



# **MAPPING THE FUTURE**

## **with Carolinian Canada Stakeholders**

Proceedings of the  
Carolinian Canada Stakeholder Meeting  
November 10, 2005, Elm Hurst Inn, Ingersoll

Edited by  
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For the Carolinian Canada Coalition  
June 2006

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# MAPPING THE FUTURE with Carolinian Canada Stakeholders

***Thank-you to all Stakeholders who participated!***

*A special thank-you to the volunteers, speakers and facilitators who donated their valuable time.*



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## ***DO YOU HAVE MORE TO ADD TO THIS DISCUSSION?***

*Please complete the short Stakeholder Survey at the end of these proceedings  
Or on-line at [www.carolinian.org](http://www.carolinian.org)*

*Or submit written comments to [tech@carolinian.org](mailto:tech@carolinian.org)*

***Copies of this report available at [www.carolinian.org](http://www.carolinian.org)***

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# Summary of Results

## Mapping the Future with Carolinian Canada Stakeholders

Brainstorming Major Directions for CCC: November 10, 2005

<b>COMMON THEMES</b> <i>"Carolinian Canada is all about connections" - Gordon Nelson</i>		
<b>PROVIDE FOCUS</b> <i>"The challenges are immense but the opportunities are greater" – Steve Hounsell</i>	<b>CONNECT STAKEHOLDERS</b> <i>"We need to debunk myths and build relationships" – Peter Carson</i>	<b>LINK NATURE &amp; CULTURE</b> <i>"Change the people and you will change the landscape" – Dan Bissonette</i>
<b>MAJOR DIRECTIONS</b> Informal consensus: ** Top priority * High priority		
<b>1. Coordinate a vision *</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help us all use and understand the same language, visions, priorities *</li> <li>Clarify what CCC is / lead strongly</li> <li>Clarify member roles</li> </ul> <b>2. Monitor for viable ecosystem function **</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor the monitoring **</li> <li>Expand coalition oversight relative to monitoring</li> <li>Monitoring report cards *</li> <li>Ecoregion Monitoring - landscape scale *</li> <li>Identify a common management vision / Ecosystem health reporting</li> <li>Monitor biodiversity</li> <li>CC to host monitoring workshop</li> <li>Monitor change</li> </ul>	<b>3. Connect recovery teams to local partner groups **</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link between recovery strategies</li> </ul> <b>4. Landowner connections *</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine what would remove stewardship impediments *</li> <li>Promote ALUS * / Recognize landowners with incentives *</li> <li>Support a central registry of stewardship information *</li> <li>Coordinate with landowner organizations *</li> <li>Develop communications relevant to farmers</li> </ul> <b>5. Bridge science &amp; policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage public funding for land protection / conservation*</li> <li>Support materials for municipalities</li> <li>Influence policy</li> </ul>	<b>6. Move beyond science *</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a business case for protection **</li> <li>Integrate big picture with ecosystem health and services *</li> <li>Incorporate social sciences</li> </ul> <b>7. Influence perception &amp; awareness **</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Target appropriate audiences *</li> <li>Tailor message to target audiences</li> <li>Market the vision</li> <li>Focus on communities to draw threads together for coherent tapestry</li> </ul>

<b>SUMMARY REFLECTIONS</b>		
<b>FOCUS ON...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...Voice for many groups</li> <li>...larger, fewer projects that have a meaningful impact.</li> <li>...Big Picture core areas, jewels on landscape</li> <li>...monitoring, How well are we doing? What are the trends in threats?</li> <li>...large-scale, multi-species ecosystem management</li> <li>...common ground E.g. Riparian forest.</li> <li>...stewardship to achieve long-term goals</li> <li>...skilled field biologists to balance current GIS trend</li> <li>...hierarchical planning</li> <li>...landowner incentives to do the right things eg. ALUS</li> </ul>	<b>CONNECT...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...between multiple scales</li> <li>...issues, topics, fields of interest, stakeholders, media, scales</li> <li>...ideas and facts with emotion and action.</li> <li>...local groups with tools e.g. advocacy toolkit, business case for land trusts,</li> <li>...to reduce overlap eg. Recovery teams</li> <li>...with planners for PPS implementation guidelines</li> <li>...landowners with stewardship tools and resources</li> <li>...municipalities with best management practices for by-laws</li> <li>...with interested landowners – many out there, not just farmers, but also ex-urbanites.</li> <li>...with communities - Highlight broad ecosystem health - id cultural landscapes</li> </ul>	<b>LINK...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>...outreach and monitoring programs with culture</li> <li>...with human health</li> <li>...to values → emotion - promote discussion - Issue of values can't be understood through science.</li> <li>...to economics eg. show value of natural areas (\$),cost-effective way to manage land.</li> <li>...to social implications</li> <li>...to common concerns eg. Nuisance wildlife</li> <li>...to balanced landscapes – profile demos, Demonstrate best planning, report cards, threats</li> <li>...to landowner pride – Recognise voluntary protection, leader' landowner registry</li> <li>...to sustainable use</li> <li>...to public attitudes – monitor</li> </ul>



## Major Directions Cross-Reference

A summary of each direction is given in the sessions noted below

Informal consensus: \*\* Top priority (> 25 votes / ~50%) \* High priority (> 13 votes / ~ 25%) Session

<b>PROVIDE CONSERVATION FOCUS</b>		8
<i>"The challenges are immense but the opportunities are greater" – Steve Hounsell</i>		
<b>1. Coordinate a vision *</b>		1
• Help us all use and understand the same language, visions, priorities *		2
• Clarify what CCC is - lead strongly		2
• Clarify member roles		1
<b>2. Monitor for viable ecosystem function **</b>		5
• Monitor the monitoring **		5
• Expand coalition oversight relative to monitoring		1
• Monitoring report cards *		4
• Ecoregion monitoring – landscape scale *		5
• Identify a common management vision / Ecosystem health reporting		2
• Monitor biodiversity		5
• CC to host monitoring workshop		5
• Monitor change		2
<b>CONNECT STAKEHOLDERS</b>		8
<i>"Carolinian Canada is all about connections" - Gordon Nelson</i>		
<i>"Need to debunk myths and build relationships" – Peter Carson</i>		
<b>3. Connect recovery teams to local partner groups **</b>		3
• Link between recovery strategies		3
<b>4. Landowner connections *</b>		3
• Determine what would remove stewardship impediments *		7
• Promote ALUS * / Recognize landowners with incentives *		7
• Support a central registry of stewardship information *		7
• Coordinate with landowner organizations *		7
• Develop communications relevant to farmers		4
<b>5. Bridge science &amp; policy for recovery</b>		3
• Encourage Public funding for land protection / conservation *		6
• Support materials for municipalities		4
• Influence policy		1
<b>LINK NATURE &amp; CULTURE</b>		8
<i>"Change the people and you will change the landscape" – Dan Bissonette</i>		
<b>6. Move beyond science *</b>		1
• Develop a business case for protection **		6
• Integrate big picture with ecosystem health and services *		1
• Incorporate social sciences		1
<b>7. Influence perception and awareness **</b>		4
• Target appropriate audiences *		3
• Tailor message to target audiences		4
• Market the vision		1
• Focus on communities to draw threads together for coherent tapestry		5



# MAPPING THE FUTURE with Carolinian Canada Stakeholders

## Introduction

### Meeting Goals & Structure

**Meeting Goal:** Brainstorm potential major directions for the Coalition based on common goals of our members and stakeholders.

#### Meeting Focus Points:

- What are the major successes of Carolinian Canada and how do we carry that into the future?
- What are the current 'best bets' for large scale conservation in Carolinian Canada?
- What are the gaps in the actions of our conservation community?
- What new trends and opportunities are critical to conserving the Carolinian landscape?
- What goals should the Coalition pursue in 5 years? 10 years?

#### Session Structure and Voting Method:

1. Discussion Points were distributed prior to the meeting. Speakers were invited to use these a starting point or raise other ideas.
2. Introduction and speakers / discussion leaders panel – 25 minutes (5 minutes each)
3. Discussion session participants – 25 minutes - All participants were encouraged to add ideas and comment on their vision of a successful Coalition as we plan for our role into the future.
4. Post major directions (any number) – 20 minutes
5. Red Vote: All session participants to vote for 3 Directions in their session immediately following the discussion.
6. Reporting Plenary – Facilitator of each session to provide summary – 5 minutes each
7. Blue Vote: All meeting participants vote for 3 Directions in each of the 2 sessions they did not participate in after hearing the summaries from each facilitator. (This vote should compare Directions within topics not between topics. )
8. Votes tallied in this proceedings is a sum of Red and Blue votes. Some votes were posted for specific items within a Direction, and these were included in the total vote for that Direction.



# MAPPING THE FUTURE with Carolinian Canada Stakeholders Agenda

9:30 AM **Welcome** *Gordon Nelson*

**Introduction** *Michelle Kanter*

9:45 Plenary Panel

## 1. Role of Carolinian Canada Coalition

- Vision & Priority Setting
- Facilitating Collaborations
- Promoting natural heritage awareness

- *Facilitator: Nathan Garber*
- *Steve Hounsell, Ontario Power Generation*
- *Peter Carson, Long Point Basin Land Trust*
- *Gordon Nelson, Carolinian Canada Coalition*

11 AM - Concurrent Discussions

### Session Area A

BIG PICTURE:  
Vision for a healthy landscape

## 2. Common Visions for the Landscape

Big Picture next step

- *Facilitator: James Duncan*
- *Graham Bryan, Env. Canada*
- *Paul Robertson, Woodlot Owners*
- *Mary Gartshore, consultant*

### Session Area B

CORE GOALS:  
Protecting Nature

## 3. Ecosystem Recovery

Big Picture @ Risk

- *Facilitator: John Ambrose*
- *Tony Zammit, GRCA*
- *Kate Hayes, Env. Canada*
- *Shawn Staton, Fisheries & Oceans*
- *Mike Nelson, ERCA*

### Session Area C

MAKING CONNECTIONS:  
Nature in balance

## 4. Education & Awareness

Big Picture understanding

- *Facilitator: Jim Oliver*
- *Anne Redish*
- *Dan Bissonette, Natural. Hab. Netw.*
- *Irene Tietz, Ingersoll Naturalists*
- *Cathy Quinlan, UTRCA*

- 12:15 Plenary Reporting *Reports from 3 Facilitators*

## 12:30 – Voting Lunch

- *All Participants vote for 3 directions in each Session Area*
- *12:45 Business meeting for Management Committee in Session Area A*

1:15 PM - Concurrent Discussions

### 5. Monitor & Assess

Measuring Big Picture Success

- *Facilitator: Tara Tchir*
- *Bill Stephenson*
- *Joh McCracken, Bird Studies Can.*
- *Mari Veliz, ABCA*
- *John Middleton, Brock Univ.*

### 6. Secure & Protect

Protecting Big Picture Cores

- *Facilitator: Scott Peck*
- *Paul General, Six Nations EcoCentre*
- *Malcolm Boyd, Lambton Wildlife*
- *Allan Elgar, Oakville*
- *Don Gordon, Thames Talbot Trust*
- **Steve Scheers, Norfolk County**

### 7. Steward & Seed

Stewarding Big Picture Landscapes

- *Facilitator: Ron Wu-Winter*
- *David Beamer, Niagara Restoration*
- *Cathy Dibble, On. Soil & Crop*
- *Dave Reid, Norfolk Stewardship*
- *Robert Messier, Wetland Habitat Fund*

- 2:30 PM Plenary Reporting *Reports from 3 Facilitators*

## 2:45 PM – Voting Break

- *All Participants vote for 3 directions in each Session Area*

## 3 PM – Plenary Discussion : 8. Panel Reflections

- *Steve Hounsell, Ontario Power Generation*
- *Peter Carson, Long Point Basin Land Trust*
- *Gordon Nelson, Carolinian Canada Coalition*



# Carolinian Canada Coalition Strategic Planning

## Organization Background

### Current Mission

Halt the loss and achieve a substantial increase in the size and quality of natural communities characteristic of Carolinian Canada through collaboration of groups, agencies and individuals.

### Description

Carolinian Canada is a 20-year-old coalition of 40+ public sector and non-government conservation organizations aimed at conserving the wildlife and habitats of southwest Ontario's Carolinian zone—an ecological zone lying south of a line between Toronto and Grand Bend. Prickly pear cactus, opossum, sassafras and magnolia trees are among the unusual native species found here, typical of more southern climates of the eastern United States. The partnership includes federal and provincial departments and ministries, conservation authorities, naturalists' groups, agricultural groups and stewardship councils.

### Current Activities

Carolinian Canada has been involved in a wide variety of conservation activities since its inception in 1984. At the heart of all of this work has been its function to serve as a mechanism for joint priority-setting and coordination between diverse conservation bodies ranging from local naturalist clubs to federal government departments and everything in between.

