

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE OF ISSUE: August 12, 2016

Draft Updated Shoreline Management Plan to be posted online

Consulting team presents Draft Updated Shoreline Management Plan recommendation report to Steering Committee; Committee asks that document be posted online for review, public comments

The consulting team for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Shoreline Management Plan Update provided its Draft Updated Shoreline Management Plan recommendation report to the Steering Committee at a meeting in the Masonic Hall, Exeter on Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

The ABCA had originally planned to complete updates to the SMP before the end of 2016. Completion of an Updated Shoreline Management Plan and local implementation policies is now not expected until later in 2017. Public events originally proposed for 2016 are not taking place until 2017.

The Steering Committee includes representation from diverse shoreline and industry interests. Discussion at the July Steering Committee meeting underlined the need to allow sufficient time for public access, comment, and to address the comments on the new Draft Updated Shoreline Management Plan (consultants' recommendation report). The document is based on current scientific knowledge and provincial policies and was prepared by the consulting team. The consulting team was led by Karen Wianecki, of Planning Solutions Inc., Judy Sullivan, of Aqua Solutions 5 Inc., and Robin Davidson-Arnott, University of Guelph. Additional input was provided by Billy Singh, of Terraprobe, and Ryan Mulligan, of Queen's University. Some of the team members presented the rationale for their recommendations through presentations to the Steering Committee at the July 26 meeting.

The Steering Committee decided the draft plan should be posted online for public review and comments. After comments on the document are received, reviewed, and considered by Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority and the Steering Committee, the ABCA will work with municipalities and other reviewing bodies in 2017 to develop local policies through a draft implementation plan.

Staff members of ABCA are to add maps and appendices to the Draft Updated Shoreline Management Plan (consultants' recommendation report) and are to post it for public review by September 1, 2016. There will then be a 90-day period for written comments, on this posting, by the public. A printed copy of the document will also be available for the public to review, at local libraries and the ABCA office, at 71108 Morrison Line, east of Exeter, for people who do not have convenient access to the Internet.

The document is to be posted on the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) web page at abca.on.ca. Once the draft is posted, shoreline property owners and other interested people are invited to review the document, download it for free, and provide written comments to ABCA. To reach the web page, click on the Shoreline Management icon on the abca.on.ca home page or use the search tool on the home page. You may also go directly to the page at this link: <http://www.abca.on.ca/page.php?page=shoreline-management>. Staff members are to send an update email, once the document is posted, to all subscribers of the Shoreline Management Plan newsletter. To subscribe to this free electronic newsletter visit this link: http://eepurl.com/bxn8_5.

In addition to the Recommendation Report to be posted in the coming weeks, Ausable Bayfield Conservation has posted online a new discussion paper on processes controlling erosion and recession of cohesive shorelines. The new document is called *Erosion of Cohesive Bluff Shorelines*. That discussion paper focuses on the Ausable Bayfield shoreline north of Grand Bend. You are invited to download this document for free at abca.on.ca. Robin Davidson-Arnott, Professor Emeritus, University of Guelph, wrote the paper. The term cohesive shoreline is used to describe coasts developed in relatively weak sediments which include some silt and clay (to provide the cohesion). Coastal erosion results in the development of cliffs which are called cohesive bluffs to distinguish them from the traditional cliffs formed in hard bedrock.

The ABCA has also posted another recent discussion paper that focuses on the potential impacts of climate change on coastal processes across the ABCA watershed area. That paper is called *Climate Change Impacts on the Great Lakes – A discussion paper on the potential implications for coastal processes affecting the SE shoreline of Lake Huron within the jurisdiction of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority*. This document is also posted for free download on the Shoreline Management Plan page.

Several people were in the public gallery for the July 26 meeting. A delegation from the shoreline area of Melena Heights, north of Bayfield, presented at the Steering Committee about concerns related to the impact drainage changes may be adding to shoreline erosion in the area. The delegation stressed that while the timeline for the Shoreline Management Plan Update may now stretch into 2017, discussion of potential responses to their concerns needs to happen soon. ABCA staff agreed to meet with the residents' representative for more detail about the concerns after the Steering Committee meeting.

The 90-day period for public comment on the Draft Updated Shoreline Management Plan (consultants' recommendation report) takes place between September 1, 2016 and December 1, 2016. Written comments on the document, or questions, may be sent to Alec Scott or Geoff Cade through the staff contacts page at abca.on.ca. You are also invited to phone 519-235-2610 or toll-free 1-888-286-2610.

– 30 –

MEDIA CONTACT:

Geoffrey Cade, Water and Planning Supervisor, at Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610 or e-mail gcade@abca.on.ca

Backgrounder – *About the Shoreline Management Plan Update*

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's first Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) was approved in 1994. It was created to help address shoreline hazards related to flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches in Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) watersheds. That plan, created with the help of the community, has reduced damage along the shoreline during severe storms and high water events. This plan was last updated in 2000. The ABCA is working between 2016 and 2017 to update the existing Shoreline Management Plan.

The primary focus of the plan is to address shoreline hazards for flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches and their impact on shoreline development. Plan objectives are 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; to direct new development away from hazardous areas; and to help protect existing development from potential impacts of new development.

The plan is also intended to provide a consistent and up-to-date guide for development and municipal land use planning along the shoreline and to reflect current mapping, legislation, policies, guidelines, and technical information related to shoreline hazards, and current land use trends along the Lake Huron shoreline.

The update is ongoing through 2016 and 2017.

The 90-day period for public comment on the Draft Updated Shoreline Management Plan (consultants' recommendation report) takes place between September 1, 2016 and December 1, 2016.