Attachment 4

Summary of ERO Postings

Consultation on regulatory proposals under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, *Clean Water Act*, and *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* to align with legislative changes and the regional consolidation of conservation authorities (026-1069)

An overview of the planned legislative changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), the *Clean Water Act, 2006* (CWA), and the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008* (LSPA) to align with the regional consolidation of conservation authorities.

Regulatory Proposal under the *Conservation Authorities Act* to support the implementation of the Regional Conservation Authority Framework (026-1067)

- Updated provisions related to the processes for restructuring of Conservation Authority (CA) boundaries should this be considered at a future date.
- Minister's regulation making power to describe the jurisdiction and participating municipalities of the regional CAs.
- A requirement that the ministry publish a list of participating municipalities and digital maps identifying the areas of jurisdiction for each of the regional CAs. The intention is to have one authoritative source of the regional CA jurisdictions and list of participating municipalities.
- A power for Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) to direct a regional CA to employ their first chief administrative officer and define the terms of the employment contract.
- Refinements to the direction making powers of OPCA to provide clarity around the scope of their authority, including matters on which they could not issue binding direction such as directing a CA to acquire land or other property or appoint or terminate employees.
- The ability to waive, by regulation, the requirement that all participating municipalities have a seat on an RCA board, and to allow more than one participating municipality to collaborate in appointing a shared member.

Proposed regulatory changes under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*, to align with new regional structure of conservation authorities (026-1070)

- Maintain 38 source protection areas (SPAs) and the related 38 source protection plans.
- Maintain the current 19 source protection committees (SPC) until watershed councils are established under the CAA, at which point watershed councils will fulfill the role of SPCs.
- Transferring some roles from SPCs to source protection authorities once watershed councils are established.
- Add a Minister's regulation-making authority to identify which SPC each regional CA is required to support.
- Provide that each new regional CA will be the responsible source protection authority for the SPAs that its predecessor CAs were responsible for.

As source protection authorities, CAs deliver mandatory programs and services that implement the drinking water source protection program under the CWA. To support the regional consolidation of CAs, the government plans to introduce legislative amendments to the CWA and propose related regulatory changes to ensure consistency and coordination between the CWA and CAA. These amendments will support the efficient delivery of the drinking water source protection program through the transition to the new regional CA framework, including maintaining local watershed priorities in decision-making after consolidation.

Proposed regulatory amendments under the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* to align with regional conservation authorities (026-1071)

- The planned amendments to the LSPA to align with the regional CA framework and ensure the continued effective implementation of the LSPA and Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP).

Discussion questions to seek early input for the development of a future regulation governing watershed councils under the Conservation Authorities Act (026-1075)

Seeking input to inform development of a regulation under the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the watershed councils that regional conservation authorities must establish to strengthen watershed management and support drinking water source protection.

Local expertise and relationships are vital to CAs delivering their work – which is why our plan includes the creation of local watershed councils by regional CAs for the purposes of assisting the authority in identifying local priorities with respect to the authority's programs and services and to ensure that local interests are considered as part of the authority's decision-making process.

The intent is that at a future date, after consolidation, the requirement for regional CAs to establish one or more watershed councils, per s.18.1 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, would come into force concurrently with a watershed council regulation (to be developed and finalized).