

NORTH SHORE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Annual Report



Fiscal Year 2008

Developed by the *North Shore Management Board* with assistance from the *Arrowhead Regional Development Commission* and funding from *Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources*.



North Shore Management Board and Committees

North Shore Management Board Members:

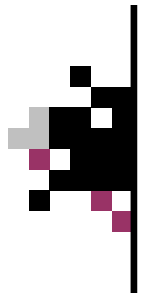
Bob Fenwick, Cook County
Thomas Clifford, Lake County
Peg Sweeney, St. Louis County
Ed Bolstad, City of Grand Marais
Scott Johnson, City of Silver Bay
Mark Russell, City of Beaver Bay
Mary Rosati, City of Two Harbors
Rich Sve, Town of Silver Creek
Jeff Cook, Duluth Township
Tim Musick, Town of Lakewood

NSMB Technical Advisory Committee:

Heather Roberts	Jesse Schomberg
Bill Vogel	Tim Nelson
Cliff Bentley	Matt Huddleston
Wendy Langanki	Pat Collins
Brian Fredrickson	Mike Peloquin
Sue Lawson	Bryan Anderson
Mike Roth	Brennan Mears
Clinton Little	Brandon Kohlts
Wayne Seidel	Dave Stark
Josh Bergstad	Joan Weyandt
Scott Smith	

Prepared by:

*North Shore Management Board with assistance from the
Arrowhead Regional Development Commission*



INTRODUCTION

In May of 2007 the NSMB began efforts to obtain funding that was more stable and long term. Since the update of the North Shore Management Plan, the NSMB has been functioning mainly on grants from various sources. The NSMB continues to collect a portion from the local governments that it represents which totals \$12,750. This includes \$2,500 from the counties and \$750 from the cities and townships. This money is used for matching grants that are received and for facilitating the North Shore Management Board meetings.



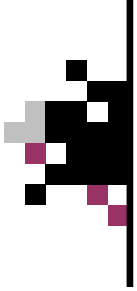
As a NSMB representative, Bob Fenwick met with representatives from the Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Department of Natural Resources. In June of 2007 the Department of Natural Resources agreed to provide the NSMB with \$50,000 to be matched with \$14,000 local funds to carry out the FY 2008 Work Plan.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The NSMB worked to increase interest and involvement from the local government representatives as attendance had decreased after the completion of the 2004 NSMP Update. The combination of new representatives and sound projects rejuvenated attendance for the NSMB, TAC, and CAC meetings.

The FY 2008 Work Plan was established and approved and the NSMB began implementing the plan in July 2007. There were several tasks outlined in the Work Plan which were completed by the NSMB and NSMB staff. The NSMB again reviewed the implementation of the 2004 Plan Update. NSMB staff performed an in-depth review of all of the ordinances along the North Shore and identified which entities still needed to implement standards from the 2004 Plan Update.

The NSMB also engaged in several discussions to identify the relevance of the NSMB and its efforts. The NSMB TAC also discussed these issues and brought in a perspective from local and regional representatives. A summary was developed about the importance of the NSMB and where it should concentrate its future efforts.



Also, the NSMB completed three Regional Priority Projects this year. The projects included; Erosion Hazard Area Planning Process Definition, North Shore GIS Assessment, and Innovative Planned Unit Development Research.

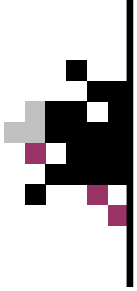
The Erosion Hazard Area Planning Process Definition was developed as a priority because the current erosion hazard area map that the NSMP contains was developed in 1988 and is in need of an update. The NSMB undertook this process to identify how an accurate erosion hazard area map could be accurately developed and how the map would benefit the local governments. The document developed three options for making a tool, ranging from a minimal project consisting of compiling relevant data for reference, to developing detailed maps of the entire shoreline that identify areas with high erosion potential.

The North Shore GIS Assessment was identified as a need because there are several entities along the North Shore that have varying levels of mapping technology and many other organizations that are developing GIS data. This assessment was initiated to see what the needs for GIS are. NSMB staff made presentations to all the township and city governments along the North Shore. The presentations explained what GIS is and asked questions to identify their GIS and data needs. The three County GIS departments were contacted to identify their needs. All the NSMB entities were sent a follow-up survey that was established to pinpoint GIS needs for the region. The result of this project was a document that made recommendations to the NSMB, data users and developers, and the local governmental units. This project was paid in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act, by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in conjunction with Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program.



