



Centre Wellington Tier Three Study: Draft Wellington County Policies

Community Liaison Group Meeting #6 (Final Meeting)
Webinar

September 2, 2020, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

DIGITAL CLG MEETING FORMAT

Platforms & Consent Disclaimer



- CLG members are joining us tonight on a Zoom Webinar via computer and telephone



- Public observers are watching tonight via a YouTube Live stream embedded in the Source Water Protection website

CLG Members:

Please be reminded that this livestream is part of the public record. A recording of the meeting will remain on the Source Water Protection website for review and reporting purposes for a limited time.

By speaking into your unmuted microphone and/or turning on your webcam during the meeting to ask a question or state a comment, you are consenting to the recording of your voice and/or image through the livestream.

MEETING PURPOSE

- Thank you! Tonight is the 6th and final Community Liaison Group meeting
- Provide a refresh of the study process, scope and key participants
- Provide an overview of the draft policy text
- Receive feedback and discuss the draft policy text
- Address any questions about the process overall

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Policy Development Phase

Tier 3 Water Budget Project Team

- leads the Tier 3 Water Budget
- responsible for all decisions related to this project

Municipal Chapter Leads

- responsible for policy development and drafting policy text with input from the Project Team

Lake Erie Source Protection Committee

- responsible for update of the Grand River Source Protection Plan
- leads engagement and public consultation

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Policy Development Phase

Community Liaison Group (CLG)

- provides a forum for the community to be informed
- provide input on the Tier 3 Study and its progress
- abide by Terms of Reference and the code of conduct

