

“To understand and preserve our natural resources and to promote opportunities for their appreciation and enjoyment.”



# NRESC

Beaver Island's Natural Resources and Ecotourism Steering Committee  
Beaver Island 49782

*The NRESC consists of representatives from Peaine Township, St. James Township, both Townships' Planning Commissions, the Beaver Island Association, the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce, the Beaver Island Community School, the Beaver Island Contractors and Realtors Group, the Beaver Island Wildlife Club, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Peaine Township Trails Committee, the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, and other "at large" members approved by both Townships*

## Annual Report to Peaine and St. James Townships – January 2012

The NRESC members were appointed by the Townships in September 2011, so this report covers the first 4 months of activities, most of which were start-up organizing activities.

- \* Initiated a process with support of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and facilitators from Michigan State University, at the Township's suggestion, to produce a community-driven natural resources management plan for Beaver Island. A 6-hour kickoff meeting was held on a Saturday in December, and a set of next steps and meeting dates for early 2012 were established.

- \* Secured Townships' endorsement for two grant proposals (at no cost to the Townships):
  - Conservation Resource Alliance to develop a management plan for Iron Ore Creek, birding site platform and beach access at St. James Campground, and other activities.
  - The Nature Conservancy to conduct a plant inventory of Beaver Island and address invasive species.

- \* Established a subcommittee, co-chaired by Ed Wojan and Peter Plastrik, to develop a strategy for increasing the use of conservation easements of private property and public acquisition of key targeted parcels on the Island.

- \* Agreed to develop a proposal for integration of the Beaver Island Association's invasive species efforts with the Township's invasive Phragmites planning process. NRESC member Pam Grassmick is leading the process.

- \* Endorsed the application of Dr. Jeff Powers, an NRESC member, to be appointed to the Michigan Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Council.

- \* Conducted several learning sessions for its members and public:
  - A detailed presentation by the Little Traverse Bay Band of the Odawa Tribe, a member of the NRESC, about the tribe's natural resource activities on the Island and in the region.
  - A briefing by NRESC member Dr. James Gillingham about the 9th State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conference in October 2011.
  - A discussion, led by NRESC members Dan Martell and Peter Plastrik, about the term "biodiversity" and its potential implications for NRESC work.

- \* Organizing Activities

- \* Adopted NRESC ByLaws, meeting schedule for 2011 and 2012, staggered terms for members, guidelines for proposing the creation of subcommittees, NRESC letterhead, and elected officers and Executive Committee members.

- \* Agreed to develop an NRESC official Web site. NRESC members Bill Cashman and Peter Plastrik are leading the effort.

- \* Posted a vacancy on the NRESC to replace at-large member Frank Solle, who resigned.

All meetings of the NRESC and its Executive Committee have complied with the state Open Meetings Act. Meeting minutes are posted for public review at [www.peaine.org](http://www.peaine.org).

Sandra Birdsall  
Peaine Township Representative

Peter Plastrik  
St. James Township Representative