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Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry

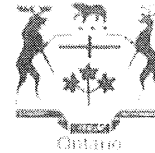
Office of the Minister

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NOV 24 2016

Lisa Thompson, MPP
Huron-Bruce
Queen's Park Office
Room 425, Legislative Building
Toronto ON M7A 1A8

Dear Ms. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter requesting an extension to the posting for the draft Shoreline Management Plan (2016) Consultant Recommendation Report developed for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. I recognize that there is considerable concern being raised about the draft plan, and I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

My ministry has oversight of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and provides technical guidance to delineate and manage natural hazards. However, my ministry does not have an approval or decision-making role in the development of local shoreline management plans in conservation authority jurisdictions.

I understand that through a recent motion made by the conservation authority, they will not be implementing the guidelines in the Consultant's Report and will be re-engaging the public to update the current Shoreline Management Plan (2000).

I would encourage your constituents to continue their participation in the consultation process and work with the conservation authority and the municipality to address their concerns.

Again, thank you for writing.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kathryn McGarry'.

Kathryn McGarry
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

- c. His Worship Tyler Hessel, Mayor of Bluewater
Mike Tam, Chair, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

Thank you for your email regarding the draft Shoreline Management Plan (2016) Consultant Recommendation Report and Guidelines prepared for the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Since 1988, the ministry designated conservation authorities as the lead implementing agency for delivering shoreline management programs. Their primary objective is to protect life and property from natural hazards such as flooding, erosion and dynamic beach (the continual movement of the beach area of the waterfront that creates an unstable area) that naturally occur along the shorelines of the Great Lakes.

Under the *Planning Act* and Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2014, municipalities are responsible for preparing municipal policy documents, including official plans, consistent with the natural hazard policies of the PPS, and for developing management plans to limit exposure to public health and safety risks.

Additionally, since 2006, under the *Conservation Authorities Act* (CAA), conservation authorities regulate proposed development on individual properties to ensure public safety. This is done through a permitting process in areas prone to natural hazards, such as shorelines.

Both municipal land use planning and conservation authority permitting are significantly informed by shoreline management planning. Therefore, it is important that shoreline management planning reflects current legislation, CAA regulations of 2006, and the PPS that was updated in 2014.

I understand that the conservation authority has received the Consultant's Report as an information copy only, and will be re-engaging the public to update the current Shoreline Management Plan (2000).

I encourage you to continue your participation in the consultation process by voicing the issues you expressed in your correspondence and, going forward, to work with the conservation authority and your municipality in addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Bill Thornton
Deputy Minister

c: Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce
Geoffrey Cade, Supervisor of Water and Planning, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority