be reconsidered, as per the reasons above; and
- State whether they are requesting the fee to be waived or to be reduced.

Upon reconsideration of a fee that was charged, the General Manager or their designate may:

- Order the person to pay the amount originally charged;
- Vary the amount of the fee originally charged, as the General Manager or their designate considers appropriate; or
- Order that no fee be charged for the program or service.

The General Manager or their designate shall provide a decision on the reconsideration of a fee that was charged within ten (10) business days of the date the written request for the administrative review of a fee was submitted.

For fees related to planning and permitting (Fee Schedule A), a person who is dissatisfied with the decision from the General Manager or their designate, may request a fee reconsideration by SVCA's Executive Committee.

To submit a request for reconsideration by SVCA's Executive Committee, an individual will:

- Make their request in writing;
- Identify what the fee was for;
- Provide any relevant supporting documentation;
- State why they believe the fee should be reconsidered, as per the reasons above; and
- State whether they are requesting the fee to be waived or to be reduced.

Upon reconsideration of a fee that was charged, the Executive Committee may:

- Order the person to pay the amount originally charged;
- Vary the amount of the fee originally charged, as the General Manager or their designate considers appropriate; or
- Order that no fee be charged for the program or service.

Once heard, the Executive Committee shall provide a decision on the reconsideration of a fee that was charged within ten (10) business days.

8.3 Specific Products

SVCA will not entertain a request for reconsideration of a fee related to a specified product for which the Board of Directors has approved the product pricing (i.e., orthophotography) or for which SVCA has defined pricing under another agreement or partnership.

8.4 Refunds

SVCA does not issue refunds for services or products once an application or order is submitted and the payment has been processed.

SVCA has specific refund policies related to the programs and services described in Fee Schedule B (Camping and Lands Fees). These are posted on SVCA's website and are outlined in the fee schedule.

9.0 Frequency and Process for Policy Review

This policy and its associated schedules shall be reviewed annually by SVCA staff in conjunction with the annual budgeting process. Individual schedules may be reviewed on separate timelines to fulfill the needs of specific programs and services.

Changes to the policy and its schedules are subject to review and endorsement by the SVCA Board of Directors.

SVCA will consider the following when developing or reviewing its fee schedules:

- Legislative and regulatory requirements;
- The level of fees charged by neighbouring conservation authorities, local municipalities, provincial ministries, and other local agencies that charge for similar services; and
- The complexity of the program or service and the cost and level of effort required to administer the program or service.

SVCA will consult with the following stakeholders, when developing or reviewing its fee schedule (Schedule A) for planning and permitting programs beyond routine annual cost of living and inflation adjustments:

- Participating municipalities;
- Neighbouring conservation authorities; and
- Primary user groups who represent interests of applicants, participants, customers, or other program or service stakeholders.

10.0 Public Notification of Fee Changes

SVCA shall provide notice to the public, participating municipalities and neighbouring conservation authorities of proposed changes to the Fee Schedules through publicly available SVCA Board of Directors meeting agendas.

The public and common users of the services shall be notified through postings on the SVCA website at least thirty (30) days before the changes to the fee schedules take effect.

For planning and permitting fees, notice to participating municipalities and neighbouring conservation authorities shall be delivered via email or standard mail at least thirty (30) days before changes to those fee schedules take effect.

Written comments will be accepted any time prior to the changes to the fee schedules taking effect.

11.0 Public Access to Fee Policy

The SVCA Fee Policy and its associated schedules will be made available to the public on the SVCA website.

SVCA will provide the Fee Policy and its associated schedules in alternative formats by request in accordance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*.

12.0 Transition

This policy is effective upon endorsement by the SVCA Board of Directors. The establishment of this Fee Policy supersedes and replaces all previous Fee Policies and Schedules.

Policy Amendments

No.	Item	Amendment Date
1	Title: Fees Policy amended to Fee Policy; continuity	Nov. 20, 2025
2	<p>Analysis Section</p> <p>A) Environmental Planning and Permitting Services – Fees for these services are largely designed to cover, but not exceed, the cost of providing these services. SVCA is currently utilizing Watson and Associates Economists to confirm the direct and indirect costs of providing these services. The results of the Watson and Associates Economists study is expected in Quarter 1 of 2023. These fees are reviewed annually for inflation. For 2023, an increase of 8% is necessary to improve or maintain cost recovery efforts and meet revenue targets that are set out in SVCA’s 2023 Approved Budget.</p> <p>SVCA currently maintains a 60% cost recovery for Environmental Planning and Permitting, with the remainder (40%) of the costs necessary to subsidize the Environmental Planning and Regulations department coming from general levy. To assist staff in making full use of the Watson and Associates Economists study, Directors can recommend to staff trying to increase the percentage of cost recovery, thus decreasing the reliance on municipal levy.</p> <p><i>Amended to: A) Through Minister’s Direction, enabled by an amendment to the Conservation Authorities Act, contained within the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23), effective January 1, 2023 conservation authority Planning and Regulations fees for the year were frozen. Through Minister’s Direction, the fee freeze has continued through to date.</i></p> <p><i>The February 2023 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority’s fee review performed by Watson and Associates Economists assessed the full cost of providing plan review and permitting services and recommended updates to align with legislation, Planning Act requirements, and cost recovery principles.</i></p> <p><i>The analysis showed annual program costs of about \$1.2 million, with a 45 percent cost recovery rate under current fees and a projected 70 percent recovery under recommended adjustments. Proposed increases, ranging from 10 to 68 percent for permitting and up to several hundred percent for some planning application categories, would bring SVCA’s fees</i></p>	Nov. 20, 2025

	closer to peer conservation authorities while keeping them among the lowest overall.	
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2026 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Proposed Fee Schedule

Schedule A – Planning and Regulations Fee Schedule

Provincial fee freeze in effect since January 1, 2023. HST is not applicable.

SVCA Permit Application

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Minor works	\$493.00	\$493.00
Standard works	\$850.00	\$850.00
Major works	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Complex works	\$4,007.00	\$4,007.00
Other works – accessory building, secondary building or structure	\$280.00	\$280.00
Permit extension or amendment (request prior to permit expiration)	\$130.00	\$130.00
Work commencing without permission (violation)	2x applicable review fee	2x applicable review fee
Municipal or county project	Regular fee (see above)	Regular fee (see above)
Commercial renewable energy project review	2x applicable review fee	2x applicable review fee
Conservation projects review fee	Half of applicable review fee	Half of applicable review fee

SVCA Property Inquiry

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
General verbal or email response	No fee	No fee
File initiation and/or property specific response	\$116	\$116
Property specific letter response – without site inspection	\$280	\$280
Property specific letter response – with site inspection	\$493	\$493
Property specific letter response – site inspection and proposal area greater than 1 hectare	\$920	\$920

Municipal or county project	Regular fee (see above)	Regular fee (see above)
Property clearance letter (e.g. legal inquiry) – standard	\$160	\$160
Property clearance letter – rush (5 business days)	\$275	\$275

If you submit a permit application for the same proposal within one year, the Property Inquiry fee will be subtracted from the Permit Application Review fee.

Municipal Drains

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
New municipal drain review	\$920	\$920
Municipal drain maintenance review – without site inspection	\$280	\$280
Municipal drain maintenance review – with site inspection	\$493	\$493

Other Review

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Stormwater management plan review (per lot or large block)	\$135, plus surcharge where applies	\$135, plus surcharge where applies
Engineering report review (per report)	\$594	\$594
Environmental assessment review – minor	\$440	\$440
Environmental assessment review – major	\$795	\$795
Aggregate proposal review	\$4,678	\$4,678
Professional service or expert witness service	Charge out rate plus disbursements	Charge out rate plus disbursements
Pre-consultation	\$118.00	\$118.00

Planning

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Zoning By-Law Amendment	\$181.00	\$181.00
Official Plan Amendment	\$196.00	\$196.00
Severances	\$269.00	\$269.00
Minor Variance	\$198.00	\$198.00
Subdivision/Condominium within a Regulated area	\$1,758.00	\$1,758.00
Subdivision/Condominium outside a Regulated area	\$1,758.00	\$1,758.00
Plan Review Fee/ lot or large block (Multi Lot Development)	\$139.00	\$139.00

Site Plans

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Site Plan – Single Lot Residential/Minor Non-Residential	\$211.00	\$211.00
Site Plan – Single Lot Residential/Major Non-Residential	\$211.00	\$211.00

Technical Reviews

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Scoped Site	\$205.00	\$205.00
Full Site	\$205.00	\$205.00

Map and Air Photo Products

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Photocopies maps, air photos	\$18.00	\$18.00
Emailed Air Photos & Other Map Products	\$41.00	\$41.00
Bulk Orders for Air Photos, Photo base, Maps, Related Map Products, Large Format Copies	Over 9 items - standard fee reduced by 10%	Over 9 items - standard fee reduced by 10%

Schedule B – Campground and Associated Fee Schedule

Approved at the September 18, 2025 meeting of the SVCA Board of Directors. Including HST.

Serviced Campsite

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Daily	\$60.00	\$63.00
Daily Prime	\$60.00	\$68.00
Weekly	\$353.00	\$378.00
Monthly	\$1,316.00	\$1,323.00
Full Season	\$3,128.00	\$3,316.00
Prime Full Season	\$3,527.00	\$3,715.00
Transient Winter	\$60.00	\$65.00
Full Season Winter	\$2,249.00	\$2,522.00

Non-Serviced Campsite

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Daily	\$50.00	\$53.00
Weekly	\$295.00	\$318.00
Monthly	\$1,118.00	\$1,125.00
Full Season	\$2,172.00	\$2,302.00
Full Season Winter	\$2,172.00	\$2,202.00

Related Camping

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Additional Overnight Guest	\$7.00	\$7.50
Additional Overnight Vehicle	\$14.00	\$15.00
Cancellation / Change Fee	\$15.00	\$15.00
Control Card	\$25.00	\$25.00
Dumping Fee	\$25.00	\$25.00
Early Check In / Late Check Out	n/a	\$20.00
Firewood	\$10.00	\$10.00
Group Camping + \$9/person	\$125.00	\$132.50
Ice	\$4.50	\$4.50
Late Payment / Clean Up	\$75/\$150	\$75/\$150
Laundry	Variable	Variable
Off season	\$50.00	\$50.00

2026 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Fee Schedule

Reservation Change	\$16.00	\$16.00
Seasonal Vehicle / Visitor Pass	\$95.00	\$100.00
Store Items	Variable	Variable
Trailer Storage	\$300.00	\$320.00
Youth Group Camping	\$8.00	\$8.00

Day Use

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Adult	\$5.00	\$7.00
Child (5 – 12 years of age)	\$3.00	\$5.00
Maximum Charge Per Vehicle	\$13.50	\$15.00
Season Pass	\$55.00	\$55.00

Canoe

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Launch / Vehicle Fee	Variable	Variable
Rental Per Hour	Variable	Variable
Daily Rental	\$42.00	\$42.00
Deposit	\$50.00	\$50.00

Shelter

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Picnic Rental, includes hydro and guests (Durham and Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Areas)	\$160.00	\$170.00
Sutherland Centre Full Day (Saugeen Bluffs)	\$180.00	\$190.00
Sulphur Spring	\$160.00	\$170.00
Cancellation Fee	\$30.00	\$50.00

Equestrian

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Daily – No Corrals	\$55.00	\$58.00
Daily – 2 Corrals	\$75.00	\$80.00
Daily – Bunkie, 2 Corrals	\$105.00	\$110.00
Weekly – No Corrals	\$332.00	\$351.00
Weekly – 2 Corrals	\$444.00	\$470.00
Weekly – Bunkie, 2 Corrals	\$631.00	\$670.00
Seasonal – No Corrals	\$2,722.00	\$2,885.00

2026 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority Fee Schedule

Seasonal – Extra Site	n/a	\$650.00
Day Use Horse Trail Pass	\$13.00	\$14.00
Yearly Individual Horse Trail Pass	\$95.00	\$100.00
Damage / Cleaning Fee	\$150.00	\$150.00
Extra Horse	\$35.00	\$37.00
Event Ring – Full Day	\$120.00	\$127.00

Schedule C – Forestry Services Fee Schedule

Prices do not include HST.

Forest Management Planning (MFTIP Standards)

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Full plan preparation first 100 acres - price per acre	\$18.00	\$20.00
Full plan preparation acres after 100 - price per acre	\$9.00	\$10.00
Full plan preparation minimum fee	\$600.00	\$660.00
Plan upgrade and approval - call for estimate - per hour	\$95.00	\$100.00

Other Services

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Marking per acre (includes tendering) minimum \$650	\$65.00	\$65.00
Contract management (per visit) minimum \$330	\$165.00	165.00

Tree Prices

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Handling - Seedlings (per order)	\$30.00	\$35.00
Handling - Landscape (per tree)	\$2.00	\$2.00
Red Pine, White Pine, White or Norway Spruce, European Larch, Tamarack, White Cedar, hardwoods, speciality orders and landscape stock prices are all variable	Variable	Variable

Tree Planting Services

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Machine planting	\$0.70	\$0.80
Minimum fee	\$1,400.00	\$1,600.00
Hand planting per tree	\$1.10	\$1.15
Minimum fee	\$1,100.00	\$1150.00

Schedule D – Corporate Services Fee Schedule

Prices do not include HST.

GIS Services

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Pre-made maps (Minimum 3 copies)	\$20.50	\$20.85
Pre-made maps (24 x 36)	\$51.00	\$51.90
Custom made maps – PDF only, all available sizes (minimum 1 hour)	\$91.00	\$92.55
Custom made map 24 x 36 – printed copy (plus \$10 for orthophotography if required)	\$16.00	\$16.30
Custom made map 36 x 48 – printed copy (plus \$10 for orthophotography if required)	\$32.00	\$32.55
Custom made map - other size – printed copy (plus \$10 for orthophotography if required)	\$2.70	\$2.75

Shipping

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Folded maps	\$10.50	\$10.70
Rolled maps	\$13.00	\$13.20

Digital Data Requests

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Minimum fee	\$70.00	\$71.20
Tile (20 km x 20 km)	\$106.00	\$107.80
>20 tiles	\$1,831.00	\$1862.10

Water Management Data Services

Minimum 1 hour, price per hour.

Description	2025 Fee	2026 Fee
Streamflow and weather data	\$91.15	\$92.70
Water quality data	\$91.15	\$92.70

Report #CS-2025-15

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Adam Chalmers, Manager, Corporate Services
Date: November 20, 2025
Subject: Finance Report

General Apportionment Programs

For unaudited YTD and month ended June 30, 2025, with the % Actual budgeted funds.

Table 1 – Consolidated statement of revenues compared to budgeted amounts.

Revenues	Approved Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD % Actual/Budget
Corporate Services	1,226,960	613,480	598,006	97.48%
Environmental Planning and Regulations	1,140,850	570,425	493,247	86.47%
Water Resources	1,096,827	548,413	260,533	47.51%
Forestry and Lands	795,500	397,750	355,015	89.26%
Total Revenues	4,260,137	2,130,068	1,706,801	80.13%

Table 2 – Consolidated statement of expenses compared to budgeted amounts.

Expenses	Approved Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD % Actual/Budget
Corporate Services	1,226,960	613,480	661,448	107.82%
Environmental Planning and Regulations	1,140,850	570,425	491,085	86.09%
Water Resources	900,590	464,190	352,175	75.87%
Forestry and Lands	795,500	397,750	164,254	41.30%
Total Expenses	4,063,900	2,045,845	1,668,962	81.58%

Non-General Levy Programs

For unaudited YTD and month ended June 30, 2025, with the % Actual budgeted funds.

Table 3 – Consolidated statement of revenues compared to budgeted amounts.

Revenues	Approved Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD % Actual/Budget
Forestry and Lands	844,850	422,425	387,768	91.80%
Campgrounds	1,429,400	714,700	781,457	109.34%
Capital Projects	277,655	138,828	85,108	61.30%
Total Revenues	2,551,905	1,275,953	1,254,333	98.31%

Table 4 – Consolidated statement of expenses compared to budgeted amounts.

Expenses	Approved Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD % Actual/Budget
Forestry and Lands	843,515	421,758	306,498	72.67%
Campgrounds	1,385,900	692,950	447,895	64.64%
Capital Projects	277,655	138,828	103,093	74.26%
Total Expenses	2,507,070	1,253,536	857,486	68.41%

Prepared by:

[Original Signed by:]

Adam Chalmers

Manager, Corporate Services

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

GM-2025-29: SVCA Operational Plan November 20, 2025

Legend: Text in **Red** indicates new or updated item

All Departments

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Updated Target Completion Date	Target Completion Date
Administration	2025 Annual Report		December 2025
Mapping Working Group	In Progress		December 2025
October 6, 2024, Formosa Lightning Response	Office Restored, Insurance Finalization		2025
General	Landowner Recognition Program Brainstorm		November 2025

Department: Corporate Services

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Updated Target Completion Date	Target Completion Date
Administration	Continue to develop and / or renew health and safety policies		Waiting on Workplace Culture Assessment Plan
Administration	Negotiate Category 2 Agreements with municipalities		November 2025
Human Resources	Modernize SVCA's Personnel Policy		Waiting on Workplace Culture Assessment Plan
Human Resources	Code of Conduct		Waiting on Workplace Culture Assessment Plan
Human Resources	Volatile Client Plan	December 2025	October 2025
Human Resources	Emergency Communication Plan	December 2025	October 2025

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Updated Target Completion Date	Target Completion Date
GIS/IT	Critical Failure Information Technology Plan	December 2025	October 2025
Administration	Public Consultation: <i>Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act</i>	December 2025	October 2025

Completed Items:

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Completion Date	Target Completion Date
Administration	Annual 2023 SVCA Report		Complete
Administration	Accessibility policy development		Complete
Finance	2023 Audit		Complete
Administration	Document Retention policy		Complete
Administration	Compensation policy		Complete
Administration	Revenue Generation Strategy		Complete
Human Resources	Job Descriptions for Market Compensation Review		Complete
Administration	Office Reopening – Lightning Strike	January 13, 2025	Complete
Administration	Submission of MFIPPA reporting for 2024	March 2025	Complete
Content Management System	Complete	April 2025	Officially in initial use
2023 Performance Evaluations	Complete	April 2025	April 2025
Administration	2024 Audit	May 2024	May 2025
2024 Performance Evaluations	Complete	September 2025	July 2025
Administration	Professional Development Strategy Planning		2025

Department: Environmental Planning and Regulations

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Updated Target Completion Date	Target Completion Date
Section 28 of <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>	Continue implementation of the Violations Strategy to resolve outstanding violations	Ongoing	Ongoing
Environmental Planning	Update Planning Service Agreements to reflect Bill 23 changes		2025
General	Amish and Mennonite Outreach Strategy Planning		Executing/Underway
Environmental Planning	Carbon Copying Directors Correspondence		January 2026

Completed Items:

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Completion Date	Target Completion Date
General	Website updates		Complete
General	Revise complete application checklist and post online		Complete
Regulatory Mapping	Update regulation limits on online mapping		Complete
General	Landowner Recognition Program Brainstorming	May 2025	May 2025
General	Completion of Environmental Planning and Regulations Policy Manual Revisions	May 2025	May 2025
General	Board of Directors Hearing Training – Section 28	July 2025	

Department: Water Resources

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Updated Target Completion Date	Target Completion Date
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Complete database of existing easements and identify additional easement requirements, if needed		Ongoing
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Confirmation of infrastructure ownership		Ongoing
Flood Forecasting and Warning	Flood watch training		December 2025/ January 2026
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Apply for Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) funding		Complete, prepare for next intake/administer projects
Ontario Low Water Response	Creation of Low Water Response Committee		WRC Meeting Fall 2025
Water Quality	Completion of SVCA Water Quality Report		Presentations to be booked
Flood Forecasting and Warning	Launch “Flood Watch” program for public involvement, complete with information sessions for municipal partners		TBD
General	Working In and Around Water Policy		November 2025
General	Risk Evaluation Planning		December 2025
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Complete an operational plan for SVCA structures		Ongoing
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Complete draft 10-year capital working plan for SVCA water and erosion control structures that were inspected in 2022, 2023	December 2025	October 2025

Completed Items:

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Completion Date	Target Completion Date
General	Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy		Complete
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Asset Management plan for SVCA structures		Complete
NWMO Special Project	NWMO Environmental Monitoring Baseline Program years 1 through 3 final reports		Complete
Water and Erosion Control Infrastructure	Ice management plan for SVCA watershed		Complete

Department: Forestry and Lands

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Updated Target Completion Date	Target Completion Date
Lands Management	Varney Pond – Investigate Land Disposition Options		Ongoing
Forestry	Forest Inventory	2027	December 2025
Forestry	20 Year Management Plan	December 2026	December 2025

Completed Items

Significant Activity	Operational Task	Completion Date	Target Completion Date
Lands Management	Kincardine Cross Country Ski agreement	October 20, 2025	Complete
Lands Management	Land Acquisition and Disposition Policies		Complete
Lands Management	Ash hazard tree removal from Stoney Island properties		Complete
Lands Management	Conservation Areas Strategy for SVCA		Complete
Lands Management	Conservation Lands Inventory for SVCA		Complete
Lands Management	Durham CA Fence installation		Complete
Lands Management	Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village Agreement	November 2, 2025	Complete

Programs Report # GM-2025-30

November 20, 2025

General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer's (GM/S-T) Report

October 7, 2025 – Conservation Ontario General Managers' Meeting.

October 8, 2025 – Water Resources Committee Meeting.

October 8, 2025 – Grey-Bruce Forest Festival hosted by SVCA at Allan Park Conservation Area; attended by the Chair and General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer.

October 15, 2025 – Stoney Island Conservation Area Cross Country Ski Club Meeting; new agreement finalized and signed.

October 27, 2025 – Conservation Ontario General Managers' Meeting (digital).

October 29, 2025 – General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer participated in the Lake Huron Coastal Centre Board Meeting.

October 31, 2025 – Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks online meeting regarding impending provincial announcement on Conservation Authorities, attended by the SVCA Chair and General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer.

October 31, 2025 – Conservation Ontario online meeting to discuss the provincial announcement.

November 3, 2025 – Meeting with Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village to sign lease agreement; attended by the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer and Manager of Forestry and Lands at Sulphur Spring Conservation Area.

November 6, 2025 – SVCA Executive Committee Meeting.

November 7, 2025 – Staff training session hosted at the SVCA office featuring guest speaker Julie Sawchuk, Accessibility Strategist.

November 6-7, 2025 – Additional announcements regarding Conservation Authorities Act Changes (Bill 68), and ERO posting to proposal to amalgamate Conservation Authorities.

November 12, 2025 – Town of Saugeen Shores budget planning meeting attendance and presentation. Conservation Ontario meeting regarding Bill 68 and ERO.

Corporate Services

During the month of October, Corporate Services operations continued as business as usual. The department maintained steady progress on regular administrative functions while supporting organizational priorities and board requirements.

Work during this period focused primarily on completing financial reports and advancing the draft 2026 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) budget for board consideration. Staff also continued to provide technical and administrative support across divisions to ensure timely reporting and compliance.

Recruitment efforts remained ongoing, with attention directed toward filling vacancies through external competition and optimizing internal resources. In addition, Corporate Services worked closely with management to navigate the impacts of the recent provincial announcement regarding the future of conservation authorities, ensuring consistent internal and external communication and coordination.

January 1, 2025 – November 1, 2025, Communications Metrics

From January through November, Communications at Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) continued to deliver accessible, locally focused content through social media and web platforms. Growth in reach, visibility, and engagement reflects continued public interest in conservation, recreation, and land-use messaging across the watershed.

Social Media Metrics

Between January 1 and November 1, 2025, SVCA saw notable growth in social reach and audience size, particularly on Facebook and Instagram. Key data:

Overall Reach and Views:

- Total Views: 1.8M
- Reach: 1.4M
- Impressions: 1.9M
- Total Followers: 13,656

Facebook:

Facebook performance remained SVCA's strongest, with growth in both organic and paid reach and high engagement on visual and event-based content.

- Total Reach: 1.31M
- Impressions: 1.43M
- Engagements: 52,655
- New Followers: 1,064
- Organic Reach: 1.16M
- Paid Reach: 174K

Top content by reach and engagement included:

- Phragmites awareness post (65.7K views)

- Hiring announcement (38.1K views)
- Horse camping promotion (34.7K views)
- Hummingbird moth feature (25.2K views)
- 75th Anniversary invitation (22.8K views)

Photo content continued to outperform all other post types, accounting for the majority of reach and impressions.

Instagram:

On Instagram, SVCA continued to experience strong growth and consistently high engagement, with a notable increase in paid reach supporting organic visibility.

- Total Views: 80.7K
- From Organic: 61.6K
- From Ads: 19.1K
- Reach: 65.1K
- Impressions: 131.8K
- Followers: 1,299 (230 new)

Instagram content continued to perform well for visual campaigns, with short-form video and event-based posts generating the most reach. Top-performing content remained Candlelit Night Hike – Snow Moon Edition, invasive species awareness, and recruitment messaging. Paid campaigns contributed approximately 24% of total views, primarily supporting event and membership promotions.

Twitter/X:

Twitter/X engagement remained stable despite a modest audience decline, with strong performance for regulatory and public safety messaging.

- Followers: 2,634
- Net Change: -15
- Impressions: 33,122

Top-performing tweets included a spring flood outlook notice, the Stoney Island planting event, and an invasive species update, all achieving engagement rates above 10%.

Website Metrics

SVCA's website continued to serve as a primary information hub for visitors seeking services, conservation area information, and seasonal updates.

- Unique Visitors: 70,757
- Page Views: 109,708
- Interactions: 606,229 (total events), 54% from mobile devices

Top Pages:

- Saugeen Bluffs Conservation Area
- Homepage
- Durham Conservation Area

- Calendar
- Camping and reservation pages
- Careers
- Bruce Dale Conservation Area
- Reserve a Campsite
- Canoeing and Kayaking

Traffic Sources:

- Organic Search: 62,467 sessions
- Direct Visits: 26,019 sessions
- Social Referrals: 10,387 sessions
- Paid Social: 898 sessions

User Geography:

The majority of website users continue to come from Ontario communities, with notable growth in search-driven international traffic.

- Primary Visitors: 80.8% Canada
- Other Traffic: 10.3% China, 6.8% United States
- Top Cities: Toronto, Port Elgin, Kitchener, Kincardine, Hamilton, Hanover
- Device Use: 54% Mobile, 43.5% Desktop, 2.6% Tablet

Summary

From January to November 2025, SVCA’s Communications maintained a strong and consistent digital presence across all channels. Facebook continued to lead in reach and impressions, while Instagram delivered the highest engagement rate. Website traffic remained steady and search-driven, reflecting consistent public interest in conservation, recreation, and organizational updates.

Environmental Planning & Regulations (EPR)

Huron-Kinloss Regulation Mapping Updates

Draft updates to SVCA’s Regulation Mapping for areas of Huron-Kinloss were posted to the SVCA website on October 17th. Staff presented the updates at a public meeting on October 3rd and again to Huron-Kinloss Town Council on November 17th.

Updated Planning Agreements

EPR staff are working to update Planning Services Agreements with our member counties and municipalities. A first draft of the updated SVCA/MVCA/GSCA/Bruce County agreement is in progress.

Southampton Two-Zone Floodplain Project

EPR staff have been working with Town of Saugeen Shores staff, engineers and other stakeholders to prepare for a Public Information Centre regarding the recently endorsed Two-Zone Floodplain Concept for areas of Southampton. The PIC is scheduled for November 19, 2025, in Southampton.

Amish/Mennonite Outreach

Staff are scheduling meetings with leaders of the Amish and Mennonite communities in the Chesley and Tiverton areas to raise awareness of environmental planning and regulations.

Permits Issued Pursuant to Section 28.1 (1) of the *Conservation Authorities Act*

At the October 2025 Authority meeting, staff were asked whether permits required endorsement by the Authority since they had already delegated approval / issuance authority to staff. Staff have confirmed through discussion with neighbouring CAs that endorsement at each Authority meeting is redundant and will instead provide a list of permits issued for information in the EPR Program Report.

The following 29 permits were issued by staff between September 25 and October 23, 2025.

Permit	Municipality	Geographic Twp	Description of Works
25-215	Arran-Elderslie	Paisley	To construct a single family dwelling, with covered porch and concrete patio, with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-216	Hanover	Hanover	To replace wood retaining walls, with armour stone retaining walls, interlocking paver landings and natural stone steps; and to construct a pea stone campfire sitting-area, with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-217	West Grey	Normanby	To install systematic tile drainage, with one outlet to a watercourse, with related excavation, filling, and grading.
25-218	Huron-Kinloss	Huron	To extend the width and length of existing trails in Heritage Park using mulch with related filling and grading.
25-219	Huron-Kinloss	Huron	To construct a 576 square-foot addition to southeast side of an existing detached garage, with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-220	Brockton	Brant	To install fibre optic services by horizontal directional drill and plow in multiple locations (Project CARG-UG01-SVCA to CARG-UG12-SVCA inclusive), with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-221	West Grey	Durham	Interference with a watercourse consisting of the bottom-only cleanout of a tributary of Camp Creek from the Elizabeth Street outlet to approximately 95m south of Elm Street East.
25-222	West Grey	Glenelg	To construct a single family dwelling and covered porch, with related excavation, filling and grading.

