TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON
HYBRID COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2026 - 5:00 P.M.

Council meetings are recorded and will be available on the Township website under Quick Links – Council Agendas and Minutes within 5 business days of the Council meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82384884608?pwd=NJRymAgU4lfXwDjNugRtL9YsV52Rlb.1
Meeting ID: 823 8488 4608
Passcode: 857123
One tap mobile
+15873281099,,82384884608#,,,,*857123# Canada
+16473744685,,82384884608#,,,,*857123# Canada

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

   We would like to begin by acknowledging that Melancthon Township recognizes the ancestral lands and treaty territories of the Tionontati (Petun/Wyandot(te)), Haudenosaunee (Six Nations), and Anishinaabe Peoples. The Township of Melancthon resides within the lands named under the Haldimand Deed of 1784 and the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Treaty (Treaty 18).

   These territories upon which we live and learn, are steeped in rich Indigenous history and traditions. It is with this statement that we declare to honour and respect the past and present connection of Indigenous peoples with this land, its waterways and resources.

3. **Announcements**

4. **Additions/Deletions/Approval of Agenda**

5. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof**

6. **Approval of Draft Minutes – May 7, 2026**

7. **Business Arising from Minutes**

8. **Point of Privilege or Personal Privilege**

9. **Public Question Period** (Please visit our website under Agendas and Minutes for information on Public Question Period)

10. **Public Works**

11. **Planning**

12. **Climate Change Initiatives**

13. **Dufferin OPP Detachment Board – Melancthon, Mono, Mulmur**

14. County Council Update – May 14, 2026

15. Correspondence

Board, Committee & Working Group Minutes

1. Shelburne and District Fire Board of Management – April 7, 2026
2. Infrastructure & Emergency Management Committee – April 13, 2026

Items for Information Purposes

1. NVCA Media Release – NVCA Maintains Strong Financial Position – 2026 Audit
2. NVCA Media Release – NVCA Annual Report Highlights "Service-First" Modernization Anchored in Local Accountability
3. Ministry of Emergency and Preparedness Response – Township of Melancthon Compliance Results 2025
4. Strada Aggregates Inc. – Integrated Monitoring Plan for Melancthon Pit # 2 and the Bonnefield Property Pit prepared by Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
5. Town of Shelburne Council Resolution – Supporting motion from Dufferin County Council regarding Operational Performance Review for Highway 10
6. Town of Shelburne – Notice of Passing of By-law 17-2026
7. NVCA Board Highlights April 2026
8. Ministry of Natural Resources – Regulations under the *Geologic Carbon Storage Act, 2025*
9. Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – Minister's Direction under Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*

16. General Business

1. New/Other Business/Additions
    1. Councillor Ralph Moore – Resignation from Council, effective June 1, 2026
    2. Other/Addition(s)
2. Unfinished Business
    1. Amendments to the Township Salvage Yard By-law 56-2019 (Mayor White)
3. Reports/Updates from Members of Council & Administrative Staff

17. Delegations

1. 6:30 p.m. – Rob Brown, Stutz, Brown and Self, Township Solicitor, regarding the Clearview/Simcoe Application and an Offer to Purchase Municipal Property **(this Delegation will be in Closed Session under Section 239(2)(c)(e) and (f)) of the *Municipal Act, 2001***
2. 7:00 p.m. – Chris Johnston, By-law Enforcement Officer – By-law Complaint Updates – **(this Delegation will be in Closed Session under Section 239(2)(b) of the *Municipal Act, 2001***

18. Closed Session – Section 239(2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*

1. Items for Discussion:
    1. Nominations for the Council Award for Community Leadership – Section 239(2)(b)
    2. Delegation at 6:30 p.m. – Section 239(2)(c)(e)(f)
    3. Delegation at 7:00 p.m. – Section 239(2)(b)
2. Approval of Draft Minutes – May 7, 2026
3. Business Arising from Minutes
4. Rise With or Without Report from Closed Session

19. Notice of Motion

20. Confirmation By-law

21. Adjournment and Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, June 4, 2026 – 5:00 p.m.

SHELBURNE & DISTRICT FIRE BOARD

April 7, 2025

The Shelburne & District Fire Department **Board of Management** meeting was held in person at the Shelburne and District Fire Department on the above mentioned date at 7:00 P.M.

Present

As per attendance record.

1. ***Opening of Meeting***

1.1 Co-Chair, Shane Hall, called meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

1.2 **Land Acknowledgement**

We would like to begin by respectfully acknowledging that the Town of Shelburne resides within the traditional territory and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, including the Ojibway, Potawatomi, Chippewa and the People of the Three Fires Confederacy.

These traditional territories upon which we live, work, play and learn are steeped in rich Indigenous history and traditions. It is with this statement that we declare to honour and respect the past and present connection of Indigenous peoples with this land, its waterways and resources.

2. **Additions or Deletions**

None.

3. ***Approval of Agenda***

3.1 **Resolution # 1**

Moved by W. Mills – Seconded by G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Management approves the agenda as presented.

Carried

4. ***Approval of Minutes***

4.1 **Resolution # 2**

Moved by J. Horner – Seconded by B. Neilson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Management adopt the minutes under the dates of March 3, 2026, as circulated.

Carried

5. ***Pecuniary Interest***

5.1 No pecuniary interest declared.

6. ***Public Question Period***

6.1 No public present. A question was submitted asking if Co-Chairs were permitted as there is no reference to this in our Terms of Reference. The Board discussed and elected to pass a motion to add the position of co-chair to the procedural policy.

Resolution # 3

Moved by W. Mills – Seconded by J. McLean

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Management amend the Procedural Policy by creating a “co-chair” position.

Carried

7. ***Delegations / Deputations***

7.1 Les Halucha, Treasurer, Town of Mono

7.2 Michelle Adams, Senior Manager, RLB

8. Unfinished Business:

Nothing at this time.

9. ***New Business***

9.2 **Billing for Structure Fires within the Town of Mono**

Resolution # 4

Moved by G. Little – Seconded by M. Davie

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Leave be given to Les Halucha, Treasurer, Town of Mono, to address the Board.

Carried

Les Halucha stated that Mono would like the ability to invoice insurance companies for structure fires within the Town of Mono, similar to what Fire Marque does; they would develop their own form, and a municipal by-law will be created to this effect.

The Board has requested more time to do some research and will bring this back to our next Board meeting.

Resolution # 5

Moved by W. Mills – Seconded by G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Shelburne & District Fire Board of Management receives the Town of Mono's request to provide them with the information required to invoice insurance companies for fires in the Town of Mono.

Carried

9.3 Draft Financial Statements

Resolution # 6

Moved by J. McLean – Seconded by W. Mills

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Leave be given to Michelle Adams, Senior Accountant, from RLB to address the Board.

Carried

Michelle Adams reviewed to Draft Financial Statements with the Board.

Resolution # 7

Moved by W. Mills – Seconded by J. Horner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Shelburne & District Fire Board accept and approve the Draft Consolidated Financial Statements for the year end of December 31, 2025, prepared and presented by RLB.

AND THAT the Secretary-Treasurer be authorized to sign the representation letter.

Carried

9.1 **Town of Shelburne Resolution**

The Board discussed the request to begin recording meetings to ensure transparency. Most Board members felt that was accomplished through our meeting minutes and were not comfortable with the request.

Member, G. Little, put a motion on the floor that the request just be received. Member W. Mills called a Point of Order as there was no seconder on the motion. The Chair put the motion back on the floor and asked for a seconder. Member W. Mills asked for an amendment to the motion and requested a recorded vote.

Resolution # 8

Moved by W. Mills – Seconded by S. Hall

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Shelburne & District Fire Board of Management receives the Town of Shelburne's Resolution dated March 9, 2026;

AND THAT the Board take the required steps to record future Board meetings.

RECORDED VOTE		
Date:	**Resolution # 8**	
Name	**Yea**	**Nay**
Wade Mills	✔	
Shane Hall	✔	
Brad Metzger		✔
Gail Little		✔
Melinda Davie		✔
Fred Nix	Absent	
Bill Neilson		✔
James McLean	Abstain from vote	

Earl Hawkins	Absent	
Janet Horner		✔
TOTAL	**2**	**5**

Defeated

Resolution # 9

Moved by G. Little – Seconded by B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Shelburne & District Fire Board of Management receives the Town of Shelburne's Resolution dated March 9, 2026.

Carried

9.4 **2025 Annual Report**

The Board stated that they were very pleased with the report and commended the Chief for his work.

Resolution # 10

Moved by B. Neilson – Seconded by B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Shelburne & District Fire Board of Management receives the 2025 Annual Report.

Carried

10. ***Chief's Report***

10.1 **Monthly Operations Reports**

The Board discussed the reports.

10.2 **Dufferin County Fire Chief's Meeting Minutes**

10.3 **Update from Fire Chief**

The Chief advised the Board that we now have 6 staff members that have completed the EFR training. Due to a retirement, we are currently doing an internal recruitment for Captain and Lieutenant positions.

11. ***Future Business:***

11.1 Nothing at this time.

12. ***Accounts & Payroll – February 2026***

12.1 **Resolution # 11**

Moved by J. McLean – Seconded by J. Horner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The bills and accounts in the amount of $51,042.49 for the period of February 28, 2026 to March 31, 2026 as presented and attached be approved for payment.

Carried

13. **Closed Session**

Resolution # 12

Moved by W. Mills – Seconded by B. Neilson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Shelburne & District Fire Board do now go “in camera” to discuss the following:

Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

Carried

Resolution # 13

Moved by J. Horner – Seconded by B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

We do now rise and report progress at 8:26 pm

AND THAT the Fire Chief be awarded a 1.6% wage increase effective January 1, 2026 based on a positive annual performance appraisal.

Carried

14. ***Confirming and Adjournment***

14.1 **Resolution # 14**

Moved by B. Metzger – Seconded by G. Little

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

All actions of the Board Members and Officers of the Shelburne and District Fire Board of Management, with respect to every matter addressed and/or adopted by the Board on the above date are hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed; And each motion, resolution and other actions taken by the Board Members and Officers at the meeting held on the above date are hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed.

Carried

14.2 **Resolution # 15**

Moved by G. Little – Seconded by B. Neilson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Management do now adjourn at 8:28 pm to meet again on May 5, 2026 at 7:00 pm or at the call of the Chair.

Carried

Respectfully submitted by:

_____

Nicole Hill
Secretary-Treasurer

Approved:

_____

Shane Hall
Co-Chairperson

SHELBURNE & DISTRICT FIRE BOARD MEMBERS

Meeting Attendance Record Under Date of April 7, 2026

Municipality / Member	Present	Absent
Township of Amaranth		
Brad Metzger	X	
Gail Little	X	
Town of Mono		
Melinda Davie	X	
Fred Nix		X
Township of Melancthon		
James McLean	X	
Bill Neilson	X	
Town of Shelburne		
Wade Mills	X	
Shane Hall	X	
Township of Mulmur		
Earl Hawkins		X
Janet Horner	X	
Staff		
Dave Pratt – Fire Chief	X	
Jeff Clayton – Deputy Chief	X	
Nicole Hill – Sec/Treas.	X	

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

The Township of Melancthon Infrastructure and Emergency Management Committee held a virtual meeting on April 13th, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. The following members were present: James McLean (virtual), Darren White and Ruth Plowright. Also present were: Craig Micks, Public Works Superintendent, Denise Holmes, CAO/Clerk, and Kaitlin Dinnick, Infrastructure and Emergency Management Committee Secretary.

Call to Order

Chair McLean called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Chair McLean shared the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Additions/Deletions/Approval of Agenda

Moved by White, Seconded by Plowright, that the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

None.

Approval of Draft Minutes

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by White, that the minutes of the Infrastructure and Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on March 9th, 2026, be approved as circulated. Carried.

Business Arising from Minutes

None.

Correspondence Items

None.

General Business

1. Update from Public Works Superintendent

Craig Micks, Public Works Superintendent, advised that staff have been grading roads when conditions are dry enough and hauling gravel to areas in need of repair. They

have also been repairing mailboxes damaged during the winter, installing a new radiator in Grader 3, and addressing two holes left by Rogers, for which the Township will be issuing an invoice.

He further noted that there are two large culverts with significant damage. One, located on 3rd Line at County Road 17, will require replacement at an estimated cost of $12,000 to $20,000. Additionally, two culverts on the Melancthon–Nottawasaga Townline will need attention.

Chair McLean inquired whether this work could be completed in-house, similar to the County of Dufferin. Craig advised that while the Township does not currently have an excavator, the work could potentially be undertaken if equipment were available.

2. Beautification of the Village & Hamlets

Councilor Plowright advised the planters are usually planted in the middle of May. Councillor Plowright suggested that the Public Works Department could maybe build the flower hangers for the bridges in Riverview.

3. Discussion on Park Structures and Infrastructure Needs

Councillor Plowright advised that David Thwaites had put together a proposal for the Park and Recreation Board for upgrades to the Horning's Mills Park, however the cost is estimated to be around $70,000, so a grant would be required in order to undertake this work. Councillor Plowright spoke about putting a pump park for little kids in at the Horning's Mills Park and is looking at pricing. Staff were directed to purchase picnic tables for the Parks – 2 at Corbetton Park and 3-4 at Horning's Mills Park.

4. Discussion on Township Infrastructure Needs

Nothing for this item.

5. Email from Teresa Crawford regarding the 4th Line SW

Mayor White advised that this item was just added as information, as he responded to Ms. Crawford. Craig advised that they have been drawing gravel to this road section.

6. Road Improvements on Main Street and William Street (Chair McLean)

Chair McLean spoke to this item and Craig advised that he is hoping the spots settle once the frost is out of the ground, however if they don't we can possibly see about fixing Main Street, when the sidewalks are being installed.

7. Cooling Stations in the Summer (Chair McLean)

Councillor Plowright spoke to this item, noting the importance of being proactive given forecasts that this summer may be one of the hottest on record. She suggested the

option of opening the Horning's Mills Hall as a cooling station, which could include air conditioning and access to kiddie pools. It was noted that this initiative would likely need to be volunteer-based and that guidelines for operating cooling stations should be considered.

Discussion also took place regarding the potential for a community survey to better understand what residents may lack access to during extreme weather events. It was noted that this survey will be discussed further at Thursday's Council meeting and added as an additional item.

8. Update on Sidewalk Construction in Horning's Mills

Staff provided the Committee with the update from Chris Knetchel, RJ Burnside and Associates and the Committee asked for a summary to be provided to them following the meeting with Chris.

9. Current Equipment List and 5 Year Capital Equipment Plan

Nothing for this matter.

10. Others/Additions

Nothing for this matter.

11. Unfinished Business

1. Recycling Pickup on Narrow Township Roads

The Committee asked Craig Micks, Public Works Superintendent to make a list of the roads where the recycling bins are obstructing lanes of traffic so that we can send it to Circular Materials.

Recommendations to Council

None.

Public Question Period

None.

Confirmation Motion

Moved by Plowright, Seconded by White, that all actions of the Members and Officers of the Infrastructure and Emergency Management Committee with respect to every matter addressed and/or adopted by the Board on the above date be hereby adopted, ratified, and confirmed; and each motion, resolution and other actions taken

by the Board members and Officers at the meeting held on the above date are hereby adopted, ratified, and confirmed. Carried.

Adjournment

10:15 a.m. - **Moved by McLean, Seconded by White,** that we adjourn this Infrastructure and Emergency Management Committee meeting to meet again on May 4th, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. or at the call of the Chair. Carried.

_____ _____

CHAIR SECRETARY

Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NVCA maintains strong financial position: 2025 audit

UTOPIA, Ontario (May 5, 2026) – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) continues to demonstrate strong fiscal management and responsible stewardship of public funds, maintaining a solid financial position, with healthy reserves, and prudent financial controls, according to its 2025 financial audit conducted by KPMG.

Over the past year, NVCA has undertaken a focused effort to strengthen its financial foundation while continuing to deliver core, legislated, watershed-based services, including flood and erosion risk management, environmental protection, and technical services, in support of municipalities, landowners, and residents.

"In 2025, we made deliberate operational and organizational improvements while maintaining a strong focus on fiscal discipline," said Jennifer Vincent, CAO of NVCA. "Despite capacity pressures and evolving service demands, we delivered tangible results in flood and erosion protection, environmental services, and community engagement. These achievements reflect careful planning, responsible use of resources, and a renewed commitment to timely, transparent, and responsive service."

As part of this effort, NVCA enhanced internal processes, increased staffing capacity where required to meet legislative responsibilities, and launched a new e-permitting platform to improve service efficiency. These changes were implemented while closely monitoring expenditures and maintaining financial stability.

"Careful stewardship of the public's money is a top focus of our board and staff," said Jonathan Scott, NVCA Chair. "Over the past year, we've taken clear steps to control costs, improve efficiency, and ensure value for our member municipalities and funders. We've worked hard to become a more disciplined, efficient, and well-managed organization."

Chair Scott added that the clean audit reflects both sound financial oversight and NVCA's commitment to transparency and accountability.

"This audit confirms that NVCA is on solid financial footing and managing public funds carefully," he said. "This diligence positions us well as the province moves forward with the consolidation of our authority into the new Lake Huron Regional model. Our firm fiscal

foundation provides confidence that we are well-positioned to continue delivering reliable, high-quality services while making responsible decisions about the future."

NVCA's full audit and financial statements are available at nvca.on.ca.

- 30 -

About NVCA: The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

Media contact: Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist at 705-424-1479 ext.254, mleung@nvca.on.ca

Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NVCA annual report highlights 'service-first' modernization anchored in local accountability

UTOPIA, Ontario (May 12, 2026) – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) released its 2025 Annual Report, showcasing a year of aggressive modernization and operational efficiency designed to meet today's challenges, including provincial conservation authority reform, while ensuring local accountability remains at the forefront.

As the Province moves forward with the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and the creation of the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority, NVCA is doubling down on its commitment to its 18 member municipalities. The report highlights that transparency, and modern service delivery are not just provincial requirements, but essential tools for maintaining the trust of local communities and stakeholders in the Nottawasaga watershed.

Responsive Local Service: With the introduction of online permit applications and digitized workflows, average permit review times were lowered to 17 days, ensuring local landowners and builders receive faster, more predictable results.

Precision Safety Data: Information and equipment updates allowed NVCA to provide municipalities with higher quality local flood risk data, facilitating more effective emergency response and urban planning.

Watershed Impact: More than 84,000 trees were planted and 26 kilometres of streams and shorelines restored, proving that NVCA remains a high-performing guardian of the local environment.

Education: Close to 13,000 students participated in programs, reinforcing NVCA's role as a vital community hub.

As the Province moves forward with the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and conservation authority amalgamation, collaboration, transparency, modern service delivery are important, but local accountability is essential.

"Our 2025 progress was built on a service-first mindset," said Jennifer Vincent, CAO of NVCA. "Through prudent discretionary spending, we have modernized much of our operations to meet municipal needs while maintaining our critical role in flood management

and watershed resilience. As provincial changes are implemented, our primary focus remains the interests of our member municipalities and their residents”

Jonathan Scott, Chair at NVCA, added, “Under Jennifer’s capable, collaborative leadership, NVCA has sharpened its operational focus and clarified priorities. In an era of reform, we have built a culture of service excellence that is both lean and effective. The 2025 report demonstrates that NVCA is not merely reacting to provincial changes but is leading the way in showing how a modern conservation authority can deliver faster, better, and more transparent results for its residents, municipalities, and stakeholders alike.”

As the provincial landscape continues to evolve, the 2025 Annual Report serves as a roadmap for NVCA to remain a reliable, transparent, and locally driven partner in watershed resilience.

The full 2025 Annual Report is available for digital download at nvca.on.ca.

- 30 -

About NVCA: The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

Media contact: Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist at 705-424-1479 ext.254, mleung@nvca.on.ca

Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response

25 Morton Shulman Ave,
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

Ministre de la Protection civile et de l'Intervention en cas d'urgence

25, av. Morton Shulman,
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

Ontario

May 07, 2026

Township of Melancthon

Dear Steven D. Murphy - CEMC:

The Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response (MEPR) is pleased to advise that we have completed our review of the documentation submitted to the Ministry towards meeting the requirements in the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) O. Reg. 380/04 and our assessment indicates that your municipality has satisfied all thirteen (13) program elements for 2025. Congratulations and thank you for your continued dedication to a safe, practiced and prepared Ontario.

On December 3, 2025, the Government of Ontario passed Bill 25, the *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025* which amended the EMCPA to enable a more effective, coordinated and comprehensive approach to provincial and community emergency management.