Third Party Facilitator

- chairs the CLG meetings
- provides facilitation and secretariat services

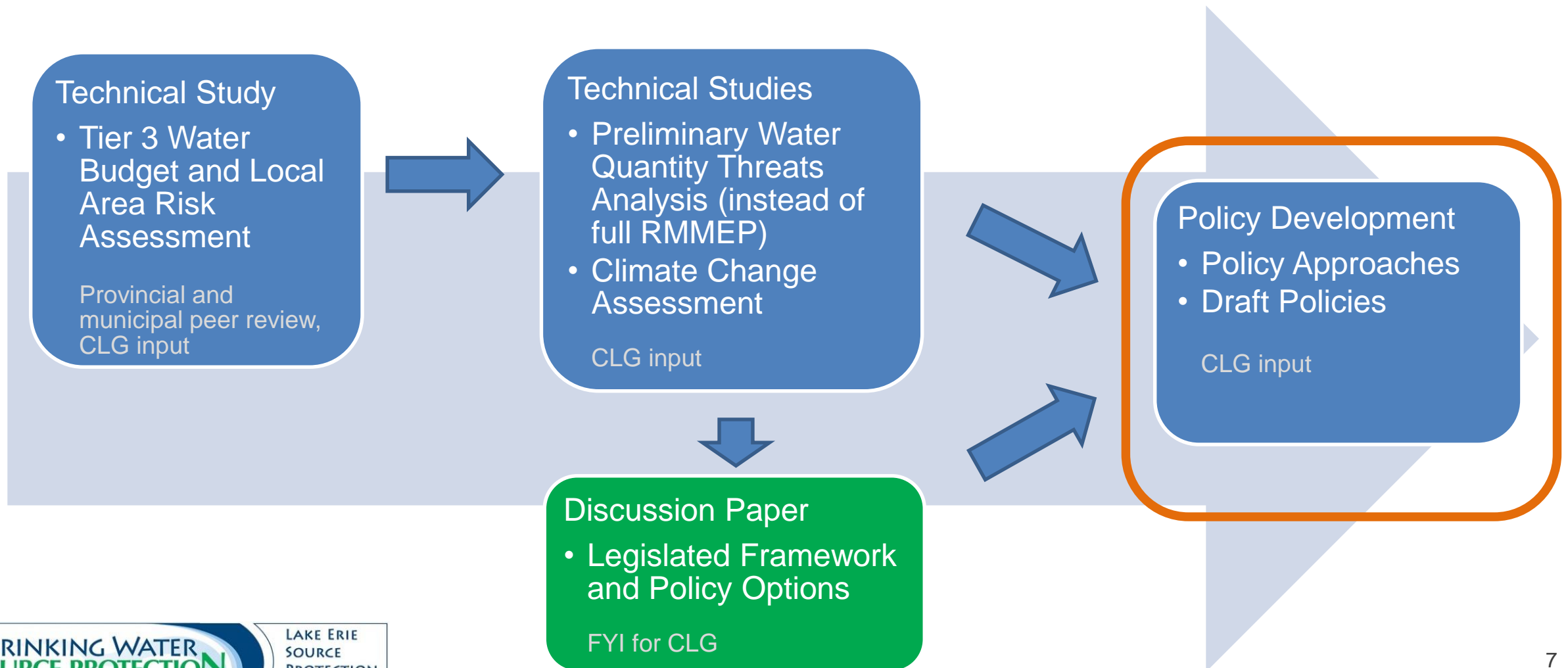
General Public

- informed about the Tier 3 Study
- provide input on the Tier 3 Study (via public representatives)
- observers at CLG meetings

AGENDA

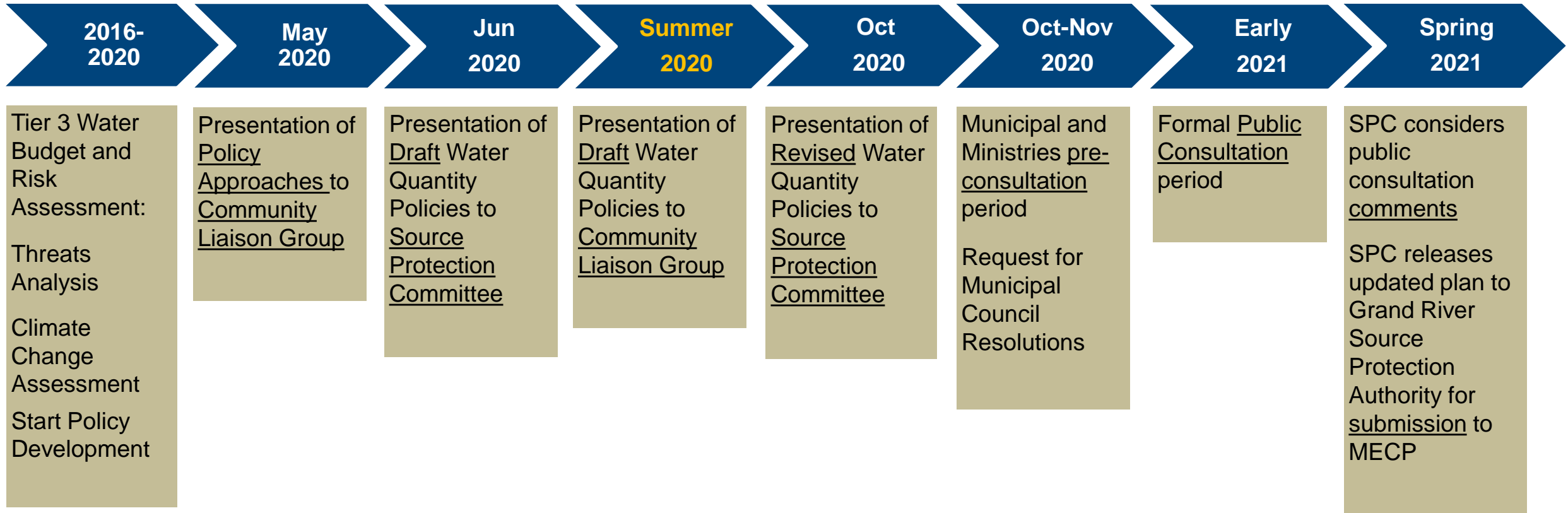
6:15 pm	Log In and Set Up
6:30 pm	Welcome and Introductions
6:45 pm	Overview of Draft Policies and Process
7:30 pm	Discussion
8:15 pm	Next Steps and Closing Remark
8:30 pm	Adjourn

TIER 3 STUDY COMPONENTS



TIMELINE

Policy Development and S.34 Grand River SPP Update



PROCESS AND EXPECTATIONS

Policy Development and S.34 Grand River SPP Update

- September 2, 2020 is final Community Liaison Group meeting
- Process continues as part of S.34 Grand River Source Protection Plan update led by Lake Erie Source Protection Committee
- S.34 Source Protection Plan update is a Source Protection Committee initiated plan update process when new information (e.g., new wells, new technical studies, or policies) becomes available.

