

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) 2016 Shoreline Management Plan Update Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is a Shoreline Management Plan?

The objectives of a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) are to develop and support solutions to current and future issues and problems along the shoreline.

The primary focus of the ABCA Shoreline Management Plan is to address the shoreline hazards for flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches and their impact on shoreline development. The main objectives of this focus are:

- i. to reduce or eliminate damage due to periods of erosion, flooding and dynamic beach movement that may occur to development close to the shore of Lake Huron
- ii. to direct new development away from hazardous areas
- iii. to help protect existing development from potential impacts of new development

2. Why is a Shoreline Management Plan required?

The Great Lakes shorelines are dynamic. They are constantly changing as a result of erosion and sand build-up and in response to severe storms and high as well as low water events. Considerable damage can occur. In fact, significant damage did occur to the Lake Huron shoreline back in 1986 when the waters of Lake Huron rose to record levels and wave action during storm events caused significant damage to thousands of lakeshore properties. The Province of Ontario, in response, appointed an advisory group to investigate, review and make recommendations concerning shoreline management. A proactive approach to shoreline management emerged as a critical recommendation and, in response, the Minister of Natural Resources delegated the responsibility of shoreline hazard management to the individual conservation authorities that have jurisdiction along the Great Lakes shoreline. The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is one of the conservation authorities with responsibility for shoreline management and, as such, has had a Shoreline Management Plan in place for many years.

3. What is the purpose of the Updated Shoreline Management Plan?

The purpose is to update the hazard limits for flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches to reflect current mapping standards identified in the Conservation Authorities Act and associated Ontario Regulations (97/04, 147/06), the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement, as well as new guidelines and policy directives. The updated Shoreline Management Plan, once developed, will be used as a reference document by ABCA staff and by the shoreline municipalities in the ABCA watershed.

4. Why is Ausable Bayfield Conservation updating its Shoreline Management Plan? Why now?

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority has a longstanding commitment to effective shoreline management that dates back prior to the first Shoreline Management Plan being approved in 1994. A further commitment has been made since that time to continue to review and update the Shoreline Management Plan to ensure it provides a consistent and up-to-date guide for municipal land use planning along the shoreline. The current Shoreline Management Plan approved in 2000 does not fully reflect current land use trends, mapping, legislation, and policies pertaining to shoreline hazards.

5. Why is an updated Shoreline Management Plan important for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and its partners?

The updated Shoreline Management Plan is important because the plan will provide a foundation for integrated coastal zone management of that part of the Lake Huron shoreline that falls under the jurisdiction of the ABCA. It is also important for Ausable Bayfield Conservation’s partners as well. The Shoreline Management Plan will provide direction and guidance to the public and municipalities in managing risks associated with damage to municipal and private development along the shoreline.

6. What is the scope and limit of the study?

What geographic area will be covered by the updated Plan?

The study area for the Plan was for that section of the Lake Huron shoreline within ABCA’s jurisdiction. The following Figure shows the study limits:



7. What is the time frame to develop the updated Shoreline Management Plan?

The update is expected to take approximately sixteen months. The process began in 2015 and is being led by a Steering Committee consisting of stakeholders: representatives from local landowner groups, municipal government, county staff, and local industry. Based on the sixteen-month time frame, the updated Shoreline Management Plan is expected to be approved by the ABCA Board of Directors in November 2016.

8. What happens once the Plan is developed?

The updated Shoreline Management Plan will be recommended for approval by the Steering Committee and approved by the ABCA Board of Directors. Once approved, it will be used by municipalities and by the ABCA to make decisions about development and mitigating risk along the shoreline.

9. Who is developing the Shoreline Management Plan?

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority has created a Steering Committee to oversee the development of the updated Shoreline Management Plan and to provide guidance on the process. In addition, the ABCA has hired a team of consultants to complete the technical components of the Shoreline Management Plan. Members of the team are working closely with ABCA staff and members of the Steering Committee to develop the updated Shoreline Management Plan. The final Shoreline Management Plan will be approved by the ABCA Board of Directors.

10. How will ABCA ensure that landowners and community members have an opportunity to be involved in the process?

A Steering Committee has been created to help guide the process. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from:

- Each of the four shoreline municipalities within the ABCA jurisdiction
- Counties of Huron and Lambton
- Shoreline residents and cottage associations
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Two adjacent conservation authorities
- Industry representatives

In addition to the Steering Committee, members of the community will have a number of opportunities to become engaged in the process and to share their views. A Community Survey was developed to allow any interested individuals to share their views. We thank all the people who took part in that survey which will help the Steering Committee understand the concerns and issues.

The public is invited to attend meetings of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will include 15 minutes at the end of each meeting for public questions, comments, and delegations. Please contact ABCA in advance if you wish to make a presentation to the committee.

11. How will ABCA ensure that interested parties are kept informed as the Plan is developed?

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority will be posting regular newsletters to keep interested parties informed.

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority will also add updates to the shoreline management page on its website at abca.on.ca.

The Shoreline Management Plan Update page is located at this link:

<http://www.abca.on.ca/page.php?page=shoreline-management>

You may sign up for the free electronic newsletter to be kept informed through direct email notifications. Visit the shoreline management page and subscribe to the Updated Shoreline Management Plan newsletter to receive the newsletter by email: http://eepurl.com/bxn8_5

These newsletters and project updates are to keep you informed of the progress that we are making.

You are also welcome to contact the staff at ABCA to learn more about the Shoreline Management Plan and the planning process.

12. I still have more questions. Who can I contact for more information about the Shoreline Management Plan update?

If you have any additional questions or would like to discuss the Shoreline Management Plan update with ABCA staff in more detail, please feel free to contact Alec Scott or Geoff Cade at 519-235-2610 or toll-free at 1-888-286-2610 or email staff through our staff contact page at: http://www.abca.on.ca/contact_staff.php