

Presentation to BIA July 22, 2013

### The Question

What does the Beaver Island community want to do—and what is it willing and able to do—about the current and future condition of the area's natural resources?

- **O** Who is the community? What is the area?
- **O** What does community agree on?
- **O** What resources does the community have?
- 0 What additional resources can be mobilized?
- O What is meant by "natural resources"?
- 0 What is known about the condition of natural resources?

### A Sequence of Answers

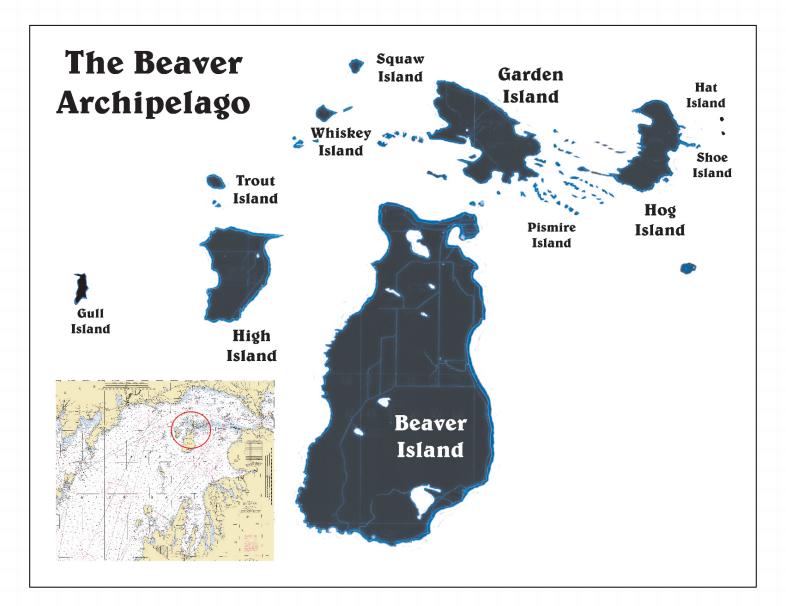
Consensus	What we have agreed on
Commitment	Who is willing to do what
Capacity	What resources,
	competencies,
	partnerships, plans, and
	management are needed

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE BEAVER ARCHIPELAGO

Beaver Island Natural Resources & Ecotourism Steering Committee (Appointed by Peaine and St. James Townships)

**June 29, 2013** 

### Where



### Who

#### **About the BI Natural Resources and Ecotourism Steering Committee**

- The Peaine and St. James Township Boards created the NRESC in the fall of 2011 as an advisory and planning body, and at about the same time asked the NRESC to conduct a natural resource management planning process suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- The NRESC is a public body; all meetings are posted and open to the public, meeting agendas, minutes, annual reports to the townships, and accompanying documents were posted at the NRESC's official Web site [which has been taken down].
- The NRESC organizations select their representative to the NRESC. All appointments must be approved by both townships. Board members serve three-year terms.

#### **Members of the NRESC**

Beaver Island Association-Craig Schrotenboer

Beaver Island Community School-Dan Martel

Beaver Island Wildlife Club-Jeff Powers

Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Brian Mastenbrook

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians-Bill Parsons and Archie Kiogima, Sr.

Peaine Township Trails Committee-Doug Tilly

Peaine Township Board-Sandra Birdsall

St. James Township Board-Peter Plastrik

Peaine Township Planning Commission-Bill Markey

St. James Township Planning Commission-Linda McDonough

Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce-vacant

Beaver Island Contractors and Realtors Group-vacant

At-large members from the community: Bill Cashman, Jim Gillingham, Pam Grassmick, Seamus Norgaard

### What

#### September 2011

The township boards asked the new NRESC—Natural Resources and Ecotourism Steering Committee—to develop for the boards' consideration a comprehensive management plan for the natural resources of the Beaver archipelago, with support from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The NRESC agreed and began a planning process that it decided would rely heavily on consultations with community members and other stakeholders.

