

Bayfield North Watersheds Management Plan Pilot Project Evaluation Report



Hope Brock and Mari Veliz
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

March 2010



Background

Environment Canada has led the development of a “Community Action Framework” for managing the Lake Huron Georgian Bay ecosystem, and communities within the Lake Huron watershed are being encouraged to implement this Framework. Environment Canada, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Environment provided some resources to initiate community involvement in three pilot areas of the Lake Huron/Georgian Bay watershed, with one being the Bayfield North Watersheds. This area, which is approximately 40 km² in size, consists of 20 small streams flowing directly into Lake Huron within the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) jurisdiction. The watershed area extends 8 km inland from the shore of Lake Huron and is largely dominated by agriculture, some natural environment, recreational area and limited settled areas.

A management plan for the Bayfield North Watersheds was initiated to help protect and enhance this area, and an advisory committee was established to guide this process. This committee consists of landowners, agency staff, and the local municipality (i.e., Central Huron). The process of developing a community-based watershed plan ensures that local interests are addressed, and that these interests or issues are relevant. Throughout the development of this plan, communication to landowners took place through public meetings, open houses, mail outs, site visits, tours and workshops. The management plan consists of a characterization of the watersheds, as well as management goals and recommendations for the natural areas, aquatic resources, and the agricultural and developed lands of the watersheds.

Ecological Accomplishments

Since the inception of the Bayfield North Watersheds Management Plan in 2007, much emphasis was been placed on working with the landowners in that area to protect and enhance the natural environment on their properties. A total of 32 projects were completed or initiated during this process, with many of the projects involving tree planting or reducing erosion (Table 1). One of the projects involved the stabilization of 50 m of streambank to reduce erosion through the use of live stakes and fascines. A local Scouting group and anglers club assisted with the construction. Before and after photos show the eroding bank and live stakes (Figure 1).

In order to support the completion of additional on-the-ground projects, an EcoAction application was submitted in 2009. If approved this funding will see the completion of two erosion control projects (i.e., installation of eight WASCoBs and a grass waterway), and two wetland creation projects.



One of the biggest ecological accomplishments brought about by the initiation of this project was the expansion of the Bayfield North Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) by 184 hectares. This ANSI was expanded in order to provide more landscape connectivity, as well as linkages to the Bayfield River ANSI to the south. Without the initiation of the Bayfield North Watersheds Management Plan, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) may not have initiated their re-evaluation process of this ANSI.

Table 1: Ecological accomplishments of the Bayfield North Watersheds Management Plan (includes EcoAction proposed projects).

Indicator	Achievement
Number of trees planted	2455
Number of wetlands created	2
Acres of wetland created	1.5
Metres of grassed waterways installed	400
Number of erosion control structures	9
Number of acres affected by erosion control structures	296
Metres of stream bank protected	50
Number of cows restricted from surface water	39
Metres of exclusion fencing	1923
Number of hectares retired from pasture	3.6
Number of hectares added to Bayfield North ANSI	184



Figure 1: Bioengineered streambank stabilization project before (left) and after (bottom) photos.



In addition to the on-the-ground projects, a water quality monitoring program was initiated. This program included only one site in the first year (monitored once a month), however it was expanded to five sites, which were monitored twice a month from April to November. The additional sites were added in response to community interest for more information. All sites were monitored for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), while one site was sampled for the following additional indicators: total phosphorus, total ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, total Kjeldhal nitrogen (TKN), and total suspended solids (TSS). Results from this program indicate that although some indicators meet the water quality guidelines, there is still room for improvement. Overall, these watersheds are in better condition than the entire ABCA watershed (Table 2).

Table 2: Water quality indicators, guidelines and results from 2007-2009 water quality monitoring at Gully Creek within the Bayfield North Watersheds (geometric mean for *E. coli*; 75th percentile for total phosphorus, mean for other indicators) and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) watershed average.

Indicator	Guideline	Gully Creek (2007-2009)	ABCA Watershed (2000-2005)
<i>E. coli</i> (cfu/100mL)	100	146*	233
Total Phosphorus (mg/L)	0.03	0.03	0.08
Dissolved Phosphorus (mg/L)		0.009	
Total Ammonia (unionized) (mg/L)		0.001	
Nitrate (mg/L)	3.0	3.89	
Nitrite (mg/L)		0.43	
Total Kjeldhal Nitrogen (mg/L)		0.57	
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	< 80	17	

* Result represents all five sites, not just Gully Creek.

Community Engagement

In 2007, an initial public meeting was held to inform the community about the watershed planning process, and to gain insight into their interests and issues regarding their watersheds. Following this meeting the advisory committee was formed, and met eight times throughout the project. This advisory committee worked hard to get the community involved by hosting a variety of different events. Feedback from several of these earlier events suggested that landowners would like more educational opportunities to learn about the watersheds, and what could be done for their protection and enhancement. Responding to this request, the advisory committee organized several workshops



and tours, some of which are highlighted below. All the community engagement activities are summarized in Table 3 (See also Appendix I and II).

Table 3: Community engagement accomplishments of the Bayfield North Watersheds Management Plan.

Indicator	Achievement
Number of advisory committee meetings	8
Number of people attending committee meetings	62
Number of public meetings	8
Number of people attending public meetings	207
Number of tours	3
Number of people attending tours	65
Number of workshops	2
Number of people attending workshops	60
Number of newspaper articles	38
Number of radio interviews	10
Number of mailouts	10
Number of visits to council	2
Number of updates to water protection committee	1
Number of clean up events	2
Number of people attending clean up events	20
Number of demonstration projects	1
Number of people helping with demonstration project	30
Number of site visits	22
Number of people attending launch event	40
Number of partnerships with local businesses	1

In the summer of 2008, the watersheds were separated into subwatersheds for the purposes of hosting a series of small open houses. These open houses were held to facilitate the development of specific management options for the communities' interests and issues. Later on in the fall, a series of workshops were held for the community to inform them about beach ecology, the importance of woodlots, and to introduce them to the Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide (Figure 2).



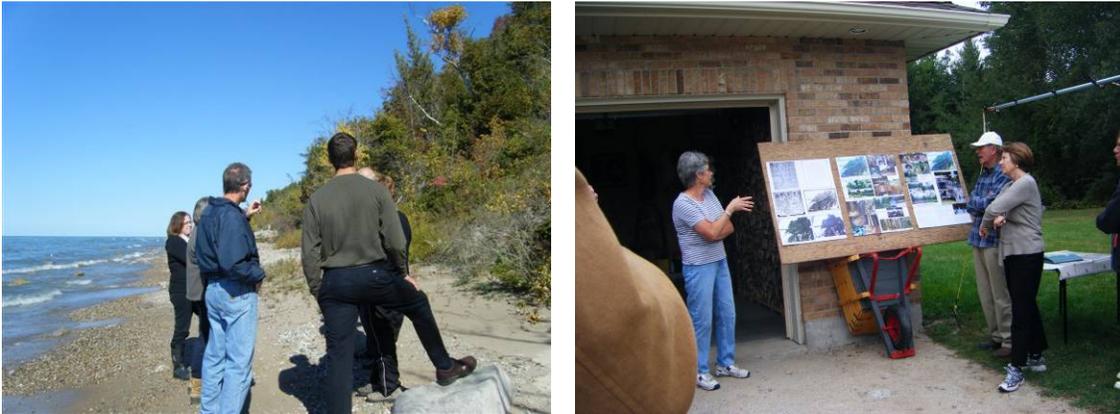


Figure 2: Landowners learn about beach ecology (left); a landowner explains to others how they manage their woodlot (right).

Community events continued in 2009 with several garbage cleanups, an open house for comments on the draft management plan, a streambank restoration demonstration, and a watershed bus tour. The goal of the bus tour was to illustrate to landowners some of the common erosion issues within the Bayfield North Watersheds, and to highlight some of the solutions to these problems. An electrofishing demonstration at one of the stops allowed watershed residents to observe some of the fish living within the watersheds (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority staff demonstrate bioengineering techniques (left); bus tour participants view some of the fish that live within the watersheds.

Just before the completion of the plan in early 2010, the advisory committee held a ‘Name Your Creek’ contest to name the 20 creeks in the Bayfield North Watersheds area. Aside from replacing the current alphanumeric names of the creeks, which likely meant very little to watershed residents, the goal of the contest was to make the community more aware of them, and to help them feel even more connected to them. Twenty-three names were submitted for ten of the creeks, and two winners were chosen who received a gift certificate for a local outdoor outfitter store (Figure 4). Many of the community members thought the contest was an excellent idea as evident by the testimonials below:

“We love our creek and our grandchildren already named it!”

“What a great idea to get the community involved!”

“Thanks for coming up with such a fun and community-involved activity. Certainly must create some pride of ownership for the local residents.”



Figure 4: Prize presentation to one of the winners of the ‘Name Your Creek’ contest.

Once the management plan was completed, it was unveiled at a local maple sugar shack. Close to 40 people attended this event, and were able to see how a local business operates in conjunction with the natural environment. Management plans were available to the public, as were copies of the Community Action Framework, and Stewardship Guides. ABCA staff were also available to discuss the plan with landowners (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Landowners listen to a maple syrup producer at the unveiling of the Bayfield North Watersheds Management Plan launch event (left); Bayfield North Watersheds Advisory Committee member presents a gift certificate to a winner of the ‘Name Your Creek’ contest at the launch.

Challenges

1) *Implementing recommendations from the Bayfield North Watersheds Plan*
 Although there was considerable public interest in the watershed planning process, there is no guarantee that the recommended actions will be undertaken. There were four important recommendations made in the Bayfield North Watersheds Plan: 1) direct development away from natural areas; 2) ensure that natural environment considerations are identified and addressed in areas that are developed; 3) conduct individualized environmental property plans; and 4) aim for 30 % natural cover across all portions of the watershed. We attempted to encourage people to undertake “best bet” environmental improvement projects as the planning process was unfolding and have had considerable success encouraging local actions with over 30 projects initiated or completed. However, it is unclear how many projects would have been undertaken if the ABCA had not been outgoing in our attempts to engage potential projects. Furthermore, the recommendation for individuals to conduct environmental evaluations on their own properties in the future may lack long-term sustainability. We have suggested that 80 % of property owners undertake environmental plans for their properties; a project that involved surveying the landowners to determine their level of support for this initiative would be a good investment.

Another potential challenge with the recommendations in the plan is that there is no framework to ensure that agencies implement key recommendations. Directing development away from natural areas is an important consideration for the Municipality of Central Huron, yet there is no mechanism to ensure that the municipality considers this recommendation in their Official Plan process.

2) Undertaking erosion control projects can be expensive

An important issue in the Bayfield North Watersheds area is erosion. As identified in the plan, there are three different types of erosion occurring in the area: lake, gully and upland erosion. Some of the erosion issues are a result of the erodible soils, elevation change from the uplands to Lake Huron and the precipitation events in 2008 and 2009. However, some of the erosion issues are also related to land use activities such as certain cropping practices in the uplands and development along the lakeshore. The “engineered” solutions to these land use issues can be costly. Furthermore, the areas where the erosion is occurring are frequently not the same areas where the erosion problem is originating (discussed further below).

3) Environmental problems originate away from problem areas

We have noticed that in undertaking this community action watershed plan that the source(s) of an environmental problem originate on other properties. For example, at one of the watershed open houses held in July 2008, one landowner described the extensive erosion problems she was experiencing on her property. Her upstream neighbour was quite surprised to learn of the erosion, as she has had no problems on her property. Although the upstream neighbour may have left the meeting more knowledgeable that her activities may have downstream consequences, there was little more that she wanted to do to resolve the issue.

The following summary from Kerr et al. 2009 summarizes this third challenge:

Controlling nonpoint source pollution requires that numerous minor polluters coordinate their actions to reduce pollution, one at a time. Each individual polluter may not make a tangible impact on environmental quality, but all polluters together create severe problems. Likewise, changing the behavior of one polluter will not make much difference, but if many people change their polluting ways the difference can be substantial. Homeowners, for example, would need to avoid disposing of motor oil into street sewers and take steps to minimize lawn fertilizer runoff. Construction sites would need to install protection devices to reduce the erosion of bare soil. Farms would need to adopt tillage and cultivation practices that generate less runoff and erosion, and they would need to install land use measures such as grass filter strips that capture eroding soil before it can be deposited into waterways.

The social problem confronting all types of pollution is that while the polluter enjoys exclusive benefits to the economic activity that causes pollution, the costs of that activity are shared with society at large in the form of pollution. By imposing the costs on others, the polluter has insufficient incentive to minimize pollution. With point source pollution, a combination of regulations or taxes can be



imposed to change the polluter's behavior. Enforcing such arrangements is manageable because pollution sources can easily be identified and monitored. With nonpoint source pollution, on the other hand, the problem is more complex because the number of polluters is very high and each one's contribution is practically negligible. Enforcing elimination of pollution by every individual polluter becomes prohibitively costly.

