

ABCA Program Report

To: **Board of Directors**
Date: **February 16, 2017**
From: **Geoff Cade, Supervisor of Water, Planning and Source Protection**
Alec Scott, P.Eng., Water & Planning Manager
Subject: **Recommendations for Moving forward with the ABCA Shoreline Management Plan Update**

In 2016, draft mapping to show updated recession rates for the ABCA Lake Huron Shoreline and a Consultants' Recommendation Report on Updating the ABCA Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) were prepared and released for public comment on September 1. The comment period was open until December 1, 2016.

Due to the strong negative response from the public on the information released, the Board passed the following resolution on November 3, 2016 "Resolved that the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Board of Directors declares that it will not implement the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Shoreline Development Guidelines of Section 7.8 in the report (pages 113-117) and does not endorse the underlying principle of 'managed retreat' and the outright prohibition of all shoreline protection works, and further, that the Board of Directors continue to endorse the use of policies as contained in the 2000 Shoreline Management Plan and the Board of Directors direct staff to provide options to re-engage the public to update the 2000 Shoreline Management Plan."

The comment period on the original information closed on December 1, 2016. All of the comments and responses to date have been compiled and were given to Board members. A brief summary of the comments was included with the compiled documents and is provided as follows:

- Total number of signed comments - 190
- Number of comments to ask consultants to respond - 6

In addition, staff are recommending the following approach for moving forward with updating the 2000 Shoreline Management Plan.

Task	Description	Proposed Time Line
1	Respond to those who provided specific technical or process questions in the comments and that have not already been dealt with. This may require a response from outside consultants.	February to April 2017
2	Engage a coastal engineer to update the document "Considerations for Shore Protection Structures" 1994 including providing direction for information required to accompany applications for shore protection to ensure that the shoreline ecosystem and processes are	March 2017

	not impacted and negative impacts on other shoreline properties are not created. Staff recommend that a proposal be requested from Baird Coastal Engineers (who authored the original report) for completing this work and this information be provided at the March 2017 Board meeting.	
3	Post all comments and replies to the website.	April 2017
4	Dissolve the current Steering Committee and thank them for their service during early engagement on the project and technical work and invite them to continue to participate in public engagement opportunities which take place through 2017 and 2018	March 2017
5	Arrange for presentations to the Board by consultants and/or staff on climate change, coastal processes, recession rate updates and shoreline protection	March to May 2017
6	In consultation with shoreline municipalities, develop a process for moving forward with any proposed revisions to development guidelines which may come from Task 9 (ii)	March to September 2017
7	Schedule two public open houses (with a specific time for presentations) for June 2017 with the following objectives: i. Seek input by written comments on the following topics: - shoreline issues including those identified in the initial survey - ideas on a process to move forward to update the 2000 SMP including development guidelines ii. Provide information on the existing SMP 2000 document and development policies iii. Have consultants provide information on requirements for reviewing shore protection applications to ensure that impacts to adjacent properties do not take place iv. Provide information on updated methods for determining recession rates along the shoreline and the results v. Provide information on current Provincial polices and ABCA responsibilities applicable to the Lake Huron Shoreline	June 2017
8	Depending on the response from the June open houses, schedule 2 more open houses for August (<i>would require a report going back to the Board in July with recommendations</i>) to provide a summary of what was learned from the June open houses and what is proposed to take place over the winter	August 2017
9	Subject to the outcome of the summer open houses i. Finalize the update of "Considerations for Shore Protection Structures" and present this to the ABCA Board ii. Form a committee of CA staff and municipal planning staff to review the information from the summer meetings and make	September 2017 to May 2018

	<p>recommendations on development policies that need to be updated to account for changes to development pressures since the original SMP was developed. Present this information to the ABCA Board and Lakeshore Municipalities for comment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Prepare a draft of an updated SMP which includes new technical information as well as proposed changes to development guidelines iv. Get direction from the Board for presenting revised development policies and draft SMP to the public v. Have any draft development policies reviewed by legal counsel to ensure proposals are within the authority of the ABCA 	
10	In the summer of 2018, the results of discussions on development policies and the new draft of the SMP will be presented at public open houses.	June to August 2018
11	Present the results of public meetings and possible revisions to the development guidelines and draft SMP to the ABCA Board who will decide on whether to approve of new policies and the new SMP or take some other action.	September to November 2018

Recommendation:

That the ABCA Board authorizes staff to complete Tasks 1 to 5 as noted above in preparation for organizing public open houses in June 2017, and

Further, That staff regularly report on any changes or updates to the remaining proposed tasks.