

To: Marsha Coyne
 From: Chris Tyrrell, Randall Roth
 Subject: Chatham-Kent Shoreline Areas Sustainable Community Plan/ Secondary Plan – Summary of the June 22, 2010 Public Workshop and Written Comments Received To-Date (DRAFT)

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The first public consultation event included a Public Open House and Workshop held on June 22nd, 2010 at the Chatham-Kent Thames Campus Arena. The meeting represented the formal introduction of the Chatham-Kent Sustainable Shoreline Areas study to the public. The following is a summary of the input obtained at this event and the written comments received in relation to the information presented at this event.

1.0 Public Open House and Workshop #1 (June 22, 2010)

A total of approximately 40 persons attended the workshop, including members of the public and members of the Steering Committee and Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Following an introduction to the study and a presentation of work completed to date including the preparation of the seven draft vision statements, six groups of 6-10 persons gathered to discuss the assets and issues of the shoreline areas and to discuss the seven draft vision statements. Comments were recorded by a recorder onto a flip chart, while participants were also invited to draw or write on large maps of the Study Area.

1.1 Assets, Opportunities, Constraints and Issues of the Shoreline Areas

Participants provided a wide variety of opinions and made numerous points regarding the assets, opportunities, constraints and issues of the shoreline areas of the Municipality. All of the comments recorded onto flip charts are attached to this memo as Attachment 1. The following summarizes some of the key issues/themes that were discussed:

Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches, parks, trails and public access to the water • Quiet atmosphere • Biodiversity/wildlife/ecological systems/habitat • Boating, fishing • Agricultural production • History/heritage • Settlements
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting • Green tourism • Underutilized boating and marine industry development opportunities (deep water which is suitable for freight ships) • Water supply • Opportunity for oil/gas extraction industry • Cottage rentals • Boat tours/boat rentals/ferry service • Potential for new trails (i.e., abandoned railways)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to attract American tourists • Potential to develop environmental education institutions or programs through partnerships with major or local institutions
Constraints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low water/boating speeds • Lack of understanding of ecological, biological and other aspects of the waterways • Lack of municipal sanitary systems or the effects of septic systems on the environment • Inaction by government and/or lack of accountability or unclear responsibilities • Not enough public awareness about the assets of the shoreline areas • Lack of “soft landings” (canoes/kayaks) • Shallow water, fluctuating water levels • Need to work with First Nations • Poor diversity and vulnerability of industry types • No good destinations to attract boaters to come up the rivers • Lack of growth and development
Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological, aesthetic and other impacts of phragmites • Potential impact of wind farm development on birds • Threats to historical sites and buildings • Water pollution/pollution from adjacent agricultural uses • Declining boat traffic • Erosion/sedimentation • Debris/dead trees in the waterways

1.2 *Draft Vision Statements*

The groups discussed the draft vision statements differently. One group looked at the bolded “key words’ in the vision statements, other groups discussed the vision statements while other groups commented on each vision statement specifically and provided detailed comments. The comments on the vision statements are attached to this memo as Attachment 2.

The public was generally supportive of the draft vision statements, with some noting that they comprehensively addressed all aspects of the shoreline areas and that the format/language of the statements was generally appropriate. Several comments were made regarding the wording of the statements and requests to expand the statements to consider various issues or recognize linkages between issues. Several groups agreed that vision statements 4, 5, and 6 could be grouped. Several others proposed the addition of new vision statements to address such matters as:

- emphasis on partnerships with community groups, First Nations and agencies;
- growth and development; and
- recognition of the relationship between the economy, tourism/marketing and the waterways.

2.0 **Written Comments**

The following summarizes the written comments that we received in relation to the information presented at the June 22, 2010 Public Open House and Workshop. The written comments were fairly detailed submissions, which are outlined as follows and attached to this memo as Attachment 3:

- A comment from Transition Town Chatham-Kent discusses the meaning of sustainability in the context of Chatham-Kent and a comparison between the various types of energy sources that should be utilized by industry operating in the shoreline areas.
- A comment from Dave Elliott notes that waterfront property owners should have access to a grant or loan program to assist them in rehabilitating their shoreline or protecting their shoreline from erosion. He generally notes there is little assistance available to property owners for erosion control.
- Though not a direct submission regarding the Shoreline Areas study, the Thames-Sydenham and Region Source Protection Committee (consisting of local conservation authorities) provided a letter dated June 18, 2010 regarding the impacts of off-shore wind turbines in intake protection zones, and would like to be informed on activities regarding this issue.
- An anonymous submission discusses the underutilized potential of the existing Marine Park and Campground site in Mitchell's Bay.
- An email from James Snyder outlines twenty specific actions which should be taken through the course of this study and should be considered in the preparation of the Secondary Plan and Sustainable Community Plan. The actions relate particularly to identification of key resources and assets, and the preparation of various management strategies and shoreline improvements.

3.0 Incorporation of Input

Written comments will be incorporated and considered throughout the Study, as appropriate.

The comments on the assets, opportunities, constraints and issues in the shoreline areas will be incorporated into the Draft Framework Document and considered as part of the Secondary Plan policy directions exercise and the development of implementation actions in the Community Sustainability Plan.

Based on the valuable input received on the draft vision statements, we will continue to refine the draft vision statements and present them in the Draft Framework Report. We anticipate this will include minor changes to the language to address the public's comments and may include the addition of new vision statements to address the comments above. At this time, we recommend adding the following new vision statements:

- *"Collaborative" – The Municipality of Chatham-Kent works together with agencies, community groups, First Nations groups, educational institutions and the private sector in planning for the shorelines.*
- *"Renowned" – The shoreline areas of Chatham-Kent are renowned for their regional, provincial, national and world-wide significance, as established through Chatham-Kent's commitment to supporting and promoting its shoreline areas.*

Attachments:

1. Comments on the assets, opportunities, constraints and issues (June 22, 2010 public workshop)
2. Comments on the vision statements (June 22, 2010 public workshop)
3. Written comments received to date