Permit	Municipality	Geographic Twp	Description of Works
25-223	Arran-Elderslie	Paisley	Remove existing retaining walls measuring 21'-9" and 17' on the north side, replace the 21'-9" wall with a new concrete retaining wall, construct a new 11'-11" concrete retaining wall on the south side, add 6'-6" by 4' concrete stairs, and complete backyard excavation with engineered fill placement between the existing and new retaining wall on the northwest side.
25-224	Kincardine	Bruce	For the alteration of watercourses by horizontal directional drill using water, and works within and adjacent to floodplain and adjacent to wetland by horizontal directional drill, consisting of the installation of fibre optic cable, with related excavation and grading.
25-225	West Grey	Bentinck, Normanby, Egremont	For the alteration of watercourses by horizontal directional drill using water, and works within and adjacent to floodplain and adjacent to wetland by horizontal directional drill, consisting of the installation of fibre optic cable, with related excavation and grading.
25-226	West Grey	Glenelg	Bunkie reconstruction and associated excavation, grading and filling.
25-227	West Grey	Glenelg	To construct a 2508 square-foot dwelling with attached garage and to install a septic system with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-228	Southgate	Proton	To install systematic tile drainage for agricultural purposed outletting to the Clark Creek municipal drain with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-229	Brockton	Walkerton	Construction of an attached carport.
25-230	Chatsworth	Holland	Placement of 50 cubic metres of fill on the south side of the laneway entrance, and installation of a 24-inch diameter, 12-metre long HDPE culvert across the laneway entrance.
25-231	Saugeen Shores	Saugeen	Construct a 76 sq ft addition at the front of the northwest corner of the dwelling and relocate landscaping stones 12 ft northwest.
25-232	Brockton, Kincardine	Greenock, Tiverton, Kincardine, Bruce	To install fibre optic services by horizontal directional drill and plow in multiple locations (Project GLAM-UG01-SVCA to GLAM-UG25-SVCA, inclusive), with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-233	Brockton, Kincardine	Greenock, Kincardine	To install fibre optic services by horizontal directional drill and plow in multiple locations (Project ARMW-UG01-SVCA to ARMW-UG09-SVCA, inclusive), with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-234	West Grey	Normanby	To construct a pool building with a covered porch, and an indoor, inground pool, with related excavation, filling and grading.

Permit	Municipality	Geographic Twp	Description of Works
25-235	West Grey	Normanby	To construct a 6000 square-foot manure storage structure, with related excavation, filling and grading, as indicated on the attached permit.
25-236	Huron-Kinloss	Huron	To construct a 1,100 square-foot dwelling including a finished basement and septic system, with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-237	Southgate	Proton	Installation of culvert and excavation, filling, and grading for parking area.
25-238	Saugeen Shores	Southampton	To construct a 648 square-foot garage addition onto an existing dwelling, with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-239	Southgate	Proton	To install systematic tile drainage for agricultural purposes outletting to two separate watercourses with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-240	West Grey	Normanby	Demolish and rebuild cottage and garage.
25-241	Kincardine	Bruce	For the alteration of watercourses by horizontal directional drill using water, and works within and adjacent to floodplain and adjacent to wetland by horizontal directional drill, consisting of the installation of fibre optic cable, with related excavation and grading.
25-242	Saugeen Shores	Saugeen	To demolish existing cottage and build a new 1500 square-foot house with new septic bed, garage with related excavation, filling and grading.
25-243	Wellington North	Arthur	To clear trees and regrade land, including the movement of up to 2000 cubic yards of material from within the work area.

Forestry and Lands

Lands Report

Staff attended and presented at the Community Forest Managers meeting, which is an annual meeting that has all Community Forest Managers from across the province gather to learn and share experiences.

The Bruce Grey Forest Festival took place this month at our Allan Park Conservation Area. This three-day event is supported by SVCA staff from many departments, as well as staff from a number of other organizations.

The transition of some unserviced campsites to serviced campsites at Durham CA is nearing completion.

The campgrounds have closed following another successful season. Durham CA is being prepared for the second year in which winter camping is being offered.

Saugeen Bluffs hosted the Bruce Grey Woodlands Association for a tour led by staff and forest health experts. Saugeen Bluffs also successfully hosted regional cross-country runs for the local school boards.

Staff attended the Conservation Areas Workshop, which is an annual meeting that has conservation authority staff gather together to learn and share experiences.

Fall tree planting for private landowners is underway, with over 3000 large stock trees being planted. Site visits for spring tree planting have been ongoing.

A renewed agreement has been signed with the Kincardine Cross Country Ski Club.

The lease renewal has been signed with the Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village.

Water Resources

Staff Development

Staff participated in working at heights training (September 30th), confined spaces training (September 30th), easement information session (October 15th), DFO information sessions (October 22nd and 29th), and a salt pollution webinar (29th).

Category 2 Agreements

A draft Category 2 agreement with Arran-Elderslie has been completed in collaboration with municipal staff. SVCA staff will do a delegation to the Arran-Elderslie Council on March 8th to discuss Category 2 programs and services, and billing.

Capital Projects

Current Category 2 Capital Works projects being worked on include Mount Forest Dam operator safety improvements with the purchase of a confined space rescue system, south side fencing for the Mount Forest Dam to be started in mid-November. Signage for the Hanover Dam has been ordered to be installed later in November. Current WECL reporting deadlines are being met with the In Year Status Report submitted this past October. Category 2, capital works meetings were held with associated municipalities to discuss projects for 2026 through 2028, identifying projects to apply for under the next WECL program funding cycle (2026-2028).

Additional projects completed have included the removal of concrete blocks and built-up gravel at the Inverhuron outlet. Staff have completed Transport Canada's public notice template for the debris boom and will post before the 90-day deadline of November 20th. Staff are continuing to work on standardizing operating procedures for infrastructure maintenance and works. Staff are continuing to follow inspection requirements for the various structures across the Saugeen Valley Watershed and Category 2 agreements responsibilities are underway.

Request for Proposals and Quotations (RFPs and RFQs)

SVCA staff have issued or are working on the following RFPs:

- Paisley Dyke CCTV Inspection – RFP has been issued and will close mid-November.
- DUD Class EA Phase 2 –RFP has been issued and will close later November. Two-week extension granted at the request of several interested proponents.
- SVCA Tree Geotechnical Remediation RFP – At the time of writing a draft RFP for a geotechnical study for tree remediation on SVCA properties is being reviewed internally. The RFP should be issued in the month of November to close late November/early December.

Flood Forecasting and Warning (FFW)

Low Water Response

In mid-September, SVCA confirmed Level 1 drought conditions with the MNRF's Surface Water Monitoring Centre due to a rainfall deficit in August, September and early October resulting in low streamflows throughout the watershed. Two large rainfall events during the second half of October provided a much-needed relief to the extended drought conditions. As a result of these events, rainfall deficits have largely recovered and streamflows remain stable within seasonal ranges, allowing SVCA to declare normal conditions throughout the watershed.

Durham Camera Network

SVCA, in collaboration with West Grey, has completed installation of the camera network in Durham. A total of six cameras have been installed in strategic locations throughout Durham to improve remote monitoring of frazil ice conditions. West Grey staff have also been provided with access to the camera network, to allow them to also assess frazil ice conditions remotely.

Snow Surveys

Snow survey season officially started on November 15th. While there was no measurable snow present, as is typical for the first snow survey date, staff ensured snow survey locations were prepared for future surveys. Snow surveys are completed every two weeks at 14 locations in the watershed. The information collected is used to inform flood potential during snowmelt events and the spring freshet.

Past Meetings

SVCA's Flood Forecasting and Warning Coordinator, along with the Manager of Water Resources, attended the Southwestern Ontario Flood Forecasting and Warning Alliance meeting held on November 4th at Maitland Valley Conservation Authority's Administration Office. These meetings are held twice annually and provide an opportunity to network and share knowledge with other local Conservation Authorities. A variety of topics were discussed at the meeting.

Water Quality (WQ)

Water quality staff have finalized the 2024 Annual Water Quality Report and are preparing for delegations to municipalities. Benthic macroinvertebrate sampling and sorting for 2025 has been

completed. The samples will be sent to a consultant for analysis, this data will be used in annual reporting to enhance the understanding of water quality in our watershed. Surface water sampling for both internal and provincial programs is ongoing and will be completed monthly through to November. Groundwater sampling and well maintenance for the Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network will be completed this month.

Presentations

Preparation for municipal delegations is underway to present the 20+ years of water quality data collected by SVCA. Delegations will begin December 8th, 2025, with the Town of Saugeen Shores.

GM-2025-31

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Erik Downing, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: November 20, 2025
Subject: 2026 Provincial Announcement on Conservation Authority Restructuring
Purpose: To provide an update to the SVCA Board of Directors

Background

On October 31, 2025, the Province of Ontario issued a news release announcing its intent to create a new provincial agency to provide leadership and coordination for Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities. The Province's stated goal is to improve consistency, accountability, and efficiency across the network of Conservation Authorities, particularly regarding permitting, planning, and watershed management services.

November 7 the beginning of a consultation process through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for the proposed amalgamation began. The ERO posting was titled "[Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities.](#)" Concurrently, Bill 68 (November 6) was introduced, with amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act in Schedule 3. The ERO posting remains open for public comment until December 22, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. and Bill 68 current status is First Reading Ordered for Second Reading and is anticipated to pass shortly.

Through the ERO, the Province is seeking feedback on proposed boundaries and criteria to consolidate Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities into seven regional organizations, aligned primarily along watershed boundaries. This remains a proposal only, not a finalized decision or legislative change.

The ERO notice identifies Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) within the proposed "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority." This proposed region would merge SVCA with Ausable Bayfield, Maitland Valley, Grey Sauble, Nottawasaga Valley, Lake Simcoe Region, and Thunder Bay Conservation Authorities. The proposed regional boundary would extend from the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay watersheds northwest to Lake Superior, encompassing approximately 78 municipalities across a wide geographic range.

On the day of the original provincial announcement, the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (GM/S-T) met with managers to review the available information, held a meeting with all staff

to ensure transparency and reinforce stability, and provided managers with leadership tools and guidance to support their teams.

Correspondence was issued to SVCA Directors outlining the situation and messaging approach, as well as to all member municipalities confirming that operations, staffing, and services remain unchanged and that business continues as usual, with a commitment to sharing updates regarding changes to conservation authority adjustments.

SVCA, along with Conservation Ontario and peer Conservation Authorities, is reviewing the proposal and preparing to provide coordinated feedback during the consultation period.

Analysis

Bill 68 indicates an ‘Ontario Conservation Agency’ will be established, via changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. This agency has control of the governance framework of the new regional conservation authorities, has authority over regional conservation authorities, and can charge fees to regional conservation authorities for cost recovery. Agency will assess, report and provide direction on regional finances, strategic plans, standards, central permitting, advise government on progress of regional authorities. The Agency will have a Board of 5-12 members, appointed by the government. This board will delegate to Agency staff (a CEO appointed by the Board will establish staffing).

The Province’s ERO posting regarding conservation authority amalgamation outlines a restructuring framework intended to streamline service delivery and align resources more efficiently. SVCA’s analysis recognizes these goals but also identifies key considerations and potential challenges for rural conservation authorities such as SVCA.

1. Governance and Administration; the Power of Local Delivery

Rural conservation authorities such as SVCA operate with minimal administrative layers. Teams are smaller and multi-skilled. Rural CA staff aren’t layers of management; they all play active, front-line roles in maintaining infrastructure, managing flood risk and supporting municipalities directly. Centralizing governance could reduce responsiveness, delay decisions, and weaken local expertise. SVCA may recommend maintaining regional diversity and recognizing that watershed conditions vary widely across the province; local expertise from staff is essential to effective service delivery.

A key strength of conservation authorities is the ability to make decisions informed by local knowledge and relationships. Staff and directors live and work in the communities they serve, bringing direct understanding of local conditions, infrastructure, and socio-economic factors. This hands-on familiarity allows for responsive, balanced, and practical watershed management that would be difficult to replicate through a centralized model.

2. Retention of Local Relationships and Service Agreements

SVCA holds many individual municipal agreements for planning, floodplain mapping, and related services. These partnerships already provide efficient, cost-effective outcomes. SVCA

would recommend that the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency not override existing local agreements that are functioning well.

3. Funding and Potential Hardship

Smaller rural conservation authorities do not benefit from large urban tax bases. A regional cost-sharing model could create inequities. SVCA would recommend safeguards to prevent cost transfers that increase local apportionments or place hardship on smaller municipalities or drains on larger urban municipalities.

4. Data and Digital Infrastructure

Rural Conservation Authorities do not have same resources available as larger conservation authorities. Standardized digital permitting tools are supported in principle; however, broadband service in some rural areas remains unreliable. SVCA would recommend that any digital transition be supported with funding, training, and alternatives for communities without reliable internet access.

5. Accountability and Representation

Municipal appointees provide democratic and local accountability. SVCA would recommend that any new governance model include structured municipal or watershed advisory forums to preserve local input and representation.

6. Transitional Continuity

To maintain service stability, SVCA would recommend a clear implementation timeline and assurance that ongoing planning, permitting, and flood programs continue without interruption. Smaller conservation authorities have seasonal and staffing realities that must be considered.

7. Rural Employment and Community Impact

SVCA is among the largest employers in its service area. Consolidation could reduce skilled technical positions that support local economies. SVCA would recommend assessing rural employment impacts before any transfer of functions or staffing.

8. Economic Equity and Workforce Retention

Recruiting and retaining qualified staff is already difficult in rural Ontario. SVCA would recommend that the Province consider workforce stability as part of its goal for financial sustainability and conduct a rural workforce impact assessment before implementing structural changes.

9. Local Investment

Local partners invest in local organizations. SVCA would recommend that future structures preserve this local connection to encourage continued community and industry support.

10. Local Decisions and Liability

Permitting and development decisions are made locally based on watershed conditions. Transferring liability to a new regional authority could unfairly shift responsibility. SVCA would recommend that legacy decisions remain with the originating authority.

11. Local Infrastructure

Conservation Authorities manage a variety of aging structures that differ in condition and funding. A regional entity may face cost and responsibility imbalances. SVCA would recommend that a cautious approach to changing infrastructure management.

12. Management of Lands and Donations

Donations of land and funds are made with the expectation of local stewardship. SVCA would recommend that local oversight of donated lands continue to maintain trust and encourage future giving.

13. Local Relationships and Legacy

Small conservation authorities have deep community roots and long-standing volunteer support. SVCA would recommend that any consolidation preserve local identity and historical connection to maintain public trust.

14. Local Trust

The public of local conservation authorities trust local authorities with a pedigree of watershed protection extending back almost 80 years. New development that receives local approval are understood to have past appropriate review and approval processes that has seen four 200-year floods impact the watershed with little disruption to local life, and no life lost. Local roles being maintained in natural hazard avoidance, forecasting, and management would avoid appeals and opposition of development.

15. Funding Model

Provincial contributions represent about one percent of SVCA funding. SVCA may recommend that provincial coordination and standardization be achieved through existing local authorities with direct provincial support rather than through amalgamation.

16. Local Reserves

Financial reserves, forestry practices on broad acreage in varying degrees of planning, park and campground condition, infrastructure condition, all these local factors are built from municipal contributions from local taxpayer funds. SVCA would recommend that these reserves and local assets remain under local control to ensure accountability and trust.

17. Consistent Policy/Information

Consistent policies, and resources across the conservation authorities of Ontario could be achieved instantaneously via direction and information being provided from the Ministry or Conservation Ontario. Amalgamation, and creation of a new Agency will slow the implementation of the intended policies to support housing and continued natural hazard management. Conservation Authorities have requested this direction for some time.

SVCA's forthcoming ERO submission looks to address these areas, advocating for an approach that balances provincial alignment with local delivery, equity, and accountability.

Financial Implications

There are no immediate financial impacts resulting from the provincial announcement. Current funding agreements, including municipal apportionment, transfer payments, and partnership grants, remain in effect.

SVCA staff will continue to monitor provincial communications and assess potential implications for operational budgeting, staffing, and governance. Any fiscal impacts will be reported to the Board and to member municipalities as new information becomes available.

Strategic Plan Linkages

R1.0 – Resiliency; Development of a Robust, Stable Organization

Prepared by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer

Report 2025-EPR-12

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Matt Armstrong, Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations
Date: November 20, 2025
Subject: Proposed Changes to Huron-Kinloss Regulation Mapping
Purpose: To update SVCA's regulation mapping for Huron-Kinloss in accordance with section 4 of Ontario Regulation 41/24.

Recommendation

THAT the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority approves the proposed changes to the Huron-Kinloss Regulation Mapping.

Background

Flood hazard mapping was completed for seven watercourses within the Township of Huron-Kinloss, supported by updated topographic data (LiDAR). This project accessed funds available through the Federal Government's Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP), which required the floodplain modelling and mapping to be completed in accordance with technical specifications set by the Federal and Provincial governments, and to be peer reviewed by water resources engineers that specialize in floodplain modelling and mapping, through an open RFP process.

The mapping has enabled SVCA to move from broad "Screening Area" mapping to more accurate "Regulated Area" mapping for these areas in Huron-Kinloss. Regulated Area mapping more precisely identifies areas where SVCA review is required before development takes place. Ontario Regulation 41/24 requires conservation authorities to update their regulation mapping when new information or analysis becomes available. When there are significant enlargements or reductions proposed to the regulated area, subsection 4(3) of the Regulation requires conservation authorities to notify stakeholders, municipalities and the public of the proposed changes.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority conducted extensive public engagement from 2023 to 2025 in support of the Township of Huron-Kinloss Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program and subsequent regulatory mapping updates required under Ontario Regulation 41/24. Communications included mailed notices, door-to-door deliveries, press releases with radio, print and online pick-up, digital outreach, and three public meetings between 2023 and 2025, drawing strong attendance and constructive community feedback. Approximately 250 individuals received direct notifications about the 2025 session, which over 100 residents attended. Feedback focused

mainly on clarification requests rather than opposition, reflecting that SVCA’s communications were effective and that the community was well-informed and engaged throughout the process. Draft mapping was published to the [SVCA website](#) 30 days prior to the November Authority Board meeting. SVCA met and exceeded all program communication requirements, ensuring transparency, collaboration with municipal partners, and community awareness ahead of the Board’s final consideration of mapping updates in November 2025.

The Pine River is one of the seven watercourses included in the flood hazard mapping project. While the regulation mapping updates described in this report apply to the entirety of the other six watercourses covered in the flood hazard mapping project, draft updates are only available for the section of the Pine River that is downstream (west) of Lake Range Drive. Mapping updates for the section of the Pine River upstream (east) of Lake Range Drive are expected in 2026.

Analysis

Maps showing the proposed changes are attached to this report. These changes are also accessible on the [SVCA website](#) and were presented at the October 3rd public meeting in Point Clark.

The mapping updates will result in a net reduction to the lands that require SVCA review by 25.37 hectares (63 acres), as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Size of changes to areas requiring SVCA review

Description	Size
Area no longer requiring SVCA review	27 hectares (67 acres)
New area requiring SVCA review	1.63 hectares (4 acres)
Net reduction to area requiring SVCA review	25.37 hectares (63 acres)

The new areas requiring SVCA review are associated with floodplain spill areas. These areas tend to have fewer restrictions for development activities compared to the better-defined areas of the floodplain.

The updates will also replace 71 hectares (175 acres) of “Screening Area” with the more refined “Regulated Area”, which will accelerate staff review times for certain types of development activities proposed in these areas.

Next Steps

Should the regulation mapping changes be approved by the Authority, staff will begin using them in their review of proposals immediately. The changes will also be incorporated into SVCA’s online GIS mapping and shared with Bruce County to update their online GIS platform.

Strategic Plan Linkages

A1.1 - Access - Mapping, Data

Prepared by:

[Original Signed by:]

Matt Armstrong

Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

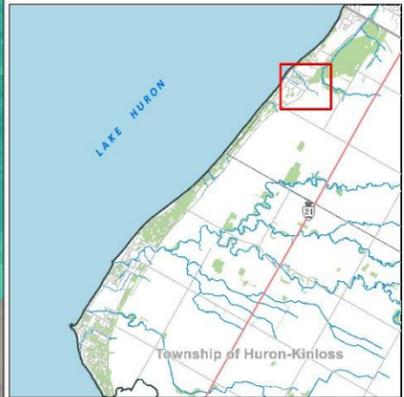
General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer



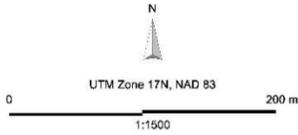
Updated Regulated Area Mapping

**"Creek 1"
Lots 54-56, Lake Range
Township of Huron-Kinloss**

DRAFT



- Legend**
- Intermittent Watercourse
 - Permanent Watercourse
 - Screening Area
 - Screening Area Removed
 - Existing Regulated Area
 - Updated Regulated Area

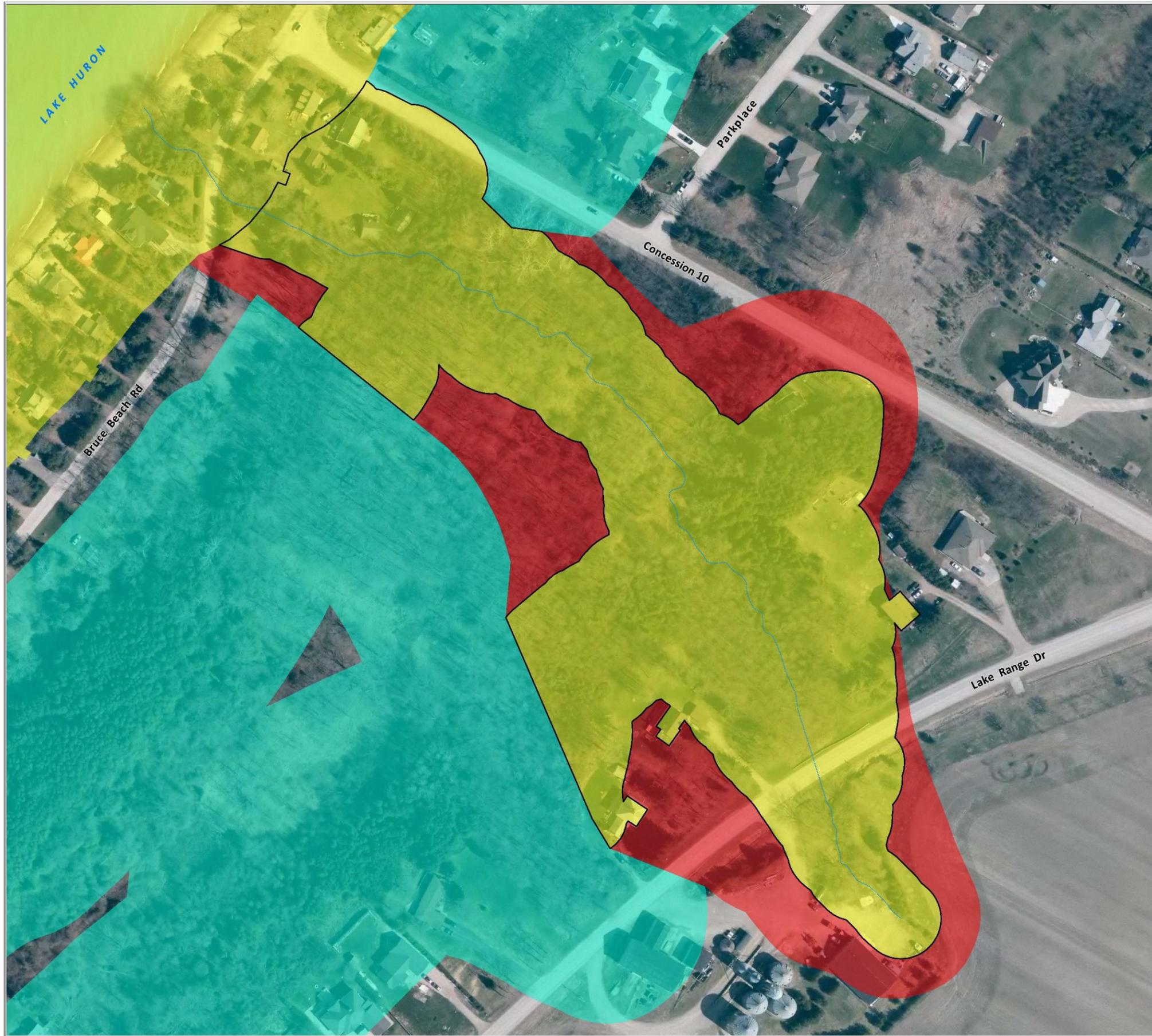


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Updated Regulated Area Mapping

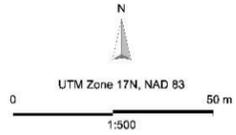
**"Creek 2"
Lots 49-51, Lake Range
Township of Huron-Kinloss**

DRAFT



Legend

- Intermittent Watercourse
- Permanent Watercourse
- Screening Area
- Screening Area Removed
- Existing Regulated Area
- Updated Regulated Area



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Updated Regulated Area Mapping

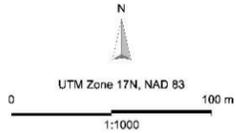
**"Creeks 3 & 4"
Lots 35-37, Lake Range
Township of Huron-Kinloss**

DRAFT



Legend

- Intermittent Watercourse
- Permanent Watercourse
- Screening Area
- Screening Area Removed
- Existing Regulated Area
- Updated Regulated Area

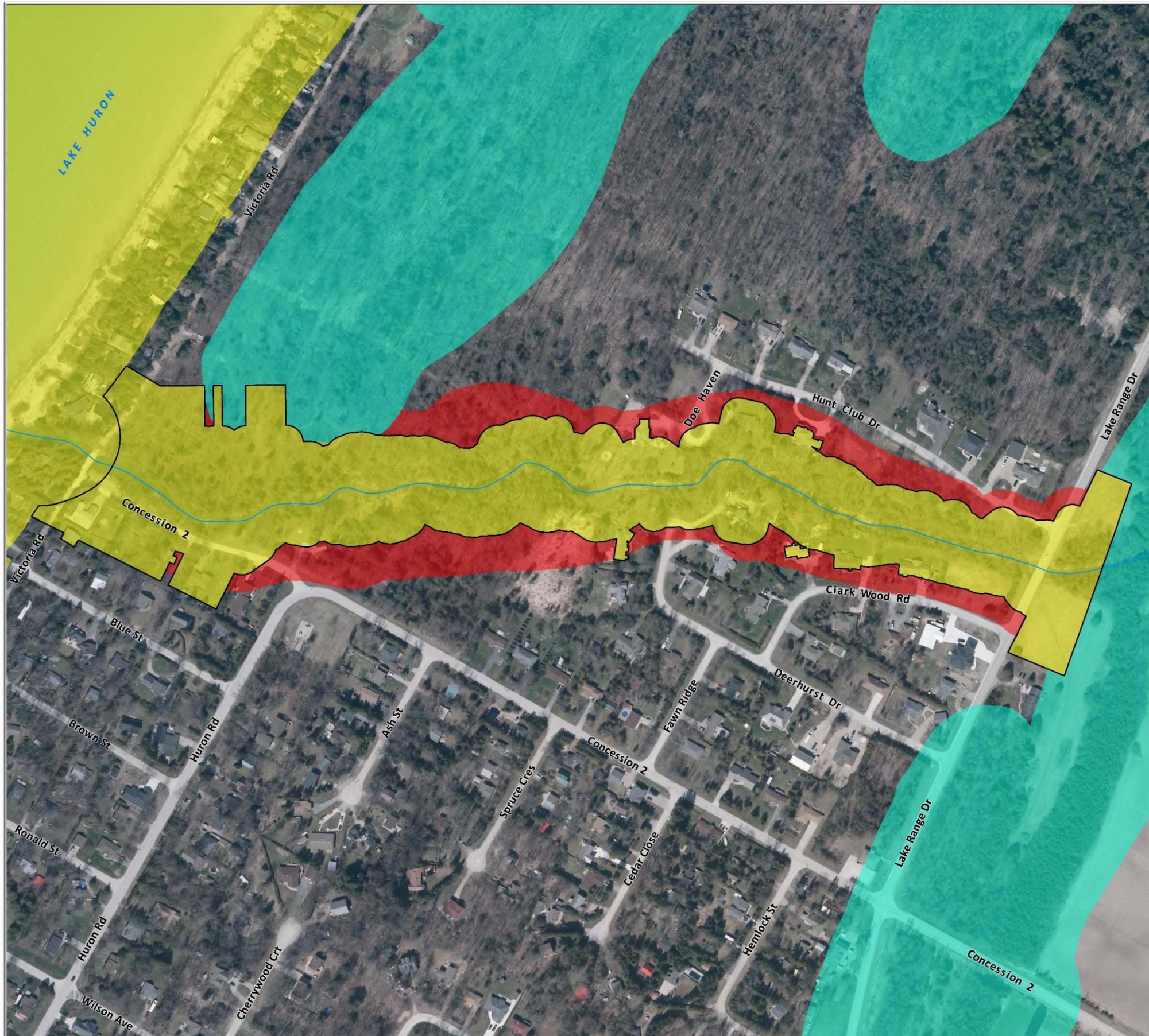


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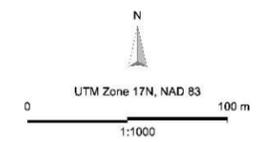
Updated Regulated Area Mapping

**Clark Creek
Lots 10-12, Lake Range
Township of Huron-Kinloss**

DRAFT



- Legend**
- Intermittent Watercourse
 - Permanent Watercourse
 - Screening Area
 - Screening Area Removed
 - Existing Regulated Area
 - Updated Regulated Area

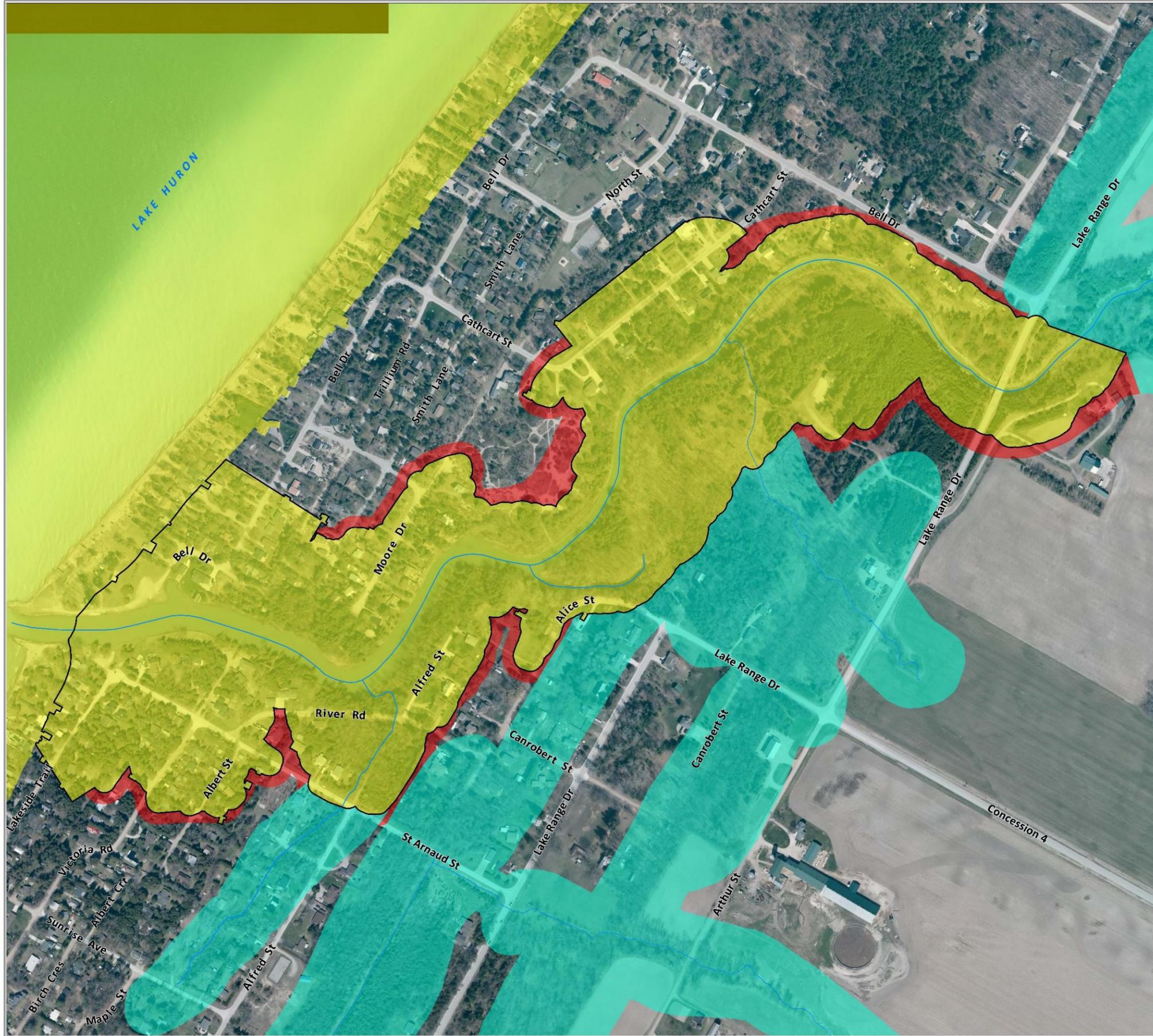


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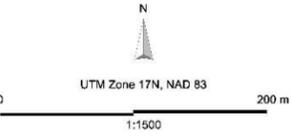
Updated Regulated Area Mapping

**Pine River
Lots 18-23, Lake Range
Township of Huron-Kinloss**

DRAFT



- Legend**
- Intermittent Watercourse
 - Permanent Watercourse
 - Screening Area
 - Screening Area Removed
 - Existing Regulated Area
 - Updated Regulated Area



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Updated Regulated Area Mapping

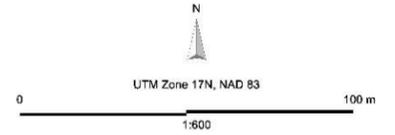
**Jardine's Creek
Lots 4-7, Lake Range
Township of Huron-Kinloss**

DRAFT



Legend

- Intermittent Watercourse
- Permanent Watercourse
- Screening Area
- Screening Area Removed
- Existing Regulated Area
- Updated Regulated Area



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Report #EPR-2025-13

Report to: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Darren Kenny, Regulations Coordinator
Date: November 20, 2025
Subject: Status of Active Violations
Purpose: To provide an update on the status of violations under Ontario Regulation 169/06, as amended, and Ontario Regulation 41/24.