Unanticipated Results

1) Good community involvement at events

Staff at the ABCA were continuously surprised at the turnout for public meetings. Typically public meetings might garner a handful of people, but in each instance that we held meetings, workshops or special events, the attendance exceeded our expectations (usually 30-60 people attended). Given that event invitations and notices were sent to approximately 330 households within the watersheds, this represents about a 9-18 % attendance rate. The events were also diverse enough that they were interesting to different people, and as such that we did not always see the same people at all events. Furthermore, after these meetings or events, landowners often requested site visits.

2) Alteration of Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) boundaries

Early in the watershed planning process (January 2008), ABCA staff met with a Biologist and a Planner from the MNR to discuss the next steps in re-assigning the current boundaries for an ANSI that was found within the watershed plan area. A natural area inventory had been conducted by in 2003 (Jalava 2004) and recommendations to the MNR included the expansion of the Bayfield North ANSI to link it to the Bayfield River ANSI. The MNR was able to complete their process in order for the Bayfield North Watersheds Plan to reflect the revised, expanded ANSI boundaries.

Lessons Learned

Three important lessons to consider include: 1) develop a plan that reflects the community's needs; 2) implement short-term actions as you develop the long-term plan; and 3) turn watershed interest into watershed action.

1) Developing a Community-Based Watershed Plan

At the beginning of the watershed planning process at the December 2007 public meeting, it was clear that the Bayfield North community was interested in both economic stability and environmental protection. This watershed plan would not be a plan solely to protect natural areas, and any recommendations would need to recognize the "working landscape" that this area provides.



This is a common finding in watershed plan processes, as documented in the US EPA *Top 10 Watershed Lessons Learned* (1997). Lesson four is that environmental, economic, and social values are compatible.

2) Implement short-term actions as you develop the long-term plan

There are some “no-regrets” projects that can be identified with the community at the initial stages of a watershed planning process. These projects are important building blocks as the community becomes more engaged in the watershed plan.

3) Turn watershed interest into watershed action

Many people are interested in making improvements to their properties. Over the past few years the ABCA has hosted public meetings, open houses, watershed tours, clean up days, stewardship workshops, stream restoration demonstrations, etc. These events typically resulted in ABCA conducting follow-up stewardship visits with interested event attendees. Another approach was to phone people that have attended meetings and ask them if they are interested in a follow-up site visit. Funding provided from the MNR Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) that had to be used for on-the-ground projects encouraged ABCA staff to call potentially interested landowners. With the funds from COA we were able to assist people to implement projects.

This too is a common finding in watershed plan processes, as documented in the US EPA *Top 10 Watershed Lessons Learned* document (1997). Lesson nine is education and involvement drive action.

Other Lessons Learned

4) Have a general idea of the cost of a community-based watershed project

People have become increasingly aware of environmental issues and want to know what they can do to improve the environment. Often one of the first pieces of advice provided to people is to think globally but act locally. There are many ways this advice can be interpreted and acted upon. For water quality issues, this advice translates to examining, understanding and protecting your own local creek. As a first response, concerned community members monitor their local creeks. Monitoring is an important component of environmental action as it leads to learning about your watershed, which leads to identifying best management practices and restoration opportunities. Some community groups along Lake Huron have evolved from monitoring to developing community watershed processes or plans. Enhanced community engagement can sponsor enhanced individual actions, which is very important given the multitude of rural non-point sources of pollution. Because more people are interested in community-based watershed plans in this area we developed a template budget to quantify what education, community involvement, local action and water monitoring can cost watershed agencies (Appendix III).



5) *US EPA information is helpful*

As listed above there is report compiled by the US EPA on best bets for watershed plans at www.epa.gov/owow/lessons. There is also the US EPA watershed handbook, a very good resource for watershed plan development www.epa.gov/nps/watershed_handbook.

6) *Make recommendations measurable*

We attempted to make the recommendations measurable. For instance, we recommended that property owners aim for 30 % natural cover, and we suggested that 80 % of properties develop an environmental property plan.

Financial

The following financial report is an accounting of the resources that were leveraged by the partners in the North Bayfield Watershed Project from 2007 to 2010.

2007 to 2010

Period Ending*:	Total
PROJECT SUPPORT	
In-Kind	
Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority	51,028.84
Municipality of Central Huron	1,000.00
Huron Stewardship Council	1,000.00
The County of Huron	3,000.00
In-Kind Total	\$56,028.84
PROJECT INCOME	
Cash	
Fisheries and Oceans, Canada	4,245.00
Ministry of Natural Resources, Canada Ontario Agreement	12,500.00
Environment Canada - Habitat Stewardship Fund	5,000.00
Sub-total Cash (non Community Action Funds)	\$21,745.00
Lake Huron Community Action Contribution	\$90,000.00
TOTAL CASH INCOME	\$111,745.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$167,773.84

PROJECT EXPENSES***	Cash	In-Kind
Human Resources	89,390.17	49,540.90
Contracts and Professional Services (water sampling and Facilitation for workshops)	2,412.79	0.00
Field Expenses (trees, travel and vehicle)	13,526.61	6,425.82
Purchase of Supplies	1,093.20	62.12
Communication and Dissemination Costs	4,293.28	0.00
Rental of Space or other facilities	1,028.95	0.00
TOTALS	\$111,745.00	\$56,028.84
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$167,773.84	



References

Jalava, J.V. 2004. Inventory and Evaluation of the Bayfield North Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Guelph District, Guleph. 88 pp. + 2 maps.

Kerr, J., D. Ouyang and J. Bartholic. 2009. Targeting Watershed Interventions for Reduction of Nonpoint Source Pollution.
<<http://www.iwr.msu.edu/rusle/doc/stony.htm>> .

Snell and Cecile Environmental Research and ABCA (Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority). 1995. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Watershed Management Strategy. Guelph, Ontario.

US EPA. 1997. Top 10 Watershed Lessons Learned. United States Environmental Protection Agency. 62 pp. + appendices.

Veliz, M., Brock, H. and J. Neary. 2006. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority Watershed Report Card 2007. Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. Exeter, Ontario. 104 pp.



Bayfield-area residents debate watershed issues

JENNIFER HUBBARD
NEWS-RECORD STAFF

At least 50 Bayfield-area residents gathered at town hall earlier this month to join the community-action planning process for Lake Huron watersheds in Central Huron.

Hosted by the Ausable-Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) and the Huron County planning department, the Dec. 1 meeting represented an initial step in the Community Action Plan (CAP) process, which strives to "enhance and protect the lakeshore watersheds from north of Bayfield to south of Goderich."

"This gives us an opportunity to stand back and take a look at the big picture view of this area that we value so deeply and think about how we see it changing and developing in the future," county planner Susanna Reid explained.

Through the CAP, a long-term subwatershed plan for the area between Bayfield and Goderich will be created with guidance from community stakeholders and resource agencies.

ABCA's recently released report card recognized the Central Huron lakeshore watersheds as an important area for ecosystem protection.