The Innovative Planned Unit Development Research project was developed to identify new techniques for the local governments to manage their developments. Planned Unit Developments continue to be a polarizing issue along the North Shore and the NSMB has established a report that provides a variety of new and old techniques that are used nationally. The report is meant to give local governments new tools to use, especially along the shoreland. Hopefully these techniques will make Planned Unit Developments a better asset to the community.

Also it has been several years since the last State of the Coast Conference. The NSMB successfully held another conference on May 1st. The conference was well attended by over 90 local elected officials, state agency staff, local planning staff, and citizens. The event featured conservation design advocate, Randall Arendt, along with several presentations on local topics and efforts relating to the North Shore.



FISCAL YEAR 2008 CHALLENGES

As it has been over four years now since the NSMP Update in 2004, there are still several local governments that have yet to fully implemented the standards from the update. This will continue to remain a priority of the NSMB, and the Board realizes that incorporating these changes into current efforts is also important. Many of the communities that have not yet implemented the full plan are planning to include it with upcoming processes like ordinance revisions or developments. The NSMB is hopeful that the Plan standards will soon be fully implemented.

ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL ORDINANCES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The NSMB continues to work with the local governments to implement the standards from the NSMP. The NSMB Staff traveled to and met with all staff of government entities that control zoning along the North Shore. Staff discussed the implementation and identified what the NSMB could do to aid in implementation.

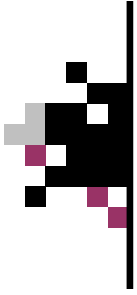
To date Lake County, St. Louis County, and the Town of Silver Creek have implemented the minimum shoreland standards as set by the NSMB.

Duluth Township has one issue with the language of how Planned Unit Developments are regulated. As stated in the NSMP, Planned Unit Developments are required to have a minimum of five units. Duluth Township has not yet included this language into their ordinance.

Lakewood Township has some differences in their standards from the NSMP standards. The township has yet to implement the following; a maximum of 35 feet building height and buildings must be located three feet above high water mark. Language is also needed for Planned Unit Developments including; minimum of five units per development, maximum densities of one half units per acre in unsewered areas, and requiring stormwater management plans.

The City of Two Harbors needs to address the NSMP standards and will likely adopt a shoreland overlay zone ordinance which will fully implement the standards located in the NSMP.

In order to become compliant the City of Beaver Bay needs to address a few standards including; minimum lot area, minimum riparian widths, lot coverage, and minimizing accesses on Hwy 61.



The City of Silver Bay has not yet adopted standards from the Update. However, the Planning Commission is reviewing the standards and is working to adopt all of the standards by reference. In December of 2007 the Planning Commission invited the NSMB staff to give a presentation on the NSMB and standards to help them better understand how the City would be affected.

The City of Grand Marais has not adopted the following standards; minimum lot area, riparian lot minimum width, lot coverage, and minimizing access to Hwy 61. There has been some discussion about the necessity of formally adopting these standards in fully developed commercial areas.

Cook County needs to implement minimum lot sizes, minimizing accesses to Hwy 61, lot coverage, and minimum PUD units. The County will be starting a revision process in the near future, and these standards will be addressed at that time.

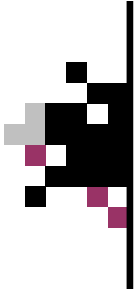
Lake and Cook County were both issued flexibility from specific NSMP standards in 2006 regarding Planned Unit Developments.

Cook County was granted two flexibility requests for Planned Unit Developments. Cook County requested a change in the minimum of 10 acres for a PUD, down to 3 acres. The county felt that due to the trends in major resort conversions and the nature of those properties, allowing the property to be a Planned Unit Development will give the County more review and control of the new development, which will increase protection of the environment. The County also requested to use 3,000 square feet per acre (4,500 if conditions are met) rather than the NSMP standard of .5 units per acre. The county felt that due to extensive regulations contained in their subdivision ordinance for shoreland Planned Unit Developments that their density requirements are equally or more restrictive overall.

