

ABCA Shoreline Management Plan Update

Project Committee Meeting

Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Administration Centre

July 15, 2015

10:00 am – 12:00 am

Welcome and Introductions:

Geoff Cade – ABCA

Patti Richardson – County of Lambton

Monica Walker-Bolton – County of Huron

Jeff Winzenried – Maitland Valley CA

Tracey McPherson – ABCA

Patty Hayman – St. Clair CA

Rose Whalen – MNRF

Alec Scott – ABCA

Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk – ABCA

Marissa Vaughn – South Huron

Burkhard Metzger – Central Huron

Alex McDougall – BRSA

Keith Locking – BRSA

John Gillespie – Bluewater

Andrew Bicknell – ABCA

Project Overview: (Alec Scott)

Concepts to consider for the updated plan:

- Long term erosion rates North of Grand Bend
- Structural protection from erosion
- Annual dredging and the issues surrounding the movement of sand and how to keep it in the system and not bring it on land to dispose of
- Climate change - looking forward 30-50 yr horizon and what will happen in the Great Lakes with water levels and higher evaporation
(Climate change was not taken into account in the previous plan)

Technical Consulting Team being used for expertise in:

- Coastal processes
- Geotechnical and erosion
- Policy creation
- Facilitation

Technical Committee:

- MNRF was initially involved with many studies
- *Posed the question: Who will be involved this time?*

Public Meetings:

- Outline issues to be looked at
- Educate the land owners to what the Shoreline Management Plan is
- Timing is essential to reach as many land owners as possible in summer months
- First meetings held in August 2015
- Public have opportunity to voice their issues
- Committee address issues over winter
- Second meetings held in July/August 2016

Presentation: ABCA Shoreline Responsibility (Geoff Cade)

- ABCA Jurisdiction
- Hazard Role: flooding/erosion/dynamic beach
- Regulator Role: development/land use change/intensification

Questions/Comments:

Question posed:

- Why can't you dig/dump material over bank?

Answer:

- Dumping unstable material on unstable ground, worsens the issue
- Weight on top of unstable ground makes slump worse

Presentation: ABCA Shoreline Hazard Management (Geoff Cade)

- Shoreline Management Plan history
- Recession rates
- Outcomes – mapping
- Challenges – policy direction

Questions/Comments:

Comment:

- Development impacts dynamic beach/dunes outside of Regulation Limit

Answer:

- Can only regulate what is specified by regs
- Initially wanted to regulate everything. Had to pull back dune system model – public and province didn't want to regulate beyond 30m
- Impacts of vegetation removal are greater than what land owners realize

Question Posed:

- What is zoning on dunes?

Answer:

- Zoned residential
- OP is flexible and not reflective of natural shoreline. New development is regulated and can tell people where to build.
- Change to existing development causes most of the issues.

Shoreline Protection:

Question Posed:

- Is there a policy on shoreline protection?

Answer:

- No, but would like to add it to Shoreline Management Plan
- Currently have some limited restrictions

Question Posed:

- Existing structures – do we support repairs (ie. Groynes)

Answer:

- Studies in 90's realized groynes to be not be as effective
- Groynes are causing issues downstream
- Not as many shorewalls, more rock

Question Posed:

- Is protection consistent, engineered?

Answer:

- Current policies don't require engineering
- Not consistent because ABCA only had advisory role up until 2006 then started regulating, didn't need permit before other than near gullies
- Protection started to occur because of high lake levels
- Potential buyers don't realize what the property looked like previously
- Vegetation removal is a large issue as well, ABCA doesn't regulate removal but can regulate how it's done

ACTION ITEM: ABCA show photos over time as education for residents to illustrate changes

High water mark and 100 yr lake line:

Question Posed:

- Is the 100 yr lake level line set by province the same as the high water mark?

Answer:

- No, high water mark shows up on surveys and was at the surveyor's discretion
- Deeds say to high water mark, people think they own to water's edge
- Decisions are made in court about property lines
- Identification of 100 year flood level for SMP has to be taken from Canada / Ontario Flood Damage Reduction Program Studies and resulting maps from 1988., not what's currently on the ground due to all the sand build up
- High water mark is not the same as the regulation limit

Who should be involved:

Question Posed:

- Should there be other home owners associations involved in the committee?

Answer:

- 2 or 3 in Lambton that might be interested
- Marissa is an Oakwood Park resident – could represent them as well as South Huron

Question Posed:

- Should the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation have representation?

Answer:

- Centre is aware of process and ABCA may be asking for their ideas
- Biggest issue is education, Coastal Centre could help to educate new residents

Question Posed:

- Do builders in the area need education?

Answer:

- ABCA deals with a number of builders in the area, education takes place every time they come in
- Not sure if the info provided to builder is relayed to land owner

Hazard Concerns:

Comment:

- Intensification (land use change and scale)– shoreline is changing and how do we deal with it
- Climate change – lower lake level
- Gully erosion from rainfall events
- Drinking water being removed to go elsewhere (US)
- Storms intensity changing, causing exposed landscape in spring and fall to erode quicker
- Revision of policies to reflect changing demands (ie. Development descriptions for moveable structures)
- Sensitive to infill developments and maintaining character of areas
- Maintaining erosion access and not reducing side yards
- Erosion access allowance is a setback to allow enough room so machinery can make repairs as erosion occurs
- ABCA hasn't had too many issues with sideyards and due to the limited municipal services offered, location of septic and wells can limit scale of development

Erosion Rate Concerns:

Question Posed:

- Has erosion rate changed? Has the long term erosion rate changed?

Answer:

- Can the overlay of erosion line be recreated with new information?
- Can erosion control works be accounted for in setbacks?
- Few erosion control projects are designed by qualified Engineer
- Designs are not peer reviewed

Question Posed:

- Does protection influence projection of 100yr erosion rate?

Answer:

- Sheet steel has 50-60yr lifespan on a river and ~20yr on shoreline because of harsher conditions
- Major issue to rebuild structures and intensify lakeshore
- People want to protect their property and as intensity increases properties could be subject to failure
- Impacts the hazard on individual property and potentially neighbours

Comment:

- Ravine erosion is contentious
- Property owners trying to stop erosion are discouraged

Answer:

- Clarified that it is only discouraged if proposal indicates work in an unbridled fashion – ABCA wants to have discussions on best practices with owners

Question Posed:

- Erosion control in ravine is allowed if done in proper manner?

Answer:

- Yes, but has to have regard for others (can't fill in ravine, can't protect only one side of ravine)
- Municipality can't afford all works to fix issues upstream
- Protection does not mean it will allow for an increase in building envelope

Comment:

- Gets calls from people saying ABCA "won't allow works"

Answer:

- ABCA doesn't get too many calls but we issue a permit if all criteria is met, won't support application if it has impacts on neighbours

Drainage Issues:

Question Posed:

- What about Drainage Issues?

Answer:

- Where road drainage works outside of reg limit the ABCA is not involved with drainage

Question Posed:

- Do tiled field applications require comment?

Answer:

- Private – No, Municipal Drain – Yes; both are project specific

Comment:

- That is an issue for gullies and ravines, approval of tile drains without thinking of storm water impacts
- Drainage off fields want to get to lake as quickly as possible – don't think of ramifications

Answer:

- trying to promote Rural Stormwater management plans
- possible updating of OMAFRA policies for Municipal Drainage works
- Drainage Act
- Municipal drains all ended at Hwy 21 because there wasn't a need for them to continue right to lake because not a lot of development was happening at the time
- Gullies are not usually part of Municipal Drain, if they were any repairs would be covered by using the drain assessment

Next Steps:

Question Posed:

- Are we going to have a terms of reference for this group so we don't get too off track?

Answer:

- Terms of Reference would be good to have for Open House, having a goal of project for public

Question Posed:

- Can we get a copy of Geoff's presentation?

Answer:

- ABCA will provide a small file format of presentations

Other Comments:

- Educate people about regulations
- Open houses to get input from public
- One in Bayfield, one in Grand Bend
- Open houses this summer, and again next summer
- Group to meet again before open house in August
- Book location to have open houses and provide details to committee members
- Alec had chaired this initial meeting. Committee seemed OK with having him continue in this role.

Meeting notes by Meghan Tydd-Hrynyk – ABCA

Please report any errors or omissions as soon as possible.