"Some people would ask why we are putting extra effort into this area because it already has an 'A' grade on the report card," commented Mari Veliz, ABCA healthy watersheds coordinator.

"From an ecosystem-management perspective, it's much easier to protect a functioning ecosystem than to start from scratch and create a new ecosystem."

The CAP pilot project is part of



Photos by Jennifer Hubbard

Caroline Crocker, of GDCI, and Katelyn Hudson, of St. Anne's — youth ambassadors for the protection of Lake Huron watersheds — label areas of significance on aerial maps of the Central Huron lakeshore during a recent meeting in Bayfield. (Above left) Bill Rowat, of Bayfield, shares suggestions about what individuals can do to create an ideal community with Hope Brock, ABCA water resources technician, during a group discussion.

the Lake Huron Framework for Community Action, a partnership which also includes the Municipality of Central Huron and the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA).

In addition to the subwatershed plan, Reid and county staff are hoping to see the information

received incorporated into the Central Huron and County of Huron official plans.

See CAP P. 21



CAP steering committee members needed

Clinton News-Record, Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007 — Page 21

Cont. BAYFIELD P. 21

The five-year review of the county official plan focuses on finding a balance between environmental, economic and social interests and creating a "sustainable Huron."

"We know the agricultural sector is very important to this area, but there is some concerns as tourism continues to grow," watershed resident Peter Bos said.

"How do we live in harmony together as an agriculture community and a tourism community?"

Following the project introduction, participants were divided into four discussion groups focusing on the following topics: likes/values in the community; a

vision for the community in 20 years; concerns within the community; and individual/community actions that would help to create the ideal community.

Beaches, heritage, diversity, water quality and the "small town lifestyle" were among the top values listed by the community members in attendance.

"Our natural beauty is what draws people to the area," Henry Baker added, as he reported his group's discussions.

"We should alter our community through development, but we can't destroy it from the environmental perspective."

Sharing his group's results, Bill Rowat said there are three things a person can do to contribute to an "ideal" community

—educate themselves, change their individual practices, and be active within the community activities that they value.

Expected to take at least two years to complete, Velliz said the community discussion meeting was part of "a much larger process."

A meeting for watershed residents living closer to Goderich is in the works for March.

Over the next six months a watershed community

action plan steering committee will also be developed. Anyone interested in joining the committee can contact Velliz at (519) 235-2610.



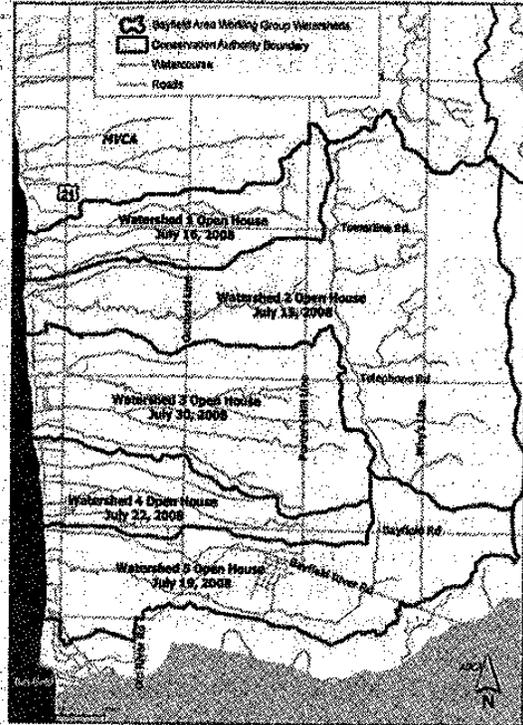
Public input sought on watersheds

BAYFIELD — The Bayfield North Watersheds Plan Advisory Committee, along with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), have been working to prepare for a series of open-house presentations taking place at the Bluewater Golf Course in July.

The goal of the open houses is to gain feedback from watershed residents about how they, as a community, would like to address the concerns they have for their local watershed. These concerns and subsequent management options will then become integrated into a larger document entitled the Bayfield North Watersheds Plan.

This community-led watershed plan, which is an initiative of the federal Environment Canada ministry, aims to protect and enhance the area north of Bayfield. This plan will include two main components: a characterization of the watersheds for the entire area between Bayfield and Goderich, and a concerns and management options section, which will address watershed issues which have been identified by the community.

“These open houses provide a great opportunity for watershed residents to provide input into the future of their community,” said Mari Veliz, ABCA Healthy Watersheds Coordinator. Residents will be able to provide direction for a plan which will help to protect and enhance the water quality and for-



est conditions of their local watershed areas, she said.

Landowners who live north of Bayfield should watch their mail for an invitation to attend an open house specific to their small watershed. In total, five open houses – which include presentations at the beginning of the meetings — will take place during the month of July.

After these open houses conclude, the Bayfield North Watersheds Plan Advisory Committee will meet to consolidate the information gathered at the open houses. This information will then be presented back to the larger community at a public meeting scheduled for early September.

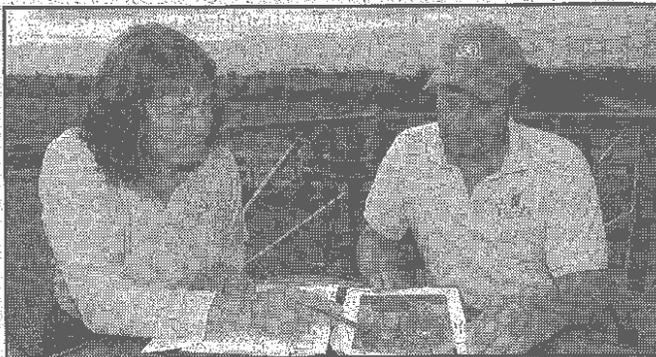
For more information or if you would like to RSVP for your open house, visit abca.on.ca or contact the ABCA's Abigail Gutteridge at (519) 235-2610 or agutteridge@abca.on.ca.





HOW YA DUNE?

Geoff Peach (far left) of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation was in Bayfield Saturday to give a beach ecology presentation to a gathering of onlookers (shown at immediate left). The presentation touched on the importance of dune systems along the shores of Lake Huron. Following the presentation, a number of the group assembled walked the beach, picking up garbage.



Jim Ginn, a member of the Bayfield North Watersheds Plan committee, speaks with Kate Monk, of the ABCA.

Local landowners to be featured in series on Bayfield North Watersheds Plan

The Bayfield North Watersheds Plan committee is hosting an open house at **Bayfield Town Hall on Thursday, July 23, 2009** from **5 – 9 p.m.** You are welcome to attend presentations beginning at **5:30 p.m.** and **7:30 p.m.**

The July-23 open house will be a chance to introduce the draft watershed plan developed by your community.