### Current Programs & Participation

- Annual forums and workshops forum that draws together diverse audiences from member groups, planners, conservation professionals and volunteers, stakeholders, landowners & students.
- Conservation Awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding contributions to conservation by stakeholders including farmers, community groups, municipalities, youth, businesses and volunteers.
- Our newsletter provides a forum for sharing ideas, success stories and challenges from local to provincial programs. Over 2,000 Carolinian Canada newsletters are distributed 2-3 times per year to member individuals and organizations including key public, local community groups, decision-makers in all levels of government, stewardship, conservation, agriculture, planning, land trust and education groups.
- Over 1,000 receive our newsletters by mail and e-mail. We rely on our member groups to cost-effectively distribute our materials to an estimated 5,000 people in our 'broader audience'.
- A renewed website was recently launched which is a major resource for volunteers, students and general community requiring information on conservation in this region. It receives thousands of hits daily.
- Community groups, local partners and schools participated in the development and unveiling of bronze heritage plaques at Carolinian Canada Signature Sites.
- Carolinian Canada's media strategy results in numerous stories annually reported by local radio stations, weekly and daily papers, agriculture papers and member newsletters.
- The Big Picture, a state-of-art collaborative vision for a sustainable landscape is the focus of our current outreach program. To implement the Big Picture,
  - o GIS data sets have been distributed to Carolinian municipalities;
  - o posters sent to all Carolinian school boards,
  - o planning guidelines developed through planning workshops,
  - o stewardship guides developed and distributed to landowners
- Carolinian Canada representatives sit on several advisory committees from local to international to integrate conservation into a wide variety of policies, plans and management decisions
- The Carolinian Canada Big Picture 'Roadshow' has reached over 6,000 people, engaging schools (elementary, secondary, university), municipalities, planners, landowners, farmers, conservation groups, community groups, youth groups, artists, gardeners, social justice groups, First Nations and more.
- A Carolinian Woodland Recovery Strategy has been initiated engaging the participation of 50 ecologists, stewardship and stakeholder (land use) groups.
- 10,000 Species at Risk educational posters and booklet and 5,000 Signature Sites booklets are being distributed to increase awareness of the over 500 imperilled species and spaces in Carolinian Canada.

### Existing Strategy Documents



Carolinian Canada Coalition has two guiding documents: A Strategy that was produced when the group became a coalition in 1997. It pre-dates our the Big Picture, a major focus of our organization today. A Practical Options paper was produced in 2002 that focuses the work of wide variety of groups towards key conservation needs across the Carolinian life zone. These documents are available on our website. We are currently operating under a broad communications strategy which focuses only on a portion of our program.

## Strategic Planning Project

### Rationale

Carolinian Canada has worked under a variety of organizational structures in the past reflecting its history as a collaborative. The Coalition is a unique organization, filling the gap between national, provincial and local programs, linking resources and expertise between different scales of action. As the zone is increasingly recognized as a priority for conservation, taking the time to build our core capacity is a natural evolution in the history of this organization and a response to increased participation of our members and partners.

Recently, our management committee recognized a strong need for Carolinian Canada to become incorporated as a registered charity in order to raise and manage funds independently. To support an incorporated structure, a solid organizational foundation is needed to carry out major programs, provide accountability and possibly expand in the future. Feedback on this move from partner organizations is positive, as they recognize and support the continuation of a strong Carolinian Canada.

The Coalition does not at this time have a comprehensive up-to-date strategy document of its own with key goals developed for the organization itself. This type of document is crucial to map out how our organization fits into and can best support the wider goals of the conservation community.

### Planning Goals & Objectives

- Build CCC capacity to protect wild species and spaces in partnership with individuals, communities, groups
- Build a stable foundation and framework for Carolinian Canada programs
- Enhance resources for board members to ensure a smooth transition to an incorporated body
- Increase capacity to deliver major programs
- Continue to effectively coordinate a vision for an expanding and active conservation community
- Create a more focused and effective organization

### Strategic Planning Process

The strategic planning process was initiated through a Management Committee workshop in spring 2005. This captured the many years of experience of committee members, evaluated our progress to date, assessed our strengths and weaknesses and outlined major issues. The result has pointed to key directions for Carolinian Canada to undertake effective natural heritage protection in southern Ontario. Additional background material for the strategy is being collected from partner groups, Carolinian Canada files and members. This stakeholder meeting provides feedback and brainstorming on initial directions identified by the Management Committee.

A draft strategy will be produced based on these results and further Management Committee workshops, facilitated by a management consultant. This draft is expected to be available for Fall 2006 and will be widely reviewed and refined by Management Committee and Stakeholders before it is finalized. The Executive Director will coordinate the strategic planning process with the guidance of a subcommittee of the Management Committee. This process is occurring concurrently with Carolinian Canada Coalition's application for incorporation and charitable status.

	Strategic Planning	Incorporation
2005	Management Committee Workshop Stakeholder & Membership consultation	Establish nominating committee Identify inaugural board
2006	Draft Strategic Plan Business & Fundraising Plans	Apply for incorporation Recruit board members, Inaugural AGM
2007-8	Implement strategic plan through subcommittees Board / Staff / Stakeholder Workshops to implement strategic plan	



## Section 1: Major Directions

### Session 1: Role of the Carolinian Canada Coalition

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

- *Facilitator: Nathan Garber*
- *Steve Hounsell, Ontario Power Generation*
- *Peter Carson, Long Point Basin Land Trust*
- *Gordon Nelson, Carolinian Canada Coalition*

*Focus:* What role(s) should the Coalition pursue to support the hundreds of conservation actions on the Carolinian Canada landscape?

*Vision & Priority Setting based on best science:* Carolinian Canada has traditionally used the best available science to produce a collaborative vision, eg. 38 critical sites, Carolinian Canada Conservation Strategy, the Big Picture. In updating our vision, what is the current 'best science' that needs to be incorporated? What is the next step for the Big Picture?

*Facilitating Collaborations from local to federal:* Carolinian Canada has successfully brought together public and private partners over the years using forums, papers and visioning exercises. How do we continue to act as a cohesive force as conservation needs and actions multiply across the landscape? What key facilitation goals and strategies should we use?

*Promoting natural heritage awareness & integration in other sectors:* Carolinian Canada has built broad awareness among landowners, planners, educators and conservation allies. Many other sectors are now creating and implementing their own conservation strategies. How do we best support these initiatives? Who are the priority target audiences and how do we work with them? Who has the most interest and most at stake for conserving natural areas? What opportunities are we missing?

#### MAJOR DIRECTIONS IDENTIFIED (# VOTES)

##### Move beyond science / Incorporate social sciences (25)

Goal: Translate conservation issues for stakeholders

Implementation Ideas:

- Science breaks down because interpretation of science and delivery to target audience is poor.
- More research on community attitudes. Recognise that there is broad support. Not us vs them – eg. Pt. Pelee survey, identify key values
- Do and use research on what groups need, understand. Tailor your marketing. Target your audience. surveys/design specific messages
- Guide efforts with science / landscape ecology – work with all partners who are already doing this
- Need to debunk myths about landowners, and build relationships. One landowner out of 100 said no to someone coming on their land for research. Find better ways to reach them.

##### Integrate big picture with ecosystem health and services (16)

Goal: Get broader support

Implementation Ideas:

- appeal to health and economic issues. linking of healthy ecosystems to human health
- Water focus - greatest bang for buck
- Prioritise hot topics



## Session 1: Role of the Carolinian Canada Coalition

- Link to people through monitoring reports.

Stakeholders:

- vast constituency, general public as main audience for health issue.

### Coordinate a Vision (13)

Goal: Provide a common and compelling vision.

- This is beyond the capability of any one organization to deliver. CCC is uniquely positioned to do this.

Implementation Ideas:

- Break down silos and facilitate communication
- marketing
- Oversight monitoring & report cards
- Visioning: 38 sites → big pic 110 core sites, bringing in more partners.
- Practical options: workshops, a guiding document

Stakeholders: members, resource-based groups

### Influence Policy (8)

Implementation Ideas:

- Provincial / municipal policy input - At municipal level, planning governed by PPS but delivery is non-uniform eg. Wetlands
- Provide resources to assist on-ground groups in policy input.
- Review municipal management activities / Focus on exotic species prevention. Guidelines at municipal level : roadlines, power lines maintenance, construction projects done without guidance or rules and regs. eg: exotics in NA are costing billions. These activities spread exotics. Clean equipment for one.
- Identify provincial level impediments to conservation eg. Drainage act, lack of tree preservation bylaws. Can have wide reaching impacts

Stakeholders: on-ground groups, municipal staff, municipal and provincial policy-makers

### Market the vision (5)

Goal: Multiple win vision

Implementation Ideas:

- Market vision to appeal to enlightened self-interest. Capture people who will support improvement of nature for their own health and economic gains. Highlight function of natural areas to improve air and water quality and affect human health. e.g. Ontario clean air alliance: people dying because of pollution, effective about closing down power generation plants.
- Link to natural areas
- Link to attitudes.
- Based on the Big Picture, holistic, not just cover, but whole ecosystem. Integrate water conservation with woodland conservation – landscape scale – ecosystem planning
- keep the vision alive and top of mind, part of daily mind and daily language. Lines need to be spoken louder and with more clarity.
- Ensure that vision makes sense to people. Check back with audience to ensure understanding
- Understand target markets. People do have an interest in conservation, but their definition is different. Need to understand values and attitudes so we can get message across. If we don't meet their needs, we won't accomplish anything.



## Session 1: Role of the Carolinian Canada Coalition

- Identify who is in the audience, then design the message. Eg. outdoor sports enthusiasts have specific interest in areas where they can recreate.
- Find funding partners. Communication is expensive.
- How to communicate to great variety of cultures in Canada? Find nodes where all the groups come together – schools. Opportunity to raise awareness economically. Must be other nodes like this.
- Link protection and economic health. Eg. Greenbelt sign of big forces. Driving force was economic thinking in government.

Stakeholders: members, schools, enlightened self-interest , public

### Clarify member roles (5)

Goal: membership support

Implementation Ideas:

- Identify member needs, Identify how can CCC support work of partners, Are there common themes? Eg. OLTA did survey to find out what needed; Developed educational packages
- Reduce redundancy, coordinate efforts?
- Clearinghouse for books, guides, reports

Stakeholders: members

### Expand coalition oversight relative to monitoring (4)

Goal: develop monitoring, assessment and reporting system for whole region, based on what is already being done.

- Lack of monitoring programs at ecoregional scale

Implementation Ideas:

- assess scope of current programs - landscape scale to small scale.
- Link to all priority issues eg. Water, climate change, air quality, urban sprawl, stewardship
- Id strengths and challenges
- Review other models, eg. Worldwatch institute – Vital signs, America's environmental report card
- Coordinate report cards on conservation progress
- Continue to focus on initial plan and vision. Focus on plants and biotic systems.
- Coordinate, compile, report on what is being done. Monitoring the monitoring systems, produce collective report.
- CCC research centre; an info and monitoring centre. Collection point for information.
- Move from science to civics, learn from others.

Stakeholders: members, local groups, monitoring programs



## Session 2: Common Visions for the Landscape

### DISCUSSION POINTS

#### *Big Picture Vision for a Healthy Landscape I*

- **Facilitator: James Duncan**
- *Graham Bryan, Environment Canada*
- *Paul Robertson, Woodlot Owners Association*
- *Mary Gartshore, consultant*

*Focus:* How should Carolinian Canada Coalition's strategy and vision be updated to reflect new conservation strategies and initiatives from federal to local?

*Collaborate among allies:* The Big Picture has been a successful catalyst resulting in numerous actions at every level across the landscape. How do we ensure good communication between hundreds of players working on the same landscape? What type of coordination is needed to maintain this momentum in the right directions for good conservation?

*Facilitation strategies:* In a practical sense, what strategies can the Coalition explore to optimize stakeholder collaboration and information-sharing?

*Strengths of regional focus:* What are the benefits of the Coalition's focus on a region, linking local to federal partners?

*Overlapping strategies:* What are the common goals of overlapping Stakeholder visions?

*Big Picture next step:* How do we coordinate, engage and make the most of the many current actions that are implementing Big Picture conservation? At a local level, municipalities, conservation authorities and stewardship groups are refining Big Picture maps for use in implementing eco-policies, restoring habitat, protecting sites and building landowner awareness. At the provincial and federal levels, public and private groups are defining their conservation goals based on Big Picture concepts. How do we bring all these refinements and visions together?

### MAJOR DIRECTIONS IDENTIFIED (# VOTES)

#### **Help us all use and understand the same language, visions priorities (19)**

Goal: Understand a common vision using the same terms between stakeholders

Implementation Ideas:

- Align with, make use of the of NCC's conservation blueprint tool to help people see priorities and put them in context of the landscape. Blueprint was built on big picture. CCC can build on this whole thing further.
- Eg. Pelee Island Municipal Plan – work with decision makers to communicate conservation values. They understood message because NCC focused on how to communicate.
- Design language/messages to the level of the audience. Focus on transportation and built environments to integrate climate change and air quality issues.
- Link to Environment Canada's developing ecological sustainability policy framework. Ie. natural capital, Ecological services, Water quality / quantity, flood control
- Give people more understanding of how woodlot fits in landscape. Focus on good things.
- Work on communication between farmers and urbanites and conservation community.
- Find common ground with farmers eg. Nuisance wildlife eg. Deer destroy crops and natural areas - with 30 ft buffer there is almost no corn predation.
- At kitchen table nats and farmers have a lot in common, but farmers and farm mags are often ruled by big corporations.



## Session 2: Common Visions for the Landscape

- Use big pic to provide context for municipal planners and other groups in regions.

