

ABCA Shoreline Management Plan Update

Project Committee Meeting

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre

October 5, 2015

9:00 am – 12:00 am

The meeting followed the agenda which had been previously circulated.

Steering Committee members present

Monica Walker-Bolton – County of Huron

John Gillespie – Bluewater

Marissa Vaughan – South Huron

Alex McDougall – BRSA

Burkhard Metzger – Central Huron

Steve Jackson – Maitland Valley CA

Patty Hayman – St. Clair CA

Patti Richardson – County of Lambton

Consulting Team members present

Karen Wianecki – Planning Solutions Inc.

Judy Sullivan – Aqua Solutions 5 Inc.

Robin Davidson-Arnott

ABCA Staff present

Andrew Bicknell – ABCA

Geoff Cade – ABCA

Tim Cumming – ABCA

Tracey McPherson – ABCA

Alec Scott – ABCA

Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk – ABCA

Welcome and Introductions: (Alec Scott)

Project Overview: (Alec Scott)

Alec provided a brief outline of the project and some of the concepts to consider for the updated plan including:

- Shoreline erosion rates

- Shoreline protection
- Climate change - what are the implications on possible changes to water levels in Lake Huron (Climate change was not taken into account in the previous plan)
- Increase knowledge to residents
- Framework to guide sustainable shoreline development

Presentation: Meeting Purpose and Objective (Karen Wiannecki)

- Karen introduced the members of the technical team and their experiences
- It was noted that the completion date for the updated plan was Nov 2016 at which time it would be presented to the ABCA Board of Directors for consideration
- Karen indicated that 4 Steering Committee meetings were expected and that the technical work (i.e. recession analysis) was underway

Notes from last meeting: (Alec Scott)

- The notes from the July 23 2015 mtg were presented – with no questions/omissions arising
- It was concluded that in order to avoid confusion, the Project Committee should be renamed the Steering Committee – no concerns expressed
- It was asked why did the ABCA took the survey approach and not an open house?
 - The ABCA had been advised against a holding an open house where no new information is presented – may get public input off on the wrong foot
 - Instead it was suggested that a strong web / social media presence was appropriate
 - This included FAQ's, web site, survey, newsletters, press release etc.
 - also timing of the public meeting was a concern – currently into fall
 - Lakeshore is seasonal, people won't come to an open house if it's not in the summer months
 - ABCA's role and education about what we are doing is key to getting people involved
 - Current attitude is build/modify with contractors encouraging the work without ABCA involvement
 - Need a collaborative effort to educate residents and builders
 - BSRA has smaller communities it could reach out to
 - Need direct face to face outreach
 - Public engagement is important

Steering Committee Terms of Reference (Geoff Cade)

- The proposed TOR for the Steering Committee was introduced and discussed

The following was identified as the Roles and Responsibilities of Steering Committee:

- Review the results of technical studies and documents
- Review existing plan
- Help update/highlight deficiencies in current plan
- Help to get the word out
- Help promote community engagement

- Be knowledgeable about ABCA roles and responsibilities
- Decisions made by consensus
- Fall 2016 completion of update

There was some discussion about permitting the public to attend and possibly contribute to the Steering Committee's meetings.

- generally it was felt that in order to maintain the openness and transparency of the process that public should be permitted as observers to the meetings
- if members of the public wished to make a presentation or ask a question they would be permitted to do so at the end of the meetings
- ABCA staff should be first notified of any such delegation prior to the meeting so that sufficient time is allotted
- the Terms of Reference is to be changed to reflect a 15min period at the end of each meeting to permit public comment
- the Engagement Strategy shall make note of this opportunity

There was also some discussion about additional membership on the Steering Committee

- it was determined that staff should help to identify possible new members in the following sectors / interests
 - building and renovation trade
 - landowner group from the dynamic beach area (Grand Bend to Port Franks)

It was noted that a representative from Lambton Shores had not been identified – ABCA staff will approach its member on the ABCA Board of Directors for help

Presentation: Engagement Strategy Continued (Karen Wianecki)

Karen outlined the proposed engagement strategy

- Public meetings held after technical assessment complete and early draft prepared from survey results
- ABCA to use website to engage community
- Newsletters to be generated
- FAQ document created – answers basic questions
- We have an initial stakeholder list – but need input from committee
- Community Survey Questions – there was discussion about a draw for a prize for completing the survey – ABCA staff to follow up
- Newsletters – estimating 6 editions
- Formal Public Meetings or Open houses – Summer 2016

It was noted that

- ABCA bound by their role to administer provincial regulations regardless of changes in the plan

- Not just ABCA implementing Provincial Policy – it's a partnership with Municipalities

There was discussion regarding 'pop-up' events and utilizing them as an additional means to get out to the public

- specifically fairs, community events and or partnering with the Pinery
- it was noted that sometimes these events don't attract the people you are looking to reach (they are from out of the area etc.