Some amendments are now in effect, with no new requirements for partners. **All existing EMCPA municipal requirements remain the same for 2026.**

EMCPA amendments specific to municipalities are expected to come into force at a later date pending direction and future regulations, including

- Enabling flexibility regarding requirements for municipal emergency management programs and plans based on needs and capacity.
- Allowing two or more municipalities to voluntarily develop and implement joint emergency management programs and plans.
- Clarifying the process for and ensuring accountability of municipal emergency declarations under the EMCPA.

The e-Laws link to the EMCPA has now been updated and includes text with a grey background for the provisions not yet in force.

The ministry remains committed to working closely with municipal emergency management partners throughout the implementation of these amendments, including the development of supporting regulations pending direction.

If you have any questions on the amendments, please contact the Strategic Policy and Governance Branch in the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response at EMOPolicy@ontario.ca.

For further information on our assessment or if you have any questions or concerns about this letter, please contact your Field Officer.

Name: Bobby DeHetre
Email: reid.eyre@ontario.ca;bobby.dehetre@ontario.ca
Phone: 437-552-5372

Sincerely,

Tony Bavota
Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Response Division
Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response

cc: Mayor Darren White

Denise Holmes

From: Kathryn Hoo <khoo@nrsi.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, May 8, 2026 8:35 AM
To: Denise Holmes; Midhurst.aggregates@ontario.ca; bkrul@nvca.on.ca; eperry@nvca.on.ca
Cc: Grant Horan (GHoran@Strada-Aggregates.com); Ryan Archer; James Newlands
Subject: Melancthon Pit #2 and Bonnefield Property 2025 Amphibian Monitoring Report
Attachments: NRSI_764P_Melancthon Pit and Bonnefield Property 2025 Amphibian Monitoring Report_2026-05-08.pdf

Hello,

Please see attached for the Melancthon Pit #2 and Bonnefield Property 2025 Amphibian Monitoring Report.

Best regards,

Kathryn Hoo

Kathryn Hoo B.Sc.
Terrestrial and Wetland Biologist
Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
Proudly Indigenous-owned
415 Phillip Street, Unit C
Waterloo, ON N2L 3X2
(p) 519-725-2227 Ext. 406 (f) 519-725-2575
(w)www.nrsi.on.ca (e) khoo@nrsi.on.ca
Linked In
Over 25 years of environmental consulting excellence

Integrated Monitoring Plan for Melancthon Pit #2 and the Bonnefield Property Pit

Summary of 2025 Biological Survey Results

Prepared for:

Strada Aggregates Inc.
30 Floral Parkway
Concord, Ontario L4K 4R1

Project No. 764P/1748I | May 2026

NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.
Aquatic, Terrestrial and Wetland Biologists

Integrated Monitoring Plan for Melancthon Pit #2 and the Bonnefield Property Pit

Summary of 2025 Biological Survey Results

Project Team

Staff	Role
Ryan Archer	Project Advisor/Senior Terrestrial and Wetland Biologist
Kathryn Hoo	Project Manager/Terrestrial and Wetland Biologist
Jennifer Pedersen	Terrestrial and Wetland Biologist
Kaitlin Filippov	GIS Technician

Report submitted on May 8, 2026

Kathryn Hoo

Project Manager

Terrestrial and Wetland Biologist

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

List of Appendices

Maps

1.0 Introduction

Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI) was retained in 2025 by Strada Aggregates to continue an annual anuran (frog and toad) monitoring program for Melancthon Pit #2 (also known as Shelburne South Pit), located on 4th Line in the Township of Melancthon, Dufferin County (Map 1). The annual monitoring program was recommended in the Level 1 and 2 Natural Environment Assessment (NEA) reports for the subject property as completed by NRSI and recommended by Michalski Nielson in their review of the NEA Level 2 report (NRSI 2010).

In accordance with the Integrated Monitoring Plan for biological and hydrogeological monitoring within the existing and future Strada Aggregates pit operations (Appendix I), NRSI expanded this monitoring program in 2018 to integrate additional anuran monitoring within the Bonnefield property pit expansion (see Map 1). Annual monitoring at the wetland located on the Bonnefield property was recommended in NRSI's NEA report for the Prince and Bonnefield properties (NRSI 2017), which documented the presence of breeding amphibians within the wetland during 2016 surveys. The Bonnefield property pit expansion is fully integrated with the existing aggregate operations at Melancthon Pits #1 and #2. The former Bonnefield property is now owned by Strada Aggregates, but for simplicity is simply referred to as the "Bonnefield Property" in this report.

The monitoring program was designed to include the following:

1. Annual monitoring of the on-site wetlands to understand the presence and abundance of breeding amphibians (NRSI), and,
2. Annual surface and groundwater monitoring to assess water level fluctuations in the small on-site wetland pockets (Whitewater Hydrogeology, Tatham Engineering).

Aggregate extraction operations at Melancthon Pit #2 commenced in 2014, including construction of facility structures (e.g., truck laneways, scale house installation). 2025 therefore represented the 12th year of facility operation on the property. The on-site sediment and erosion control fencing was repaired/replaced in August 2025 and is consistent with the original Operational Plan prepared by MHBC (2021). Existing on-site wetland features have been maintained in accordance with the Operational Plan. 2025 also represented the 4th year of extraction operations and operational-phase annual biological and hydrogeological wetland monitoring on the Bonnefield property. See Map 1 for the Melancthon Pit #2 and Bonnefield property locations.

This report summarizes the results of anuran surveys completed in 2025 at both Melancthon Pit #2 and the Bonnefield property. The results of the Melancthon Pit surveys were compared to baseline (pre-extraction) data collected by NRSI in 2009 (as part of the NEA Level 2 study) and 2013. Operational-stage data (2014-2025) were also examined for any trends or notable variations in data among years within the operational stage of the pit. The 2025 Bonnefield property surveys represent the 4th year of the operational-phase monitoring period on the property and were compared to baseline data collected by NRSI in 2016 and 2018-2021, and operational-stage data collected in 2022-2024.

The overall objective of this study is to monitor temporal breeding anuran species presence and relative abundance (i.e., calling codes; see Methods below) within and between the pre-extraction and operational phases of Melancthon Pit #2 and the Bonnefield property pit expansion within an integrated study. Anuran survey results are also compared against annual surface water and groundwater monitoring data, collected by Whitewater Hydrogeology Ltd. (2014-2022) and Tatham Engineering Ltd. (2023-2025), to assess potential relationships with anuran breeding habitat conditions. If significant changes in biological and hydrological conditions are observed, it may suggest negative impacts caused by pit operations and may trigger the need for additional recommendations to adequately address and mitigate those impacts.

2.0 Methods

2.1 Anuran Call Surveys

Anuran call surveys were completed at Melancthon Pit #2 and the Bonnefield property during three night-time survey visits on April 24, May 27, and June 24, 2025, following the Marsh Monitoring Program amphibian survey protocol (Bird Studies Canada 2009). All stations that were surveyed in 2014-2024 were again surveyed in 2025 (Map 2).

Using standardized survey forms, NRSI biologists identified by sound all species that were calling within 50m, 50-100m, or greater than 100m from each station during a three-minute passive listening period. For each documented species, a three-level calling code system was used as a qualitative measure of relative abundance. Calling code 1 was used when abundances were low enough that the number of calling individuals could be estimated and calls did not overlap; calling code 2 was used when the calls overlapped somewhat but the number of individuals could still be estimated; calling code 3 was used when the group was calling as a full chorus and it was not possible to estimate number of individuals. Each species recorded on the survey form was written with a corresponding calling code; for calling codes 1 or 2, the estimated number of individuals was also recorded. Ambient weather conditions were recorded on the survey form, including air temperature, cloud cover, wind and precipitation. Surveys occurred between a half-hour after sunset and midnight, and the survey time was recorded on the forms during each visit. Surveys were completed during appropriate weather and temperature conditions as outlined in the survey protocol (Bird Studies Canada 2009).

2.2 Hydrological, Hydrogeological and Water Quality Monitoring

2025 was the 12th year in which surface water level data was collected at two stations within Melancthon Pit #2 as part of the compliance monitoring program required as a condition of the pit Site Plan. This monitoring, previously completed by Whitewater Hydrogeology (2014-2022), was completed by Tatham Engineering in 2023-2025. The water level monitoring locations within Melancthon Pit #2 correspond to anuran survey stations ANR-001 (i.e., the “North Pond”) and ANR-005 (i.e., the “South Pond”) as shown on Map 2. The water level monitoring locations within the Bonnefield property correspond to anuran survey station ANR-009 (i.e., the “Wetland” or “SW1”) and a small vernal pool located approximately 60m south of ANR-009 (i.e., the “Vernal Pool” or “SW2”), as shown on Map 2. Surface water level monitoring was completed during late-March to mid-December 2025 at these four monitoring locations, using continuously

recording dataloggers. See the *Strada Shelburne Annual Compliance Report 2025* (Tatham Engineering 2026) for further details regarding water level survey methodology.

Groundwater level monitoring was also completed by Tatham Engineering within Melancthon Pit #2 and the Bonnefield property in 2025, as reported in the *Strada Shelburne Annual Compliance Report 2025*. Within Melancthon Pit #2, groundwater level data was collected at two stations that corresponded to areas at or near amphibian monitoring stations. Specifically, these monitoring wells were placed adjacent to the North Pond (ANR-001) and between anuran stations ANR-006 and 007a (see Tatham Engineering 2026). Groundwater monitoring at ANR-001 consisted of both a shallow (sand and gravel) groundwater well and a deep overburden (Tavistock Till) well (OW10A and OW10B in Tatham Engineering 2026). Groundwater monitoring near stations ANR-006 and ANR-007a (OW6A) consisted of a shallow (sand and gravel) groundwater well. Monitoring at the shallow groundwater well (OW10A) at ANR-001 recommenced in 2025 after not having been monitored in 2018-2024. This shallow groundwater well was dry for the majority of the year in previous monitoring years; however, water was present in the well in 2025.

Within the Bonnefield property, groundwater level data was collected at one location in 2025: wells OW18A/OW18C in the northeastern portion of the property. As described by Tatham Engineering (2026), monitors ‘A’ are screened at the base of the sand and gravel unit (water table aquifer) and monitors ‘C’ are constructed within the bedrock aquifer.

Surface water quality was measured for the North and South Ponds, as reported by Tatham Engineering (2026). Measured parameters included pH, conductivity, alkalinity, bicarbonate, chloride, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, sulphate, nitrate, nitrite, phosphorus, and dissolved metals. Samples for surface water quality analysis were collected during the spring and fall, following the standard semi-annual sampling timeline.

3.0 Anuran Survey Results

3.1 Melancthon Pit #2

A total of six anuran species were recorded within Melancthon Pit #2 across all 2025 site visits:

- American Toad (*Bufo americanus*),
- Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*),
- Wood Frog (*Lithobates sylvatica*),
- Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer crucifer*), and
- Green Frog (*Rana clamitans melanota*).

Table 1 below presents a summary of all species occurrences documented at Melancthon Pit #2 during pre-extraction and 2014-2025 operational-phase monitoring.

Spring Peeper has been recorded at Melancthon Pit #2 every year of the monitoring program, while Wood Frog has been recorded every year with the exception of 2018. Gray Treefrog and Green Frog have each been recorded every year of the monitoring program, with the exception of three years (2021, 2023, 2025) and two years (2016, 2018), respectively. American Toad and Northern Leopard Frog were both recorded again in 2025, after having not been recorded in 2022-2024. Western Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*) (Great Lakes-St. Lawrence/Canadian Shield population) is designated as Threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act* and is considered a Species of Conservation Concern (SCC) in Ontario. This species was recorded by NRSI biologists within the subject property during 2009 surveys but was not recorded during annual amphibian call surveys completed in 2013-2025.

Table 2 below presents a summary of anuran survey results across all 2025 site visits. See Appendix II for detailed survey results by site visit and Appendix III for weather and temperature conditions recorded during each survey.

Spring Peeper was observed to be the most abundant species across monitoring stations during the 2025 survey period, followed by Wood Frog. Spring Peeper was recorded at full chorus at six stations across all visits (ANR-001, 002, 004, 005, 007a and 008a) and was also recorded at stations ANR-003 and 007b, with a maximum of three and two individuals, respectively. These results for Spring Peeper are generally consistent with previous monitoring years. Wood Frog was recorded at full chorus at two stations across all visits (ANR-001 and 005), and was also recorded at stations ANR-002, 004, 007a and 008a, with a maximum of five, two, five and two

Table 1: Summary of anuran species detected at Melancthon Pit #2 by monitoring year.

Species		Monitoring Year												
Scientific Name	Common Name	Pre-ext.	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Anaxyrus americanus	American Toad	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X
Hyla versicolor	Gray Treefrog	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	
Lithobates pipiens	Northern Leopard Frog	X			X	X	X		X	X				X
Lithobates sylvatica	Wood Frog	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pseudacris crucifer crucifer	Spring Peeper	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pseudacris triseriata	Western Chorus Frog	X												
Rana clamitans melanota	Green Frog	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Table 2: Summary of maximum calling codes and maximum abundance estimates by species during 2025 site visits for Melancthon Pit #2 and the Bonnefield property wetland (ANR-009).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Species Detected by Monitoring Station																			
		ANR-001		ANR-002		ANR-003		ANR-004		ANR-005		ANR-006		ANR-007a		ANR-007b		ANR-008a		ANR-009	
		Code	Abun.	Code	Abun.	Code	Abun.	Code	Abun.	Code	Abun.	Code	Abun.	Code	Abun.	Code	Abun.	Code	Abun.	Code	Abun.
Anaxyrus americanus	American Toad	1	1	1	2																
Hyla Versicolor	Gray Treefrog																			1	1
Lithobates pipiens	Northern Leopard Frog			1	1			1	1												
Lithobates sylvatica	Wood Frog	3		2	5			2	2	3				2	5			2	2	3	
Pseudacris crucifer crucifer	Spring Peeper	3		3		2	3	3		3				3		1	2	3		3	
Rana clamitans melanota	Green Frog	1	4					1	1	1	1										

individuals, respectively. These results for Wood Frog are similar to 2021 and 2024 and represent an increase from 2022 and 2023 results.

During the 2025 survey period, American Toad, Northern Leopard Frog and Green Frog were observed to occur in low abundances on the subject property, with individuals observed at two, two and three stations, respectively. These results represent an average year for these species. Gray Treefrog was not recorded at any stations during 2025 visits. These results are similar to 2021 and 2023 and represent a decrease from 2022 and 2024 results.

The stations with the highest species richness in 2025 were ANR-002 and 004, which each had four anuran species heard across visits. These stations were followed by stations ANR-001 and ANR-005, which each had three anuran species, stations ANR-003, 007a and 008a, which each had two anuran species, and ANR-007b which had one anuran species across visits. No species were heard at station ANR-006 across visits.

These species richness results are generally consistent with previous years of monitoring. In comparison to 2024 results, four stations (ANR-001, 002, 003, 004) had an increase, two stations (ANR-007a, 008a) had a decrease, and three stations (ANR-005, 006, 007b) had no change in the number of species detected across site visits. Refer to Figures 7 to 15 in Appendix IV for a comparison of species richness across all monitoring years by station.

Anuran abundances were highest at stations ANR-001 and 005, which each had two species detected at calling code 3 (Spring Peeper and Wood Frog), followed by stations ANR-002, 004, 007a and 008a, which each had one species detected at calling code 3 (Spring Peeper). Stations ANR-003 and 007b each had one or two anuran species detected at calling codes 1 to 2, with two to three individuals of each species. ANR-006 had no individuals detected in 2025.

3.2 Bonnefield Property (ANR-009)

Three anuran species were recorded within the Bonnefield property across all 2025 site visits:

- Gray Treefrog,
- Wood Frog, and
- Spring Peeper.

Wood Frog and Spring Peeper were both recorded calling at full chorus. A single Gray Treefrog was recorded calling during the June site visit.

Table 3 below presents a summary of all species occurrences documented at the Bonnefield property during baseline (2016-2021) and operational-phase (2022-2025) monitoring. Spring Peeper has been detected in all eight survey years since baseline monitoring began in 2016, while Wood Frog has been detected in all survey years except 2022 and 2023. Gray Treefrog has been detected in a total of four monitoring years, 2016, 2020, 2022 and 2025.

Field data collected in 2025 at the Bonnefield property represents the fourth year of operational-phase monitoring. The three anuran species detected in 2025 is generally consistent with previous years of monitoring. Spring Peeper, Wood Frog, and Gray Treefrog have been the most abundant species across all years, with Spring Peeper and Wood Frog being detected at full chorus in seven of nine years and six of nine years, respectively, while Gray Treefrog was detected at full chorus in 2016. American Toad and Green Frog were each detected in small numbers in one year (2016) and two years (2016 and 2022), respectively. Western Chorus Frog individuals were detected during 2018 surveys; this species was not detected in 2016 or 2019-2025.

Table 3. Summary of anuran species detected at the Bonnefield property wetland (ANR-009) by monitoring year.

Species		Monitoring Year								
		Pre-extraction					Operational Phase			
Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**2016**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Anaxyrus americanus	American Toad	X								
Hyla versicolor	Gray Treefrog	X			X		X			X
Lithobates sylvatica	Wood Frog	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Pseudacris crucifer crucifer	Spring Peeper	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pseudacris triseriata	Western Chorus Frog		X							
Rana clamitans melanota	Green Frog	X					X			

3.3 Melancthon Pit #2 – Trends in Anuran Species Occurrence, Richness and Abundance Across Monitoring Years

Field data collected during the 2009 and 2013 monitoring seasons at Melancthon Pit #2 were combined to represent baseline (pre-extraction) conditions against which to compare operational-phase anuran survey results (2014-2025 data). The data collected to date was used to provide an assessment of trends in species occurrence, richness and abundance at the station level across years. When comparing the operational results to pre-extraction results, the single-year pre-extraction results (i.e., for 2009 and 2013 individually) were also taken into consideration, as the combined pre-extraction results were somewhat higher than the single-year results in some instances. For example, Gray Treefrog was detected calling at full chorus at a total of two stations during pre-extraction monitoring (see Figure 2 below); however, when looking at the single-year pre-extraction monitoring results, the species was only detected at one station during each of the 2009 and 2013 pre-extraction monitoring programs.

3.3.1 Species Occurrence and Abundance

Figure 1 below presents a comparison of Spring Peeper occurrence across stations by year during the operational period, as compared to pre-extraction results. As shown, the number of stations at which Spring Peeper was detected was relatively consistent across years, ranging from five to nine stations. The decrease in 2021 to five stations may have been a result of the unseasonably dry conditions that occurred in the spring of 2021, which resulted in several of the ponds being dry during the monitoring period. The number of stations at which Spring Peeper was detected at a calling code of 3 (full chorus) was also relatively consistent across years, ranging from three to seven stations, with the exception of 2023 when a full chorus was detected at only two stations.