Stakeholders: all science, resource managers, public

### Clarify what CCC is - lead strongly – (9)

Goal: Do what CCC is in best position to do and clearly communicate role to engage support

#### Implementation Ideas:

- Assess communication that works, develop strategies
- Determine what people want, and take strong lead.
- Bring people together.
- Promote strategies and programs that exist.
- One area CCC is strong in is workshops. Eg. Planner workshops - Discuss Big Picture with planners then take results to wider audience.
- Lead by example.
- Need to be concrete. What are people are going to remember?
- Focus and risk not being inclusive.
- CCC to become node of activity to force interest in CCC zone up, and work down to help lower levels.
- Clearly identify role to government partners

Stakeholders: stewardship / conservation organizations, municipal planners, government

### Monitor change (7)

Goal: Help people see change (positive and negative) and its implications and solutions

#### Implementation Ideas:

- Document significant problems (eg. invasive species, air pollution) eg. Phragmites in Long Point.
- Document the deterioration of the ecosystem matrix and functions, not just sites.
- Continuing research - science does not have all the answers yet. Should not rely on theory.
- Continuing protection and conservation action despite gaps in research. Need is urgent as impacts are increasing. Research isn't going solve problem.
- Influence universities to provide more field training, teach biologists and ecologists to understand whole system and do more fieldwork to recognize the problems on the landscape.
- Think of university students as a target audience, away from home community. Nobody offering them field history, and they have a thirst.
- Support network of knowledgeable monitors and report system eg. road watch, frog watch, ice watch, neighbourhood (woods and wetlands) watch.
- Public report card on how public sites are being managed. Make sure that they are monitored and managed using taxpayers money. Document the tinkering.
- multiple scale monitoring. Link small scale monitoring for quality to big picture.
- Report cards could be project related, used to inform decision-makers.

Stakeholders: landowners, organisations, university students, public



## Identify a common management vision / Ecosystem health reporting (9)

Goal: Develop management goals that can be monitored and marketed to stakeholders

- Tremendous opportunity - Without CCC having an overall vision of how natural areas fit into landscape, they are being managed as single sites, not group.

Implementation Ideas:

- Highlight ecological functions and benefits of CC sites for different audiences. Network is useless unless cores are protected and functioning. Look at function at multiple scales. Need property plans, landscape plans and site level plans that are suitable for zoning. Focus on globally significant habitats.
- Need strong provincial and national lead on important management tools E.g. Tree by-laws, there is no consistency, little assessment of effect, inadequate support for.
- Link to Ontario biodiversity strategy. Integrated landscape management.
- Help people access knowledge of govt environmental controls and how to input to policy / program change
- Report cards: create / contribute to , market results – watershed scale
- Develop awareness / communication at site and regional level
- Build interest at site level. Build a community effort with people who are interested in conservation: site walks so that they can monitor, blow the whistle. Use as part of property site evaluation. Most people are interested in what is near to them.
- Support local groups with bigger regs so that each small space doesn't need to be saved separately. Burned out small groups. Things will fall through cracks. Need to explain to councilors why significant woodlands need to be protected in plans.
- CCC could communicate with government about big picture. Use health as rationale for stronger rules.
- Eg. Conservation land Act is being amended right now, and no-one is commenting.
- Amalgamate resource management direction to reduce the number of groups coming to the door
- Provide workable solutions & assistance
- Understand stakeholder issues first (eg. Know farmer issues)

Stakeholders: Communities, local groups, government, land management groups, landowners

## Session 3: Ecosystem Recovery

### DISCUSSION POINTS

*Core Goals: Protecting Nature I*

- **Facilitator: John Ambrose**
- Tony Zammit, Grand River CA
- Kate Hayes, Environment Canada
- Shawn Staton, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans
- Mike Nelson, Essex Region CA

*Focus:* How do we best translate science into stewardship action in a region with over 130 Species at Risk and over 500 rare species and communities and where every landscape and many properties contain multiple species at risk.

*Efficient use of best science:* With the new Species at Risk Act, there is increased pressure on ecologists to produce multiple Recovery Plans. This workload is especially marked in Carolinian Canada. A current trend towards ecosystem plans vs. species plans is beginning to address this problem. Is this approach sufficient? Are there other resources needed to address multiple species at risk?

*Woodlands @ Risk:* Carolinian Canada Coalition is developing a Carolinian Woodlands Recovery Strategy. Do the draft Goals and Objectives of this strategy (attached) capture stakeholder issues? How does it dovetail



## Session 3: Ecosystem Recovery

with other habitats?

*Dovetailing recovery strategies:* Where are the major overlaps between strategies? How do we ensure that implementation will not be duplicated?

*Common recommendations – common challenges:* What are the common action items among multiple strategies? Are we successful in addressing them?

### MAJOR DIRECTIONS IDENTIFIED (# VOTES)

#### Connect Recovery teams to local groups / Switchboard (35)

Goal: CC as conduit / switchboard between government / recovery teams and local agencies

- tremendous overlap between recovery implement Groups (RIG)

Implementation Ideas:

- Connect with local groups so they can understand how their involvement can help recovery
- Develop a reward system for landowners who do stewardship work
- Prioritise overlapping recovery actions between plans
- Let local groups take control of projects and run with it.
- Need a data base / resource centre. Source of contacts/switchboards
- Clearinghouse for ideas, issues, etc.
- Need for expertise and translation to others
- Messages to the public should result in interest in ownership and resolution to the problems
- CC could help in translation between science and policy problems
- Bridge science and practitioners, science and policy
- CC can act as conduit agency between local partners / stakeholders in delivering recovery planning messages that will be meaningful to them.

Stakeholders: Recovery teams, local groups

#### Landowner connections (21)

Goal: Engage rural landowners in recovery

- Average farmer age is 60. Economics not good. Will not be very receptive to betterment of environment for society. Needs smaller scale Eg. here's 10 trees – we'll plant for you.

Implementation Ideas:

- Start with collating recovery actions from various strategies and develop something to share with landowners. Currently recovery actions in infancy - Not at stage where can go to farmers.
- Use programs Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) to implement recovery actions
- Relate to farmers – beyond just giving them theories. Farmers are already following many env. regulations.
- Important to recognize what farmers are already doing. Eg. EFP's and farmers are setting examples
- Encourage farmers. Farmers lost in shuffle in development push. Eg. Oxford becoming industrial
- Important to get message out and in layman language that is understandable.
- Act as conduit and be recognized at local level
- Use the big picture for context – less emphasis on individual species.
- Solve problems together. Develop 2 way communication so farmers indicate what they want also.
- Create a market using incentives recognizing that farmers have difficulty meeting goals of conservation.
- Support incentive programs eg. ALUS. Farmers are competing against other nations that have ALUS-type programs. Allow variable costs of land based on retail values.



## Session 3: Ecosystem Recovery

- Increase landowner involvement in recovery strategies.
- Ensure tools are available to landowners. Eg. Buffer strips. Are the trees available? Are they local genetics? Need to consider what goes into buffers.
- Work with stewardship councils and conservation authorities to coordinate funding for rural landowners.
- Consistent programs. Unacceptable for government of day to pull plug on programs which are underway.

Stakeholders: Farmers, rural landowners, agriculture programs, Conservation Authorities, Stew. Councils

### Target appropriate audiences (18)

Goal: Market services – one communicator for several messages

Implementation Ideas:

- Find right audience for our messages, eg. Drainage superintendents, Municipal planners, Town clerks
- Have 1 agency approach landowners, not 25 different.

Stakeholders: Municipalities, landowners

### Bridge science & Policy for Recovery (8)

Goal: Ensure science is informing policy at higher and lower levels

- Science doesn't lend well to policy. Eg. no working definition of habitats other than wetlands

Implementation Ideas:

- Link science to policy for regulatory agencies. Science has not caught up to policies eg. SARA.
- Env sustainability key to feds
- Organise a panel with different talents from several organizations / teams
- CC has role on recovery teams for SAR
- Bridge between species-based recovery strategies for SARA and landscape-based implementation
- Translate expertise for municipalities and follow-up. Eg. OP additions, SAR habitat

Stakeholders: Environment Canada, Recovery teams, municipalities

### Link between recovery strategies (4)

Goal: Mechanism for collaboration to address overlapping priorities for planning / implementation

- CCC able to adopt large mandate – multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary.

Implementation Ideas:

- CC could position itself for recovery implementation
- CC could collaborate efforts for recovery between different strategies
- need strong partnerships between agencies to create efficient use of limited resources (eg. funding)
- Coordinate communication between recovery strategies.
- Avoid duplication – find efficiencies in similar strategies – monitoring, Public outreach needs, Expertise and advocacy needs, local capacity, landowner capacity etc.
- Larger grant proposals to cover several watersheds. Few bigger projects more sensible.
- Implementation at watershed and landscape level – will be expensive.
- Link to new Env. Can. focus on environmental sustainability.
- Provide linkages between aquatic and terrestrial strategies. 5 aquatic ecosystem strategies cover most of Car. Zone. High concentration of aquatic SAR in Carolinian zone- many globally rare. 5x more susceptible to impacts than terrestrial. Woodlands approach advocates watershed coverage



## Session 3: Ecosystem Recovery

- Water mgmt should be considered in upland strategies eg. Pit and mound technique.
- Restoration of riparian zones, livestock from water ways. Riparian corridors are important for waterways and connecting woodlands.
- Concentrate on land acquisition and agreements.

Stakeholders: Recovery Teams

## Session 4: Education & Awareness

### DISCUSSION POINTS

*Making Connections: Nature in Balance I*

- **Facilitator: Jim Oliver**
- Anne Redish
- Dan Bissonette, *The Naturalized Habitat Network*
- Irene Tietz, *Ingersoll Naturalists*
- Cathy Quinlan, *Upper Thames River CA*

*Focus:* Is there value a zone-wide awareness program? Are there gaps to fill or efficiencies to be gained? What should it look like? Who would be the key target audiences?

*Increase general support:* How can the Coalition support the local supporters of conservation in general outreach?

*Cultural connections:* Cultural history is closely tied to natural history. How can we reinforce and enhance this connection?

*Urban & rural communities:* Conservation is for everyone. Rural attitudes affect landowner actions. Urban attitudes affects society's actions. How do we build awareness across the rural – urban divide?

*Big Picture understanding:* Is conservation a 'special interest group' issue? How do we increase the regard and value of natural heritage in society?

### MAJOR DIRECTIONS IDENTIFIED (# VOTES)

#### Influence perception and awareness (34)

Goal: If we can change how people think, we will change the landscape.

Implementation Ideas:

1. Get to know your audience
  2. Go beyond the minimum – Be involved in current issues
  3. All of us are advocates - Be part of the process
  4. Set realistic targets
  5. Inspire at personal level - Help people feel good about what they are doing in conservation (intangible); Facilitate enthusiasm.
- Awareness of political direction necessary. eg. Environmental Sustainability Framework; a new initiative, based not on "risk" management not the precautionary principle.
  - Connect with young people, school clubs, expand facilities, capabilities, potential understanding, involvement. Get resources into the libraries
  - Need to have expert speakers in the relevant areas who can speak to issues (eg. Corridors), current



## Session 4: Education & Awareness

techniques (e.g., pit and mound restoration), scientific facts; demonstrations (e.g., Urban Tree Inventory). CCC Roadshow could assist.

- Get more involved with the farming groups
- Start changing people's expectations (e.g., for blemish-free fruit)
- Connect with heritage ie. Research heritage stories relating to the uses of the various southern trees by natives or pioneers. E.g. Hickories were more commonly used in the Carolinian zone compared to other areas. Opportunities of walnut, tulip. Heritage recipes unique to the region.
- Eg. Heritage river design – awareness of special status, civic pride

### Monitoring Report cards (20)

Goal: Simplify complex information and enhance understanding

Implementation Ideas:

- Focus on successes, progress (or losses);
- Link with watershed report cards by conservation authorities; proven method, used by public interest groups to see what they can do
- Summarize results (things going in right direction or things going in wrong direction) and this is what people will remember
- Opportunity to thread lots of issues together, ties into related aspects eg. Water quality
- Use wildlife to get interest
- Give people a sense of identity and pride in their area; awareness
- Provide report cards for every municipality in the zone; even if we did nothing more than forest cover
- Use monitoring as a means to reach our audiences - it is a very effective tool to go out to the public
- Tie in other factors - hook people in from a water and air point of view; everyone is concerned about asthma and kids
- Document analysis carefully – a risk in using report cards is that you tend to get challenged on certain statements

Stakeholders: Conservation authorities, municipalities, general public

### Develop communications relevant to farmers (11)

Goal: Recognize obstacles in the farm community, eg. problem wildlife

Implementation Ideas:

- Find common ground with farmers – many will never cut a woodlot
- From perspective of rural farmowner, there are problems with problem wildlife and species at risk which we are compounding when we promote habitat conservation etc; if you want to win over rural landowners, need to acknowledge that
- Focus on practical and appropriate solutions e.g. locate new plantings to draw animals away from nuisance areas
- Build awareness that there are things we can do; advocate practical and appropriate uses; eg. Planting trees along highways may lead to increases in animal mortality
- Find common goals to bridge the urban rural gap

Stakeholders: Farmers, Rural landowners



### **Support materials for municipalities (10)**

Goal: Provide more environmental materials for local councils to aid in decision making

Implementation Ideas:

- CCC generated info / action packages.
- Need to emphasise benefits to deflect criticism
- Influence municipal councils. One of the most powerful means of protecting the cultural landscape is through the Ontario Planning Act; It is pretty specific about how to protect natural features; it's all about zoning at the end of the day; developers have done a lot to deflect people from that
- Work with First Nations councils to protect cultural landscapes

Stakeholders: Municipalities, First Nations

### **Tailor message to target audiences (6)**

Goal: Identify specific target audiences and product that we are going to deliver

- at least 10% of people are indifferent; 10% against you no matter what; 10% behind you; then there's another 50% who haven't got your message yet; these are the ones you need to reach

Implementation Ideas:

- Avoid oversimplification or overwhelming audience – find common terminology
- Consider reciprocal benefits - Identify what we can give audience (eg. Information, Advice, Technical help) and what they can give us (eg. Resources, Leadership, Implementers)
- Deal with myths and misconceptions (e.g., if I save that forest, it's going to wreck our economy); faulty language (opponents and media often don't use the proper language, and that stymies us)
- Need to reach a broad and general audience, then go to specific audiences
- Set specific targets and realistic timelines - may be very long term (e.g., 50 years).
- Set priorities and make choices, and review them every 3 years or so
- education is costly
- Focus on organizations to reach individuals. Eg. service clubs, schools, media
- Tools for conservation eg. CCC could help make trees available to urban population
- Is there value in a zone-wide awareness project? The CC Roadshow did have some impact;
- FON had good results with info packages; maybe CCC could produce info kits for affiliates (not for the general public) (e.g., action kits for councillors etc.)
- We can have the most influence at the local level
- We need to be vigilant and deflect the criticism that we are a special interest group



## Session 5: Monitor & Assess

### DISCUSSION POINTS

#### *Big Picture Vision for a Healthy Landscape II*

- **Facilitator: Tara Tchir**
- *Bill Stephenson*
- *Jon McCracken, Bird Studies Canada*
- *Mari Veliz, Ausable Bayfield CA*
- *John Middleton, Brock University*

*Focus:* What should be assessed to improve our collective conservation success on the landscape?