Lake County was also granted flexibility in 2006 for Planned Unit Development Regulation. Lake County sought flexibility by exempting single owner hotels, motels, resorts in a planned unit development from the plan update regulations that manage densities by limiting numbers of units per acre. The county wanted to instead limit the structures by square footage (2,000 sq ft per acre).

EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE SHORELAND STANDARDS

The NSMB reviewed the Alternative Shoreland Standards and invited a representative from the Department of Natural Resources to give an overview of the standards. The NSMB discussed the standards and felt that they were of good



reference material that should be made available to the local governments. Several different aspects could be beneficial to the land, local streams, and Lake Superior. The NSMB feels that at this time local governments should be encouraged to use techniques that may successfully help them manage the shoreland areas, but there was no formal adoption at this time.

The DNR Alternative Shoreland Standards were also reviewed in the process of developing the Innovative Planned Unit Development Research document the PUD standards within the Alternative Shoreland Standards were reviewed. Since the NSMB didn't set detailed PUD standards in the plan, many of the PUD standards within the Alternative Shoreland Standards will be made available to the local governments. The local governments will be encouraged to use what ever aspects positively contribute to managing their shoreland development.

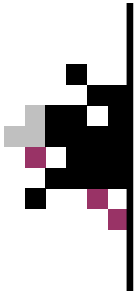
Overall the NSMB feels that the North Shore Management Plan is an adequate set of guidelines for the North Shore of Lake Superior and that adopting or including different standards at this time is not necessary. The NSMB will continue to review and stay current on DNR efforts similar to this and their administration to the 6120 Shoreland Rules.

EVALUATION OF NEED FOR A SHARED EFFORT IN ENFORCEMENT

Currently all enforcement duties including permitting, approval processes, and compliance are performed by the individual entities. The NSMB discussed current enforcement practices. Generally most of the entities are satisfied with their own control of enforcement.

There was further discussion on the effectiveness of enforcement on the local level. The limited budgets of local governments often prohibit enforcing all the standards that are enacted in local ordinances. Identified was a need for more information on the statutory authority and power for local governments. In future efforts of the NSMB, information and identification of enforcement options for local units of government could be helpful to the members of the NSMB.

The NSMB will continue to explore possible efforts that will provide tools for enforcement along the North Shore.



GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

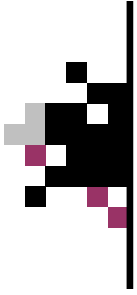
Over the years the NSMB has received notice of conditional use permit hearings, variance requests, plat proposals, land subdivisions, rezonings, and similar development notices. At the beginning of this Fiscal Year the NSMB worked with the local entities to continue this process of including the NSMB on these informational hearings. Notification of these types of developments had become infrequent and the NSMB encouraged all entities to continue sending the information.

Over the past three years the North Shore the hearing related requests have remained at a fairly steady rate. This according to what the NSMB receives in notices, which equals approximately 15 per year. When the NSMB receives these notices they review and occasionally will comment if a development or request is relative to the NSMP standards or intent. The majority of the notices received by the NSMB include preliminary plat proposals and variance requests. The NSMB will continue to acquire this information and encourage all local governments to continue sending it.

According to the Cook County Annual Report there were 77 permits issued within the North Shore Management Area which was 31 percent of all permits issued in 2007. The 2006 permits issued for the North Shore Management Area included about 28 percent (56 permits) of the total permits. The total permits for 2006 was the lowest number of total permits since 1997, while the most number of permits in a year was 2007. Lake County has seen the total number of permits fluctuate over the years, with not a large increase over the last seven years.

Generally based on the permit hearings and public review requests the NSMB has not seen a large increase in development within the North Shore Management Area over the last several years. The NSMB will continue to review developments and provide input when necessary. The NSMB will also continue to ask for annual reports of building permits by the entities so that development trends can be spotted. The information is not usually organized based on the North Shore Management Area, however it still gives an idea of the development along the North Shore.