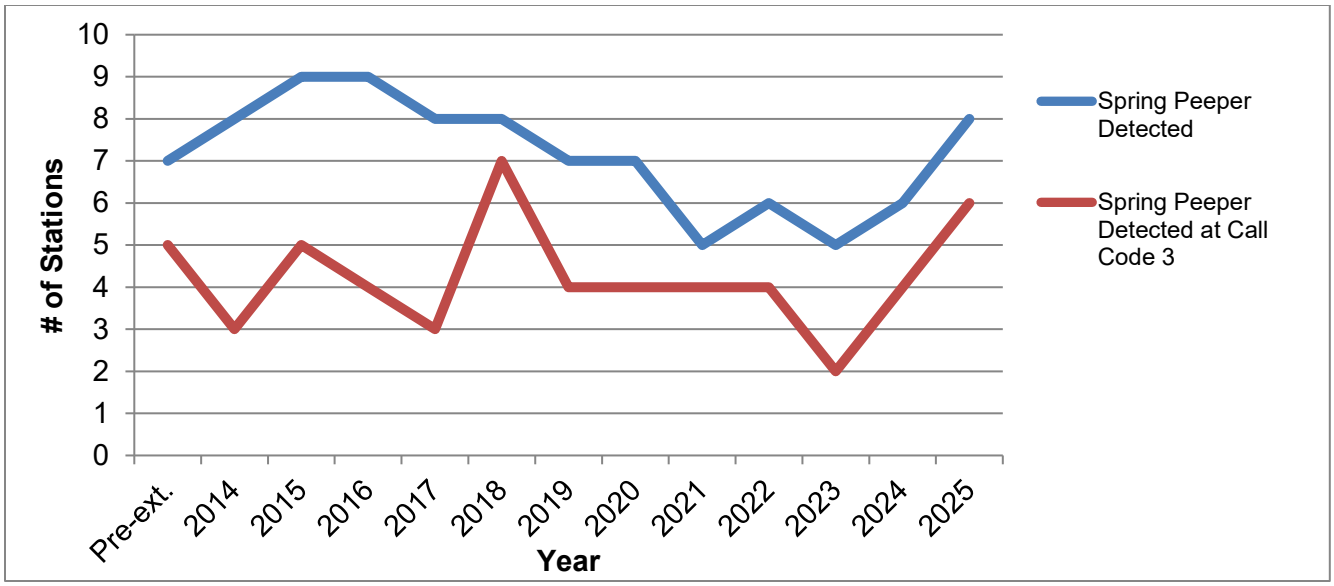


Figure 1: Spring Peeper Occurrence and Abundance Across Stations by Year

Figure 2 below presents a comparison of Gray Treefrog occurrence across stations by year during the operational period, as compared to pre-extraction results. As shown, the number of stations at which Gray Treefrog was detected fluctuated from year to year (ranging from zero to seven stations) with an overall slight decreasing trend. In 2020, although calling individuals were only detected at two stations (ANR-007b and 008a), tadpoles of this species were also incidentally noted at a third station (ANR-003). The decrease to zero stations in 2021 is likely a result of unseasonably dry conditions that occurred in the spring of 2021, which resulted in seven of the nine stations being dry by June (when Gray Treefrog is most likely to be detected). During the June site visits in 2020-2025, it was also noted that Gray Treefrog individuals were detected calling from some of the temporary aggregate pit ponds on site that are located to the west of the monitoring stations (see Map 2). The number of stations at which Gray Treefrog was detected at a calling code of 3 (full chorus) was relatively consistent across years, ranging from zero to two stations.

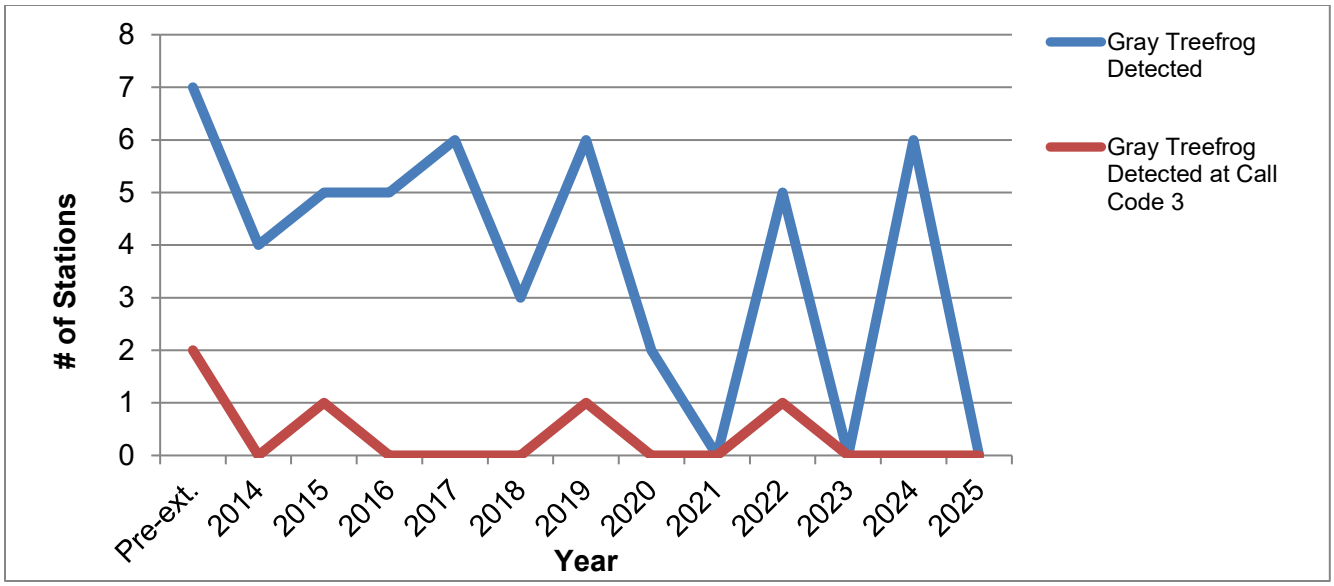


Figure 2: Gray Treefrog Occurrence and Abundance Across Stations by Year

Figure 3 below presents a comparison of Wood Frog occurrence across stations by year during the operational period, as compared to pre-extraction results. As shown, the number of stations at which Wood Frog was detected fluctuated from year to year (ranging from zero to eight stations), with an overall decreasing trend. The lack of Wood Frog observations in 2018 was likely a result of a late spring that delayed Wood Frog breeding (resulting in calls not being heard during the April survey when they are usually detected). In 2020, although calling individuals were only detected at three stations (ANR-001, 004, and 008a), tadpoles of this species were also incidentally noted at a fourth station (ANR-003). An overall decreasing trend in abundance can also be inferred across all years when looking at the number of stations at which a full chorus of Wood Frogs was detected. However, the increase in Wood Frog occurrence and abundance in 2024 and 2025, as compared to 2022 and 2023, indicates that the observed trends may be the result of natural fluctuations across years. It is also important to note that the high pre-extraction result was based on a small sample size.

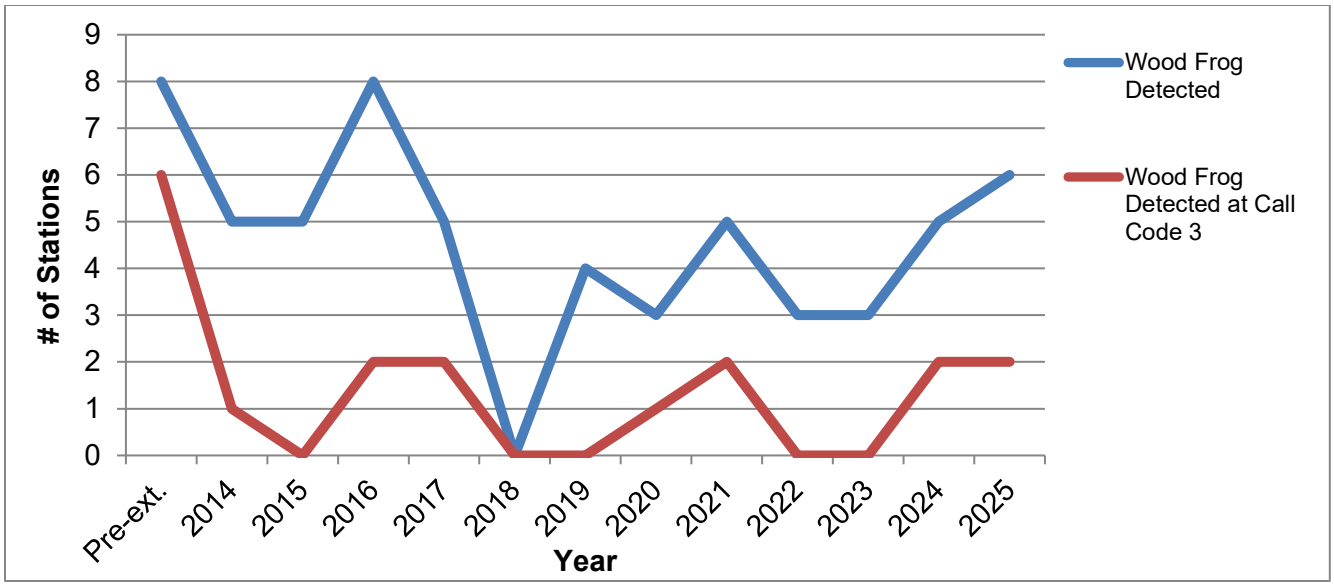


Figure 3: Wood Frog Occurrence and Abundance Across Stations by Year

Figure 4 below presents a comparison of American Toad occurrence by year during the operational period, as compared to pre-extraction results. As shown, the number of stations at which American Toad was detected fluctuated across years (ranging from zero to six stations), with an overall decreasing trend. However, the increase in American Toad occurrence in 2025, as compared to 2019-2024, indicates that the observed trend may be the result of natural fluctuations across years. During both monitoring periods, most stations contained only one to three calling individuals. It is also important to note that the high pre-extraction result was based on a small sample size.

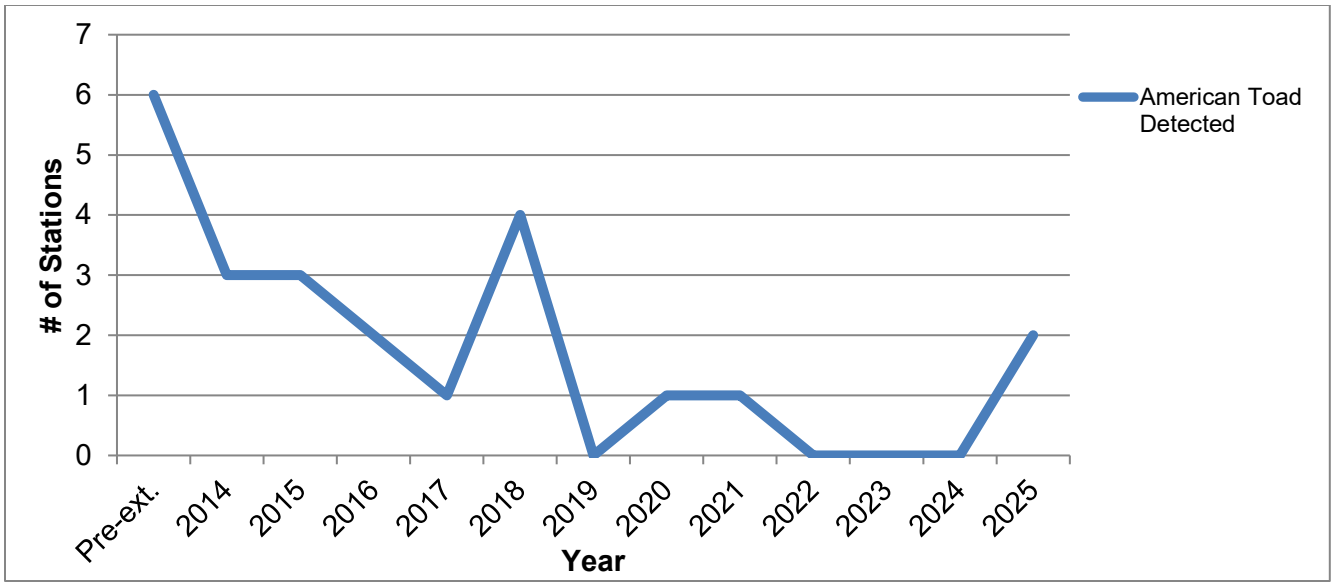


Figure 4: American Toad Occurrence Across Stations by Year

Figure 5 below presents a comparison of Green Frog occurrence by year during the operational period, as compared to pre-extraction results. As shown, the number of stations at which Green Frog was detected varied from year to year with no distinct trend, ranging from zero to three stations. A maximum of one to seven calling individuals was detected at these stations in a given year. The 2018 results may have been influenced by cooler-than-normal conditions during that period.

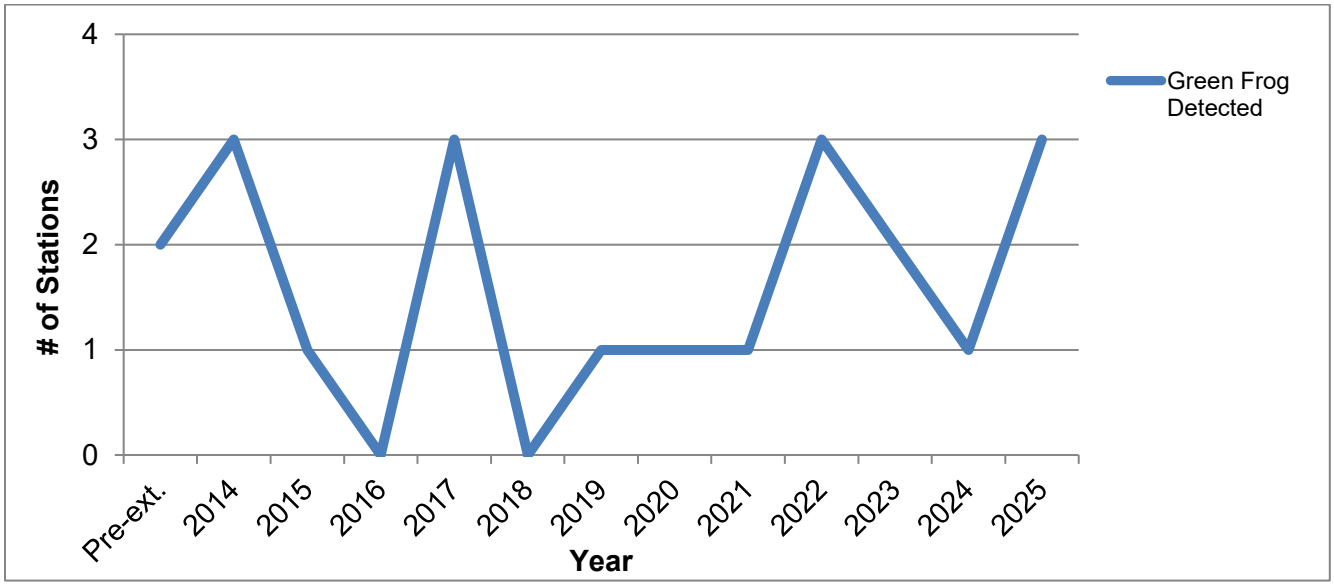


Figure 5: Green Frog Occurrence Across Stations by Year

Figure 6 below presents a comparison of Northern Leopard Frog occurrence by year during the operational period, as compared to pre-extraction results. As shown, the number of stations at which Northern Leopard Frog was detected varied from year to year with no distinct trend, ranging from zero to five stations. A maximum of one to two calling individuals was detected at these stations in a given year.

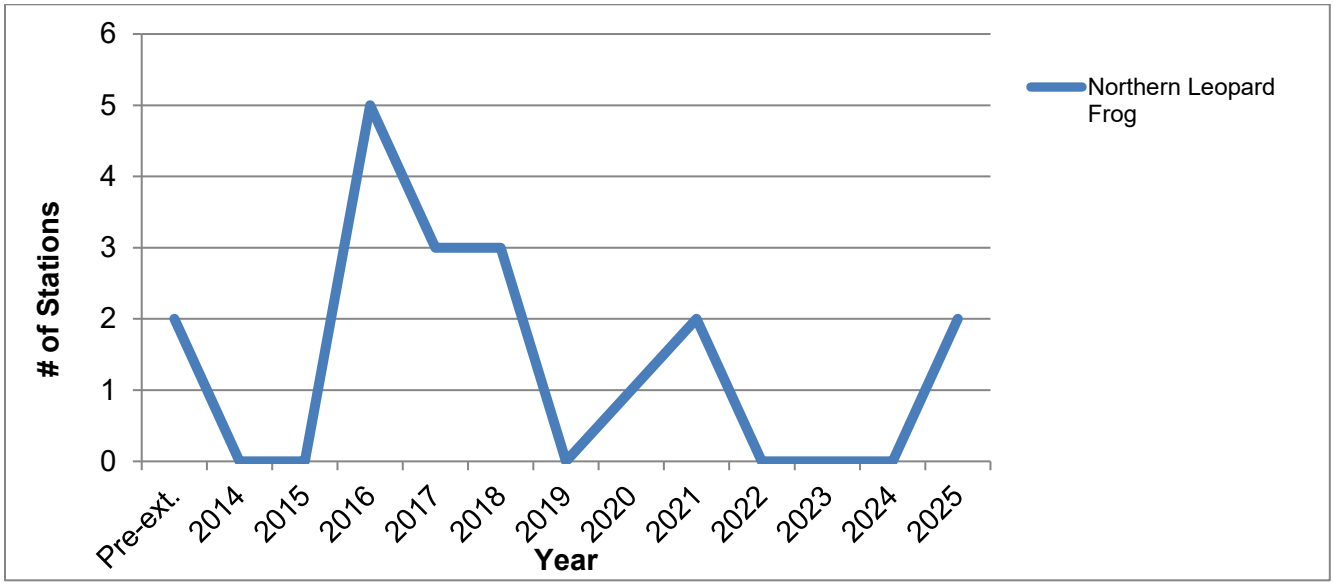


Figure 6: Northern Leopard Frog Occurrence Across Stations by Year

3.3.2 Species Richness by Station

A comparison of species richness by year during the operational period, compared to pre-extraction results, was completed for each monitoring station. A slight overall decreasing trend in species richness (i.e., the total number of anuran species detected) was observed for station ANR-003. Although this station had only one species detected during call surveys in 2022 (Spring Peeper heard at full chorus), adults of two additional species, Wood Frog and Green Frog, were also observed in the wetland during surveys. The remaining eight stations showed some variation in species richness from year to year, but with no apparent overall trend.

The year-to-year species richness comparison, and resulting trend, for each station can be seen on Figures 7 to 15 in Appendix IV.

3.3.3 Species Abundance by Station

A comparison of species abundance by year during the operational period, compared to pre-extraction results, was completed for each monitoring station. A slight decreasing overall trend

in species abundance can be seen for stations ANR-002, 004 and 007b, which is consistent with the overall decreasing trend in abundance for Wood Frog (see Figure 3 above). Stations ANR-001, 003, 006, 007a and 008a showed some variation in species abundance from year to year, but with no apparent overall trend, while station ANR-005 showed an increasing overall trend in species abundance.

The year-to-year species abundance comparison, and resulting trend, for each station can be seen on Figures 16 to 24 in Appendix V.

3.3.4 Summary and Analysis of Possible Decreasing Species Trends Across Years

As described in sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above, a slight overall decreasing trend in species richness can be seen for station ANR-003, and a slight decreasing overall trend in species abundance can be seen for stations ANR-002, 004 and 007b. These decreasing trends are primarily a result of the decreasing trends in occurrence and/or abundance observed for Gray Treefrog, Wood Frog and/or American Toad, as described in section 3.3.1.

These decreasing trends may be the result of various factors, some of which are unrelated to pit operation activities, such as increased habitat availability on site, natural population-level fluctuations, and/or changes in wetland surface water levels due to weather and precipitation fluctuations. However, certain factors that may be influencing these trends could potentially be due to pit operational activities; these factors include alterations to adjacent lands that could affect surface runoff to wetlands, degradation of wetland water quality (e.g., due to releases of sediments or deleterious substances), or changes to shallow groundwater levels as a result of pit operations.

No alterations to the lands adjacent to the monitoring stations at Melancthon Pit #2, that could impact surface runoff to wetlands, are known to have occurred in recent years. Based on qualitative observations made by NRSI during surveys, it has been noted that stations ANR-002, 003 and 004 appear to be drying out more frequently by June in recent years, as compared to earlier monitoring years (see section 4.1); however, based on measured water levels and water balance on site, Tatham Engineering is not of the opinion that the on-going aggregate operations have resulted in the change in hydroperiod observed in these wetlands (A. Kimberley, Tatham Engineering, pers. comm., April 2026).

Water quality monitoring completed by Whitewater Hydrogeology and Tatham Engineering during all monitoring years has shown that the operation of the pit is not having any measurable

impacts on water quality within the wetland features. There may, however, have been some potential for sedimentation effects due to the degradation of the sediment and erosion control fencing on site before its repair/replacement in August 2025. Although no specific observations of sedimentation were noted, this potential effect, if it occurred, was likely limited to the three northernmost wetlands that are surrounded by active pit operations (Map 1). As part of the NEA (NRSI 2010), it was concluded that the four wetland features showing slight decreasing trends in species richness and/or abundance (ANR-002, 003, 004, 007b) are not connected to the groundwater table and should be relatively insulated from fluctuations in groundwater. Additionally, it has been concluded in all years of monitoring that shallow groundwater levels at well OW6a (which is in close proximity to stations ANR-007a/ANR-007b), as well as at other monitored wells, have been consistent with groundwater level and trends historically observed on site.

As described in section 3.3.1, it was noted during June site visits in 2020-2025 that Gray Treefrog individuals were detected calling from some of the temporary aggregate pit ponds on site that are located to the west of the monitoring stations (see Map 2). This observation suggests that the conditions of the pit ponds may be providing better habitat conditions for this species than the natural wetlands at the monitoring stations. One possibility is that the pit ponds may have retained appropriate surface water levels in June when several of the wetlands at the monitoring stations were dry by June (when Gray Treefrog is most likely to be detected) in recent years. As described in section 4.1 below, there appears to be a slight overall increasing trend in the number of wetland habitats drying out by June in recent years. Based on the analysis of surface runoff and shallow groundwater above, it is likely that this increase is a result of weather and precipitation fluctuations.