Background

By Board Motion #G21-84, staff are directed to provide updates to the Board on the number of active violation files.

Analysis

As of November 3, 2025, staff are managing 44 active violation files and have rated them in accordance with the categories in the table below. Statistics from the previous reporting period (April 2025) are included for comparison:

Violation Rating and Description	Nov 2025	Apr 2025
(1) Trivial activities not worth pursuing beyond initial contact to educate. e.g., inconsequential site alteration; certain types of vegetation removal, etc.	1	1
(2) Activities unlikely to cause significant damage affecting the tests of the Regulation, the health and safety of persons, or property. e.g., development or alteration activities that usually comply with the EPR Policies Manual.	22	27
(3) Activities likely to cause significant damage affecting the tests of the Regulation, the health and safety of persons, or property. e.g., development or alteration activities that usually do not comply with the EPR Policies Manual without a favourable outcome from a technical report.	21	26
(4) Activities very likely to cause imminent and significant damage affecting the tests of the Regulation, the health and safety of persons, or property. e.g., development or alteration activities that do not comply with the EPR Policies Manual, are not likely to be supported by a technical report, and require immediate corrective action.	0	0
TOTAL	44	54

Discussion

Staff are managing 10 fewer violation files now compared with April 2025.

Staff continue to resolve violations through compliance approvals and site remediation where possible.

Two (2) violation files are presently in Provincial Offences Court. One has recently been resolved to the satisfaction of SVCA staff. The second file is awaiting a trial date.

Strategic Plan Linkages

A1.6 – Accessibility

E1.5 – Liability Assessment and Action

C1.8 – Violations Decrease

Prepared by:

[Original Signed by:]

Darren Kenny

Regulations Coordinator

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Matt Armstrong

Manager, Environmental Planning and Regulations

Approved by:

[Original Signed by:]

Erik Downing

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

WR-2025-011

Report To: Chair and Directors, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority
From: Emily Williamson, Water Quality Technician, Water Resources Department
Date: November 20, 2025
Subject: 2024 Water Quality Report
Purpose: To present to the SVCA Board of Directors the 2024 water quality report.

Background

As part of Category 3 programs and services, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority actively monitors 29 surface water sampling sites across the Saugeen River watershed. The goal of the program is to monitor, analyze and track water quality trends throughout the watershed. This program fills in much needed information from gaps in other water monitoring programs in the Saugeen watershed, such as the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network.

Water quality parameters sampled at these sites includes Total Phosphorus (TP); Nitrogen: Nitrate-Nitrite; Chloride; Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Escherichia coli (E. coli). Water quality samples are collected approximately monthly from April to November. Benthic invertebrates are sampled at 20 sites that align with the surface water sampling sites and are collected once in the spring after the spring freshet.

Analysis

Water quality results for 2024 varied across the watershed and over the sampling period. Average 2024 water quality concentrations calculated for the entire Saugeen Watershed were below the federal and provincial objectives indicating good water quality overall. However, regional differences within subwatersheds varied, including some exceedances in federal and provincial objectives.

The watershed average for total phosphorus was 0.02 mg/L which is below the provincial objective of 0.03 mg/L, the highest subwatershed average for phosphorus occurred in the Pine River subwatershed and was 0.05 mg/L which is above the provincial objective. The Pine River also had the most amount of Total Phosphorus exceedances (56% of samples taken, mostly between July and November). Other sub-watersheds (e.g., Rocky Saugeen, South Saugeen, North Saugeen) had highest values in the spring, though usually still below the provincial objective.

The watershed average for total suspended solids was 7.74 mg/L, the highest average for total suspended solids was 14.07 mg/L in the Pine River subwatershed, both of these results are

below the federal objective of 30 mg/L. Trends in total suspended solids over the 2024 sampling period were variable with a few subwatersheds (Rocky Saugeen, South Saugeen and North Saugeen) showing a decreasing trend from spring through fall.

The watershed average for nitrogen in 2024 was 1.48 mg/L with the highest subwatershed average being the Teeswater at 2.46 mg/L, both of these results are below the federal objective. Despite the average nitrogen concentration in the Teeswater being below the federal objective, one site (S2) exceeded the federal objective of 2.93 mg/L at 100% of the time. Most sub-watersheds also showed a trend in highest concentrations in the spring, decreasing through to August – September before beginning to increase again into November.

The watershed average of E. coli was 56.09 cfu/100mL and the highest subwatershed average was 98.88 cfu/100mL, both results are below the provincial objective of 100 CFU/100mL. Individual sample exceedances were variable across sites. Despite this, E. coli was typically lowest in the spring, increasing in concentrations until July / August before beginning to decrease again.

Lastly, the watershed average for chloride was 16.44 mg/L, the highest subwatershed average was 25.78 mg/L in the Penetangore subwatershed, both of these results are below the federal objective of 120 mg/L. Chloride, while always below federal objective, increased in many sub-watersheds throughout the season from spring to fall (e.g., Beatty Saugeen, Lake Fringe, Penetangore, North Saugeen and Teeswater).

Trends in concentrations of water quality parameters across the watershed and over the growing season are likely influenced by a combination of land use practices, development and climatic factors. The Rocky Saugeen sub-watershed was the only watershed with no exceedances in any water quality parameters. It is also the most forested watershed with lower development and agricultural land use compared to other sub-watersheds. In contrast, the Pine River sub-watershed had the most exceedances of water quality parameters (e.g., Total Phosphorus) and is the most heavily agricultural sub-watershed. Despite the differences in land use across the watershed, trends in concentrations of some water quality parameters (e.g., Nitrogen and E. coli) were consistent across sub-watersheds and are likely influenced by a combination of land use practices and climatic factors.

Municipal Delegations

This 2024 data will be integrated into the growing 20-year dataset and presented as part of the Municipal delegations beginning this winter.

Financial Implications

Staff time is used to collect data and report on our natural resources. Equipment and lab services for The Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network and Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network are provided by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks.

Strategic Plan Linkages

A1.5 - Access – Public and Stakeholder Reporting

A1.6 - Access – Watershed Management Planning

Prepared by:

< *[Original signed by:]*>

Emily Williamson, Water Quality Technician

Approved by:

< *[Original signed by:]*>

Erik Downing, General Manager / Secretary-Treasurer



2024 Water Quality Report

An Analysis: Current Conditions and Trends

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA)

Approval Date: Thursday, November, 20, 2025

2024 Water Quality Report

1. Contents

1. Executive Summary.....	4
2. Introduction.....	6
3. Methods.....	7
3.1 Surface Water.....	7
3.2 Benthic Macroinvertebrates.....	8
4. Parameters.....	8
4.1 Total Phosphorus.....	8
4.2 Nitrogen; Nitrate-Nitrite.....	8
4.3 Chloride.....	9
4.4 Total Suspended Solids.....	9
4.5 <i>Escherichia coli</i>	9
4.6 Benthic Macroinvertebrates.....	9
5. Subwatershed Results.....	10
5.1 Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed.....	10
5.1.1 Surface Water Results.....	11
5.1.2 Benthic Results.....	11
5.2 Lake Fringe Subwatershed.....	11
5.2.1 Surface Water Results.....	11
5.2.2 Benthic Results.....	11
5.3 Lower Main Saugeen Subwatershed.....	11
5.3.1 Surface Water Results.....	12
5.3.2 Benthic Results.....	12
5.4 North Saugeen Subwatershed.....	12
5.4.1 Surface Water Results.....	12
5.4.2 Benthic Results.....	12
5.5 Penetangore River Subwatershed.....	12

5.5.1 Surface Water Results	13
5.5.2 Benthic Results	13
5.6 Pine River Subwatershed	13
5.6.1 Surface Water Results	13
5.6.2 Benthic Results	13
5.7 Rocky Saugeen Subwatershed	13
5.7.1 Surface Water Results	14
5.7.2 Benthic Results	14
5.8 South Saugeen Subwatershed	14
5.8.1 Surface Water Results	14
5.8.2 Benthic Results	14
5.9 Teeswater River Subwatershed	15
5.9.1 Surface Water Results	15
5.9.2 Benthic Results	15
5.10 Upper Main Saugeen Subwatershed	15
5.10.1 Surface Water Results	15
5.10.2 Benthic Results	15
Appendix A – Sample Suite of Parameters	18
Appendix B – Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed	19
Appendix C – Lake Fringe Subwatershed	22
Appendix D – Lower Saugeen Subwatershed	25
Appendix E – North Saugeen Subwatershed	28
Appendix F – Penetangore Subwatershed	31
Appendix G – Pine River Subwatershed	34
Appendix H – Rocky Saugeen Subwatershed	37
Appendix I – South Saugeen Subwatershed	39
Appendix J – Teeswater Subwatershed	42
Appendix K – Upper Saugeen Subwatershed	44

1. Executive Summary

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority actively monitors 29 surface water sampling sites across the Saugeen River watershed. Water quality parameters sampled at these sites includes Total Phosphorus (TP); Nitrogen: Nitrate-Nitrite; Chloride; Total Suspended Chloride (TSS) and Escherichia coli (E. coli). Water quality samples are collected approximately monthly from April to November. Benthic invertebrates are sampled at 20 sites that align with the surface water sampling sites and are collected once in the spring after the spring freshet.

Water quality results for 2024 varied across the watershed and over the sampling period. Average 2024 water quality concentrations calculated for the entire Saugeen Watershed were below the federal and provincial objectives indicating good water quality overall. However, regional differences within subwatersheds varied, including some exceedances in federal and provincial objectives.

The watershed average for total phosphorus was 0.02 mg/L which is below the provincial objective of 0.03 mg/L, the highest subwatershed average for phosphorus occurred in the Pine River subwatershed and was 0.05 mg/L which is above the provincial objective. The Pine River also had the most amount of Total Phosphorus exceedances (56% of samples taken, mostly between July and November). Other sub-watersheds (e.g., Rocky Saugeen, South Saugeen, North Saugeen) had highest values in the spring, though usually still below the provincial objective.

The watershed average for total suspended solids was 7.74 mg/L, the highest average for total suspended solids was 14.07 mg/L in the Pine River subwatershed, both of these results are below the federal objective of 30 mg/L. Trends in total suspended solids over the 2024 sampling period were variable with a few subwatersheds (Rocky Saugeen, South Saugeen and North Saugeen) showing a decreasing trend from spring through fall.

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Lastly, the watershed average for chloride was 16.44 mg/L, the highest subwatershed average was 25.78 mg/L in the Penetangore subwatershed, both of these results are below the federal

objective of 120 mg/L. Chloride, while always below federal objective, increased in many sub-watersheds throughout the season from spring to fall (e.g., Beatty Saugeen, Lake Fringe, Penetangore, North Saugeen and Teeswater).

Trends in concentrations of water quality parameters across the watershed and over the growing season are likely influenced by a combination of land use practices, development and climatic factors. The Rocky Saugeen sub-watershed was the only watershed with no exceedances in any water quality parameters. It is also the most forested watershed with lower development and agricultural land use compared to other sub-watersheds. In contrast, the Pine River sub-watershed had the most exceedances of water quality parameters (e.g., Total Phosphorus) and is the most heavily agricultural sub-watershed. Despite the differences in land use across the watershed, trends in concentrations of some water quality parameters (e.g., Nitrogen and E. coli) were consistent across sub-watersheds and are likely influenced by a combination of land use practices and climatic factors.

2. Introduction

The Saugeen watershed is one of the largest drainage basins in the region. Spanning 4,675 km² of southwestern Ontario, it comprises three primary river systems that stretch from the Osprey Wetlands to the Lake Huron shoreline: Pine River, Penetangore River, and the Saugeen River. These watercourses are influenced by underlying soil types, and land use such as agriculture and development. The Saugeen watershed can be divided into ten distinct subwatersheds, each with unique natural and human-made features (Figure 1). Most of the land within the Saugeen watershed is dedicated to agricultural use.



Figure 1. Map of the Saugeen watershed boundary, also known as the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority. Featured are each of the 10 subwatersheds, surface water and benthic sites, as well as major watercourses and neighbouring authorities.

Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA) actively monitors surface water quality at 14 sites within the Saugeen watershed through the Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network (PWQMN), a collaborative effort with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The PWQMN program is a crucial source of water quality data for the Saugeen watershed; SVCA samples 14 sites for this program and 15 for SVCA's internal monitoring program. Together, there are 29 monitoring sites that are used to gather the data required to understand the health of our watershed.

SVCA conducts a biomonitoring program which involves the collection of benthic macroinvertebrates (bottom-dwelling aquatic organisms) at 20 locations across the watershed (Figure 1). These sites are aligned with other surface water sampling locations to offer a better understanding of watershed health. Samples are taken every other year using the Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network protocol.

Monitoring and management of surface water conditions has become increasingly important with population growth, agricultural intensification, and shifting climate patterns. Water quality monitoring programs collect valuable information to quantify current and long-term water quality conditions.

3. Methods

3.1 Surface Water

Surface water samples are collected using in stream grab sampling methods. Sampling occurs the first week of the month from April – November at all 29 sites, these samples are collected following the PWQMN sampling protocol. Additionally, field measurements of water temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen are taken at the time of sample collection.

All surface water samples were analyzed using a standard suite of water quality parameters. The complete list of sample parameters for PWQMN and SVCA sampling programs is in Appendix A. For this report five parameters were selected for further analysis: nitrogen, *E. coli*, total phosphorus, total suspended solids, and chloride. The results for each parameter were compared against the Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQO) or the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines (CWQG) (Table 1).

Table 1. PWQO & CWQG for the five parameters covered in this report.

Parameter (Unit)	Water Quality Objectives/Guidelines (Unit)	PWQO or CWQG
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.03 mg/L	PWQO
Nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite (mg/L)	2.93 mg/L	CWQG
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (mg/L)	30 mg/L	CWQG
Escherichia coli (<i>E. coli</i>) cfu/100mL	(100 cfu/100mL) for swimming	PWQO
Chloride (mg/L)	120 mg/L	CWQG

3.2 Benthic Macroinvertebrates

Benthic macroinvertebrates are collected at 20 sites throughout the watershed, 10 sites are sampled yearly, and each sampling site is sampled biennially. Sampling is done following the Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network (OBBN) stream sampling protocol (Jones et al., 2007).

As per the OBBN protocol, 3 subsamples were taken at different locations in the watercourse, two riffles and one pool were sampled to provide a comprehensive representation of the watercourse. . Samples were sieved of organic material and debris and put into plastic containers and preserved with 95% ethanol. 100 organisms per subsample were identified to the 27-group taxonomic level as the minimum requirement under the OBBN protocol and further to the family level which is encouraged by the protocol. Sorting to the 27 group level is sufficient to broadly quantify trends and health of the watershed, but identifying to family level provides a greater ability to quantify and identify trends, find uncommon families or assemblages, and gives an overall superior measure of diversity (Table 2).

4. Parameters

4.1 Total Phosphorus

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for the growth and productivity of aquatic plants and animals. Phosphorus is naturally found in weathering rocks, but is also a common element in fertilizers, livestock manure, industrial emissions, and wastewater discharges. Phosphorus can act as a pollutant in high concentrations.

Phosphorus can easily enter a watercourse following events such as storms or spring melt. High total phosphorus concentrations in a watercourse can lead to eutrophication, which is an increased supply of nutrients. This can cause excess algae growth, dead zones, and the suffocation of aquatic organisms due to lack of oxygen in the water.

PWQO recommends total phosphorus concentrations below 0.03 mg/L to limit excessive plant and algae growth.

4.2 Nitrogen; Nitrate-Nitrite

Nitrogen is an essential and naturally occurring nutrient for aquatic plants and animals, additional nitrogen can be introduced through fertilizers, livestock manure, and septic systems. Nitrogen occurs in different forms including:

- Nitrate: the most common form of dissolved inorganic nitrogen used by bacteria, plants and algae, it is a common form found in fertilizers and can be produced by bacteria. Nitrates that are not absorbed by plants can enter the watercourse through runoff, high concentrations can cause excess plant and algae growth which can be toxic to aquatic life.

- Nitrite: dissolved inorganic nitrogen that can be toxic at low concentrations, especially when sewage is present.

To protect aquatic life, CWQG recommends nitrogen; nitrate-nitrite concentrations below 2.93 mg/L.

4.3 Chloride

Chloride can be naturally occurring in watercourses and is often present at low concentrations. Chlorine can be introduced into watercourses through runoff contaminated with road salt and industrial waste. High chloride concentrations can be toxic to aquatic life. The CWQG has two guidelines for chloride, acute (640 mg/L) and chronic (120 mg/L). In this report the chronic value of 120 mg/L was used.

4.4 Total Suspended Solids

Total suspended solids are a measure of the number of suspended particles in water. The particles that contribute to total suspended solids come from a wide variety of materials including sediment, silt, sand, clay, organic and inorganic matter, and microscopic organisms.

Total suspended solids can exist naturally through erosion and high watercourse flows but can also be increased by stormwater runoff, development, and agricultural processes. If total suspended solids concentrations are high, sunlight will not reach the lower depths of a watercourse, thereby impacting aquatic plants and animals. Organics and metals can attach to suspended solids and may be absorbed by aquatic organisms when the particles settle.

The CWQG suggests total suspended solids should be no more than 30 mg/L higher than background concentrations to protect aquatic life.

4.5 *Escherichia coli*

Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) are a group of bacteria found in the digestive systems of warm-blooded mammals. Since *E. coli* does not occur naturally in aquatic systems it is commonly used as an indicator of the presence of fecal contamination in water.

E. coli can have serious impacts to human health including gastrointestinal illness and death. SVCA's *E. coli* data helps to determine overall water quality for aquatic organisms and should not be used to assess water conditions for human consumption.

The PWQO suggests that water is safe for swimming when *E. coli* concentrations are less than 100 colony-forming units (cfu) per 100mL.

4.6 Benthic Macroinvertebrates

Benthic macroinvertebrates are streambed dwelling insects such as crustaceans, worms, mollusks, and insects in their larval phase. They are a good indicator of water quality because they are sensitive to changes in their environment. A review of benthic data was conducted for

each of the 10 subwatersheds using local abundance, species richness and the Hilsenhoff Family – Level Biotic Index (FBI).

- Local abundance refers to the number of individuals of each species per sample.
- Species richness refers to the number of different species present in each sample. Generally, species richness increases with water and habitat quality.
- The FBI summarizes overall pollution tolerances of benthic communities with a single value from 1-10 (Table 2). Some benthic macroinvertebrates are more sensitive to pollution and poor water quality than others, based on the quantity and types of individuals found in a sample, assumptions about water quality can be made.

Table 2. Evaluation of the family-level Hilsenhoff Biotic Index as an indication of water quality (Hilsenhoff 1998).

Family Biotic Index Values	Water Quality	Degree of Organic Pollution
0.0 - 3.75	Excellent	Organic pollution unlikely
3.76 - 4.25	Very good	Possible slight organic pollution
4.26 – 5.00	Good	Some organic pollution likely
5.01 – 5.75	Fair	Fairly substantial pollution likely
5.76 – 6.50	Fairly poor	Substantial pollution likely
6.51 – 7.25	Poor	Very substantial pollution likely
7.26 – 10.00	Very poor	Severe organic pollution likely

5. Subwatershed Results

5.1 Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed

The Beatty Saugeen subwatershed drains an area of approximately 274 km². The Beatty Saugeen river originates in wetlands within the Township of Southgate, and spans 46 km in length. Drainage within this subwatershed occurs slowly, leading to the formation of swamps, and poorly drained depressions. The system outlets into the South Saugeen River, west of Hanover.

There are two long term water quality monitoring sites established in the subwatershed, Q13 (PWQMN) and S14 (SVCA), and one benthic site (Q13).

All graphical data representation for the Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed can be found in Appendix B.

5.1.1 Surface Water Results

Concentrations were generally below the PWQO and CWQG limits in 2024, there was one exceedance of *E. coli* at Q13 in June, and one exceedance of Total Suspended Solids at S14 in October.

5.1.2 Benthic Results

No sites in the Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed were sampled in 2024.

5.2 Lake Fringe Subwatershed

The Lake Fringe subwatershed spans from Kincardine to Southampton, and has a drainage area of 254 km². Several small tributaries flow directly into Lake Huron, Lorne, Andrews, Tiverton, and Underwood Creeks, and the Little Sauble River. The land use in this subwatershed is predominantly agricultural, with high levels of development on the lakeshore. The Baie du Dore coastal wetland is also located within this subwatershed.

There are three long term SVCA surface water monitoring sites located in the Lake Fringe, S4, S5, and S6, as well as three benthic sites with the same site codes.

All graphical data representation for the Lake Fringe subwatershed can be found in Appendix C.

5.2.1 Surface Water Results

There were thirteen exceedances of the CWQG and PWQG in the Lake Fringe subwatershed in 2024. There were four *E. coli* exceedances in 2024, two at S4 in May and October, and two at S5 in July and August. There was one exceedance of total suspended solids at S4 in July. There was one exceedance of Nitrogen, Nitrate-Nitrite at S4 in June. Lastly, there was seven overall exceedances of phosphorus, there was one exceedance at S4 in July and six exceedances at S6 from June through to November.

5.2.2 Benthic Results

There were three benthic sites sampled in the Lake Fringe subwatershed in 2024 including the Little Sauble River (S5), Underwood Creek (S6), and Andrews Creek (S4). Results for S4 showed a local abundance of 386 individuals and a richness of 23 taxa, the HBI was 5.07 (fair). S5 showed a local abundance of 294 individuals and a richness of 27 taxa, the HBI was 5.64 (fair). The results for S6 showed a local abundance of 335 individuals and a richness of 17 taxa, the HBI was 6.14 (fairly poor).

5.3 Lower Main Saugeen Subwatershed

The Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed has a drainage area of 908 km² and spans 76 km. The main tributaries are Mill, Burgoyne, Snake, Vesta, Pearl, Deer, Otter, Willow, and Silver Creeks, there are also several smaller watercourses in the subwatershed.

There are 4 long term surface water monitoring sites in the subwatershed including Q3, Q4, Q7 (PWQMN) and S8 (SVCA). There is also one benthic site in the subwatershed, Q7.

All graphical data representation for the Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix D.

5.3.1 Surface Water Results

There were twelve exceedances of the CWQG and PWQO in 2024. There were two exceedances of *E. coli*, one at Q3 in November, and one at Q7 in July. There was one exceedance of total suspended solids at Q3 in May. There were two exceedances of Nitrogen, Nitrate-Nitrite at Q3 in July and August. Lastly, there were seven phosphorus exceedances at Q3 from April through to October.

5.3.2 Benthic Results

No sites in the Lower Main Saugeen subwatershed were sampled in 2024.

5.4 North Saugeen Subwatershed

The North Saugeen subwatershed has a drainage area of 269 km² and spans 52 km in length. The primary land use in this area is agricultural and forested land. The main tributaries are Negro and Hamilton Creeks, numerous unnamed creeks throughout the subwatershed, and two significant lakes present, Robson Lake and McCullough Lake.

There are three long term surface water monitoring sites in the North Saugeen subwatershed, Q5, and Q8 (PWQMN) and S11 (SVCA). There are also two benthic sites located at Q8 and S11.

All graphical data representation for the North Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix E.

5.4.1 Surface Water Results

All exceedances in the North Saugeen subwatershed in 2024 were at Q5. In total there was two exceedances of *E. coli* in July and November, two exceedances of total suspended solids in June and July, and two exceedances of phosphorus in May and September.

5.4.2 Benthic Results

There was one benthic site sampled in the North Saugeen Subwatershed in 2024, on Hamilton Creek (S11). The results for S11 showed a local abundance of 209 individuals and a richness of 18 taxa, the HBI was 5.34 (fair).

5.5 Penetangore River Subwatershed

The Penetangore River subwatershed consists of two main tributaries, the North and Main Penetangore Rivers, and two intermediate tributaries, Millarton and Kincardine Creeks. The Penetangore has a drainage area of 192 km² and is 51.2 km long. The predominant land use in the watershed is agricultural, the terrain is smooth with gentle sloping.

There is one long-term surface water monitoring site in the Penetangore River subwatershed, Q2 (PWQMN), and one benthic site with the same site code.

All graphical data representation for the Penetangore River subwatershed can be found in Appendix F.

5.5.1 Surface Water Results

There were five exceedances in the Penetangore subwatershed in 2024. There were two exceedances of *E. coli* in June and July, and three exceedances of Phosphorus in April, August, and October.

5.5.2 Benthic Results

No benthic sites in the Penetangore River subwatershed were sampled in 2024.

5.6 Pine River Subwatershed

The Pine River subwatershed consists of three main tributaries, Royal Oak and Clark Creeks, and the South Pine River, the total drainage area is 195 km². The subwatershed has large agricultural areas as well as densely developed lakeshore areas where the river outlets into Lake Huron. The region has highly fertile soil that has supported agricultural development, leading to the removal of wetlands and forests in this area.

There are two long term surface water monitoring sites established in the subwatershed. The sites are Q1 (PWQMN), and S3 (SVCA), there is also two benthic sites with the same site names.

All graphical data representation for the Pine River subwatershed can be found in Appendix G.

5.6.1 Surface Water Results

There were twenty four exceedances of the PWQO and CWQG in this subwatershed in 2024. There were three total exceedances of *E. coli*, one at Q1 in August and two at S3 in June and July. There was one overall exceedance of total suspended solids at S3 in July. There were six exceedances of Nitrogen, Nitrate-Nitrite including three at Q1 in April, May, and August, and three at S3 from April through to June. There were nine total exceedances of phosphorus, four at Q1 in April, and August through to October. There were five exceedances of phosphorus at S3 from July to November.

5.6.2 Benthic Results

There was one benthic site sampled in the Pine River subwatershed in 2024, on Clark Creek (S3). The results for S3 showed a local abundance of 281 individuals and a richness of 13 taxa, the HBI was 7.4 (very poor).

5.7 Rocky Saugeen Subwatershed

The Rocky Saugeen subwatershed is 51.4 km long with a drainage area of 282 km². Its main tributaries are McKechnie, Blacks, Traverston, and Barhead Creeks, and the West Arm Rocky Saugeen River. The Rocky Saugeen is a heavily forested watershed, this system is known for having a rolling landscape, rocky outcrops, and winding streams. The river's source can be

traced to significant wetlands including Bells Lake and the Beavertdale Bog; primarily owned by Saugeen Conservation.

There are two long-term surface water monitoring sites established in the subwatershed. The sites are S12 (SVCA) and Q12 (PWQMN), there are also two benthic sites with the same site names.

All graphical data representation for the Rocky Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix H.

5.7.1 Surface Water Results

There were no exceedances of the PWQO or the CWQG in the Rocky Saugeen subwatershed in 2024.

5.7.2 Benthic Results

There was one site sampled in the Rocky Saugeen subwatershed in 2024, on the Rocky Saugeen (S12). The results for S12 showed a local abundance of 248 individuals and a richness of 26 taxa, the HBI was 5.04 (fair).

5.8 South Saugeen Subwatershed

The South Saugeen subwatershed has a drainage area of 798 km², the primary land use is agricultural, taking up 72% of its area. The South Saugeen is 97 km long and has several tributaries including Carrick, Meux, Bell's, and Fairbanks Creeks, along with other smaller and unnamed watercourses. The South Saugeen outlets into the Main Saugeen River south of Hanover.

There are three long-term water quality monitoring sites established in the South Saugeen subwatershed. The sites are Q10 and Q14 (PWQMN) and S13 (SVCA), there are also two benthic sites located at S13 and Q14.

All graphical data representation for the South Saugeen subwatershed can be found in Appendix I.

5.8.1 Surface Water Results

There were four exceedances of the PWQO and the CWQG in this subwatershed in 2024. There were two *E. coli* exceedances at Q10 in August and September. There were two exceedances of nitrogen, nitrate-nitrite, one at Q14 and one at Q10, both occurring in April.

5.8.2 Benthic Results

One site was sampled in the South Saugeen subwatershed in 2024, on the South Saugeen (S13). The results for S13 showed a local abundance of 739 individuals and a richness of 29 taxa, the HBI was 4.41 (good).

5.9 Teeswater River Subwatershed

The Teeswater River Subwatershed has a drainage area of 683 km² and spans 75 km in length. It consists of several tributaries including, Greenock, Formosa, Alps, Plum, Kinlough, Schmidt, and Allen Creeks. The Teeswater subwatershed also contains the largest forested wetland in Southern Ontario, the Greenock Swamp.

There are four long-term monitoring sites established in the Teeswater subwatershed, these sites are S1, S2, and S7 (SVCA), and Q6 (PWQMN). There are also two benthic sampling sites located at Q6 and S2.

All graphical data representation for the Teeswater subwatershed can be found in Appendix J.

5.9.1 Surface Water Results

There were eighteen exceedances of the CWQG and PWQO in 2024 at this subwatershed. There were 4 total exceedances of *E. coli* all of which occurred at S1 in June, July, September, and October. There were 12 total exceedances of nitrogen, in the form of nitrate-nitrite CWQG, 3 occurred at Q6 (April, May, June), eight at S2 (all months), and one at S7 (April). There were two exceedances of phosphorus, one at Q6 (May), and one at S2 (October).

5.9.2 Benthic Results

There was one site sampled in the Teeswater subwatershed in 2024, on the Teeswater River (S2). The results for S2 showed a local abundance of 353 individuals and a richness of 27 taxa, the HBI was 6.54 (poor).

5.10 Upper Main Saugeen Subwatershed

The Upper Main Saugeen has a drainage area of 782 km² and is 116 km long. The key tributaries are Habermehl and Camp Creek, as well as the Styx River. The primary land use in this subwatershed is agricultural.

There are five long-term surface water monitoring sites established in the Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed. The sites are Q9 and Q11 (PWQMN), and S9, S10, and S15 (SVCA). There are also four benthic sites located at Q9, Q11, S10, and S15.

All graphical data representation for the Upper Main Saugeen can be found in Appendix K.

5.10.1 Surface Water Results

There were five exceedances of the PWQO and CWQG in this subwatershed in 2024. There was one *E. coli* exceedance at Q9 in June, and four phosphorus exceedances at S15 in June, August, October, and November.

5.10.2 Benthic Results

There were two sites sampled in the Upper Main Saugeen subwatershed in 2024, one on Allan Creek (S15) and one on the Styx River (S10). The results for S15 showed a local abundance of 357 individuals and a richness of 22 taxa, the HBI was 5.50 (fair). The results for S10 showed a

local abundance of 110 individuals which is an insufficient sample for OBBN protocol. The total richness was 20 taxa, and the HBI was 6.10 (fairly poor).

References

Jones, C., Somers, K.M., Craig, B., Reynoldson, T.B. (2007). Ontario Benthos Biomonitoring Network: Protocol Manual. [OBBN%20Protocol%20Manual.pdf](#).

Appendix A – Sample Suite of Parameters

Appendix Table 1: Parameters analyzed for PWQMN and SVCA sampling sites.

Parameter	Units	PWQMN ('Q') Sites (Y/N)	SVCA ('S') Sites (Y/N)
Alkalinity, Total as CaCO ₃	mg/L	Y	Y
Carbon, dissolved inorganic carbon	mg/L	Y	N
Carbon, dissolved organic	mg/L	Y	N
Chloride	mg/L	Y	Y
Conductivity	Varies	Y (µS/cm)	Y (mS/cm)
<i>E. coli</i>	[cfu/100mL]	Y	Y
Nitrogen, Ammonia + Ammonium	mg/L	Y	N
Nitrogen, Nitrite	mg/L	Y	Y
Nitrogen, Nitrate	mg/L	Y	Y
Nitrogen, Nitrate + Nitrite	mg/L	Y	Y
Nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl	mg/L	Y	Y
pH		Y	Y
Phosphorus, phosphate	mg/L	Y	N
Temperature	°C	N	Y
Total Phosphorus	Varies	Y (µg/L)	Y (mg/L)
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	Y	Y
Silicon, reactive silicate	mg/L	Y	N
Sulphate	mg/L	N	Y

Appendix B – Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed

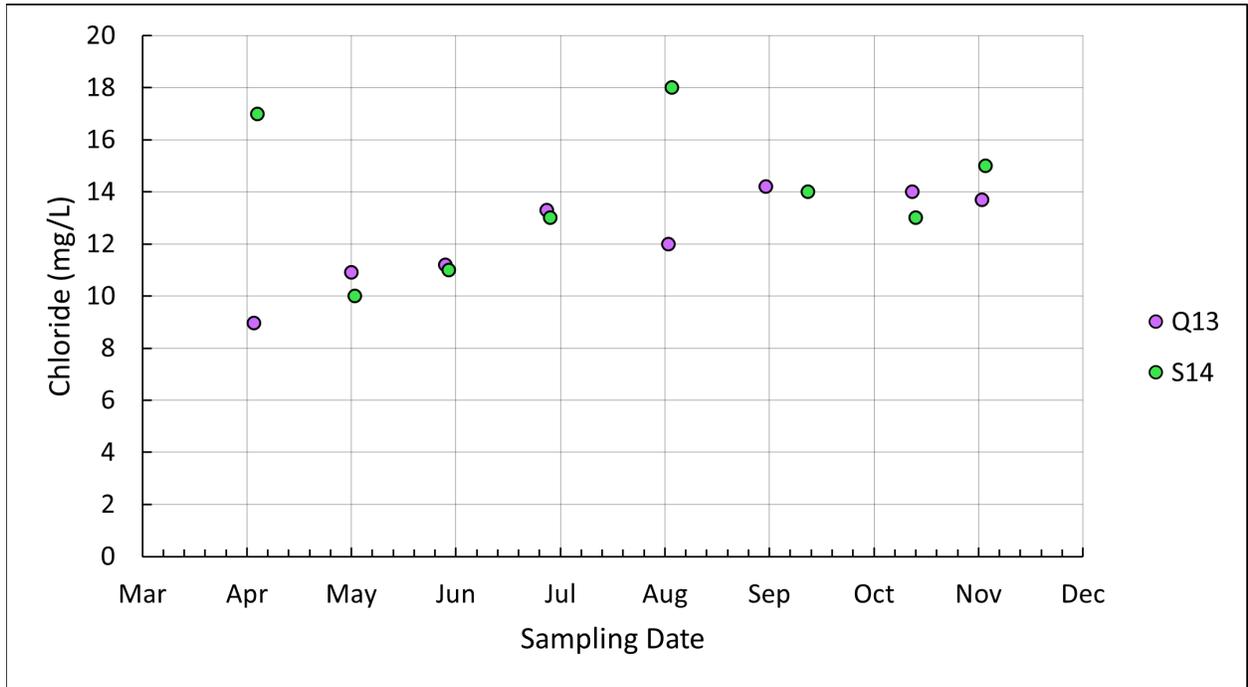


Figure 2. 2024 Beatty Saugeen subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

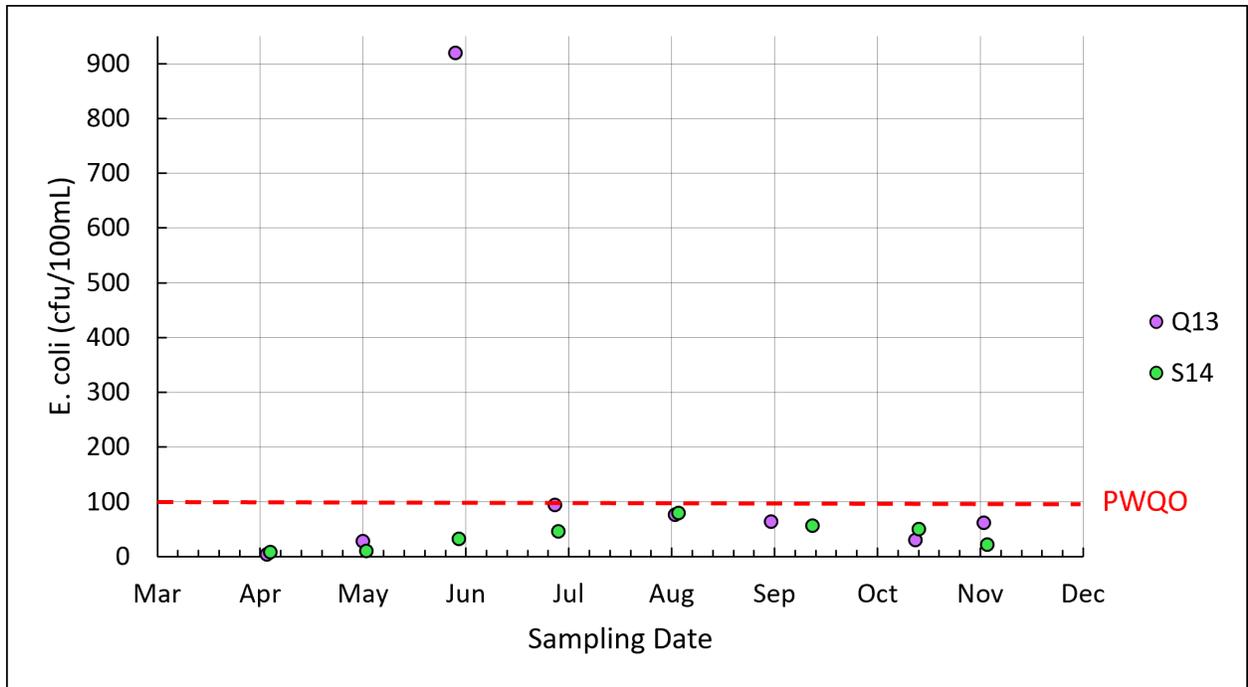


Figure 3. 2024 Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There was one exceedance of the PWQO.

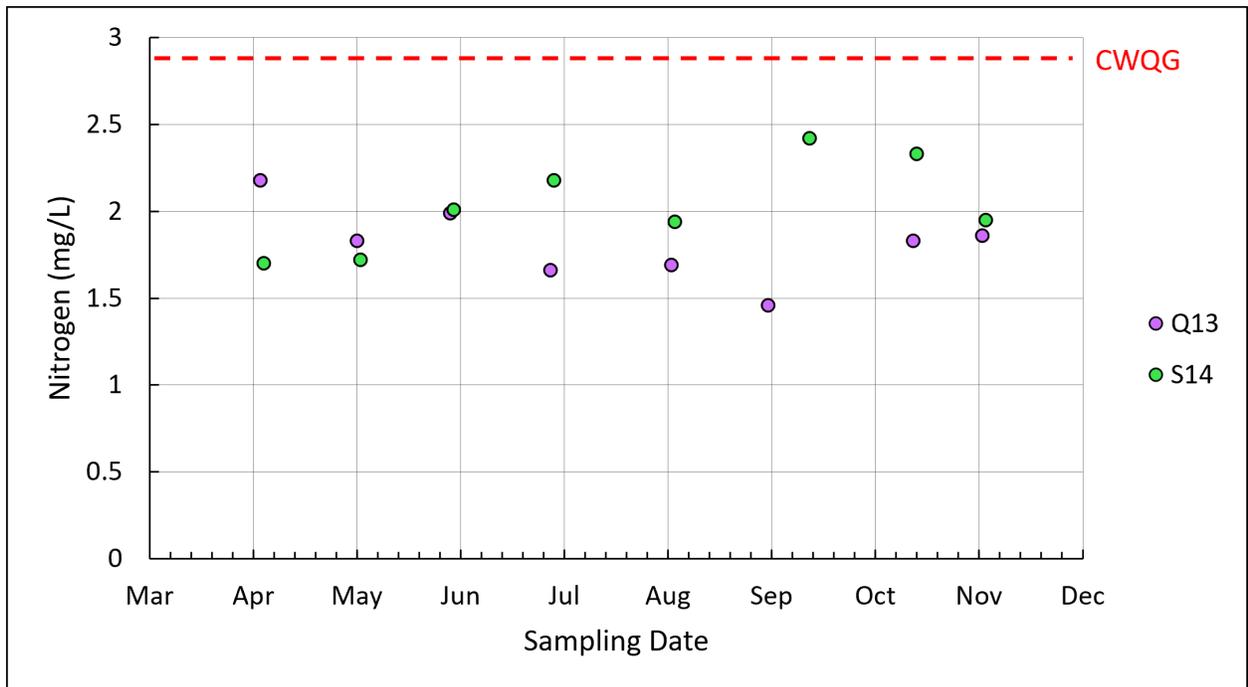


Figure 4. 2024 Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There were no exceedances.

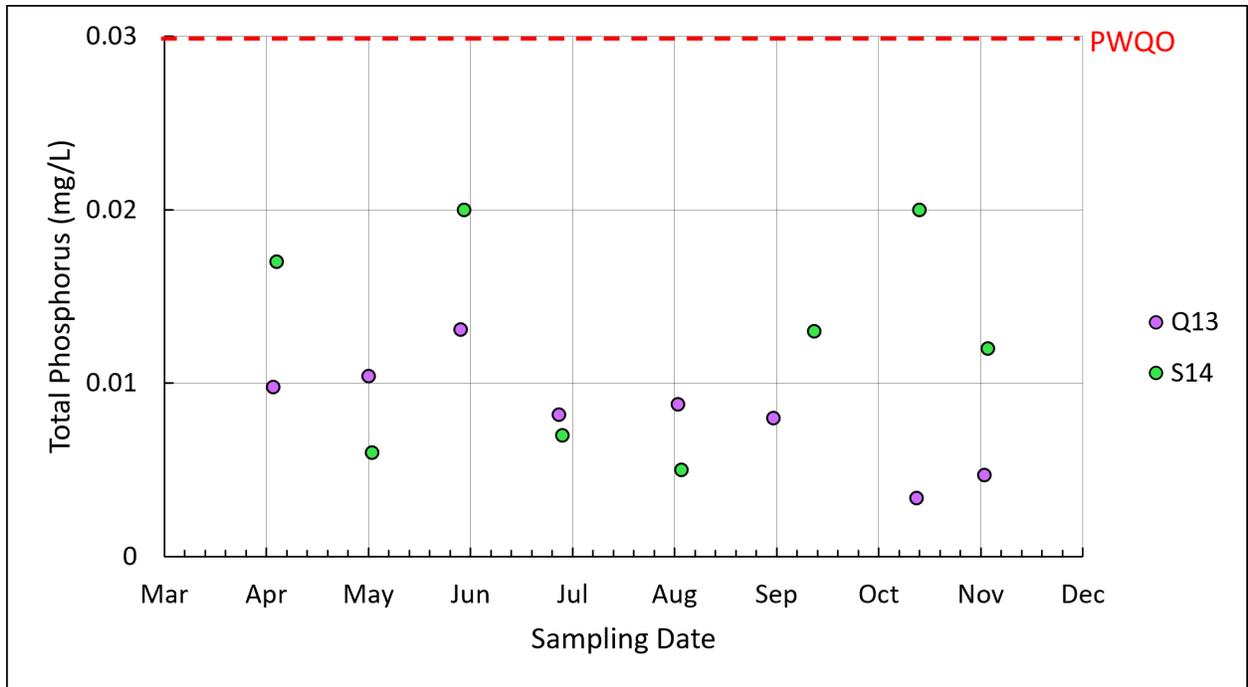


Figure 5. Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites, the horizontal line indicates the PQWO of 0.03 mg/L. There were no exceedances.

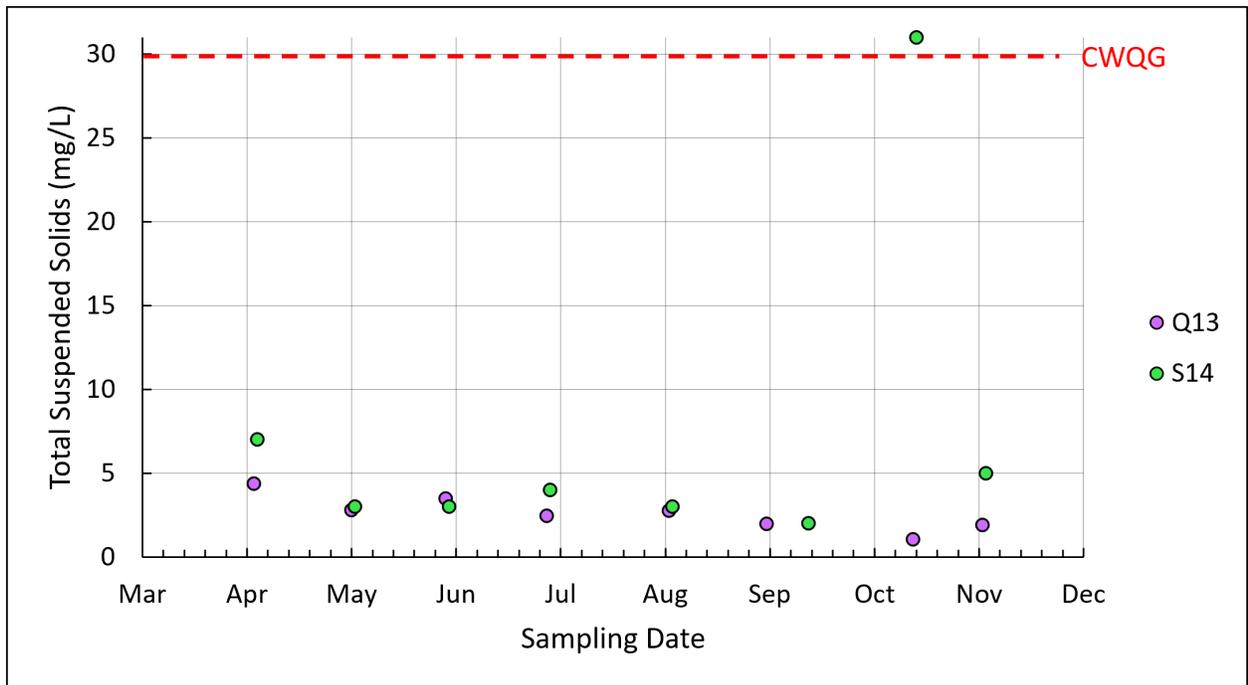


Figure 6. 2024 Beatty Saugeen Subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in a graph format. Graph shows Q13 and S14 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 30 mg/L. There was one exceedance of the CWQG.

Appendix C – Lake Fringe Subwatershed

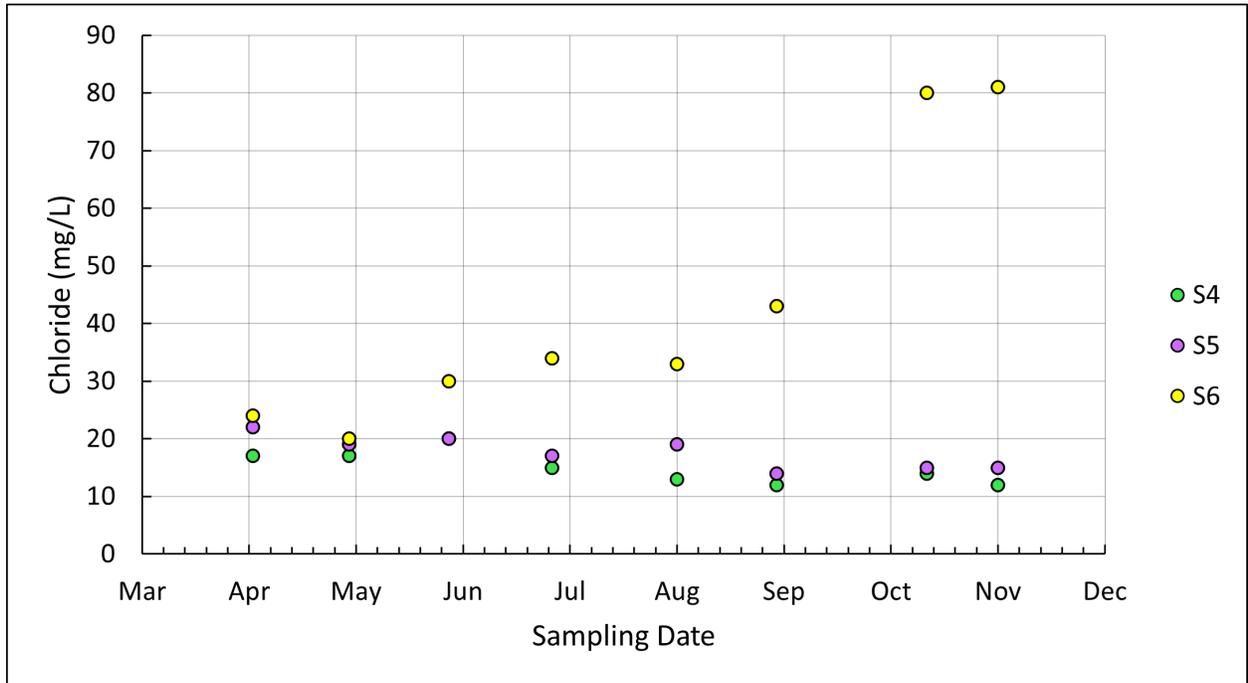


Figure 7. 2024 Lake Fringe subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites. There were no exceedances.

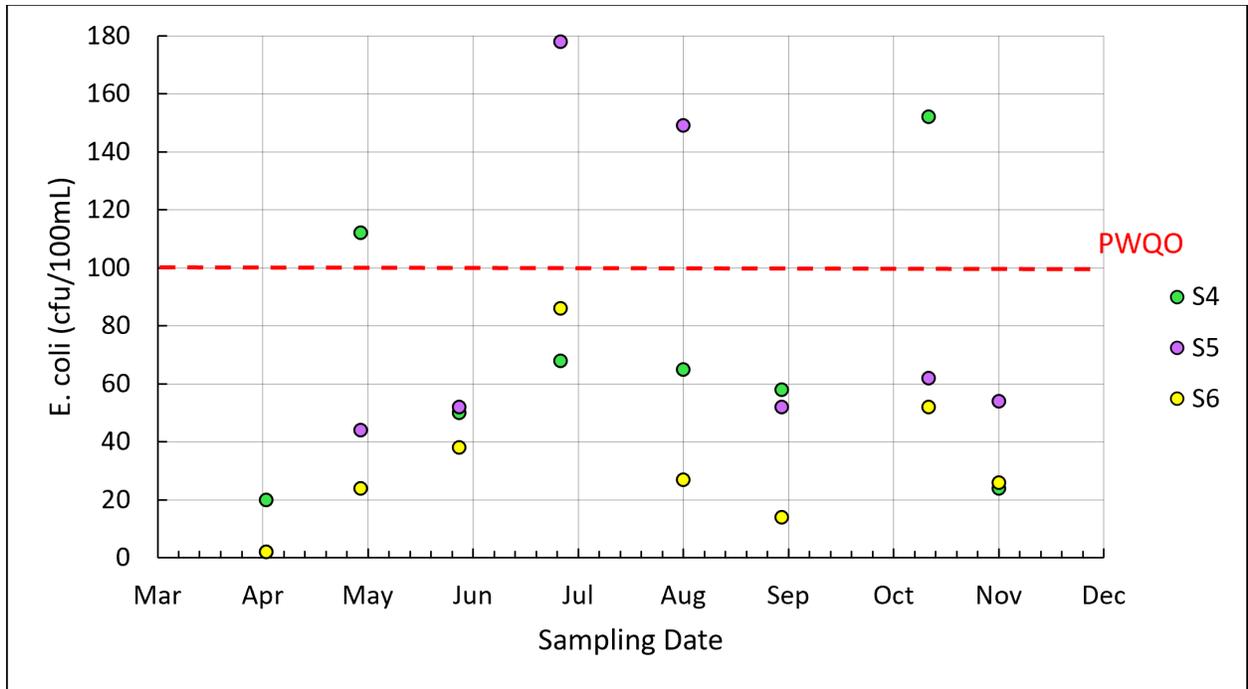


Figure 8. 2024 Lake Fringe subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There were four exceedances of the PWQO.

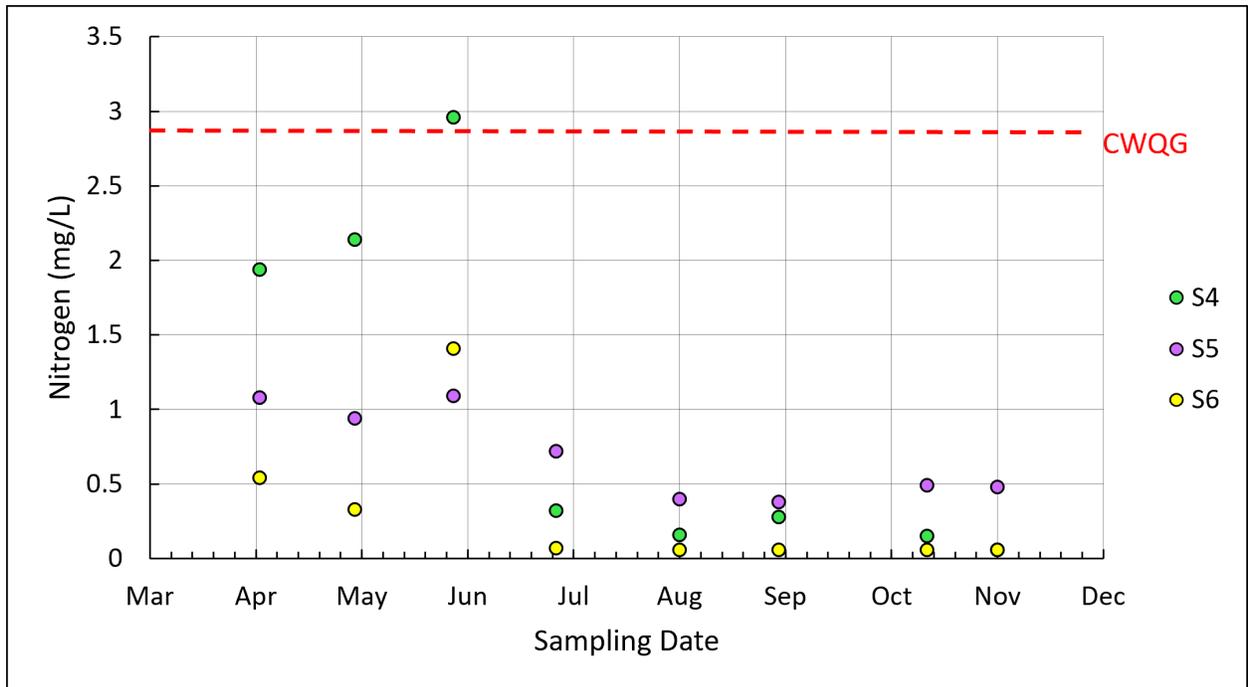


Figure 9. 2024 Lake Fringe subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There was one exceedance of the CWQG.