The NSMB has also initiated a project that will look at development through a new perspective along the North Shore. Reviewing permits gives one perspective of the development along the North Shore; however the NSMB is interested in identifying how the changes are affecting the land. The NSMB will be applying for funding to study and compare sets of oblique photographs of the North Shore. These



photographs were taken of the shoreland from an aircraft flying low over the water. They provide a unique perspective of development and other land use trends and how it relates to the waters edge. These photographs were taken in 2002 and 2007 and upon comparison the NSMB will document the visual changes that have occurred. The result of this project will be a shoreline GIS data layer that documents change as well as a report that analyzes these changes and gives a summarized outlook of the entire shoreline.

NSMB RELEVANCE

Throughout the year the NSMB had ongoing discussions about the relevance of the NSMB and its duties. The NSMB is responsible for defining the minimum zoning standards for Minnesota's North Shore of Lake Superior. The Board's area of authority is property that lies between Lake Superior and a line that is 300 feet inland from Highway 61 or a line that is 1,000 feet from Lake Superior, whichever is greater. This section identifies many of the agencies and organizations that perform work or have regulating power over development along the North Shore.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

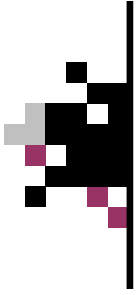
The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency helps to protect the environment by writing rules and enforcing regulations. The MPCA regulates all types of pollution concerns, which primarily relate to the NSMB in ground water, surface water, and wastewater. The MPCA regulates activities involving water through permitting. This includes the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System and the State Disposal System permit that is required when disturbing one or more acre of land during construction.

The MPCA also has enforcement power that includes; Administrative Penalty Orders, Stipulation Agreements, Consent Decrees, and Supplemental Environmental Projects. These enforcement options range from monetary fees to undertaking projects that provide extra environmental benefits.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Waters

This department regulates what happens on lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and ground water. Requires several permits for different activity occurring along lake shores including; boat ramp construction, docks, soil grade alteration, and many other activities that occur near the lake shore.



Enforcement

The enforcement division of the DNR is responsible for monitoring several activities. Pertaining directly to the NSMB is enforcing laws dealing with the alteration of lake beds, streams, and wetlands. This division also analyzes the pollution of lakes and streams through aerial surveillance.

Forestry

This realm of the DNR manages forest resources from state forest lands; works to improve the vitality of other public and private forests; and works to protect areas from wildfire. This is primarily accomplished through three core programs: fire management, state land management, and cooperative forest management.

Coastal Program

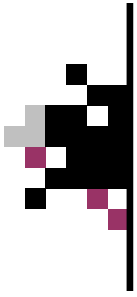
The Coastal Program is administered by the Waters Division of the DNR. However it serves a different function than the rest of the division in that it is a program that aids in bringing federal funds into the area to aid in preserving, protecting, restoring, and developing Lake Superior. The Coastal Program has an annual grant program through that provides funding to local governmental units for the sustainable use of the resources along the watershed of Lake Superior. The program encourages cooperation, simplifies the governmental processes, and provides tools for implementation of policies and programs within the Boundaries of the Program.

United States Forest Service (Superior National Forest)

The Superior National Forest has considerable amounts of land within the NSMB boundaries. The Forest Service controls these public lands and distinct rules and regulations that preserve this public land. The Forest Service requires certain recreation permits, fees, and passes for various activities. While preserving the federal public lands is the main concern of the forestry, regulating recreation does involve some enforcement from the Forest Service.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BSWR)

BWSR administrates the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed districts, metropolitan watershed management organizations, and county water managers. The agency works through local government to protect and enhance soil and water resources by implementing the state's soil and water conservation policy, comprehensive local water management, and the Wetland Conservation Act for privately owned land.



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA works to develop and enforce regulations that implement environmental laws enacted by Congress. The agency sets national standards for many environmental programs, and delegates to states (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) the responsibility for issuing permits and for monitoring and enforcement. The EPA can issue sanctions and take other steps to assist the states in reaching the national standards. Funds are also made available from the EPA for states to conduct research.

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), provides guidance to states and other water/estuary program managers. The agency helps to foster information sharing, promote research and pursue innovative management strategies and techniques. NOAA also provides funding to the Coastal Program to aid in local planning efforts along the North Shore.