Based on the above analysis, it is expected that the decreasing trends in species richness and/or abundance are a result of natural population-level fluctuations, weather and precipitation-based effects, and/or availability of better habitat conditions at the pit ponds on site. However, impacts from pit operations cannot be ruled out entirely as a contributing factor, specifically due to the potential incursion of sediments into wetlands from adjacent operational areas, prior to fencing repair/replacement. These trends will continue to be monitored during subsequent survey years, which may provide additional information on whether any continued negative trends may be the result of pit operations.

4.0 Hydrological, Hydrogeological and Water Quality Data

4.1 Surface Water Levels

The results of the 2025 surface water monitoring program, as collected by Tatham Engineering, are illustrated in Appendix D of the *Strada Shelburne Annual Compliance Report 2025* (Tatham Engineering 2026). Surface water levels were consistently higher in the South Pond than the North Pond throughout most of the late-March to mid-December 2025 hydrological monitoring period. This is similar to 2015-2022 water level observations, but contrasts with water level observations in 2023 and 2024, when surface water levels were higher in the North Pond during the monitoring period. In 2025, surface water levels in both ponds increased from late March to mid to late April, followed by a gradual and generally consistent decrease from mid to late April through to the fall, before drying out in October. For the North Pond, these results are similar to 2016, 2022 and 2024 when the pond dried out in the fall, and contrast 2015, 2017-2021 and 2023 results when the pond remained wet throughout the monitoring period. For the South Pond, these results are similar to 2016, 2022 and 2023 when the pond dried out in the fall, and contrast 2015, 2017-2021 and 2024 observations when the pond remained wet throughout the monitoring period.

Surface water level data was collected for the entirety of the April-June 2025 amphibian monitoring period for both ponds. Water levels in the North Pond increased fairly quickly from early April to mid-April, from approximately 491.85masl in early April to a high of approximately 492.45masl in mid-April. This was followed by a gradual decline through to late June, when levels reached a low of approximately 491.40masl. This decline was part of the larger gradual and generally consistent decline seen in this pond throughout the remainder of the monitoring period, until the pond dried out in mid-October. Surface water levels in the North Pond were similar to 2022 levels, and slightly lower than 2015-2021 and 2023-2024 levels. Surface water in the South Pond increased gradually from early April to late April, from approximately 492.25masl in early April to a high of approximately 492.62masl in late April. This was followed by a gradual decline through to late June, when levels reached a low of approximately 492.20masl. This decline was part of the larger gradual and generally consistent decline seen in this pond throughout the remainder of the monitoring period. Surface water levels in the South Pond were similar to 2024 levels, and were generally lower than previous monitoring years, with the exception of 2023 which had the lowest recorded levels for the South Pond. In general, the surface water levels observed at the North and South ponds in 2025 were

consistent with previous years (Tatham Engineering 2026). See the *Strada Shelburne Annual Compliance Report* (Tatham Engineering 2026) for further details of water level results.

Within the 2025 hydrological monitoring period at the Bonnefield property, the surface water level at SW1 increased from late March to mid-April, followed by a generally consistent decline before drying out in mid-July. The surface water level at SW2 also increased from late March to mid-April, followed by a generally consistent decline before drying out in late-July.

Surface water level data at SW1 and SW2 were collected for the entirety of the April-June amphibian monitoring period. Water levels in SW1 increased fairly quickly from early April to mid-April, from approximately 491.10masl in early April to a high of approximately 491.74masl in mid-April. This was followed by a somewhat rapid decline through to late June, when levels reached a low of approximately 490.92masl. Water levels in SW2 increased fairly quickly from early April to mid-April, from approximately 495.00masl in early April to a high of approximately 495.76masl mid-April. This was followed by a somewhat rapid decline through to late June, when levels reached a low of approximately 494.92masl. In general, the surface water levels observed in 2025 at the Bonnefield Property were consistent with previous years (Tatham Engineering 2026).

Based on qualitative observations made by NRSI, standing water was present at the majority of anuran monitoring stations during the early portion of the 2025 amphibian monitoring period, with all stations containing standing water in April and only one station containing no standing water in May (ANR-006). By June of 2025, however, four of the nine monitoring stations were completely dry. This is similar to the 2015 and 2021-2024 monitoring seasons when four to seven of nine stations were dry by June in a given year, and contrasts with observations in 2016-2020, when only one to three stations were observed to contain no water in each year. These observations show a slight overall increasing trend in the number of ponds drying out by June in recent years. Based on the analysis present in section 3.3.4 above, it is likely that this increase is a result of weather and precipitation fluctuations.

4.2 Groundwater Levels

The shallow groundwater level near ANR-006/ANR-007a (well OW6A) was monitored from early January to early December in 2025. In 2025, the shallow groundwater level at this well peaked at approximately 493.40masl in mid-April, as compared to peak levels ranging from 491.80masl to 493.58masl during 2015-2024 spring monitoring (Whitewater Hydrogeology 2016-2022;

Tatham Engineering 2024-2026). The timing of the 2025 spring-based groundwater elevation fluctuation at OW6A was similar to that at other monitored wells. During the 2025 amphibian monitoring period, overburden groundwater elevation was approximately 492.90masl in early April, followed by an increase to approximately 493.40masl in mid-April before declining to approximately 492.40masl in late June (Tatham Engineering 2026).

The shallow groundwater level near ANR-001 (well OW10A) was monitored from early January to early December in 2025. In 2025, the shallow groundwater level at this well peaked at approximately 494.60masl in mid-April, compared to a 2017 peak level of 494.52 in mid-May. The timing of the 2025 spring-based groundwater elevation fluctuation at OW10A was similar to that at other monitored wells. During the 2025 amphibian monitoring period, overburden groundwater elevation was approximately 494.00masl in early April, followed by an increase to approximately 494.60masl in mid-April before declining to approximately 493.40masl in late June (Tatham Engineering 2026).

Shallow groundwater levels on the Bonnefield property, monitored at well OW18A, were similar to levels in 2023 and 2024, and slightly higher than levels recorded during 2017-2022 monitoring. In 2025, the shallow groundwater level at this well peaked at approximately 488.91masl in late April, as compared to a peak level of approximately 488.50masl and 488.90masl in 2023 and 2024, respectively, and peak levels ranging from approximately 486.30masl to 487.30masl during 2017-2022 spring monitoring (Whitewater Hydrogeology 2021, 2022a, 2022b; Tatham Engineering 2024-2026). The timing of the 2025 spring-based groundwater elevation fluctuations at this well was similar to that at other monitored wells. During the 2025 amphibian monitoring period, overburden groundwater elevation was approximately 488.70masl in early April, followed by an increase to approximately 488.91masl in mid-April before declining slightly to approximately 488.50masl in late June (Tatham Engineering 2026).

4.3 Pond Surface Water Quality

As reported in the *Strada Shelburne Annual Compliance Report 2025* (Tatham Engineering 2026), measured water quality parameters within the North and South Ponds generally met the applicable Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQO), with the exception of phosphorus during the spring and fall sampling period at both the North and South Pond. These water quality results are similar to results from previous monitoring years (Tatham Engineering 2026).

4.4 Hydrological/Hydrogeological and Water Quality Summary

Based on these analyses, operation of the pit is not having any measurable impacts on surface or groundwater levels, or water quality within the pond features.

5.0 Summary and Conclusions

In 2025, NRSI biologists completed the 13th year of an annual program to monitor the ecological condition of subject property wetlands as a means of identifying any potential impacts caused by aggregate extraction activities at Melancthon Pit #2. As recommended in the Level 2 NEA report for the subject property (NRSI 2010), studies were initiated to track long-term wetland characteristics based on annual anuran breeding activity in conjunction with associated surface water and groundwater measurements within the subject property collected by Whitewater Hydrogeology Ltd. (2014-2022) and Tatham Engineering (2023-2025). Regular surface water monitoring was initiated in 2014. The biological and hydrological/hydrogeological monitoring plan for Melancthon Pit #2 was incorporated into an Integrated Monitoring Plan (Appendix I) for Melancthon Pits #1, #2, and the Bonnefield property pit expansion beginning with 2018 field survey activities.

Data collected in 2013 at Melancthon Pit #2 was compiled with NRSI data collected in 2009 to represent baseline (pre-extraction) conditions. Data collected from 2014 to 2025 represent the operational-phase monitoring period on the property, including facility construction and aggregate extraction.

The results of comparative analyses between and within pre-extraction and operational-phase monitoring periods at Melancthon Pit #2 should be interpreted with caution as natural population fluctuations, caused by potential confounding factors (e.g., precipitation levels and/or temperatures within a particular monitoring season), are to be expected in the monitoring results and can result in background “noise” in the data when looking at station-level and species-level data across years. Therefore, observed differences in species presence and relative abundance, within and across stations, from year to year, as compared to pre-extraction results, may not be directly caused by facility operational effects within the property. The data collected to date provide an assessment of current trends in species occurrence, richness and abundance. The monitoring program will continue to identify trends across years and will clarify long-term trends as more years of data are collected and analyzed, and in doing so will be used to further assess any potential impacts caused by the facility operations.

In total, seven anuran species were recorded within the Melancthon Pit wetlands across all years, including the provincial SCC Western Chorus Frog. To date, Western Chorus Frog was only observed in 2009, at one station, within the Melancthon Pit #2 site. Spring Peeper was recorded as the most abundant and widespread species across all years and showed a

relatively consistent trend in abundance and occurrence when data was compared on a year-by-year basis (see Figure 1). Gray Treefrog was also recorded at relatively high abundances across monitoring periods. The Gray Treefrog occurrence data showed a slight declining trend, while the abundance data showed variation from year to year, but with no discernable trend at this time (see Figure 2). It was also noted in 2020-2025 that Gray Treefrog was detected calling (full chorus in 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025; 4 individuals in 2021; 15 individuals in 2023) from some of the temporary aggregate pit ponds on site (located to the west of the amphibian monitoring stations; see Map 2), which suggests that this species is still actively breeding in high numbers within the Melancthon Pit #2 site. A year-by-year comparison of operational data compared to pre-extraction data for Wood Frog, another relatively abundant species across monitoring periods, showed an apparent slight decline in both occurrence and abundance for this species (see Figure 3).

American Toad, Green Frog and Northern Leopard Frog occurred in relatively low abundances during both monitoring periods. When comparing year-by-year operational data to pre-extraction data, American Toad showed an overall slight decline in occurrence (see Figure 4), while Green Frog and Northern Leopard Frog did not show any discernable trend (see Figures 5 and 6, respectively).

A comparison of species richness for each station by year during the operational period (compared to pre-extraction results; Appendix IV) showed an overall slight decreasing trend in species richness for station ANR-003. The remaining eight stations showed some variation in species richness from year to year, but with no apparent overall trend at any individual station. A comparison of species abundance for each station by year during the operational period (compared to pre-extraction results; Appendix V) showed an overall slight decreasing trend in species abundance for stations ANR-002, 004 and 007b, which is consistent with the overall decreasing trend in abundance for Wood Frog (see Figure 3). Stations ANR-001, 003, 006, 007a and 008a showed some variation in species abundance from year to year, but with no apparent overall trend, while station ANR-005 showed an increasing trend in species abundance.

Overall, the monitoring results suggest that the small, isolated wetlands located in the north end of the Melancthon Pit including the Reed Canary Grass swale (as surveyed by stations ANR-001 to 005) continue to provide good quality habitat for the majority of the species that breed within the subject property. Wet pockets within the meadow marsh associated with the western

edge of the large swamp feature were observed to also provide suitable breeding habitat for amphibians at stations ANR-007a and 008a, particularly for Spring Peepers. The White Cedar-Hardwood Mineral Mixed Swamp, where it occurs on or adjacent to the subject property (as surveyed by station ANR-006), supports a healthy population of Spring Peepers in some years but does not represent important breeding habitat for other anuran species.

Overall, breeding anuran abundance at the Melancthon Pit was observed to be relatively consistent between the pre-extraction and operational periods to date. Individual species occurrence and abundance remained consistent across periods with the exception of Wood Frog, which has appeared to decline slightly in station-level occurrence and abundance since the pre-extraction period, and Gray Treefrog and American Toad, which have appeared to decline slightly in station-level occurrence since the pre-extraction period. At this time there is no evidence to indicate that these changes in observed abundance and/or occurrence are not a natural fluctuation in the local population, or if not, whether they can be attributed to the on-site activities or are part of a broader species population trend. However, based on surface water level and quality data, and groundwater level data collected by Tatham Engineering, operation of the pit is not observed to be causing any measurable impacts to the existing hydrological regime on the property. Additionally, no other visible signs of habitat disturbance or degradation caused by the aggregate pit activities were observed at these wetlands. The previously degraded sediment and erosion control fencing, which had the potential to cause sedimentation effects, was repaired/replaced in August 2025. The continued persistence of a healthy population of breeding anurans, relative to observed pre-extraction conditions, further suggests that the anuran habitat functions of the on-site wetlands are being maintained.

Annual monitoring at the Bonnefield Pit was recommended in NRSI's NEA report for the Prince and Bonnefield properties (NRSI 2017), which documented the presence of breeding amphibians within the Bonnefield property wetland during 2016 surveys. 2025 monitoring at the Bonnefield property documented the fourth year of extraction operation-phase data on breeding amphibian species presence and relative abundance and was compared to pre-extraction data collected in 2016 and 2018-2021. In total, six anuran species were detected at the Bonnefield Pit between 2016 and 2025, including the provincial SCC Western Chorus Frog. The presence of Western Chorus Frog within this wetland further reinforces the significance of this wetland as anuran breeding habitat, which was identified in the 2017 NEA report. Species occurrence and abundance at this wetland in 2025 were generally consistent with pre-extraction years and the first three years of operational-stage monitoring. Additional years of monitoring will help to

identify the presence of any long-term trends in species occurrence and/or abundance at this wetland.

It is recommended that the amphibian monitoring program continue at both Melancthon Pit #2 and at the Bonnefield property wetland, concurrent with ongoing hydrological/hydrogeological monitoring, to further investigate trends in amphibian breeding diversity and abundance against these abiotic factors in accordance with the NEA studies recommendations. Natural population-level fluctuations are to be expected in the amphibian monitoring results, and additional years of monitoring will continue to refine the presence of any long-term trends and provide further inference as to whether any potential impacts are occurring due to pit operation.

6.0 References

Bird Studies Canada (BSC). 2009. Marsh Monitoring Program Participant's Handbook for Surveying Amphibians. 2009 Edition. Published by Bird Studies Canada in Cooperation with Environment Canada and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. February 2009.

Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI). 2010. Melancthon Pit Natural Environment Level 2 Assessment. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. January 2010.

Natural Resource Solutions Inc. (NRSI). 2017. Level 1/2 Natural Environment Assessment and Environmental Impact Study. Prince and Bonnefield Properties, 4th Line, Melancthon Township. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. May 2017.

MHBC. 2010. Melancthon Pit Operational Plan. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. March 15, 2010.

Tatham Engineering. 2024. Strada Shelburne Annual Compliance Report 2023. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. March 2024.

Tatham Engineering. 2025. Strada Shelburne Annual Compliance Report 2024. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. February 2025.

Tatham Engineering. 2026. Strada Shelburne Annual Compliance Report 2025. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. March 2026.

Whitewater Hydrogeology Ltd. 2017. Combined Level 1 and 2 Hydrogeological Assessment, Proposed Bonnefield and Prince Pits. Draft. Prepared for Strada Aggregates. January 2017.

Whitewater Hydrogeology Ltd. 2018. 2017 Compliance Groundwater Monitoring Report, Shelburne South Pit. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. February 2018.

Whitewater Hydrogeology Ltd. 2019. 2018 Compliance Groundwater Monitoring Report, Shelburne Pits. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. April 2019.

Whitewater Hydrogeology Ltd. 2020. 2019 Compliance Groundwater Monitoring Report, Shelburne Pits. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. January 2020.

Whitewater Hydrogeology Ltd. 2021. 2020 Compliance Groundwater Monitoring Report, Shelburne Pits. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. March 2021.

Whitewater Hydrogeology Ltd. 2022a. 2021 Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Report, Shelburne Pits 1-4. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. March 2022.

Whitewater Hydrogeology Ltd. 2022b. 2022 Groundwater and Surface Monitoring Report, Shelburne Pits 1-4. Prepared for Strada Aggregates Inc. December 2022.

Appendix I
Integrated Monitoring Plan

Strada Aggregates Melancthon Pits – Integrated Monitoring Plan
February 2018

Background

The Strada Melancthon Pits consist of:

- Pit #1 (Licence # 129167) located at West Half of Lot 13, Concession 3 O.S., licenced in 2004;
- Pit #2 (Licence # 625155) located at West Half of Part Lot 11 and 12, Concession 3 O.S., licenced in 2012; and
- The proposed Bonnefield and Prince extension lands located at Part of West Half of Lots 12 and 14, Concession 3 O.S.

The proposed Prince and Bonnefield extensions will be fully integrated with existing aggregate operations at Melancthon Pits #1 and #2. The existing operations require monitoring and annual reporting with respect to the water table, water quality and the natural environment. Hydrogeological and natural environment investigations for the proposed extension have recommended expansion of the monitoring programs to include the additional lands. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has requested an Integrated Monitoring Plan to consolidate the existing and proposed monitoring requirements.

Natural Environment

Amphibian Monitoring

Annual monitoring of the wetlands for the presence of breeding amphibians was originally recommended in the Level 2 Natural Environment Assessment (NEA) report for Melancthon Pit #2, as well as surface and groundwater monitoring to assess water level fluctuations (NRSI 2010). The implementation of an amphibian monitoring program was further requested by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) and Michalski Nielson in their review of the Level 2 NEA report.

NRSI has undertaken annual amphibian monitoring at the wetlands located adjacent to Melancthon Pit #2 since 2013. Initial amphibian call surveys were undertaken in 2009.

Of the two proposed pit areas, only the Bonnefield Pit property contains wetland habitat (outside the extraction area). Surveys completed in 2016 recorded the presence of breeding amphibians. To ensure that the proposed pit does not negatively impact the wetland and its amphibian breeding habitat function it was recommended that the existing amphibian monitoring program for Melancthon Pit #2 be expanded to include the Bonnefield Pit to maximize efficiencies, and achieve consistency in methodology and data comparability.

Annual amphibian call surveys that were initiated at Melancthon Pit #2 will continue for the duration of the lifespan of the pit, as was originally proposed. Beginning in 2018, NRSI will initiate annual monitoring of the Bonnefield property wetland which will also be undertaken for the lifespan of that pit. Annual monitoring of the Bonnefield Pit wetland will build on NRSI's 2016 amphibian call surveys on the property

to inform the NEA report. See **Map 1** for the location of the existing monitoring stations at Melancthon Pit #2 in addition to the single monitoring station at the Bonnefield Pit wetland. Since no amphibian calling activity was documented within the Bonnefield property vernal pool during 2016 surveys, despite the presence of standing water, additional long-term monitoring of the vernal pool is not included in this plan. However, if amphibian calling activity is heard within the vernal pool during future monitoring years, an additional monitoring station will be established at this location and will be monitored annually.

Proposed monitoring at the Bonnefield Pit wetland will document additional baseline data on breeding amphibian species presence and relative abundance prior to aggregate extraction, followed by multiple years of operational-stage monitoring. As has been completed for Melancthon Pit #2, long-term data will be collected to identify trends or other indicators that will be used to assess any negative occurrences to amphibian breeding activity that may be the result of pit activities. The amphibian survey data collected at the Bonnefield and Melancthon Pit #2 sites will also be compared to look for spatial trends, or any similarities or differences in survey results over time that may indicate presence of localized or widespread pit operation effects.

In accordance with survey methodology completed to date, the monitoring program will utilize the Marsh Monitoring Program methodology (BSC 2009), which records amphibian call activity during 3-minute call counts. Counts will be conducted once per month during each of April, May and June in conjunction with appropriate night time air temperatures and wind speeds. If the provincial Species of Conservation Concern Western Chorus Frog (Pseudacris triseriata) is detected during any monitoring event, additional monitoring events may be added to fully document the abundance and distribution of this species within the surveyed wetlands.