The NRESC determined the structure:

Vision Goals Objectives Strategies The recommendations describe a direction for natural resource management that would build on and expand previous efforts of Islanders and stakeholders, making it more consistent and science-based, and maintaining a balance between economic development and environmental protection. The report provides details about what this direction might look like in action. NRESC members believe that moving in this direction would benefit the Island community as a whole, as well as a broad range of stakeholders and interests.

From the final report

### Why

Given the importance of Beaver's natural resources, the fragmentation of control over them, and the many stakeholders with keen interest in them, developing a comprehensive natural resource management plan should have the following benefits:

- **1. State land management.** Provide strong community input to the state DNR—owner of a third of Beaver Island, and all of High, Hog, Squaw, and Whiskey Islands—about the desired goals for its management of state lands.
- **2. Economic development.** Identify ways that all of the interested parties can work together to increase natural-resource based economic activity—home construction, recreation, and ecotourism—and showcase the Island's assets to attract visitors, residents, and investment.
- **3. Invasive species.** Respond more effectively to current and future threats to the quality of natural resources, such as invasive species.
- **4. Funding.** Increase the financial resources available for managing the natural resources by showcasing for governments at all levels and philanthropic organizations the uniqueness of the natural resources and the shared goals of the community and other stakeholders.
- **5. Effective organizations.** Help government and nonprofit organizations prioritize and more effectively use their volunteers and funding to achieve results the community wants.
- **6. A model for other communities.** Provide a model of community/DNR collaboration and planning that other communities can adopt, which would reflect well on Beaver Island.

#### **Vision**

The Beaver Archipelago's natural resources—habitats and wildlife—will provide a strong foundation for an economically thriving, sustainable community with a unique character and satisfying quality of life. The community will share a reverence for the natural environment and a commitment to preserve it for future generations.

#### Goals

Effective Management of the Beaver Archipelago's Natural Resources **Economic Growth Derived from Our Natural Resources** 

An Environmentally Informed Public

Habitats and wildlife, including rare and endangered species, are monitored, protected, preserved, and restored for their ecological and economic value and the wellbeing of the Island community.

Island business owners, residents, and developers value and protect the Beaver Archipelago's natural resources and beauty as a sustainable source of economic benefits, while expanding traditional and new economic activities. These include, but are not limited to, recreation, ecotourism, home and business development, and subsistence, commercial, and recreational hunting and fishing.

Island residents and visitors value, learn about, and experience the Beaver Archipelago's natural, historical, and cultural resources, and participate in and support efforts to sustain their beauty and health, which may be enhanced through collaboration with off-Island organizations.

# Effective Management of the Beaver Archipelago's Natural Resources

1. Identify Key Species and their habitats. Key Species are animal and plant species that, due to their impact on other species, the economy, and/or the environment, should be subject to long-term scientific monitoring of their condition. Key Species may fall into one or more of five categories:

- Economic
- Rare
- Exotic Invasive
- Biological
- Cultural

- **2. Prioritize Key Species and their habitats.** The following criteria are suggested for use to prioritize an extensive initial Key Species list so as to reduce it to a workable size.
- **O** A Key Species whose habitat leads to ecosystem connectivity.
- **O** Urgency based on threat(s) to and vulnerability of the species.
- **O** Urgency based on the species potential threat to the ecosystem.
- O Urgency based on the current high level of health and viability of the species.
- O Controllability or the ease of management, monitoring, and measuring.
- O Fundability or the availability of monetary or other resources for management, monitoring and measuring.
- **O** The economic/commercial value to the Beaver Island community.
- O Social concern, cultural and/or aesthetic importance.

## 3. Use the Adaptive Management of Natural Resources model to achieve Key Species goals.

- Identify the current status of the Key Species and its habitat and determine where it should be in the future.
- Determine management actions, timeline, and funding necessary to reach targets.
- Implement the strategic operational plan.
- Analyze, communicate, and evaluate the results.

### Where Things Stand

- O NRESC draft report was shared with community for 30-day feedback period
- O All feedback considered; report revised
- O July 1: final NRESC report submitted to Peaine and St James Township Boards
- O Boards may consider adoption of report at their August meetings

Full report available at

http://www.beaverislandassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NRESCrecommendations29Jun13.pdf