PROCESS AND EXPECTATIONS

Policy Development and S.34 Grand River SPP Update

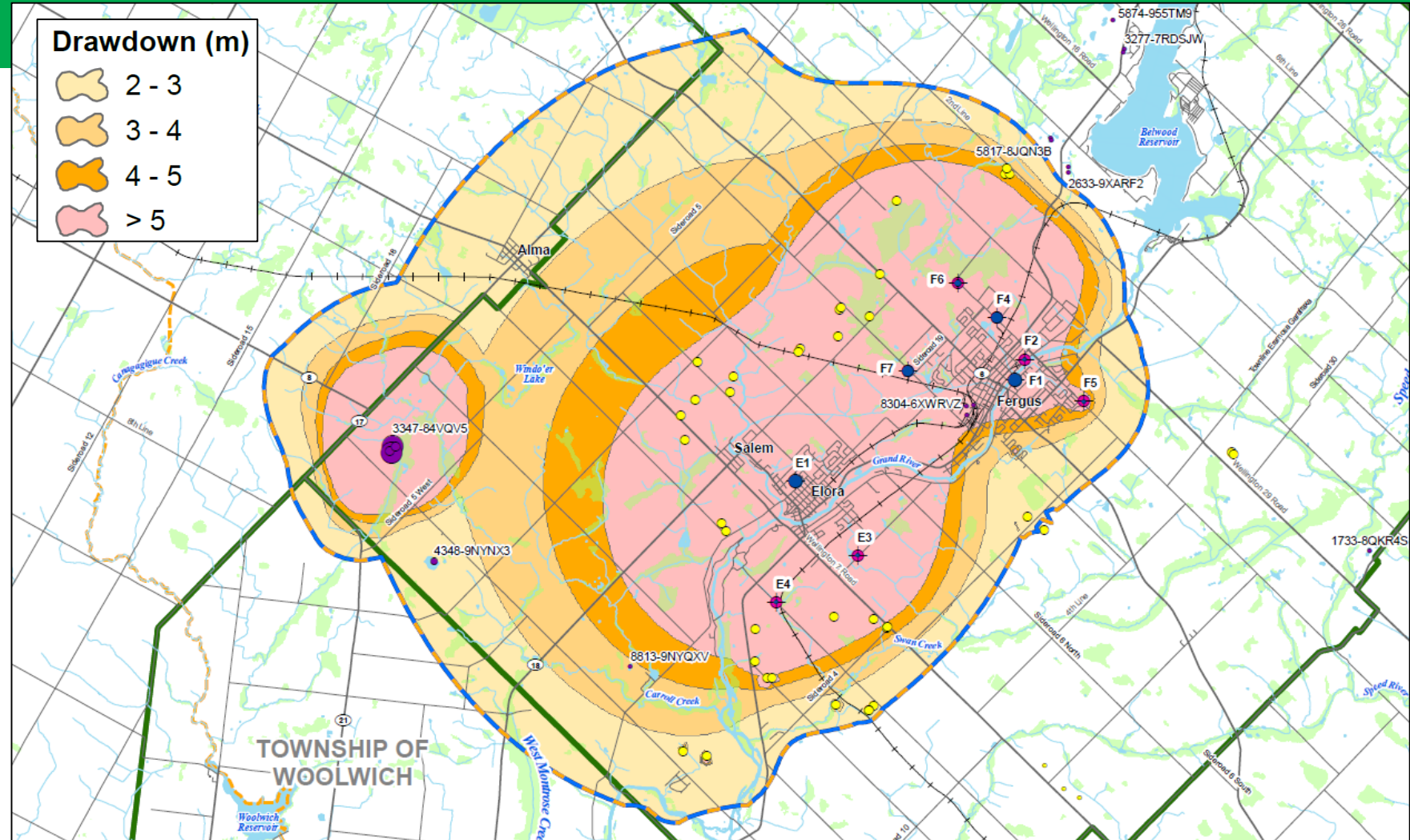
- CLG Comments and meeting summary notes will be provided to Source Protection Committee meeting on October 1, together with revised policies
 - Need CLG comments within 2 weeks (**by September 16**), if possible. Any comments received after September 23 will not be included for October 1 SPC meeting.
- CLG Comments will be addressed as part of pre-consultation in Fall 2020, any policy revisions will be brought to SPC in January 2021, prior to public meeting
- CLG members have further opportunity for input as part of public consultation in January to March 2021