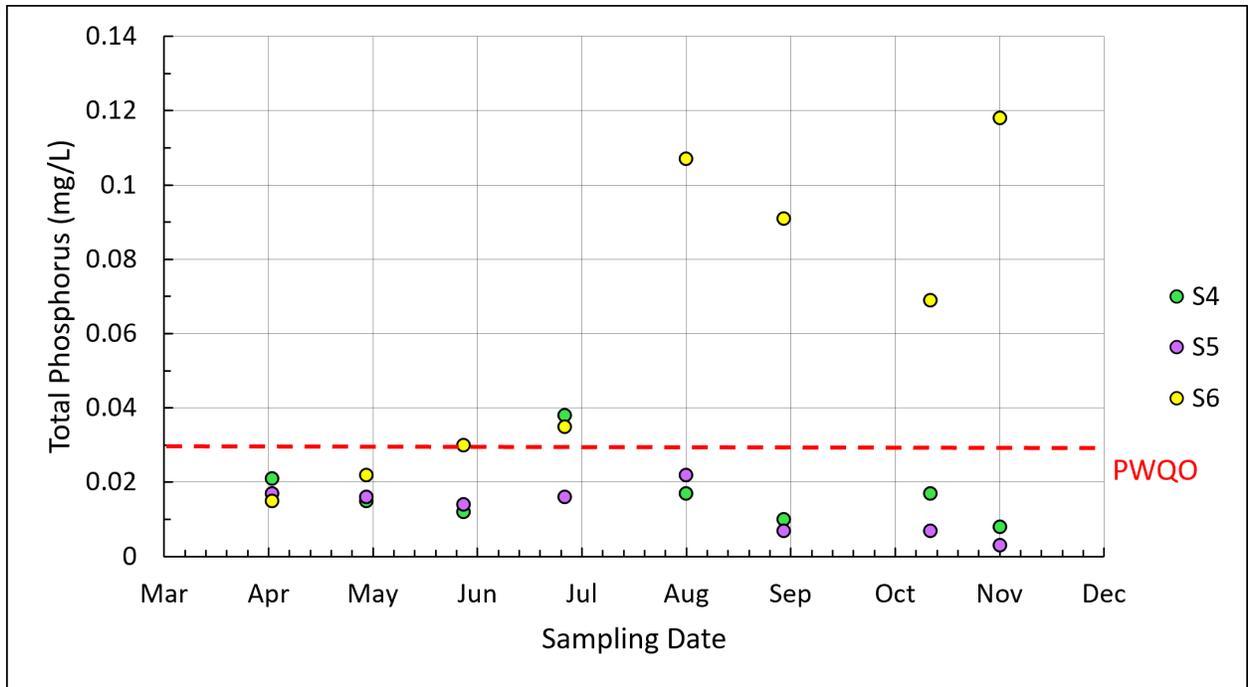


Figure 10. 2024 Lake Fringe subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There were seven exceedances of the PWQO.

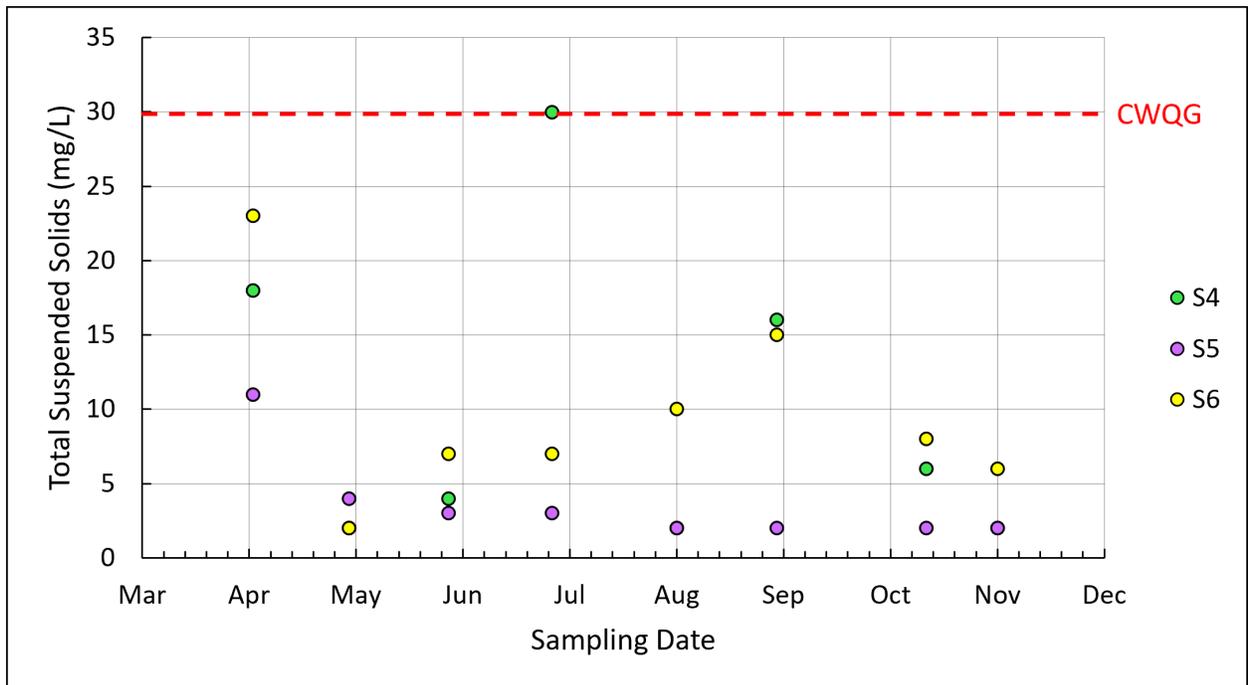


Figure 11. 2024 Lake Fringe subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S4, S5, and S6 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 30 mg/L. There was one exceedance of the CWQG.

Appendix D – Lower Saugeen Subwatershed

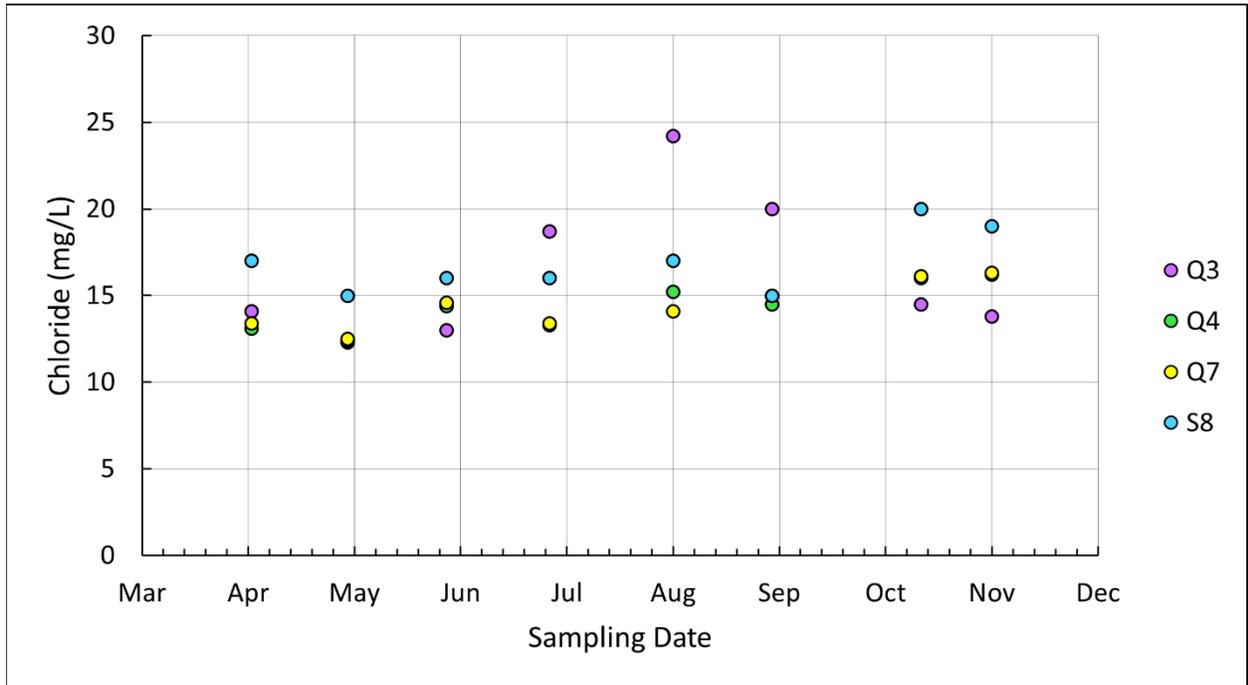


Figure 12. 2024 Lower Saugeen subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7, and S8 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

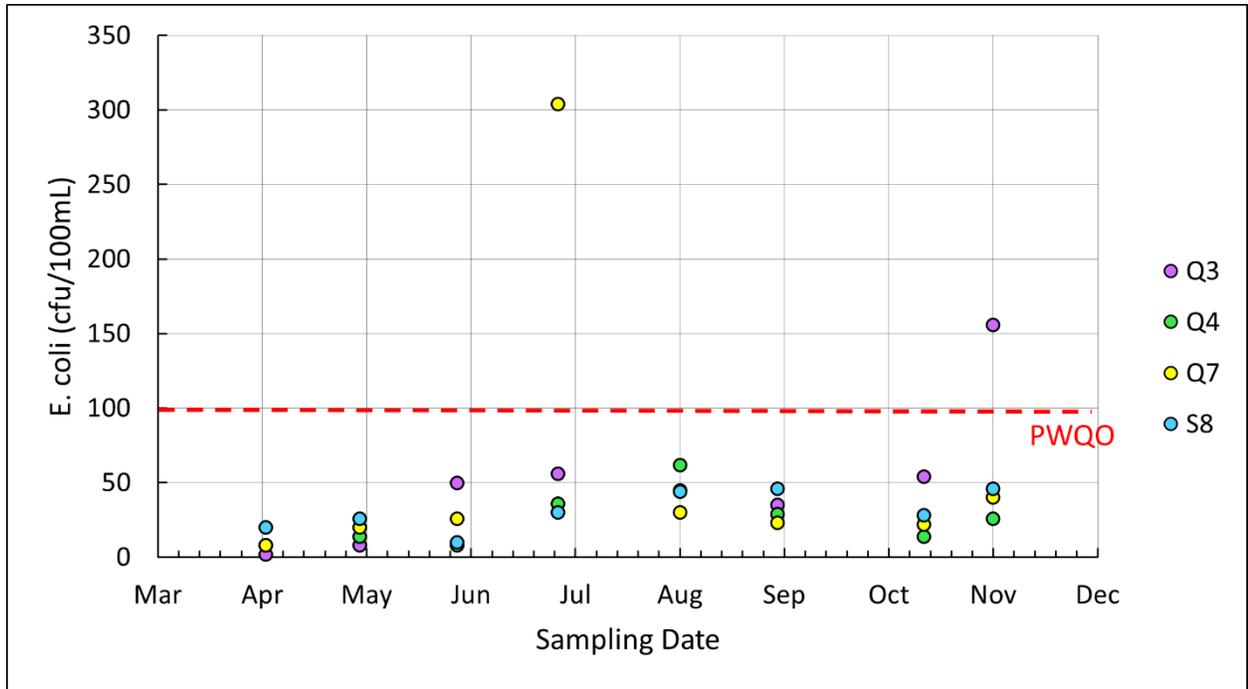


Figure 13. 2024 Lower Saugeen subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7, and S8 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There were two exceedances of the PWQO.

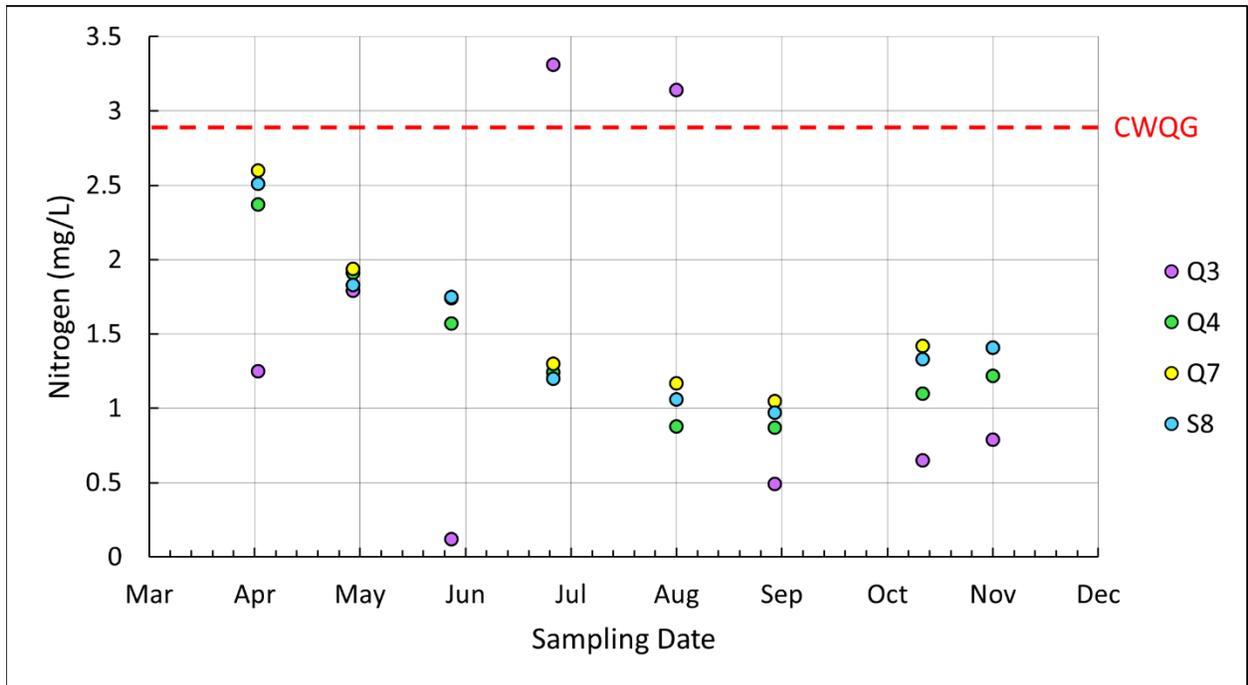


Figure 14. 2024 Lower Saugeen subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7, and S8 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There were two exceedances of the CWQG.

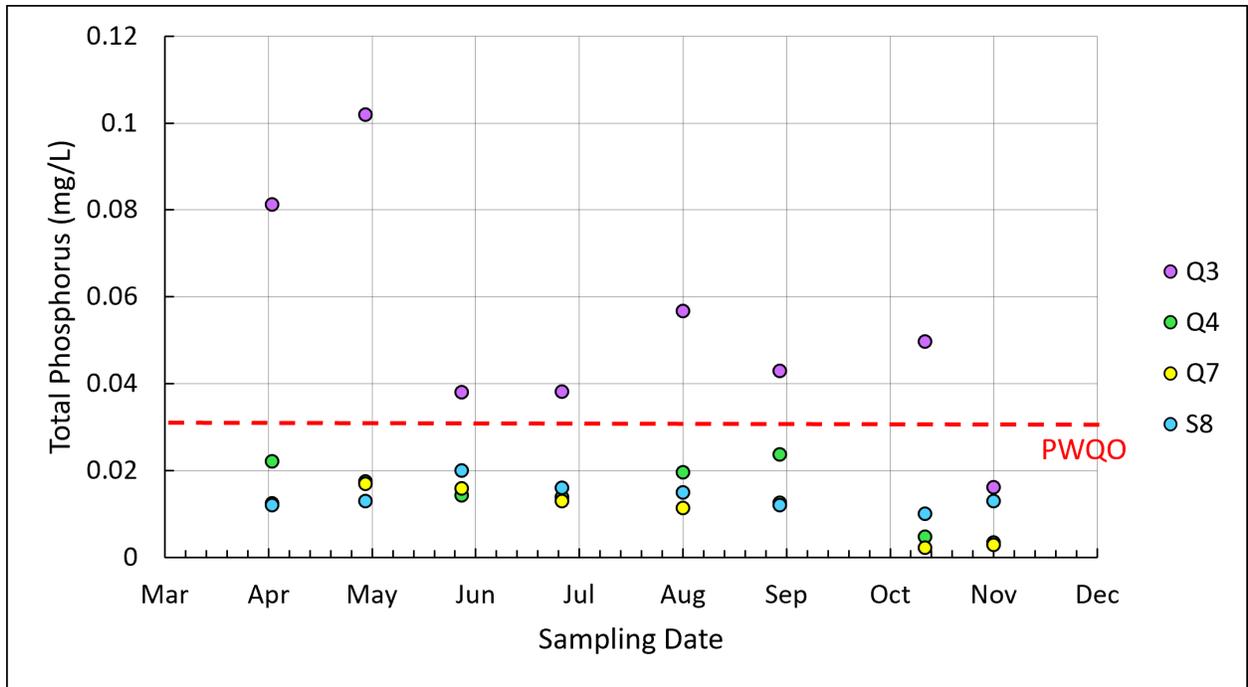


Figure 15. 2024 Lower Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7, and S8 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicated the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There were seven exceedances of the PQWO.

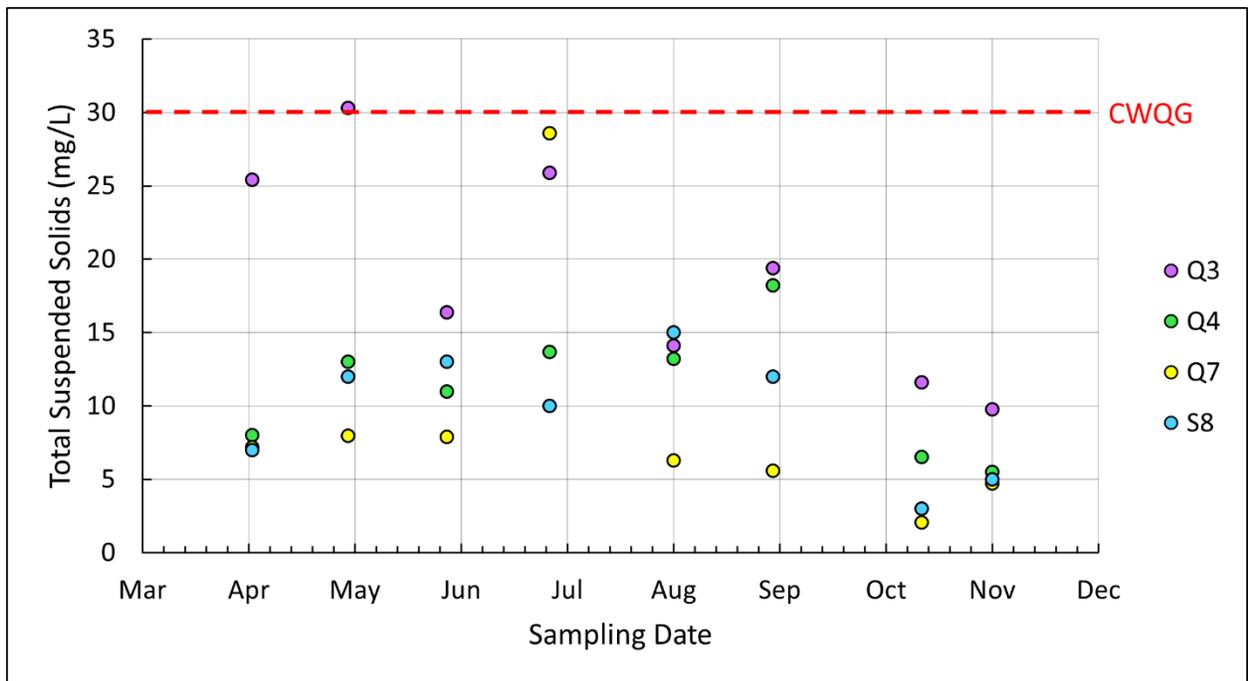


Figure 16. 2024 Lower Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q3, Q4, Q7, and S8 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 30 mg/L. There was one exceedance of the CWQG.

Appendix E – North Saugeen Subwatershed

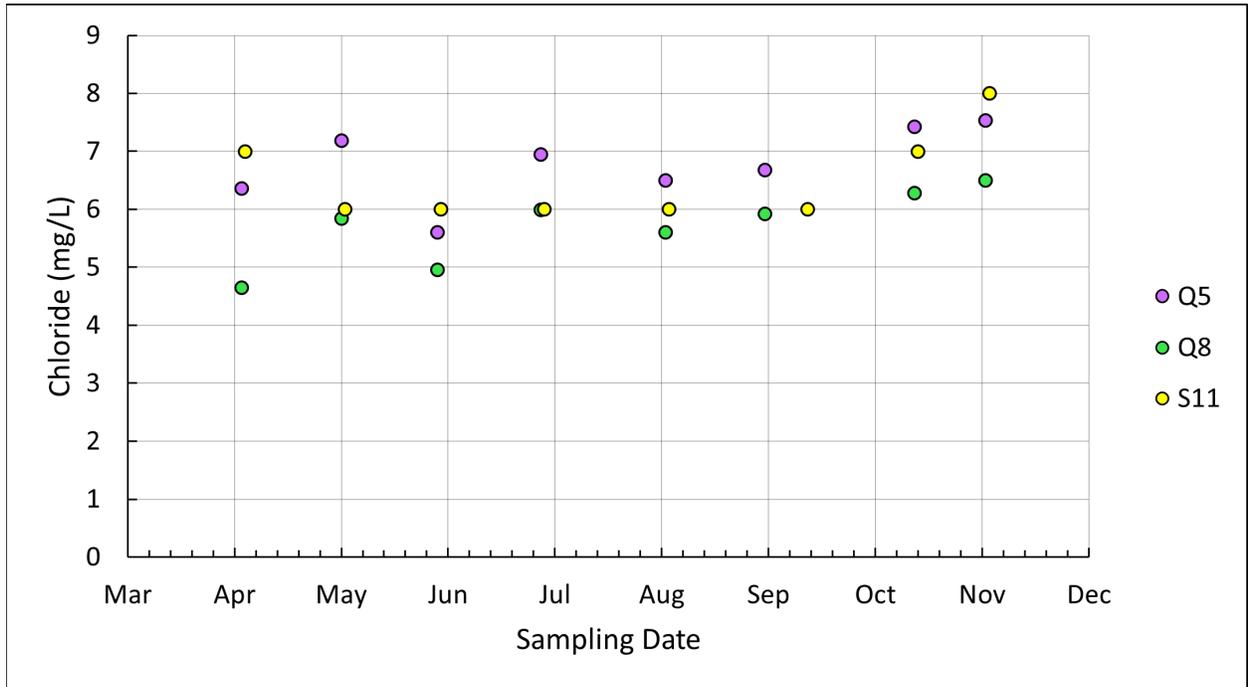


Figure 17. 2024 North Saugeen subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q5, Q8, and S11 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

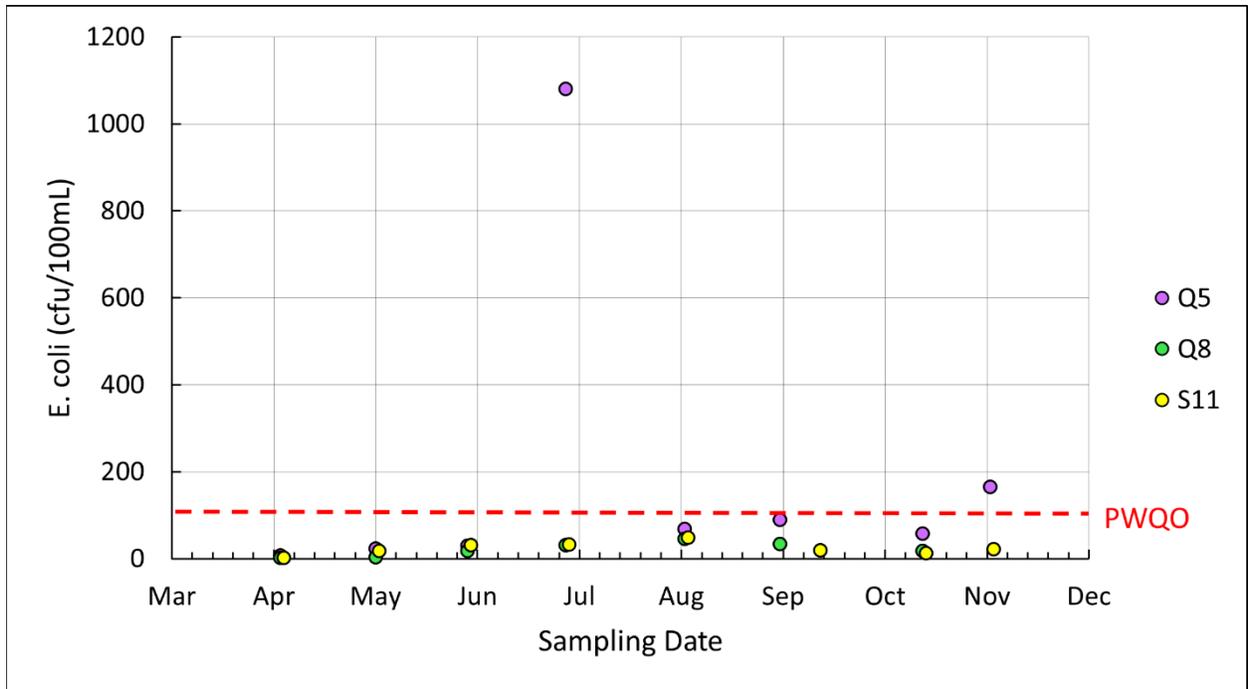


Figure 18. 2024 North Saugeen subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q5, Q8, and S11 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There were two exceedances of the PWQO.

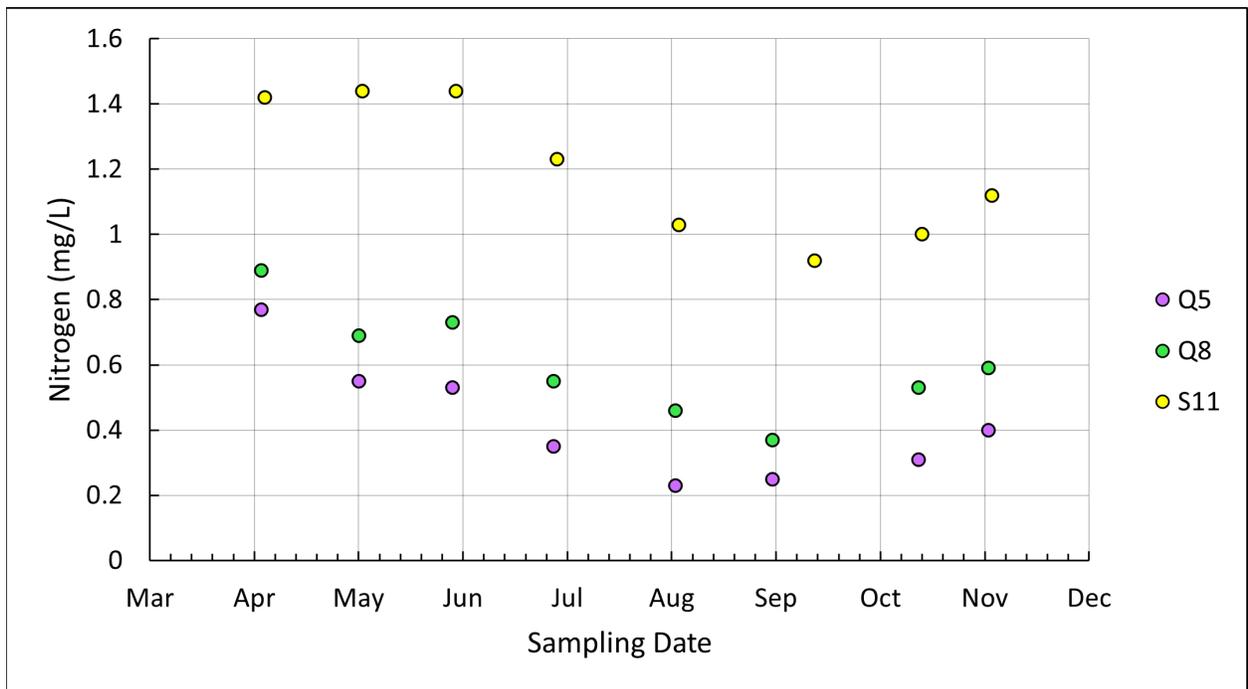


Figure 19. 2024 North Saugeen subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q5, Q8, and S11 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

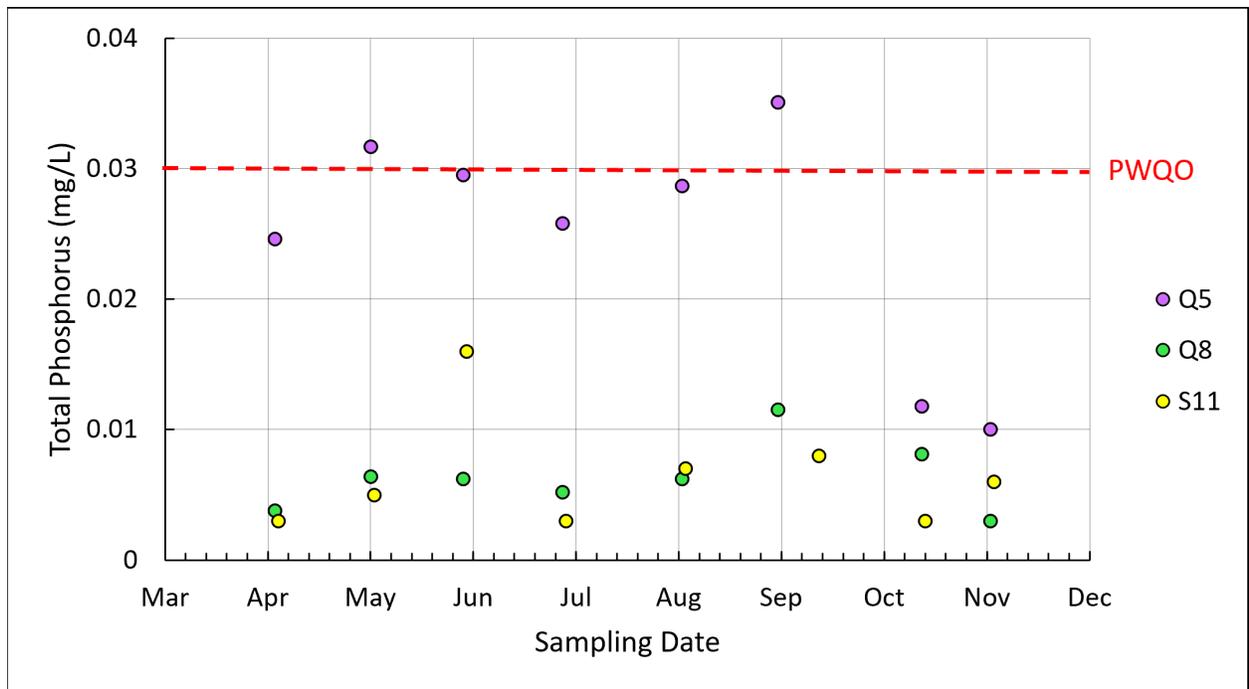


Figure 20. 2024 North Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q5, Q8, and S11 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There were two exceedances of the PWQO.