*Keep the vision current:* What factors need to be reviewed to update the Carolinian Canada Conservation Strategy and the Big Picture vision? Is there value in a zone-wide 'report card' that integrates local monitoring programs?

*Big Picture Success:* How do we measure success of conservation on the landscape across the zone? Who is doing what? How do we bring it all together to monitor the Big Picture?

*Climate change:* Major changes are taking place over the landscape. What are the critical questions to focus on, as we follow these changes? What elements should be monitored to provide feedback to our collective strategies and visions?

*Cultural & ecological factors:* Cultural factors have a large impact on environment. What are the key factors to monitor and assess to inform our strategies? What factors should we report on that will motivate decision-makers and societal values?

### MAJOR DIRECTIONS IDENTIFIED (# VOTES)

#### **Monitor the monitoring (29)**

Goal: Integrate existing monitoring programs (CCC good at making connections, so cost-effective way to get info.)

Implementation:

- Choose the questions
- Link the analysis with ability to affect change
- Human dimension needed
- Partner to get access to data needed
- Develop analyses to make link between what is happening on the landscape and decision making.

Stakeholders: MNR, CA, O/g, ACER ORM, NEC FON STATScan, universities

#### **Monitor for viable ecosystem function (28)**

Goal: Develop meaningful monitoring program with links to water etc.

Implementation

- Select framework for analysis based on CC objectives
- Monitor for implementation of Big Picture
- Monitor local actions within context of Big Picture - Encourage strategic planning (vs local tactical)
- Assess the most pressing threats
- Link to long term water quality monitoring
- Resources for analysis and reporting - Monitoring is the easy part – summarizing the data and reporting it



## Session 5: Monitor & Assess

back to the local people in a meaningful way requires more resources.

- Prioritize effort by scale – work at local and broad scale
- Need a broader monitoring network. Partners could contribute data and questions. Capture different data.

### Ecoregion Monitoring - landscape scale (22)

Goal: Use landscape analysis (satellite) for gap analysis of big picture vision compared to existing landscape

Implementation Ideas:

- Dialogue and dovetail with many monitoring projects to find out what other monitoring is being done eg. CA's, municipalities, province
- Monitor for specific outcomes – develop criteria cooperatively
- Design program based on goals - it will be a challenge for ccc to identify goals
- Identify what will you do with information, who is target audience, what do they want to know
- If needed data is not currently being collected, partner with others to do the work
- Consider quality of data
- Use lateral thinking to determine what is important. Eg. Road density
- Monitoring program can update our goals, assess our activities, analyze obstacles and ensure that we are aiming high enough to conserve biodiversity.
- MNR, universities and the NHIC would partner with many lesser participants but CC should actively participate.
- need consistent ongoing support preferably from a single source (MNR) and leadership from CC
- Refine Big Picture as site selection model - Show how it contributes to biodiversity
- Show continental/biogeographic linkages
- Demonstrate how big picture provides biggest bang for buck
- Use as a basis to refine big picture

Stakeholders: current monitoring programs, target audiences

### Monitor biodiversity (12)

Goal: Monitor for biodiversity as a signal for climate change

Implementation Ideas:

- Look at all species and habitats, not just trees or SAR, eg. Grasslands, coastal wetlands, old growth, swamps, Keeping common birds common.
- Identify indicator species eg. Common spp. Can provide signals about climate change.
- Link to Bird conservation regions – BCR. Could use CCC involvement in this initiative.
- Monitor at regular intervals
- Link to Algonquin to Adirondacks and the Wildlands Project which are continental and will address larger scale climate phenomena
- Use monitoring to communicate values to the public.
- Highlight adaptations to climate change
- eg. Data for Rondeau Park doesn't show much change with climate change, whereas further north lots of change going on.

Stakeholders: Researchers, neighbouring ecoregional monitoring programs



### **CC to host monitoring workshop (11)**

Goal: Bring working group of experts together to determine role of CC for monitoring for ecosystem health of this bioregion

- move S. Ontario conservation forward on a foundation of science and with” on the ground” results.

Implementation Ideas:

- identify level CCC should focus on to assess the health of our ecosystems.
- Develop a starting framework and refine over time
- Focus on evaluating CCC initiatives eg. Signature sites, Big Picture
- Link to purpose of organization - report on chosen objectives - Incorporate results into CC’s future projects
- Identify gaps that need to be addressed
- Discuss reporting methods
- Set standards then measure against them

Consider economic, social institutional implications.

Challenges are immense by opportunities are greater

CC is all about connections among issues, topics, fields of interest, stakeholders, media, scales, ideas and facts with emotion and action.

Use the Big Picture , Multi-scale

Stakeholders: Monitoring experts

### **Monitor at local scale to draw threads together for coherent tapestry (9)**

Goal: Develop tapestry of visions of various groups to link goals, objectives, visions, criteria.

- Link to individuals solving real problems at the local level
- Ensure society reflects community conservation interest
- Ensure that conservation needs-progress are well incorporated at the provincial scale along with the credible science (both natural and social) that supports them.
- Provides content and vehicles for education and engendering conservation values at all levels.

Implementation:

Monitor for trends at 38 sites – what has been achieved? These sites are the nodes in the Big Picture and must be successfully conserved if the network is to serve its purpose eg. ownership, current condition of valued biodiversity

- Link to site management plans – assess conservation needs-status – could lead to the basis for “new” management agreements for properties and conservation site planning
- Link to official plan and zoning bylaws and work with local groups to communicate results eg. Setback for ecological buffers, forest, wetland, habitat, hydrology, current uses - Several planning cycles would likely be needed to ensure a serious trend towards better conservation and to establish adequate community monitoring
- Develop a comprehensive, region-wide, georeferenced, shared database for signature sites with potential to include other sites protected by CC partners
- Define sites by community
- Connect to different scales
- CC lead with funding from province and assistance from CA’s
- Liaison with the NHIC to data capture useful studies and advice
- A local representative at each site should be involved-informed and encouraged to monitor-participate and report
- Report success stories

Stakeholders: Local groups, municipalities, conservation land managers, researchers, landowners



## Session 6: Secure & Protect

### DISCUSSION POINTS

#### Core Goals: Protecting Nature II

- Paul General, Six Nations Eco-Centre
- Malcolm Boyd, Lambton Wildlife Inc.
- Allan Elgar, Oakville Council
- Don Gordon, Thames Talbot Land Trust
- Steve Scheers, By-law officer, Norfolk County

*Focus:* Protection of key lands in Carolinian Canada is happening through a mix of policy, planning, purchase and voluntary landowner commitments, facilitated by a range of public and private groups. How can the Coalition support key players to work collaboratively?

*Facilitate Best Decisions:* Is the Big Picture informing protection across the landscape? How can energy be focused on the most critical areas? Are the range of habitats in Carolinian Canada represented in protected areas?

*Policy & Planning:* Some municipalities are attempting to integrate Big Picture concepts. What are the major challenges and the best bets for advancing eco-policies over the next 5 years? Are the Coalition's planning forums and guidelines useful tools?

*Land trusts:* Land trusts are growing in Carolinian Canada with the dedication of countless volunteers. Are Carolinian land trusts faced with unique challenges and issues?

*Collaborations in the Big Picture:* On a landscape of over 95% private ownership, protected areas play a key role in demonstrating best practices to neighbouring landowners. What tools and approaches can conservation land managers use to optimize this impact?

*Heritage Act:* A new policy may allow the designation of natural landscapes as significant heritage features. How can Carolinian Canada support this opportunity?

### MAJOR DIRECTIONS IDENTIFIED (# VOTES)

#### Develop a business case for protection (31)

Goal: Rationalize spending on identification, protection and stewardship of natural areas.

#### Implementation:

- Need business case to show how it is less expensive to save land than support urban expansion.
- Link to Official Plan input – planning is becoming more important as agricultural land becomes to valuable to purchase - planning act 34.3.2 Protect, restore, keep
- Identify economic disincentives to maintaining core areas
- Highlight compensation inequalities
- Justify ecological services
- Tap into stakeholder interests
- E.g. Tree cutting bylaw against farmers? Resolved in Lambton county
- Identify costs associated with threats e.g. Urbanisation, exotic species, taxes don't offset cost of sprawl
- Highlight recreation opportunities e.g. 5% requirement for open spaces only considers active recreation
- Environmental disasters are good for the economy. How do we address this?
- Show value of natural features vs. developments

Stakeholders: planners, municipalities, landowners, recreation enthusiasts, developers



## Session 6: Secure & Protect

### Encourage Public funding for land protection / conservation (21)

Goal: Highlight the need for all of society to 'chip in'

Implementation:

- Link to Quality of Life indicators
- Leadership role by municipality eg. tree inspectors
- Provide conservation education, facilities, tools, Best practices
- Incentives for local clubs to implement stewardship delivery
- Partner with land trust to direct activity to most sensitive lands
- Will take billions of dollars to get to 30% forest cover.
- Need to ensure planning direction to protect core areas.
- E.g. Tree by-laws need updating and staff support.
- Recognize the power of attitudes. E.g. Some First Nations have no written tree by-law but rely on a cultural ethic to protect trees.
- Need long and short term goals. Target audiences based on this, e.g. Planners, Youth

Stakeholders: governments at all levels, land trusts, landowners, local groups, municipalities, First Nations

## Session 7: Steward & Seed

### DISCUSSION POINTS

*Making Connections: Nature in Balance II*

- **Facilitator: Ron Wu-Winter**
- *David Beamer, Niagara Restoration Council*
- *Cathy Dibble, Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Association*
- *Dave Reid, Norfolk Stewardship*
- *Robert Messier, Wetland Habitat Fund*

*Focus:* On-ground stewardship programs are increasing in coverage, sophistication and variety. What role should Carolinian Canada play for the conservation-minded landowner?

*Optimize support for landowners zone-wide:* How can the Coalition best support on-ground stewardship programs to reach all landowners? What are landowners asking for?

*Farm & Non-farm:* How can we create a consistent message yet specialized to the needs of different landowner interests? Are there gaps or opportunities in getting the conservation message out?

*Big Picture Guidelines:* Would Carolinian guidelines or standards assist in the implementation of Big Picture conservation? For what specifically?

*Stewardship Research:* What targeted research would inform and enhance stewardship programs?



**MAJOR DIRECTIONS IDENTIFIED (# VOTES)****Determine what would remove stewardship impediments (24)**

Goal: Foster new policy/programs that help resolve problems

Implementation Ideas:

- Build messages on common concerns – e.g. high deer population also impacts on biodiversity
- Make links between ecological and economic factors
- Role for CCC providing in lay terms a summary of these programs.
- Sell concept of why to buy in.
- Bring agencies together to deal with key concerns
- Bring landowners together with agencies that have tools to deal with it: network and inform
- Get farm leaders involved - everybody else falls inline and gaps will close.
- Targeted research to enhance and inform stewardship programs
- Message: we are a part of the ecosystem, we are one of the creatures in it

Examples:

- Problem: landscape mapping may be viewed as negative by landowners. Solutions: dashed line on map and engage landowner in decision for making it a solid line. Link to incentives.
- Problem: nuisance wildlife. Solutions: Publish data to show that stewardship will not necessarily increase problem wildlife. Focus on techniques that tangibly help landowner deal with wildlife. Carry out a survey to identify top pests (eg. E. Ont.). Demonstration projects.
- Problem: High deer populations. Solutions: Focus on common need to control deer population. Promote venison industry. Get deer tags for farmers that they can give to hunters. Build awareness of hunting need in urban audiences. Set up agreements and communication between landowners and hunters to avoid ecological damage.
- Problem: Lack of stewardship information. Solutions: Education series. Strategic alliance with Society for Ecological Restoration. Work with medical profession – Distribute information in waiting rooms that provide huge networks or foci for dissemination of information.

Stakeholders: Restoration groups, medical profession, hunters, landowners

**Promote ALUS (Alternative Land Use Services) (23)**

Goal: Foster awareness of ecological goods and services concepts

Implementation Ideas:

- Norfolk pilot program initiated by Keystone Ag. Producers and Delta Waterfowl. ALUS pays % of startup costs and then annual payments as long as in agreement.
- foster discussion of implementation issues and solutions
- Make the link with health messages – link with medical profession
- CC lead in putting it into 'lay' terms
- Highlight private stewardship: Greening a country side in private hands takes cooperation and rewards.
- Promote respect for private land protection i.e. Traditional definition of protection is only in park system – this is a slap in face to landowners.
- challenge to preserve public resources on private land in a free-market economy
- CCC provide statement of support for ALUS. Even if initiative doesn't go the goals are good.
- Demonstrate whether model works. Try to multiply across landscape.
- Provide communication tools for local groups
- Need to get the farming leaders (key people) to participate.
- sell the concept of why we should bother doing ecological restoration

Stakeholders: Farmers, rural landowners, farm organizations



### **Support a central registry of stewardship information (22)**

Goal: Collaborate with other organisations to provide information on programs and funding for landowners and other stakeholders

Implementation:

- Work with Stewardship Network of Ontario
- Link to the existing stewardship portal
- CCC has role in integrating across a fragmented landscape and across habitats eg. Encourage landowners to understand how upland component supports wetland component

### **Coordinate with landowner organizations (17)**

Goal: coordinating role in information dissemination.