Local Sanitary Sewer Districts

There are many local sanitary districts along the North Shore including; Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, Duluth North Shore Sanitary District, Knife River Larson Sanitary District, and Tofte Schroeder Sewer Sanitary District. These entities have a variety of organizational structures and perform many different duties along the North Shore.

US Army Corps of Engineers

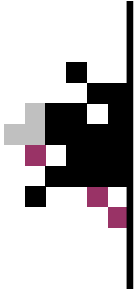
The Corps does a variety of work that includes helping local communities reduce damages caused by flooding, issuing permits for work in wetlands and navigable rivers, environmental restoration programs to improve fish and wildlife habitat, and is responsible for recreation facilities at Corps facilities.

County Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Each county, Cook, Lake, and St. Louis County administers the state erosion and pollution standards. They also provide technical assistance and work as an advisory effort for the areas that they serve. These districts do fund projects or different efforts related to erosion and water pollution.

Minnesota Sea Grant

Minnesota Sea Grant (an extension of the University of Minnesota) works to enhance Minnesota's coastal environment and economy through scientific research



and public education programs. This program works with local, state, and federal entities as well as the public and other industries.

Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI)

NRRI is an institute that was established to encourage economic growth for resource-based industries while observing the effect the industries have on resources. The projects range between: technology development, resource management, and client services by providing assistance and relevant information.

University of Minnesota Extension

This program strives to connect the resources of the university with the needs of communities. There are three areas that concentrate the efforts including; community development and vitality; land, food, and environment; and youth development and family living.

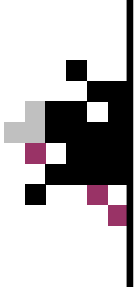
Regional Stormwater Protection Team (RSPT)

The Regional Stormwater Protection Team has a mission to provide educational messages and technical assistance in storm water pollution prevention to citizens and businesses. This team is made up of government employees and other project managers works to stop pollution from reaching area streams and Lake Superior.

Relevance Conclusion

After reviewing the roles of these organizations and the federal and state agencies, the Board has identified the importance of the NSMB. None of the other organizations have the same local voice that the NSMB can gather from all the zoning entities along the North Shore. The NSMB is a regional entity but with direct representation from each community. This was why the NSMB was established in 1987, because at the time the shoreland standards were not developed with adequate local input. The local control of the minimum shoreland standards which were approved by the State agencies, is necessary and crucial for local involvement. The same perspective could not be gained through the means of another organization.

Another important aspect of the NSMB is the organization of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). The TAC is a group made up of the planners/administrators from the ten NSMB members, local organizations, and state agencies. These members provide local input and scientific expertise to the issues that the NSMB faces. The TAC provides recommendations and reviews items as determined by the Board. The CAC



provides local input from a citizen prospective. The NSMB will continue to utilize these groups for input in the future as needed.

Through the process of determining that the NSMB is relevant and needed, some concerns did arise. The largest concern was that some entities along the North Shore are not familiar with the NSMB and therefore implementing the NSMP minimum standards is not a priority. Participation over the years has been sporadic and some entities have failed to fully utilize the NSMB.

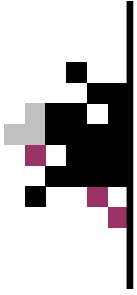
Therefore the NSMB has begun making efforts to make more elected officials and local entities aware of the NSMB. NSMB Staff was invited to speak to the Silver Bay Planning Commission and the Lakewood Township Board of Supervisors. Staff stated the background, relevance, and purpose of the NSMB and answered the questions of the local elected officials. There were also questions answered about the Plan and implementing the standards into the local zoning ordinances. Staff also took other opportunities in presenting to the NSMB including at a North Shore Scenic Drive Council Meeting and the State of the Coast Conference. As part of the GIS Assessment the seven cities and townships of the NSMB were given presentations about the NSMB also.

The NSMB and Staff will continue to seek opportunities in education about the NSMB and also forums for public input. Overall the NSMB looks to continue its current role of implementing the NSMP and accomplishing projects that improve the North Shore.