A brief summary report, combining the results collected from the Melancthon Pit #2 site with the Bonnefield Pit site, will be prepared each year which outlines the findings of the annual monitoring. This will include an assessment of the surface water and groundwater monitoring data to be collected by Whitewater Hydrogeology within both properties (Whitewater Hydrogeology 2017) as it relates to amphibian breeding conditions. Each annual report will be provided to Strada for their review, and then to the NVCA and the Township of Melancthon.

Woodland Buffer

The deciduous woodland communities within the Bonnefield and Prince extension lands will be retained outside the proposed limit of extraction. 10 metre woodland buffers have been recommended to protect these features and mitigate impacts from adjacent extraction activities. The woodland buffers will be allowed to re-naturalize and will be supplemented with targeted native species plantings.

The woodland buffers will be inspected during pit operations to ensure disturbances are not occurring. The health and survival of buffer planting will also be inspected.

Hydrogeology

Compliance groundwater and surface water monitoring has been occurring at both Melancthon Pit #1 and #2 since 2001 and 2007, respectively. In addition, baseline groundwater monitoring commenced in

2017 at the Bonnefield and Prince properties. In total, there are currently 28 groundwater well nests that monitor 52 discrete aquifer intervals in the overburden and bedrock aquifers. The Melancthon Pit #1 and #2 groundwater monitoring programs were developed to characterize the local groundwater conditions at each individual property and were based on two operating pits (two scale houses, two fuel storage areas, and multiple crushing and processing operations). The proposed licensing of the Bonnefield and Prince properties provides an opportunity to not only streamline operations by eliminating the need to operate as individual pits but to develop a revised groundwater monitoring program. The revision would remove redundancies in the monitoring network and reporting allowing for an opportunity to complete an accumulative impact assessment from the Strada properties.

The revised groundwater monitoring program is shown on **Map 2**. The revised program consists of 22 groundwater well nests that monitor 36 discrete aquifer intervals in the overburden and bedrock aquifers.

The proposed program focuses on the on going monitoring of background conditions (up gradient locations) in both the overburden and bedrock aquifers and the monitoring of potential influences from the aggregate operation on down gradient locations. The proposed groundwater monitoring program is provided in **Table 1**. Selected up gradient and down gradient wells will be sampled for water quality. The water quality parameters for the semi annual (spring and fall) and annual (spring) sampling programs are provided in **Table 2**.

Surface water elevation monitoring has been on-going at the North and South Ponds (Map 2), since 2007. Two additional surface water monitoring stations to monitor the hydro-period in the wetland and vernal pool (Map 2) will commence in 2018. This monitoring will consist of the collection of continuous water level data during non-frozen conditions. Data will be assessed in conjunction with the groundwater monitoring data as part of the annual reporting requirement.

Table 1 – Proposed Groundwater Monitoring Network

Well ID	Water Levels	Water Quality	
	Monthly Manual Water	Semi-Annual	Annual
OW2-A	X	X	
OW2-B	X	X	
OW3-B	X	X	
OW4-A	X	X	
OW4-B	X	X	
OW5-A	X	X	X
OW5-B	X	X	
OW6-A	X	X	X
OW7-A	X	X	X
OW7-B	X	X	
OW8-A	X	X	X
OW9-A	X	X	X
OW10-A	X	X	X
OW11-A	X	X	X
OW11-B	X	X	
OW12-A	X	X	X

Well ID	Water Levels	Water Quality	
	Monthly Manual Water	Semi-Annual	Annual
OW13-A	X	X	
OW13-B	X	X	
OW14-B	X	X	X
OW15-B	X		
OW16-B	X	X	X
OW17-A	X		
OW17-B	X		
OW18-A	X	X	X
OW18-B	X	X	
OW19-A	X		
OW19-B	X	X	
OW20-B	X	X	X
OW21-B	X	X	x
OW22-B	X	X	
OW23-B	X	X	

Note: the collection of continuous water levels at selected groundwater monitoring locations is recommended.

Table 2 – Proposed Water Quality Parameters

Semi-Annual Groundwater Quality Parameters	Annual Groundwater Quality Parameters
General Water Quality Parameters: pH, Conductivity, Alkalinity, Bicarbonate, Chloride, Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium, Sulphate, Nitrate, Nitrite, Phosphorous, and Metals (dissolved).	Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (F1-F4) BTEX, Total Oil and Grease

It is recommended that a single annual groundwater monitoring report for the Melancthon Pits #1 and 2, as well as the proposed Bonnefield and Prince Pits be prepared and submitted to the MNRF, Township of Melancthon and NVCA prior to March 31st of each year and include the monitoring data for the 12 month period ending December 31st of the previous year. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Monitoring data collected as per Table 1 and Table 2;
2. Data in tabulated and graphical formats;
3. Interpretation of the collected data including discussions of any observed trends in groundwater levels and groundwater quality (analytical) results;
4. Recommendations on and justification for the need for make changes to monitoring locations, monitoring frequency, type of monitoring, pumping patterns and/or the need for mitigation, and
5. Summary and documentation of any water well complaint(s) and their resolution(s).

Map 1

Melancthon #2 and Bonnefield Pits

Anuran Monitoring Stations

NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.
Aquatic, Terrestrial and Wetland Biologists

Date: November 7, 2017
Project: NRSI-1748
Scale: 1:3,000
NAD83 - UTM Zone 17

Proposed Bonnefield Pit

Melanchton Pit #2

ANR-009
ANR-003
ANR-002
ANR-001
ANR-004
ANR-005
ANR-006
ANR-007a
ANR-007b
ANR-008a

Legend

- Subject Property
- Anuran Monitoring Station (ANR)
- Direction of Survey
- Surveyed Wetland Boundary
- Wetland (Boundaries Approximate)

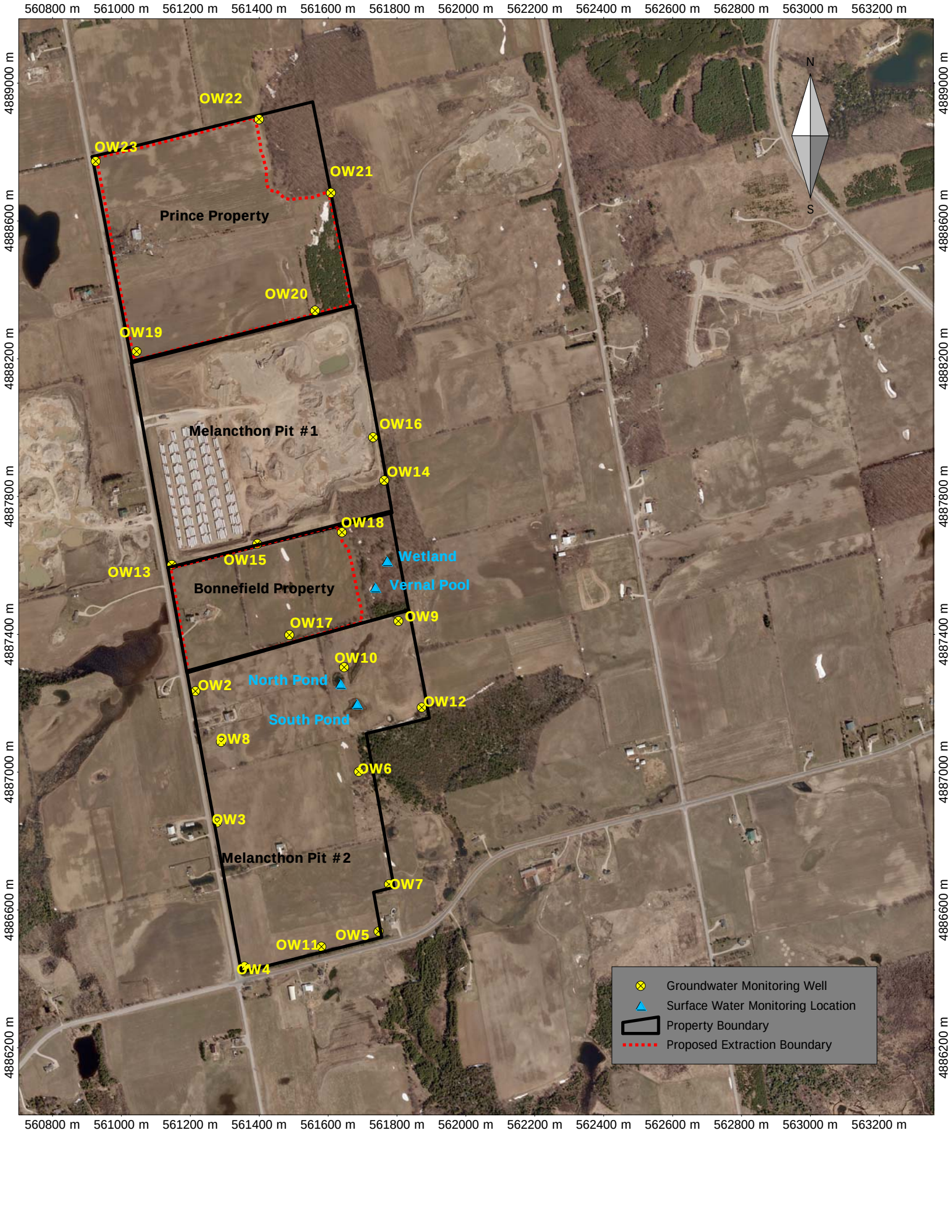
N

0 100 200 Metres

561400 561500 561600 561700 561800 561900 562000

4887700 4887600 4887500 4887400 4887300 4887200 4887100 4887000 4886900 4886800 4886700 4886600

Path: X:\1748_PrinceGarnerPropertiesNEA\NRSI_1748_Map1_AnuranMonitoring_3K_2017_11_07_LEH.mxd


560800 m
561000 m
561200 m
561400 m
561600 m
561800 m
562000 m
562200 m
562400 m
562600 m
562800 m
563000 m
563200 m
4889000 m
4888600 m
4888200 m
4887800 m
4887400 m
4887000 m
4886600 m
4886200 m
N
S
OW22
OW23
OW21
Prince Property
OW20
OW19
Melancthon Pit #1
OW16
OW14
OW18
OW15
OW13
Wetland
Vernal Pool
Bonnefield Property
OW17
OW9
OW10
OW2
North Pond
OW12
South Pond
OW8
OW6
OW3
Melancthon Pit #2
OW7
OW5
OW11
OW4
Groundwater Monitoring Well
Surface Water Monitoring Location
Property Boundary
Proposed Extraction Boundary

Appendix II
2025 Calling Amphibian Survey Results by Survey Visit

2025 Calling Amphibian Survey Results

Visit 1 24-Apr-25

Scientific Name	Common Name	NRSI Species Detected by Monitoring Station (Maximum Calling Code, Total Number of Individuals)									
		ANR-001	ANR-002	ANR-003	ANR-004	ANR-005	ANR-006	ANR-007a	ANR-007b	ANR-008a	ANR-009
Bufo americanus	American Toad										
Hyla versicolor	Gray Treefrog										
Lithobates pipiens	Northern Leopard Frog		1,1		1,1						
Lithobates sylvatica	Wood Frog	3	2,5		2,2	3		2,5		2,2	3
Pseudacris crucifer crucifer	Spring Peeper	3	3	2,3	3	3		3		3	3
Pseudacris triseriata	Western Chorus Frog										
Rana clamitans melanota	Green Frog										

Visit 2 26-May-25

Scientific Name	Common Name	NRSI Species Detected by Monitoring Station (Maximum Calling Code, Total Number of Individuals)									
		ANR-001	ANR-002	ANR-003	ANR-004	ANR-005	ANR-006	ANR-007a	ANR-007b	ANR-008a	ANR-009
Bufo americanus	American Toad		1,1	1,2							
Hyla versicolor	Gray Treefrog										
Lithobates pipiens	Northern Leopard Frog										
Lithobates sylvatica	Wood Frog										
Pseudacris crucifer crucifer	Spring Peeper	1,6	2,6	2,3	1,6	1,5		1,5	1,2	1,4	3
Pseudacris triseriata	Western Chorus Frog										
Rana clamitans melanota	Green Frog				1,1						

Visit 3 24-Jun-25

Scientific Name	Common Name	NRSI Species Detected by Monitoring Station (Maximum Calling Code, Total Number of Individuals)									
		ANR-001	ANR-002	ANR-003	ANR-004	ANR-005	ANR-006	ANR-007a	ANR-007b	ANR-008a	ANR-009
Bufo americanus	American Toad										
Hyla versicolor	Gray Treefrog										1,1
Lithobates pipiens	Northern Leopard Frog										
Lithobates sylvatica	Wood Frog										
Pseudacris crucifer crucifer	Spring Peeper										
Pseudacris triseriata	Western Chorus Frog										
Rana clamitans melanota	Green Frog	1,4			1,1	1,1					

Appendix III
Supplementary Data Collected During 2025 Survey Visits

2025 Calling Amphibian Weather Results

Visit 1 24-Apr-25

Station Name	Start time	Wind speed	% Cloud Cover	Air temp. (°C)	Precipitation	Remarks
ANR-001	21:32	2	25	12.0	None	
ANR-002	21:36	2	25	12.0	None	
ANR-003	21:42	2	25	12.0	None	
ANR-004	21:17	2	25	12.0	None	
ANR-005	21:25	2	25	12.0	None	
ANR-006	21:10	2	25	12.0	None	Very little standing water
ANR-007a	20:57	2	25	14.0	None	
ANR-007b	20:57	2	25	14.0	None	
ANR-008a	20:46	2	25	15.0	None	
ANR-009	21:56	2	25	12.0	None	

Visit 2 26-May-25

Station Name	Start time	Wind speed	% Cloud Cover	Air temp. (°C)	Precipitation	Remarks
ANR-001	21:47	1	20	11.2	None	
ANR-002	21:41	0	20	11.2	None	
ANR-003	21:34	0	20	11.0	None	
ANR-004	21:58	0	20	11.2	None	
ANR-005	22:06	0	20	10.2	None	
ANR-006	22:35	1	20	10.0	None	No standing water
ANR-007a	22:23	1	20	10.1	None	
ANR-007b	22:26	1	20	10.0	None	
ANR-008a	22:40	2	20	10.6	None	
ANR-009	21:22	0	20	13.0	None	

Visit 3 24-Jun-25

Station Name	Start time	Wind speed	% Cloud Cover	Air temp. (°C)	Precipitation	Remarks
ANR-001	22:30	1	70	21.0	None	
ANR-002	22:40	1	70	21.0	None	
ANR-003	22:50	1	70	21.0	None	No standing water
ANR-004	22:18	1	70	23.0	None	
ANR-005	22:10	1	70	23.0	None	
ANR-006	22:01	1	70	24.0	None	No standing water
ANR-007a	21:54	1	70	24.0	None	No standing water
ANR-007b	21:56	1	70	24.0	None	No standing water
ANR-008a	21:41	1	70	24.0	None	
ANR-009	23:02	1	20	21.0	None	