BACKGROUND

RISK ASSESSMENT RESULTS

- WHPA-Q assigned significant risk level. All groundwater takings and potential reductions to groundwater recharge within this area are classified as significant water quantity threats



THREATS ANALYSIS RESULTS

- 1) Largest influence on future groundwater levels is from increased **municipal pumping** to meet future population growth (i.e., 1.5 to 24.2 m of aquifer drawdown)
- 2) Cumulative effect of existing **unserviced domestic water well pumping** on water supply aquifer is minimal (i.e., 0.1 to 0.4 m of aquifer drawdown)
- 3) Effect of future **land development** on future groundwater levels in the water supply aquifer is minimal (i.e., 0.1 to 0.2 m of aquifer drawdown)
- 4) While effect of existing **permitted, non-municipal takings** on water supply aquifer was minimal (i.e., < 0.05 to 0.1 m of aquifer drawdown), increased or new large groundwater takings may affect groundwater levels at municipal wells depending on location and pumping rate
- 5) Effect of existing **livestock watering** on water supply aquifer is minimal (i.e., < 0.05 m of aquifer drawdown)

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Implications for Policy Development

- Focus on management and optimization of municipal water takings using insights from Water Supply Master Plan
 - Decrease future demand – water conservation and demand management
 - Increase future supply – optimize/redevelop existing wells and install new wells
- Assess potential interference with municipal wells to mitigate impacts from new or expanded non-municipal takings
- Maintain recharge to support existing water budget, water quality and ecological functions
- Consider ongoing model maintenance and funding
- Consider maintaining groundwater and surface water monitoring program
- No climate change risk predicted to quantity of municipal groundwater supply to 2050 time horizon



