

Ausable Bayfield
Conservation Strategy Development Team
 DRAFT Notes from Meeting - July 20, 2011

Attending in person were:

Claire Dodds, Jennette Walker, Jim Handyside, Steve Boles, Muriel Allingham, Jacqui Laporte

ABCA Staff

Tim Cumming, Tom Prout, Judith Parker

Joining on-line and conference call:

No participants

CALL TO ORDER

The tenth meeting of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Strategy Development Team Meeting was held in the board room of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) Administration Centre on July 20, 2011. Tim Cumming called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed the members. The draft notes from the June 15, 2011 meeting of the Conservation Strategy Development Team were reviewed and adopted by consensus.

BREAK-OUT GROUP SESSION

At the last meeting the community Conservation Strategy Development Team decided on the Conservation Strategy would be modelled like a tree with Healthy Watersheds as the aim or vision. The branches of the tree would be healthy water, healthy soil, healthy communities, and other living things.

Tim Cumming prepared labels of Conservation Strategy priorities identified previously by the 2011 and 1993 Conservation Strategy teams. Jim Handyside explained the principles of the decision-making tree in expanding on the vision by answering the question 'How?' The team members then went through a 30-minute exercise of labelling each branch of the Healthy Watersheds tree with the priorities that were supplied on post-it-notes.

Here are results of some of the brainstorming using the tree diagram process:

Healthy Soil>Prevent soil erosion>Prevent, reduce shoreline hardening and erosion>Maintain and increase soil stability or structure>Restore natural areas damaged by erosion

Improve Forest Conditions>Increase forest cover>Promote best management practices to agricultural, industrial, commercial, municipal and residential people in the community

Evaluation>Establish baseline>Measure success>Use watershed report cards to measure success>Use social and other media to inform and educate the watershed>Provide planning advice>Mitigate climate change effects>Adapt to climate change effects>Increase tree cover>Promote best management practices to industrial, commercial, agricultural, municipal, residential people

Healthy Watersheds>Promote protection of the Lake Huron-Georgian Bay Watershed>Promote best management practices>Protect water quality>Protect water quantity

Protect Water Quality>Protect groundwater>Protect surface water>Protect and improve fisheries>Implement programs to reduce and properly manage domestic waste and livestock waste

Monitor Water Quality>Monitor groundwater quality>Monitor surface water quality>Monitor agricultural water quality>Monitor municipal drain water quality>Monitor pathogens>Monitor acid rain>Complete Watershed Report Cards>Continue water sampling with sufficient frequency and detail to detect changes>Cooperate with MOE to monitor industrial pollution, recreational boat pollution

Protect Water Quantity>Protect groundwater>Protect surface water>Protect quantity in municipal drains>Protect life and property through effective floodplain management and regulations>Work with the community through the Low Water Response Team>Cooperate with Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to encourage drainage inspectors, municipalities and landowners to undertake development and work in a way that will encourage and improve fisheries while providing adequate drainage for agricultural and urban properties

Preserve water quality and water quantity through wetlands>Create wetlands>Protect and promote the protection of wetlands from disturbance and alteration>Restore wetlands>Include wetlands in official plans

Healthy People>Cooperate with private landowners, consultants, developers and others>Educate to adults>Educate to youth and children>Encourage landowners to properly dispose of hazardous waste>Support Signing of the Great Lakes Charter>Use natural and conservation areas to educate>Develop trails>Educate municipal staff about best tree planting practices>Increase public access to natural areas>Conduct stormwater management on a watershed basis

Healthy Living Things>Improve habitat>Encourage native species>Create conservation lands>Create habitat>Increase forest cover>Establish conservation areas>Manage wetlands>Promote good practices in hunting on permitted lands>Educate to prevent hunting on lands where it's not permitted>Increase diversity of species>Promote the planting of native species>Educate about species at risk>Protect species at risk>Monitor species at risk>Prevent invasive species>Use forest conditions as one measure of success

The group came back together to discuss the results of the process. Jacqui Laporte asked if the tree was the right model or should it be a spider's web. The tree would be more appealing to the

public but the Strategy becomes more of a web with the interconnected nature of the priorities. Jennette Walker suggested the tree is a more organized approach.

Everyone had arranged the items on the white board under the suggested headings trying to answer the question “How do we get to Healthy Soil, Healthy Water, Healthy People and Other Living Things?” However, there was discussion as to whether this vision was still useable after going through the labelling process.

Claire Dodds questioned whether Living Things and People could be combined. Jacqui Laporte asked how organized the model had to be. Does it have to be a branch or it can it just be leaves. Muriel Allingham responded that the purpose is to have the Conservation Strategy in a format that is organized enough for the people who will refer to it and use it, eg. ABCA staff.

Claire and Jacqui suggested regrouping the categories into ‘Soil’, ‘Water’ and ‘Living Things’. Under each category on the post-it-notes are some key common words that can be viewed as tools or approaches to undertake the actions, for example, “Education - Is it a tool or an approach?”

Jim Handyside asked if the Conservation Strategy team was starting to discuss changing the vision from Healthy Watersheds to the words in the mission statement, i.e., ‘Protect’, ‘Improve’ ‘Conserve’ and ‘Restore.’ Tom Prout recommended that the Conservation Strategy team move forward and not revisit the Mission and Vision statements that had been decided upon at previous meetings.

Claire Dodds proposed an alternative model to the tree and drew a circular web with the Conservation Strategy team providing input to develop each ring of the web with a raindrop in the middle. Steve Boles commented that this concept may be new for the reader but gives the intent of broad actions, revolving and continual progress over the long term.

Tom Prout invited the Conservation Strategy team to think about what gets included beyond Soil, Water and Living Things. Tim Cumming will recreate the circular diagram into the next version of the draft Conservation Strategy with some options to be reviewed at the next meeting. It was suggested that the layout be formatted over two inside panels of the document. Tim reported that preliminary cost estimates for printing of the document were:

8 page document - 500 copies at \$800

6 page document - 500 copies at \$1,100 (more expensive as it would be a custom job)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 17 at 7 p.m. at the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Boardroom.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Notes recorded by:

Judith Parker

Corporate Services Coordinator