In advance of the open house for the North Bayfield Watersheds Plan, watch for a series of features like this one that showcase local projects that enhance water quality.

Landowner Jim Ginn is one of several members of the local community serving on the Bayfield North Watersheds Plan committee.

“It’s important to remember that all actions to improve water quality start with the individual,” according to Jim. “If people need help developing a property plan, this assistance exists.”

Once the property plan is developed, Jim says “we can all work on our projects as time and money allow.”

The best time to act might be right now as funding is currently available from several programs.

For more information phone 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610 and ask to speak to Hope Brock or e-mail hbrock@abca.on.ca



people like you

planning
for a better lake



CLINTON NEWS RECORD.
JULY. 8/09

Landowner's erosion control project keeps soil on land, out of water

Landowners are helping to keep Lake Huron clean by undertaking positive action on their properties between Bayfield and Goderich.

Aise Van Beets and his family are among those property owners.

Aise is pleased with the new erosion control structure on his property. He said it saves time in the spring because he does not need to fill in the ruts and it keeps the soil on his land for the future.

The Bayfield North Watersheds Plan committee is hosting an open house at **Bayfield Town Hall** on **Thursday, July 23, 2009** from **5 - 9 p.m.** You are welcome to attend presentations beginning at **5:30 p.m.** and **7:30 p.m.**

The July 23 open house will be a chance to introduce the draft watershed plan developed by your community.

Your efforts to safeguard and enhance our local water are appreciated. Funding may now be available to help you complete your projects.

For more information phone 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610 and ask to speak to Hope Brock or e-mail hbrock@abca.on.ca



Aise Van Beets and his family (Annerieke, Roy, Latisha and Alysha) stand beside a hickenbottom and in front of a berm that was recently installed.

 people like you
planning
for a better lake





Property owner Bill Steenstra has planted trees and completed erosion control work on his land.

Watershed plan draft to be unveiled

Local landowner Bill Steenstra is one many people in Bayfield North watersheds undertaking projects on his property to protect and improve the local landscape.

"If our goal is to improve water quality then we need to have a plan about how to do that," Bill says. "Everyone needs to be involved - we won't accomplish our goal to improve water quality without everyone taking part."

The Bayfield North Watersheds Plan committee is hosting an open house at Bayfield Town Hall on Thursday, July 23, 2009 from 5 - 9 p.m. You are welcome to attend presentations beginning at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"I encourage all owners of property in the Bayfield North watersheds to attend," Bill says. "We all need to be actively involved to make this plan successful in terms of more tree cover, wetlands, preservation of wildlife and species for future generations. We, as landowners, can begin to get active funding of our goals over a ten-year period by showing support for this initiative. We need your involvement. It's that simple."

The July 23 open house will be a chance to introduce the draft watershed plan developed by your community.

For more information phone 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610 and ask to speak to Hope Brock or e-mail hbrock@abca.on.ca

people like you
planning
for a better lake



CLINTON NEWS RECORD.
JULY 22/09.

Property owners plant windbreak

Dave and Pat Hemingway had wanted to plant a windbreak for many years and they say the support that they received from the Bayfield North Watersheds local planning process and the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) helped them get the job done.

It's landowners like them - and you - who are helping to protect and improve the quality of Lake Huron's water.

People in your community between Bayfield and Goderich have been actively developing a draft watershed plan for your area. An open house on July 23 is a chance for you to see this plan and how you and your property can be part of this local effort.



The Bayfield North Watersheds Plan

committee is hosting the open house at Bayfield Town Hall on Thursday, July 23, 2009 from 5 - 9 p.m. You are welcome to attend presentations beginning at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Dave and Pat Hemingway stand beside the windbreak they have had planted on their property.

Your efforts to safeguard and enhance our local water are appreciated. Funding may now be available to help you complete your projects.

For more information phone 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610 and ask to speak to Hope Brock or e-mail hbrock@abca.on.ca

people like you
planning
for a better lake



CLINTON NEWS RECORD.
JULY 15/09.

ABCA seeks community input into draft of Bayfield North Watersheds Plan

SARAH MCDONALD
NEWS-RECORD STAFF

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is seeking input into the Bayfield North Watersheds plan.

The first draft of the plan, which was officially unveiled Thursday, at an open house at the Bayfield Town Hall, is part of an effort to protect Lake Huron as well as nearby streams and bodies of water by working with the local community to identify problems, goals and solutions related to the issues surrounding the North Bayfield Watersheds.

The Bayfield North Watersheds Plan committee hopes to empower residents to take action within their own properties, rather than waiting for government or other organizations to step in. "Everybody wants to tell government or some other body that they need to do something about the environment, and in reality, the only people who can do anything about it is ourselves. Governments don't own the land, the land is all privately owned. So, they've got a couple of options, they can make regulations or they can encourage people to take action," said committee member and Central Huron councillor, Jim Ginn.

Ginn went on to highlight the importance of slowing the flow of water in the area.

"Much of our farmland is in the headwaters of our watershed and they are becoming more and more important. Part of the problem we have, and this is kind of the issue we're looking at here is just the volume of flow that's going down these little streams and causing erosion, our rainfalls seem to be getting more intense all the time and we need ways to slow this water down."

Solutions to the erosion problem can range from trees to rain barrels, pointed out Mari Veliz, ABCA Healthy Watersheds specialist.

Veliz also pointed out that there is no one solution to the problems facing our watersheds.

"People like to think there's just one thing, and if

we just stop that one thing, everything will be fine, but the problems come from a myriad of different sources. It really comes back to everyone looking at their own properties."

Following the presentation, residents in attendance were given the opportunity to view an aerial map of their property and identify potential problems and ways to help protect water that passes through their specific area.

Copies of the draft protection plan were available to view at the town hall and will continue to be available for viewing at both the Clinton and Bayfield Public libraries. The plan can also be viewed online at www.abca.on.ca by clicking the publications heading and then the reports heading.

The draft includes a map identifying the area with boundaries just north of Tower Line Road and just past Wise line on the eastern side associated with the Bayfield North Watersheds plan for anyone who is uncertain if their property falls within it.

The committee will be accepting public input until Aug. 31, with an aim to complete a final draft within the next few months.

For more info or to submit your comments, contact Hope Brock at 1 888 286-260 or by email at hbrock@abca.on.ca.

CLINTON NEWS RECORD.

JULY 29/09.