- help landowner and organisations to access knowledge to inform the stewardship
- Most farmers agreeable to stewardship.

Implementation:

- Coordinate with OSCIA to get info out about various funding opportunities
- Recognize wildlife damage problems
- Endorse Environmental Farm Plan
- Ensure respect the private property rights of landowners and don't endorse anything that restricts these rights of landowners to make money off their land
- awareness of location of demonstration sites.
- Develop and distribution of regionally relevant info.
- CCC should support small organizations; e.g. help coordinate (which would limit duplication)
- CCC can be passing info (scientific info about Species at Risk for example) down to local groups
- CCC could review and support grant applications that small groups make
- info for policy changes (such as tax incentives)

Stakeholders: OSCIA, EFP, landowner organizations

### **Recognize landowners with incentives (15)**

Goal: Support and encourage good things happening on private land

Implementation Ideas:

- lobby for and/or get \$\$ to provide incentives
- Market CC awards as well as recognition tools of other organizations (eg. via newsletter)
- Smaller conservation organisations

Stakeholders: Recognition programs, landowners



## Session 8: Panel Reflections

### DISCUSSION POINTS

- *Reports and Reflections from Morning Panel*

*Major Directions for the Coalition:* Are there common themes in Major Directions?

*Mapping new Opportunities:* Are there new areas to be explored by the Coalition?

### MAJOR DIRECTIONS IDENTIFIED

#### Provide Conservation Focus

*“The challenges are immense but the opportunities are greater” – Steve Hounsell*

*“The time is passed for more science” – Peter Carson*

- Voice for many groups
- Focus on larger, fewer projects that have a meaningful impact.
- Focus on Big Picture core areas, jewels on landscape
- Focus on monitoring, How well are we doing? What are the trends in threats?
- Focus on large-scale, multi-species ecosystem management
- Focus on common ground E.g. Riparian forest.
- Focus on stewardship to achieve long-term goals
- Focus on skilled field biologists to balance current GIS trend
- Focus on hierarchical planning
- Focus on landowner incentives to do the right things eg. ALUS

#### Link nature with culture

*“Change the people and you will change the landscape” – Dan Bissonette*

*“Balance human use and biodiversity to make sustainable landscapes” – Gordon Nelson*

*“Make sure that our audience is hearing what we are saying” – Peter Carson*

- Link outreach and monitoring programs with culture
- Link to communities - Highlight broad ecosystem health - id cultural landscapes
- Link with human health
- Link to values → emotion - promote discussion - Issue of values can't be understood through science.
- Link to economics eg. show value of natural areas (\$), cost-effective way for municipalities to manage land.
- Link to social institutional implications
- Link to common concerns eg. Nuisance wildlife
- Link to balanced landscapes – profile demos, Demonstrate best planning, report cards, assess threats
- Link to landowner pride – Recognise voluntary protection, leader' landowner registry
- Link to sustainable use
- Link to public attitudes – monitor

#### Facilitate Connections

*“Carolinian Canada is all about connections” - Gordon Nelson*

*“Need to debunk myths about landowners, and build relationships” – Peter Carson*



## Session 8: Panel Reflections

*“Communication is critical: Do what we do best – spread the big picture word” – Steve Hounsell*

- Connect between multiple scales
  - Connect issues, topics, fields of interest, stakeholders, media, scales
  - Connect ideas and facts with emotion and action.
- Connect local groups with tools e.g. advocacy toolkit, business case for land trusts,  
Connect to reduce overlap eg. Recovery teams  
Connect with planners for PPS implementation guidelines  
Connect landowners with stewardship tools and resources  
Connect municipalities with best management practices for by-laws  
Connect with interested landowners – many out there, not just farmers, but also ex-urbanites.



## Section 2: Discussion Leaders

### Session 1: Role of Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC)

Facilitator: Nathan Garber

#### Steve Hounsell, Ontario Power Generation / Ontario Nature

Context: You folks have made significant if not huge strides in the last 21 years. You know all too well the accomplishments that you have made. You have gone from the traditional protected areas approach to envisioning a big picture system of habitat cores and corridors reflecting the entire ecological diversity of the entire region. That big picture vision builds upon the best that conservation biology and landscape ecology has to offer. You have convened notable conferences promoting that vision and the science behind the vision. Your coalition can and should be a model for others to follow. So please do take heart and indeed great pride in your accomplishments.

The challenge is where do we go from here? More specifically, what role(s) should the Coalition pursue going forward?

Let me suggest that:

- The Coalition should continue to live up to its name – a COALITION of organizations truly committed to the implementation of CCC mission and big-picture vision.
- I would suggest that the coalition needs to further enhance and articulate a common, compelling vision that provides multiple benefits to society and nature, a vision which is beyond the ability of any one organization to deliver. That vision can however be delivered through the coordinated actions of a variety of organizations and interested individuals.
- Someone needs to take a *coordinating role*. The coalition's task is to break down the institutional silos, identify the common ground among the coalition partners, and others, and facilitate communication, commitment and implementation on the ground.

That invokes a number of actions, including:

- enhancing and marketing the vision;
- clarifying the role of coalition member organizations;
- expanding the coalition's oversight role relative to monitoring and gap analysis, through the issuing of periodic report cards on progress.

If I may, I will briefly speak to those actions:

#### 1. Enhancing and marketing the vision

Expand the big picture to address other ecosystem services that are better captured by watershed planning. More to the point, we need to appeal to "enlightened self-interest" in addition to the protection of nature for the sake of nature.

In that regard, a critical next step is to morph the big picture to a Complete Picture of Ecosystem Health and Integrity across the entire region. In brief, I am suggesting the need to integrate and merge efforts on the Big Picture, with Conservation Blueprint, work on significant woodlands and with Watershed-based Source Protection Planning. That means integrating watershed science with big picture conservation biology to provide long-term ecosystem integrity and health. It means breaking down the "silos" of our single theme traditional disciplinary approaches, into a common landscape level vision that we can all agree upon, for an entire suite of compelling benefits. The time has passed on single theme planning efforts. There simply is not enough time to approach our problems one issue at a time. I would suggest that the coalition is uniquely positioned to do this, through its various partners.



## Session 1: Role of Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC)

Why must we do this? We need a multiple win vision which will make sense to people and capture the support of a vast constituency. People, who may not share our passion for the conservation of biodiversity may however, fully support the protection and restoration of natural areas if it will improve our air and water quality, if it will improve their health and reduce health care costs and if it will provide renewable resources which can be managed sustainably for economic gain. We need to make the case that “healthy ecosystems with their natural diversity of life sustain healthy people and provide the renewable resources to sustain a healthy economy”. We need to make sure our vision makes sense to all of society and as importantly, we need to garner much broader support to make it happen. Remember, people elect the governments that serve them. We need to appeal not only to altruism, but perhaps more importantly to “enlightened self-interest”. We need to expand our support base.

On a related theme, we need to more robustly Market the Vision – I would suggest that the Coalition must keep the vision alive and “top-of-mind” with each of your partners. Local actions, delivered by various organizations, should be conceived within the context of this vision. I still feel that many local actions are done opportunistically, without the guidance of the big picture. With limited funds and resources we need to be more strategic with our protection and restoration efforts, hence the power of an enhanced big picture.

### 2. Clarify the role of coalition member organizations

There needs to be an effective partitioning of roles among the coalition members to help deliver the vision on the landscape. Who is doing what? We should not all be doing the same thing, but the cumulative effects of our individual roles should directionally move us closer towards achieving our big picture vision. The coalition can help to coordinate efforts to ensure that we are not being redundant and tripping over one another. Time and resources are too precious to fall into this trap. That, in turn implies that we should consider my third point:

### 3. Monitoring progress

Expanding the coalition’s oversight role relative to monitoring our progress on implementing this big picture vision. In that regard, the Coalition should perhaps consider the notion of issuing “report cards on progress” and the identification of gaps that need to be addressed.

## Peter Carson, Long Point Basin Land Trust

Peter introduced his talk by saying that these would be more specific suggestions following Steve’s high level recommendations.

How can CCC support work of partners – right now, we really don’t know what the groups need

- Are there common themes?
- OLTA did survey to find out what needed, Developed packages = educational packages
- CCC should do the same.

### Influence policy

- provincial level impediments to conservation eg. Drainage act, lack of tree preservation bylaws. This can have wide reaching impacts
- At the municipal level, planning is governed by PPS but delivery is non-uniform in approach, eg. Wetlands
  - Need guidelines at the municipal level : roadlines, power lines maintenance, construction projects done without guidance or rules and regs. Re: exotics in NA are costing billions. These activities spread exotics. Clean equipment for one.
- Tighten up PPS

### Time for more science has passed.

- Efforts are guided by science. Landscape ecology – work with all partners who are already doing this
- Science breaks down because interpretation of science and delivery to target audience is poor.

### Make sure that the audience is hearing what we are saying.

- Lines need to be spoken louder and with more clarity. Need to include social science. Tailor your marketing. Target your audience. Do and use research on what groups need, understand.



## Session 1: Role of Carolinian Canada Coalition (CCC)

### We need to debunk myths about landowners, and build relationships.

- One landowner out of 100 said no to someone coming on their land for research. Find better ways to reach them.

### Gordon Nelson, University of Waterloo / CCC

Continue to focus on initial plan and vision. Focus on plants and biotic systems. Too many emerging issues. Need to focus.

- Water issue. Impossible to separate from biodiversity. Attention to aquatics.
- Climate change, what are implications
- Air quality; issue big in CC life zone.
- Urban sprawl
- Public vs private stewardship
- Lake shorelines

We could prioritize and coordinate issues with partners, but difficult. We might end up adapting rather than managing the issues.

On the other hand, we can develop a monitoring, assessment and reporting system for whole region, based on what is already being done. Coordinate, compile, report on what is being done. Monitor the monitoring systems and produce a collective report.

Move from science to civics, but this move needs to be explicitly thought out, broader. These disciplines can be more art more than science; we need to learn from others. Lots of controversy and bias introduced.

CCC research centre; an info and monitoring centre. Collection point for information. Could have a physical presence.

- Range of monitoring - landscape scale to small scale.
- Worldwatch institute – Vital signs.
- America's environmental report card.
- Not many in middle – ecoregion that CC represents.

## Session 2: Common Visions for the Landscape

### Facilitator: James Duncan, Nature Conservancy of Canada, CCC

#### Introduction: Common Vision

In this session, the following ideas were brought forward:

- The need to monitor Carolinian Canada properties, have report card back
- Use the Big Picture to provide context for municipal planners and other groups in regions.
- Give people more understanding of how woodlot fits in landscape.
- Communication: We need to have a common language. This is very much a focus. At two levels landscape scale and local level.
- There needs to be more field work done, and more people trained in fieldwork.

### James Duncan, Nature Conservancy of Canada / CCC

Program Manager

#### Conservation Blueprint

The Nature Conservancy blueprints were rolled out in November 2005. The mapping was conducted at fifty thousand feet. Data from all over was compiled. Then a scoring system was used to rank the natural areas. What are most important areas are there? There was a focus on rarities. Should we be concerned about rarities or the bigger picture. The Nature Conservancy believes that we need to focus on globally significant habitats first. These blueprints did not look at existing quality. Now the Blueprint is being ground-truthed by



## Session 2: Common Visions for the Landscape

speaking with people in the landscape. On the other hand some of the locals may not see the changes that are occurring.

The Blueprint is the NCC driver. Carolinian Canada needs to work with others to affect municipal plans. Eg. Pelee island. Point out to decision makers what is important. NCC is giving them a context as to what value of area is. There is power in the Blueprint; to communicate the natural value to planners and councillors. Set up a common vision. Need to get others to see phragmites as we see them.

### Graham Bryan, Environment Canada

The Minister and his deputy are interested in policy framework for Environment Canada's Canadian ecological/sustainability framework. There are some key issues, one of which is natural capital; another is ecological services such as water quality/quantity, flood control – what is value of this? Another is landscape management: this is key in Ontario biodiversity strategy. Integrated landscape management. Is it well defined yet? No.

Government is not sophisticated, lots of information, but hard to analyse. Management doesn't know what CCC does other than the Big Picture.

So need to bring CCC and its work to the attention of government.

Is this an organization that is diffuse, or are we going to focus and risk not being inclusive. Are you physically getting together?

CCC should lead by example rather than collecting all people together and gathering ideas.

Information needs to be concrete. What are people are going to remember.

One area CCC is strong in is holding workshops. Eg. Planner workshops. Take the existing Big Picture stuff, bring it to planners and then take the results out to a wider audience. Conservation Land Act is being amended right now, and no-one is commenting.

### Mary Gartshore, Ecologist, Pterophylla Native Plant Nursery

Ecologist

Anecdotes: One person who surveyed for plants in wetlands went back to wetlands they had seen previously. He described them as being in awful shape. Phragmites, Purple Loosestrife and Canary Grass were rampant. They smelled of pig manure. The Drainage act and commercial farming are driving these wetlands into junk and turning richly biodiverse systems into 3 species systems.

Phragmites are all over the ponds in Long Point. These systems used to have 50-100 kinds of rare species. And a government scientist asked how do you prove that this change is harmful? Unfortunately this person doesn't look at relationships between plants and animals. Science won't be able to tell you why these changes are bad. These systems are too complex and we don't know enough yet. We need to fix the problem before we know why it's a problem. Pollution from Ohio is dumping stuff on Long Point probably a big factor in phragmites. Research isn't going to solve the problem.