Graphic from: <https://barnard.edu/reslife/policies>



WATER QUANTITY POLICIES OVERVIEW – WELLINGTON COUNTY

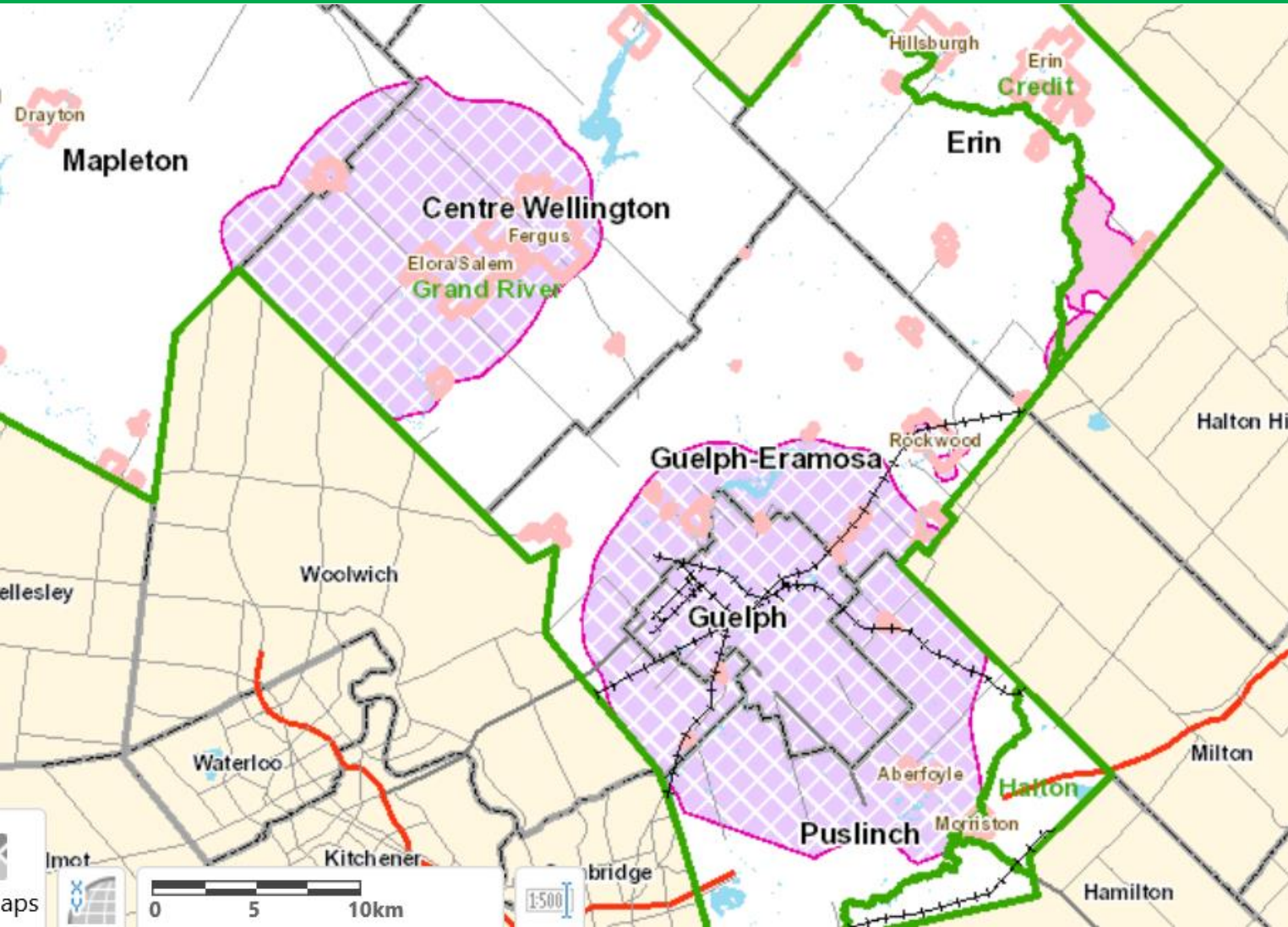
POLICY APPROACHES

Next Steps to address Water Quantity

- Policies address prescribed activities under Clean Water Act:
 - #19 – Consumptive Water Takings (not returned to same aquifer)
 - #20 – Activities that reduce groundwater recharge
- Policies apply within WHPA-Q:
 - Existing and future water takings
 - Future activities that reduce groundwater recharge (e.g., roads, parking lots, development)
- Source Protection Committee delegated policy development to Project Team including Municipal Chapter Leads
- Project Team will recommend draft policies to Source Protection Committee
- Draft Wellington County Chapter Policies presented on June 25, 2020

