



AUSABLE BAYFIELD CONSERVATION

CREATING AWARENESS | TAKING ACTION

Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy

■ For Public Consultation

Background:

Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy

An overarching document for the Conservation Authority

1. Integrate climate change adaptation and resiliency into watershed management.
2. Integrate previous reports and studies.
3. Provide strategic direction by evaluating programs and recommending future programs and services to address watershed and municipal issues. Identifying ways that the CA, municipalities, and agencies can work together effectively to conserve the watersheds.
4. Identify infrastructure needs such as stream gauges, flood forecasting communications, water and erosion control projects, maintenance of existing projects and building new projects.
5. Identify future studies and knowledge needs such as subwatershed studies, inventories, research, stormwater management plans.
6. Include a business plan for delivering programs and services.
7. Meet requirements of *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Conservation Authorities Act Requirements

Subsections 12(4)-(7) of Ontario Regulation 686/21 set out the required components to be included in the WBRMS. Each individual conservation authority can determine the strategy framework and format.

1. Guiding principles and objectives that inform the design and delivery of a Conservation Authority's mandatory programs and services (s.12(4) paragraph 1).
2. A summary of existing technical studies, monitoring programs and other information on the natural resources the authority relies on within its area of jurisdiction or in specific watersheds that directly informs and supports the delivery of the Conservation Authority's mandatory programs and services.
3. A review of the Conservation Authority's mandatory programs and services for the purposes of determining if they comply with the mandatory programs and services regulation. This includes: an assessment of the effectiveness of the delivery of Category 1 programs; identifying actions and risk mitigation to address identified issues/risks that limit the effectiveness of delivery. A cost estimate for the implementation of those actions must be included (i.e., supporting Category 1, 2 and/or 3 programs to support mandatory program delivery). The Strategy will include both Category 2 and 3 programs and services provided by the CA, where there is an agreement with municipalities.
4. A process for periodic review and updates to the Strategy by the CA, including procedures to consult with stakeholders and the public during these periodic reviews..
5. Consult with stakeholders and the public during the preparation of the Strategy in a manner that the authority considers advisable.
6. Ensure the Strategy is made publicly available on their websites or by other means the authority considers advisable.

Vision and Mission Statements

(From Conservation Strategy)

- **Vision:** Healthy watersheds where human needs and the needs of the natural environment are in balance.
- **Mission:** Protect, improve, conserve, and restore the watershed in partnership with the community.



ABCA Strategic Priorities

- Protecting life and minimizing property damage from flooding and erosion.
- Improving the health of the watersheds.
- Managing land holdings in a responsible and sustainable way.
- Protecting drinking water sources for current and future generations.



Guiding Principles for Making Decisions

<p>A watershed is the best basis for conservation, restoration and management. Activities on land impact water and water impacts land use.</p>	<p>Indigenous communities have unique relationships with land and water. Consulting on watershed issues is important.</p>
<p>The Watershed Management Strategy provides a framework for assessing conditions, trends, risks, program delivery. It informs policy and decision-making.</p>	<p>Water and natural resources are vital community assets. Watershed conservation supports sustainable communities. Community uses, needs, values are considered in making decisions.</p>
<p>Watershed conservation is a shared responsibility of the Conservation Authority, governments and citizens.</p>	<p>Climate change impacts all parts of the watershed.</p>

Objectives to help achieve mandate and provide the context for programs and services

1. Develop and maintain programs that will protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.
2. Preserve, protect, and enhance the ecological integrity of the watersheds. Ensure rivers, lakes and streams are responsibly managed and restored.
3. Provide opportunities for the public to learn from, enjoy, and respect the watersheds.
4. Mitigate the potential risk to drinking water sources to assist in providing a sustainable and clean water supply for communities and ecosystems.
5. Implement land protection through land acquisition and sound management of lands owned and managed by the ABCA.
6. Build community partnerships and engagement at all levels.
7. Demonstrate organizational excellence and sustainability.