Need to look after whole system instead of focusing on small details.

Biology students; either professors or the students do not see the problems happening on the landscape. There are not enough field work courses.

Recognize the problems on the landscape, and then communicate to the researchers in the labs.

Not enough biologists doing field work.



## Session 2: Common Visions for the Landscape

## Session 3: Ecosystem Recovery

**Facilitator: John Ambrose, CCC**

### Introduction

Key points discussed in this section included; the coordination of communication with other recovery strategies. This is important for connectivity. There is a need to translate expertise into advocacy. Let local groups take control of projects and run with them. The farm community needs help. CCC needs to market services as a central communicator for several messages. CCC can act as a switchboard to connect agencies and their information. CCC needs to find the right audience for our messages, eg. Drainage supervisors. Other ideas included watershed reportcards, native seed sources, and the Alternative Landuse Services (ALUS) program in Norfolk.

### Tony Zammit, Grand River Conservation Authority

Terrestrial Ecologist

I want to begin by setting the context for my comments. As the Terrestrial Ecologist for the Grand River Conservation Authority, I am responsible for reviewing site-specific development applications and permit applications, and any supporting documentation such as Environmental Impact Studies and Hydro-geological Reports required by GRCA and/or the affected municipality in order to demonstrate no adverse impact on significant natural heritage features. I also periodically review municipal planning documents such as Official Plans and Sub-watershed Studies, that provide general guidelines for the protection of significant natural heritage features in our watershed. When doing such reviews, my primary task is to ensure that the GRCA's Wetland Policy, which complements the Provincial Policy Statement regarding significant wetlands, is addressed to our complete satisfaction. A concurrent and equally important responsibility is to ensure that provincial and federal statutes, regulations, and policies regarding significant natural heritage features, such as critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, are also addressed by the appropriate agency (i.e. MNR, EC, DFO).

Although provincial and federal legislation provides a legal mechanism for the protection of threatened and endangered species, the science that would lend support to these statutes is either not fully developed or not available to the CA staff responsible for reviewing potential impacts on threatened or endangered species and their habitat.

### PPS

The Provincial Policy Statement issued under Section 3 of the Planning Act currently affords protection to the habitat of threatened and endangered species. Section 2.1.3 of this policy clearly states that development and site alteration shall not be permitted in significant habitat of threatened and endangered species. Section 2.1.6 of the policy also states that development and site alteration shall not be permitted on lands adjacent to this habitat unless the ecological function of the adjacent lands has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that development within adjacent lands will cause no negative impacts on the core habitat or its ecological function.

Significant habitat is defined in the PPS as habitat approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources, that is necessary for the maintenance, survival, and/or recovery of naturally occurring or reintroduced populations of threatened or endangered species, and where those areas of occurrence are occupied or habitually occupied by the species during all or part(s) of its life cycle.

The Natural Heritage Reference Manual prepared by MNR to support Provincial Policy regarding significant natural heritage features in Ontario provides technical guidance for the identification of significant habitat. The manual recommends identifying significant habitat on a case-by-case basis either by applying information contained in species-specific status reports or recovery plans or management guidelines or on the basis of expert advice where such plans or guidelines do not exist. Even where such plans and guidelines are available, expert biological advice will often be required to apply and map the information at a site-specific level.



## Session 3: Ecosystem Recovery

### SARA

Section 58 of the federal Species At Risk Act prohibits the destruction of critical habitat required by a threatened or endangered species listed under Schedule 1 of the Act. Critical habitat is defined as "...the habitat that is necessary for the survival or recovery of a Schedule 1-listed wildlife species and that is identified as the species' critical habitat in a recovery strategy or in an action plan for the species."

Currently, there are no SARA compliant recovery plans for threatened or endangered species in Ontario. Therefore, at present time, only individuals of a threatened or endangered species are currently protected under SARA.

### Efficient Use of Best Science

Shifting our attention to ecosystem-based or multi-species recovery plans alone will not be sufficient to address these policy issues. The bottom line is that the science should inform the policies that are intended to protect significant natural areas and species. There is a general need to clearly identify, map, and legally protect significant habitat. Recovery teams clearly have a role in identifying critical habitat in a recovery plan but should also be prepared to assist in the scoping of site-specific and landscape level studies aimed at identifying such areas on a case-by-case basis.

### Dovetailing Recovery Strategies

With GIS mapping, identifying spatial overlaps between single-species strategies should be a relatively straightforward task. The implementation of ecosystem-based and multi-species recovery plans will enable better integration of strategies. One benefit of a coordinated strategy would be the avoidance of potential management conflicts, whereby the recovery efforts for one species or its habitat causes unintended harm to another species. For instance, wetland dependent species that occur at the interface of terrestrial and aquatic regimes may be particularly impacted by management decisions that favour restoration of one particular habitat type over another. Is a wetland recovery strategy needed?

### Kate Hayes, Environment Canada

There is a transformation going on in EC. The focus is environmental sustainability and Carolinian Canada needs to get on board. Recovery planning is key, as emphasised by the Species at Risk act. Implementation needs to be at the watershed and landscape levels. The greatest need is for habitat which supports SAR. CCC is able to adopt a large mandate – multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary. Collaboration is key, focused around SAR recovery teams.

### Shawn Staton, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Recovery Planning Coordinator

#### Introduction – Aquatic SAR Recovery

- I have been working with DFO for the past 4 years on the recovery of aquatic SAR (mussels and fishes).
- Distribution of mussel and fish SAR pretty much mirrors that of terrestrial SAR with the highest SAR diversity in the country in Carolinian watersheds Freshwater extinctions estimated to be 5X that of terrestrial rates.
- Aquatic ecosystem approach to SAR recovery was a logical approach with so many co-occurring SAR sharing similar threats (*watershed approach is essential for FW*)
- Highlight general support for the ecosystem approach to recovery for terrestrial as well (avoids duplication of effort); absolutely necessary necessary.
- Threats originate mainly from the conversion of the original forest and wetland habitats to upwards of 85% intensive agriculture.
- sediment and nutrient loading, and flow variability due to changes in drainage (such as tiling of fields) are among some of the predominant threats here.
- Some of the key recovery actions to address these threats in aquatic systems include the restoration of riparian zones, wetland re-establishment, and fencing livestock from watercourses.
- we now have 5 ecosystem based Recovery programs in place that deal with globally rare species such as Northern Riffleshell, Rayed Bean, Eastern Sand Darter.
- these ecosystem RSs cover the majority of the Carolinian Zone and therefore it makes a lot of sense to mesh the aquatic with terrestrial where ever priorities overlap.



## Session 3: Ecosystem Recovery

### Finding the Links between terrestrial and aquatic

- By its nature, the Carolinian Woodlands RS is solely focused on upland woodlands and the communities they support, however, there is connectivity with recovery of aquatic ecosystems. All of the recovery objectives will be beneficial to some degree, but the 2 most relevant examples are:
- the emphasis on the re-establishment of an *interconnected* system of Carolinian woodlands. Wide, riparian corridors are often ideal for building connections between large core woodlands.
- The establishment of wide riparian corridors in watersheds such as the Sydenham River would help restore conditions within the river for SAR fishes and mussels when situated upstream or adjacent to priority reaches as well as connect larger core woodlands (assisting terrestrial SAR recovery).
- Your Woodland recovery approach advocates watershed targets for forest cover. I really like this concept since we work at the watershed scale for aquatic ecosystem recovery. The % of natural cover is extremely low in most watersheds and increases in forest cover would have a positive impact on water quality, particularly if the gain is in the riparian zone.
- suggest a watershed-based breakdown of the CWRS to help indicate how the priorities of woodland recovery and aquatic ecosystem recovery might overlap.
- Implementation of overlapping points would be an excellent way to spend limited resources promote true ecosystem recovery in the broadest sense and also help prevent any duplication of effort

### Implementation

- Preparing the RS is the easy part, implementing it is where the challenges really are – which leads us to the crux of the matter, which is FUNDING.
- HSP, IRF, and ESRF are all a good start for SAR recovery, but considering the scale of our needs, they are a drop in the bucket!
- I think the solutions to the resource problem really highlights the need for strong partnerships between agencies and NGOs and good coordination (Carolinian Canada is ideally positioned to deliver as it is a coalition and could include Recovery Teams).
- Fewer, bigger, more strategic restoration projects may be a better approach than many different groups working independently on smaller ones (focus on overlapping priorities of terrestrial/aquatic).
- emphasis must be on permanence of habitats through acquisitions and long term agreements.
- need to consider water management more in upland forest restoration projects
- excellent example of this would be 'pit and mound technique which has many benefits, but in particular retains water on the landscape longer (helping to moderate river flows) and improves water quality.
- such techniques may be increasingly important as the impact of climate change is felt.

### Mike Nelson, Essex Region Conservation Authority

#### 1. Carolinian Canada can act to coordinate implementation actions

- Significant overlap in the types of projects recommended by species at risk recovery teams - especially for aquatic-oriented recovery teams (Thames, Sydenham, Ausable, Grand, and Essex-Erie)
- There is a need to address this by a single group acting to acquire grants to disseminate across a larger study area (i.e., significant lack of capacity and expertise for each local group to compete against one another)
- CC could act as a regional recovery action group for aquatic ecosystem recovery actions - for each recovery team there is often a watershed based communications and actions work group, a stewardship/habitat work group, and a research work group.
- CC could act as a public outreach arm representing the voice of Parks Canada, Ontario Parks, and protected areas within conservation areas

#### 2. Expertise and Advocacy

- There is a significant lack of expertise and capacity of individuals working on the ground for ecosystem recovery
- Often, advocacy cannot be used based on the restrictions and policies guiding the actions of individuals working with government organizations. These individuals are often the most knowledgeable about the specifics of a threat. CC could provide a venue for these individuals to voice their concerns.



## Session 3: Ecosystem Recovery

- Intuitively we know that once key members of the public are provided with the information upon which to make an informed decision they will really take ownership of the situation and use tools such as advocacy and protest in ways that government paid individuals cannot. CC can help in identifying ways to make this happen.

### 3. Liaison

- CC has a role in ecosystem recovery planning exercises in continuing to act in as a liaison between active groups.
- CC should continue to be a voice to identify best practices and 'promote jewels' across the zone
- CC should continue to engage the science community with practitioner organizations and the public and provide them with a venue to develop solutions, communicate results, and share successes
- CC can act to bridge the gap between science and implementation thus identifying the need to push for action. There is nothing more important than communicating the very science that is needed in order to advise the best actions.
- I provided an example of the CC led EIA course that was offered a few years ago as a good example of how CC can identify a need, develop a solution (workshop), and target those most likely to uptake the training (practitioners). Other examples at a large scale might include drainage superintendents - advising them what fish habitat is, what fish are found where, and what alternatives there may be to continuing on with the status quo in drainage maintenance.

Aquatic SAR. Coordination of implementation. Larger grant proposals to cover several watersheds. Avoid duplication – similar strategies – monitoring etc. Public outreach needs. Expertise and advocacy needs. Lack of capacity at local level. CC can provide – including landowners. Bridge science and practitioners, science and policy.

## Session 4: Education and Awareness

**Facilitator: Jim Oliver, Long Point Region Conservation Authority, CCC**

### Introduction

The group started off assuming that education is very important for CCC

Four key points came out of this session:

- set specific target audiences and product that we are going to deliver, how much,
- use of report card: seen as very important. Effective tool in watershed reporting. Can simplify complex information and communicate well.
- Recognize the fact that in the farm community, there is a problem with problem wildlife.
- If we can change how people think, we will change the landscape.

### Anne Redish, Community organizer

- Re: education: how much weight we give to education has to be set at CCC level assuming that education is a primary objective, will be based on strategy already established

3 things to look at:

- 1) primary audience; who are you aiming at? Individuals? Farmers? Urban dwellers? General man/woman on the street?
  - 2) Going to focus on organizations as a way of getting at individuals? People like the service clubs (rotary etc); is an opportunity for education there; are the schools, the media; a lot of possibilities
  - 3) the government; whether municipal, provincial, First Nations
- Once you decide who you're aiming at, need to look at what you can give them: information? Advice? Technical help? Can help them to feel good in what they're doing (intangible); at same time, consider what they can give you (resources? Leadership? Implementers?) If you can get them gungho about your projects, then you can get implementers; this is a result of education



## Session 4: Education and Awareness

- When you've decided where you want to go, very important to set specific targets and timelines; may be very long term (e.g., 50 years)
- Can also set specific targets (e.g., specific number of articles you want in specific newspapers, etc.)
- have to set priorities and make choices, and review them every 3 years or so

### Dan Bisonette, Naturalized Habitat Network

- Challenges: limited budgets; limited mindsets
- At least 10% of people are indifferent; 10% against you no matter what; 10% behind you; then there's another 50% who haven't got your message yet; these are the ones you need to reach
- Have to deal with myths and misconceptions (e.g., if i save that forest, it's going to wreck our economy); faulty language (opponents and media often don't use the proper language, and that stymies us)
- Do we go broad range or go for a target audience
- Narrowed by oversimplification; our message narrowed
- People with strong scientific backgrounds can overwhelm people
- Problem of not knowing your audience
- Inertia among the public
- Change the people and you will change the landscape

### Irene Tietz, Ingersoll District Nature Club

- if we want to make changes, we have to get involved in politics, at municipal level in particular, but also county, etc.
- this is one area where we don't do enough
- Environmental Sustainability Framework; a new initiative, based not on precautionary principle but on "risk" management
- if we're not aware of what's happening, it's too late to change anything
- need to encourage people to get involved in political process
- connecting with young people in the community is crucial; get to know people involved in school clubs; need to get resources into the libraries
- we need to have speakers in the relevant areas who can speak to issues; let's get these people on line
- people want more scientific facts; want experts etc to come out and show them stuff
- e.g., Urban Tree Inventory; get people involved with urban tree management
- would like to see us get more involved with the farming groups
- have to start changing people's conceptions (e.g., for blemish-free fruit)
- need more info about corridors
- need speakers who can talk about newest, proven techniques (e.g., pit and mound restoration)
- maybe CCC could help make trees available to urban population
- things are happening, and if we're not aware of them, we can't do anything about them; CCC needs to be right in the midst of network of what's happening

### Cathy Quinlan, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority

Ecologist

I will focus on successes UTRCA has had recently

- e.g., Watershed Report Cards: we found that having one of these that assimilated a large amount of info was helpful to people; yes, complicated, but brought it to level of what's happening in local watersheds; look at progress (or losses); summarize results (things going in right direction or things going in wrong direction) and this is what people will remember
- UTRCA is planning to do these report cards every 5 years
- we had a lot of public interest groups taking the information to see what they could do
- report card ties in other things, such as water quality, etc
- we've been gathering a lot of fish info; did a poster, FISH of the THAMES; took reams of info; gets people thinking about their region, watershed; a great educational tool; getting them thinking about water quality



## Session 4: Education and Awareness

- I was involved in designation of the Thames as a Heritage River; this designation gives people a sense of identity and pride in their local watershed; awareness
- CCC does really well: gives people an awareness of where they live in the world and why it's important
- CCC should continue doing what it's doing about giving people pride about where they live: I live in a unique part of Canada and here's why it's important

## Session 5: Monitoring and assessment

### Facilitator: Tara Tchir, Upper Thames River Conservation Authority, CCC

#### Introduction

Monitoring needs to be done at the regional scale. All the monitoring that is done needs to be drawn into one coherent picture, and done on a regular basis to obtain longterm data so that we can see trends. WE should be monitoring the monitoring, gathering experts together in a panel to discuss what monitoring is key. We should be monitoring for quality as well as quantity.

### Jon McCracken, Bird Studies Canada

*Focus: What should be assessed to improve our collective conservation success on the landscape?*

If not already done, there is a clear need to go back and assess and report on changes that have occurred at all the CC sites since they were identified in the 1980s. To what degree has their protection status improved? What other site improvements have been made?

From an overall biodiversity perspective, we need to monitor and assess attributes that take into account the most pressing threats to the full range of species and habitats within the region, not just focus on the areal extent of woodlands. For example, for birds of greatest conservation concern, the most pressing needs are to monitor and assess the extent and quality of older growth woodlands, intact swamp forest, grasslands (including pastures, old fields), coastal marshes, and coastal shorelines. Perhaps more importantly, sufficient attention needs to be allocated to monitoring relatively common species that are in significant decline, but are not (yet) designated as species at risk. These species are likely powerful indicators of environmental change (including climate change), and are relatively easy and cheap to monitor over the long term. The “keeping common species common” concept underpins bird conservation planning now underway across North America, and there is a need to dovetail CC’s conservation planning, monitoring and assessment efforts.

Creation of a comprehensive, region-wide, georeferenced, shared database would enable CC partners to track numbers and acreages of private properties that are receiving tax incentives for conservation, and hence help monitor the success of this tool (and identify potential gaps). Ideally, this would be broadened to include properties that are acquired for protection by land trusts, NCC, Conservation Authorities, etc. At the very least, such a database should be created with a focus on the CC signature sites.

### Mari Veliz, Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority

#### Why is monitoring and assessment important?

An important component of environmental management is to report on the condition, or state, of the environment. Monitoring and reporting about the measures of environmental health are important for a number of reasons. Primarily, monitoring enables managers to measure outcomes of various programs and land use activities. Summarizing the information collected from monitoring programs is very important as these integrative measures give more meaningful information than results from a single sample. For example, I work with community groups along the Lake Huron shore, and much panic ensues when bacteria concentrations from one sample are high. More meaningful data are those collected over time that consistently indicate high concentrations. Measuring and reporting on environmental health also demonstrates agency accountability and provides the public with information to make decisions regarding their local environment.



## Session 5: Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring is the easy part – summarizing the data and reporting it back to the local people in a meaningful way requires more resources.

### Aspects to Consider:

#### Scale

Again from a water quality perspective, the ABCA has 9 long-term provincial water quality stations. In a mutually beneficial partnership, local CAs collect water and the MOE analyses the water. Data are shared between the agencies. The ABCA also collects and sends water to a private lab from 9 additional locations. The data from the 18 stations provide overall information about watershed trends. However, these data may not be useful to address specific water quality issues. It would be difficult to use these data to measure specific voluntary stewardship activities that occur within the basin. If you have specific issues you have to design your program to address the specific problems.

A useful way to address these issues of scale is to prioritize your questions; your monitoring program should hopefully follow the priorities. For example, at the ABCA, I would suggest that we have 4 tiers for the surface water quality monitoring program.

Level 1: Bogline and Varna (near the outlet of the Ausable and Bayfield Rivers)

Level 2 : PWQMN stations

Level 3: Enhanced stations

Level 4: Specific sub-basin studies when resources are available.

#### Types of Indicators

ABCA uses water quality indicators and broad forest health indicators (% cover; % interior) for watershed report cards. CC may have more specific issues. Long term plots have been available to University and Federal Scientists on CA owned land.

### John Middleton, Brock University

Professor

- There are many, perhaps too many, groups and individuals dabbling in "monitoring" already across southern Ontario, so CC should not re-invent the wheel.
- Despite the large number of data being collected, there is still only a tenuous link with analysis and decision-making; CC could have an important role to play here.

### Bill Stephenson, Protected Areas Conservation Biologist

Many overlapping questions are being asked at today's sessions. Rather than answer those identified for our session directly I propose 3 multipart initiatives that are broad enough to encompass many of today's ideas. Lumping rather than splitting. As such they tend to suggest a future program for Carolinian Canada that allows it to set overall direction, participate in implementation and monitor-report on conservation progress in S. Ontario.

#### 1. Status of Properties "Acquired" by CC

CC assisted purchase of millions of dollars worth of key properties at the 38 CC core sites. They were turned over to other managers (usually CAs) but few Statements of Conservation Interest much less property management plans were prepared. There has been no follow-up of the properties condition or that of the multiowner sites of which they are part. Beyond CC's need to follow up, these sites are the nodes in the Big Picture and must be successfully conserved if the network is to serve its purpose. Each property should be assessed for the current condition of valued biodiversity and its conservation needs-status. A similar assessment and status report should be done for each site. Specific factors and criteria would need to be developed and specific conservation activities recommended.

The results would be the basis for "new" management agreements for properties and for planning to address conservation at the site level. Each location will vary by need and degree of cooperation-resourcing available so specific negotiation and scheduling will be necessary.

This should be CC lead with funding from the provincial successor's to the original acquisition funder and assistance from CAs. Liaison with the NHIC will result in data capture useful studies and advice. A local representative) at each site should be involved-informed and encouraged to monitor-participate and report



## Session 5: Monitoring and Assessment

### 2. Updating the Big Picture

**A.** Many of the ways to improve the Big Picture centre around more and better data and criteria refinements...these are ongoing. More importantly does the Big Picture do what we want it to do? My goal it to map a way to conserve a viable representative sample of S. Ontario's biodiversity for the future. So far we have nodes and connectors which seem to encompass most of the "best". On the ground we have a variety of conservation lands and commitments that don't add up to the vision and a lot of land to restore.

A cooperatively developed suite of factors and criteria for representation and especially viability (of populations, communities-ecosystems, landscapes and processes at all scales. Fresh water systems separate from terrestrial) should be employed to determine actual goal needs. OP-MNR, Universities and Parks Canada are currently working towards a Spring 2006 workshop on Protected Area Site Selection and Network Design aimed mostly at N Ontario. This should set the stage for similar work in S Ontario. The results would be compared to the current range and capabilities of conservation lands actual and planned as well as the Big Picture. Improved conservation mapping and prioritizing would result.

It can be argued that this "idealized " vision would be of little use as conservation will never achieve it due to the numerous constraints in S Ontario. However we are talking 500 years here and if in fact the "best" we can do shows a failure to conserve all or part of CC's biodiversity then our sights could be raised. This a matter of basic goal setting and problem analysis and ensures we monitor the results as well as the many activities we undertake.

MNR, universities and the NHIC would partner with many lesser participants but CC should actively participate.

As an aside CC should not invest much time-\$ on climate change related work though efforts by others can be encouraged. Good Network Design will address the impacts of climate change within the zone and external links to Algonquin to Adirondaks and the Wildlands Project which are continental will address larger scale climate phenomena,

**B.** Originally CC's Big Picture proposal promised to ensure that new conservation science would be a part of our vision. It has done that, changing the shape and process of S Ontario programs and providing a basis for refinements and additional science. It also promised to focus S Ontario conservation efforts-\$\$ more effectively since they would be targeted towards Big Picture lands not scattered and because of scale greater consistency within and between jurisdictions would be generated. This is not yet been demonstrated. Appropriate data should be identified (time spent dollars spent. land restored. agreements signed. Zoning improved etc) gathered and reported This would also be a good time to consider the benefits of a more comprehensive Human Dimensions capability for S Ontario. Data such as the change in size and the rate of turnover of rural properties, changing demographics, or decision-maker sympathies could be collected and Attitude-Values surveys at various more useful scales could be undertaken. Information about people and how they are behaving particularly in regards to conservation would improve education-communication by providing clearer messages and identifying specific target audiences. This information would also allow CC and its partners to measure progress in community-individual conservation responsiveness.

The network of data sources analyses and reporting would need consistent ongoing support preferably from a single source (MNR) and leadership from CC. The Province is already gathering some of this type of information as are some municipalities (eg: Hamilton-Wentworth) and scientific as well as practical literature are available.

### 3. Focus on Landuse Planning

Private landowner stewardship or provincial intercession (Oak Ridges) notwithstanding there is strong need to move the commitment to conservation landuse (practice and zoning) from individuals to the level of society. This means to Official Plans and associated activities. Acceptance of conservation options at this level will reflect the values of individual citizens and incorporate them into society's plans.

The plans must be as good as possible regarding the Big Picture vision and available data-analyses. The input must include the results of forest, wetland and habitat mapping to provincial standards but be translated for zoning. A coalition of community conservation related allies should be established for each OP that understands



## Session 5: Monitoring and Assessment

and supports the conservation proposals. This group would present to proposals in the OP process and could monitor subsequent compliance.

The results of idea 1 (above) is the information base to partner with CAs, local government planners and landowners to prepare conservation plans with connections for each CC site (or equivalent) in the OP's jurisdiction. These plans are correlated to forest, wetland, habitat maps hydrology current uses etc, and combine to in order to develop OP inputs. Several planning cycles would likely be needed to ensure a serious trend towards better conservation and to establish adequate community monitoring,

Together these 3 Ideas cover a wide range of needs to move S. Ontario conservation forward on a foundation of science and with "on the ground" results. They ensure activity at the level of individuals solving real problems at the local level, ensure society reflects individual attitudinal changes at the OP and provincial policies scale and ensure that conservation needs-progress are well incorporated at the provincial scale along with the credible science (both natural and social) that supports them. At the same time they provide both content and vehicles for education and engendering conservation values at all levels. They should be incorporated in CC's future in one form or the other keeping in mind the need for scale and hierarchical considerations in the design of a successful Carolinian Canada program for the next 5 to 10 years.

## Session 6: Secure and Protect

**Facilitator: Scott Peck, Norfolk County, CCC**

### Introduction

- Resources: best way to protect areas is to identify them, buy them, and maintain them.
- Have a business plan, so can justify using the ecological services provided.
- This approach needs to be supported by the Official Plans, then there will be a clear direction for protection, but up to individuals and CC to get this direction in OPs
- Right now, we identify 5% of area for open spaces, but only considering active recreation
- Payment for ecological services

### Paul General, Six Nations

Ecosystem Manager

- Society doing a poor job on eco-system e.g. invasive species, Emerald Ash Borer, Purple Loosestrife etc.
- Some examples: road construction is built for heavy traffic rather than changing attitudes towards transportation; there is a need to increase punitive measures, tougher requirements for permits for building. Urbanization is affecting our quality of life. There have been major negative changes in short term.
- Need to change social attitudes regarding the land. CC can have a major effect on attitudes eg. Plants vs. weeds, it's all in the definition of plant/ weed, wetlands vs. swamps, nuisance animals vs. pets. Hunting issues such as natives on any land Hunting for food is natural vs. for sport and trespassing.
- Youth education is necessary, 500 years is better length of time to consider preserving the land and what it provides. A different valuation of land is needed; value natural features rather than merely for building.