REVIEW OTHER REGIONAL GOVERNANCE MODELS

The NSMB is a Joint Powers Board that sets the minimum standards along the North Shore. NSMB staff searched for examples of similar organizations that are successful. Lake Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is a popular example of Joint Agreements that was formed to ensure protection of Lake Tahoe and the shoreland. The TRPA was a Bi State compact between California and Nevada that was approved by the Federal Government, and their visionary document was to work beyond political boundaries and work regionally.

The TRPA Board is comprised of seven California representatives, seven Nevada representatives, and one Federal representative. This Board establishes agency policy, acts on regional plan amendments, and certain project applications and environmental concerns. There is also the Planning Commission that advises the Governing Board on all Regional Plan Amendments. By controlling land use,



growth and establishing construction standards, the Agency works to research, improve habitat, acquire sensitive land, complete capital improvement projects, and the regional plan.

The TRPA is different than the NSMB in that it is the regulating power around Lake Tahoe, whereas the NSMB sets the minimum standards and leaves enforcement and other processes up to the Local Units of Government. The TRPA Board has a mixture of state officials and local representatives that have voting power.

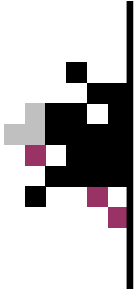
The TRPA develops their Strategic Plan Every Five Years. While the NSMB has the North Shore Management Plan which is updated infrequently, developing a Strategic Plan at shorter segments could also be helpful along the North Shore. While the minimum standards that are in the North Shore Management Plan shouldn't be changed often, a plan that lists short-term goals could be helpful for the NSMB to establish a way to evaluate progress and the direction of the Board.

The NSMB continues to be a unique form of local coordination and control of development standards. While Joint Powers Boards are plentiful, being able to set the minimum shoreland standards gives the NSMB substantial responsibility-beyond what most Joint Powers Boards are afforded.

THE STATE OF THE COAST

The 2008 State of the Coast Conference was held on May 1, 2008. Attending the conference were over 90 representatives from the region including elected officials, planning commissioners, state agencies, citizens, planners, and local agency officials. There was good representation from the North Shore Management Board entities.

The one-day conference was centered on conservation design and if it is plausible along the North Shore. Internationally recognized lecturer, writer, and site designer Randall Arendt was the keynote speaker. The group was led through a variety of presentations by Arendt and several local organization representatives. Overall the attendees participated in a workshop that gave a detailed overview of the concepts behind conservation design and several local examples of current efforts. The conference ended with a panel discussion of local representatives that discussed how to overcome the barriers of conservation subdivisions on the North Shore. Overall the feedback received in the Conference Evaluations was positive and participants enjoyed the speakers and topics. Conservation design and subdivisions are growing in popularity and it was an important step in introducing them to the region. Most

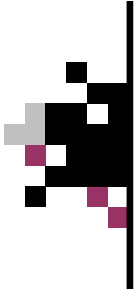


attendees wanted to see another conference in the next one or two years that addresses other issues along the North Shore. The NSMB will have ongoing discussions for topics or presentations for the next conference.

FUTURE NSMB CONCENTRATIONS

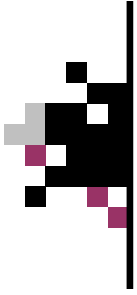
Through the Update of the NSMP in 2004, the list of Regional Priority Projects was developed. The NSMB has now completed six of those projects. The NSMB will continue to work on completing these projects. The projects that are left include:

- **Density Flexibility Ordinance Models:** The NSMB could create model ordinances that have more flexibility in dealing with density issues, including ordinances that utilize allocated densities (DU/acre) or maximum net density (DU/buildable acre). ARDC would research the issue and draft the model ordinances for NSMB review. The NSMB would provide the information to local governments for their consideration.
- **Transfer of Development Rights Policy Document:** This project would create a policy document and model ordinance regarding Transfer of Development Rights and Purchase of Development Rights. These tools would be given to local governments and be used to move development away from sensitive areas to sites that are more appropriate.
- **Infrastructure Density Analysis:** The NSMP Update says that development should be concentrated around existing community centers and existing infrastructure. ARDC could identify this infrastructure, its available capacity, its current zoning, and its condition. The NSMB could then make recommendations regarding these areas that will achieve the goals of the NSMP Update. Areas that should be developed at less density could also be identified in the same manner.
- **Mixed Use Development Policy Development:** This project would develop ideas for zoning that would allow construction of multiple housing and commercial types on a single property. Policy recommendations would be created. Form-based zoning techniques that will help preserve community character will be explored.
- **Best Management Practice Policy Development Participation:** Natural Resource Research Institute is completing a pilot project on the Lester/Amity watershed that will examine ideas for addressing pollution and sedimentation. ARDC staff could participate in the process and bring the ideas back to the NSMB, who would work to determine the best ways to integrate the ideas into local government codes.
- **Water and Land Use Planning Forums:** The NSMB could sponsor forums where SWCD, County Water Planners, MPCA, DNR, and local land use officials gather