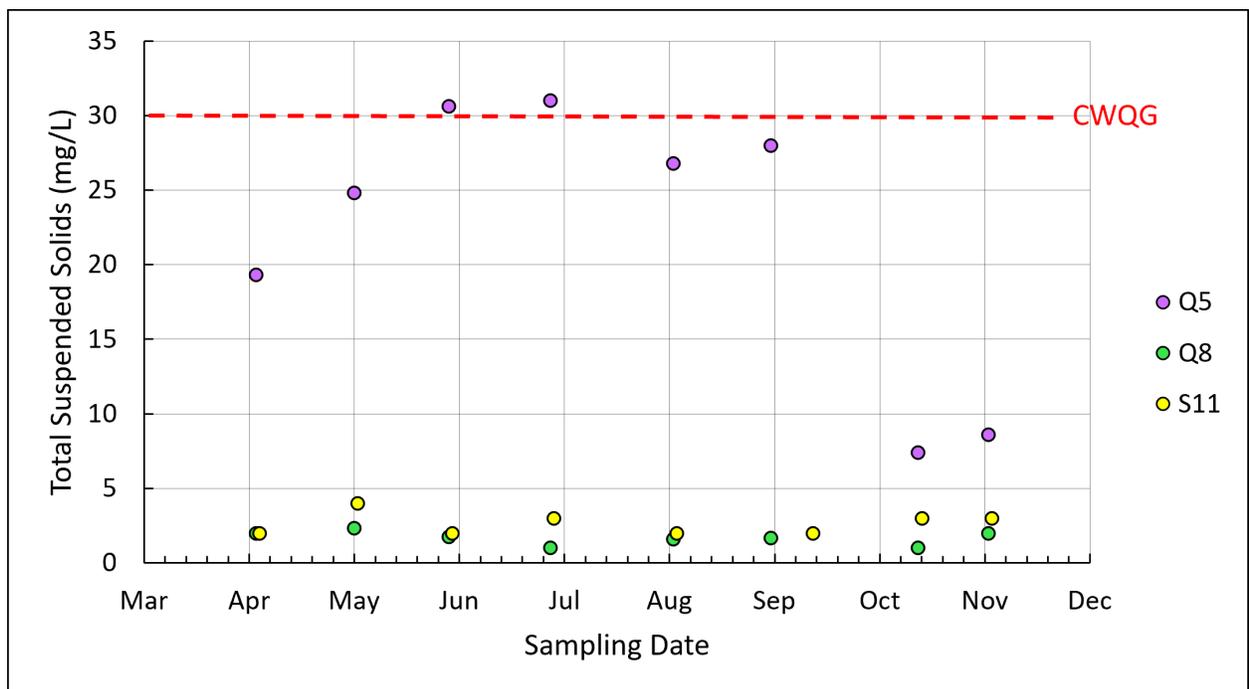


Figure 21. 2024 North Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q5, Q8, and S11 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 30 mg/L. There were two exceedances of the CWQG.

Appendix F – Penetangore Subwatershed

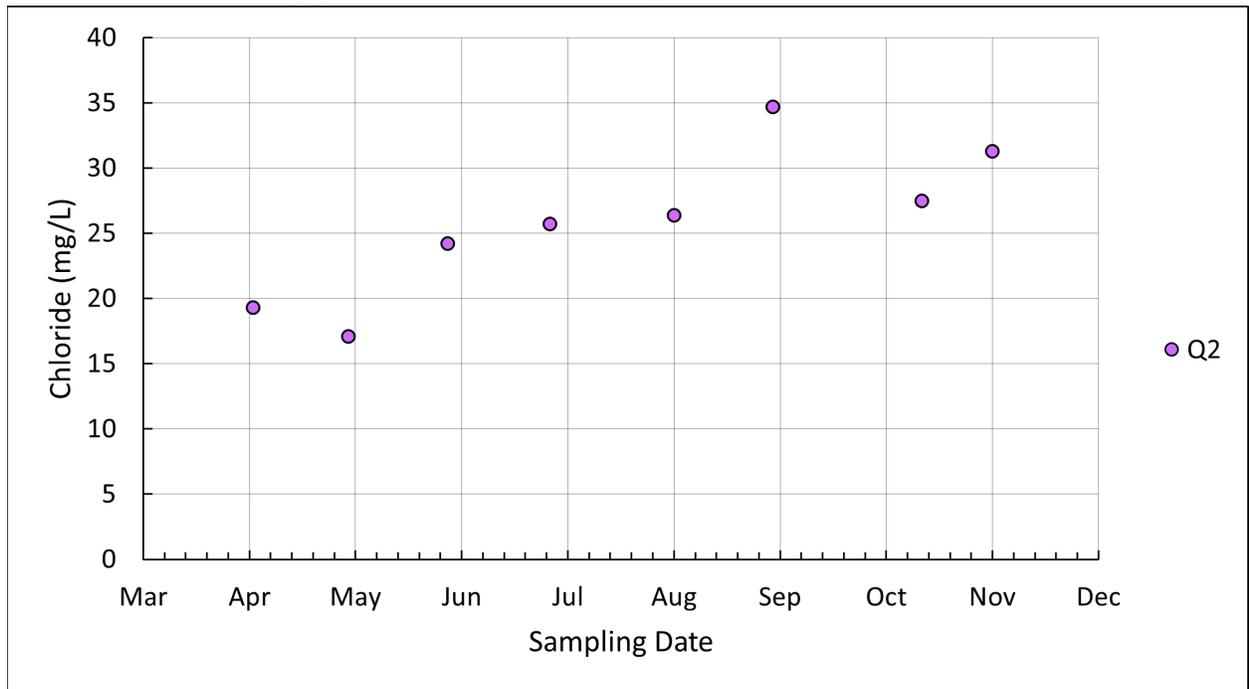


Figure 22. 2024 Penetangore subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

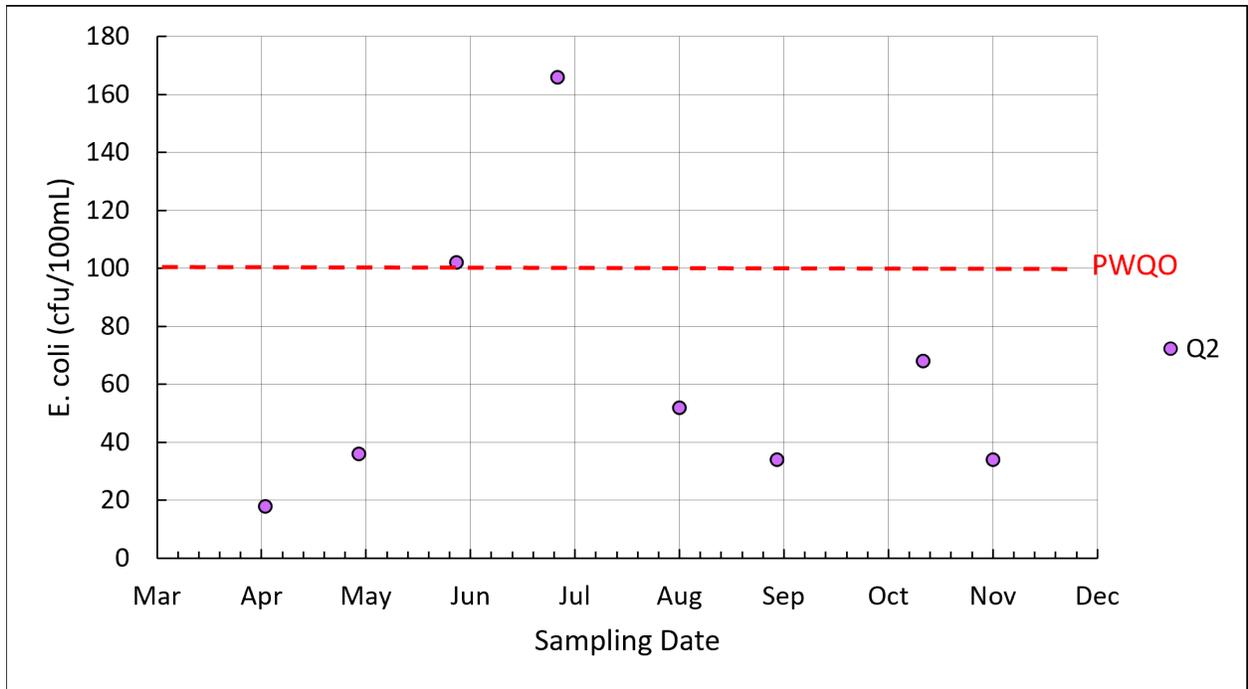


Figure 23. 2024 Penetangore subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site. The horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There were two exceedances of the PWQO.

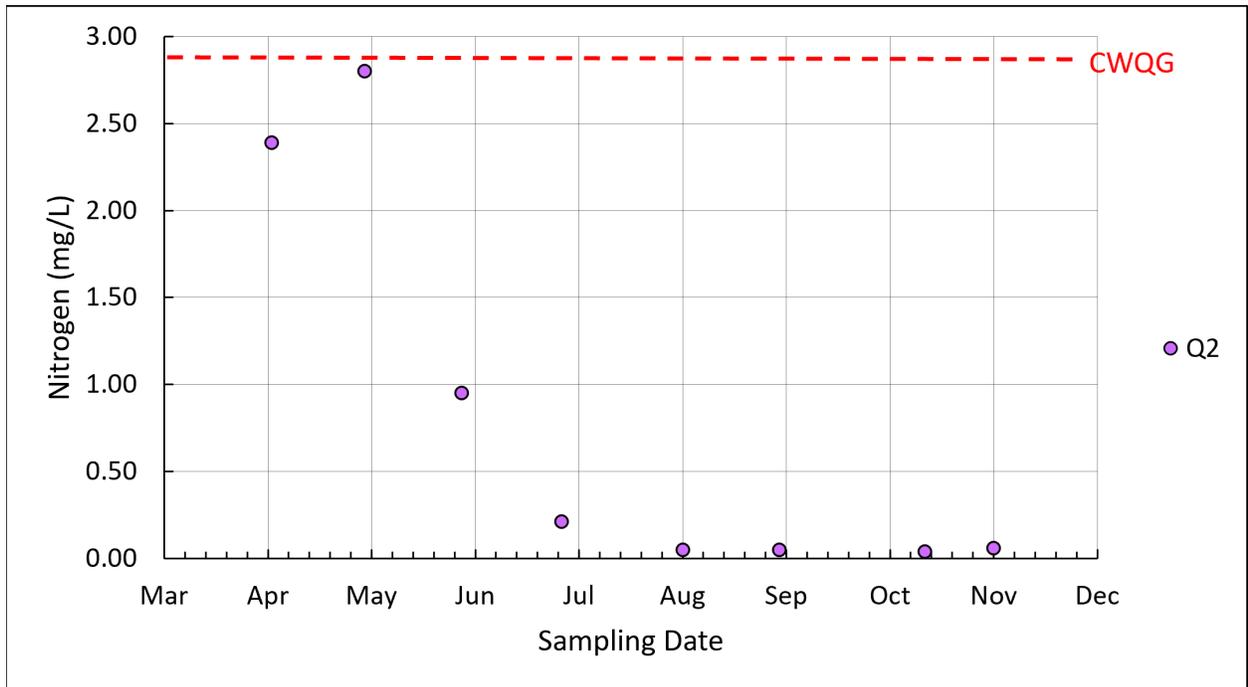


Figure 24. 2024 Penetangore subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

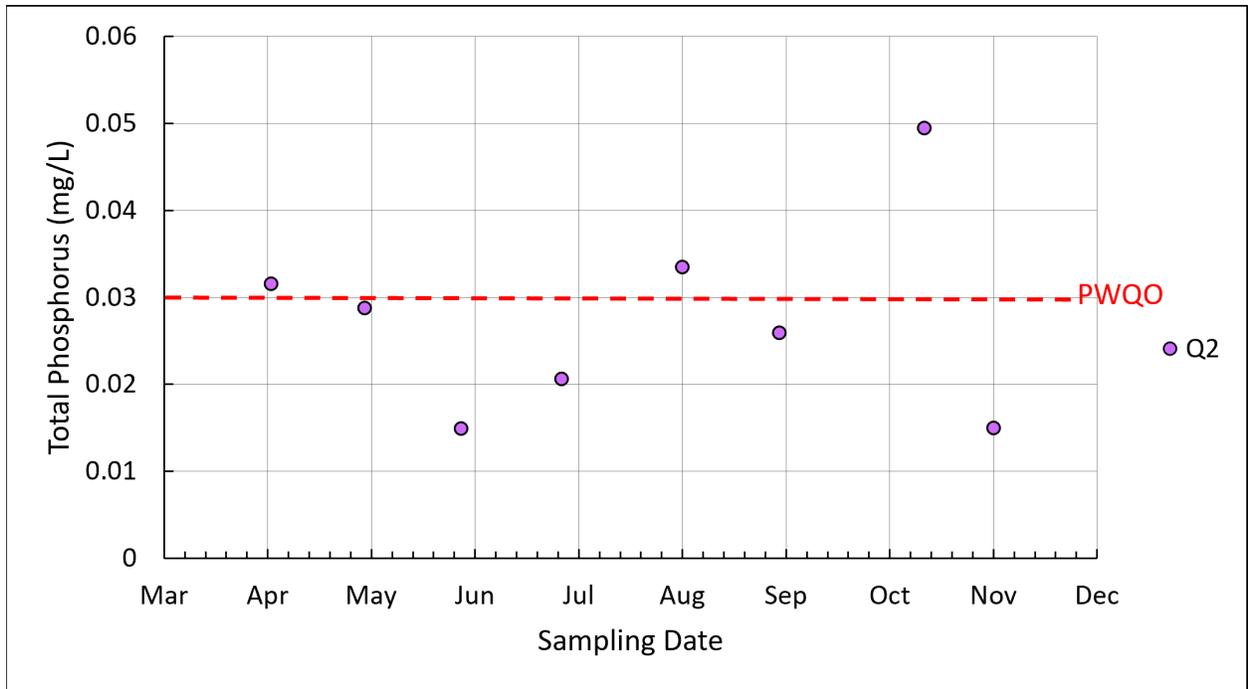


Figure 25. 2024 Penetangore subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site. The horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There were three exceedances of the PWQO.

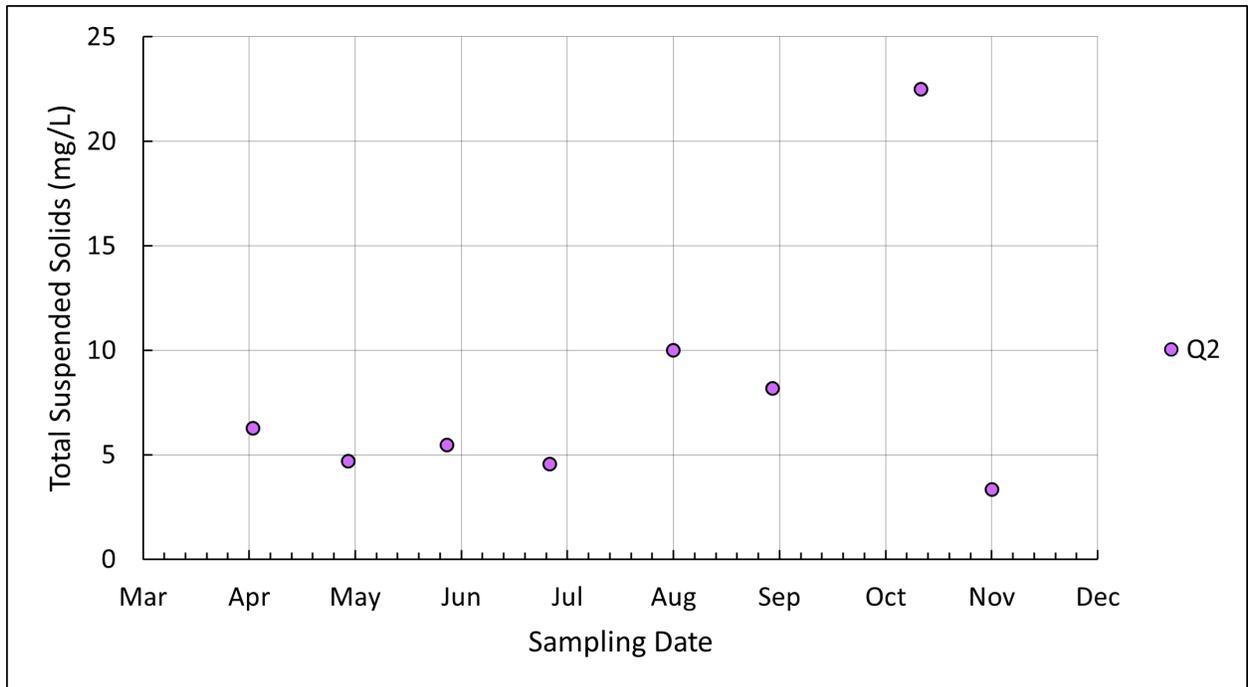


Figure 26. 2024 Penetangore subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q2 sampling site. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

Appendix G – Pine River Subwatershed

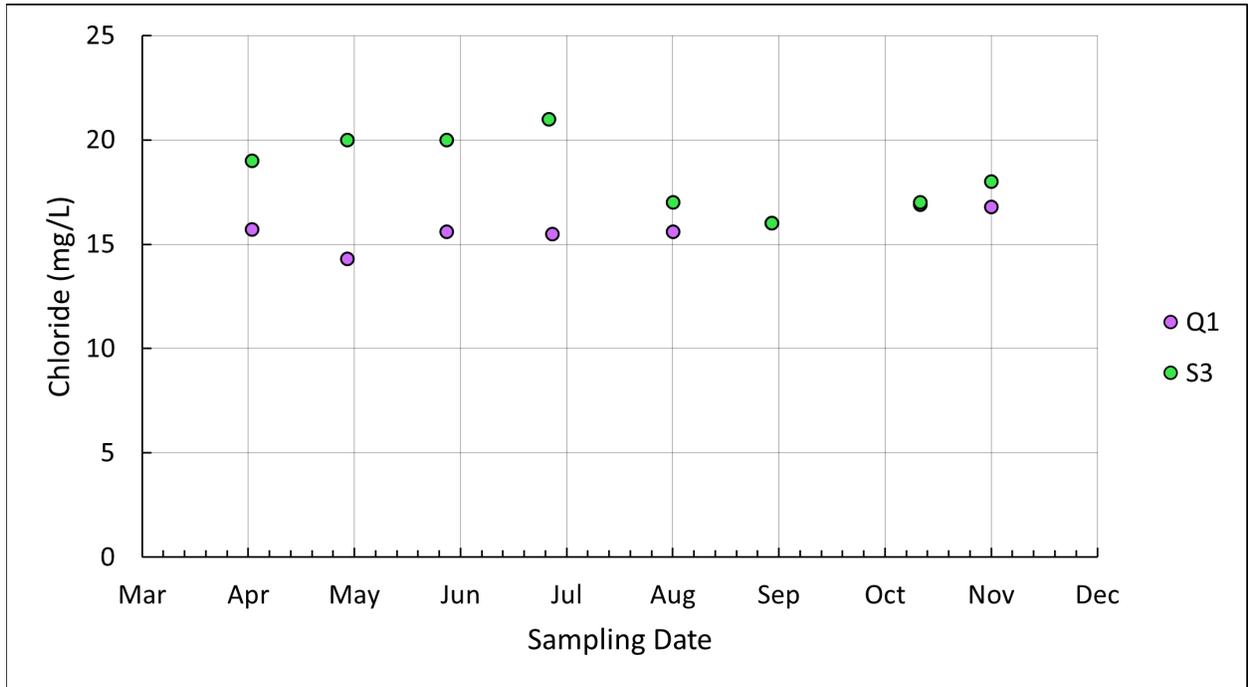


Figure 27. 2024 Pine River subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1, and S3 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

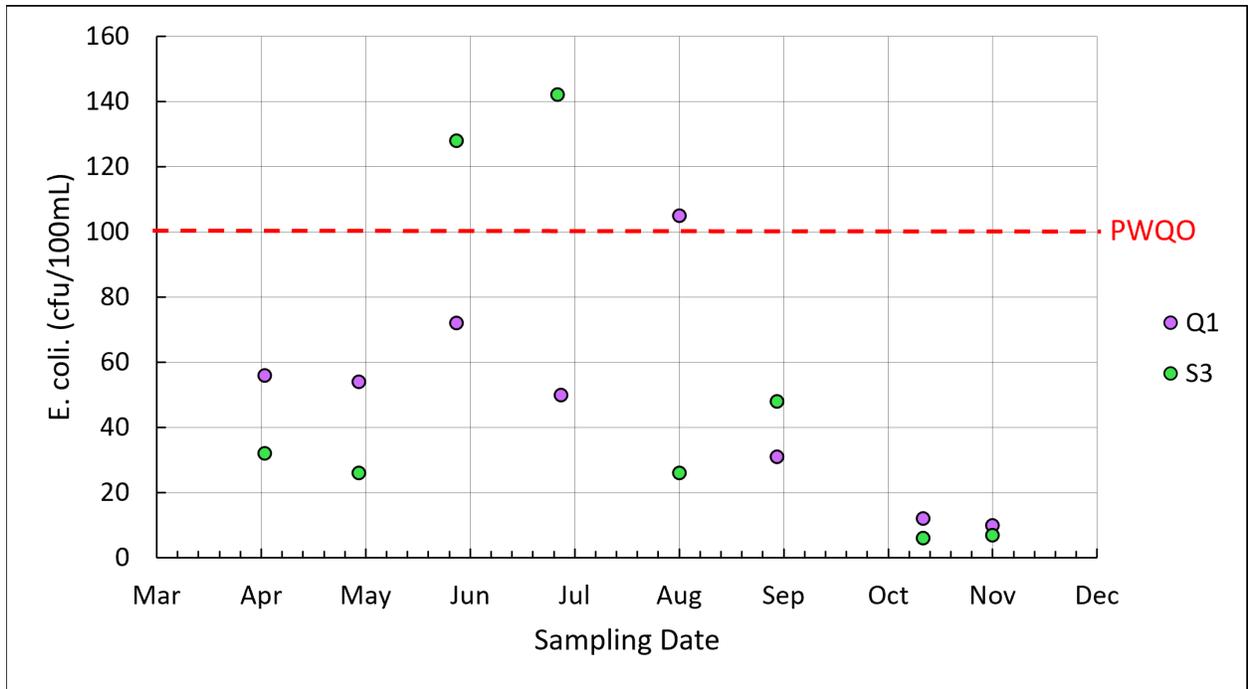


Figure 28. 2024 Pine River subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q1, and S3 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 100 cfu/100mL for swimming. There were three exceedances of the PWQO.

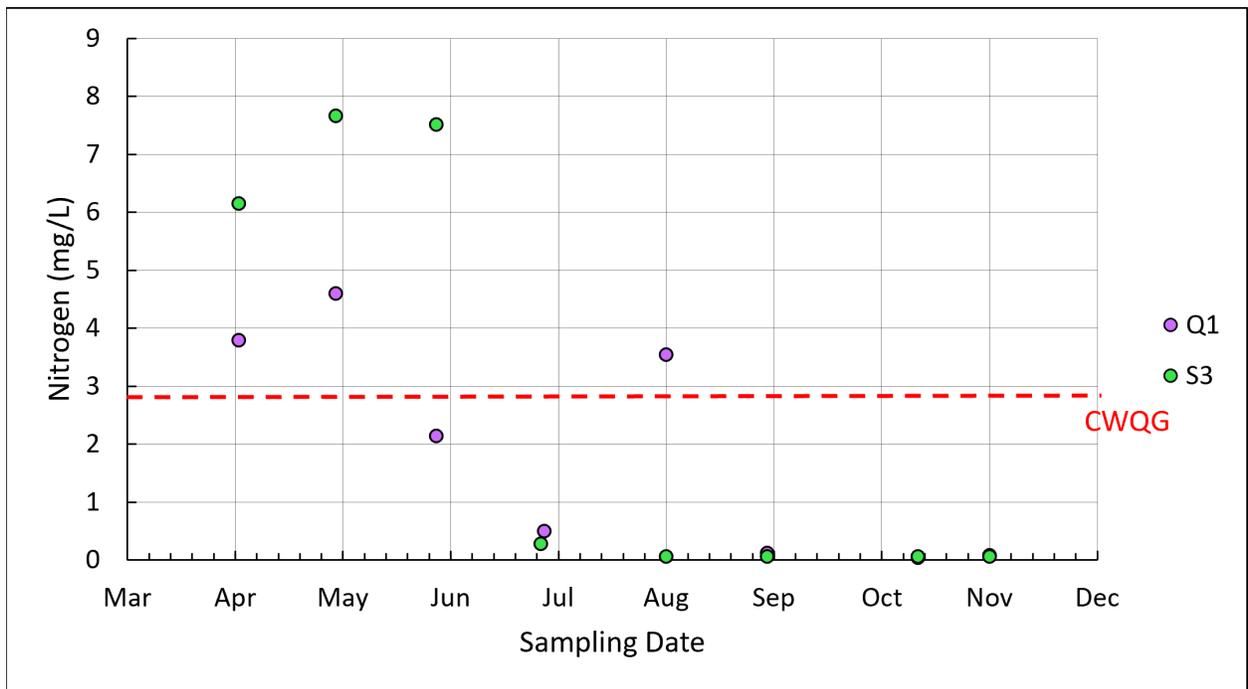


Figure 29. 2024 Pine River subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1, and S3 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There were six exceedances of the CWQG.

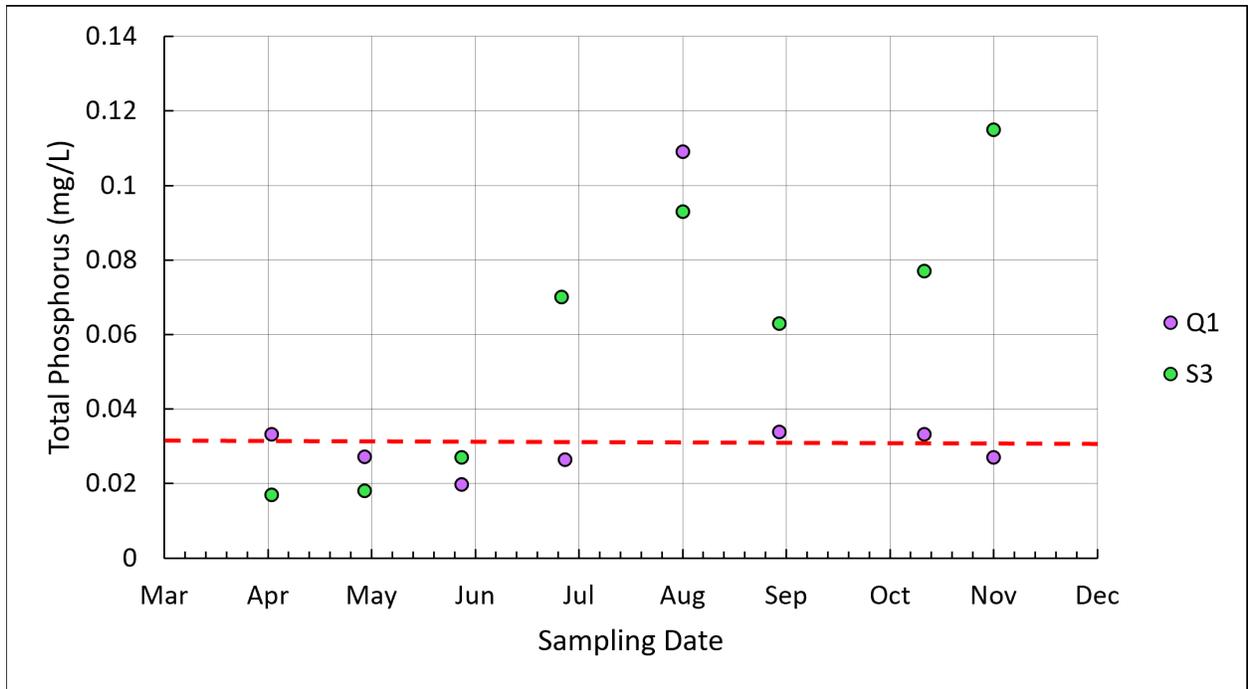


Figure 30. 2024 Pine River subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1, and S3 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the PWQO of 0.03 mg/L. There were nine exceedances of the PWQO.