WELLINGTON COUNTY WHPA-Q

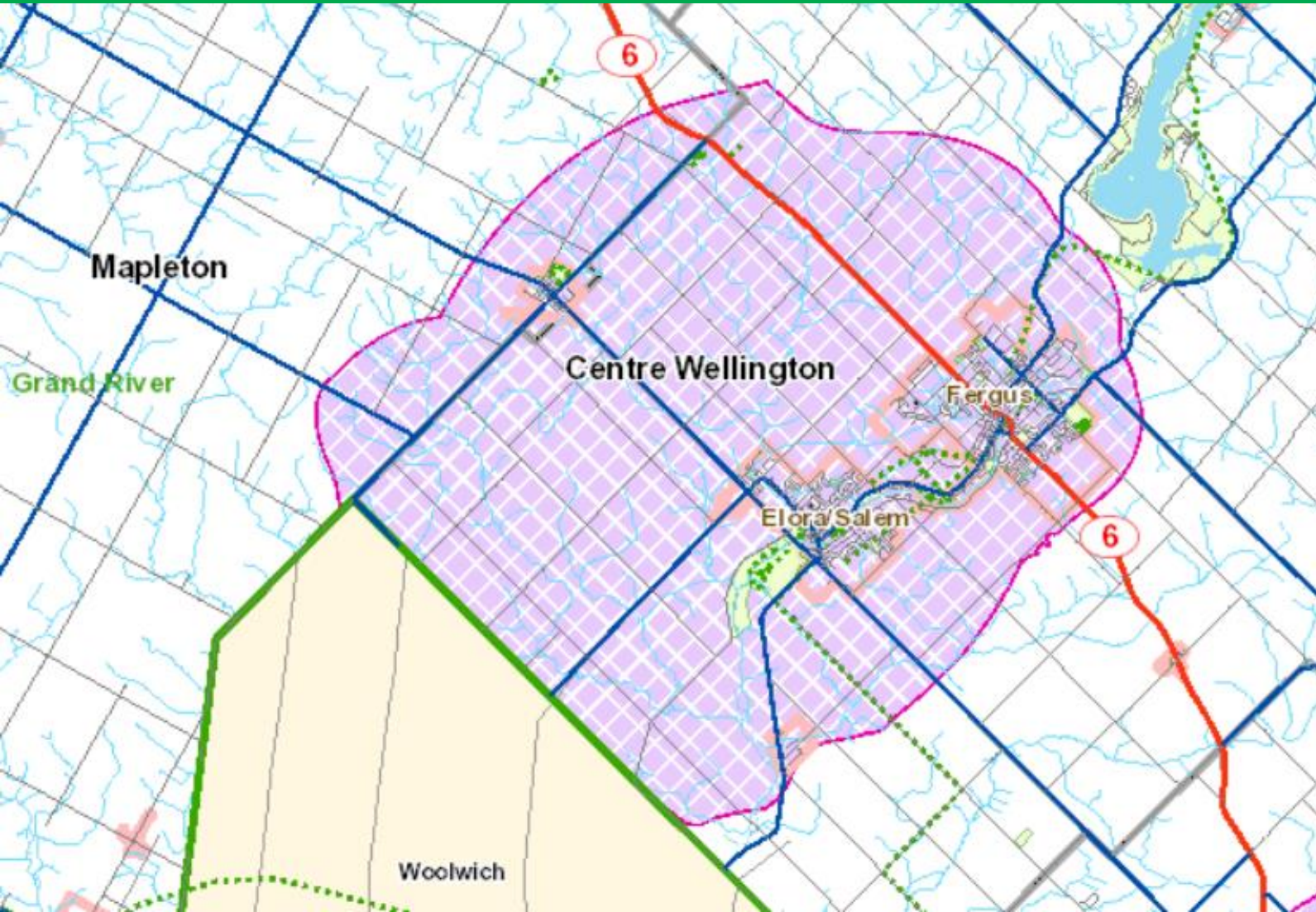
Draft (hatched) and Approved (solid)



- Four WHPA-Q's in County
 - Centre Wellington
 - Acton (Erin)
 - Georgetown (Erin)
 - Guelph - Guelph / Eramosa
- At this time, focus is on policy development for Centre Wellington and Acton WHPA-Qs that include portions of Centre Wellington, Mapleton and Erin.

CENTRE WELLINGTON WHPA-Q

Centre Wellington and Mapleton



- Majority of the Centre Wellington WHPA-Q will be covered by policies in the Wellington County Chapter of the Grand River Source Protection Plan.
- A small portion extends into Woolwich and will be covered by the Region of Waterloo Chapter.