Appendix IV
Species Richness by Station

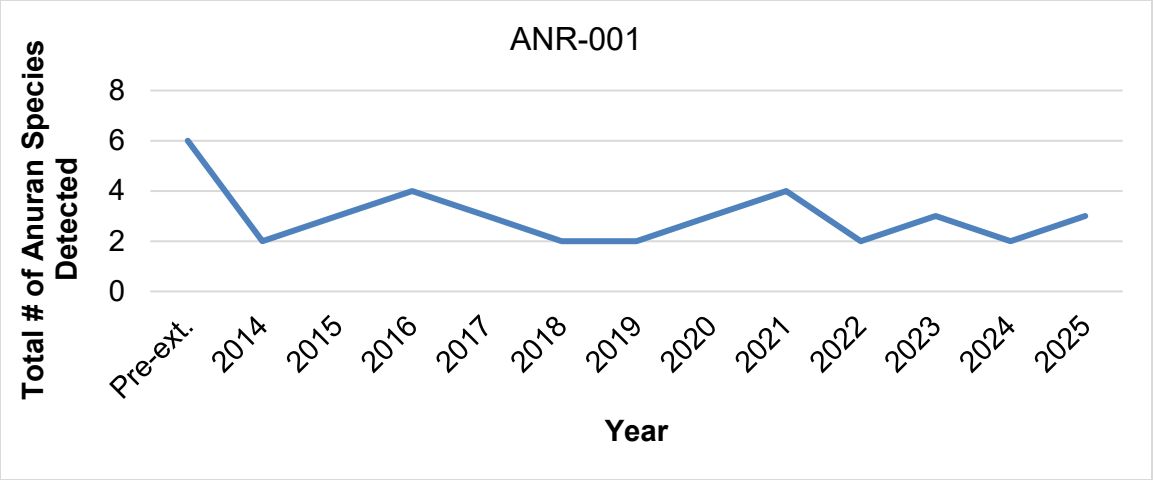


Figure 7. Species Richness by Year for ANR-001

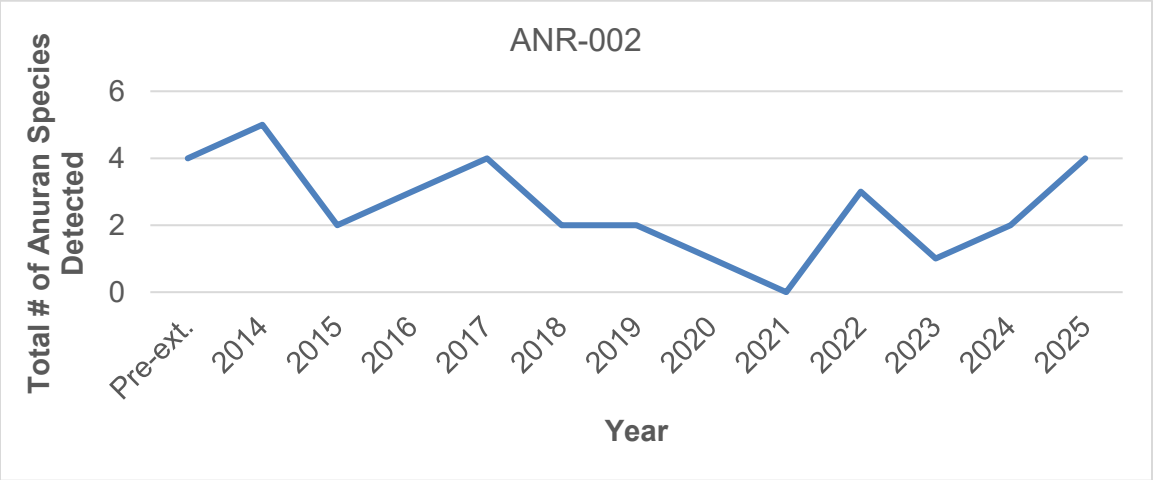


Figure 8. Species Richness by Year for ANR-002

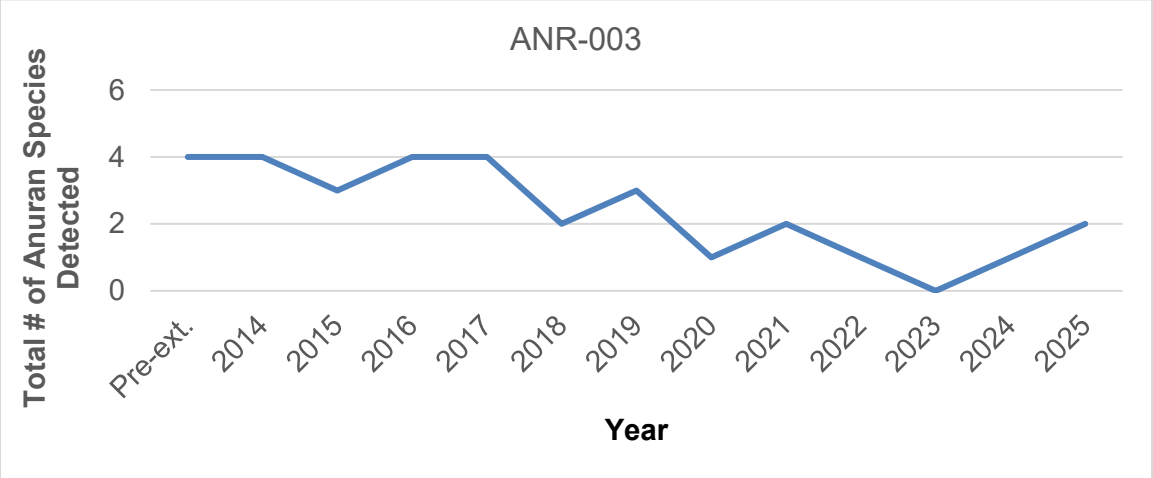


Figure 9. Species Richness by Year for ANR-003

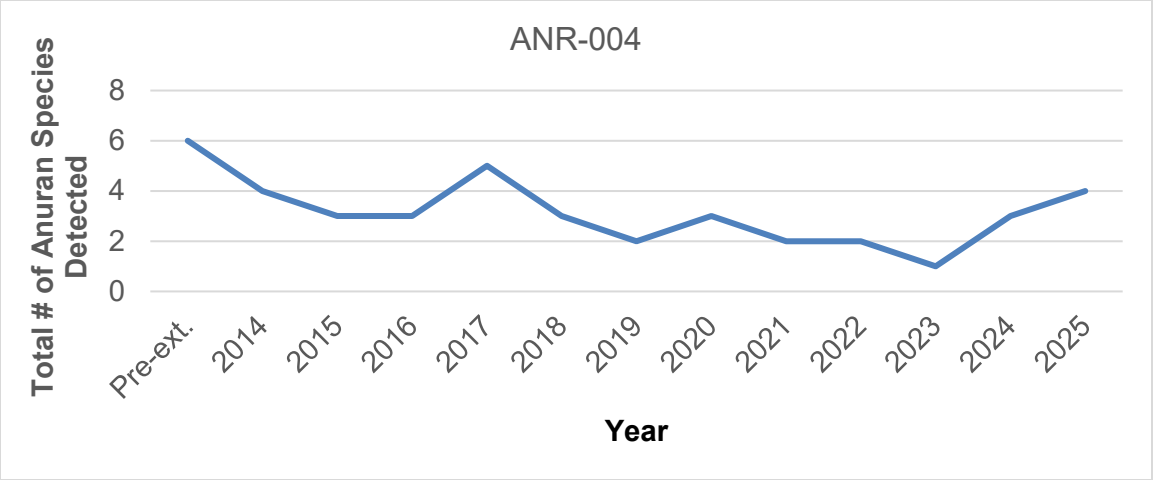


Figure 10. Species Richness by Year for ANR-004

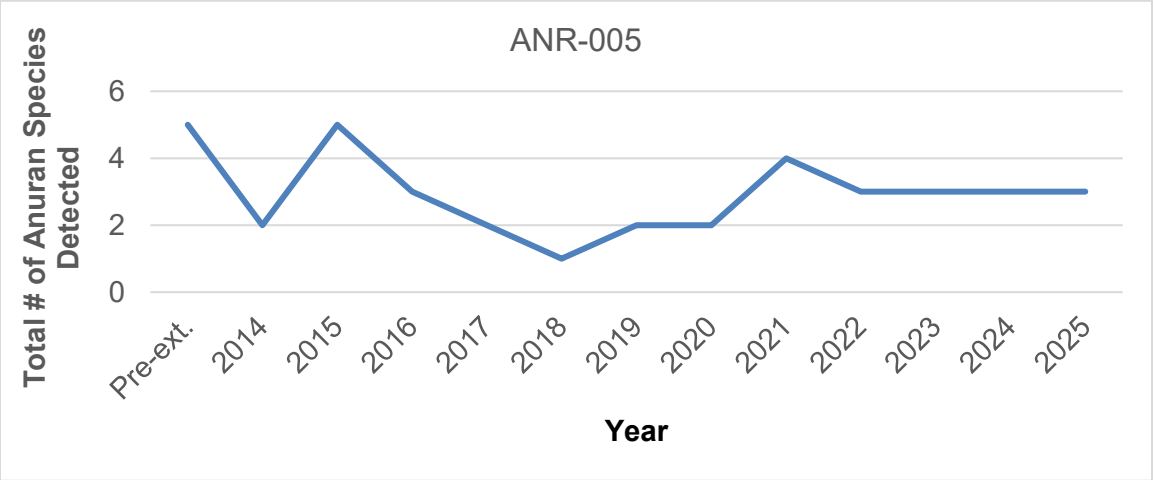


Figure 11. Species Richness by Year for ANR-005

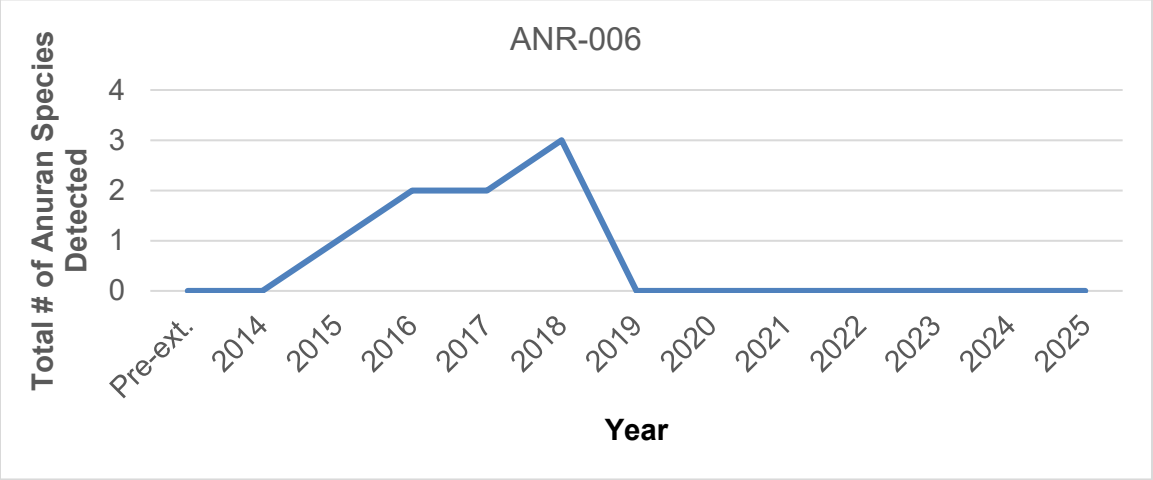


Figure 12. Species Richness by Year for ANR-006

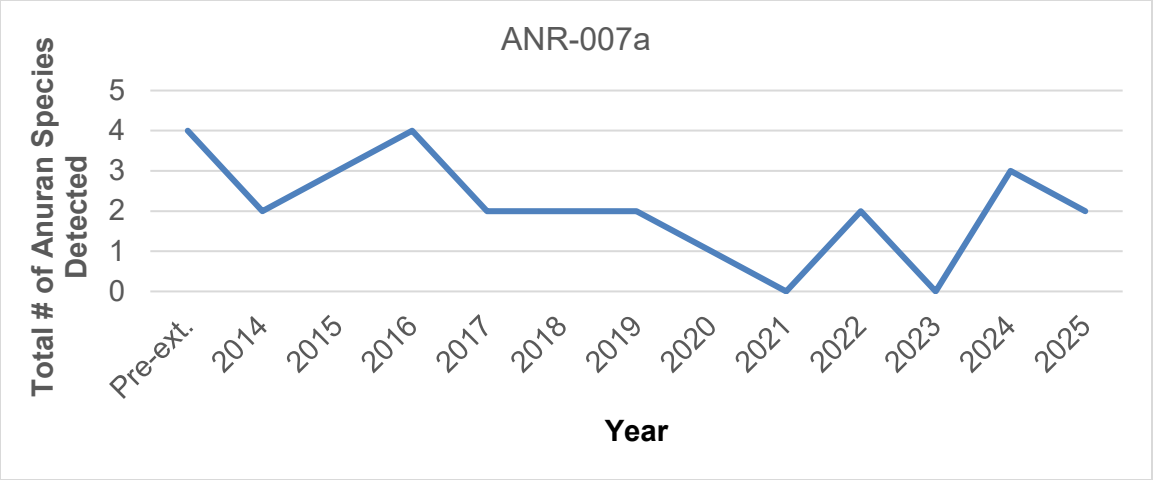


Figure 13. Species Richness by Year for ANR-007a

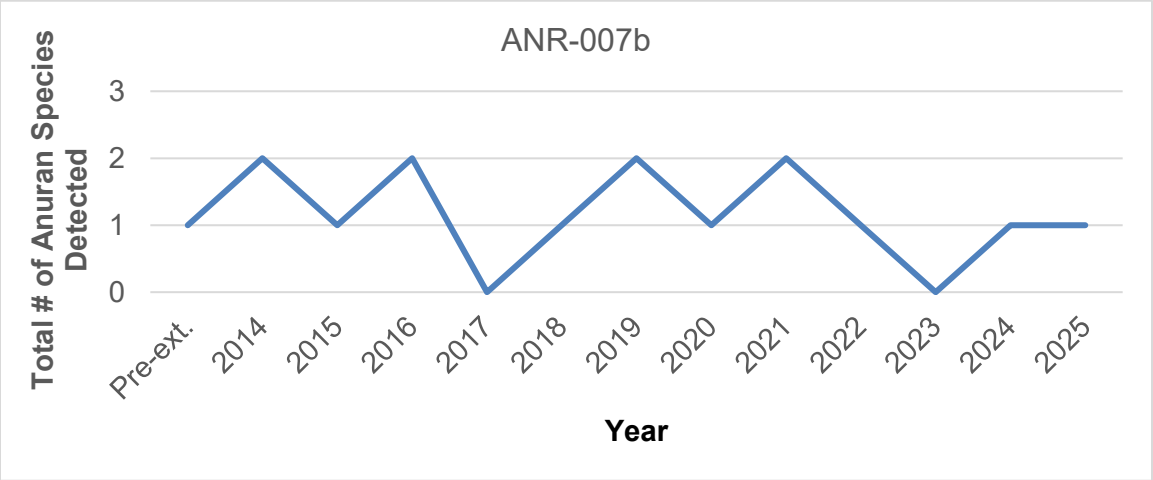


Figure 14. Species Richness by Year for ANR-007b

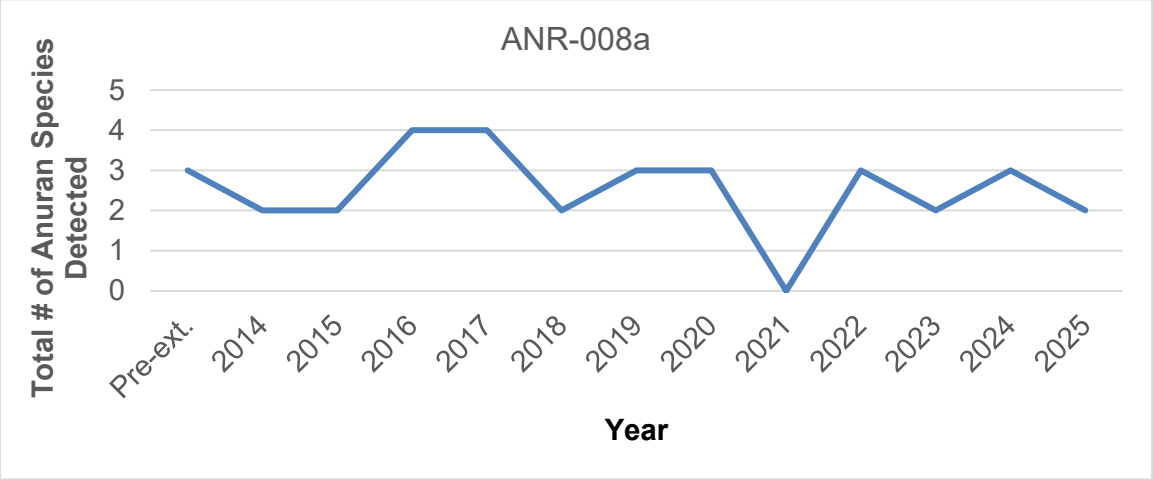


Figure 15. Species Richness by Year for ANR-008a

Appendix V
Species Abundance by Station

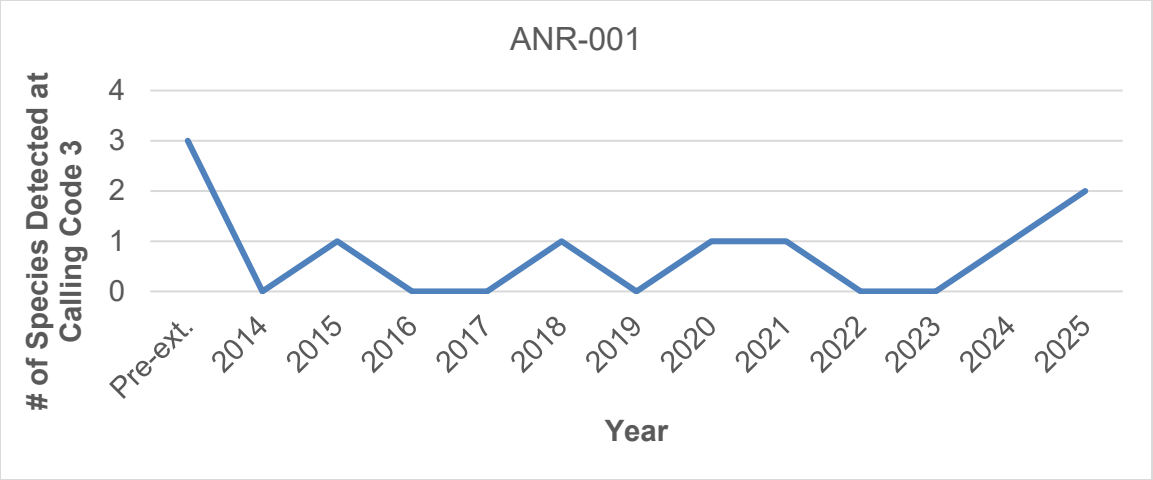


Figure 16. Species Abundance by Year for ANR-001

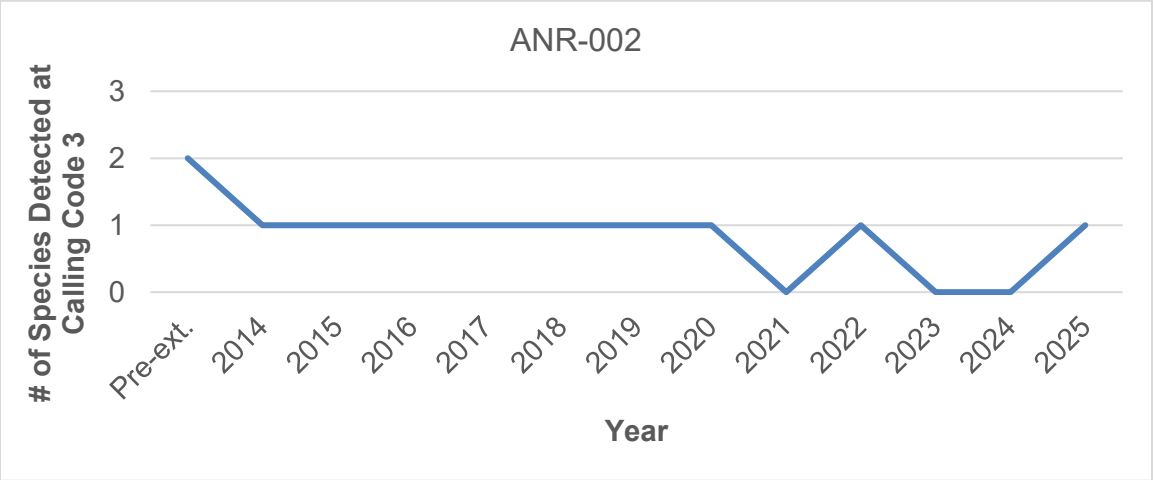


Figure 17. Species Abundance by Year for ANR-002

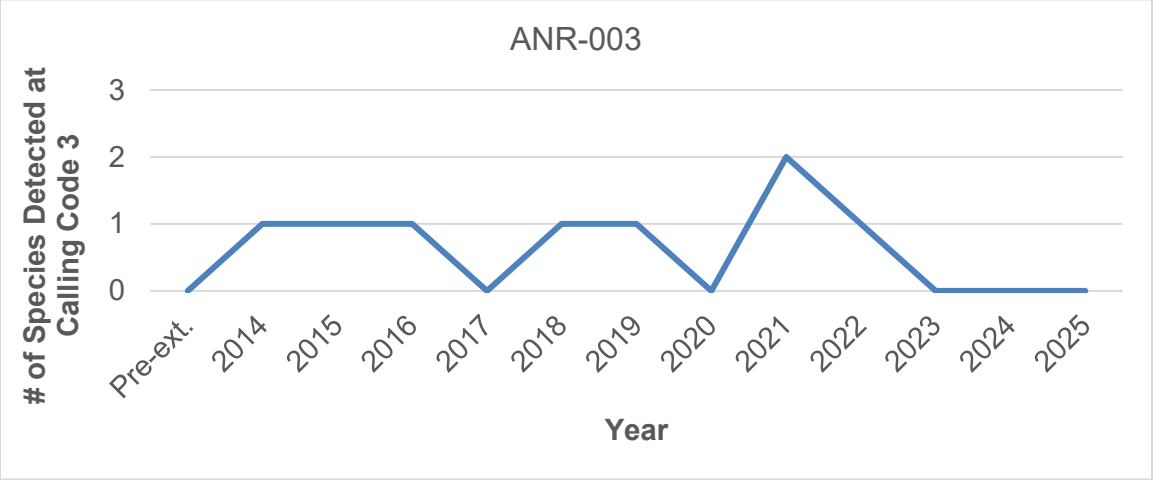


Figure 18. Species Abundance by Year for ANR-003

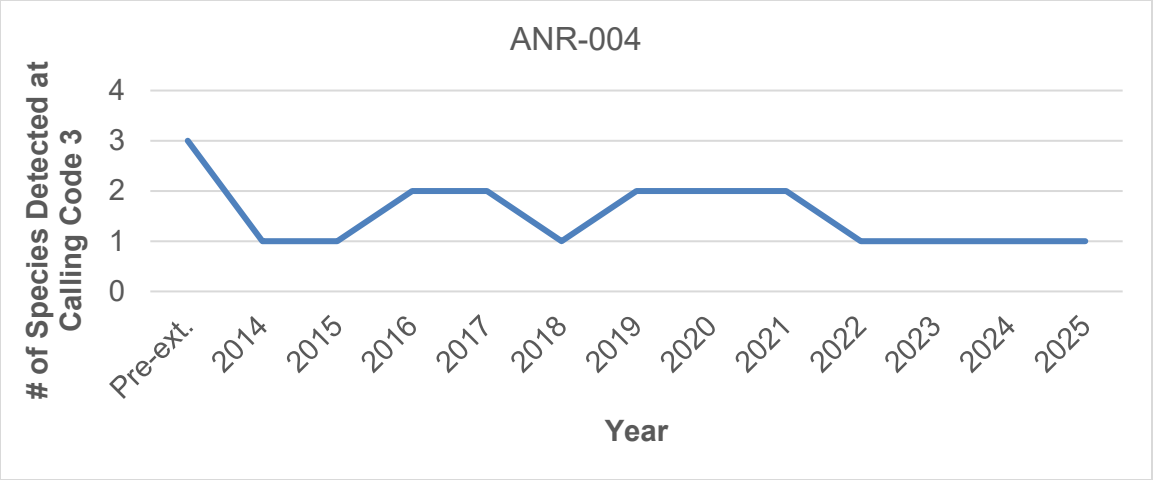


Figure 19. Species Abundance by Year for ANR-004

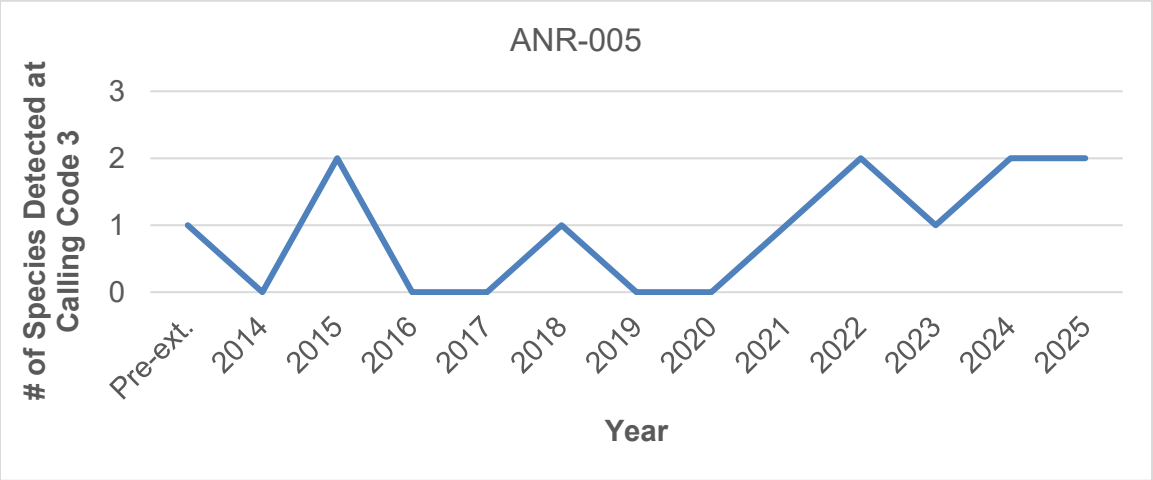


Figure 20. Species Abundance by Year for ANR-005

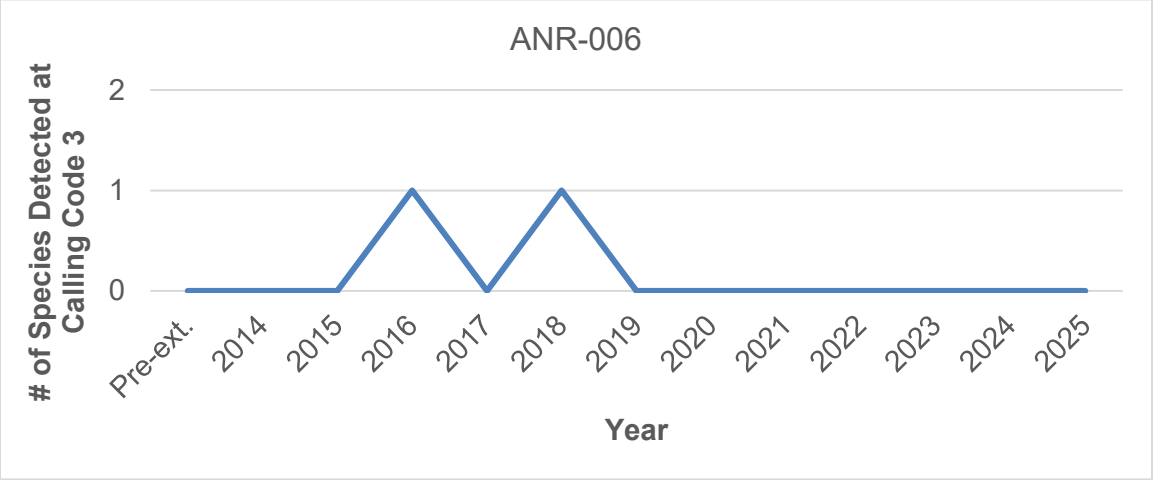


Figure 21. Species Abundance by Year for ANR-006

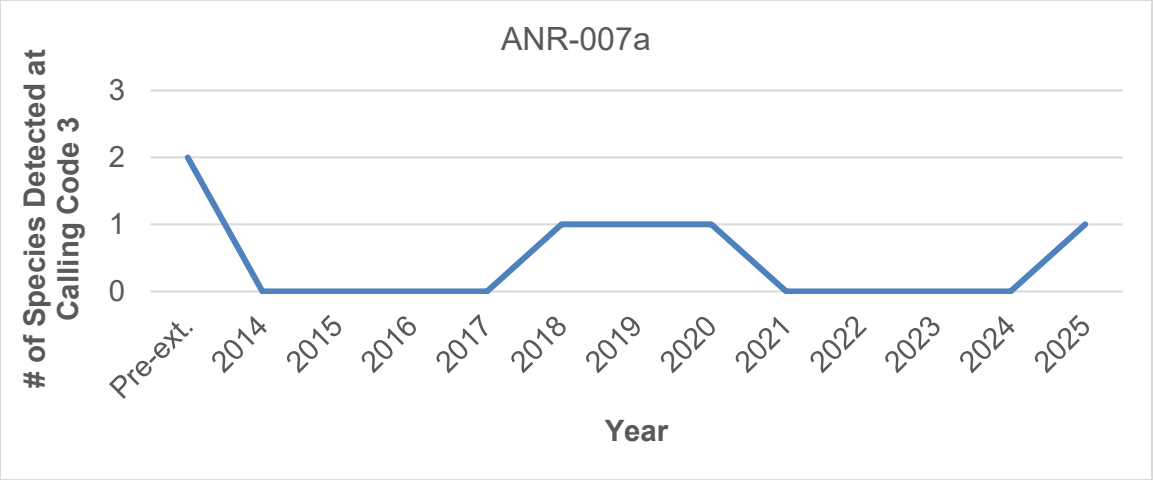


Figure 22. Species Abundance by Year for ANR-007a

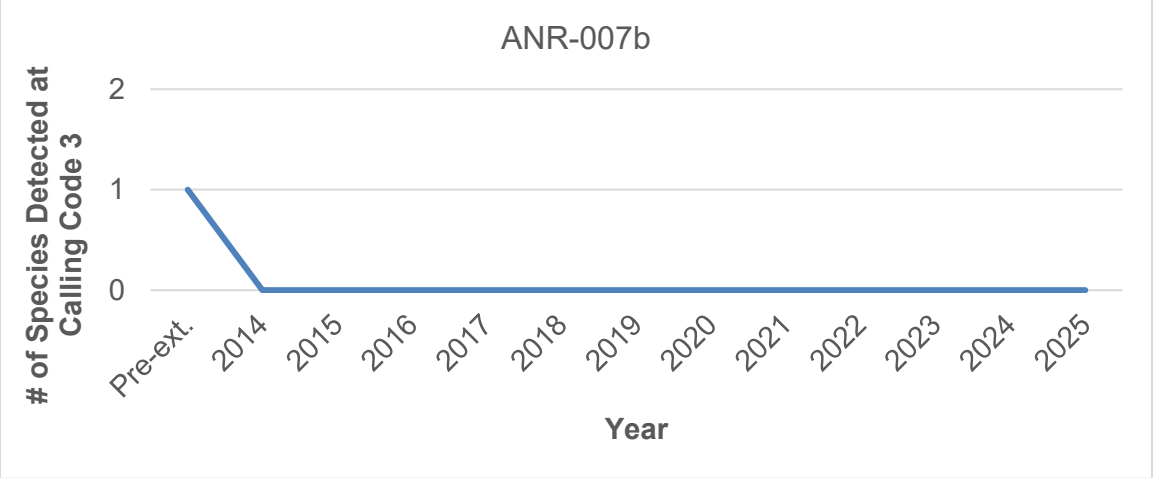


Figure 23. Species Abundance by Year for ANR-007b

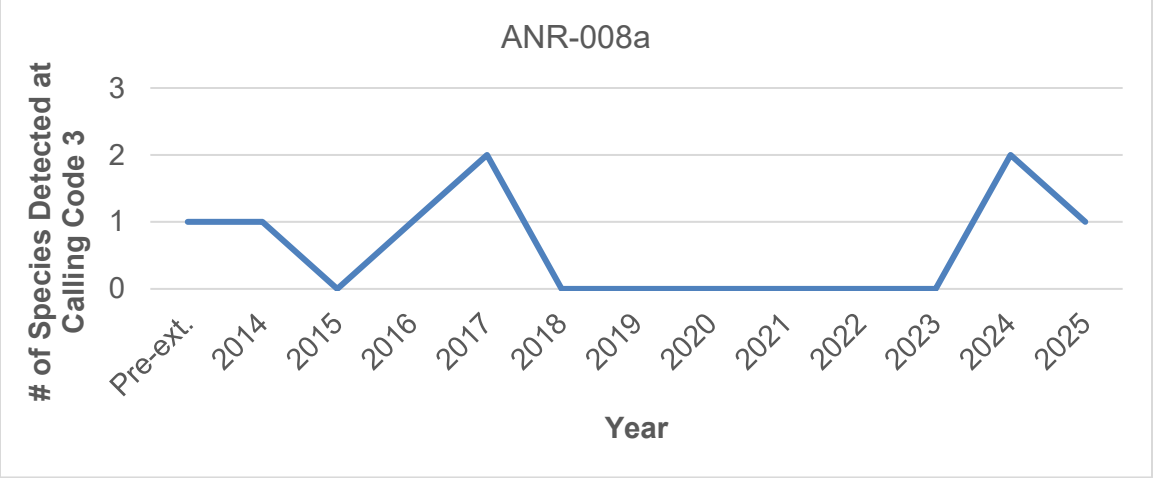


Figure 24. Species Abundance by Year for ANR-008a

Maps

Map 1

Melancthon Pit #2 and Bonnefield Property

Study Area

NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.
Aquatic, Terrestrial and Wetland Biologists

April 25, 2025
Project: 0764P
Scale: 1:5,000
NAD83 - UTM Zone 17

Bonnefield Property

North Pond

South Pond

Melancthon Pit #2

4TH LINE

COUNTY ROAD 17

561000 561200 561400 561600 561800 562000

4888000 4887800 4887600 4887400 4887200 4887000 4886800 4886600 4886400 4886200

N

0 100 200 300 400 Metres

Legend

Subject Property

X:\0764_MelanchtonPit\NRSI_0764P_Map1_StudyArea_5K_2025_04_25_LRC.mxd

Map 2

Melancthon Pit #2 and Bonnefield Property

Amphibian Monitoring Stations

Natural Resource Solutions Inc.
Aquatic, Terrestrial and Wetland Biologists

April 25, 2025
Project: 0764P
Scale: 1:5,000
NAD83 - UTM Zone 17

561400 561500 561600 561700 561800 561900 562000

4887700 4887600 4887500 4887400 4887300 4887200 4887100 4887000 4886900 4886800 4886700 4886600

ANR-009
ANR-003
ANR-002
ANR-001
ANR-004
ANR-005
ANR-006
ANR-007a
ANR-007b
ANR-008a

Bonnefield Property

Melancthon Pit #2

N

0 50 100 150 200 Metres

Legend

- Subject Property
- A — Anuran Monitoring Station (ANR)
- Direction of Survey
- Surveyed Wetland Boundary

Path: X:\0764_MelanchtonPit\NRSI_0764P_Map2_AmphibianMonitoringStations_3K_2015_04_25_LRC.mxd

TOWN OF SHELBURNE

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

No. 2026-82

Date: 4/27/26

Moved: Councillor Wegener

Seconded by: Councillor Guchardi

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of Shelburne supports the motion from Dufferin County regarding the Operational Performance Review for Highway 10.

CARRIED, W. Mills

Requested Vote to be Recorded	☐	Yes	☑	No

	Yea	Nay
Mayor Mills	☐	☐
Deputy Mayor Hall	☐	☐
Councillor Benotto	☐	☐
Councillor Fegan	☐	☐
Councillor Guchardi	☐	☐
Councillor Sample	☐	☐
Councillor Wegener	☐	☐

NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW 03-2026

BY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE

UNDER SECTION 34 OF THE PLANNING ACT

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Shelburne passed By-Law 17-2026 on April 27th, 2026, under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, C.P. 13, as amended.

The purpose and effect of By-law 17-2026 (File No. Z26/01) is to amend Zoning By-law 38-2007 to further amend Schedule "A" of Zoning By-law 38-2007 to rezone the lands known municipally as 301, 303 and 305 Colonel Phillips Drive and legally described as Block 244, Plan 7M56, in the Town of Shelburne, County of Dufferin, from Service Commercial (C3) Zone to Service Commercial Exception One (C3-1) Zone which adds Day Care Centre to the permitted uses of the land.

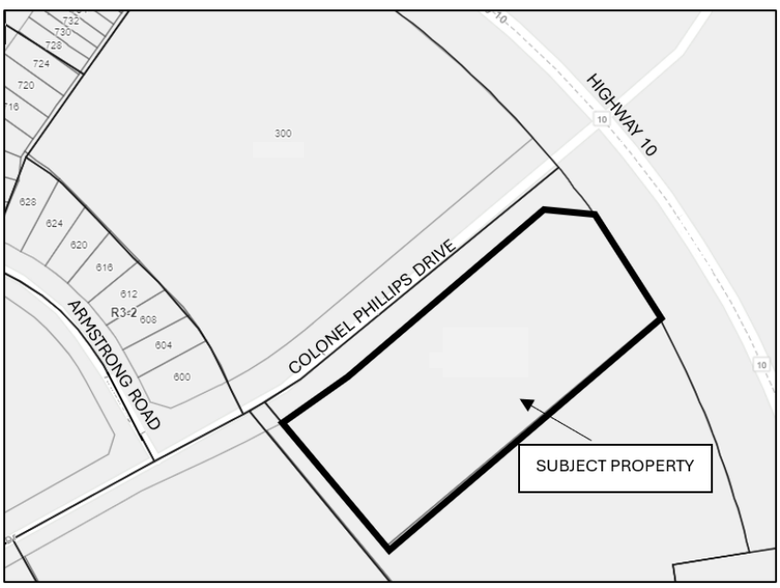
The accompanying map illustrates the location of the land subject to the Zoning By-law Amendment. The Zoning By-law amendment is in keeping with the Town of Shelburne Official Plan.

AND TAKE NOTICE that the applicant, a specified person, a public body, the registered owner of the land that is subject to the by-law, and the Minister may appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal in respect of By-law 17-2026 by filing with the Clerk of the Corporation of the Town of Shelburne, not later than the 1st day of June 2026 a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the By-law and the reasons in support of the objection accompanied by the prescribed fee required by the Ontario Land Tribunal in the amount of $400.00 (for a private citizen, a registered charity or a non-profit ratepayers' association) or $1,100 (for a corporation), payable to the Minister of Finance. If a person or public body would otherwise have the ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Town of Shelburne but does not, before the by-law was passed, make oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the Council: the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal; and, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

A copy of the complete By-law 17-2026 is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Offices during business hours, and on the Town of Shelburne website at www.shelburne.ca

Dated this 12th day of May, 2026.

Jennifer Willoughby, Clerk
Town of Shelburne
203 Main Street East
Shelburne, ON L9V 3K7
Phone: 519-925-2600
Email: planning@shelburne.ca



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SHELBURNE

BY-LAW NO. 17-2026