and discuss the interrelationship of water and land use. The goal would be to create a dialogue prior to issues becoming a crisis. The initial priority for these discussions is to determine how the NSMB can effectively use the information contained in the Lake Superior Basin Plan.

- **Near Shore Activity Policy Development:** The NSMB could develop a policy document that analyzes the possibility for local units of government to implement regulations for near-shore activities. Guiding principles could be created for the construction and location of docks, mooring, spaces, marinas, and other similar projects.
- **Vegetation Management Policy Development:** The NSMB could create a shorewide policy document on vegetation management. Information would be gained on existing efforts prior to policy creation.
- **Wetland Coordination:** The NSMB would work with SWCDs and County Water Planners to review current information on wetland policies and then would foster a dialogue between local governments on the implementation of wetland policy. This dialogue would explore:
 - Wetland functions and values in current ordinances and the unique geology of the North Shore
 - WCA sequencing standards applicability to the North Shore
 - Mitigation difficulties
 - Potential mitigation flexibility (shorelands, cedar stand protection)
 - Inadequacies in wetland inventories on the North Shore
- **Landowner/Contractor Education:** The NSMB would pursue grants and/or speakers to offer workshops for citizens, contractors, and interested others regarding natural resource protection. Topics of focus should be vegetation management, shoreline erosion, and wastewater. The NSMB could also develop a model contractor license program for local governments to ensure erosion and sediment control techniques are learned and implemented. Local penalties would also be explored.
- **Community Character Enhancement:** The NSMB could help to identify North Shore Community Character for both nodal and rural areas by creating a framework that identifies common characteristics shared by North Shore communities. The NSMB should engage the assistance of the North Shore Scenic Drive Council in this effort. The NSMB would then gain consensus through community forums on the characteristics of individual communities that are most valued. Existing planning may be occurring that will assist this effort. A North Shore design guidance document could be developed for individuals seeking permits. The NSMB could assist communities in gaining community consensus on minimum standards for maintenance of structures and the enforcement of these



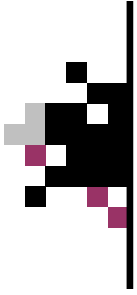
standards. The NSMB could also support communities to pursue funding sources in order to repair aging housing and commercial buildings. Also, community gateway areas could be identified and have management policies in place to ensure a welcoming experience for tourists. Gateway planning will need to involve landowners and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The NSMB will continue to use this list to seek funding for completion of the projects. For Fiscal Year 2009 the NSMB will be working on the North Shore GIS Collaborative which will provide a GIS alternative for entities who cannot currently afford it.

The NSMB TAC has discussed other possibilities for future projects and identified the following:

- **Future Coordination Efforts:** Work with the TAC and the NSMB to identify further needs that the local governments could benefit from. This could include gathering information, seeking education opportunities, or other public forum type events on relevant issues and topics.
- **Inventory of Septic Systems:** This would be a project that would build off of the North Shore Wastewater Document that was developed in 2006. Possibilities could be taking a more in-depth look at septic systems and develop an overall assessment of the condition and location of septic systems along the North Shore. This would take considerable coordination from the local governments and sanitary districts.
- **Oblique Photograph Analysis:** The NSMB is currently exploring options for completing an oblique photograph analysis along the North Shore that will look at change in structures, impervious surface, development trends, and vegetation. This will provide a written analysis of trends along the North Shore.

The NSMB will continue to explore options for the North Shore and develop projects that can assist the local governments with their needs.



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