POLICY TOOLBOX

Clean Water Act, 2006

- Provincial Regulatory Approvals (Prescribed Instruments)
- Land Use Planning
- Education, Outreach / Incentive Programs
- Stewardship Programs, Best Management Practices, Pilot Programs and Research
- Directing Specific Actions (Specify Action Policies)
- Prohibition and Risk Management Plan powers given to local municipalities under Clean Water Act - Part IV, where tools noted above are not available

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

To address Water Quantity

- Policy approaches considerations:
 - Using technical results (key findings/insights) to guide policies
 - Existing regulations preferred
 - Avoid duplication of regulatory burden
 - Prohibition as last resort
- Consistency in approved SPPs, where possible
- Precedent of approaches used in existing SPP
- Consistency with neighbouring SPPs or SPP chapters where WHPA-Q extends across watershed or municipal boundaries
- Policy suite aims to integrate municipal and provincial water management tools (e.g., PTTW, Water Supply Master Plan, Class Environmental Assessments)



DRAFT WATER QUANTITY POLICIES – WELLINGTON COUNTY

DRAFT POLICIES

Major Themes

- Policies can be grouped into 3 major themes:
 - Management through existing Provincial Prescribed Instruments
 - Growth and Development / Land Use Planning
 - Municipal Water Management
- The policies are designed to work in tandem with each other in an adaptive management framework
- Adaptive management includes a feedback cycle where data is collected, management tools are evaluated and adapted / modified based on results. The cycle then starts again.

DRAFT POLICIES

Permit To Take Water / ARA Approvals / Environmental Compliance Approvals

- Management through existing Provincial Instruments is preferred
- Achieves goal of Clean Water Act to not duplicate regulatory processes
- Policies provide direction to Ministries on terms and conditions for approvals
- Additional policies aim to strengthen relationship and collaboration between municipalities and Ministries
- Proposed Provincial water quantity management framework will support implementation of proposed policies

DRAFT POLICIES

Growth and Development

- Earlier/stronger contemplation of water supply considerations in provincial growth forecasting and municipal development planning
- New development should maintain existing groundwater recharge rates
- Increased study requirements in Official Plan for new developments taking > 50,000 L of water per day
- Increased coordination between municipalities and the province on planning applications/developments that take > 50,000 L of water per day.
- Proposed changes to definitions and report requirements to strengthen existing County OP requirements.

DRAFT POLICIES

Municipal Water Management

- Municipal optimization strategies and incorporating Tier 3 study results into Environmental Assessments
- Reinforcing/strengthening municipal water conservation programs
- Increase/maintain groundwater and surface water monitoring to support future updates to Tier 3 models
- Increasing information sharing between local water managers (e.g., municipalities, province and conservation authorities)
- Continued provincial funding for Tier 3 model maintenance and updates
- Updates to municipal design standards
- Education and Outreach

DRAFT POLICIES

Why are there no Part IV Prohibitions (Section 57)?

- Prohibition is a tool of last resort (O. Reg. 287/07, S.24)
- Water quality policies limited prohibition to 100m area around well
- For water quantity, this approach would have negligible effect on protecting municipal supply
- Hydrogeological complexity and model uncertainties provide limited support for prohibition of water takings in specific areas
- Proposed Provincial water quantity management framework includes priority of use and increased municipal participation (e.g., host municipality support, area based water management)

DRAFT POLICIES

Why are there no Part IV Risk Management Plans (Section 58)?

- Largest driver of risk are water takings > 50,000 L. These takings are subject to Permits to Take Water (PTTW).
- Draft policies aim to strengthen relationship between MECP and municipalities to support PTTW review and approvals.
- For aggregate operations, policies target the use of approvals under the Aggregate Resources Act.
- Policies directed at municipalities addressing municipal takings (e.g., municipal system optimization, water conservation, etc.) – no RMP needed

DRAFT POLICIES

Why are there no Part IV Risk Management Plans (Section 58)?

- Water takings < 50,000 L or subject to exemption (i.e., livestock) do not drive the risk to the municipal system – no RMP needed
- Land use planning policies to provide extra layer of protection and study for future water takings. Tier 3 modelling showed that a future, non-municipal taking could pose a risk.
- Recharge reduction not considered large driver of risk to the municipal supply system – no RMP needed
- Environmental Compliance Approval, land use planning policies, monitoring, education and municipal design standard policies sufficient to address recharge reduction risk.

