New York Sea Grant
Shoreline Management Updates

Heather Weitzner, New York Sea Grant
Coastal Zone Canada Conference
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Who We Are

- New York Sea Grant (NYSG)
  - Research, education, and extension services
    - Coastal economic vitality
    - Environmental sustainability
    - Citizen awareness and understanding
  - Extension Focus Areas
    - Healthy NY coastal ecosystems
    - Sustainable NY fisheries and safe and sustainable seafood business
    - Environmental literacy and workforce development in NY
    - Resilient NY communities and economies
New York’s Great Lakes Nature-Based Shorelines Workshop

• November 2015 workshop
  – What nature-based shoreline (NBS) methods are out there?
  – How may they may apply to NY’s Great Lakes shorelines?
  – What are the opportunities and constraints?
  – What are the data, research, outreach, and resources needs?
  – Are there any demonstration project opportunities?
  – What are the next steps?
NBS Workshop – Presentations

• Overview of Geology, Driving Forces, and Coastal Processes
  – Pete Zuzek, Baird & Associates

• Niagara River Habitat Improvement Projects
  – Tim DePriest, NYSDEC

• Designing NBS Protections for the GL Region
  – Brian Majka, GEI

• Sustainable Beaches
  – Charlie Shabica, Shabica & Associates

• Engineering with Nature for Coastal Resilience
  – Todd Bridges, USACE

• Systems Approach to Promoting Coastal Processes and NBS Management
  – Scudder Mackey, Ohio DNR
NBS Workshop – Break-outs

• Groups formed based on shoreline type
  – Artificial/Hardened
  – Beach/Dune
  – Bluff
  – Bay mouth barrier
  – Low bank
  – Coastal wetland

• Asked to identify
  – Potential demonstration projects
  – Information, resources, and tools needed
NBS Workshop – Break-outs Results

• Sites identified for each shoreline type
• Need:
  – Examples of how to incorporate nature-based options into existing/future hard structures
  – More funding, incentives
  – Partnerships, outreach, education
  – Streamlined permitting process
  – Long-term monitoring
  – Guidance handbook
  – Demonstration projects
NBS Workshop – Panel Session

• Technical and/or regulatory perspective
  – Challenges and opportunities to advancing NBS in NY
    ▪ Culture change
    ▪ Education
    ▪ Demonstration
    ▪ Proof of effectiveness
    ▪ Expedited permitting
    ▪ Coastal design manual
    ▪ Improved communication and networking
NBS Workshop – Survey Results

• Next steps needed
  – Training and education
  – Continued discussion
  – Disclosure of existing information
  – Demonstration projects – successes and failures
  – Distinctions for coastal management
    (allowing erosion to continue vs. protection)
  – Partnerships
NBS Workshop – Follow-Up

• Identify potential NBS demonstration sites
  – Developing a list of criteria
    ▪ Location
    ▪ Shoreline type
    ▪ Monitoring/Stewardship
    ▪ Site bathymetry
  – Visiting sites

• Shoreline management tours
Shoreline Management Tour

• Purpose
  – Show a spectrum of techniques *in the field*
  – Explain how and why projects were implemented
  – Share challenges and opportunities
  – Make connections

• Local organizations, SWCDs, agency staff

• Projects range from green to grey
Potential Next Steps

• PA Sea Grant Two-Day Workshop
  – *Day One*: Classroom session
    ▪ Environmental factors, issues
    ▪ Project process – what and why
    ▪ Permitting, regulations
    ▪ Special considerations (e.g. septic systems)
  – *Day Two*: Site visits
    – Split between professionals and private homeowners, every other year
      ▪ Contractors, realtors, engineers, landscape architects, etc.
    – Continuing education credits

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Questions?

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