Groups cleanup shores at Gully Creek

Despite rainy weather on Saturday, October 3, more than 30 local residents were active cleaning up and protecting local creeks. Goderich Scouts, with help from the Bayfield Anglers, were building up the shores of Gully Creek at Porter's Hill Lane between Goderich and Bayfield. Heavy rains in December 2008 and February 2009 had caused extensive stream bank erosion in Gully Creek. The Scouts and anglers used shrub cuttings to help protect the banks. Volunteers

also learned the importance of holding water further upstream to reduce stream bank erosion downstream. At another creek, near the Lane of Pines Sub-division, volunteers participated in the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. Sixteen bags of garbage were pulled from the creek.

The ten volunteers Scouts and Anglers were out in force Oct. 3, participating in the TD joined 56,916 fellow Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup between Goderich and Bayfield. Canadians that have been cleaning up their local shorelines over the month of September. Both the shoreline clean-up and the stream bank restoration are projects that have been initiated by the Bayfield North Watched Planning Committee.

For more information about the Bayfield North Watershed Plan or about what you can do to help protect and improve your



Photo used with appreciation

ABCA to host new event for active seniors

Active local seniors have the opportunity to stroll through the scenic trails at Morrison Dam Conservation Area to enjoy and learn about the wonders of autumn during this final nature Walk-and-Talk of 2009.

The Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA) is hosting an 'Awesome Autumn - The Wonders of Fall at

local creek, please contact: Hope Brock, at the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA), at 519-235-2610 or toll-free 1-888-286-2610 or e-mail hbrock@abca.on.ca

Organizers extended special thanks to the Friends of Hullert Marsh for the brush material and TD Canada for their support of the Shoreline Cleanup.

3 dealerships in 1 location
lesliemotors.com

RiverLine Nature
WILD BIRD & EQUINE SPECIALISTS
Top-stitch, Treeless Saddles
Dr. Cook's Bitless Bridles
Lowest Prices on Bird Seed in Huron County Guaranteed!
Ask about our storage program
36 Kingston Street, Goderich
519-524-4272
www.riverlinebirds.ca

THEATER FROM MOTOR

North Pilot



localnews

■ **WATERSHED:** Naming contest part of new plan

Bayfield area creeks to get unofficial tags

DEBORA VAN BRENK
The London-Free Press

You might call them cricks. Or creeks.

But you sure don't call them something as bland as GO39.

That's why folks who live near Bayfield have come up with a better way to designate the many jump-across watercourses that meander through their properties and drain into Lake Huron.

The Name Your Creek contest was part of a new master plan that also identifies the qualities and trouble spots of the Bayfield North watershed, said Mari Veliz of the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority.

They each would have been marked on maps as "unnamed trib of Goderich Twp."

The conservation authority then proposed a naming system based on the tributaries' location — GO for Goderich plus a number, to come up with Creek GO39, for example.

"People in the (watershed)

review process said, "These are very boring names," Veliz said.

Scores of residents then proposed names for about 20 creeks, most of which drain from a ridge directly into the lake.

The creeks on the conservation authority's new maps soon will bear unofficial names such as Fiddlehead Creek, Cuttlefish Creek and Sunset Creek. It's unofficial because they still have to be approved by the Ontario Geographic Names Board.

The conservation authority says there's another benefit to creek-naming: If it has a name, it carries more emotional attachment for residents, and if people care about the name, they're more likely to become stewards of it, to protect it from agricultural runoff and other pollutants.

"Whatever we do to these small tributaries is what ends up in the bigger tributaries and in the lake," Veliz said.

deb.vanbrenk@sunmedia.ca
Twitter.com/debatlfpress

ABCA unveils watershed plans

For the News-Record

Community members have been active for the past two years in development of a management plan for the watersheds north of Bayfield. Close to 40 people gathered on March 20, at Bert Schilbe's Sugar Shack on Orchard Lane to celebrate the completion and release of this plan and to see how the maple syrup operation works.

Completing these plans allows landowners to see where they could make improvements on their property

—Hope Brock

The 40-square-kilometre area of Bayfield North Watersheds is home to 20 small creeks that flow directly into Lake Huron, and contains several significant forested areas.

The new watershed management plan has been created co-operatively by community members and government departments and local agencies to manage the water, land and water interactions, and aquatic resources within the watershed to protect and enhance the health of the ecosystem as land uses change.

The process of developing a community-based watershed plan has created an opportunity to ensure that people's concerns and interests are addressed along with ways to protect the natural resources of this area that make it so unique, according to Hope Brock, Healthy Watersheds Technician with the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA).

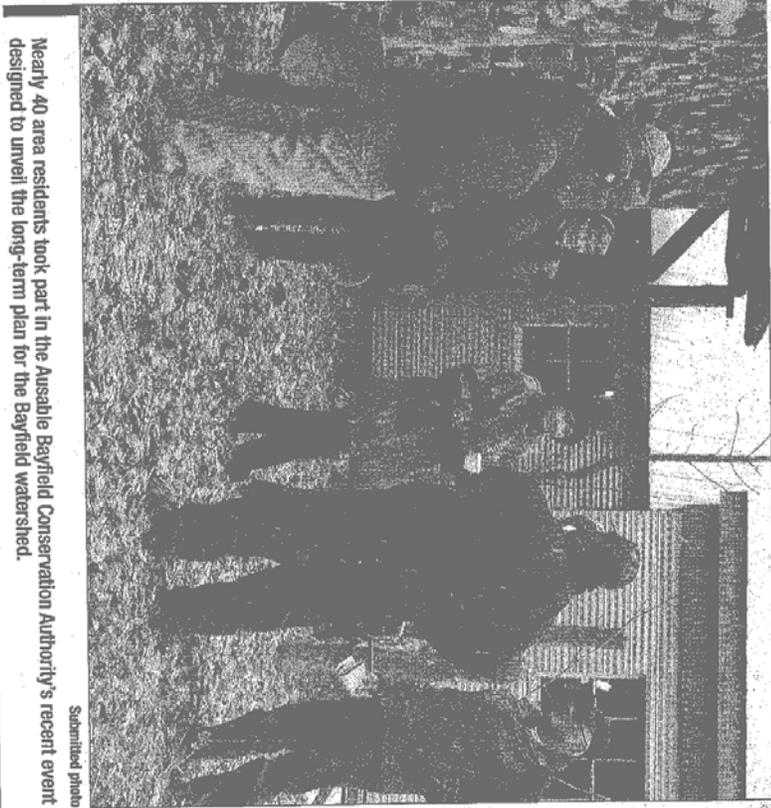
"The community has shown a lot of interest and commitment to this project, and the Bayfield North Watersheds Advisory Committee hopes that residents find the recommendations in this plan to be useful tools when it comes to protecting and enhancing this important area north of Bayfield," Brock said.

According to Brock, one of the most important recommendations is to complete individual environmental property plans.

"Completing these plans allows landowners to see where they could make improvements on their property," said Brock.