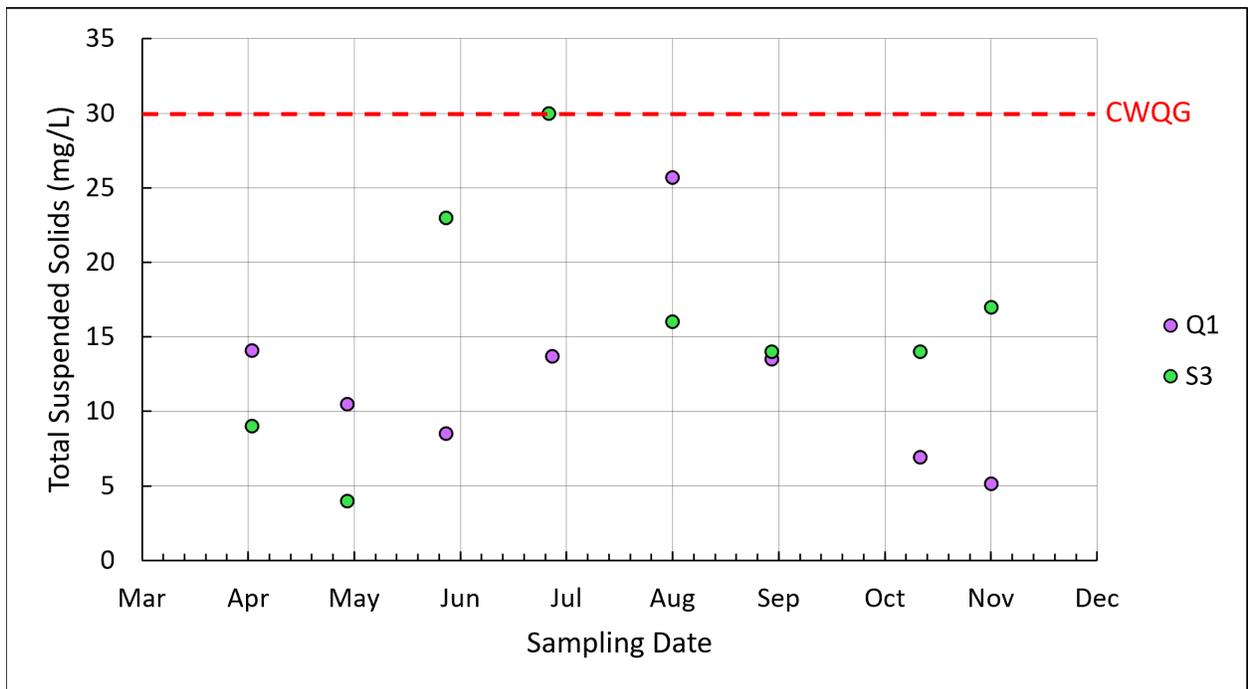


Figure 31. 2024 Pine River subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q1, and S3 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 30 mg/L. There was one exceedance of the CWQG.

Appendix H – Rocky Saugeen Subwatershed

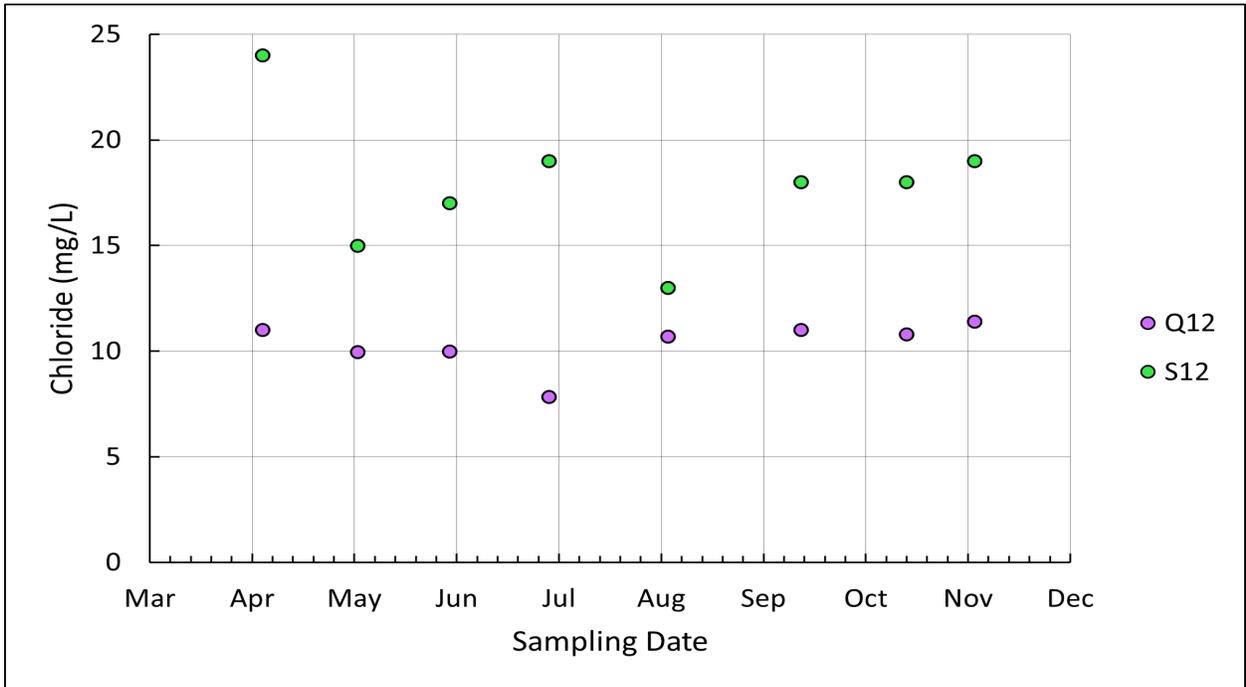


Figure 32. 2024 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q12, and S12 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

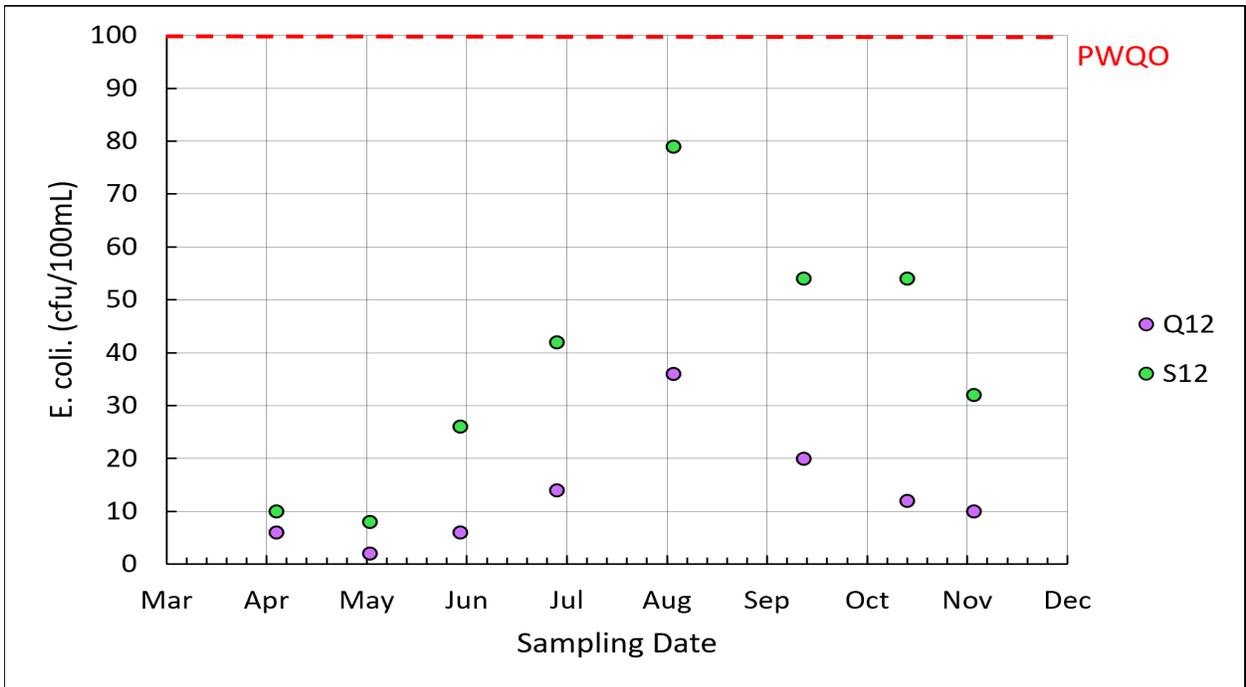


Figure 33. 2024 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q12, and S12 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the PWQO.

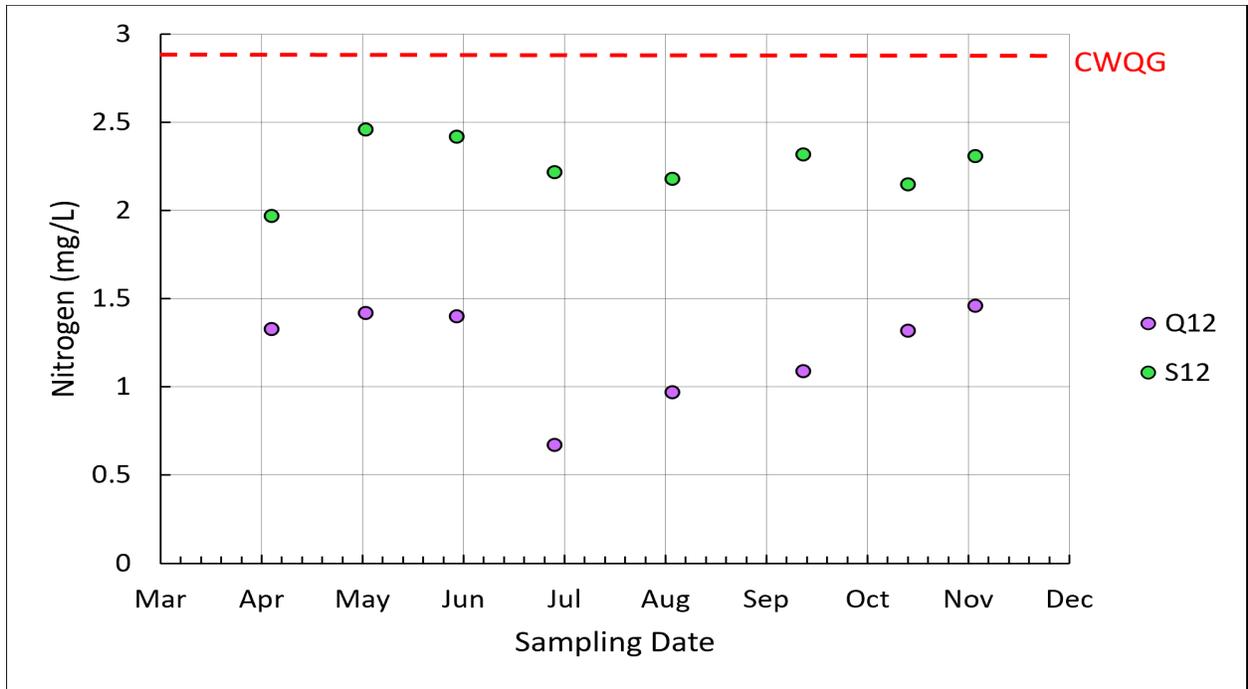


Figure 34. 2024 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed total nitrogen *E. coli* concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q12, and S12 sampling sites. The horizontal line indicates the CWQG of 2.93 mg/L. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

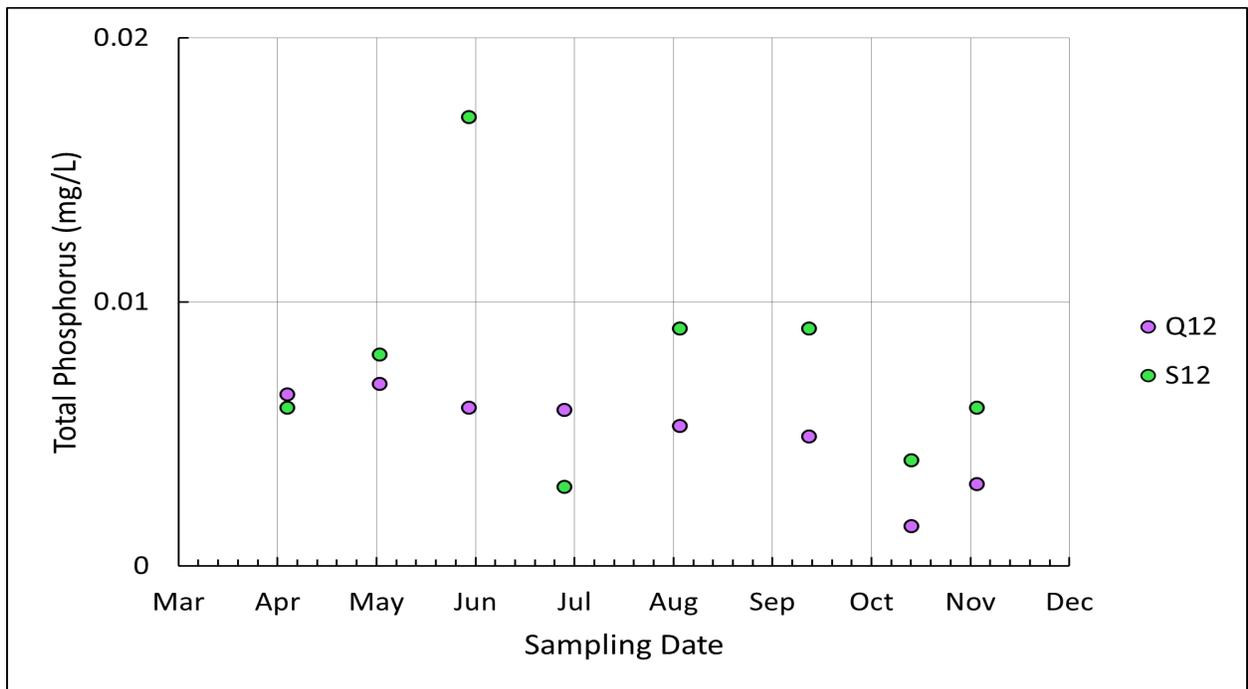


Figure 35. 2024 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q12, and S12 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the PWQO.

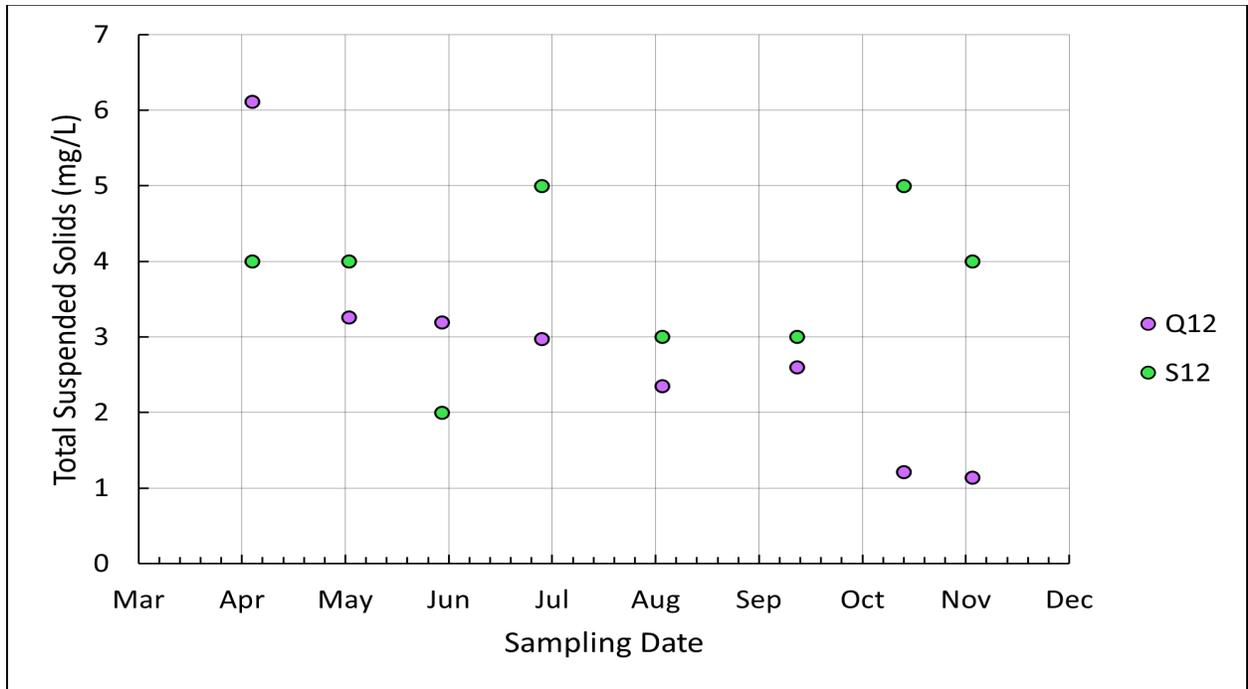


Figure 36. 2024 Rocky Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q12, and S12 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

Appendix I – South Saugeen Subwatershed

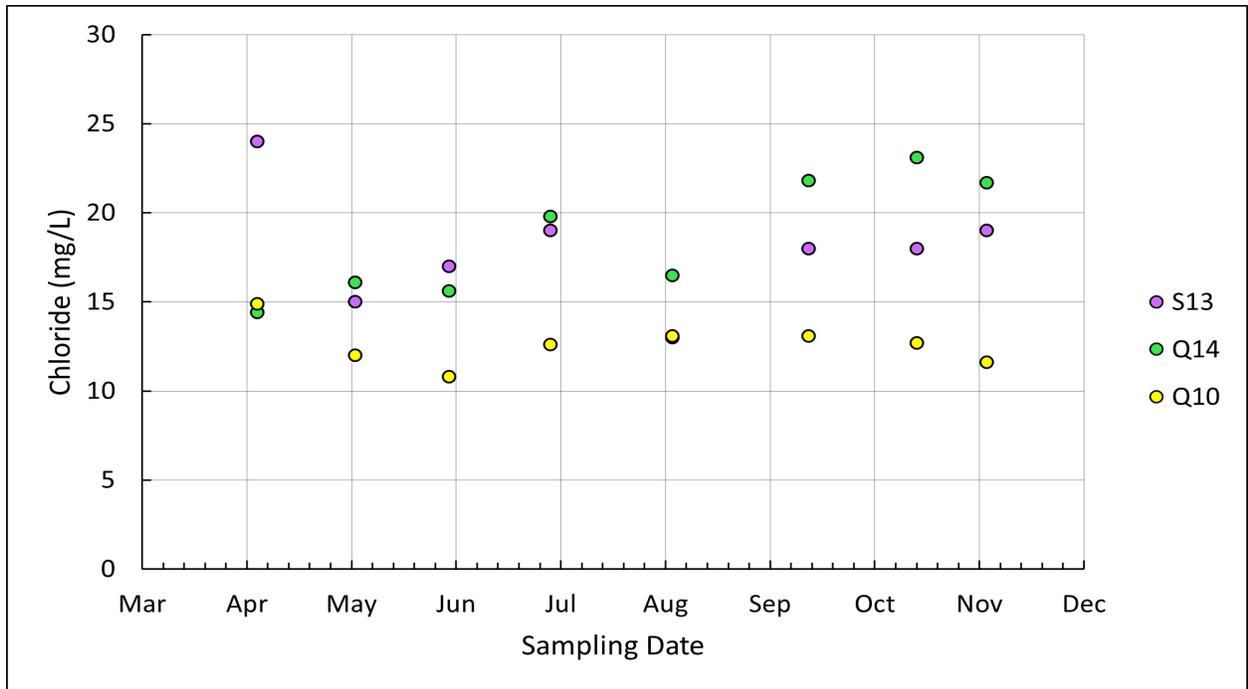


Figure 37. 2024 South Saugeen subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S13, Q14, and Q10 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

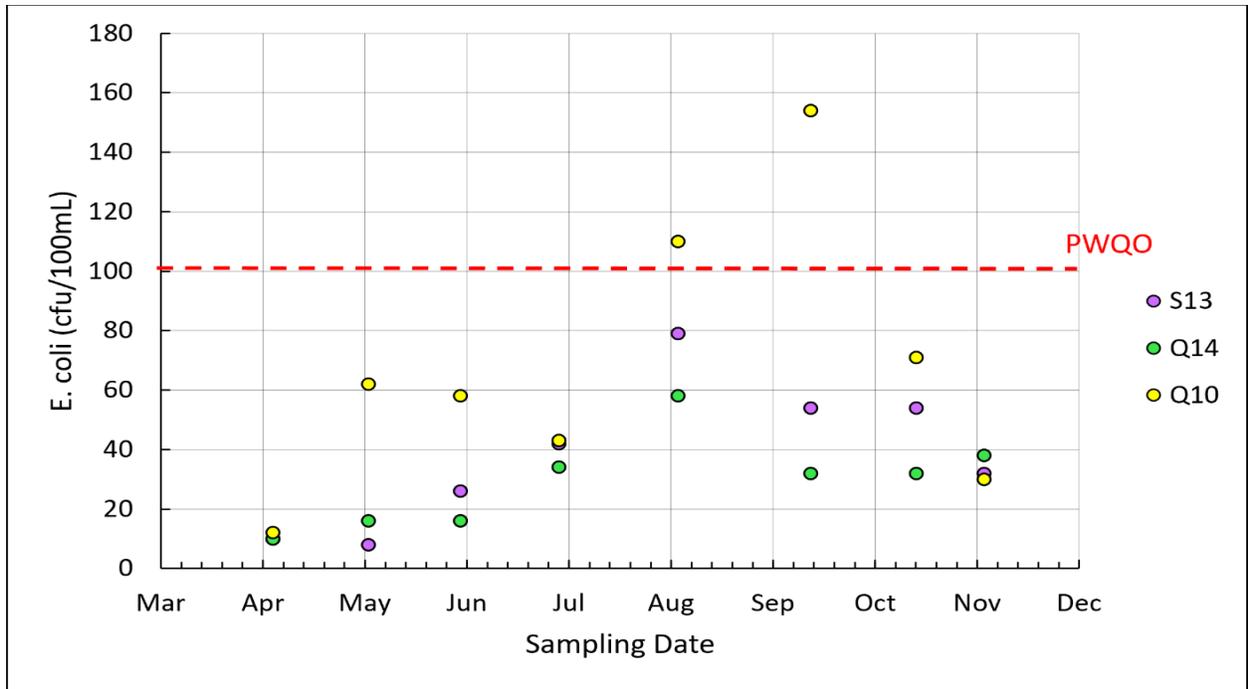


Figure 38. 2024 South Saugeen subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows S13, Q14, and Q10 sampling sites. There were two exceedances of the PWQO.

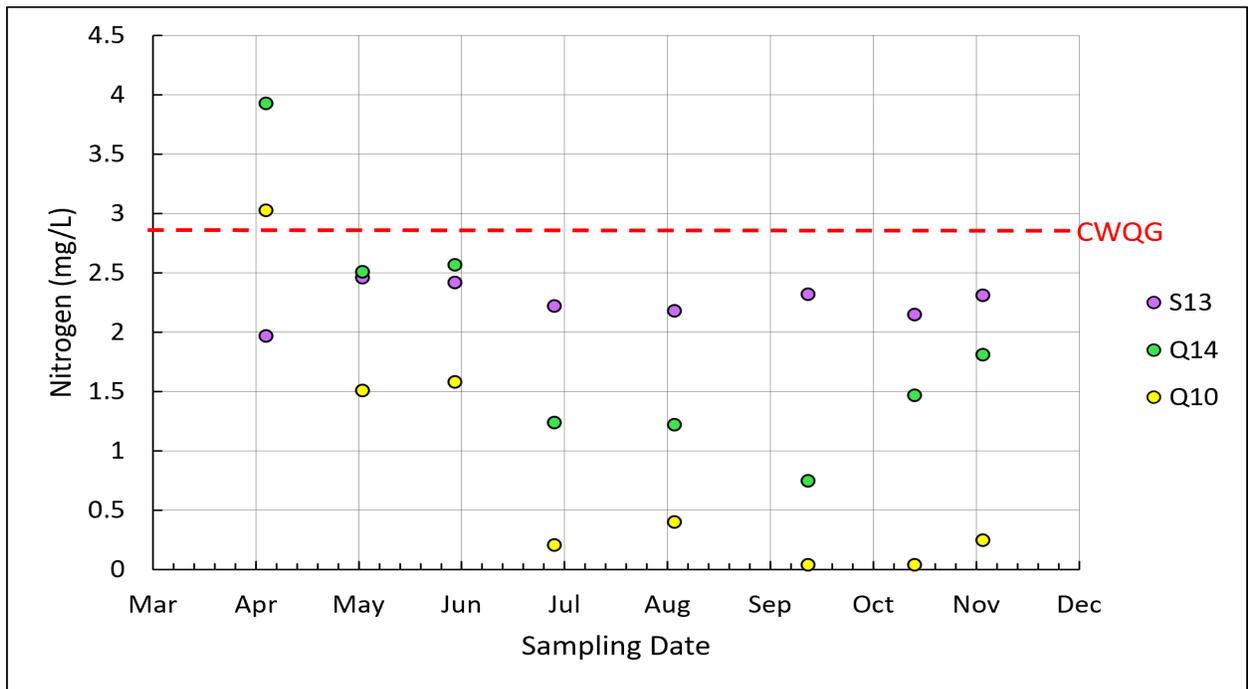


Figure 39. 2024 South Saugeen subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S13, Q14, and Q10 sampling sites. There were two exceedances of the CWQG.

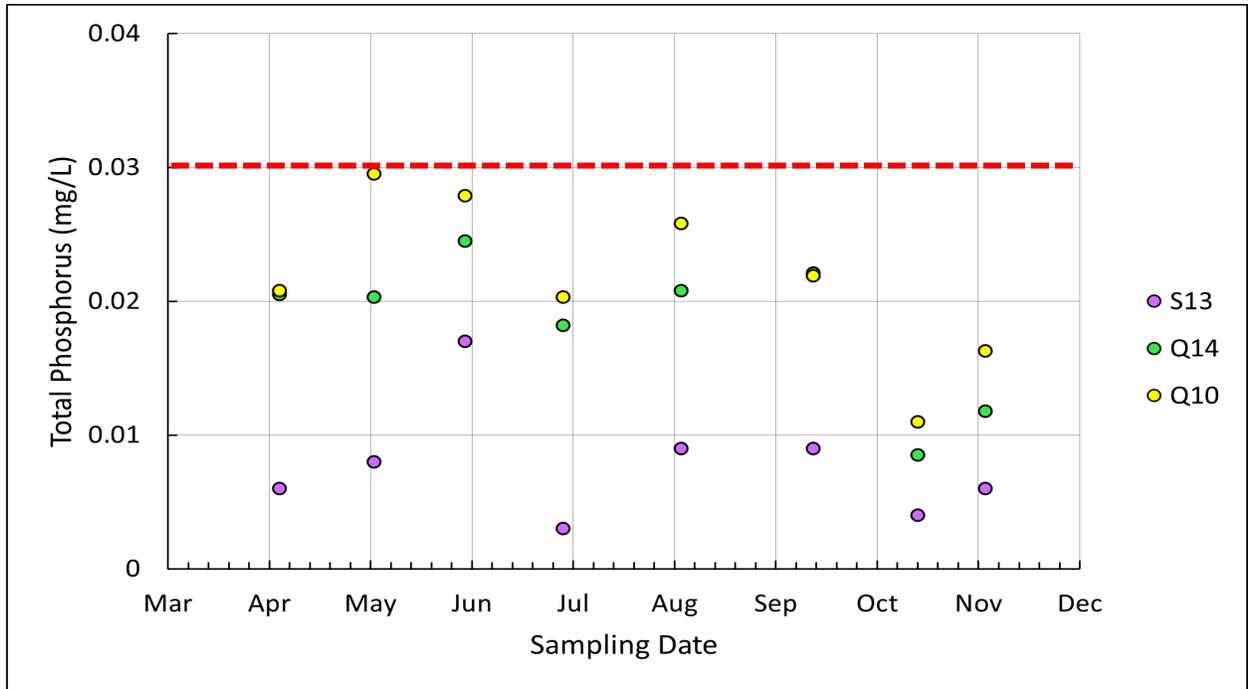


Figure 40. 2024 South Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S13, Q14, and Q10 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the PWQO.

