

**From:** [MECP Land Policy \(MECP\)](#)  
**To:** [MECP Land Policy \(MECP\)](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Subwatershed Planning Guide  
**Date:** January 27, 2022 3:36:30 PM

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Greetings,

I am reaching out to share that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks is proposing a Subwatershed Planning Guide to help municipalities and other planning authorities in implementing provincial policy direction to undertake watershed and subwatershed planning that informs land use and infrastructure planning under the *Planning Act* in Ontario. Current guidance on subwatershed planning is nearly 30 years old. The proposed guide reflects current land use planning policies under provincial land use plans (such as [A Place to Grow, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe \(2020\)](#)) and the [Provincial Policy Statement \(2020\)](#), which recognize watersheds as meaningful for planning to protect, improve or restore water quality and quantity.

Subwatershed plans reflect the goals of a watershed plan but are tailored to tributary needs and local issues and provide detailed targets and actions on site-specific water resource planning issues. Subwatershed planning informs more detailed infrastructure planning and land use planning decisions under the *Planning Act*, such as secondary plans and plans of subdivision.

The proposed guide provides a general framework for subwatershed planning and includes:

- Roles and responsibilities.
- Relationship between watershed planning and land use and infrastructure planning.
- Purpose and principles of subwatershed planning.
- Steps, best practices and approaches applicable to subwatershed planning.
- Best practices for Indigenous community and stakeholder engagement in the subwatershed planning process.
- Some key technical tools and considerations.

This guide is intended for use by municipalities and other planning authorities to assist with implementing relevant provincial land use policy direction. It may also be of use or interest to other parties involved in subwatershed planning, municipal land use planning and infrastructure planning processes.

**The proposed guide has been posted to the Environmental Registry for a 45-day public consultation from January 27, 2022 to March 13, 2022. To review and comment on the proposed document, please see the Environmental Registry proposal notice at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-4978> .**

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will be hosting two

information webinars on the proposed guide, on February 16, 2022 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. and February 24, 2022 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. If you are interested in one of these webinars please go to this link to register:

- February 16: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/proposed-subwatershed-planning-guide-information-webinar-tickets-256263068737>
- February 24: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/proposed-subwatershed-planning-guide-information-webinar-tickets-256281885017>

Please pass this information along to colleagues, members of your organization, other organizations, and anyone else that may be interested.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this proposal, please contact Jessica Isaac, Manager(A) and/or Emilee O'Leary, Senior Policy Analyst with the Land Use Policy Unit at [MECP.LandPolicy@ontario.ca](mailto:MECP.LandPolicy@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by:**

Chris Lompart  
Director (A), Environmental Policy Branch  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks