

**Proposal to Create an NRESC Subcommittee:
Easements & Acquisitions (E & A) Strategy**

Date: January 16, 2012

Proposed by: Ed Wojan, Peter Plastrik

Purpose and Goals: To advise the NRESC on a strategy, with detailed recommendations and priorities, for increasing voluntary private property conservation easements and government or conservancy purchase of key, available land parcels on Beaver Island. The strategy would be presented to the NRESC for adoption and, if adopted, would be presented to the Peaine and St. James Township Boards for approval.

Activities: The subcommittee will:

1. Work with local residents, organizations and experts to identify key lands for conservation status, either through private easements or public acquisition.
2. Work with land conservancies and conservation funders to develop an “easement campaign” to encourage land owners to benefit from the use of voluntary easements and to prioritize potential public land acquisitions for state and federal funding support, and to develop a long-term funding approach.
3. Identify ways to address important barriers to increasing conservation-dedicated land on Beaver Island, such as concern about the loss of local property taxes.

Rationale: Although some Island property owners have used conservation easements and over the years the Townships have leveraged state funding to acquire sites, e.g., for public access to the shoreline, there is no Island-wide strategy for using these tools to further promote conservation on the Island by increasing the use of easements and by identifying and securing public access sites. No entity is responsible for developing such a strategy.

Membership: Ed Wojan & Peter Plastrik (co-chairs), open to other NRESC members and Island stakeholders/residents

Funding: No funding is required for the subcommittee’s work.