### Malcolm Boyd, Lambton Wildlife Inc.

Former Municipal Planner

- Doesn't like Big Picture plan CC has proposed. As a planner, he sees it as converting good farm land to forests or corridors. Doesn't like the time frame, too long. Doesn't want to support Big Picture plan proposed by a person from Grand Bend to Lambton Wildlife.
- Still losing land to urbanization. Must use regional planning. Planning is much easier with new policy statement even though it may not be as good as people would like. Councilors are bound by policy, so gets things done.
- Tree cutting bylaw was against farmers but not against developers. This was changed to make it illegal to cut trees in the city without approval. Stewardship is the way to go.
- Use local clubs, councils will listen to them. There are no trees in Lambton, Lambton refused to plant, never had a county plan, no formal laws so no planting



## Session 6: Secure and Protect

### Alan Elgar, Oakville

City Councilor

- Got involved in saving a privately owned ESA. Now into Oakville politics, elected in his ward. We face major challenges around Oakville.
- The following is a summary of his power point presentation  
An important ESA; Iroquois Shoreline Woods was seen as worth saving in 1988. There was still little impact deep in the woods, although the surroundings were highly developed. In 1990 the southern portion was designated as a Carolinian Canada site, but by 1993 half of the ESA had been developed and the much of the value of the remaining area has been lost. Private property is not being conserved according to the act. Planning Act allows for protecting these areas. But developers get what they want.  
Another ESA #16 by the Glen Abbey Golf Course was recommended for saving, but it is now being developed as a high end residential neighbourhood around the golf course.. Policy does not provide strong enough protection for areas like these, despite the fact that the federal and provincial governments have produced guidelines which indicate that percent woodland cover should exceed 30 for proper rehabilitation of habitat in Ontario, and despite the fact that it is known that tree cover significantly improves air quality by reducing particulates, ozone and other pollutants in high pollution zones such as those along the north shores of Lakes Ontario and Erie.
- Wetland percentages are very low relative to past. A concern in Environment Canada but is ignored at the local level where development is encouraged. Ozone, air quality, water quality issues are our best reasons for saving woodlots, ESA and wetlands.
- Developers are obtaining re-zoning and pushing up property valuations to make it to expensive for Trusts to buy land and conserve. Protect first, restore second. It's all about a strong tree by law. Planning Act 34 allows for protecting ESAs.

### Don Gordon, Thames Talbot Land Trust

- Land trusts are very focused on hard securement. Ownership or permanent protection is aimed very sensitive areas. Carolinian Canada can help by producing business models which can show how urban growth costs way more than is generally known, especially in rural areas.
- Supporting infrastructure for developments, fire, police, sewers, water are so expensive. Concentrating people for these services is so much less expensive. We need a document which shows this. Vacant land is the cheapest way to save money for municipalities.
- Agriculture land must be protected to remove the possibility of developers driving up farmland prices.
- Broad based coalition group like CC can help by promoting that land trusts are actually buying land when they are asking for funds to protect land. Florida spending \$1billion to protect land.

### Steve Scheers, Norfolk County

Tree By-Law Officer

- Need to be realistic about buying land. Need to conserve more land. Private property not protected and County has no bylaw to protect trees from the owners removing them.
- Municipality is expected to conserve rare natural spaces. Many By law officers are supposed to identify trees. Many don't know their trees. Not enough money to pay for more officers.
- Can't secure land unless we work with land owners. Need to subsidize land owners who have woodlots. Legislation is not the answer. Legislation will build resentment of private landowners. Need to help owners, not make laws that won't be enforced.
- Planning tools exist. Need council to enforce the rules already in place.
- Acreage prices too low.
- Broad based coalition is a good idea.
- Stewardship of land – how is it beneficial to landowners



## Session 7: Steward and Seed

### Facilitator: Ron Wu-Winter, Ontario Forestry Association, CCC

#### Introduction

- Importance of respecting rights of private landowners and recognizing efforts in private stewardship
- CCC should act as a central registry of information available to landowners, and other stakeholders in the region
- CCC should consider a statement of support for ALUS, and valuing ecological goods and services
- CCC should promote the connection between ecological and economic health.
- One way of doing this might be to provide information to doctor's offices, place for communications
- Targeted research for stewardship, what would remove impediments to stewardship. Problem wildlife.

### Dave Reid, Norfolk Land Stewardship Council

#### Coordinator

- ALUS – pilot – reward farmers for ecological Services for societal good. Keystone Ag. Producers and Delta Waterfowl initiated, Norfolk pilot.
- Greening a countryside in private hands takes cooperation and rewards.
- CCC needs to highlight private stewardship.
- Caution CCC to highlight their respect for private land ownership Carrot vs. stick approach. Gov. staff deem private lands to be unprotected – slap in face to landowners..
- challenge to preserve public resources on private land in a free-market economy

### Rob Messier, Wetlands Habitat Fund

The WHF has provided nest boxes to dykes and dams. There are over 1000 projects. Support is available for up to 50% and up to \$5000 per year. Landowner agreements are put in place for 5 years. WHF has many partnerships. Landowner attitudes are generally strong towards stewardship. Restoration is limited by fragmented landscape. CCC has a role in integrating. There is a need for landowners to understand how upland component supports wetland component – again role for CCC.

### Cathy Dibble, Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association

- Most farmers are agreeable to stewardship.
- wants to coordinate with CCC about all the opportunities available to them; getting info out about various funding opportunities
- increased wildlife damage problems
- we need to respect the private property rights of landowners and don't want to endorse anything that restricts these rights of landowners to make money off their land
- wants CCC to endorse Environmental Farm Plan

### David Beamer, Niagara Restoration Council

- CCC will never be able to do everything
- with help of localized effort, these projects can occur
- CCC should support small organizations; e.g. help coordinate (which would limit duplication)
- CCC can be passing information (scientific info about Species at Risk for example) down to local groups
- CCC could review and support grant applications that small groups make
- Lobby for policy changes (such as tax incentives); disseminate the info
- coordination and dissemination of science information is a needed role that CCC can fill.



## Session 8: Plenary Reflections by first panel

### Steve Hounsell

- Complexities, challenges are immense / Lots of good ideas / Change people, change the landscape
- Work at a multitude of scales, maybe we are focusing too broadly and not on the ground. Need to build on blueprint, to identify core areas.
- Big Picture only resonates if can look after jewels on landscape. How well are we doing on core areas? We expected that there would be management plans, there are not. Need a report card. Need to do hierarchical planning. Need to look at threats in core areas, are populations thriving in those areas. How well are we managing matrix around the cores?
- Need skilled field biologists on the landscape. Have started focusing too much on technology. Need to have people to see what is happening on the landscape and understand what it means.
- Communications: need to lead, do what we do best – spread the Big Picture word.
- Steward and seed: need to recognize and work with landowners, incentives are needed. Encourage good things on the landscape, by recognition. A stewardship hub, registry, program needed. Farmers are often willing to pay up to 50% for wetland rehabilitation. OPG finds lots of landowners willing to plant.
- Need to naturalise, but nuisance wildlife such as deer are a problem.
- Dave Reid; ALUS programme, CCC should support this. Farmers should be paid to do the right things.
- Opportunities are great.

### Peter Carson

- In a nutshell we are not doing a good job. Roads go where they shouldn't. Need to change public attitude.
- In Oakville one of CC sites has been devastated by 60% and another has been cut up by a golf course.
- There are planning tools in place which could be used to curtail these problems. Allen Elgar, eg.
- The PPS has got ahead of some of implementation guidelines, eg. significant woodlands and valleylands.
- Ecosystem management – need to look at larger scale. SARA is trying to move in multi-species direction.
- Aquatic systems are neglected when it comes to protection, but increasing riparian forest would help this. Common ground to be worked on.
- Answers. CCC could be a good avenue to coordinate. Should look at larger, fewer projects. Make sure that they have a meaningful impact.
- A lot of recovery teams, lots of overlap. CCC might work on coordinating this to reduce overlap.
- CCC should and could get into advocacy.
- Better communication with landowners. Not just farmers, but also ex-urbanites. Switchboard centre of info from where questions could be re-directed.
- Some municipal tactics short term, ie. Legislation can change, BMP or stewardship better approaches.
- Land trusts have an important role to play, need help and could use some tools to put their programme forward/ eg natural areas are cost-effective way for municipalities to manage land.

### Gordon Nelson

- Good support for going forward with monitoring committee work.
- Lot of info on natural side of monitoring, but not so much on human side. So monitoring of monitoring can go ahead on bio side, but more work needed on human.
- Conservation and sustainable development can move forward if we link human and bio conservation together. Consider economic, social institutional implications.
- CC is all about connections among issues, topics, fields of interest, stakeholders, media, scales, ideas and facts with emotion and action.
- Issue of values can't be understood through science but through discussion.
- Often issues go through because not everyone understands tools. There have been changes in tools provincial guidelines, OPP, planning act, Heritage Act, how do we get into human side – identify cultural landscapes – balance human use and biodiversity to make sustainable landscapes.



## Appendices

Meeting Participants		
John	Ambrose	CCC-Canadian Botanical Association
Peter	Banks	Lambton Wildlife Inc.
David	Beamer	Niagara Restoration Council
Dan	Bissonette	Naturalized Habitat Network
Malcolm	Boyd	Lambton Wildlife Inc.
Graham	Bryan	Environment Canada
Peter	Carson	Ontario Nature
Gordon	Catterson	Lambton Wildlife Inc.
Bill	DeYoung	Reforest London
Cathy	Dibble	Ontario Soil and Crop Association
James	Duncan	Nature Conservancy of Canada
Allan	Elgar	Town of Oakville
Mark	Emery	Elgin Stewardship Committee
Nathan	Garber	Facilitator
Mary	Gartshore	Pterophylla
Paul	General	Six Nations Heritage Centre
Don	Gordon	Thames Talbot Land Trust
Zoe	Green	Hamilton Naturalists Club
Karen	Hartley	Ministry of Natural Resources
Kate	Hayes	Environment Canada
Kathy	Hodgins	Brant Resource Stewardship Network
Steve	Hounsell	Ontario Power generation/Ontario Nature
Ruth	John	Dorchester Millpond Committee
Lorraine	Johnson	Carolinian Canada Coalition
Fred	Judd	Meadow Lynn Farms
Michelle	Kanter	Carolinian Canada
Doris	Kanter	Dorchester Mill Pond Committee
Terry	Keep	University of Western Ontario
Greg	Kett	Walkerton Horticultural Society
Donald	Kirk	Ministry of Natural Resources



Ken	Marchant	CFIA
Nikki	May	Carolinian Canada
Jon	McCracken	Bird Studies Canada
Vicki	McKay	Point Pelee National Park
Robert	Messier	Wetland Habitat Fund
John	Middleton	Centre for the Environment, Brock University
David N.	Morris	University of Waterloo
Gordon	Nelson	Carolinian Canada / University of Waterloo
Michael	Nelson	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Jim	Oliver	Long Point Region Conservation Authority
Scott	Peck	Norfolk County
Cathy	Quinlan	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Anne	Redish	
Dave	Reid	Norfolk Land Stewardship Council
Paul	Robertson	Ontario Woodlot Owners Association
Hank	Rodenburg	Oakvillegreen Conservation Assoc.Inc.
Brenda	Rowe	Friend of the Coves
Ron	Ru-Winter	Ontario Forestry Association
Mary	Simpson	The Woodgreen House
Berndt	Solymar	Carolinian Canada
Roxanne	St. Martin	Ministry of Natural Resources
Shawn	Staton	Dept. Fisheries & Oceans
Bill	Stephenson	
Diane	Szoller	Thames Region Ecological Association
Tara	Tchir	Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
Irene	Tietz	Ingersoll District Nature Club
Mari	Veliz	Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority
Nancy	Walther	Ontario Federation of Agriculture
Owen	Williams	Ministry of Natural Resources
Terrell	Wong	Branksome Green
Tony	Zammit	Grand River Conservation Authority



## Carolinian Canada Coalition Management Committee

November 2005

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University of Waterloo

**James Duncan** *Vice-chair*

Dan Kraus (Alternate)  
Nature Conservancy of Canada

**Peter Banks** *Treasurer*

Lambton Wildlife Inc.

**Jim Oliver** *Executive*

**Jo-Anne Rzadki** (alternate)  
Conservation Ontario  
Long Point Region CA

**Paul Smith** *Past-Chair*

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

**Vicki McKay** *Awards Chair*

Parks Canada

**John Ambrose** *Science Chair*

Canadian Botanical Association

**Tara Tchir**

Upper Thames River CA

**Scott Peck**

Ontario Planners

**Peter Carson**

Ontario Nature

**Alice Casselman**

ACER (Association for Canadian Educational Resources)

**Ron Wu-Winter**

Ontario Forestry Association

**Mark Emery**

**Owen Williams** (alternate)  
Elgin Stewardship Council

**Roxanne St. Martin**

**Donald Kirk** (Alternate)  
Ministry of Natural Resources

**Nancy Walther**

Ontario Federation of Agriculture





# A MAP TO THE FUTURE: Strategic Direction in Carolinian Canada Stakeholder Survey

The Coalition formed in 1984 and has carried out a wide range of programs and undergone a number of transformations. Looking to the future, we are interested in your perspective of what role the Coalition can take in supporting the work of new and continuing conservation initiatives in the life zone.

Fall 2005	6 Questions
<p><b>1.</b> What do you think have been the main contributions of the Coalition. How have they benefited member groups?</p>	
<p><b>2.</b> What are the major challenges facing the conservation community in Carolinian Canada? How do you see these being addressed by the Coalition?</p>	
<p><b>3.</b> How do we measure conservation success in the Big Picture? What are broad key factors to monitor?</p>	
<p><b>4.</b> How do we keep our collaborative vision current? What are the most effective facilitation strategies to network among allies?</p>	
<p><b>5.</b> Would voluntary zone-wide guidelines be useful for conservation and protection actions? In what areas?</p>	
<p><b>6.</b> Develop a vision statement for CCC in 5 years, describing its goal(s), objectives, major programs and projects, major partners and products, and its Board staff and support structure.</p>	
<p><i>Other comments:</i></p>	
<p>Name: _____</p>	
<p>Organization: _____</p>	
<p>Position: _____</p>	
<p>Phone: _____</p>	
<p>E-mail: _____</p>	

**Thank-you! Please send to Carolinian Canada**  
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# Carolinian Canada Coalition



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