Being a by-law to amend by-law 38-2007, as amended.

WHEREAS an Official Plan has been approved for the Town of Shelburne.

AND WHEREAS authority is granted under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, C.P.13 and amendments thereto, to enact this By-law.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Shelburne enacts as follows:

1. That Schedule "A" of By-law 38-2007, as amended, be further amended by rezoning the lands known municipally as 301, 303 and 305 Colonel Phillips Drive and legally described as Block 244, Plan 7M56, in the Town of Shelburne, County of Dufferin, from Service Commercial (C3) Zone to Service Commercial Exception One (C3-1) Zone as shown on Schedule "A1" to this By-law.

2. That subsection 4.8.3 of By-law 38-2007, as amended, be further amended by inserting an exception zone after subsection 4.8.3, as follows:

   "4.8.3.1 Service Commercial Exception One (C3-1) Zone

   In addition to the uses permitted in subsection 4.8.3, permitted uses shall include: *Day Care Centre."*

3. That except as amended by this By-law, the subject lands as shown on Schedule "A1" to this By-law shall be subject to all other applicable regulations of By-law 38-2007, as amended.

4. Schedule "A1" attached hereto forms part of this By-law.

5. This By-law shall take effect from its date of passage by Council and shall come into force either upon approval by the Ontario Land Tribunal or upon compliance with Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, C.P. 13.

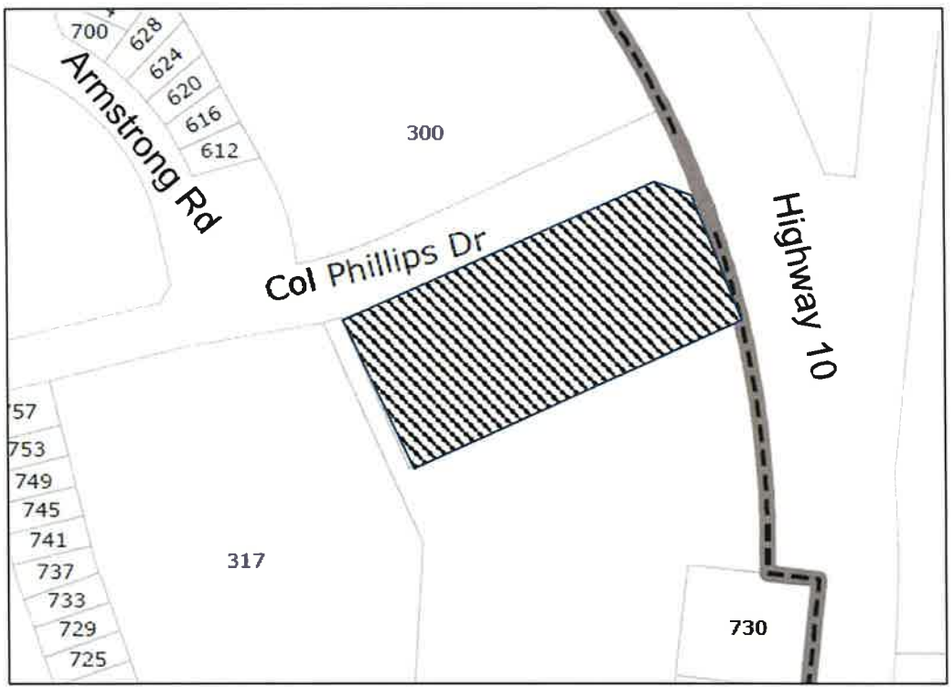
Passed in Open Council this 27th day of April 2026.

MAYOR

CLERK

By signing this by-law on April 27, 2026, Mayor Wade Mills will not exercise the power to veto this by-law and this by-law is deemed passed as of this date.

SCHEDULE A1 TO BY-LAW NO. 17-2026



Zone change from C3 to C3-1

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The purpose and effect of this amendment to Zoning By-law 38-2007 is to change the zoning of the property municipally known as 301, 303 and 305 Colonel Phillips Drive and described legally as Block 244, Plan 7M56, Town of Shelburne, County of Dufferin, from Service Commercial (C3) Zone to site-specific Service Commercial Exception One (C3-1) Zone as shown on Schedule "A1" to this By-law to add a day care centre as a permitted use in accordance with the applicable regulations of the C3 Zone and the other applicable regulations of the Zoning By-law.

NVCA April 2026 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: May 22, 2026, held virtually

For the full meeting agenda, including documents and reports, visit NVCA's website.

2025 Annual Report

NVCA's 2025 Annual Report is now available.

The report highlights the work that NVCA staff accomplished to protect and enhance the Nottawasaga Watershed.

Download the 2024 Annual Report here

2025 Financial Statement

NVCA received clean audit for 2025.

Board members received the 2025 NVCA audited financial statements as presented by KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants. The financial statement is available on NVCA's website.

NVCA launches Client Dashboard

This progress tracking tool allows permit applicants to have continuous access to timely and relevant information for all their permit applications. Applicants can track the completeness of their application and their progress in the application process at their convenience, without contacting NVCA staff.

The Client Dashboard complements NVCA's Online Request Portal (formerly e-permitting platform) that was launched last year. It further increases transparency and accountability and represents another step towards strengthening public trust in NVCA's processes.

NVCA's online permitting tools outline complete application requirements and enable applicants to upload information, helping to avoid delays caused by incomplete submissions.

Update on Ontario government proposed changes to Conservation Authorities

CAO Vincent provided an update to the Board of Directors on the next steps proposed by the Government of Ontario for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities.

On March 26, 2026, the Government of Ontario tabled Bill 97, 'A Plan to Protect Ontario (Budget Measures)', to

- Mandate the consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities into regional bodies
- Establish a transition framework overseen by the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA)
- Set the legal foundation for the creation of the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority and eight other regional authorities
- Establish regional transition committees to develop transition plans

Bill 97 also requires each conservation authority to appoint members to a transition committee.

NVCA's Board of Directors has appointed Chair Scott and CAO Vincent, or an alternate that they appoint as needed, as the members of the transition committee for the Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority.

For more information about the transition, please refer to NVCA's April 2026 Board meeting minutes.

Five-year review of NVCA's Healthy Waters Program

NVCA's Healthy Waters Program (HWP) provides technical guidance and cost-sharing support for restoration projects that improve water quality, reduce erosion, restore habitat, and mitigate flooding.

Between 2020 and 2025, an annual $10,000 municipal levy helped leverage more than $2.3 million for stewardship projects, representing a 46:1 funding multiplier.

In this five-year reporting period, HWP projects resulted in approximately 59,000 trees planted, 41 kilometres of stream and shoreline rehabilitated, and 331 hectares of native grasslands and 45 hectares of wetlands restored.

Through HWP, the annual reduction of over 2,090 tonnes of erosion has improved soil stability, helping to preserve the integrity of the local landscape. By preventing nutrient-rich topsoil loss and mitigating land degradation, this ensures more resilient farmlands and natural habitats, while also preventing approximately 2,485 kilograms of phosphorus from entering waterways.

These efforts were made possible with the contribution of nearly 6,000 volunteers.