DRAFT POLICIES

Why are there no Part IV Policies? (Risk Management Plans, Prohibitions)

- Project Team's conclusion is that water taking and recharge reduction threats can be addressed through policy approaches other than Part IV, at this time.
- Adaptive management process allows reassessment when new information becomes available.
- Section 34 update process and source protection framework allows for regular updates of Source Protection Plan to ensure that policies are relevant and working.

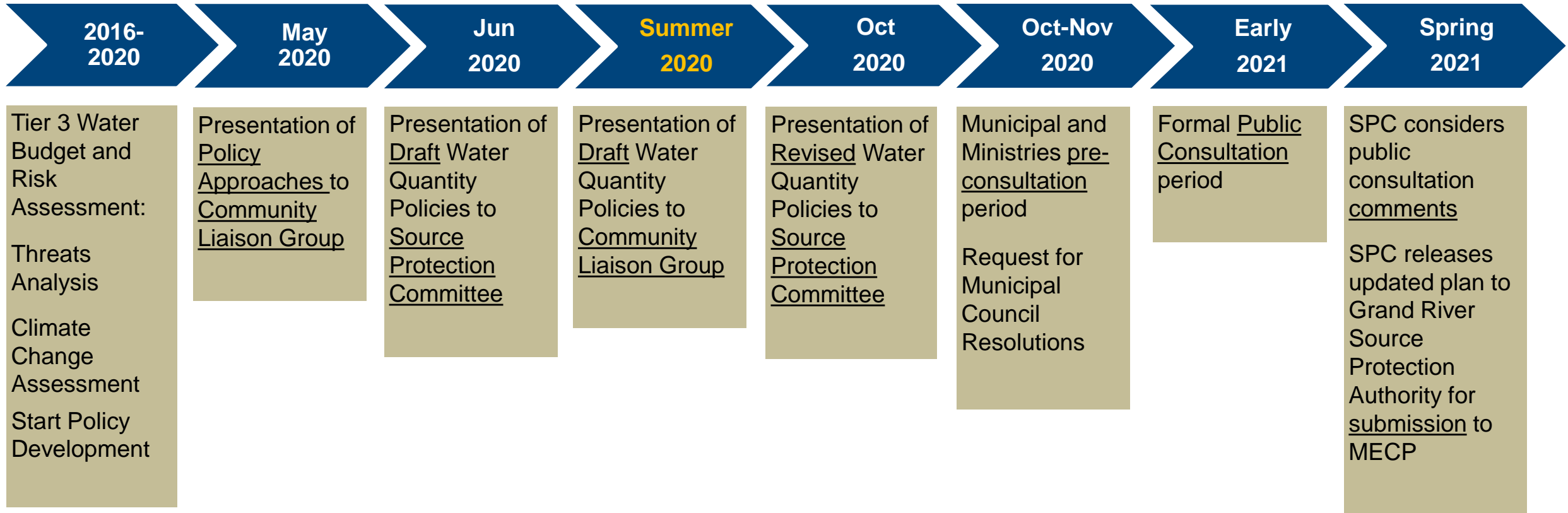
COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

Questions and Discussion



TIMELINE

Policy Development Process



NEXT STEPS

CLG meeting summary and comments

- CLG provide comments by **September 16**
- CLG provide comments on meeting summary by **September 23**
- Finalize meeting summary with comments and post material on website

Policy Development

- Project Team recommends revised policies to Source Protection Committee October 1, 2020
- Process continues as part of S.34 Source Protection Plan update

Further Opportunities for Input

- CLG members will have opportunity for further input as part of public consultation process in January to March 2021
- Process and dates will be available through sourcewater.ca

THANK YOU

To our Community Liaison Group Members

- The Project Team, on behalf of the Lake Erie Source Protection Committee, would like to thank you for your time, effort and thoughtful comments / review over the past four years.
- You have participated at six CLG meetings and put in countless hours to make the five separate components of the Tier 3 study and now the draft policies better and more complete. We look forward to your written comments on the policies.
- We appreciate your dedication to your community and our shared water. You have helped make the first Tier 3 study with a CLG a success.