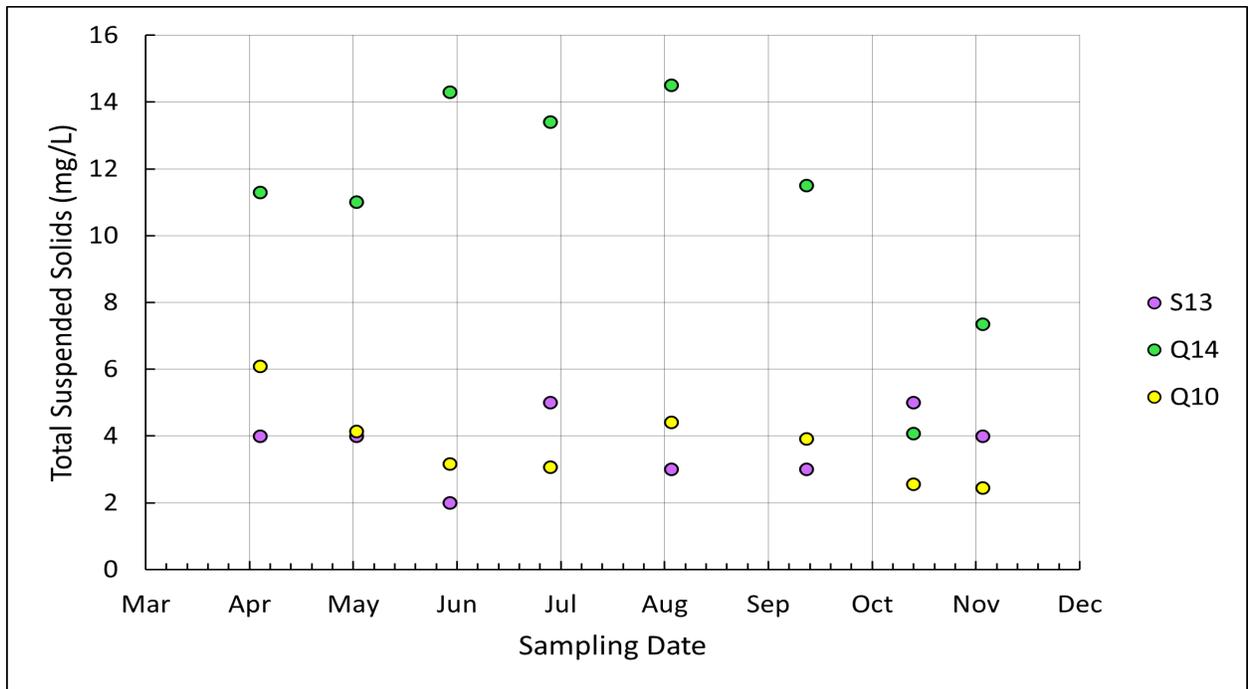


Figure 41. 2024 South Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S13, Q14, and Q10 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

Appendix J – Teeswater Subwatershed

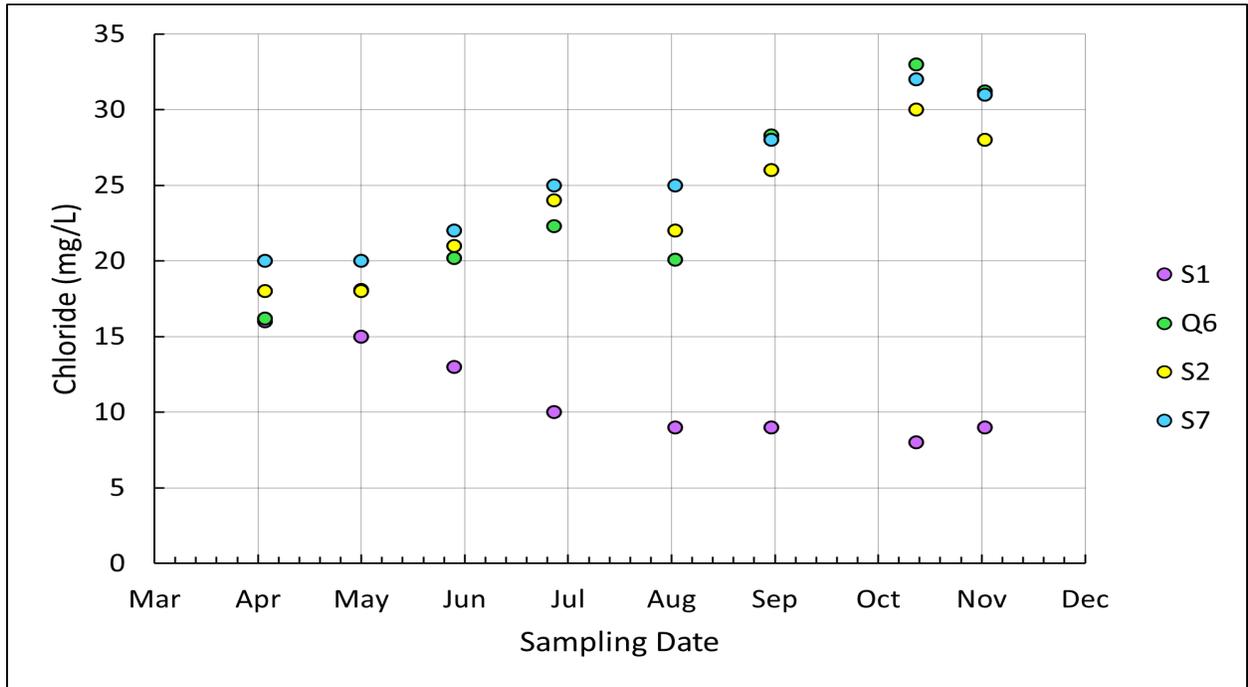


Figure 42. 2024 Teeswater subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S1, Q6, S2, and S7 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

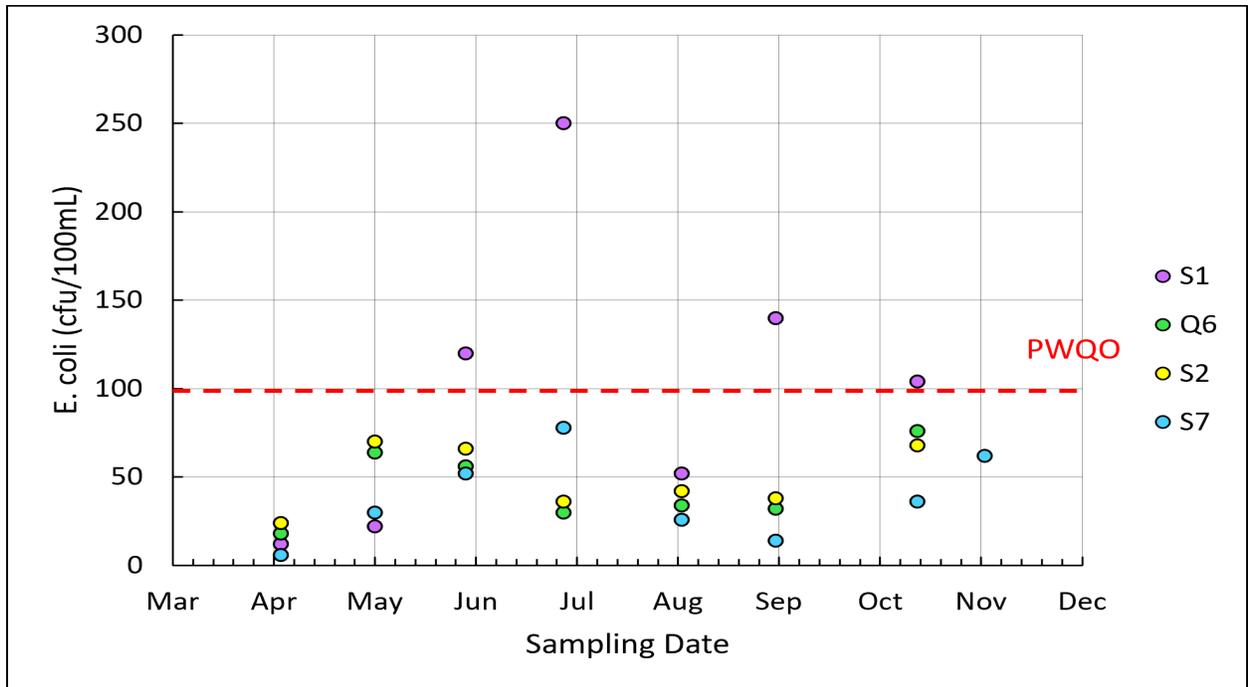


Figure 43. 2024 Teeswater subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows S1, Q6, S2, and S7 sampling sites. There were four exceedances of the PWQO.

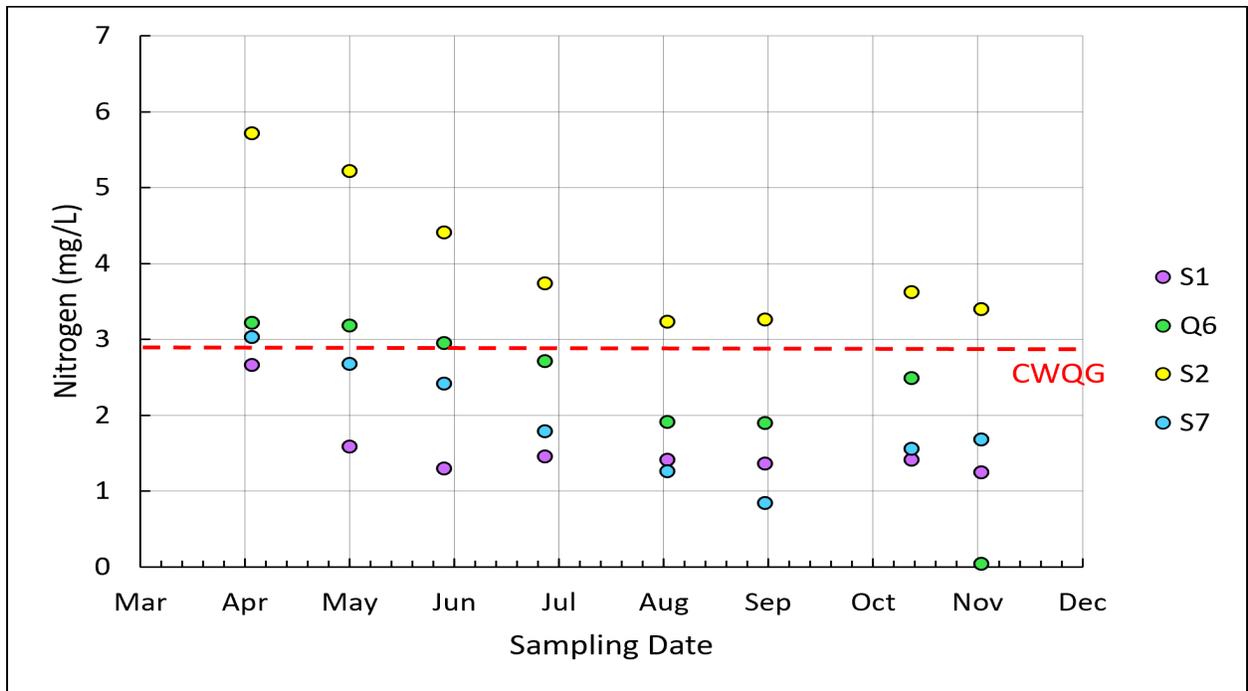


Figure 44. 2024 Teeswater subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S1, Q6, S2, and S7 sampling sites. There were twelve exceedances of the CWQG.

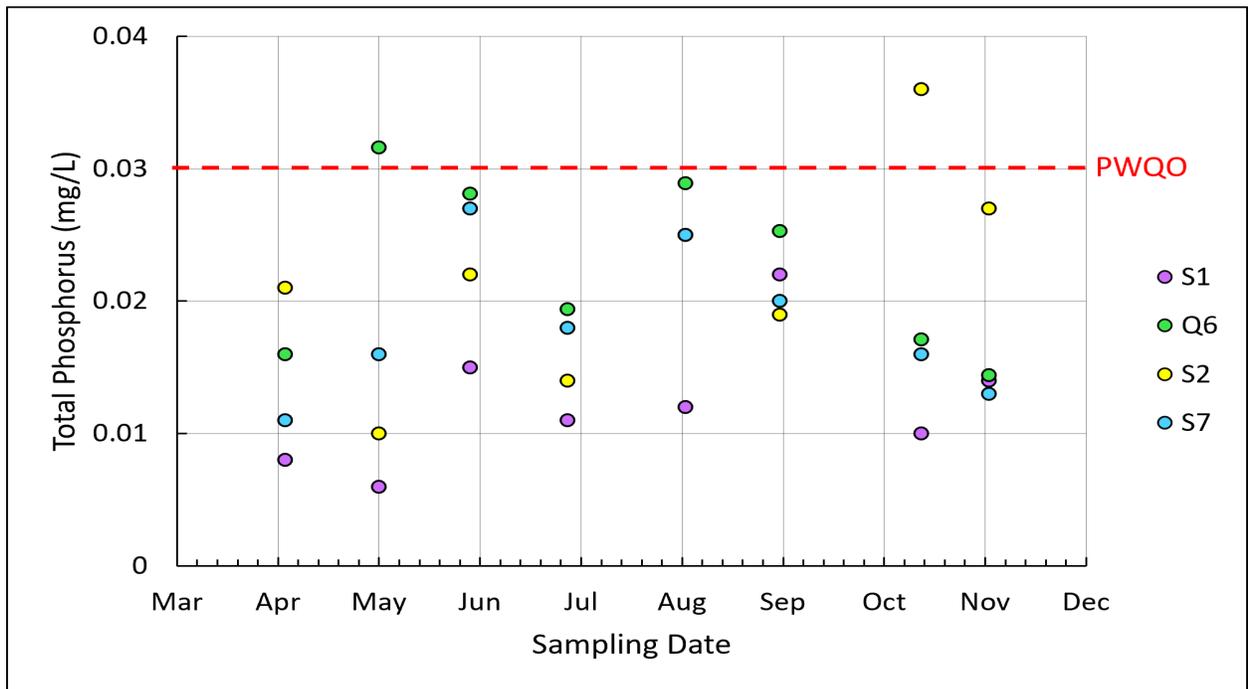


Figure 45. 2024 Teeswater subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S1, Q6, S2, and S7 sampling sites. There were two exceedances of the PWQO.

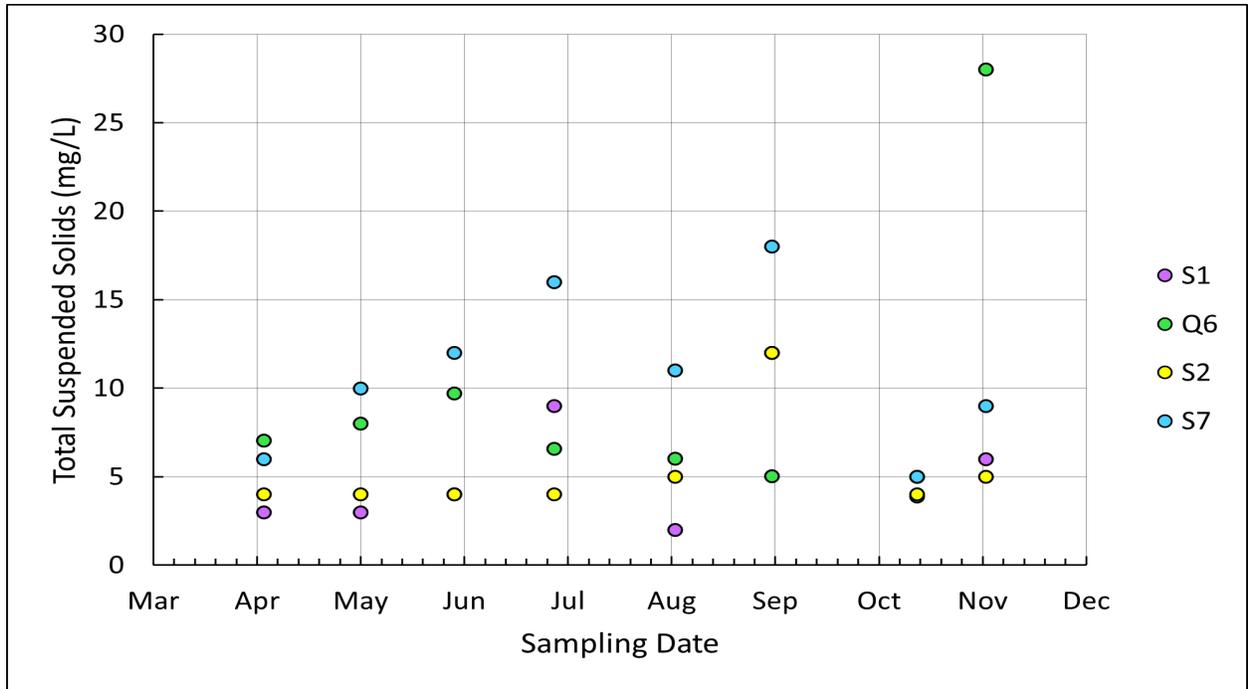


Figure 46. 2024 Teeswater subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows S1, Q6, S2, and S7 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

Appendix K – Upper Saugeen Subwatershed

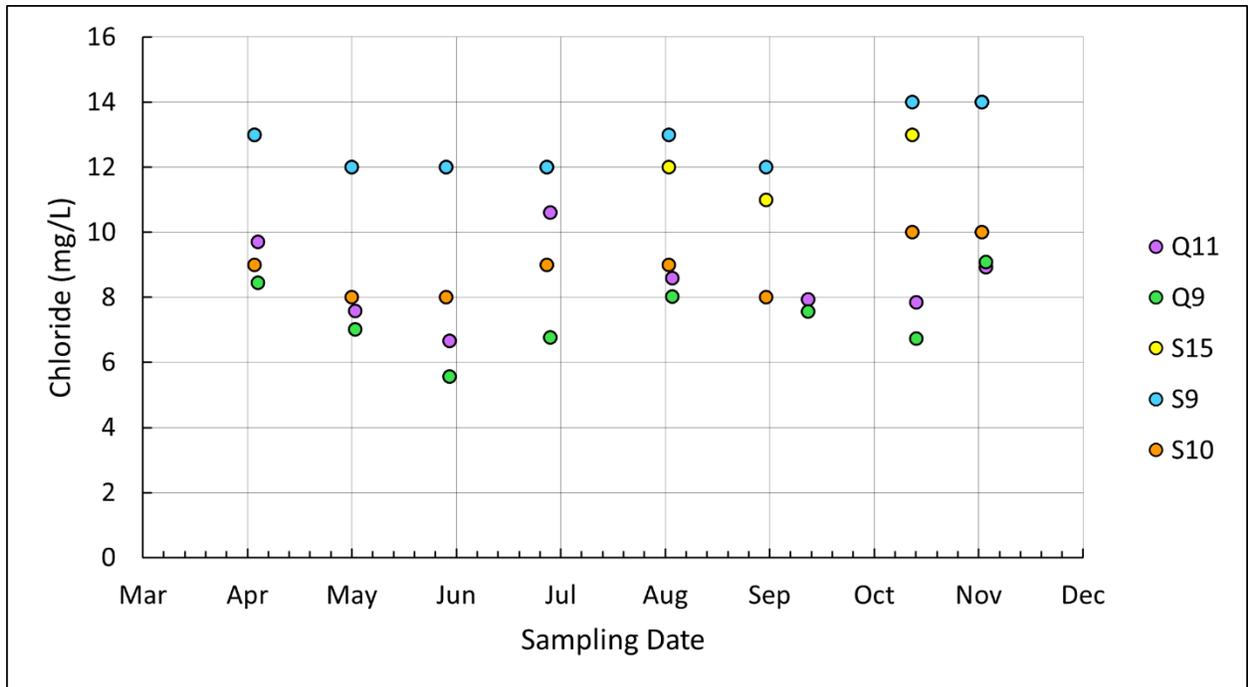


Figure 47. 2024 Upper Saugeen subwatershed total chloride concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9 and S10 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

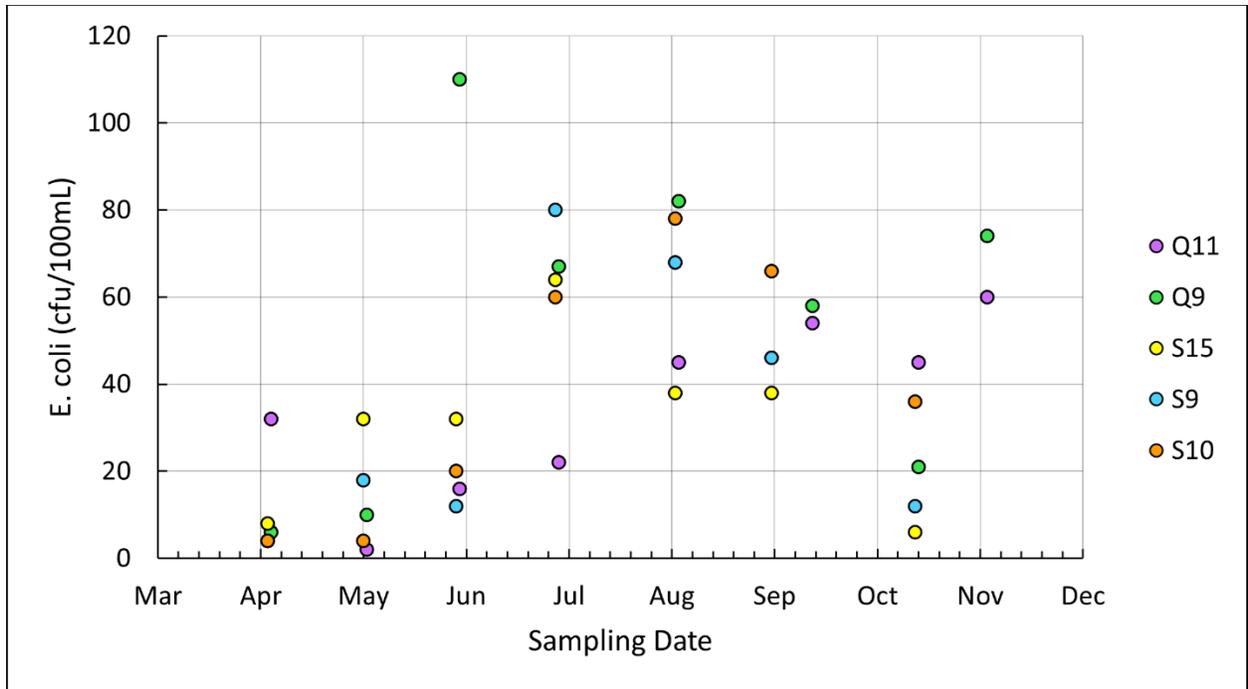


Figure 48. 2024 Upper Saugeen subwatershed total *E. coli* concentrations (cfu/100mL) in graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9, and S10 sampling sites. There was one exceedance of the PWQG.

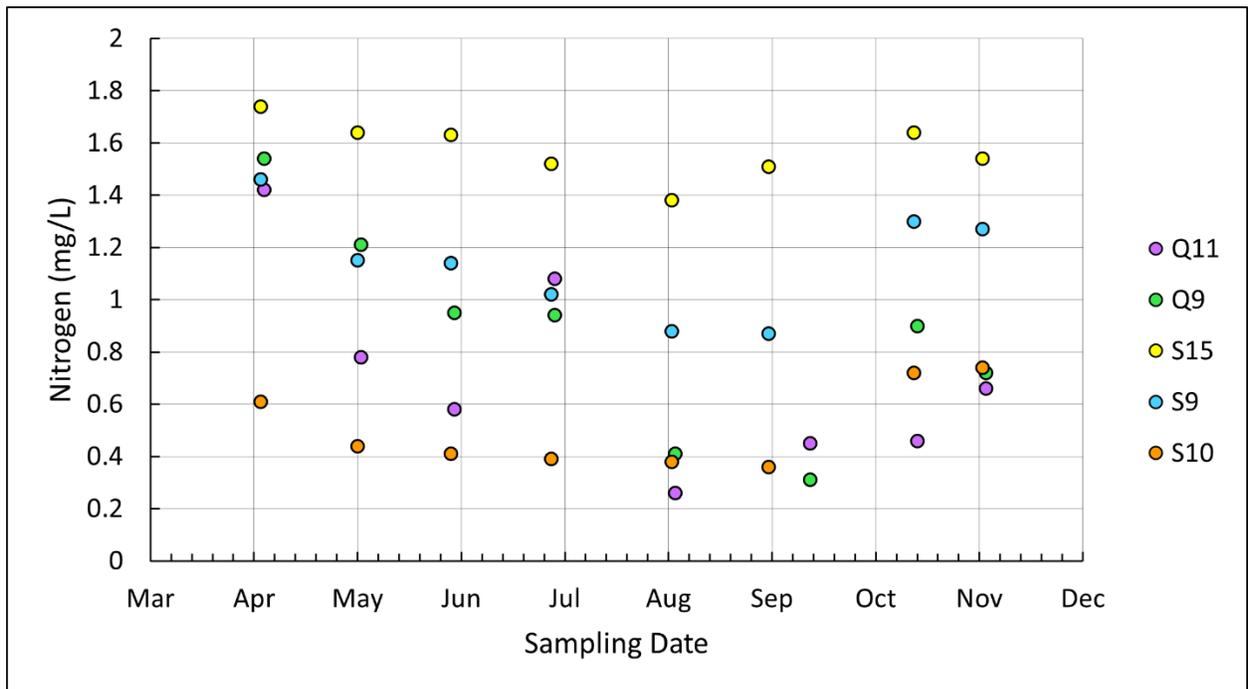


Figure 49. 2024 Upper Saugeen subwatershed total nitrogen concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9, and S10 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.

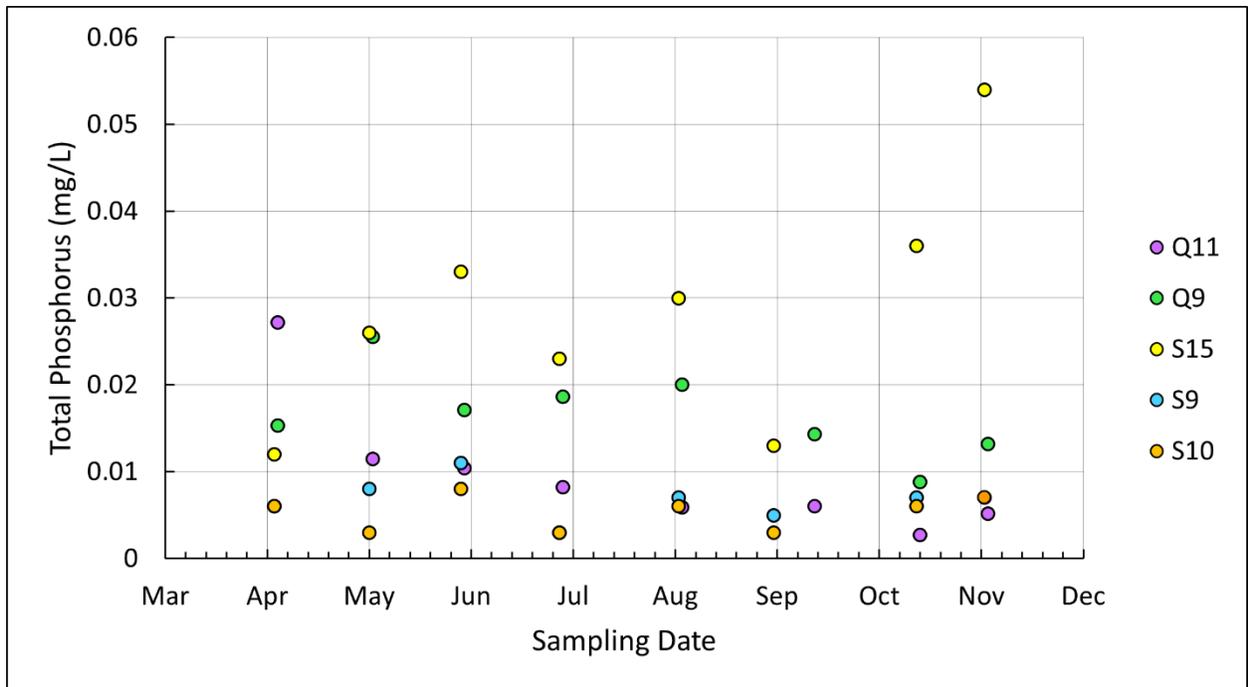


Figure 50. 2024 Upper Saugeen subwatershed total phosphorus concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9, and S10 sampling sites. There were four exceedances of the PQWO.

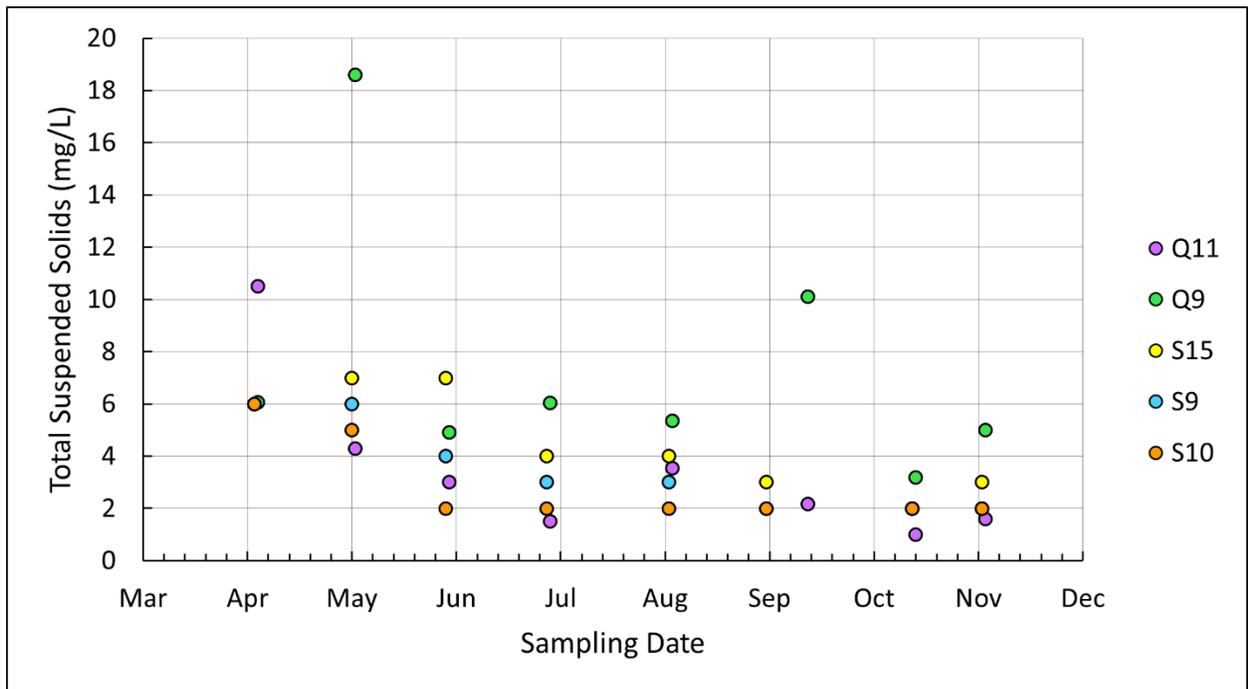


Figure 51. 2024 Upper Saugeen subwatershed total suspended solids concentrations (mg/L) in graph format. Graph shows Q11, Q9, S15, S9, and S10 sampling sites. There were no exceedances of the CWQG.