Growth and expansion opportunities

To ensure the continued success and growth HWP, the NVCA Board of Directors has approved a contingency matching commitment of up to $60,000 annually from the Stewardship Reserve. This strategic investment empowers the program to meet the matching requirements of major grant applications immediately, securing more external funding for the region.

Furthermore, these funds will be used to advance projects to a "shovel-ready" state, allowing the NVCA to act quickly on high-priority restoration opportunities. By providing this upfront financial backing, the Board is streamlining project development and ensuring that vital conservation work remains consistent and well-funded.

2026 First Quarter Budget and Business Plan Report

By the end of the first quarter, NVCA's financial standing remains stable, despite both revenues and expenditures tracking slightly behind the initial targets. With 22.15% of budgeted expenses and 20.54% of projected revenues recognized to date, these variances reflect typical early-year operational cycle rather than a permanent trend. These minor fluctuations are expected and manageable as the fiscal year progresses.

Upcoming Events

Arbour Day

This May 9, tree and shrub seedlings will be available at NVCA's annual Arbour Day sale.

Trees are sold in bundles of 10 for $40 per bundle. Quantities are limited and available on a first come first serve basis.

Date & Time: May 9, 2026, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

More information

Riverside Tree Plant in Mulmur

Help replant a forest! Join us on the riverbanks of the Pine River, where NVCA has previously completed a river restoration project.

Register here

Date & Time: May 2, 2025, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: 628573 15 Sideroad, Mulmur

Community Tree Plant in Wasaga Beach

Join NVCA for a volunteer tree plant at Wasaga Beach Provincial Park to help enhance the diverse habitats of this beautiful park network.

Register here

Date & Time: May 2, 2025, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: Wasaga Beach Sports Park

Streamside Community Tree Plant in Clearview along Lamont Creek

Join us for a community tree plant near the Clearview EcoPark to plant native trees and shrubs along Lamont Creek

Date & Time: May 7, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Clearview EcoPark, 300 Mowat St N Stayner, ON

Community Tree Plant in Essa along the Nottawasaga River

Join NVCA and Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy as we plant trees along the Nottawasaga River, near Angus.

Date & Time: May 23, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: Simcoe County Forests – Foster Tract, 7539 6 Line, Essa, ON

Register here

Nature-Infused Yoga

Appreciate the beauty of the spring season in full bloom. Enjoy a guided hike of the best spots at Tiffin to find wildflowers. Then, enjoy a 45-minute vinyasa yoga class in the Great Room surrounded by natural soundscapes. Close the session with a selection of native floral teas.

Date & Time:

May 6, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
May 9, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Register here

Tiffin Nature School

At Tiffin Nature School, children aged 2.5 to 10 are invited to explore and connect with the natural world. We nurture their innate curiosity, offering immersive outdoor experiences that inspire discovery and growth.

Dates: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Register here

Ontario

Ministry of Natural Resources

Development and Hazard Policy Branch
Policy Division
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Ministère des Richesses naturelles

Direction de la politique d'exploitation des ressources et des risques naturels.
Division de l'élaboration des politiques
300, rue Water
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7

Date April 30, 2026
Subject: Regulations under the *Geologic Carbon Storage Act, 2025*

Hello,

Following up on the recent letter you received from Jennifer Keyes, I am pleased to inform you that the *Geologic Carbon Storage Act, 2025* (GCSA) and supporting regulations, detailing requirements for the authorization of research and evaluation activities and carbon storage activities in Ontario, are now in effect.

Carbon storage is new to the province, and Ontario has taken a phased approach to ensure that it is done responsibly, with measures in place to safeguard people and the environment. Throughout each phase, the Ministry of Natural Resources has invited input from Indigenous communities and organizations, industry, agricultural associations, municipalities, non-government organizations, subject matter experts, farmers and the public.

The ministry sought feedback on the Regulatory Proposals under the Proposed Geologic Carbon Storage Act from August 12th, 2025, until September 26th, 2025. The final regulations can be found online through the following links:

- Ontario Regulation 311/25: General Matters under the Authority of the Lieutenant Governor in Council
- Ontario Regulation 12/26: General Matters under the Authority of the Minister
- Ontario Regulation 13/26: Rent

Through the regulation development process, all comments were considered, and changes were made to the proposal to respond to feedback and improve clarity and consistency. Key changes include:

- Removing application fees
- Lowering the emissions threshold for projects eligible to use pore space vested in the Crown by regulation
- Extending the maximum term of licences and permits for research and evaluation to support post-closure management
- Refining municipal endorsement requirements for storage permits
- Allowing phased security and the use of surety bonds for security

- Clarifying closure timelines
- Providing for the establishment of site-specific protection boundaries, instead of using fixed buffers, to delineate areas where Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act (OGSRA) operators are restricted from carrying out well-related activities that could impact reservoirs where CO_2 is being stored.

The original proposal also included updates to the sample processing fees charged to all operators under the OGSRA, but a decision was made to not move forward with those updates at this time. The ministry's approach to stewardship fees has been deferred and will be considered separately. The proposal and decision notices are available on the Regulatory Registry under posting # 25-MNRF006.

The GCSA and supporting regulations enable the safe, responsible and permanent storage of carbon dioxide in a manner that is designed to protect public safety and the environment and minimize potential adverse impacts on other land and resource uses. Establishing a clear legislative and regulatory framework for this activity is key to realizing the potential benefits and managing potential risks associated with geologic carbon storage.

For more information on geologic carbon storage in Ontario, please visit Ontario.ca/CarbonStorage. If you have questions, please contact the Carbon Storage Operations Section by email at carbonstorage@ontario.ca or by phone at 519-873-4634.

Sincerely,

John Dungavell
Director, Development and Hazard Policy Branch

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 314-6790

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 5e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 314-6790

Ontario

357-2026-1281

May 1, 2026

TO: Conservation Authorities Chairs, GMs/CAOs, and municipalities

SUBJECT: Minister's direction under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (re: temporary restrictions)

I am writing with regards to the transition of Ontario's conservation authority system to a consolidated regional model. The *Plan to Protect Ontario Act* (Budget Measures), 2026 received Royal Assent on April 24, 2026 and pursuant to my authority under section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), I am issuing a direction to conservation authorities – please see attached to this letter as Attachment A (the "Direction").

The intention of this Direction, which is effective from May 1, 2026 to the transition date under the CAA (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations), is to apply temporary restrictions on significant financial, asset or employment decisions to mitigate risk and ensure a stable transition to the new regional structure.

This Direction applies to certain conservation authority decisions related to: governance, organizational or staffing changes; the acquisition and disposition of lands; significant capital transactions; and the provision or acquisition of goods or services. For the decisions specified in this Direction, conservation authorities will be required to seek authorization from the chief executive officer of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (or the Chief Conservation Executive of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks if the chief executive officer has not yet been appointed), before the authority can make the decision. This Direction applies to all current conservation authorities, as listed in Appendix A to the attachment. Further guidance on the process to obtain authorization is set out in Appendix B to the attachment. The CAA provides that if an authority makes a decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

…2

These measures are not intended to interfere with the regular day-to-day business and operations of conservation authorities. If you are contemplating whether or not this Direction applies to a conservation authority decision under consideration, if you have any questions regarding this Direction, or if you are looking to request authorization for a conservation authority decision that may be covered under this Direction, please contact the Chief Conservation Executive at CCEO@ontario.ca and copy the Conservation Authorities Section at the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks at ca.office@ontario.ca.

Continuity for communities is a core principle of this transition. These time-limited measures are intended to ensure there aren't any service disruptions during transition and to ensure that the transition to consolidation is smooth and successful with minimal disruptions to conservation authorities' governance, programs and services.
Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration as we work to improve the conservation authority system in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Enclosures

c: The Honorable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Attachment A

Minister's Direction Issued Pursuant to Section 1.14 of the *Conservation Authorities Act*

(this "Direction")

Section 1.14 of the Conservation Authorities Act provides the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks with the authority to issue a direction to a conservation authority in relation to various matters for the purpose of facilitating the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities. The types of directions that can be issued by the Minister are set out in clauses 1.14 (1) (a) to (d):

(a) prohibiting the authority from making a decision in relation to its exercise of any of its powers under this Act or any other Act in the circumstances specified in the direction and subject to any specified conditions;
(b) requiring the authority to give notice, in accordance with the direction, of a decision that it has made;
(c) requiring the authority to send notices under subsection 25 (2), 27 (3) or 27.2 (3) by the date specified in the direction;
(d) governing budgetary and apportionment matters relating to the authority that are otherwise addressed in a regulation made under clause 40 (1) (c), (e) or (f) or clause 40 (3) (k).

Section 1.14 further provides that an authority that receives such a direction shall comply with the direction within the time specified in the direction.

If an authority makes decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

Pursuant to the authority of the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under clauses 1.14 (1) (a) and (b), the conservation authorities set out under Appendix "A" to this Direction (the "**authorities**" or each, an "**authority**") are hereby directed as follows:

Decisions prohibited unless authorization obtained (direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a))

1. Commencing on the Effective Date and until the transition date, an authority is prohibited from making a decision to do any of the following unless the authority obtains written authorization from the chief executive officer of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency ("OPCA CEO") in accordance with the conditions set out in paragraph 4:

i. Amending an authority's by-laws made under section 19.1 of the CAA, unless the amendment is administrative in nature and does not affect the substance or legal effect of the by-law (e.g. updating references, dates, and terminology; name or title changes; and making obvious corrections where the intended meaning is clear).

ii. Any of the following related to employment:

    a. Terminating the employment of a permanent or temporary employee who serves in a senior leadership position, including the authority's chief administrative officer or general manager, its secretary treasurer, and any departmental directors if applicable.
    b. Filling a vacancy for (i.e. temporarily or permanently) or making any changes to the terms and conditions of employment for any senior leadership position as referred to in sub-subparagraph a.
    c. Terminating the employment of any employee who serves in a leadership position related to or who are essential to the provision of the following mandatory programs and services described in the following provisions of O. Reg. 686/21 made under the CAA: flood forecasting and warning (section 2), ice management (section 4), infrastructure (section 5), plan reviews (sections 6 and 7) and the administration and enforcement of Parts VI and VII of the CAA (section 8).
    d. Increasing the total number of employees of the authority unless the increase was already included in the authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year.

iii. Changing the organizational structure of the employees of the authority, including creating, merging, or eliminating departments.

iv. Acquiring, by purchase, lease or otherwise, any land or to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of any land owned by the authority.

v. Acquiring services from a person or body where:

    a. the duration of the provision of the service exceeds 2 years in length, or
    b. the total cost of the service exceeds the lesser of $500,000 and 5% of the authority's operating expenses, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

    This does not include a decision to renew or extend an agreement for a service that a person or body was providing to the authority prior to the Effective Date.

vi. Providing a service to a person or body where:

a. the duration of the provision of the service exceeds 2 years in length, or
b. the total amount to be charged for the service exceeds the lesser of $500,000 and 5% of the authority's revenues, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This does not include a decision to, renew or extend an agreement for a service that the authority was providing to the person or body prior to the Effective Date.

vii. Incurring a capital cost in connection with a project or purchasing, leasing or otherwise acquiring personal property, including materials, equipment and vehicles, where:

a. in the case of a lease, the duration of the term of the lease exceeds 2 years in length,
or
b. the total amount of the capital cost or purchase, lease or other acquisition would exceed the lesser of $500,000 and 5% of the authority's tangible capital assets, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

This direction does not apply if the capital cost or acquisition is contemplated for a particular program or service identified in the authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year and the total capital cost or acquisition amount is within the budgeted amount for the program or service.

viii. Selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of or dealing with personal property, including materials, equipment and vehicles, where:

a. in the case of the lease, the duration of the term of the lease exceeds 2 years in length,
or
b. the total amount of the lease or other disposition or dealing would exceed the lesser of $500,000 and 5% of the authority's tangible capital assets, as reported in the authority's most recent audited financial statement.

2. Despite paragraph 1, sub-paragraphs 1. v to viii do not apply to a decision of an authority that is made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, the health of any persons, or to property.

3. For greater certainty, paragraph 1 does not apply to a decision of an authority to execute an agreement that has the effect of implementing a decision made by the authority before the Effective Date.

4. The following conditions must be satisfied before an authority is authorized to make a decision that is subject to paragraph 1:

    i. The authority must request authorization from the OPCA CEO to make the decision, in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Direction.
    ii. The authority must receive written authorization from the OPCA CEO to make the decision. If authorization for the request is granted only in part, the authority must ensure that its decision does not exceed the scope of the authorization.

5. For the purposes of paragraph 4, the authority must request authorization to make a decision that is subject to paragraph 1 by submitting the following information to the OPCA CEO:

    i. A description of the decision that the authority is seeking authorization to make, including details of the proposed decision and why the proposed decision is a decision that is subject to paragraph 1.
    ii. A resolution of the authority supporting the proposed decision.
    iii. An explanation for why authorization should be granted, including any risks associated with deferring the proposed decision until after the transition date.
    iv. Any information about relevant dates for the proposed decision, including any considerations around urgency or the time-sensitive nature of the proposed decision.

6. The authority must provide any additional information about the request to the OPCA CEO at the OPCA CEO's request.

Notice of a decision that an authority has made to address an emergency (direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (b))

7. Commencing on the Effective Date and until the transition date, where the authority makes a decision that is not subject to paragraph 1 by reason that the decision is made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, health, or property, the authority must give notice to OPCA CEO within 3 business days after making the decision.

8. The notice mentioned in paragraph 7 must describe the decision that was made and explain how the decision that was made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, the health of any persons, or to property.

General

9. In this Direction, a reference to the OPCA CEO means the Chief Conservation Executive of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, if a chief executive officer of OPCA has not yet been appointed.

10. In this Direction, a reference to an authority's approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year means the authority's final budget for the 2026 calendar year that was approved prior to the Effective Date. For greater certainty, if an authority has not yet approved its final budget for the 2026 calendar year prior to the Effective Date, the authority does not have an approved final budget for the 2026 calendar year for the purposes of this Direction.

11. The authority must ensure that any employee of the authority who is responsible for or involved in making a decision that is subject to this Direction is made aware of this Direction, and the authority must require these employees to take all steps necessary to ensure the authority complies with this Direction.

12. This Direction applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction.

13. For greater certainty, this Direction also applies to the conservation authorities listed in Appendix "A" to this Direction when such conservation authorities are meeting as a source protection authority under the *Clean Water Act, 2006*.

14. This Direction is effective from May 1, 2026 (the "**Effective Date**") to the transition date, within the meaning of the *Conservation Authorities Act* (i.e., February 1, 2027 or such later date as may be prescribed by the regulations).

15. This Direction may be amended in writing from time to time at the sole discretion of the Minister.

Todd McCarthy
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
May 1, 2026

Appendix A

LIST OF CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES TO WHICH THE DIRECTION APPLIES

Ausable Bayfield CA

Cataraqui Region CA

Catfish Creek CA

Central Lake Ontario CA

Credit Valley CA

Crowe Valley CA

Essex Region CA

Ganaraska Region CA

Grand River CA

Grey Sauble CA

Halton Region CA

Hamilton Region CA

Kawartha Region CA

Kettle Creek CA

Lake Simcoe Region CA

Lakehead Region CA

Long Point Region CA

Lower Thames Valley CA

Lower Trent Region CA

Maitland Valley CA

Mattagami Region CA

Mississippi Valley CA

Niagara Peninsula CA

Nickel District CA

North Bay-Mattawa CA

Nottawasaga Valley CA

Otonabee Region CA

Quinte Region CA

Raisin Region CA

Rideau Valley CA

Saugeen Valley CA

Sault Ste. Marie Region CA

South Nation River CA

St. Clair Region CA

Toronto and Region CA

Upper Thames River CA

Appendix B

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR THE MINISTER'S DIRECTION ISSUED UNDER SECTION 1.14 OF THE CAA

The following sets out additional information and guidance for authorities in relation to the Minister's Direction issued May 1, 2026 under s. 1.14 of the CAA.

The ministry strongly encourages conservation authorities to contact the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) at CCEO@ontario.ca if an authority is uncertain about the scope, application or requirements of this direction. OPCA can help clarify whether a proposed decision is subject to this Direction and how the authority can ensure it complies with this Direction.

As paragraph 11 of the Direction provides, if any decisions covered by the Direction are made by employees of the authority, the authority has the obligation to ensure that their employees are aware of this Direction and that the authority seeks prior authorization in accordance with the Direction before the decision is made.

The CAA provides that, if an authority makes a decision in contravention of a direction issued under clause 1.14 (1) (a), the authority's decision has no effect and any agreement that the authority enters into that is in contravention of the direction is void.

Request and OPCA CEO Decision Process

Making a Request

After a conservation authority determines that a proposed decision requires authorization from the OPCA CEO, the authority may make a request for authorization via email to CCEO@ontario.ca containing the following required information:

- A description of the decision that the authority is seeking authorization to make, including details of the proposed decision and why the proposed decision is a decision that is subject to paragraph 1 of the Direction.
- A resolution of the authority supporting the proposed decision.
- An explanation for why authorization should be granted, including any risks associated with deferring the proposed decision until after the transition date.
- Any information about relevant dates for the proposed decision, including any considerations around urgency or the time-sensitive nature of the proposed decision.

Any notices of decisions required to be given to OPCA CEO under paragraph 7 of the Direction should also be sent via email to CCEO@ontario.ca.

Confirmation of Receipt

Once the OPCA (or Office of the Chief Conservation Executive (OCCE) if the OPCA CEO has not yet been appointed), receives a request from the authority that includes the required information, the authority will be notified by OPCA that the request has been received and the timeline for a decision. The OPCA will also inform the Ministry's Conservation Authorities Section (CAS) (via ca.office@ontario.ca) that a request for written authorization has been received. In addition, if the authority provides notice under paragraph 7 of the Direction of a decision made for the purpose of alleviating an immediate danger to human life, health, or property, the OPCA will inform the CAS.

If, upon review by the OPCA CEO, it is determined that a decision is not subject to the requirement for prior written authorization, the authority will be notified as soon as possible that the decision is not subject to this Direction.

Consideration of Request

The OPCA CEO will endeavour to make a decision on the request in a timely manner and not more than 30 calendar days from the day of receiving the request that is accompanied with the required information. Where the complexity of the request or the need for additional information necessitates, written notice will be provided to the authority by the OPCA of any additional time needed to issue a decision.

The OPCA CEO may consult on an authority's request with the relevant transition committee and project executive that has been appointed by OPCA for that authority. . The OPCA CEO may also require the authority to provide additional information if needed to support their consideration of the request.

Decision

The OPCA CEO may make the following types of decisions on a request for written authorization:

- Grant authorization to the authority to proceed with making the decision that was the subject of the request, in whole or in part (i.e., authorize the authority to proceed in a more limited manner than what was requested).
- Deny authorization, including in circumstances where, in the opinion of the OPCA CEO, the decision would not be in the best interest of the future regional conservation authority, or it would be more appropriate to defer the decision to the future regional conservation authority.

The decision of the OPCA CEO on the request will be given in writing to the authority and will include a rationale for the decision if the decision is to deny authorization or only grant authorization in part. The Ministry's CAS will also be notified of the OPCA CEO's decision.

Where an authority's proposed decision is authorized by the OPCA CEO, or where the proposed decision has been authorized but only in part, this in no way compels the authority to proceed with the decision. In all cases, the authority retains the sole power to determine whether to proceed with any decision that has been authorized by the OPCA CEO.

Reconsideration

There is no process for reconsideration of an OPCA CEO decision on a request for authorization under the Direction.

An authority whose request for authorization is denied or granted only in part may request authorization again in accordance with the Direction at a later date if the circumstances have changed and the authority believes that these changes in circumstances would support the granting of authorization.

May 13, 2026

Denise Holmes, CAO
Mayor Darren White and Members of Council
Township of Melancthon
157101 Highway 10
Melancthon, Ontario

Subject: Resignation from Council

Dear Denise Holmes, Mayor White and Members of Council,

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from my position as Councillor for the Township of Melancthon, effective June 1, 2026.

As I will be moving out of the Township of Melancthon, I will no longer be eligible to serve as a member of Council, and therefore must resign my position.

Serving the residents of Melancthon has been an honour and privilege. I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside fellow Council members, Township staff, and members of the community on matters important to our municipality.

I would like to thank the residents for their support and trust during my time on Council. I also extend my appreciation to Township staff and my colleagues on Council for their cooperation and dedication to the community.

I wish the Township of Melancthon continued success in the future.

Sincerely,

Ralph Moore
Councillor
Township of Melancthon