The team (staff and consulting) will consider pop up events as they come up and opportunities to distribute pamphlets

It was asked how the public would learn about the web survey.

- Letter is going out to the stakeholder list
- Letter of invitation, press release, ABCA website
- Need to ask if we can add information to tax bills, or water bills, municipal electronic signs
- BSRA will distribute information on the survey with electronic newsletter (distribution to 300-400 residents)
- Need to contact the Bayfield Rate Payers Association who is a working group for beach and water quality issues

The opportunity for radio spots and newspaper notices was discussed.

- News release gets good pickup as well as radio
- Targeted Facebook advertisements very useful
- List of twitter feeds or other media outlets

The map in the survey was discussed – it was used to show the area of jurisdiction / study area

There was significant discussion regarding how the ranking of the priorities were to be presented in the survey

- They are priorities which were identified in the last SMP with some additional new ones
- Drop down fields would only allow one number to be selected once – use high, medium and low priority
- Survey should have mix of dropdown and written open ended questions
- While limited funding and role we with can't omit issues
- Some additional issues identified by the committee included : public safety, protect property, climate change, phragmites, dune grass, Water quality

ACTION ITEMS:

- ***Friends of the Pinery should be added to stakeholder list***
- ***Create list of events that may be attended***
- ***February 1, 2016 proposed end date of survey***
- ***ABCA staff to revise the format for question #13***

- ***Deadline for suggestions for the list of events – October 12, 2015***
- ***Deadline for additional names for stakeholder list– October 12, 2015***
- ***Any additional comments to FAQ due Tuesday October 12, 2015***

Recession Rate Discussion: (Robin Davidson-Arnott)

- Discussed why we need to have average annual recession rate (AARR)
 - Allows you to have 100 yr projected rate when compared to historical data
 - To calculate AARR need long period of time to account for lake level fluctuation (34-50 years is appropriate)
 - Will be using a starting point of 1973 (high lake level phase) and use aerial photos to delineate top of bank along the shoreline
 - The 1973 photos will need to be positioned as accurately as possible on existing data
 - The margin of error is still to be determined but may be as much as 3m in the horizontal
 - Margin of error needs to be documented as well as process
 - Most recent top of bank will be delineated from 2015 orthophotos (if they become available in time) – otherwise will use most recent photos
 - From that analysis the projected rates into the future will be established
 - Recession rate needs to be averaged so small differences aren't anomalies for each individual property
 - Will undertake a back check against historical data to confirm results 'make sense'
 - Provided all goes well first draft of average rate may be completed by end of October 2015
- Robin indicated that it may be possible to very roughly calculate the impact of the existing shore protection on the supply of beach sediment from bluff erosion– by calculating the length of protected and unprotected shoreline, together with the bluff height, average recession rate and the proportion of sand and gravel in the bluff sediments.

There was discussion regarding shoreline hardening. Specifically;

Is there sound science that attempts to control shoreline erosion are unsuccessful?

Control structures create less erosion, no slumping, and vegetation regrowth therefore residents will say it has worked

Robin noted that

- There is an impact on sediment movement – shoreline erosion is a natural process and interrupting that process has consequences
- Structures put in affects neighbours - need to have that in education
- Impact becomes very important along whole coast - erosion protection in the north affects the supply of beach sediments to the shoreline to the south
- the ABCA is mandated to think on a more regional scale – not only of individual properties

- It was noted that nearshore underwater erosion is a continuous process, and may be enhanced during low lake levels. A detailed scientific justification for all of this will be provided in presentation-s by the project team and in the final report.
- It was stressed that the issues needed to be clearly communicated – and that the plan needed to get away from words such as “maybe” and be more clear - “science proves this won’t work”
- Also manage to direct development away from shoreline

Deficiencies in Current Shoreline Management Plan: (all)

It was generally asked that all review the current SMP and identify any deficiencies

Initial Comments:

- need to use definitive language (not may etc) for science
- Government policy of what is accepted for policies and regulations
- Current plan is outdated due to change in demand – moving away from cottages toward large full time houses

ACTION ITEM:

- ***January 15 deadline for comments from Steering Committee on existing SMP***

Next meeting mid-February 2016.