



## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** **Don Giberson, Director of Infrastructure & Development**  
**Shawn Young, Manager of Environmental Services**

**Date:** August 10 2020

**Report:** ESD.20.30

**Subject:** Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Correspondence of July 21, 2020 RE: Backflow  
Prevention Program

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### Recommendations:

**That** South Huron Council receives the report from Don Giberson, Director of infrastructure and Development and Shawn Young, Manager of Environmental Services Re: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Correspondence of July 21, 2020 RE: Backflow Prevention Program.

### Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of actions taken by Staff in response to this issue and the proposed actions moving forward to address issues raised by the MECP to prevent a re-occurrence.

### Background and Analysis:

Operations Staff discovered cross-connections at five (5) farm irrigation sites on Bronson Line on July 3, 2020. Over-all-Responsible Operator, Shawn Young, took immediate action to shut off services; ordered the property owner to immediately remove the cross-connections and provide a plan to permanently rectify the situation to remove any further threat to the drinking water system.

The MECP Sarnia-Windsor District Office was subsequently notified of the findings and actions. The Senior Environmental Officer's response was supportive of our actions and he indicated that he wanted to personally inspect the sites the following week.

The Senior Environmental Officer carried out a site inspection on July 15, 2020. He advised the property owner that the Ministry was concerned about their actions and was going to issue them an Order. The Senior Environmental Officer also advised the property owner, that the situation could have been far worse if there had been an actual adverse incident. The matter could have been turned over to the MECP Enforcement Branch for investigation and possible prosecution. However, considering the property owner's ongoing cooperation with the Municipality, the MECP decided that it would not be necessary to involve the Enforcement Branch.

As a follow up to our discussions with the Ministry, on July 21, 2020 the MECP issued a letter to South Huron Mayor and Council requesting a review of our backflow prevention by-law and backflow prevention program. The Director and Manager of Environmental Services met (virtually) with MECP on July 24, 2020. The MECP indicated that they had complete confidence in the Municipal Staff and wanted to support us in resolving this cross-connection issue and prevent a re-occurrence. Accordingly, the Director and Manager, in consultation with the MECP, have commenced a review of the Municipal Backflow Prevention By-law, Backflow Prevention Program and will continue to follow up with farm property owner on Bronson Line to permanently resolve the cross-connection issue.

### **Operational Considerations:**

No alternatives were considered.

### **South Huron's Strategic Plan:**

Section 6.2.2 of the Municipality of South Huron 2015- 2019 Strategic Plan identifies key objectives that are reflective of the collective perspectives of the strategic planning process.

The recommendations and actions outlined in this report are reflective of the following strategic objectives:

- ✓ Administrative Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Increased Communications and Municipal Leadership
- ✓ Transparent, Accountable and Collaborative Governance
- ✓ Dedicated Economic Development Effort

**Financial Impact:**

There are no financial implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

**Legal Impact:**

There are no legal implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

**Staffing Impact:**

There are no staffing implications for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

**Policies/Legislation:**

1. Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 32
2. Ontario Regulation 170/03 - Drinking Water Systems
3. Ontario Regulation 188/07 - Licensing of Municipal Drinking Water Systems

**Consultation:**

MECP Sarnia-Windsor District Office

**Related Documents:**

None

Respectfully submitted,

**Don Giberson, Director of Infrastructure & Development**

**AND**

**Shawn Young, Manager of Environmental Services**

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	2020-08-10 (MECP Correspondence - Backflow Prevention Program).docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Aug 6, 2020

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

**Sandy Becker - Aug 5, 2020 - 4:14 PM**

**Rebekah Msuya-Collison - Aug 6, 2020 - 8:31 AM**

**Dan Best - Aug 6, 2020 - 8:43 AM**