The watershed management plan document provides information about the natural environment and community interests and issues to landowners north of Bayfield and to other local decision makers, as well as local and government agencies. The land management, aquatics, and erosion sections of the plan, provide background information, community interests and issues, a management goal and recommended actions.

The plan is available at the ABCA office in Exeter, online at abca.on.ca, and copies will be placed in the Bayfield and Clinton libraries.



Nearly 40 area residents took part in the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority's recent event designed to unveil the long-term plan for the Bayfield watershed.

Submitted photo

North Bay
Pilot Pro...



Appendix II - Bayfield North Watersheds Plan Event Chronology

2007

September 2007 – Mari Veliz (Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority – ABCA Healthy Watersheds Co-ordinator), Hope Brock, ABCA Healthy Watershed Technician, Alec Scott (ABCA, Water and Planning Manager) and Geoff Cade (ABCA Planner) meet to discuss the potential of a sub watershed plan for the North Gullies watershed and discuss how to proceed. Mari Veliz will talk to Jim Ginn Councillor for the Municipality of Central Huron.

September 7th, 2007 – Mari Veliz & Hope Brock meet with Jim Ginn to discuss the idea of initiating a sub watershed planning process. Jim approves of the idea and suggests Mari make a presentation to the Central Huron municipal council.

September 25th, 2007 – Mari Veliz proposes a sub watershed planning process for the North Gullies watershed to Central Huron municipal council. Council supports this initiative.

September 29th, 2007 – Geoff Cade makes a presentation regarding the proposed sub watershed planning process at a public meeting in Holmesville and receives some feedback/answers questions. Approximately 10 North Gullies watershed report cards are taken.

October 1st, 2007 – Mari Veliz, Hope Brock, Alec Scott, Geoff Cade meet to discuss next steps. It was agreed that a public meeting should come before the steering committee is formed. Mari is to prepare objectives/agenda for the public meeting and distribute to Hope, Alec and Geoff for review. The municipality, Vic Gillman, Jim Ginn, Steve Bowers, Susanna Reid, the Berry Barnim, etc. will be contacted in order to determine interested individuals, how to get more participation and suitable times/dates for a public meeting – likely some time in late November.

October 5th, 2007 – Mari Veliz sends letter to key contacts in watershed to ask for assistance in determining date/time and others to contact for public meeting.

October 11th, 2007 – Hope Brock presents proposal to Lake Huron Pilot Project committee at NVCA. OMAFRA suggests expanding area to include area up to Goderich and partner with MVCA.

October 16th, 2007 – Clinton News Record calls Mari and is doing a piece of Geoff's presentation (Sept. 29) and wants to know if a date has been set for the public meeting.



October 16th, 2007 – Hope, Mari, Geoff and Alec meet to discuss October 11th partner meeting. Expanding the area north to include the area up to Goderich was discussed, and it was agreed that we should include MVCA.

- Mari to check with Janette re funds for MVCA's involvement
- Contact MVCA (Alec/Tom)
- Follow-up with key contacts (Mari)
- Set a date for the public meeting
- Send letter out to all landowners

October 18th, 2007 – MVCA is sent proposal outline along with how MVCA might fit into this process.

October 19th, 2007 – Hope talks to Phil Beard and he will present proposal to staff on Wednesday, October 24th and get back to us after then.

October 24th, 2007 – MVCA lets ABCA know they are willing to collaborate on this project, if funding is approved.

November, 2007 – Funding is not received for MVCA portion of planning process. The plan will be completed for the area within the ABCA jurisdiction.

December 1st, 2007 – Public Meeting, Bayfield Ontario – Hope, Mari, Susanna Reid and Jim hold a public meeting to inform the public about the watershed plan, and gain feedback on what the community perceives as concerns and how they would like their community to look.

2008

January 2008 – Mari, Geoff Cade, Mike Malhiot, Donald Kirk meet to discuss next steps in the ANSI boundary reassignment process.

March 6th, 2008 – The advisory committee held its first meeting: Mari, Hope, Susanna, Jim, Abbie, Gayle Detenbeck, Geoff King, Geoff Peach, Dave Hemingway, Derek Jefferson and Peter Bos. Went over the Terms of Reference, Role of the Committee, and ways to proceed. Focus Group idea was brought up.

April 21st, 2008 – Mari, Hope and Abbie met to come up with an initial working process for the focus group meetings.

May 12th, 2008 – Mari, Hope, Abbie, Susanna, and Denise Carnochan met to further work on the open house process.

May 27th, 2008 – Advisory Committee met to determine the process for the open houses to be held in July.



July 15th, 2008 – Open House - Community members suggested peer-to-peer visits and educational workshops as an approach

July 16th, 2008 – Open House - Community members liked the idea of holding a watershed tour, and thought agency assisted site visits would be most affective approach.

July 19th, 2008 – Open Houses - Education was the key approach brought up at this open house, specifically using stewardship guides.

July 22nd, 2008 – Open House – Education and stewardship visits were again brought up as good approaches, as well as touring various properties in the watershed.

July 30th, 2008 – Open House – This group thought that the public needed to know more about grants available to them. They also though that workshops for stewardship guides and the EFP would be beneficial.

August 7th, 2008 – Advisory Committee met to review the success of the open houses in July, and plan the next steps in the process. Several fall events are planned to increase community awareness.

September 13th, 2008 - Beach Walk and Clean Up – This event had a low number of participants (five people attended), but everyone enjoyed a good talk on beach ecology from Geoff Peach and cleaned up one of the beaches north of Bayfield.

September 27th, 2008 – Woodlot Management Tour – Almost 30 community members attended the tour at the Phelan Property. They enjoyed a brief talk on gully erosion and a guided tour through the woodlot. A hot dog lunch followed. The event was well received by all.

October 10th, 2008 – Advisory Committee reviewed the events and discussed the shape the final management plan was going to take. The committee also took a small field trip to see a gully stabilization project north of the working area.

November 8th, 2008 – Rural Landowner Stewardship Guide Workshop was held in Bayfield with Wendy Yamamoto-Chapman. Ten landowners attended and listened to a good presentation on erosion by Geoff King.



2009

January, 2009 – Sent Thank You/Reminder notes to the workshop attendees (we will follow up with a phone call in April/May). We also sent tree order forms to everyone in the Bayfield North Watersheds along with an update letter on the Watershed Plan.

Ministry of Natural Resources initiates letter writing process to notify landowners of changes to local ANSI boundaries.

January 27, 2009 – Mari presented an update to Municipality of Central Huron. Positive feedback, Councilor Barnim to help organize stream clean up in April

February 12th, 2009 – Mari and Abbie drove through the watershed during this flooding event and documented erosion-prone and wetland-potential areas with GPS and photos.

February 17th, 2009 – The Committee held its fifth meeting to discuss the draft watershed plan and comment on its format and content. We also discussed upcoming events for 2009 as well as our overall goals for the area.

March 19th, 2009 – Central Huron Councilor, Jim Ginn presents Watershed Plan Update to the Huron County Water Protection Steering Committee.

March 20th, 2009 – Mari and Abbie walked Barnim Property in preparation for Earth Day Clean Up.

Mari met with Susanna Reid (Central Huron Planner), Jim Ginn (Central Huron Councilor) and Richard Harding (Central Huron, Clerk) to discuss watershed plan implementation and need to engage local developers in developing guidance documents for future development.

March 31st, 2009 – Mari, Ross and Geoff King met with Aise Van Beets to discuss erosion control project.

April 1st, 2009 – Mari attends University of Guelph Fourth Year Student Poster Symposium. Fourth year students have completed a technical and socio-economic review of erosion control projects in Gully Creek.

April 17th, 2009 – Mari and Geoff Cade (ABCA Planner) walk shoreline at Birchcliff, Melena Height, Lane of Pines, Summer Haven to see gully erosion and discuss ABCA shoreline policies.

April 25th, 2009 – Mari, Abbie and ten community members cleaned up part of the gully and out to the Lake at Lane of Pines, and learned more about gully erosion.



April 22, 2009 – Kari Jean (Aquatic Biologist, ABCA) and Ross Wilson (Stewardship Technician, ABCA) initiate aquatic habitat walks on Gully Creek to identify aquatic habitat issues for Redside Dace.

April 29th, 2009 – Mari met with Sam Bradshaw to discuss potential field survey approach for upstream sections of Gully Creek.

May 2009 – Work continues on watershed plan.

May 7th, 2009 – Kari and Chris Delage (Stewardship Assistant, MNR, Clinton) continue aquatic habitat walks.

May 8th, 2009 - Kari and Chris continue aquatic habitat walks.

May 25th, 2009 - Kari and Chris continue aquatic habitat walks.

June 8th, 2009 – The Committee held its sixth meeting to discuss the draft watershed plan, draft erosion brochure, open house and watershed tour. Mari to collect testimonials from local water quality improvement projects to advertise open house on July 23.

June 19th, 2009 - Kari and Chris continue aquatic habitat walks.

June 24th, 2009 - Kari and Chris continue aquatic habitat walks.

July 9th, 2009 – Committee held its 7th meeting to discuss open house, watershed tour and cleanup.

July 15th, 2009 - Kari and Chris continue aquatic habitat walks.

July 23rd, 2009 – Community open house to present first draft of plan.
Attendees>75

July 31st, 2009 - Kari and Chris continue aquatic habitat walks.

August 27th, 2009 – Watershed Tour of upstream and downstream erosion problems and solutions.

August and September 2009 – Kari and Chris undertake electrofishing to fill in range gaps for reddsides.

Oct. 3rd, 2009 – Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup - gully at telephone road clean from Barnims upstream to Highway 21

Oct. 3rd, 2009 - Streambank restoration at Phelan's with Bayfield Anglers and Scouts. Ross Wilson demonstrates fascines.

Oct. 13th, 2009 - Kari and Chris continue aquatic habitat walks.

Nov. 5th, 2009 – Committee held its 8th meeting to review year's events, discuss property planning and project timeline.

Nov. 7th, 2009 – Wendy Chapman facilitates Stewardship guide workshop at Pine Lake campground. Attendees: 50.

Nov. & Dec. 2009 – work continues on watershed plan.

2010

Jan. 19th, 2010 – Invitation sent to community to invite them to attend the launch of the management plan.

Jan. 2010 – Name Your Creek contest – notice sent to all landowners regarding contest to name creeks north of Bayfield.

Jan. & Feb. 2010 – work continues on watershed plan.

March 11th, 2010 – Prize presentation to one of the winners of the 'Name Your Creek' contest.

March 20th, 2010 – Launch of watershed plan at Schilbe Sugar Shack; second prize presentation for 'Name Your Creek' contest.



Appendix III

Draft Budget for a Sub-watershed Plan Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Assumptions:
This watershed is approximately 20 Km ² with 100 residents
Water monitoring is proposed for one year of sampling the outreach (Education, Community Involvement and Property Planning would likely occur over a two year period.)

Budget Item	Expense
--------------------	----------------

Education	
<i>Brochure</i>	
Human Resources (1 staff at \$30/h for 2 days)	480
Printing (internal)	200
<i>Letter</i>	
Human Resources (1 staff at \$30/h for 2 days)	480
Mailing	100
<i>Study - What is the current information about this area?</i>	
Human Resources (1 staff at \$30/h for 5 days)	1200
Mapping (1staff @ \$40/h for 2 days)	640
<i>Two Public Demonstration Sites</i>	
Human Resources (1 staff at \$30/h for 5 days)	1200
Advertisement (\$200*2 papers for 2 weeks*2 events)	1600
Refreshments	75
Travel (100 km*.47/km* 6 trips)	282
Community Involvement	
<i>Public Meeting</i>	
Human Resources (1 staff at \$30/h for 4 days)	960
Advertisement (\$200*2 papers for 2 weeks)	800
Space	100
Refreshments	75
Travel (100 km*.47/km* 1 trip)	47
<i>Community Champion</i>	
Human Resources (1 person @\$25 /h* 2h * 60 visits)	3000



<i>Workshop</i>	
Human Resources (1 staff at \$30/h for 2 days for 2 workshops)	960
Advertisement (\$200*2 papers for 2 weeks*2 events)	1600
Space	100
Refreshments	75
Travel (100 km*.47/km* 2 trips)	94
Taking Action	
<i>Property Plan</i>	
Human Resources (1staff @ \$30/h for 10h per landowner* 30 landowners)	9000
Travel (100 km*.47/km*30 trips)	1410
<i>Landowner BMP</i>	
assume \$10000 per landowner (30 landowners) based on "average" cost of projects in ABCA watershed.	300000
Monitoring Success	
<i>Water Monitoring</i>	
Human Resources (1 staff at \$30/h for 3 days*15 times per year)	10800
Sample costs (\$45/sample * 10 samples per watershed* 15 times per year)	6750
Travel (100 km*.47/km* 15 trips)	705
<i>Evaluation of site specific BMPs</i>	
Human Resources (1 staff at \$30/h for 3 h* 30 sites)	2700
Travel (100 km*.47/km* 30 trips)	1410
<i>Report Writing and Printing</i>	
Human Resources (1 staff at \$30/h for 7 days)	1680
Total	346843
(minus landowner BMP)	46843

